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From the Pastor's Keyboard



Dear friends in this wonderful family of faith,

I don't need to tell any of you, because it has been so much on our hearts and minds this year, that we have a very significant national-state-local election coming up. The presidential selection promises to be a nail-biter with polls saying that this is a neck-to-neck race. As of this writing, there are two more weeks before election day. You may well be reading this after the election and after the "dust has settled" from it.

First, I want to share some website links that I think are helpful since many folks aren't clear about the intricacies of what is commonly called "the separation of church and state" and think that absolutely ALL involvement in public and civic life by faith communities is forbidden by the Constitution. That is not quite correct, and, in fact, perspectives of faith are very much needed in our political conversations. They just have to be shared carefully and must stay within certain boundaries.

If one looks at both the Hebrew Scriptures and the Christian Scriptures, there are a multitude of examples of prophets, apostles, and even Jesus Himself interacting with political officials (Mark 12:38, Luke 20:46, Matthew 27:11) and "speaking truth to power" (a phrase first used by civil rights pioneer Bayard Rustin), although as a church we don't want to get bogged down in partisan politics. So how do we bring our faith to bear on the critical public conversations of our day? The resources below (especially the attached "Guidelines for Congregations") are of help to us.

Our Faith Our Voice "Guidelines For Congregations" regarding engaging in election activities. It is also available at <https://www.ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2023-OFOV-Guidelines-for-Congregations.pdf>

National Council Of Churches Of Christ Voting Matters 2024 Empowerment Guide: <https://nationalcouncilofchurches.us/voter-empowerment/>

Second, recent studies show that nearly three-fourths of the adult population in our country is stressed out by the election, partly because candidates from each party seek to appeal to voters' hopes as well as their fears. Those same studies also point out, though, that because of this stress, folks are super motivated this year to vote. I urge you to vote, too. As your interim pastor, of course, I would not presume to tell you how to vote (although colonial pastors in our country's early history routinely did that with their congregations!). I strongly believe that each of us needs to search our own conscience and approach voting in a prayerful attitude. As I have talked with several of you individually and in groups, I always advise you to vote for the candidate who represents your values and who you think can carry out those values through policies and actions. In the midst of an era when misinformation,



disinformation, and downright lies are so prevalent, I also advise you to make your voting decisions based on facts. One way to do that is to purposely check with three or four different types of sources to determine if they are saying the same thing about objective matters or about a news story (knowing that there will always be differences of opinion).

Third, I strongly believe that churches should not consider themselves “red churches” or “blue churches” or even “purple churches”. We are much more, in the sight of God, than our political preferences and labels. We are GOD’S CHURCH and God’s people and part of God’s covenant, folks for whom God is always lovingly searching, part of the Body of Christ of which Jesus is the head and the church is His bride, folks who have been saved from sin (caused by our own bad decisions or original sin or the devil) by Jesus’ ultimate sacrifice for us where He paid our debt, and folks who need to decide to accept that salvation by surrendering our all to Jesus and by trusting that we no longer want God’s blessings but God Himself, and by having our old selves put to death by Jesus so we can be given new life (1 Corinthians 5:17). This is all signified by our baptism and/or confirmation and/or becoming part of the church. And we are reminded of all of this each time we take the sacrament of communion.

I am so happy that we here at St. John’s Blymire’s UCC convey in the fullest sense that we are more than political beings—we are children of the most righteous and loving God—with our worship and fellowship and activities and outreach. (Please see descriptions of our goings-on in this newsletter from now into next year.)

Don’t forget the questions that we continue to ask ourselves during this interim period: **Who are we as St. John’s Blymire’s United Church of Christ? Who are our neighbors? Who is God calling us to become as we journey into God’s future? What is our unique niche here in Dallastown?**

Finally, let me share with you what was recently posted on a Facebook page for Bethlehem Steltz Church in Glen Rock, a church I used to pastor.

Christian Voter Guide, by Brian Zahnd

1. The political process, while necessary, has little to do with how God is saving the world.
2. The fate of the kingdom of God does not depend upon political contests.
3. Don’t be naïve; political parties are more interested in Christian votes than they are in Christian values.
4. The bottom line for political parties is power. The bottom line for a Christian is love. And therein lies the rub.
5. While in pursuit of the Ring of Power, you are not permitted to abandon the Sermon on the Mount.
6. If your political passion makes it hard for you to love your neighbor as yourself, you need to turn it down a notch.
7. Your task is to bring the salt of Christian civility to an ugly and acrimonious political process.
8. To dismember the body of Christ over politics is a grievous sin.
9. Exercise your liberty to vote your conscience and conviction, while accepting that other Christians will do the same and may vote differently than you.
10. It’s more important that your soul be filled with love than it is for your political team to win the game.

As followers of Jesus Christ, I think we can all say “Amen” to that!

See you around during this month of November! God bless, Pastor Rick

Some of the above comes from A Pastoral Letter from the Regional Minister of Ohio Disciples of Christ, and from a Pastoral Letter from Rev. Richard Hair

November Holy Humor:

What is the most negative month of the year? NO-vember.

From littledayout.com/november-jokes-for-a-laugh-as-the-year-ends/

What did the ocean say when it saw the Mayflower crossing? Nothing, it just waved.

You ever wonder how Pilgrims kick a bad habit? They go cold turkey.

From <https://www.today.com/life/holidays/thanksgiving-jokes-rcna43577>

MONTH OF SUNDAYS WORSHIP SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2024

NOVEMBER 3, 2024 – TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS / ALL SAINT'S DAY--HONORING THOSE WHO DIED THIS PAST YEAR

Message Scripture: Mark 12:28-34

Centering Scripture: Psalm 146:5-7

Message: "Why is this love so difficult?"

