



A Different kind of March Madness



Last month, I said “Let’s get this party started!” And what a March it has been. Between Midweek Prayer services and Soup Suppers, our very successful Celtic Sunday event, and remembering dear friends at memorial services, we have been kept quite busy. A good busy. Exhausting, but refreshing at the same time. We are so grateful to our WELCA group, as they have overseen the kitchen for these events. It was wonderful to have Wendy volunteer to play the fiddle at worship and during the fellowship time. Be sure to check out the photos in this newsletter.

We have visitors every Sunday, whether from as far away as Alaska, or new neighbors in the community, for a few weeks or a few months – we are delighted they have joined us when they can. You never know who might take you up on an invitation when you meet them on a hike. Keep inviting!

This month, we continue our Lenten journey, starting with Palm Sunday on April 2nd and Holy Week services on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 5pm. Following Easter Sunday worship will be a potluck brunch. See schedule on page 9.

With warmer weather on the way, let’s enjoy the company of our seasonal members and visitors. Let them know how grateful we are that they choose to spend their winters with us.

We received a lot of positive comments on the Celtic Sunday liturgy. You may see some of those elements turn up again. I cannot promise a return of the excellent corned beef and Irish stew, but am grateful for those who supplied them, and all the delicious goodies, for our St. Patrick’s Day celebration. May we all live these words based on the Hymn of St. Patrick:

*This day be within and without me, lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Be in the heart of each to whom I speak; in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.
This day be within and without me, lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Christ as a light; Christ as a shield; Christ beside me on my left and my right.*

Believe always in the goodness of God.

I close with a quote from the Celtic Evening Prayer from the Northumbria Community:

*Lord, You have always given bread for the coming day; and though I am poor, today I believe.
Lord, You have always given strength for the coming day; and though I am weak, today I believe.
Lord, You have always given peace for the coming day; and though of anxious heart, today I believe.*

I thank you all for your encouragement and involvement in the ministries of Spirit of Joy.
I thank God every day for the joy in this congregation.

Gratefully,

Pastor Sharon

April Birthdays

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Luke Hoedl | 2 |
| Michael Harvey | 4 |
| Kip Stransky | 6 |
| Chance Densmore | 8 |
| Marilyn Anderson | 10 |
| Roger Dunn | 10 |
| Georgia Braithwaite | 16 |
| Richard Huber | 16 |
| A. C. Gaber | 19 |
| Lisa Mathe | 20 |
| Jeff Keck | 25 |
| Naomi Barcanic | 29 |
| Dee Suhr | 29 |



If your special day is missing from our list, please call or email the church office to let us know.



April Anniversaries

Diets, John & Betty 10

Deaths

Please pray for the families of these departed members and former members:

Louise Ederer, Karen Harvey, Jim Ferkin, Rose Ayers, Almond Peterson, Sid Stelpstra, Dick Nord

Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH

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REWARD PROGRAM

Spirit of Joy is the recipient of donations from the Fry's Community Rewards programs. You do nothing, other than register, and a percentage of your purchases will be sent to Spirit of Joy to be used by the Altar Guild. Call the office for more details on enrolling.



WEEKEND BIBLE READINGS

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Palm Sunday | Apr 2— Matthew 21:1-11; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14—27:66 |
| Easter Vigil | Apr 8— Genesis 1:1—2:4a; Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18; 9:8-13; Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Jonah 1:1—2:1 Daniel 3:1-29; Romans 6:3-11; John 20:1-18 |
| Easter Sunday | Apr 9—Psalm 118:19-24; Matthew 28: 1-10 Apr 16—Psalm 40:9-10; Matthew 28:16-20 Apr 23—Psalm 16; Acts 10:1-17, 34-38 Apr 30—Matthew 10:40-42; Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18 |





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A relatively newly updated "CONNECTIONS MINISTRY" is underway!

As many of you have already noticed (and signed --- thank you!), SOJ is trying to improve our ministry to members who may not be able to come to church, or who have moved away but wish to remain connected to SOJ. (This is NOT the same as the "get well cards" ministry that Becky Keck leads.) We are passing around "thinking of you" cards during Fellowship time after services on most Sundays, Pastor will get cards to Saturday attenders.

A GREEN 3-ring BINDER contains cards, a current directory, and pages for each person or family with whom we want to stay connected. Those pages are intended to track our ongoing "connections;" (cards, visits by SOJ people, Communion taken by Pastor, photos sent, etc.)

This BINDER "lives" in the office near Rosie's desk, OR is on a table in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays.

If you know of someone who would appreciate a special "hello" via card or visit, please let Laura Stransky or Pastor know. Or just tell us when you visited a friend, so no one gets missed.
OR leave a note in the GREEN BINDER & we will get this done TOGETHER!

