



WELCOMING AND ACCEPTING ALL PEOPLE ALONG A JOURNEY OF FAITH AND SERVICE.

“Welcoming and accepting all people” – is a reminder of our Welcome Statement and genuine hospitality, in the present tense so it is always relevant. “*along*” – is an invitation to join together side by side. “*journey of faith*” – implies that arrival is a myth; we are always growing “*service*” – is a natural outcome of faith and inseparable from our commitment to discipleship.

Years ago a friend introduced me to Canadian comedian Stuart McLean who publishes under the series title, “Vinyl Café.” One of my favorite episodes describes an owner of a Chinese restaurant who dealt with a rude, racist customer in an amazingly wise and subtle way until the customer left of his own volition. The customer was a loud, boisterous bully who made offensive remarks within ear-shot of the customers as well as the owner of the restaurant.

After consulting the Chinese means of divination known as I Ching, the owner noted that the customer would sit at the same booth in the restaurant and eye a particular painting hung above the booth. The painting portrayed an idyllic lake in summertime and featured a woman sunbathing in a bikini on the shore. Over the next few weeks, the owner carefully shaved a half-inch from the bottom of the bench at the booth, slowly lowering the bench closer to the floor while leaving the table height unchanged. He then began subtly changing the scene on the painting from summer to winter, first adding a sweater to the sunbathing woman and painting gray clouds in the sky, and eventually erasing leaves and foliage from the trees. Finally, he began adding small amounts of rice to the entire the customer ordered so that he became unable to finish his plate over the course of time. The effect of these subtle changes was to make the customer so uncomfortable and unhappy that he stopped patronizing the restaurant and harassing the owner without the owner ever verbally confronting the rude man. Brilliant!

Without consulting the I Ching, I wonder these days if we aren’t becoming increasingly uncomfortable in our setting because it’s time for a change. What once was a vibrant, bustling center of worship and ministry is becoming less comfortable and more cumbersome as the months go by. The broken elevator is but one of the challenges facing our congregation.

At the same time, we are still managing to provide hospitality and ministry to a number of groups and occasions. Just last weekend we hosted the JHS Bass Fishing Team pancake breakfast and a lunch for nearly 80 members of the Randall family on the same day and held worship in Fellowship Hall the very next morning, all without the help of our custodian. None of that had anything to do with the building but everything to do with our dedicated church family.

I anxiously await the results of the congregational survey being conducted at present, and hold “alert expectation” (Eugene Peterson’s phrase for hope) for our future pathway. My prayer is that no matter the consensus, we will be “of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind, (...) looking not to our own interests, but to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:2;4)

Yours in Christ, Pastor Colleen

Sermon Series: “Between Two Gospels” May 8, 15, 22, 29

Pastor Colleen will explore and compare passages from the Gospel of Matthew with portions of the extra-canonical “Gospel of Thomas,” a collection of sayings attributed to Jesus. Combining something old and something new may prove to be very enlightening, if not challenging.

May 8 - Matthew 7:7-11 and Thomas 2:1-2 “Seeking Truth”

May 15 - Matthew 5:10-12 and Thomas 68:1; 69:1-2 “Blessed Persecution”

May 22 - Matthew 19:13-15 and Thomas 22:1-3 “Realm of Children”

May 29 - Matthew 17:15-21 and Thomas 48:1 “Moving Mountains”

Godspeed to Kimberly and Tyler

Kimberly Ocampo (Administrative Office Assistant) and Tyler Normand (custodian) have both tended their resignation in order to pursue other avenues of employment. Both were hired in the height of the pandemic and served our congregation under trying circumstances. We express our gratitude and wish them both well.

Volunteer Coordinator Needed

The Joplin Interfaith Coalition is working on developing a program to aid individuals in obtaining photo ID's and is in need of a volunteer coordinator. Responsibilities in general would include scheduling and training volunteers who will work out of St. Philipps Episcopal Church one day a week. If you have interest and time, contact Pastor Colleen.



Pentecost Offering May 29 and June 5

Each year, half the offering goes to our own region to support local new church development. The other half goes to New Church Ministry, which trains, equips, assists, and multiplies new church leaders across the United States and Canada through programs such as coaching, New Church Hacks, and Water the Plants.

CROSSLINES

SJCC's Volunteer Team serves the 4th Thursday of each month.

SJCC's next work day is Thursday, May 26, 2022.

