

# INTO THE FOLD

# February 2020

visit our website at [www.umcrp.org](http://www.umcrp.org)

Ponderings by Pastor JoEllyn....

## TIE DYE

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And



## TESTIMONY

Going through the alphabet in my mind brought me back to one of my favorite books:

26 Ways to Pray the Alphabet:  
Daily Spiritual Practices to Help You Ask,  
Begin, Center, and Do  
By: Lisa Nichols Hickman

This month I will be sharing “Tie-Dye and Testimony”. Telling is the work of testimony. Sharing our testimony is difficult for some and for others the easiest process in the world. As the author suggests by comparing, why not share your most loved hobby with another. During that time, what you believe will seep out between the words and actions of your life and its truth.

Maybe one of our problems with theology is that it can become if not careful, far removed from our more comfortable every day. Another maybe to ponder is, theology always has to have a little testimony—it has to bear witness to the Incarnation—that God is always in the flesh, never

disembodied, always surprisingly graspable.

We ASK: what does theology have to do with your everyday life? Where do the two go hand in hand? When do the two feel far removed from each other?

We BEGIN: if God is always “in the flesh,” then our flesh matters. Our lives matter. Our testimony matters. Our lives become theology. Walt Whitman writes “This is what you shall do...” and later concludes after a list of a dozen imperative verbs commanding particular action...” and then your very flesh shall be a great poem.

What list of twelve actions would you fill in the blanks to complete this poem? Whitman writes, for example, “love the earth and sun and animals.” What imperatives would you offer? Jot down a list of ten or twelve. This is the beginning of your lived theology.

We CENTER: as you can see I is a letter that knows its center—its balancing act is complete. Doodle a letter I. On either side of the crossbar across the top write down two opposing things you are trying to balance in your life. On the vertical axis to your I—write down a single word that helps you maintain perspective when you are trying to find that balance.

We DO: as Paul Tillich says with gratitude of friend and mentor Elsa Brandstrom that “she made God transparent.” Who is someone who has made God transparent to you in your life? Write a letter of gratitude to that person, with specifics, giving thanks for the testimony and transparency they offered you.

Taking our particular tie-dye moments and combining them with our testimony is what we are called to do, truly do. Those moments are what our lives are all about, the events where God has shined the brightest. I invite you to take this I challenge..... find your center, God’s blessings will be there.

Praying You Through,

Pastor JoEllyn

**Bette’s Bits & Bytes:**

**Where is It?????**

Is it just me? Or Is there anyone, besides me, working on a report, project or craft of some kind, and what you just had a minute ago is now nowhere in sight... You haven’t moved, you just put it down where you are working, but yet, there you are searching for it... Where has it gone? You begin picking up papers, & whatever else is on desk, looking, and muttering “Where in the World is it????” I haven’t moved from this spot!! But it is In hiding. Finally after the 15<sup>th</sup> search, you find what went hidden!!

We have 25 attendance pad holders, ready to be handed out every Sunday by the ushers.. When have torn the pages out from Sunday , I count the holders to make sure I have all the holders, so everyone, who was there Sunday, can be counted and reported in the attendance report. If I don't have 25, I go in search of the missing holder.. About 6 months ago one went missing.. I looked behind the Hymnals/Bibles in the racks, but didn't see it.. I checked at ends of pews, behind bears, and under pews, but couldn't find... Could it be possible it went in the "Attendance Pad Protection Service"?.. Figured it would turn up the next week, but "No" it was remaining in a really secure place.. So now there was only 24 attendance pad holders being used... Two or three weeks ago, I counted the holders and What? There was 25... To make sure counted again, the missing one suddenly came out of hiding... So, where has it been for that many months???? Who knows, it isn't talking!!

