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Hello church family!

So, you know how I love fun history stuff. Even boring history stuff. I got my undergrad degree in it at UNR, because I just find it fascinating. Useless employment-wise, but fascinating. Anyhoo, so there I was looking at "today in history" for something interesting, when lo and behold I discovered that TODAY, this very day in 1969, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon. Today is also my sister Erin's 45th birthday. Coincidence????? Probably. *OR IS IT?*

Those footprints, I just read, might be visible on the moon for millions of years, because the moon has no atmosphere. What a crazy thought that is.

Maybe you've heard the story of Buzz Aldrin and his faith, as it relates to his trip to the moon. He wrote about it some years ago, and it was published in a 1970 edition of *Guideposts*. It was kind of hush-hush at the time to avoid controversy over the separation of church and state, but what he did and said is something I have always found deeply meaningful. He and his church, Webster Presbyterian just outside of Houston, Texas, had carefully prepared what would be needed, and after landing on the moon, before stepping out of the lunar module, Aldrin looked out in awe and experienced a moment of profound gratitude and wonder. He took out the small foil-wrapped package he had brought with him, read a passage of scripture out loud, prayed, and celebrated Holy Communion. Here is part of what he wrote about it later:

"Houston, this is *Eagle*. This is the LM Pilot speaking. I would like to request a few moments of silence. I would like to invite each person listening in, wherever and whomever he may be, to contemplate for a moment the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in his own individual way."

For me this meant taking communion. In the radio blackout I opened the little plastic packages which contained bread and wine.

I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon the wine curled slowly and gracefully up the side of the cup. It was interesting to think that the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the first food eaten there, were communion elements.

And so, just before I partook of the elements, I read the words which I had chosen to indicate our trust that as man probes into space we are in fact acting in Christ.

I sensed especially strongly my unity with our church back home, and with the Church everywhere.

I read: "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me."

John 15:5 (TEV)

~ Col. Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin,
in Guideposts Magazine, October 1970

Can you imagine?

“Come unto me, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

Matthew 11:28



Apollo 11 splashed down in the Pacific Ocean on July 24, and the men were welcomed back home as heroes. What an incredible thing it all was.

Shortly after their return, newspaper after newspaper was all in a lather over whether Neil Armstrong had said “one small step for man” or “one small step for *a* man.” Good Lord, talk about missing the point.

Let’s not let ourselves get distracted by details, beloved. Let’s take the moments right here on earth, and let ourselves be overwhelmed by wonder. Let’s take deliberate time, set-aside time, to give thanks and praise to God, and live our life so characterized by gratitude that troubles shrink into insignificance next to the power of God, without whom we can do nothing.

In the amazing grace of God,

Pastor Dawn

Worship at Epworth and at Home!

This week, we will continue our worship series on hope, this time in the Gospels with Jesus himself. Strangely enough, the Greek and Aramaic words for hope barely show up in the Bible...but it is Jesus himself who embodies hope as he loves and feeds, heals and teaches and makes well. So many who were caught up in sin, who were sick and hurting and rejected, so many who had almost given up all hope, Jesus reached out and fed, and loved, and healed. Our scripture passages Sunday all come from Matthew, three short ones, but there are messages from hope in the Gospels *everywhere*. You might like to take a look at the Gospel of Matthew this week, as you prepare your heart for worship. You can start anywhere, but one great place is chapter 5. Keep reading until you find something that catches your attention, and stop there and pray: let it settle a bit in your mind and your heart, rather than reading right past it. Is there something in it that relates to your life? Might God be using it to tell you something? What might God be calling you to do, or be, or change? Where is there hope to be found in it, for you?

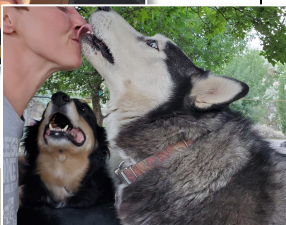
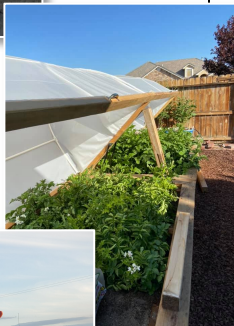
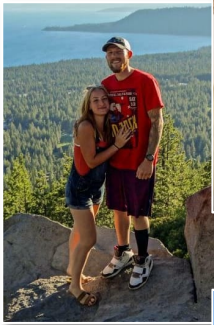
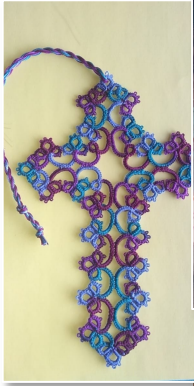
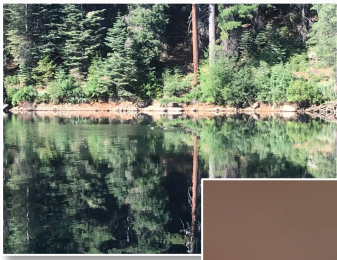
And then, we will gather on Sunday for worship. Some of us will gather in the sanctuary at 9am, and a few more at 11am. Some of us will come to church at 9am but stay in our cars for drive-in church, listening to the service via outside speakers and the sermon on the radio. Some of us will continue to worship from home, joining us on Facebook Live or on KVLV AM 980. ALL of us will come into the presence of God on Sunday waiting in joyful hope for the coming of our savior Jesus Christ. See you then, friends. ♥

