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 **July/August 2025 Communiqué**

 John Calvin Presbyterian Church

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The Quotidian Round of Faithfulness

 The quotidian refers to occurrences that happen every day, belonging to the everyday, commonplace, and ordinary. This is precisely the Church season we have entered following the celebrations of Pentecost and the Trinity Sunday. We have entered that time of the year usually described by liturgical calendars as ordinary time, because we are focused on the daily living of faith.

 Indeed, the early church began forming its community by focusing on the ordinary tasks of preparing food, sharing meals, cleaning homes, caring for one another, and developing relationships within the community. This orientation was carried forward from the early church to our contemporary church because, as theologian Gregory of Nyssa has written, “Let us remember that life in which we ought to be interested is 'daily' life. We can each of us, only call the present time our own. Our Lord tells us to pray for today, and so he prevents us from tormenting ourselves about tomorrow. It is as if [God] were to say to us: “[It is I] who gives you this day and will also give you what you need for this day. It is I

who makes the sun to rise. It is I who scatters the darkness of night and reveals to you the rays of the sun.”

 This focus on daily living, including buying food, preparing meals, making beds, washing and drying laundry, vacuuming rugs and floors, and dishes needing to be cleaned are reflected in the scripture readings for each Sabbath from July through August, as we follow God’s people as they rise to the challenges of faithful living while engaging in the mundane tasks of each day and finding

their relationship with God within the functions of daily living and their relationships within the family and community. How can we use this quotidian time to focus on daily living our faith?

 Please take a moment each day to read the scriptures for each Sabbath as part of your daily prayer practice and ask, “where am I in this story? Or how does this psalm speak to my life today?”

 Below are the readings for each week;

July 6 Unexpected Prophets

**2 Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30 Galatians 6:1-16 Luke 1-:1-11, 16-20**

Help comes to Naaman from an unexpected source – a young Israelite serving girl. Naaman hopes for a dramatic healing of his leprosy. However, God’s healing and restoration come through unforeseen prophets. As the other readings affirm, God’s presence is revealed through perseverance and faithful witness.

Within the Christian tradition, numerous examples exist of individuals who have worked alone or collaborated with others to spread the good news of God’s reign of justice and peace, making a positive difference. We are sent to spread the good news of God’s reign of justice and peace to those we meet daily. What supplies do we need for our journey and ministry?

July 13 Compassionate Neighbors

**Amos 7:7-17 Psalm 82 Colossians 1:1-14 Luke 10:25-37**

This week’s readings invite us to consider how love and compassion are the essence of living faithfully. They call us to shape our lives according to God’s justice and mercy, striving for relationships that enable community. God’s word has ultimate authority, and responding to God’s call for justice and compassion is everything.

We are called to live into the reign of God, where every human being is treated with love and justice. As compassionate disciples, we love God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves. What acts of justice and kindness – given and received – have accompanied your faith journey? In what ways do members of your church strive for relationships that enable the community to flourish?

July 20 Faithful Listeners

**Amos 8:1-12 Psalm 52 Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-42**

The call to take up the role of discipleship encompasses a call to ground our daily living in the word of God. Each day, there are opportunities to hear and follow God’s word, if only we pause and listen. The action of faithful discipleship is informed by reflection on Christ and the way of God’s realm.

What priorities, ways of doing things, and fears do we have that hinder our response to the gracious call of Christ in our lives? What in our lives might we need to let go of as we travel the way of discipleship?

July 27 Prayerful Disciples

**Hosea 1:2-10 Psalm 85 Colossians 2:6-19 Luke 11:1-13**

Prayer is at the heart of discipleship. Prayer is at the heart of our relationship with God. The readings for today lift God’s nature of love and compassion; they assure us of God’s readiness to hear and attend to our prayers. As we pray, we come to know God more fully; as we know God more fully, we pray with confidence and persistence.

Our understanding of God's nature informs our life of prayer. We believe that God is loving, compassionate, reliable, and responsive, as these passages assert. How shall we pray then?

