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May 18, 2020

Hello church family!

First of all, a big THANK YOU to everyone who has been bringing in personal-size shampoos, soaps, razors, etc. for our HeLP ministry. What a joy you are, and what a gift it is to be able to provide showers to folks who otherwise wouldn't be able. A gentleman and his son came in this week after the son finished work out at the base, and I can't tell you what a gift it was to them both. Thank you, also, for your continued prayers for health and safety for all of our folks who are leading these ministries and for all those we serve.

The Upper Room devotion for today is perfect for this time in our lives. The title is "The Power of Presence." I got chills just reading that, knowing that presence – the physical presence of our church family, and the power of that – is something so many of us are yearning for. I certainly am. The writer, Kevin Thomas, talks about his marriage, and how even the silent presence of one another is so meaningful...and how when they are absent from each other for a period, it becomes even more clear that "presence matters." He goes on, referencing the story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38-42:

"In today's reading, we see that Mary understood the value of presence. She didn't have to join in the conversation. She didn't have to be the center of attention. Just to be present at Jesus' feet was enough. For her presence, Jesus rewarded her: "Mary has chosen the better part, which shall not be taken away from her." What praise from the Master for simply being present with him!

"God still seeks our presence. In the hustle and bustle of each busy day, may we find time to sit quietly in God's presence. In those precious moments of solitude may we discover intimacy beyond words; for when we draw near to God, God will draw near to us." (James 4:8)

Friends, we have been given a great gift of time. I pray that in the not-so-busy days as much as in the very busy ones, we find time to sit quietly in God's presence, and discover intimacy beyond words.

In God's amazing grace,

Pastor Dawn

Kitchen Table Worship

This week, we come to what has always been for me the most powerful part of Peter's story. He has been ever-present in each of the four Gospels, even in John's telling that focuses so much on the "unnamed disciple" tradition names John. Peter is the one who tried walking on water, who identified Jesus as the Messiah, and who Jesus called "the Rock on whom I will build my church." This past Sunday, we saw Peter fail catastrophically when – after all that he had seen, and all that Jesus had seen in him – he denies even knowing Jesus, at the moment when Jesus needed him the most. This week, we meet Jesus and Peter on the beach, after all of that, and see what Jesus does.

“Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

~ Ephesians 2:20-22

As you prepare your heart for worship this week, at your kitchen table or in your comfy living room chair or out on the porch or wherever, you might like to read the scripture for this week in John 21. If you're able, you might like to include water in your preparations for worship: bring a glass or a bowl of water to your table, or spend a moment in prayer outside near a bird bath or a pond, or take a drive to somewhere you can see and hear the river or a lake. Bring to mind Peter and his friends and family, whose livelihood depended on water...whose New Life depended on being born by water and the Spirit...and how ours does too.

NOW What About Drive-In Worship???

There are a couple of things left to figure out as of this writing – mostly how on earth we will organize parking -- and it will probably be a little bit crazy the first time, and we have authorization from zero people, but goldurn it WE ARE DOING IT. If you would like to join us for drive-in worship, **be there or be square on Sunday morning, May 24, at 9am!** Your worship leaders and Pastor Dawn will lead worship from the concrete area in front of the main sanctuary doors, where we will use our outdoor sound system for the call to worship, opening prayer, and YES even music! We will have signs and ushers to help direct you where to park so that you can see and hear...we will use street parking as well as the front parking lot, and will need to park the wrong direction in some places to make it work. Then at 9:30, we will invite you to tune your car radios to KVLV AM980 for the sermon. It will be fun! Hopefully. As it will be our very first run, we will be grateful your patience, as there will undoubtedly be kinks to work out. And of course we will still broadcast the beginning on Zoom and the sermon on Facebook Live, just like always. Honestly, we will probably do that forever for those who can't make it to worship. Hope to see you, for our next adventure in the ever-changing world of the year 2020!

News and Fun Stuff!

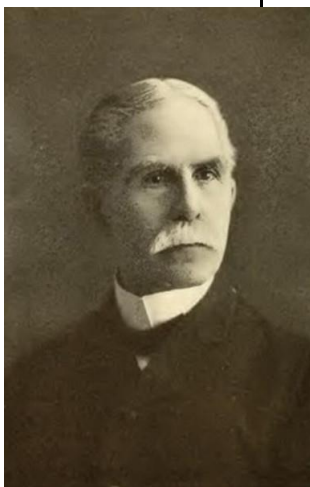
Saturday Mornings with the Young at Heart

Every Saturday morning at 11:30, join us on Zoom (yay technology!) for a Word for the Young at Heart. It might be a story we tell together, or an activity, or a song, or something else altogether! Pastor Dawn will email all of the parents and grandparents the instructions each week. All the kids need is a computer with a video camera so that we can all see each other and talk together. Or even just a phone, and they can join us that way! If you have any questions, call Pastor Dawn at 775-671-5553. Hope you and your kiddos can join us!

May Birthdays!

♥ Shasta Kelley, 5/2
Bailey Strifenberger, 5/13
Ailene Brown, 5/18
♥ Bob Johnston, 5/19
Jeanie Fahl, 5/20
Kate Pinder, 5/23
Ernie DeCoux, 5/24
Cathy McKean, 5/28
Margaret Knox, 5/30
Maggie Neidigh, 5/31
Diana Greer, 5/31

♥ Shasta Kelley,
daughter of Kelli Kelley,
passed away some
years ago.
Bob Johnston, Gaye
Johnston's beloved
husband, passed away
in 2017. They were
deeply loved, and are
sorely missed.



