



"Sharing the Bread of Life"

Table Talk

February 2020

Upcoming Events

Sunday 02/02

10:30 AM Brunch with Jesus

Thursday 02/06

7:00 PM Choir

Saturday 02/08

7:00 PM St. Tim's Coffeehouse
Tim Grimm

Sunday 02/09

10:30 AM Worship
11:30 AM Annual Meeting
with Lunch

Tuesday 02/11

4:30 PM Confirmation

Thursday 02/13

7:00 PM Choir

Friday 02/14

7:00 PM Dance 4 Health
Valentine's Dance

Sunday 02/16

10:30 AM Birthday Sunday

Tuesday 02/18

6:30 PM Church Council Meeting

Thursday 02/20

7:00 PM Choir

Tuesday 02/25

4:30 PM Confirmation

Wednesday 02/26

7:00 PM Ash Wednesday

Thursday 02/27

7:00 PM Choir

Friday 02/28

9:45 AM Sack Lunch Ministry

Something to Chew On:

Being An Inclusive Church

In January, I attended the Being An Inclusive Church (BIC) workshop which explored communal hospitality around sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. It was a fantastic workshop. I wish it had been a required part of my pastoral training. At its heart, BIC is about what it means to be the church, a holy community set apart to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

There is not enough room in this column to share everything that has been on my heart and mind since the workshop, so I will share three passages of scripture that have helped me reflect.

"His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." – Matthew 3:12

These words were preached by John the Baptist. Too often the wheat and chaff are interpreted as separate groups of people. This is not how wheat and chaff are related. Wheat is the precious grain protected by a dry, outer husk. The wheat is who we truly are; the chaff is the way we present ourselves to others. Jesus separates who we pose as from who we know ourselves to be.

Tragically, churches have often aimed purging fires at members of the LGBTQIA+ community when they discard the chaff to reveal the precious grain within. If we have not stoked the fires ourselves, we may have been complicit in our silence. Reported acts of verbal and physical violence have increased exponentially across the nation since 2017. I was shocked to learn that the homicide rate for transgender persons has increased by 400%. Is this how we are supposed to receive our neighbors when Christ reveals the wheat under the chaff?

"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world." – Matthew 5:13, 14

Jesus taught his disciples that the holy community which bears his name is both salt and light. It preserves the wheat from destruction. It creates a safe space in the darkness. We are a community in relationship through Christ who accomplished all things on the cross so we might receive our neighbor's wheat in perfect love. Even though we as church frequently fall short of our calling, we cannot not give up. Christ knows who we are under the chaff, and he already acted to save the grain within. We faithfully live into his truth when we do the intentional work of welcoming our LGBTQIA+ siblings as they are in Jesus' name.

-Pastor Daniel

BRUNCH WITH JESUS

Sanctuary

Sunday, February 2, 10:30am

Come satisfy your hunger at Jesus' invitation in this informal worship gathering. Jesus will meet us in our neighbor gathered around food and drink. He will meet us in the meal he gifted to his disciples. He will meet us in conversation around the ancient stories of our faith. Jesus is not dead but alive! So come, you who are hungry, and receive the bread of life.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Sanctuary

February 26th at 7:00PM (TBD)

We enter the season of Lent with a 30 minute prayer service. Please join us that evening as we prepare our hearts for a time of contemplation. Lent allows us to spend time in quietness as we prepare for Easter. We hope you will join us as we begin this year's Lenten journey.



ANNUAL MEETING

Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 9th, 11:30 am

Join us for our Annual Meeting at 11:30 am, directly after the Sunday Morning Service. Lunch will be provided.



ST. TIM'S COFFEEHOUSE

Sanctuary

Saturday, February 8th, 7:00pm

Our first concert of 2020 with Tim Grimm is February 8th.

Come out and hear this wonderful folk music.

Doors open at 6:30pm and music starts at 7pm. Tickets will be \$20.

For more information on this artist visit www.timgrimm.com



SACK LUNCH FRIDAY

Fellowship Hall

Friday, February 28th, 9:45am

Join us as we serve our North Shore Community. Lunch packing begins at 9:45am and we go to the community house at First Congregational Church in Evanston at 11:00am.

Thru the 2019 year **949** lunches were prepared thru 12 distributions. Come out and see the work God is doing in our own community.

