

Pastor's Jottings

"12 The body is one, even though it has many parts, all the parts – many though they are – comprise a single body. And so it is with Christ. 13 It was by one Spirit that all of us, whether we are Jews or Greeks, slaves or citizens, and were baptized into one body. All of us have been given to drink of the one Spirit. 14 And that Body is not one part; it is many."

(1 Corinthians 12: 12-14 NEB)

Many times I am inspired by God's creation as it teaches us lessons about life. A life like we find in Scripture like the one from 1 Corinthians. In this there is one lesson that struck me recently that not only speaks to the truth of the Scripture but to the church and to life that the Body is not just one part but it is many.

So, you might ask where I saw this great vision. Well it was around a new bird feeder Mary and I set up this spring on our patio at the town house we rent. An odd place you might say well maybe. Yet let me explain. You see, we have many creatures that live in our area. We have squirrels, rabbits, and a large number of birds of all types. The birds come in all sizes from the smallest wren to the largest of the black birds, the crow. Now I am sure you are saying that we have them in our neighborhood too. This is not You are so right. However, they work as one body around the feeder although there are many, to make sure all get fed. First the feeder is set so as the birds feed and the feeder lowers so the feed stays at the top. Well it really doesn't work that well and the larger birds really don't fit on the ledge to eat.

So where is the lesson? Well the small birds feed from the feeder throwing the larger seeds, especially the sunflower seeds to the ground. On the ground the larger birds, the squirrels, and the rabbits feed on the

seeds the smaller birds pitch out. Each group on the ground eats just what they need, and although they do feed alone often, they also at times feed together as one. Do you get the picture now? In nature these different groups are still one. They eat and share what they have found so that all may prosper and grow even if it is just fat. Or although they are many and very different they are one in the echo system or one in the body.

In the church we are the same. We all have different gifts. We are in many different shapes, colors, cultures, and orientations yet although we many we are still one. We are one because we are of the same Spirit, one in the same Lord, one in the same call and baptism. For that reason we may be many parts yet we are one. As one we serve the community we live in. We serve it out of love for all because we are one.

I know this summer is different. We have been locked up for a year to eighteen months and the great vastness of God's creation is calling to us. Yet remember we are one and as one we still have to serve. That is to say the church doesn't go on vacation. So when you think about summer, think about the body too. We need to make sure all are fed so to speak so all many prosper and grow fat in the Spirit. We truly need to make sure the body of Christ moves forward. So include some time, this summer, to be together and work together as a church. For we may be many we are still one and it takes all to move forward and be ready for the newness of the year and new life as one.

*God's Love & Blessings,
Pastor Paul*

Dear Members of the First Christian Church,

It is with some sadness and a heavy heart that I resign from my position as Youth Leader at the First Christian Church effective the end of this month. I have been grappling for some time now with the feeling that God is calling me to take up more leadership with my position as an elder of the church. I am feeling led, in particular, to help build up our ministry to the homebound and to people who may have trouble accessing our church community by physically entering our church. In that vein, I am also feeling called to continue to work on outreach on the facebook page and through other avenues that can help us to make sure that, even when our building based programming returns, our ability to help those who cannot come into our church because of distance, lack of transportation, poor health, or mental health issues will continue to access the message of God's love and our community's love for them through bible study, messages, and other innovative programs from their homes wherever they are.

Meanwhile, I am mindful that our youth program now boasts a large number of children who are new teens (as well as almost teens), a group of upper elementary, and another group of lower elementary school kids. Our youth need not only a rebuilding of what we had before the pandemic but an expansion of services that match our growing needs: like teen lock-ins, larger mission projects, and a 12-18 class. While my heart wishes I had more to

give, I have come to realize that I do not have the personal resources to manage both the youth program and the elder based ministry to which I feel God calling me. It is my fervent hope that when we find a youth leader, there will continue to be places in which I will be able to volunteer to teach and work with the youth. My commitment to them and the growth of their faith remain fervent, I just cannot be the youth leader this church needs right now and must step back into a position that is more flexible so that I have the time I need to pursue the other ministries God has for me.

I fully intend to continue to volunteer in Caraway and to support the youth as much as I can as a volunteer and truly see this less of a "stepping down" and more as a "stepping up" to the opportunities that God is calling me to. It has been an honor working with the children and I am forever grateful and thankful for the honor you have done for me by allowing me to be a youth leader here. I had attended here less than a year before the last youth leader left and you encouraged me to step in and eventually hired me to this position. You truly took a leap of faith with me and while I know I may have made mistakes, please know I always tried my hardest to do my best for this church and its youth. It is time now for me to take a leap of faith again and I hope you will pray for me as I try to follow where God is leading.