Crosslines Ministries is currently running low on the following items:

Canned beans, **Dry noodles, Canned vegetables, Mac and cheese, Bottled juice, Cake mixes, Ketchup, mustard, mayo, **Pasta sauce, Canned fruit, Canned chicken, (**especially needed) Queen size sheet sets. For questions about volunteering or connecting with Crosslines, see our Team Leader, Karen Kemp.

Hours of Operation

1st Monday (commodities only) 4pm - 6:30pm. Doors lock at 6:30pm.

All other Mondays 4pm - 6pm. Doors lock at 5:30pm.

Tues - Thurs 10am - 2pm. Doors lock at 1:30pm.

Wednesdays are commodity only. (Closed on all 5th Wednesdays)

Friday - CLOSED to the public.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Elders

May 1: Betsy Wheeler
May 8: Margie Fitterling
May 15: Leanna Carrol
May 22: Mike Fitterling
May 29: Jeanie Morrison

Camera & Sound

May 1: Judy Schneider & Darryl Coit
May 8: Jenn Reaves & Ken Moser
May 15: Sandy Meadow & Ray Reaves
May 22: Judy Schneider & Donny Smith
May 29: Jenn Reaves & Darryl Coit

Sunday School (K thru 5)

May 1: Teacher - Karen Kemp, Helper - Anita Frieze
May 8: Teacher - Leanna Carrol, Helper - Karen Kemp
May 15: Teacher - Daniell Sanders, Helper - Jessica Fletcher-Fierro
May 22: Teacher - Darlene Coit, Helper - Jessica Faucett
May 29: Teacher - Jessica Faucett, Helper - Daniell Sanders

Diaconate

May 1: Communion - Kathy Nicodemus & Sean Nicodemus
Homebound - Don Smith, Usher - Tom Wheeler
May 8: Communion - Connie Abraham & Amanda Hall
Homebound - Patt Hinds, Usher - Susan Wolfenbarger
May 15: Communion - Sherry Crumbliss & Charlotte Quarles
Homebound - Tom Wheeler, Usher - Joe Prater
May 22: Communion - Megan Bever & Patt Hinds
Homebound - Tom Hamm, Usher - Sue Sterrett
May 29: Communion - Carolyn Theil & Susan Wolfenbarger
Homebound - Don Smith, Usher - Karen Kemp

Children's Worship & Wonder

May 1: Storyteller - Karen Kemp, Greeter - Taylor Reaves
May 8: Storyteller - Karen Fitterling, Greeter - Jessica Fletcher-Fierro
May 15: Storyteller - Laney Reaves, Greeter - Judy Schneider
May 22: No CW&W
May 29: No CW&W

Prayer Requests

Sympathy: Tom Meadows passed away April 2; George Randall passed away April 16; Liz Millard's nephew passed away last month.

Medical: Betty Coan; Judy Schneider; Kyle Theil; Betsy Wheeler

Military: Michael Crofford; Corey Irwin; Josh Robb; Dylan Theil; Gary Wald

Ongoing: John Asher; Judy Ballard; Beth Bethards; Dani Bowen (Meadows); Janet Burns; Veronica Carnahan; Nic Castlebury; Samantha Catey; Betty Coan; Dayton and Daislee Cohen; Lois Demaree; Rebecca Doerflinger (Hall); Margie Fitterling; Kyle Ford (Wolfenbarger); Carolyn & Tom Fortson; Mary Gilmore; Alyxis Hefty; Sue Hess; Darius Hughlett (Wilson); Daryl Hughlett; Roland Hughlett; Bethany James; Betty Kemp; Sam Knudtson; Richard Kraxberger (Frieze); Lamley Family; Shirley Martin; Betty McKelvey; Sara Metts; Missionary families (Huff, Reaves, Wilson); Easton Murdock; Arlene Nash; Larry Nauser; Bethany Newman; (Fitterling); Jim Owen; Matthew Paulda; Josh Petty; Alexis Prater; Reese Prater; Todd Prater; Cameron Ransom; Sharon Reeve; Nancy Righthouse (Cogbill); Raquel Sapien; Brady, Baylee and Kalvin Shafer; Kimmy Smith; Sue Smith; Lou Starks; Mike Tesh; Michelle Vorhees; Tova Wallace-Lee; Karen Patchin Watson; Sherry Willerton; Pat Wilkins (Carrol); Charles Wilson; Birdie Woods; Mary Lou York, and all unspoken requests.