Epworth Youth Group Sundays at 10:30!

We gather by Zoom every Sunday (mostly) to talk about life, the Bible, Christian history, church stuff, and where faith meets real life. Join us, the more the merrier! Call or text Pastor Dawn at 775-671-5553 for the Zoom link. (Cannot WAIT til we can meet in person again, and plan something fun!)

Epworth Tuesday Night Hangout

Missing your church family? We are! Let's get together on Tuesday nights at 7:00pm just to talk together. We can check in with each other, pray for each other, talk about any thoughts we have had about the Bible passage or message from Sunday, or spend the time however we'd like. Grab a delicious beverage, and join us on Zoom or by phone. Look for the link in your email!

A Note about Music

For many of us, music is a big part of our worship and a major way we sing praises and express our faith in God. In this time of uncertainty, with all of the associated feelings of helpless frustration, a song like "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" has particular meaning. It was written by Elisha Hoffman, a Presbyterian minister in Pennsylvania, and his musician friend Anthony Showalter, and was first published in 1887. It was inspired by two of Hoffman's students who wrote telling him that their wives had died, and was initially meant to be sung at funerals to remind mourners of God's loving comfort and help in their sorrow. Since then, it is sung sometimes like a soft lullaby, or often with triumphant joy and great fun. If you're able to search the internet, you can find a wonderful version by American modern folk singer Iris DeMent, which was used as the basis of the award-winning musical score of the 2010 remake of True Grit.

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.

[Refrain]

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.

[Refrain]

Reflections, from United Methodist Men by Bishop James E. Swanson Sr.

"I ran across an online resource called 'The Good Men Project.' I'm assuming (as usual) that I'm way behind on accessing this resource. Please do not read this as an endorsement of this project, but, I do endorse the strong belief that men need to engage in conversations about a variety of issues that influence how they live and interact with this world directly and indirectly. There is no place where that is more needed than in the church.

“Men should be involved in a wide range of topics that have the church’s attention today. When I say “men,” I’m including a wide audience of men who have been left out of these conversations.

We're having the conversation, are you?

THE GOOD MEN PROJECT

Conscious Intersectionality
Sundays at 9pm EDT

#StopSexism
Mondays at 7:30pm EDT

The Leadership Salon
Mondays at 8:30pm EDT

#StopRacism
Tuesdays at 8pm EDT

Rising Stars Class Series
Tuesdays at 9pm EDT

Disposability of Men/CTE
Wednesdays at 7pm EDT

Men's Mental Health
Wednesdays at 8pm EDT

Columnist & Editor Training & Office Hours
Saturdays at 1pm EDT

Call w/ the Publisher
Fridays at 3pm EDT

Political Activism
Thursdays at 8:30pm EDT

Love, Sex, & Relationships
Thursdays at 7:30pm EDT

JOIN TODAY!

PLATINUM Membership grants you access to ALL of these social interest groups and classes!

“The Good Men Project claims to have begun by simply asking men to tell their stories without prejudging the merits of their lives or their stories. That’s where we should begin. We should listen to a person’s stories without attaching our biases and without adding our personal stances or opinions. Before we attempt to engage in conversations with others, we need to listen to the wise counsel of Dr. Anthony Fauci, the lead doctor in our struggle with the COVID-19 coronavirus. He said, “You don’t make the timeline, the virus makes the timeline.”

“We can help set the climate for meaningful and informative conversations with men by following some principles:

- Listen.
- Don’t prejudice their statements, comments or even their body language.
- Ask open-ended questions.
- Invite men from outside normal circles to be a part of these conversations.
- Find ways to share what you heard even if you didn’t agree or you downright disliked what they said.
- Ask yourself this question, “Do I really want to listen and learn?”

“This pandemic has reinforced for me the fact that we’re inextricably tied together and we can’t escape the commonality of our faith. Men need to be encouraged to talk about that. If not now, when?”

Bishop James E. Swanson Sr., president, General Commission on UM Men

This Week in History

325 The Ecumenical Council at Nicaea begins, inaugurated by Emperor Constantine
 1430 Burgundians capture Joan of Arc and sell her to the English
 1506 Christopher Columbus dies
 1536 King Henry VIII has Anne Boleyn beheaded
 1543 Copernicus publishes proof of a sun-centered solar system
 1738 The Methodist Church is established
 1785 Ben Franklin invents bifocals
 1804 Napoleon becomes the emperor of France
 1844 Samuel Morse taps out the first telegraph
 1860 Abraham Lincoln is nominated for President
 1874 Levi Strauss begins marketing blue jeans with copper rivets
 1881 Clara Barton founds the American Red Cross
 1908 The Wright Brothers register their flying machine for a US patent.
 1927 Charles Lindbergh completes the world’s first transatlantic flight
 1932 Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic
 1934 Gangsters Bonnie and Clyde are killed by Texas Rangers
 1939 Hitler and Mussolini sign a “Pact of Steel” forming the Axis powers.
 1951 Willie Mays begins playing for the New York Giants
 1967 Mister Roger’s Neighborhood premiers
 1980 Mt St Helens erupts
 2020 Epworth UMC praises the Lord! ♥

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

~ Colossians 3:16