Pastoral Ponderings

Sisters and Brothers,

The pandemic and colder weather has forced us to spend more time at home than many of us would prefer. Casey and I are using the opportunity to watch and re-watch movies. Some are films we have always meant to see but never have, while others are classics that deserve to be watched over and over.

This past weekend we saw two coming-of-age movies. One was Dead Poets Society, which Casey had never seen before (how is that possible? I honestly have no clue!). Such stories stir a range of emotions within me. I love the curiosity they reveal in teenagers and students who are beginning to realize the beauty, wisdom, and potential the world has to offer. Their youthful idealism always inspires me anew, as I am reminded of past chapters in my own life where I believed anything was possible.

What happened? Somewhere along the way I lost that version of myself or, at least, it has been radically circumscribed.

You might suggest that reality set in. The world is often a certain way for a reason. Not all ideas for change are actually improvements. Or, perhaps more often, the status quo benefits those with power, so countering such influence is far more difficult than anticipated and resignation sets in.

More simply, as we grow up we assume responsibilities that were absent in our youth. It is easier to be idealistic - to find time to dream and plan about how our lives and the world should be - when you don’t have bills to pay, a family to provide for, and a job that consumes your time and energy.

Yet, I hate the idea that seeing new possibilities for ourselves and the world is a luxury only the young get to enjoy. Is age only an excuse? Do we have an obligation to make time for dreaming about what could be? (continued)
Pastoral Ponderings *(continued)*

Jesus certainly thinks so, and vast parts of scripture backs him up. He talks repeatedly about the “kingdom of heaven” as a way of asking his followers to envision the world as God intends it to be. We are then challenged to become disciples who live AS IF that world is already here. Our goal should be to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” that he might be given glory by us “now and forever” (2 Peter 3:18).

Despite the difficult circumstances we are in (and regardless of your age), I encourage you to use this Advent season to recover your idealism. Our youth director, Alexis Engelbrecht, is organizing weekly intergenerational conversations throughout Advent. Everyone in the church is invited to attend, as young and older come together to talk about the meaning of the season and the richness it adds to their lives.

Additionally, we will have copies of *Imagining a New World*, an advent devotional written by Rev. Terri Hord Owens, the General Minister and President of our denomination, available for members. Just let the church office know by phone or email if you’d like one, and we’ll find a way to get it in your hands. I will be sharing additional details shortly about opportunities to gather virtually for using this wonderful resource throughout the Advent season.

“Imagining a new world” is a pretty good summary of what Christmas is all about. Waiting for and then celebrating Jesus’ birth should rekindle the idealism within us.

*Steadfast in hope,*

*Rev. Beau*

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**An Update from Alexis, Our Youth Director**

**Expanded Intergenerational Advent Experience Invitation**

Good tidings of Joy!

If you would like to participate in the intergenerational Advent experience with or without a grandchild or guest, we would love to have you join us. Please register no later than **Friday, November 20**.

Participants will receive:

- a devotional with weekly scripture, reflections, questions, and activities for each week’s theme
- prompts for discussions and ways to share your experiences (and creations) with others
- fun and special supplies to help you engage in the practices of advent
An Update from Alexis, Our Youth Director (continued)

You’re also welcome to contact me to receive the Advent materials for you to use in your own way. There is a way to select that preference in the RSVP forms below.

To RSVP for yourself, follow this link: https://forms.gle/xCHxKqpfAQm3XpKT8

To RSVP with a guest, follow this link: https://forms.gle/Po1HE6KMeH9Cppic9

You’ll be asked to share contact information and note which of the following options work with your schedule:

Saturdays from 3 PM - 4 PM Central
Saturdays from 6:45 PM - 7:45 PM Central
Sundays from 3 PM - 4 PM Central
Sundays from 6:45 PM - 7:45 PM Central

Email Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org with questions.

Youth Group Update

The high school youth group is transitioning to our liturgical season of Advent. We are taking a break from our sessions on November 22 and will begin the first of what I hope will be many intergenerational programs on the last weekend of November. 6th-12th graders are welcome to participate. Please register by Friday, November 20.

To RSVP for yourself, follow this link: https://forms.gle/xCHxKqpfAQm3XpKT8

To RSVP with a guest, follow this link: https://forms.gle/Po1HE6KMeH9Cppic9. You’ll be asked to share contact information and note which of the following options work with your schedule:

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Sundays from 3 PM - 4 PM Central
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Email Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org with questions.

With You on the Journey,
Alexis (alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org)
We pray for these

Individuals will be kept on our prayer list for four weeks at a time. At the end of four weeks, please give Kathy a call at 573.636.5157 or email her Kathy@firstchristianjcmo.org, if you would like continued prayers for an individual. Thank you!

Members in Care Centers

THE ARBORS AT WESTBROOK TERRACE
Rita Connell

BLUEGRASS TERRACE
Glenda Crow

HEISINGER
Richard Carroll
Shirley Ferguson
Barbara Nikodyn
Norma Woodson

JC MANOR
Jackie Possinger

PRIMROSE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY
Norma Hasselman
Wendell & Myra Hubbs
Jessie Schell

ST. JOSEPH’S BLUFFS
Doris Yelton

SUMMIT VILLA
Shirley Jarrett

THE TIMBERS
Mae Oehring

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS
Reba Brandenburg
Mariam Craddock,
Terry Fockler

OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS
Betty Schramm
Betty Schulte

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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<tr>
<th>NOVEMBER</th>
<th>HOMEBOUND MEMBERS</th>
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<td>19 Shelly Drake</td>
<td>13 Cindy Blosser</td>
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<td>Jim &amp; Debi Wells</td>
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**Music Ministry**

In this challenging time which is robbing us of making music the way we’d like to, I continue to be grateful for those who have volunteered their time and musical gifts to help lead our Sunday morning worship. There isn’t an adequate way to say “thanks” as these individuals go above and beyond to enrich our worship life, putting church above self in order to serve. Know that what you are doing is a much-appreciated gift to the Lord’s church!