One last mystery! Each week I replenish the giving envelopes. As I'm replacing, I keep my eyes open for left behind bulletins or inserts that may be sticking out of a hymnal, bible, or peeking out from the bottom of the rack... It's quite amazing, it is December and I will find a bulletin from June or July.. Last week "poof" there was a poinsettia list insert, peeking out from the rack!! Just where was that hiding for three weeks? And why has it suddenly made its' grand reappearance?? Do you suppose they collude with the attendance pad? It just is not nice to play with what is left of an old lady's mind!! Dave says "it might not be nice, but it is FUN!!" Others may say, must have a mind first, but hey! that is beside the point... Is it just me? I hope I'm not alone in this !!

Hakuna Matata!

Blessings & Peace be yours, *Bette*

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Starting a study by Stephen M. Miller, "A Visual Walk Through Genesis..".

Exploring the Story of "How It All Began" ..

Genesis is the story of Creation: the beginning of life, humanity, and civilization.

It's a book full of weird and wild stories: A talking snake, God making Eve from Adam's rib  
Fallen angels and human women making baby giants, A flood that covers the entire planet  
A 100-year-old man and his 91-year old wife having a baby... Whoa.... some tall tales?

Bible experts don't always know what to make of these stories. But they've got their educated guesses.

Stephen M. Miller, a former newspaper journalist with a seminary degree, reports those theories from a wide range of scholars: tradition-minded as well as progressive. He does it so objectively that readers can't see his opinions coming through. "That's often easy for me to do," Miller says, "because I'm as confused as the next guy."

<https://stephenmillerbooks.com/>

This study is sure to make us all go hmmm! Excited to start this study..

Please come & join us. Class meets at 10:30 right after fellowship hour

**CHILDRENS SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The Children In February KidsOwn Worship will learn about:

- Feb 2 - Jesus Teaches That We Are to Be Salt and Light
- Feb 9 Jesus Walks on Water
- Feb 17 Zacchaeus Climbs to See Jesus
- February 24 Jesus Blesses the Children

Prayer, praise and worship all tie into the weekly Bible passages. Creative

lessons and crafts keep kids engaged, music teaches Scripture—all with life-changing results. The children will meet together for music, then go to their respective classes.. Even the preschoolers will be involved, so they start their journey to know Jesus and what He is all about...



The January meeting of Best Years, met at Jenny Rae's, hosted by Mary Kessler. Iva said grace, followed by a bevy of conversations.

Iva reported February birthdays. Mary Eddy, 2/4, Art Schuck, 2/6, & Terry Nickerson, 2/24. At the December meeting Iva missed Deb Harris' Birthday on 1/12...

Attendance gifts, monthly planners & box chocolates, were won by Iva, Ann Riedstra, Connie Galloway, Ben Rison, Wayne Kirkham, Lisa Tucker, Linda Everingham, & Bette Schaefer.

Others present were Shirley Kirkham, Steve Everingham, Lester & JoEllyn Chadwick, Art & Rose Lenig, Sharon Campos, Karen Rison, Myrna Everill, Evelin Hamilton, Pam Dixon, & Mike & Deb Harris.

JoEllyn Chadwick will host the Feb 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting..

**Missions & Outreach..**

My Many Friends at RPumc Thank you so much for my Christmas gift...Love & Good Health 2020  
Doris Burkus



There are no Kings Club Offerings this month..... Thank you to those who have given to the Kings Club to support the missions of our church.

\*Kings club offerings go to support the local missions supported by the Missions and Outreach Committee. Which includes The Rolling Prairie Food Pantry, Hope Rescue Mission, Broadway Christian Parish, the Local Emergency Fund, and the Journey to Bethlehem. Donations of any amount are appreciated and accepted.