Sincerely,

Shawna Bodine



Pastor's Online Bible Study

I have written about the pastor's study that has been meeting on Tuesday night at 7:30 pm on Zoom many times. We, as a group, would love for more to join us but it seems the summer has come and the ones who have been coming need a break.

So, the Pastor's Study will be on vacation unit the first week in September. I will let all know what day we will be meeting, the time, and if we will be meeting in person or by Zoom. We may try something different in the fall by combining a book reading with scripture study.

God's Blessings and Have a Great Summer,
Pastor Paul



Pastor's Class

I have been looking to do a Pastor's class this spring yet it seems that this is not a good idea. So we are looking to the fall after the youth are back in and have time to relate to the church family in new and fresh ways as well as me as pastor. I am still thinking of doing them on Thursday evenings as this is the time for youth meetings. My hope is to do them in person; we may have to be creative here, to make this happen. Time will be based on availability of the youth interested. So, FCC families please text, email, or call me and let me know your interest and if you would like this to be before or after Advent. This information will be needed soon so I can set up the classes and order the material for each person.

God's Blessings, Pastor Paul

Sermon Series for May 16 through July 4

God's gracious actions as seen through Samuel & David

1 and 2 Samuel invites us to see God's radical grace at work in unexpected ways. The stories of Samuel's call, David's unlikely anointing as king and victory over Goliath, and the lesser known poem where David mourns Saul and Johnathan and his official kingship over all of Israel highlight the unexpected ways God is actively working God's people. It is a challenge to our present day lives as we perceive God working among us – calling us, responding to us, seeing us, leading us, saving us, and uniting us, even today.

Meetings & Important Dates



Deacons Meeting

6/6 · 12pm · Online

Elders Meeting

6/12 · 10am · Online

Christian Education Meeting

6/14 · 7pm · Online

General Board Meeting

6/20 · 1pm · Online

If you need help accessing online meetings, please reach out to the committee chair or email office@lansingdisciples.org



Interested in vesper services this summer?

The worship committee is putting their feelers out there and curious if anyone would be interested in attending any vesper services this summer. They are open to any ideas or suggestions as far as locations and times. If you're interested, let them know by emailing worship@lansingdisciples.org!

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship will be taking a break for the summer and will resume again in the fall. Have a great summer everyone!

Youth Park/Nature Center Meet-Ups

To give the kids a chance to have some play fellowship of their own during the summer, we are holding park meet-ups! Kids can come and play or hike masked with friends!

June 6: 2-4 pm Woldumar Nature Center

July 11: 2-4 pm Patriarch Park

August 8: 2-4 pm Hawk Island Park

Please contact Shawna Bodine for more information!



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Will Schneider 06/04

Miles Petersen 06/04

Susan Selby 06/07

Zach Dimmitt 06/08

Ramon Abdelrhman 06/10

Melissa Miller 06/12

Carmen Quinn 06/14

Jessica Burton 06/15

Lu Burton 06/15

Hayden Fedewa 06/17

Paul Ewing 06/20

Emma Dawn Morgan 06/20

James Shepard 06/21

Bianca Ortiz 06/22

Wendy Fox Martin 06/24

T.J. Longdo 06/25

Daniel McAlvey 06/29

Kris & Shari Singh

06/05/1987

Mike & Pat Lipsey

06/15/1968

Jiafan Bian & Yi Jiang

06/18/2011

Al & Sharon Doering

06/21/1963

Tom & Penny Ascroft

06/25/1983



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Parade of Homes Signups

Annual Parade of Homes June 9- June 13.

This is an opportunity to raise funds for FCC. Thank you to all the volunteers that signed up. Every slot is minimally filled.

Contact Penny Ascroft for more details



Celebrating and demonstrating Pride, AllianceQ presents a month of liturgical resources that embody the all-inclusive, just love of Jesus with God's power and peace. A new worship element and resource for use and distribution will be added each week of Pride Month concluding with a live-streamed Pride Worship Service featuring Disciples LGBTQ+ leaders from across the United States and Canada.

Join AllianceQ on Sunday, June 28, at 7 p.m. EST, for the Pride service titled RIOT: Turning Over Tables.

Visit www.DisciplesAllianceQ.org for more information!