We want to keep everyone "connected" who call Spirit of Joy "their church." No one should have to feel "left out."

Please and thank you for your participation!

Laura Stransky



FOOD BANK SUNDAY!

Non-perishable food items will be collected next weekend, April 1st and 2nd for our local food bank. Leave your food items in the grocery cart in the narthex.
(Please remember to check the expiration dates on food before donating.)

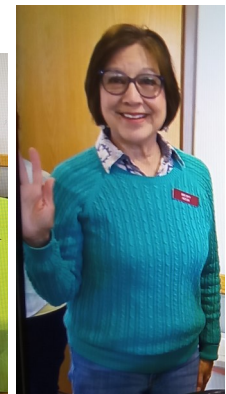
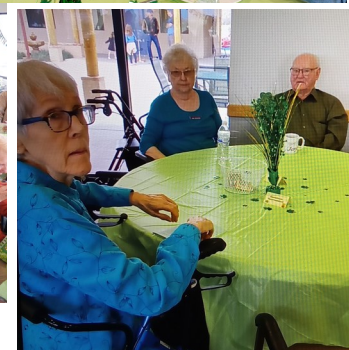
A CELTIC CELEBRATION!

In-Reach/Outreach says thanks to all the people who made Celtic Sunday a success. A special "thank you" goes to Kylie Densmore who painted the sandwich board signs, and to those who made special Celtic music possible in both of the church services, the fellowship hall and the courtyard. Also, all the willing hands that participated in the potluck with food, setup/serving/cleanup. And finally, the donation and preparation of the corned beef with cabbage and Irish Stew.

This was a unique fun meal that SOJ provided for the community. Thank you all!



A well-attended Sunday worship service with Celtic music featured fiddler Wendy Mahanna Anderson accompanying Nancy Bright and our singers. An Irish meal followed in the hall with an abundance of good food and plenty of blarney to spare!



DAYTIME BOOK CLUB

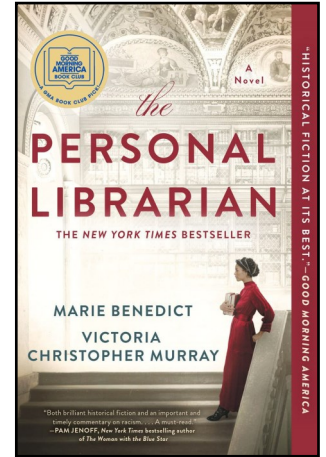
Title: The Personal Librarian

Author: Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

ISBN-13: 978-0593101544 352 pgs

Summary:

The remarkable story of J. P. Morgan's personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene, the Black American woman who was forced to hide her true identity and pass as white to leave a lasting legacy that enriched our nation, from New York Times best-selling author Marie Benedict, and acclaimed author Victoria Christopher Murray. In her twenties, Belle da Costa Greene is hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library. Belle becomes a fixture in New York City society and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world, known for her impeccable taste and shrewd negotiating for critical works as she helps create a world-class collection. But Belle has a secret, one she must protect at all costs. She was born not Belle da Costa Greene but Belle Marion Greener. She is the daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard and a well-known advocate for equality. Belle's complexion isn't dark because of her alleged Portuguese heritage that lets her pass as white—her complexion is dark because she is African American. Exciting, enthralling book that will keep you wanting to finish the book in one setting! YLN has a copy in regular print and a copy in large print; also eBook and audio. Join us for this exciting discussion on April 27 at 2:00 pm in the church's council room. If you have questions, please text Judy Haslow at 928-301-1121 or jccjmh45@gmail.com.



Our family would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone for their prayers and cards. Sid was committed to the Joy Pack Ministry and the donations in his name are greatly appreciated. He is missed but we are sure he is smiling down at us from heaven.

Mary Stelpstra

IN-REACH/OUTREACH NEWS

Thank you so much for donations to the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission (NELM), they so appreciate what you give. A collection was recently delivered.

We have now been given the following updated list of needs.

NELM asks to “please consider these ideas for donations to Navajo needs as an expression of your love.”

SCHOOL NEEDS—Copy paper

APARTMENT NEEDS—

New twin sheet sets,
Twin-size blankets (like new),
New bath towels, New wash cloths

New queen sheet sets,
Queen-size blankets (like new),



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The WELCA ladies express their gratitude for the participation from all the SOJ members for their time and talents and cooking during Soup Suppers and the two memorial commemoration events.

WELCA NEWS

The WELCA group met March 9, 2023, with 15 ladies present. Loma J. provided refreshment, Carol S. led devotions.