## Happy Anniversary

15 Wayne & Shirley Kirkham



## Happy Birthday!

February

- 02 James Sutter
- 04 Mary Eddy
- 05 Roxanna Hawkins
- 06 Arthur Schuck
- 06 Ciara Daley
- 09 Olivia Obenchain
- 09 Penny Melton
- 12 Rob Manuszak
- 13 Reuty Jack
- 14 David Wasielewski
- 16 August Schuck
- 19 Christopher Watnick
- 22 Karen Fitzgerald
- 22 Chase Summerlin
- 24 John Sardeson
- 24 Howard Lange
- 24 Kenneth Watnick
- 24 Terry Nickerson
- 26 Neal Syverson
- 28 Karley Kinsey
- March Birthdays**
- 02 Steve Poole
- 05 Joyce Blint
- 10 Iva Wasielewski
- 11 Wayne Kirkham

If you have a need or you know someone that

needs prayers, Call Pastor JoEllyn and she will relay to the next person to activate the Prayer Chain. Pastor JoEllyn's Cell phone # for After Hours Emergency & Prayer Chain Request **(219)-363-5061**

### EVENTS & MEETINGS

#### February 2020



Ladies You are Invited to the UMW TEA PARTY

Saturday FEB 8, Noon  
This year's theme is Books & Movies

*Dress as a favorite Character in a book or movie.. Don't want to dress, No Problem just bring your book or Movie.. You will have opportunity to tell why you like the character... Invite a Friend to come with you....*

**UMW TEA PARTY** Saturday February 8, Noon - Fellowship hall No 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues of month UMW meeting in February

**Women's Phillipians Bible Study** begins Friday February 14 9:30 a.m. @ Rose Lenig's home...

**Trustees - Basement & Closet Reorganization** Saturday Feb 15 8 a.m. Anyone having a few hours to spare to help with this work day would be greatly appreciated.. If you know of anything in basement you want saved please be here to point out items U want saved or they could be gone forever...

**Education Meeting** Sunday Feb 16, after church 10:15 a.m.

**Best Years Fellowship** Wed Feb 19, Noon Jennie Rae's

**Ash Wednesday** Feb 26, Noon & 6:30 p.m

**New Women's Bible Study**

Submitted by Rose Lenig

Attention all women! Friday, February 14 th a study of Phillipians

will begin. This study is written for women. The group will meet in homes. This will give each of the women an opportunity to become better acquainted. The premise of the study is to help the women develop a close relationship with God and each other. Ten ladies have indicated a desire to become a part of the Bible study. The first meeting will be at Rose Lenig's house - 305 E Ludlow, Rolling Prairie. Study will begin at 9:30 am and last about an hour to an hour and a half. . All are welcome to join.



Tom Wheatbrook & Scott Lenig for taking Co-Chairs of Trustees... Julie Phillips for Council

President... Grace Siford Chair of Memorials. Sue Hughes, & Chris Adams as Greeter Co-ordinators, Thank You to Karen Fitzgerald, Education, Gretchen Krivak, Missions & Outreach, Neal

Syverson, Staff Parish, Scott Lenig, Worship, as you continue as Chairs of your committees... Thank You Deb Harris, for staying on as Treasure, & Board/Council Secretary...

The church would not run efficiently without those who fill these positions of the church...

Thank You Tom Wheatbrook for patching nursery room wall where the Rocking chair was pushed into & gouged. Thank you, AA guys, for pushing the Trash Totes out to road for pickup...

Thank You, Dan Hartwick, for bringing the Totes back up & put where they belong...



**THANK YOU!**



To the Congregation of RPUMC, Thank you for your generous donation to the Food

Pantry. We are grateful for your support...

Sincerely, Phyllis Austin,  
Food Pantry Board Member

To the Congregation of RP United Methodist Church, On behalf of the Community Food Pantry, we would like to thank you for your donations this past year.. The Food Pantry relies on the generosity of donors such as your self and is grateful for your support

Sincerely, Phyllis Austin,  
Food Pantry Board Member

**8:00 AM: Too tired to think!!**

**Noon: Too tired to think!!**

**5 PM: Too tired to think!!**

**Midnight: How do dragons blow Out candles???**

**February  
FOOD PANTRY**

**Requests**

**Always Need  
plastic bags**



Food Pantry asking again this month Canned Pasta's.. They simply can't keep on the shelf.. So it made the request needs again....