August 3 Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing

What is important? Is it land and wealth or is it our faith?

**Hosea 11:1-11 Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21 Psalm 49:1-12**

What is most important in your life? How do we prioritize what is most important, so our lives reflect what is most important? Do we realize the difference between lasting value and fleeting values? How do we discover and live the healthy balance for our lives to be full and joyful?

August 10 Invitation to Venture Out

Place yourself on a bench in a room looking out an open window. Imagine the open window inviting you to enter a new place. What might it take for you to venture out?

**Isaiah 1:1, 10–20 Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16 Luke 12:32–40** **Psalm 50:1-8 22-23**

Faithfulness is not a matter of ritual or going through proper motions of worship; we are called to acts of justice and mercy, striving for the well-being of the most vulnerable. To what extent do you see such actions as testaments of faith? What are the risks of doing such things? How does faith interact with that?

Where have you discovered that with faith you must take the long view? What makes it challenging to be patient and remain hopeful? What is the grounding of faith that underlies the particularities of each specific faith challenge in Hebrews 11?

At the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, an exhibit on cells includes this sentence: “Any living cell carries within it the experience of a billion years of experimentation by its ancestors.” Our faith ancestors begin with Abraham and Sarah. How has our faith been shaped and formed by the experimentation of those who have gone before?

August 17 Persistence is the Key

The song “Never Give Up/Bambelela” comes from Gugulethu, a township in Cape Town, South Africa. Originally a protest song from the apartheid era, it is used in this community as a song of encouragement in the fight against HIV/ AIDS. The word Bambelela is a Xhosa word, which means “hold on.”

When in recent times have you experienced, witnessed, or heard someone not giving up for the sake of all?

**Isaiah 5:1–7; Psalm 80:1–2, 8–19** **Hebrews 11:** **29—12:2** **Luke 12:49–53b**

Both prophet and poet spend time lamenting the present time. What has your experience of communal lament? What events prompted the lament? Who spoke the

lament on behalf of the community? What was the result?

How is perseverance an important message for a community facing persecution. How do you hear this message in the context of your discipleship? How differently might you hear it in a setting of persecution?

Jesus points out that his message of radical justice and unconditional love will pit people against those close to them. To what extent has this been true in your life?

August 24 Breaking the Rules

What contemporary examples can you think of where rules and regulations are regarded much higher than people? What are the situations in the church where this has occurred or still occurs?

**Jeremiah 1:4–10 Hebrews 12:18–29 Luke 13:10–17 Psalm 71:1-6**

This reading seems to suggest there is theological precedence for drastic change. What one thing would you like to change in the community where you live? Jeremiah’s call is intriguing, if for no other reason than that Jeremiah is a young person here; most prophets tend to be much older. What prophetic ministries do you observe young people participating in today?

God is not shaken but that the coming reign of God shakes everything else. Where do you turn for support if the upheaval is from God?

The woman enters the synagogue; Jesus notices her and calls her over. Imagine the compassion in Jesus’ words, tone, and action. How might his words, tone, and action affect the woman’s self-worth? Why might the Sabbath be the perfect time to liberate this woman? In doing what he did, what does Jesus make possible for the woman? What does Jesus make possible for us?

August 31 Who is Important?

When you have an important event in your community, how do you determine who gets invited, who takes priority, and who sits in the reserved seats? How have you felt when you were excluded from an event you especially wanted to attend?

**Jeremiah 2:4–13 Hebrews 13:1–8, 15–16 Luke 14:1, 7–14** **Psalm 81:1, 10–16**

Jeremiah calls the people of Judah to return to the bountiful, open community that God provides. What emotions do you hear expressed in this passage? What is your reaction to this? What response do you think Jeremiah is calling for? When have you searched for things that did not matter (such as the broken cisterns), and failed to notice or acknowledge that God was offering living water? The writer of Hebrews urges Christians to establish an open table around which we live in generous, humble, inviting, and hospitable ways. How does faith transform our human behavior and our ability to extend hospitality? Biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann has said, “The reign of God is public life re-organized toward neighborliness.” In what ways does this definition expand your understanding of God’s reign? In what ways does it limit your understanding?