Old Business:

- Memorials for Almond Peterson (March 11 at 1pm) and Dick Nord (March 18 at 11am) were discussed with people volunteering to help with set-up, serving and clean-up for the social time that followed.
- We did a tour of the kitchen so newer members could see where necessary items are kept.

New Business:

- Susan B. reported on the necessity of obtaining Certified Food Handler's licenses for kitchen workers. Tests are available through the state at their website AZFoodHandlers.com (3-yr certification costs \$7.95) or through Yavapai County at www.yav.AZ.gov/CHS/EH (2-yr certification is free). Susan is available for questions/directions at 928-254-7029.
- Also discussed without resolution was becoming CPR certified; and more visitation through Hospice Home Care.

Upcoming events discussed were Celtic festivities (March 19), Easter Brunch, Summer Kick-Off and the possibility of Vacation Bible School.

The meeting was closed with prayers for the ill, for grieving families and travel mercies. The Lord's Prayer was recited in unison.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 9:30am.

Respectfully submitted: Deanna Codner, Secretary



JOYFUL MUSIC MAKERS

Join us as we Make a Joyful Noise every Sunday.

9:15am—Joyful Hymn Sing

11:15am—Joyful Music Rehearsal

All singers, instrumentalists and noise makers of all ages are welcome!

EASTER POTLUCK BRUNCH

Join us for Easter Potluck Brunch at 10:45am on Easter Sunday.

Food sign-up sheets are in the narthex and Fellowship Hall.



Easter Schedule

Holy Week



Holy Week

Passion/Palm Sunday

Saturday, April 1st, 4:30pm

Sunday, April 2nd, 9:30am

The Three Days

Maundy Thursday - April 6, 5:00pm

Celebrating the Last Supper

Good Friday - April 7, 5:00pm

We begin the wait

Easter Vigil - April 8, 5:00pm

We wait and sing as we hear the great deeds of God (lasts about 90 minutes)

Easter Vigil takes the place of Sunrise Service*

Easter Celebration Worship - Sunday, April 9, 9:30am

Easter Potluck Brunch following worship

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\*Mountain View United Methodist Church

901 S. 12th Street

Welcomes you for Sunrise Service at 6am Easter Morning.



## EASTER FLOWERS

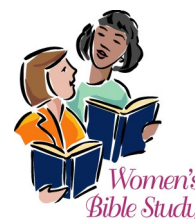


Donations are now being taken for Easter flowers to adorn our altar and in honor of your special intentions. Flowers (lilies, tulips, etc) will be purchased depending on availability at that time and cost is \$20 per intention. See the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Intentions will be listed in the Easter bulletin.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study will meet on Thursday, April 20th at 2pm in the Conference Room. We will be using the Gather Magazine Study Guide for April. All are welcome to join us!



# Hey guys, getting your 3 squares daily?

Three balanced meals each day are what nutritionists recommend for good health. And many of us enjoy snacks—even quite unhealthy ones at times—between meals. They tell us that snacks just before bedtime are the worst you can munch on.



Did you know that right here in the good old U.S.A., 40 million people were not sure where their next meal would come from in 2017 (the latest year with available figures). Nearly the same number of Americans that year were living in poverty, meaning a family of four had a weekly income under \$70.

Can you imagine paying rent, buying clothes, and feeding yourself, your wife and two ravenous, growing kids on a less than \$70 a week? And that doesn't count any of the other things we take for granted like a car, cable television, smart phones for the four of you or emergencies that inevitably arise!

It's not that these parents are lazy. In fact, many of them are working fulltime jobs. But they simply can't find employment that pays a living wage.

The **Men's Silent Offering**, to be received at Spirit of Joy in November, will help such families here in our own country—the wealthiest nation on earth!—as well as hungry families around the world through ELCA World Hunger.

I've been earmarking a certain amount (equal to what I'm spending eating out with friends), and I already have a nice little chunk to contribute. But don't wait till November, when your expenses may be higher with the holidays approaching. Start now by following what St. Paul suggested to people in the church in Corinth: "On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn." This was for a special offering Paul was spearheading to help persecuted, poverty-stricken Christians in Jerusalem.

Later, speaking to the church leadership at Ephesus, Paul said, "I worked with my own hands; ... by such work we must support the [poor], remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Guys, how blest you and I will feel as together we joyously contribute our **Men's Silent Offering** during worship this November!

## YOU'RE INVITED!



You are invited to a Birthday Open House at the home of Ken & Dee Suhr on Saturday, April 29th, 2-4pm, to help Dee celebrate a BIG birthday! Come to 2050 SR 89A in Pine Shadows, Lot 86, Figuero St. Call 928-963-4097 for directions. Hope to see you there!