News and Fun Stuff

Good News in Fallon

We asked folks here in Fallon about good news happening in their life. There were nearly 200 responses in less than 24 hours! Some of those responses were strangers congratulating each other, people saying how good it is to have woken up “on the right side of the dirt,” and just how good it felt to read other people’s good news, and share their own. We can’t share them all here, but here is a good sampling. On the left are pictures folks offered of all kinds of things that made them happy:

- My husband and I found out today that our pregnancy is sticking this time
- We are going camping, Yay going to pick some wild black berries and make some jam.
- We paid a bunch of stuff off! And got a pop up trailer for camping and are finally getting our truck fixed and getting a puppy some time in February!!!
- My little sister got married last week
- We were just granted full guardianship of 2 of our grandchildren today!!!!
- I'm going fishing this weekend!
- My granddaughter’s are at the National High School Rodeo and kicking butt! All of our Nevada kids are here to win and doing great!
- I also adopted my foster son last week!
- I am 70 and loving life
- My daughter got her license yesterday!
- My beautiful, sweet, smart, fun granddaughter just graduated from dental hygienist school. She put in a lot of long hours and hard work. She has already been hired on in Carson City ,where she lives, I’m so proud of her. Thanks for letting me brag.
- I saw my first little baby sunflower sprout poking up today.
- Found this little girl by the canal on Maine Street and she has definitely made it an easy choice to keep her. She is about 5 weeks old and full of spunk. We named her Flashetta
- Well, tonight the chickens took themselves into their yard and started putting themselves to bed, I didn't even have to herd them.
- Harvesting more tomatoes than I can eat. The neighbors are happy about it.
- I saw my first bluebill duck the other day I travel these canals often and never seen one
- God is awesome and I am so blessed.
- So blessed to have enjoyed this beautiful day. Got our chores done early while it was cooler!
- Thankful for my Faith, Hope and Love of our Lord and Saviour



July Birthdays!

Jim Wieboldt, 7/1
Mike Berney, 7/1
♥ Debi Kissick, 7/1
Dustin Stritenberger, 7/2
Hayden Brown, 7/5
Barbara Evans, 7/8
Jackie Warburton, 7/8
♥ Darline Hughes, 7/9
Grant Mills, 7/9
Shirley McDonald, 7/12
Ariel Endacott, 7/13
Faye Tewell, 7/13
Darrell Dugan, 7/16
Aaron Fraker, 7/16
Shayda Lofthouse, 7/16
Dan Wolf, 7/16
♥ Kathy Albiston, 7/20
Jaime Lawrence, 7/23
Jerry Noonkester, 7/23
Laura Ivey, 7/24
Bill Hughes, 7/27
Wilma Miers, 7/31
Marlene Pierce, 7/31

♥ *Our beloved Debi Kissick, Darline Hughes, and Kathy Albiston were such incredibly important members of our church family. Prayers for their families and friends, who love and miss them still.*

God of Wonders

This being the anniversary of Apollo 11 landing on the moon, we thought this would be a perfect time to think about the amazing things God has created in the universe. Here's some fun stuff we found out!

- * If you were to place Saturn in water, it would float.
- * If you placed a pinhead-sized piece of the sun on earth, you would die if you stood within 90 miles of it.
- * Neutron stars are so dense that one teaspoon of one would be equal to the combined weight of every person on earth.
- * Every year, the moon is moving away from Earth by 3.8 centimeters.
- * Even if you were able to travel close to the speed of light, it would still take 100,000 years to cross the Milky Way galaxy.
- * A new star is born in our galaxy roughly every 18 days.
- * Olympus Mons on Mars is the tallest volcano in our universe, almost 3 times as taller than Mount Everest.
- * The human brain is the most complex object in the known universe.
- * We are all made of stardust. Almost every element found on earth was created in the burning core of a star; you can read more about this on NASA's official website. According to Carl Sagan, "The nitrogen in our DNA, the calcium in our teeth, the iron in our blood, the carbon in our apple pies were made in the interiors of collapsing stars. We are made of starstuff."

United Methodist Women & United Methodist Men: Lay Organizations Lead on Self Care

Eat a balanced diet. Exercise 4 times a week. Get a good night's sleep. These age-old admonitions on building a healthy life ring in our ears, especially when we are somehow shortcutting our own self care.

United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men have been thinking about new ways to engage folks in self care, especially in the time of COVID-19. Each lay organization has developed resources and opportunities for folks to re-establish balance and begin self-nurturing disciplines that will carry us through the long haul and beyond the time of this pandemic.

United Methodist Women's spiritual growth study, "Finding Peace in an Anxious World," is an invitation to explore God's desire for our hearts to experience a peace that surpasses our own understanding, especially when times are tough. Go to www.unitedmethodistwomen.org and type "finding peace in an anxious world" to learn more about the study and how you might use the study on your own or participate with others in a virtual 'Mission U' this summer.

United Methodist Men offers spiritual formation through its "40 Day Shepherd Challenge" which combines the principles of scouting and faith in an exciting journey of self care and discovery. Go to www.gcumm.org and click on "resources" and look for the 40 Day Shepherd Challenge as well as great Bible studies and other resources. Download your copy and begin your 40 days of spiritual growth. ♥