

THE DISCIPLE



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Rev. Daphne Gascot Arias, Minister

Carol Clifford, Editor



*“Called to be the presence of
Christ in our community”*



Is it just me, or do you also sometimes wake up wondering if today is the day one of our systems or structures will topple and change the way we live forever? Maybe today the market will collapse, or a peaceful protest will be turned into a riot by pseudo-agents—no IDs or due process in sight. Perhaps this is the week we consume contaminated food because we have done away with safety guidelines and the agencies responsible for ensuring them. Corporations have proven time and again that they will prioritize profit over humanity—even with regulatory oversight. Maybe this is the pay period when we fall behind on payments, past the point of no return. We seem to be living on the verge of so many disasters!

I hate to admit that this time, I don't have a beautiful metaphor to make sense of all of this. I can't come up with a beautiful analogy to assuage our fears. What I have is a sort of tearful conviction. I know that something has got to give; there will be some kind of collapse, some systemic change, on its way because this way of life is no longer sustainable, not for us, and not for nature. As I try to prepare our household and our church for potential scarcity due to the current political and economic unease in the nation and the world, I've been thinking about what is essential to live.

As much as I currently depend on my phone, so much so that it acts more like an added limb, I don't need it to live. Granted, life would be incredibly inconvenient, but I could live and even thrive without my phone, tablet, laptop, reader, TV... even without my internet router! I could live without the funds in my bank account, again very inconvenient, but I could live without my car, even without my house. God forbid, there's an economic collapse, we can probably live without many of the things that seem necessary to us today and still survive.

As a way to ease my concerns, I have been learning to whip cream into butter while saving the buttermilk for baking, for example. I have been learning about gardening and chicken coops in the city. Let me tell you, I took a lot for granted growing up on a tropical island!

One thing that becomes clearer every day is that while I can survive on my own, doing so would be extremely arduous and inconvenient. But if I share a chicken coop with a neighbor and a vegetable garden with the other, the loads become lighter. (“Two are better than one because they have a good return for their hard work.” —Ecclesiastes 4:9) Our cousins and friends from church have blessed us with provisions, and we feed anyone who comes to our door. I shared some houseplants with my mom’s friend, and she sent me a tomato plant. I let my friend borrow my car, and she picks up my grocery order for me.

We have been taught that we need the internet to live today, that we need our convenience more than anything else. So, against our better judgment, we let our jobs continue to isolate us for the sake of productivity. The work that was supposed to provide us with what we need to live becomes our identity, our main activity. Our main purpose becomes production, not life, not survival or development, but work; we live to work. But that is not living, that is producing, surviving.

If society collapses, any accumulated wealth will become little more than a number on a screen, without value. The system that has dictated where we live, what we eat, and what level of health we can afford will disappear. But our relationships, the connections we make with people inside and outside of church, are lifelines that tether us to God and to each other. No banking or market collapse, no other system can aid our survival and development as individuals and as a society more than the community.

When facing uncertainty, the community grounds us. If there comes a point that we can no longer use currency to buy convenience, relationships can sustain us. I have proof! A few weeks ago, a few women who sat in the same row at church became “The Widow’s Row,” a group of widows who intentionally gather weekly to share life and grief. In the last month, our congregations have contributed to food pantries and schools through monetary and other donations. I have no reason to doubt that as needs arise, we will continue to


organize to be there for each other.

If you are facing hardship, if you are worried you won't have enough to eat, enough to live safely, please reach out. If we can't help ourselves, we will do our best to connect you with another organization that can.

As for me, I will continue to lean on my community: my friends, my neighbors, and my church. I will be intentional about fostering these life-giving relationships. I will keep my doors, my kitchen, and my heart open to God and the people around me. I am tearful because I'm human and there is uncertainty and grief ahead, but I am convinced that our community will rise to the occasion because our track record says that's who we are: the presence of Christ in the community. We are, to quote Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "Christ existing as community"!

Church, let's continue to be and strengthen community, we will encounter the Risen Christ in it and through it! Amen and amen!

Rev. Daphne GA



Karen's Korner

June is here and it's time for summer fun. We will be heading to Florida to celebrate Dan's Mother's birthday followed by a visit to Wauwatosa to watch Chris and Torin for a week! A busy, but fun way to begin enjoying the summer months!



The Board did like the idea of a greener Church, and we now have a Green Committee of Karen Connery, Beth Smith and me. Talk to any of us if you would like to join us. We are having the Conservation Foundation give us feedback on our property and invasive versus native plants. This will happen on May 20th at 3:00 p.m. Dan and Barb will then have information to share. Karen C is also gathering quotes for water filter ideas to reduce our use of plastic bottles. More information should be coming soon!

As you likely heard from Rev. Daphne, we are looking to schedule Global Ministries to visit our Church to help us discover how we can partner with a group overseas. We hope to setup a new global ministry since we have lost the Belarus Orphanage as a ministry.

