



The Messenger

AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER

message from the Minister

Summer Reading

As the days boil on and the urge to stay indoors persists (ya know, where fans and air conditioning can sooth our over-heated souls!)...some of you may be looking for something to read. Occasionally, folks will wander by my office and ask what I'm reading. So, I thought I'd share a few of the titles that are taking up some of my time these days:

Creative Church Handbook: Releasing the Power of the Arts in Your Congregation by J. Scott McElroy I just finished reading through this one—for the third time. It's always hard to read a "handbook" and not find yourself saying, "well...easy for them to say" or "that'd never work here." And this one is no different, though I have pushed myself to allow the Holy One to speak through the pages a little more than I have in the past. The reality is we're visual, aural, participatory beings...and we don't always honor that in our churches and especially our worship. So, this book prods the reader to expand their understanding of experiential faith and encourages the faith-person to stretch the boundaries of expression, cultivate new rhythms of worship, and embrace wonder a little more.

Anxious To Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully about Racism by Carolyn B. Helsel No question about it: I don't like to talk about my sins. And, I certainly don't like to think about how I as a white, middle-class female might perpetuate the sin of racism. So Rev. Helsel gently pushes her readers (me!) to consider the faith implications of equality and equity, to wonder if our relationships go deep enough, and then offers tangible tools to help congregations transform into those who can talk about, react to, and begin to heal racism in the United States.

Resist and Persist: Faith and the Fight for Equality by Erin Wathen Erin happens to be the Disciples of Christ minister at St. Andrews Christian Church here in the metro and a former classmate of mine at Lexington Theological Seminary. So, needless to say, she sits at the top of my reading stack!! In her book, she explores the history and implications of patriarchy, particularly in the church and, in a lot of ways, she writes to the church...mostly because, "privilege is so ingrained we scarcely know it's there." She explores what it means to be a woman in this time and place and what the future might hold for those who resist and persist...as they always have. There is no doubt; she speaks to a new generation of faith-people who are already asking these questions about equality...and challenges us to join the conversation.

Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life by Richard Rohr So, I've heard it said a time or two that, "gettin' old ain't no fun." And I'm sure that's true, some of the time. But every now and then I wonder if we look at our 'second half of life' when compared to the youthful first half as more negative than it really is. Rohr rejects the notion that "youth trumps age" and refers to the second half of life as the climatic, best time of life because it is a spiritual mountaintop. He points out that the second half of life is not about decaying, but fully living into our potential. It is not about doing, but about *becoming*; and not about being productive, but about being spiritual. One quote from Rohr sums it up, "We're a culture with many elderly people but not a lot of elders." This book is about becoming an elder by learning from the sages around us who have successfully "fallen upward," toward God, so we can become guides to others entering the second half of life.

Voices of Aging: Adult Children and Aging Parents Talk with God by Missy Buchanan I just started this one and what I'm finding is it'd be a great book for anyone who considers themselves to be part of the Sandwich Generation (those between the Builder and the Boomer Generations). The author contends that true understanding is the first step to being more strongly connected, not only with the aging process of parents and children, but our own aging process and the roles we play. In addition, this book reveals how aging is changing, particularly with Boomers, and speaks to those changes from a spiritual perspective. Each reading compares and contrasts the similarities and differences of adult children and their parents, and is followed by passages of scripture and exercises for reflection as the reader considers the wider implications of our collective aging.

Happy reading! And blessings upon these long summer days...

Peace, rev trish+



- Family & Friends of Agnes Forson
- Karen Cason, Ilene Blogin's daughter
- Jessica, family friend of the Schelps
- Mary White
- Shirley Magee
- Nancy Lee
- Darlene Logan
- Ruth Weathers
- Carl Neilson
- Michelle & family, friends of DeeDee Brewer
- Pat Roberts
- Ron George, brother of Louise Jones
- Jackie Stewart
- Jodelle Alexander
- Dana Rosson
- John Hodges
- Mildred Heins, Lois Kuhlman's mother
- Jack Lane
- Emilie Boswell
- David Phillips
- Wade Ross
- Bud Mosby
- Janice, mother of Steve Hicks
- Dottie Babb
- Tom Fisher
- Valerie Lipari
- Hannah Neilson
- Jim Holladay
- Emmrie Stewart