**Canned Pasta, (beef-a-roni,  
spaghetti -O's etc.**

**Canned Carrots**

**Any canned Fruit**

**Egg cartons no longer needed...**

**Thank You to all who  
brought them in..**

those positions to less responsibility positions.. So, Penny Derucki is now serving as our President & Barbara Parker as Vice President... I hope you both enjoy your more laid-back positions... 😊

Our new secretary is Cheryl Lenig, and she has started with an awesome newsletter article... Thank You, Penny, & Barbara for your past offices & taking on your present choices & Cheryl for taking on secretary.... 2020 has started out with a wonderful transition...

**January 2020 UMW meeting**

Our January UMW meeting was held in the fellowship room at church and was opened with prayer by Barb Parker. Barb was the January hostess and served a luscious breakfast of quiche, banana bread, apples, and coffee. We then had a short conversation regarding our flower fund offering and our yearly offering.

While neither is required of any member, we use the money to help with God's work and to purchase flowers or other small gifts when a member is sick or needs a pick-me-up. We read the UMW purpose before going onto our program for the day. Rose Lenig introduced Karen Biernacki from LaPorte's Harmony House. What an inspiring and interesting speaker about a beneficial program in our local area. (More information regarding this program to follow in the newsletter from Rose)

Myrna Everill read the prayer calendar for the day. UMW is supporting many women and children throughout the world. It seems so many families have similar problems and concerns. It is amazing to part of an organization that gives support, generosity, and prayers to communities in need.

The next item on the agenda was the treasurers report. We have a balance of almost \$3000 which allows us to

begin paying 2020 outstanding commitments. We are continuing with all of our current programs and will also make a donation to Harmony House yearly.

We followed the treasurers report with cares and concerns. Pastor JoEllyn asked that we send a card to our past Bishop's family. (Michael Coyner,) He was a loving man and a terrific Bishop. Donna Cain read a heart full thank you to the group regarding her illness. Donna has been the group's card/flower person for several years. She feels that she needs to step down from her responsibilities for now while she is working hard on getting well. Penny Derucki will take over the responsibilities until Donna is able to return. We also updated names of members in attendance, adding likes and dislikes or any special diets that are important when planning for a hospital visit. Penny will gets cards for the group to sign in bulk so that we will have them ready to go if needed!

Old business: our Valentine Tea party is Saturday, February 8 @ noon. We will set up on Friday, February 7 @10 am. Rose Lenig will be the chairperson and will work with Bette Schaefer to get invitations to the women of our church and to the local churches. We hope to have good attendance, good food, and good fellowship. The theme will be favorite books or movies. We are inviting anyone to dress up as a favorite movie or book character or bring a favorite book! Pastor JoEllyn will be our MC for the day! We will have several kinds of quiche,(one that is crustless) fresh fruit, and a cute dessert. Rose and Cheryl will make the quiche and dessert, and Penny and Barb will take care of the fresh fruit. Cheryl will get the valentine placemats and napkins. Iva will also make sure we have drinks.



Barbara Parker, serving as UMW President, and Penny Derucki, Secretary, for several years decided they wanted to step down from

New business: Treasure Market will take place Saturday, June 6 from 8-2. The committee consisting of Barb, Bette, and Bobbett Elkins will meet to discuss the event further. We need the application ready for vendors soon. Iva Wasielewski will be in charge of tables for the group to sell items but will be particular in what we take. We want good, clean items. (No clothes please) We discussed providing electricity for an added fee and also charging if vendors need tables. Iva commented about being able to hear during the program part of our meeting. It is so hard for a group, and especially a group of women that enjoy visiting with each other, to try and be considerate of those who have difficulty hearing. We have been trying hard to be conscious of others and take turns speaking and talking loud enough for everyone to hear. Wow it's hard! Some of us love to talk! (Especially me!) After having a wonderful morning of fellowship, we closed with the Lord's Prayer. We will have our next monthly meeting March 10. Our new 2020 officers did a great job for the first meeting of the year! Thank you to our new leader, Penny! Come join us, we are saving you a seat....