This Sunday Laura Avery will lead congregational song and call us to worship with an arrangement of “Christians, We Have Met to Worship.” In addition, Jim Wells will share “Walking in the Garden,” a song he wrote several years ago. Then on Nov. 29, Curtis Sudduth will serve as song leader and Anne-marie Scott will serve as capable substitute on the keys in my place. Please take time to thank each of these individuals for their musical leadership.

The pandemic has sadly changed what our Advent season and Christmas Eve worship will look like this year. There will be no choir cantata shared. On Christmas Eve, to keep worshippers as safe as possible, congregational song will occur only at the end of the service, but I’m hopeful special music can be shared earlier in the service. We will not be able to offer our highly-anticipated musical celebration that has preceded Christmas Eve worship the past 21 years.

The good news is that we will be sharing an online musical celebration with twice as much music the week before Christmas! Of course, it will take a team to accomplish this and I’m indebted to many individuals who will offer their gifts to make it possible. Featured instrumentalists will include Don Lloyd, saxophone; Terri Lloyd, clarinet; Dan McClard, trumpet; Alison Robuck, oboe; Laurie Janeczko, flute; Janna Volmert and Hannah Huedepohl, violin; Scott Stout, organ/piano; and members of Jubilant Sound Handbells. Vocalists to share music of the season include Sandra Troutt, Curtis Sudduth, Allen and Marsha Posz, Laura Avery, and the women of Forever Faithful (Sandra Troutt, Sherry Jordan, Charlotte Middleton, Karla Denny, and Carolyn Green). Behind the camera will be Jeff Huedepohl, recording up to 25 individual performances. Lastly – but probably the most essential person of all – will be Blair Johnson who will edit the videos into one program for your viewing pleasure. This is a pretty big undertaking, but one I hope will bring you a small amount of peace and joy as we close out a difficult year and look with hope to the new year.

*TO GOD BE THE GLORY!*

Gretchen Huedepohl

Director of Music Ministry
Zoom Extravaganza

We have a longtime member of our church, Georgialee Dallas, who will be turning 100 on November 27. Due to the virus, an in-person reception is not possible, but we will be having a Zoom Open House on November 27 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. (CST) if you would like to join the call to wish her a Happy Birthday. The Zoom link and password are indicated below. If you are unavailable to join in the Zoom Open House and would like to send her a card, you can contact the church office for her address. The link for Zoom is https://zoom.us/j/2202286773. If it asks for a password, it is 327.

Birthday Parade

A Birthday Parade is also being planned for Georgialee. It will be held on Sunday, November 29 at 11:30 a.m. Anyone who would like to participate in the parade should meet on Binder Drive next to the Memorial Pool parking lot by 11:30 a.m., and we will "parade" by Georgialee's house. Feel free to decorate your car if you'd like.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR FOOD PANTRY CLIENTS

Thank you for thinking of those we help each week at the Food Pantry; many of the people who come in have no resources to buy extra items we give during the month of December.

This year, due to COVID, we are requesting only coloring books and crayons for the children of our Food Pantry clients. Thank you, again.

Cindy Leveron

A’Tisket’ A’Tasket...

We don’t care what color they are, but if you have any wicker baskets you don’t mind parting with, the church could use them for the flowers on Sunday mornings. Just drop them off at the office Monday thru Friday 8AM to 5PM, or bring them with you on Sunday. Thank you!
Our Advent Devotionals have arrived. You can obtain a copy by:

1) Pick one up at Worship on Sunday mornings at 10AM

2) Pick one up at the church office Monday through Friday 8AM to 5PM (Please let Kathy know when you plan to stop in by calling 573-636-5157)

3) We will have someone deliver one to your door (Please give Kathy a call @ 573-636-5157, if you need one delivered to you)

Just for Laughs!

With Coronavirus being a concern this year, what’s likely to be the most popular side dish? Masked potatoes.

So if a cow doesn’t produce milk, is it a milk dud or an udder failure?

Why did the bullet end up losing his job? He got fired.

Marriage Counselor: Your wife says you never buy her flowers. Is that true? HIM: To be honest, I didn’t know she sold flowers.

My wife asked me to take her to one of those restaurants that prepare food in front of you, so I took her to Subway, that’s when the fight started.

My teachers told me I’d never amount to much since I procrastinate so much. I told them, “Just you wait!”

And last, but not least...

Someone stole my mood ring yesterday. I still don’t know how I feel about that.

Some jokes taken from the internet: PARADE, 101 Good Clean Jokes That’ll Make You Laugh…. September 29, 2020

Please email or call Tina Mollenkamp (tinamollenkamp@cgcb.org/573-522-4314), if you would like to be on Common Grounds email newsletter list, regular mailing list, or both. As an alternative, you can also sign up for the email newsletters on our website at www.cgcb.org.
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**WEBSITES YOU NEED TO STAY CONNECTED**
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Disciples News Service Updates: http://disciples.org/dns/subscribe-to-dns/

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