As we are now in Summer, both Adult Sunday school, and Feed the Body and Soul are on hiatus. We will resume in the Fall.

The Board scheduled another time for our traditional Summer Barbecue event. We will be getting together on Wednesday, July 29th at 6:00 p.m. Mark your calendars!

Monday Intercessory Prayer (MIP) is meeting only the last 3 Mondays in June. June 1 and June 7 there will be no MIP due to my travels. We have a faithful group and many answered prayers! Please join us on Mondays from 6-7 pm by calling 607-374-1123 and entering code 390193 at the prompt. It is a peaceful time, during which we share our joys and concerns for personal needs, our church, our community, our nation, and the world. Also, please continue to share your prayer concerns.

We also met with the Korean Fellowship Church. As you likely saw they had a death in the congregation. Ronnie and Sook Park lost their oldest son suddenly. Please keep them in your prayers. Also, we have scheduled another joint service for Communion Sunday October 4, 2026. Mark your calendars and join us!

Finally, please mark your calendars for the Disciples virtual General Assembly July 10th and July 11th. We will likely be a host to provide online access to the assembly for those in the area wishing to attend. It is a great opportunity to easily attend a General Assembly. To host, we will need people to attend to welcome guests, help with the projection of the assembly, provide a continental breakfast and snacks, and coordinate box lunches. There is a sign-up sheet to let us know who can help. Please prayerfully consider joining us!

Faithfully yours,
Karen

“A Father’s love is forever imprinted on his child’s heart.”

Jennifer Williamson

PROPERTY REPORT



Jim Kleinwachter from the Nature Conservancy walked the church property with Karen and me on May 20. He helped us identify the plants we have on the property, noted invasive species, and recommended a few areas that we should consider improving. To help with this process, I labelled garden areas as follows: Sign, Entry, East, Front, and West. We did not look at the area south of the parking lot; there are enough projects we could work on that are of a higher priority. I made rough sketches of these areas; they identify some of the plants there. Mr. Kleinwachter recommended focusing on three garden areas:

1. Sign. Remove the bishop's weed; it's invasive. Plant sun-loving natives, such as *Baptisia* and coneflowers. Leave the daffodils and *Rudbeckia*. Move the hostas out of that area—they do poorly in the full sun. The bishop's weed can be killed with weed-strength (30%) vinegar.
2. Entry. Remove the orange daylilies; they are invasive. Leave the iris, vinca, buckthorn, and burning bushes. Even though they are non-native, we have other priorities. Jim noted that we have tons of buckthorn on the property, and all that we remove of it is good.
3. East side. Consider planting a butterfly garden in the open space along the driveway. Remove buckthorn to “free” the desirable viburnums that are being overtaken by it. We could also try to “free” the Austrian pine in the back from buckthorn. Remove the mostly dead buckthorn up toward 63rd St.

The Front garden would be our shade garden but it is not a top priority. It contains a large Siberian elm, a chokecherry tree, a large viburnum, and a buckthorn. We should remove the lily-of-the-valley (it's invasive) and

the invasive rose. The phlox are o.k. to leave, as are the spirea, peony, hydrangea, and Virginia bluebells. Jim commented on the way some of the bushes were pruned; instead of shaping them, they should have stems removed to encourage new growth. If you want to work on any of these projects, or have questions, please let me know.

Dan Johns, Property Co-chair

KITCHEN CLEANING



Dear church family

As in all families there are shared spaces that occasionally need reorganization as well as cleaning. It was time for the kitchen to have that done. New labels for the cabinets will be coming soon, in the meantime explore!

It's being requested that to help utilize this small area that the counters be kept free and refrigerated items be kept to a minimum. Please use the labelling supplies (in the container on the refrigerator) as to date, your name and, when appropriate, usage. Cabinet space has been freed up for other items. Everyone is so generous when providing food; however, much is trashed. Please encourage others to take surpluses from meals and coffee time with them.

Special thanks to Joe for putting up the cup hooks! The cups add a nice decorative touch.

Beth



JUNE BIRTHDAYS



June 10	Dave Kijowski
June 18	Cherie Sutter
June 19	Kara Gray
June 19	Kriti Kijowski
June 22	Willow Ahn
June 25	Norah Peterson
June 26	Steve Welker
June 29	Gage Gilley



SERVING SCHEDULE



ELDERS	Lectern	Table
June 7	Becky Daigle	Sue Huizinga
June 14	Karen Johns	Daphne Hayes
June 21	Bill Cook	Bob Reece
June 28	Daphne Hayes	Barb Bates

DEACONS	Prep and Serve	Serve
June 7	Galilee Flores	Lisa Johnson
June 14	Larry Carley	Gail Reese
June 21	Lisa Johnson	Jeff Igel
June 28	Dave Kijowski	Kristi Kijowski