Submitted and written by  
Cheryl Lenig  
**Harmony House**  
By Rose Lenig

Are you aware of this facility in LaPorte County? The UMW women were not until our speaker, Karen Biernacki, shared its vision as part of Family Advocates. Harmony House was formed in 1999 after seeing the need for a safe-yet - relaxing venue for court-ordered supervised parental visits in the community. Before Harmony House, the police department would orchestrate these visits in its parking lot.

In contrast, Harmony House offers a welcoming environment, with a living room, kitchen, game room with toys, a yard with outdoor activities. Parents are free to do as they would at their home - playing games, cooking, watching a movie, etc. These parental visits last between one and two hours.

These parental visits, in a comfortable, neutral setting, encourage parents and children to relax while strengthening their family relationship.

These sessions are closely monitored by visitation staff that observes, records activities and stand close to intervene if necessary for the emotional or physical safety of the child.

Harmony House is also used as a monitored exchange program offered to parents not required to have supervised visitation, but that need to exchange custody of children without interacting with the other parent. The monitoring of the exchange is done in a way that neither parent has any interaction with the other.

The reasons to use Harmony House:

1. Parents having a history of hostile or violent arguments during the pickup and return of the children.
2. The visiting parent has a substance abuse and/or mental health problems that give the Court or custodial parent concern for the child's welfare.
3. The visiting parent's living situation is unsuitable for meeting the needs of his/her children.
4. Either parent has allegations of abuse or neglect.
5. The Court suspects the visiting parent may flee the state with the child; or the children are in custody

or care of the Division of Family and Children.

Anyone interested in additional detailed information on the FAMILY ADVOCATES programs can call 219-324-3385 or visit their website at LPFamilyAdvocates.com. The other programs are CASA and CAYA. There is a need for volunteers, who are supplied with extensive training and support, and contributions to financially help support the work being done for children.

SOMETIMES THE SMALLEST STEP  
IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION ENDS UP  
BEING THE BIGGEST STEP OF  
YOUR LIFE. TIP TOE IF YOU MUST,  
BUT TAKE THE STEP



Wayne Kirkham (surgery) Conner Family (unexpected death of 42 year old son, friend of Julie Phillips),

Glen Cable (home after stroke, Pam/Joe Pask Step-dad), Yvette Rose, (fell broke hip, friend Scott Lenig) Carrie Chadwick (health issues, Pastor JoEllyn daughter) Ed Haverstock (diabetes health concerns, Bobette/Jeff Elkins brother), Mike McCormick (leg & hip surgery upcoming, friend, Jeff/Bobette), Ann Riedstra (Health concerns), Marguerite Schroeder (Millers for rehab, sister Mike/Deb Harris) Denice Boyce, (health concerns, sister Sherry/Paul Iwaszewski), Angel Primmer (8<sup>th</sup> grader, diabetic -can't stabilize- Rose Lenig), Donna Cain (Immune Therapy treatments for breast cancer) Steve Owens (cancer, friend Ann Reidstra), Russ & Gail Cavinder (Home recovering Flu A, friend Barbara Parker) Joan Turvin (health concerns, friend Ann Riedstra) Brenda Loggins, (depression, Kathy Crass daughter)

**RIP Joe Jones,**  
Brother-in-law Arthur Schuck

If you want someone to remain on or added please fill out new request card or call Pastor JoEllyn or Bette 219-778-2910



Garrett Obenchain US Air Force Reserves Son of Jeremy & Stefanie Grandson Art & Rose Lenig Jacob Adams US Army-States grandson Chris Adams Craig Carlson, (pilot) US Air Force son Harold & Carrie Carlson

Matthew Chadwick US Army - son Lester & JoEllyn Chadwick Michael Showalter Marines, grandson Wayne & Shirley Kirkham Matthew Rompca Air Force nephew Shirley & Wayne Kirkham Katelyn Williamson U S Marines Daughter of Al and granddaughter of Jim Williamson

If you have someone serving and would like on our prayer list please let Bette know...