Please notify the office for any updates or corrections regarding prayer requests.

save the date Tall Oaks Gala

November 9th

November 9th is the date for the 2018 Tall Oaks Gala. It will be a Masquerade Gala: *Unveiling the Future*. This is our church camp's primary fundraising event. Please plan to support this vital ministry.



to the Congregation

Ministry & Announcements

Writing the Sacred Journey: Sharing our Spiritual



Memoir

Have you ever thought about writing down your story to share with the next generation? Maybe you started and hit the dreaded writers block? Or maybe it never even crossed your mind. Well, here's a chance to explore the practice of writing your spiritual memoir.

The spiritual memoir is all about listening deeply to our life experiences through the creation of artful, true stories, and allowing the experiences that formed us to have some lasting impact. By writing memories with intention, we can find holiness in the details, patterns that unify our sense of self, and deep personal healing. By crafting our stories to engage the inner life of readers, we can participate in transforming our world.

We will start with the basics: visioning, writing exercises, readings from master writers, and conversation. We'll meet twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays, to encourage each other on this spiritual memoir. **Our first gathering, will be on Saturday, August 25, from 9:30-12:00 in the Lounge.** Just bring yourself, a notebook, and a pen...Rev. Trish will provide the rest!

Holy Hike



Each month, we head out into God's natural world for a "holy hike." The whole thing takes about an hour: an easy hike/walk, with communion, prayers, and singing. This month, on **August 11, at 8:00 am, we'll**

meet at Amity Woods just off of 152 Highway and North Amity Avenue. Parking is at N Amity and Northwest 86th Terrace. Leashed dogs are welcome to join the fun!

NAC School Supply Drive



Each year Northland Assistance Center provides back packs for those in need in the Northland. We ask that your congregation provide grade school age backpacks with appropriate back to school supplies (see examples below) and junior high/high school back packs with appropriate school supplies (see examples below).

We need the packs/supplies by August 3rd, as NAC will distribute these packs on August 7, 2018.

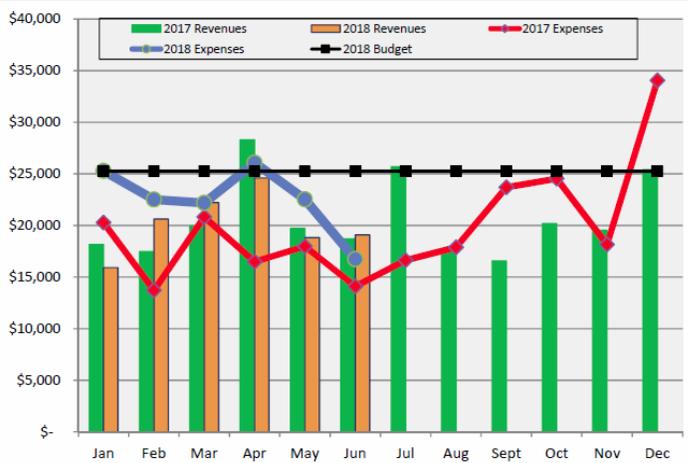
Please call Rita if you have any questions. 816-591-0615

Grade School:

#2 pencils
glue sticks
box of tissue
pink eraser
markers
scissors
zipper pencil case
wide ruled spiral notebook
pocket folders
crayons
ruler
low fume dry erase markers
graph paper

Jr/High School:

#2 pencils
red/black/blue pens
highlighter pens
1" and 2" binders
paper
theme notebooks
subject dividers
calculator
pocket folders
markers
dry erase markers
geometry set
notebook paper



From the Treasurer

Christy Boswell and I have completed a semi-annual review of FCC—NKC's financial position. I am writing to make the following observations:

- We have spent more than our income 4 of the last 6 months. You can see the 2018 revenue bar and expense line indicated on the above graph. This is certainly not alarming, but it is concerning.
- Our mortgage loan with Church Extension has a remaining balance of \$85,793.87 as of June 30, 2018. Our minimum monthly payment is \$1,200 and change; we additionally include monthly payment on principal of \$2,168 (Lucky Dragon Rent) and F.I.O.F. money still coming in from the original pledge campaign. Several other designated amounts are also annually paid to reduce loan principal.
- Sandra Carroll Berger Ministry Fund, line #2141 in the amount of \$85,136.00 has been invested in a short-term CD with Church Extension at the behest of our Trustees. This Fund continues to be available to support envisioned new ministries by application.
- As you know, though our phone service with AT&T continues, the favorable rates contract we enjoyed with them ended with 2017 and resulted in doubled monthly rates to \$250+/- for 2018. However, thanks to the work and expertise of Walt and Greg Lane, within the next few weeks AT&T. will no longer be our service provider and fees for new VOIP service should be no more than \$50.00 annually.

As always your own questions and observations are welcome—Blessings, Kay Lunsford, Treasurer

to the Disciples Women

Ministry & Announcements

Disciples Women's Ministry

Our annual budget meeting for Disciples Women's Ministry will be held on Monday, August 6th, at 9:30 a.m. in the DCC room. We hope to see you in September for our next meeting.

Deborah Group



Vicki Kistler.

We will meet this month on August 9th & 23rd at 6 pm—bring your sack supper for a time of fellowship. Our study of women in the Bible will begin at 6:30 pm. Questions? Contact

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 3 Mary White
Sandy Youtsey
- 6 Lenora Atkins
- 7 Cole Boswell
- 10 Bud Mosby
Jerrilyn Phillippi
Melissa Phillippi
Elizabeth Stewart
- 11 Eryn Stewart
- 13 Thurman Lovejoy
- 15 Sherry Davis
Cristie Sharpsteen
- 17 Mary Hicks
- 18 Chelsea Erickson
- 20 Leslie Spiteri
- 21 Jeff Tennant
- 22 Karen Willett
- 23 Brooklyn French
Bob & Debbie Painter
- 24 Andrew Neilson
- 27 Christy Boswell
- 30 Pat Hodges
John & Pat Hodges
Murphy Koenig

nuts and bolts of Ministry

Who's Serving Where This Month?

SERMONS MINISTRY

August 5 Guest Preacher, Jane Bartlett

August 12 Honoring the Sacred in Our Lives: Surely God is in This Genesis 28:10-19

August 19 Listening to Our Lives: Hearts Strangely Warmed Luke 24:13-33

August 26 Making Meaning: The Pattern of Our Lives Exodus 1:8-10, 15-17, 22

September 2 Living Fully: Treasuring These Things 2 Timothy 1:2-7

TEAM AND TABLE MINISTRY

Team 2A (8:30)

Elders
Dennis Kenslow
Walt Lane
Chuck Logan

Deacons

Marty Burke
Edna Kenslow—Communion Cleanup
Loren Kerby
Jana Lane—Communion Prep
Robin Lane
Ellen Stewart
Donna Thompson

Team 2B (11:00)

Larry Satterly

Dina Barbian
Paul Youtsey

Care Calls for August—

Hospital Calls for August—

Coffee Service for August— DCC's

LAY LEADER & ASSISTANT TELLER MINISTRY

Lay Leaders/Tellers for August are:

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>	<u>Assistant Teller</u>
5	Bob Seely	Jeff Tennant	Toni Cracraft
12	Twyla Smith	Patty Webb	Marty Burke
19	Christy Boswell	Vicki Kistler	Pat Hodges
26	Jennifer Finch		Lois Kuhlman

ATTENDANCE & GIVING FOR JULY

	<u>7/1</u>	<u>7/8</u>	<u>7/15</u>	<u>7/22</u>
Worship	86	86	89	70
Sunday School	36	36	37	34
Revenue	5975	6444	3406	2582

Website: www.loveourchurch.org
E-mail: office@fccnkc.org
Office Hours: M-Th 9:30 am-1:30 pm

11:00 Praise & Worship Service
10:00 am Sunday School
8:30 am Traditional Service

Sunday Worship Times

816-842-2341

North Kansas City, MO 64116

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of North Kansas City

First Christian Church