Global Ministry Partners:

May 1: Eleazar Fernandez, Philippines

May 8: Danielle Murry-Knowles, Lesotho

May 15: Sara Makari, Palestine

May 22: Rene Seidel, El Salvador

May 29: Rebecca Young, Indonesia

Groups

Green Tips

Doing laundry? Did you know up to 90% of the energy used during a washing machine's cleaning cycle goes into heating the water? So use the cold setting to save cash AND help the Earth.

Board Reminder:

The church board will meet in person on Tuesday, May 10 at 6:30PM in Fellowship Hall. Written reports should be submitted to the office by May 9 for the board packet. If motions are planned in advance, please prepare a written copy of the motion for the board secretary.

Adult Faith Formation

Due to recent interest expressed in extra-canonical material, we will be reading and discussing two short manuscripts from the early church, published in *A New New Testament: A Bible for the 21st Century Combining Traditional and Newly Discovered Texts*, Hal Taussig, ed. The first will be "The Gospel of Mary," followed by "The Gospel of Truth." We meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30AM in room A-11.

SJCC Library

While we greatly appreciate quality books for our church library, we are currently overwhelmed with a good supply of used books to catalogue and shelve. Please consider donating or selling your books to local dealers rather than dropping them off in the library. Thank you!

Lost and Found

We found a pair of women's glasses in a bag with shoes donated to the Walking Shoes Lenten request. They are in the box outside the office for the time being if you are the rightful owner.

EVENTS/OTHER

Church Camps this Summer

There are multiple offerings for church camp this summer, including traditional resident camps, Canoe Camp, "First Rites of Passage (a son/father retreat)" and "Our Bodies, Our Faith." Camps begin as early as June 6 and continue through July. Deadlines are fast approaching so check out the options at <http://www.mid-america-disciples.org/summer>. SJCC offers scholarship assistance for children from the congregation who register through the church. For information contact Pastor Colleen.

Congregational Survey

The Facilities Task Force is seeking response to six short questions regarding our property in a survey sent via email and USPS on April 25. If you did not receive access to the survey, printed copies are available at the church. Deadline for response is May 4.

In Sympathy

Rev. George Randall passed into his eternal reward on April 16 in time to celebrate Easter with the saints of Light! Prayers of comfort are lifted for his beloved wife, Willa and their extended family. Well done, good and faithful servant, George. Memorial contributions may be made to SJCC or to Phillips University Legacy Foundation.

Senior Recognition

Congratulations to Rachel Eckhardt and Kegan Skiles who are graduating this month from Joplin High School and Carl Junction High School, respectively. Both youths have excelled in their education and accomplishments, and we pray the best of bright futures for them in their endeavors.

MAY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8AM Elders Choir 9:30AM S.S. 10:45AM Worship/ CW&W	2 6:30PM NA Mtg.	3 6pm Worship Cmt. Mtg.	4 9:30AM CWF Survey Deadline 6PM JHS Bass 6PM Choir/Bells	5 7PM Book Club (on Zoom)	6	7
8 Mother's Day 8AM Elders Choir 9:30AM S.S. 10:15AM Children's Bells 10:45AM Worship/ CW&W	9 6:30PM NA Mtg.	10 6PM Worship Ministry Team 6:30PM Board Meeting 6:30PM NA Mtg.	11 6PM Choir/Bells	12 7PM Book Club (on Zoom)	13	14
15 Mental Health Sunday 8AM Elders 9:30AM S.S. 10:45AM Worship/ CW&W	16 6:30PM NA Mtg.	17 6PM Outreach Mtg. 6:30PM NA Mtg.	18 6PM Eman. Mtg. 6PM Choir/Bells	19 7PM Book Club (on Zoom)	20	21
22 Easter Sunday 8AM Elders 9:30AM S.S. 10:45AM Worship/ CW&W	23 6:30PM NA Mtg.	24 6:30PM Colleen's PRC 6:30PM NA Mtg.	25 6PM Choir/Bells	26 9:45AM-2PM Crosslines 7PM Book Club (on Zoom)	27	28
29 Pentecost Offering 8AM Elders 9:30AM S.S. 10:45AM Worship in Fellowship Hall	30 Memorial Day Office Closed 6:30PM NA Mtg.	31 6:30PM NA Mtg.				

May Birthday's



9 Lily Delehanty
12 Amy Smith
19 Tom Hamm

26 Carly Garrison
26 Roger Traver
28 Monica Bailey