Please lift all those serving our country, who are struggling, for whatever the reason; being alone, illness, divorce, loss of job, loss of loved ones, going through the firsts after death of loved one.

Give thanks for everything... Hear our Prayers, Oh Lord!

*Health AND Wellness*

Besides being a wife and mother, Gretchen has been super busy these last few months with her job, not to mention her classes & tests that is now thrown into her mix. To give her a breather, I went back into the archives and found her article from 2018 February newsletter. It was a good read back then and worth a refresher read now...

Hope your class load gets lighter soon, Gretchen....

If anyone has any questions on Health & Wellness, Gretchen would be more than happy to answer them... Please talk with her or give Bette your questions and I will get them to Gretchen....

### From February 2018

February can be a tough month. All the holidays have passed, it is too cold to be outside and active, plus by now you may realize that your New Year's resolutions have already been too hard to keep. One way to get back on track is with goal setting.

Many of us set goals, but we have a tough time sticking with them. Here are some tips to help you with the goal setting process. First, use the SMART thinking about your goals. SMART stands for specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time based. For example, if my goal was to lose weight, instead of just saying I want to lose weight I can make my goal: By March 15, 2018 I will lose 5 pounds of body weight. I can measure this goal by weighing myself and I have set a specific date I want to achieve this goal by. Writing out your goal and putting it in a place where you will see it often can help you stick to your goal and having an accountability partner, someone to report your actions to can also be helpful. Something else to think about when setting goals is that you want to make sure that they are realistic. Losing 20 pounds in 1 month is not a realistic goal.

Actually, when it comes to weight loss I recommend that you try to lose around 1 pound each week. This does not seem like a lot, but this is a reduction of 500 calories each day in your diet or burning 500 extra calories each day through exercise. Plus, research has proven that those who lose weight slow and steady will more likely keep the weight off long-

term. Last, as you come up with your goals think about how likely you are to stick with the goal you have set. You can rate your goal on a scale of 1-10, 1 being not at all likely and 10 being definitely likely. With each goal you set you want to be able to give it an 8-10 rating on likelihood of achieving your goal. Really think about what is realistic for you. Set small goals first to work up to bigger ones you would like to achieve.

### Keys to goal setting:

Remember the SMART acronym.

1. Set a small goal that you are likely to achieve
2. Write your goal down and tell someone about it
3. Put your goal in a place where you see it regularly and can be reminded to stay on track

If you would like help with your goal setting or just need someone to be accountable to, please feel free to contact me. I am more than happy to help you with your health goals.

Happy goal setting, Gretchen Krivak MS, RD, CGFI 2018



### A Recipe for Happiness: The Beatitudes

EXCERPTED FROM <https://sermons4kids.com/>

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12

Today, we are going to fix a tasty snack. Oh boy, that sounds like fun. The first thing we need is a recipe. You know what a recipe is, don't you? A recipe is a set of instructions, including a list of all the ingredients. I have a recipe to make a delicious and healthy trail mix.

We need a bowl to mix it in. See if Mom, Dad, Grandma or Grandpa will help you make this trail mix? Let's read the recipe to know how to make it. First, we will add some Chex Mix and M&Ms.

Let's see, next we add some pretzel sticks



and then some plain or yogurt-covered raisins.

We're not done! We still have two more ingredients for our trail mix. Let's add the Cheez Its and the Honeycomb cereal. Give it a stir.... Wellah! the trail mix is all finished... So now we have a tasty snack we can enjoy later.