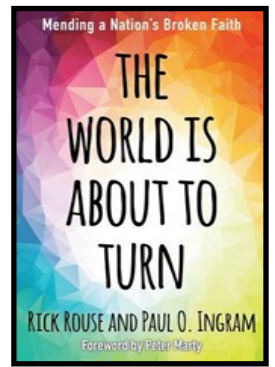


# THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO TURN

Mending a Nation's Broken Faith  
Rick Rouse & Paul O. Ingram

## Chapter 5: Values Matter—Discovering Common Values in Many Faith Traditions

We continue where we left off last month...learning more about the Jewish faith tradition. I hope you have read Genesis 32:22-32. If not, please do so now! Pastor Naomi



In English the word **justice** is the Hebrew word *mispat*—in English the word **righteousness** is the Hebrew word *sedaqah*—in English the word **compassion** is the Hebrew word *hesed*. These words are key to the Jewish faith. (Thought you would like to see some Hebrew words!)

“**Justice** according to the biblical prophets depended upon creating communal structures upon which human beings can depend for peaceful communities and giving all people what they need for meaningful existence, which oftentimes is not what some people want for everyone. **Righteousness**, according to the authors, does not fully convey the meaning of its Hebrew word *sedaqah*. A more accurate translation is ‘solidarity in community,’ which from the second century BCE until the present was imagined by the prophets and the writers of the New Testament as a ‘commonwealth of God’ finally established by God with the appearance of a Messiah, ‘an Anointed One.’ **[In the Jewish faith, the people are still waiting for a Messiah.]** **Compassion** is the experience of a person or community suffering injustice and then reacting justly by resisting personal and institutional forms of injustice. Literally, compassion also means ‘to suffer with’ and it occurs when we experience the suffering of other human beings and sentient beings as our own and attempt to relieve this suffering because it *is* our own...In other words, we have never been, nor are we now, separate beings. The suffering of others as well as the suffering of all living beings with whom we share life on this planet *is our own suffering*.

This is one of the reasons we have long thought that the story of Jacob’s combat with God at the River Jabbok is the major paradigm encompassing the journey of faith not only for Jews, but also for Christians, and Muslims. (Genesis 32:22-32). For Jews, wrestling with God requires following God’s ‘instructions’ in the Torah. It has more often than not been a bruising experience throughout Jewish history. For wrestling with God requires faith—meaning ‘trust’ not ‘belief in doctrines’—that requires betting one’s life on something; in Jacob’s case, on the reality of what he encountered in his wrestling match with God. For Jews, Christians, and Muslims ‘faith’ is God’s way of starting a fight with us. It was a hip **[for Jacob]**—or something else **[for us]**—will be thrown out of joint—and we will ‘limp’ or whatever, throughout the remainder of our lives.

As the history of Jewish experience records, wrestling with God’s demand that human beings establish just, compassionate, communal structures always leave faithful Jews with scars. ‘Being Jewish’ *means* working together to establish these structures—for it is the heart of God’s Torah (instructions). It was for this that Jews have been ‘chosen’ so as to be ‘light to the nations’ as Deutero Isaiah put it (49:6). But it is one thing for a community to be *called* to live justly and compassionately; it’s quite another thing to figure out *how* to create communal structures of existence that are actually compassionate and just. So in imitation of limping Jacob, Jewish experience is a never ending history of wrestling with God to figure out *how* to live in accordance with the Torah’s instructions throughout the ever-shifting conditions of Jewish history.” (pp. 55-56)

Next month **The Christian Way** will be discussed.

*Pastor Naomi*



# Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH

330 Scenic Drive  
Clarkdale, Arizona 86324



## SOJ Weekly Worship Schedule

Worship—Saturdays 4:30pm  
Worship—Sundays 9:30am  
Fellowship—following worship



### CAMPUS CLEAN-UP DAY

is Saturday, April 22nd at 9am.  
Bring your buckets and rags!

## April Highlights

### SEE SPECIAL HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE INSIDE!

Apr 2—Food Bank Sunday  
NO Out to Lunch Bunch...see you in May!  
Apr 4—In-Reach/Outreach Meeting, 10am, CR  
Finance Team Meeting, 4:30pm, CR  
Apr 9—Easter Potluck Brunch after 9:30am worship  
Apr 11—Mutual Ministry Meeting, 11am, CR  
Apr 12—Church Council Meeting, 4:30pm, CR  
Apr 13—WELCA Meeting, 9:30am, FH  
Apr 20—Women's Bible Study, 2pm, CR  
Apr 22—Campus Clean-Up, 9am  
Apr 27—Daytime Book Club, 2pm, CR