Peace,

Pastor Carson



**Worship Leaders for 2025 – July and August**

July 6 Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser August 3 Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser

July 13 Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser August 10 Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser

July 20 Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser August 17 Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser

July 27 Rev. Penni Farrington August 24 Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser

 August 31



The Mission and Outreach committee would appreciate any feedback, ideas, and/or suggestions about organizations or groups that we should consider supporting. We know there are many worthy places that can use help. What organizations do you think we should be considering? We are open to your input. Please talk to Barb H, Jody D or Joe D about your ideas.

Thank you.

Stewardship Is Not A Thing To Do, It’s a Way To Live

By Carl DF

Whenever I say the word “stewardship” at church I can see people’s eyes glaze over. I always get the sense that they would rather be having a root canal than a conversation that involves the “S” word and I don’t blame them one bit. That’s because in most churches it’s been reduced down to an annual appeal for money in order to budget for next year’s expenses. Truth be told, that’s exactly how I thought of it for many years.

But lately I’ve come to a better understanding of what it really is. Stewardship is actually all about caring…. caring for our church, caring for our church family and caring for our community. It’s about caring for ourselves and our spiritual wellness. It’s about caring for our neighbors.

The amazing thing is that we already practice stewardship in so many ways without even thinking about it. When we tend our gardens, mow our lawns and fill our bird feeders…..we are practicing stewardship. When we care for our cars by changing the oil and getting new tires…we are practicing stewardship. When we care for each other by sending a card, text, email or phone call to a friend or family member….. we are practicing stewardship. Take a moment and think about all the ways that you practice stewardship/caring every day and you might be surprised by how long that list is.

Yes, money is involved too. Churches do have expenses to meet. We are supported mainly through our own contributions. Monetary giving is also a way of caring. It’s an important way, but not the only way, to make it on Earth as it is Heaven.

Getting to Know – Patricia G

It was a delightful experience to share a meal and conversation with Patricia, and I am excited to share a glimpse of her life with you.

Patricia grew up in the Park Avenue area of Rochester, New York. She has worked since she was 12 years old, with one of her jobs in the insurance industry. You can describe Patricia as a Jack-of-all-trades. Patricia is a widow and has one daughter and two sons. Patricia is the proud grandmother of five grandchildren, one of whom has just graduated from RPI. All her grandchildren call her Gram.

Patricia met her husband, Peter, at a nightclub on Scottsville Road, called The Flyer’s Club. They married and had 58 ½ wonderful years together till Peter’s passing in 2023.

Peter and Patricia enjoyed biking and playing tennis together with their friends. They enjoyed biking so much that they biked 1347 miles in 25 days, traveling 60 miles per day, with the finishing line in Hilton Head, South Carolina, where they lived for some time. Wow, just WOW! Throughout her lifetime, Patricia’s other talents have included knitting, golf, and being a member of the Bell Choir at her church, as well as volunteering for the Catholic Family Children’s Center in Rochester. She also plays the piano.

As you may have noticed, Patricia is a multi-talented and wonderful woman. Her life is a testament to her resilience, adaptability, and the value she places on family and community. We should all be inspired by her story and strive to learn more about her.

 Nancy Milizia



 From the kitchen of Cindy F

Crockpot Cinnamon Rolls

Ingredients:

2 cans Pillsbury Original Cinnamon Rolls

4 eggs

**½** cup milk

3 tablespoons maple syrup

2 teaspoons vanilla

1 teaspoon cinnamon

Spray inside of crockpot with non-stick cooking/baking spray.

Separate 1 can of rolls; cut each into quarters and place in crockpot.

Whisk together eggs, milk, maple syrup, vanilla and cinnamon.

Pour egg mixture over rolls in pot.

Cut other can of rolls into quarters and place on top of rolls already in pot.

Drizzle 1 icing packet over rolls.

Cook on Low for 2 – 2 ½ hours.

Drizzle last packet of icing over rolls.

Serve!