Did you know that Jesus gave us a recipe for living a happy life? In the book of Matthew, the Bible says, "Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to Him, and He began to teach them." He taught them a lesson we call "The Beatitudes." Each one of the beatitudes starts with the words, "Blessed are they..." Some translations of the Bible use the word happy instead of blessed. So this is Jesus' recipe for us to be happy.

I like that the word "beatitudes" has two parts to it: be and attitude. The Beatitudes are ways that we can *be* and *attitudes* we can have. Let's look at a few of these beatitudes.

Jesus said to...Be merciful to people. To be kind when they are hurting.

Jesus said to...Be peacemakers when people are fighting.

Jesus said to...Have an attitude of pure thoughts.

Jesus said to...Have an attitude of wanting to do right.

Jesus also said that when we are sad, God comforts us and then we are happy.

I like that Jesus gave us a recipe for how to be and what kind of attitudes to have. And Jesus says that we will be happy if we follow His recipe.

Dear God, thank You for the beatitudes. Please help us follow Your recipe and have the kind of attitudes you want us to have, for a happy and blessed life. In Jesus' name we pray, AMEN!!

### **We all say Good Morning to others...**

Do you know the new meaning of "Good Morning?"

- G — Get up.
- O — Open your heart.
- O — Open your mind.
- D — Dedicate your day to God.

- M — Meditate on God's Word.
- O — Optimise your faith & hope.
- R — Rebuke all evils.
- N — Never doubt God's love.
- I — Inspire someone.
- N — Nothing should scare you.
- G — Go out with joy

Excerpted from:  
[www.soblesseddaily.com/good-morning](http://www.soblesseddaily.com/good-morning)

I have recently redeveloped a like for Disney Movies.. Moana is one of those movies that I can watch over &

over again. Although there is Polynesian paganism, throughout the movie, there are many things in this movie that we can relate to our relationship with Jesus & God... @Bette

Disney's animated film "Moana" presents the struggles of finding and living one's True Self. Moana is a young girl in line to be chief of her island home, Motunui. It is an island that provides all they need. The bay provides fish, the island's resources provide food and materials to build and create, and the people fulfil their ordained roles. The gods are providing for them abundantly and their happiness is there on the island. And Moana will help continue this pattern as the eventual new chief. This beauty and order in the opening scenes paints perfection. It might even be a reminder to us that God always provides abundantly. But for the Motunui people, the island has become a kind of false security, an attachment. They find no need to go beyond the reef that surrounds their home. "The island gives us what we need / And no one leaves," they sing. They tell Moana what's important is *where you are*. Excerpted from: [godinallethings.com/2017/01/02/who-you-are-moanas-call-to](http://godinallethings.com/2017/01/02/who-you-are-moanas-call-to)

*Actually what's important to us as Christians, is Who you are, and God says "Your Mine:..... How very awesome is that???" @Bette*

Following Article is Excerpted from [http://media.pauline.org/Resources/Blog/ArticleID/3527/Reflecting-on-Gods-Call-with-Disneys-Moana\\_\\_\\_with-excerpts-from-godinallethings.com-&cbn.com](http://media.pauline.org/Resources/Blog/ArticleID/3527/Reflecting-on-Gods-Call-with-Disneys-Moana___with-excerpts-from-godinallethings.com-&cbn.com)

### **Media Mindfulness Blog**

Reflecting on God's Call with Disney's "Moana"

Moana's calling by the ocean and her journey of responding to that call throughout the film, echoes

the famous “calls” we see in the Scriptures: Moses, Gideon, Jonah, Mary and others. God calls them but they do not see themselves worthy of being called. Encouraged by God, they respond to the call, sometimes reluctantly, and fulfill the mission given them by God.

This past Sunday’s Gospel (Mark 1:14-20) describes the call of the first apostles. Peter and Andrew, James and John, were going about their daily tasks when Jesus called them saying, “Come after me and I will make you fishers of men.” The Gospel tells us that they left everything, job and family, to follow Jesus.

I often wonder what, exactly, it was about the person of Jesus that enabled these men to just drop everything and follow the Lord after this single encounter. He must have been one magnetic personality. I imagine that Peter, Andrew, James, and John didn’t at first understand why they were following but had a gut feeling that it was the right thing to do. Only after being with Jesus and listening to him did they get an inkling of the importance of being with him. Moana’s lifetime love of the ocean prepared her to follow her call into the unknown of the wide sea but she felt small and unprepared.

None of us must figure out God’s call and how to respond to it alone. The apostles had each other and Jesus. Moana had Gramma Tala, Maui, and the ocean itself to guide and encourage her when she was about to give up. In our own journey of following God’s call, we, too, have people who help and guide us along the way.

Following is In an article from <https://godinallthings.com/2017/01/02/who-you-are-moanas-call-to-discernment/> it says this about Gramma. She is the voice that calls Moana to listen, like Eli helps Samuel to listen to the voice of God, Gramma teaches Moana about the voice inside, the conscience (God to believers) which is calling her out of the comfort and false security of the island. Throughout the film we see tensions between life and death, light and darkness, and between the interdependent socio-centric culture on the island and being independent and following a call. Moana struggles with this. “I’ll be satisfied if I play along / But the voice inside sings a different song / What is wrong with me?” Gramma tells Moana to respect her father and her traditions, but there’s a deeper calling... to be her True Self.

We all have a vocation given to us by the Lord. Are, our ears and eyes open to listen to God working in our lives? The desires God has for us are deep in our very selves, just like Moana’s love of the ocean indicated that her mission lay beyond the confines of Motunui. Listen, especially in prayer, for God speaking to you through your deepest desires. What makes you truly at peace?

Moana exhibits strength, kindness, selflessness, sacrifice, and a desire to protect her people. She also encourages Maui to be his best, a hero who’ll give up his own self-interest for the wellbeing of others. (Above paragraph excerpted from <https://www1.cbn.com/movies/moana-review...>)

One thing I noticed in watching “Moana” is that special emphasis is given to being called by name. The name Moana in Hawaiian means ocean. When Moana calls to the lava monster, Te Ka,(who

was Te Fiti, a deity island, whose heart was stolen by the demigod Maui) she tells her, “I know your name.” When Moana is about to give up on her mission, Gramma Tala reminds her of her call asking her, “Do you know who you are?” This forces Moana to claim not only her heritage as the daughter of the chief, but as a voyager and all that makes her who she is. The song ends on a triumphant note, “I am Moana!”

God calls each of us by name. He’s planted in our hearts the desires that will help us respond to that call. Responding is not easy and it takes a lot of hard work to, first, discern what it is God is calling me to, and then following the call, not only in big life decisions but in the daily things God puts in front of us. But it all pays off in the end. True peace only comes from fulfilling God’s will for you and any other path, although it may be good in itself, cannot bring the peace and joy that comes from doing what and being who God means you to be....

*“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, You are mine.”* Isaiah 43:1.

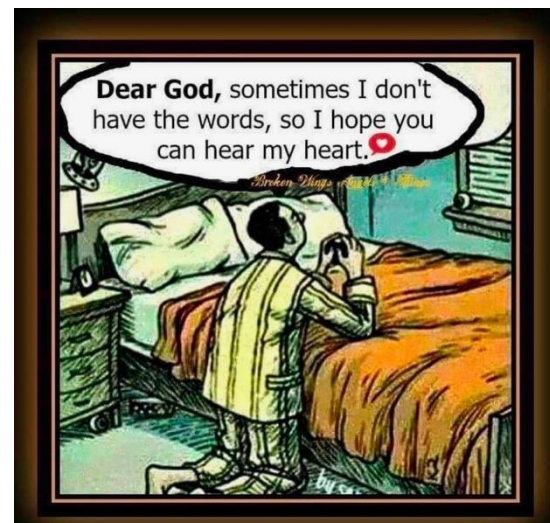


Image Above from God be with you..