Theme: Key to loving others: Is it loving ourselves first? Or loving God first?

Reflection/Question Time After Worship – Sunday School: Dr. Joy Giguere

NOVEMBER 10, 2024 – TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / HERITAGE SUNDAY CELEBRATING OUR 50+-YEAR MEMBERS

Message Scripture: Mark 12:38-44

Centering Scripture: Hebrews 9:27-28

Message: "What do two small coins have to do with us?"

Theme: We have reasons not to give. We give in proportion to our faith. We never know the good that can come from even our smallest gift.

Reflection/Question Time After Worship – Sunday School: Greg Ness

NOVEMBER 17, 2024 – TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Message Scripture: Mark 13:1-8

Centering Scripture: Hebrews 10:21-25

Message: "Are we 'de-churching'?"

Theme: Are we at the beginning of birth pangs, creating the church of the future?

Are we building a stable and healthy community willing to listen, respect, develop friendships, offer spiritual practices and outreach, and love sacrificially?

Reflection/Question Time After Worship – Sunday School: Cindy Innerst-Axe

NOVEMBER 24, 2024 – TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – REIGN OF CHRIST / CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY / THANKSGIVING SUNDAY / UCC UNITED BLACK CHRISTIANS ANNIVERSARY

Message Scripture:

Centering Scripture:

Message: Cindy Innerst-Axe, preaching

Reflection/Question Time After Worship – Sunday School: Cindy Innerst-Axe

CARING AND SHARING FUND

There is a plate on the table in the Gathering Room for you to contribute to the Dallastown Area School District's Caring and Sharing Fund which helps students and their families who are in special need. You may contribute to this Fund anytime by putting in the offering plate cash in marked envelopes or checks made out to the church and earmarked for DASD Caring and Sharing Fund.

In addition, you are encouraged to bring good, used clothing to Community Aid, tell them it's for DASD, and DASD will then get a certain amount of money per pound of clothing, to go toward the Caring and Sharing Fund. If you are unable to take good used clothing to Community Aid, you can bring them to the church and put them in the bins in the Gathering Place. The bins will be emptied and clothes taken to Community Aid on a regular basis.



Greetings from Plum Creek

We will be collecting Bingo prizes and Christmas cards for our Skilled Care and Personal Care residents again this holiday season. If you are sending in Christmas cards, please do not seal them so they are easier for our residents to open. For bingo prizes, they enjoy chocolate, single serving snack items, small holiday trinkets for all seasons, word search puzzles, small stuffed animals and Dove bar soap. Please bring all items to Blymire's Church no later than December 1.

NOVEMBER
BIRTHDAYS



*May God
Bless You on
Your
Birthday!*

2. Susan Sheffer
Lisa Miller
Abigail Michaels
3. Jean McDowell
8. Michael K. Knaub
Lynz Leader
10. Rod Eichelberger
12. Kenneth Miller
Jessica Keller
Barbara McNeal
13. Jean Nelson
14. Stephanie Frey
19. Josh Humbert
Mark Ness
23. Ginny Weber
24. Justin McKinsey
26. Chase Matthews
James Barley
27. Peggie Free

CELEBRATING NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Nov. 4 - Joel and Stephanie Frey - 46 years

Nov. 14 - John and Beth Herbst - 26 years

Nov. 28 - Chet & Gwen Wise - 61 years

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS and those in need of PRAYER

Terry & Fran Doll

Room 346
Residence @ Fitz Farm
2200 Springwood Rd.
York, PA 17403
Terry's cell (717) 968-2454
Fran's cell (717) 968-8754

Peggy Luckenbaugh

Room 710B
Colonial Manor Nursing Home
970 Colonial Avenue
York, PA 17403



Linda Trone

Room 604
Colonial Manor Nursing Home
970 Colonial Avenue
York, PA 17403

Keeping in our prayers

Cindie McKinsey

**Friends battling cancer
Covid 19 patients**



**Remember
and pray for
Our Members
in the
Military**

A1C Ness, Brandon

6907 S. Camino de la Humanidad
Tucson, AZ 85756

CREATIVE CREW (replacing Crafty Chicks)

We will hold our first meeting on Sunday, November 17, from 2:00-4:00 PM.

Option 1- Marti Leader will teach a class making a hexagonal candle mat. The cost is \$15. Participants will need to bring a scissors and three 1/4 yard pieces of coordinating cotton fabric. This class will continue the following Sunday at the same time.

Option 2- If you are not interested in making the candle mat, come join us for the fellowship and bring whatever you are working on of any type of craft.

You are invited to join us in the Gathering Room after the worship service on Sunday, December 8. Wear an ugly sweater or bring one to decorate.



The FUN Team will provide materials. There will be a meal including ham and sweet potatoes. You are asked to bring a covered dish to go along with the meal. There will also be a Christmas ornament exchange. If you would like to participate in it, please bring a wrapped ornament. Come have some pre-Christmas fun with us!!



Ladies Luncheon

The FUN Team is once again sponsoring a ladies luncheon and program. This one is called "Seasons." The event will be held from Noon-3:00 PM on Saturday, November 9. Registration begins at 11:30.

Come join us for friendship, laughter, inspiration, and worship. The cost is \$20.00 per person, which includes lunch, a photo booth, door prizes, and much more. There is a sign up sheet in the Gathering Room or you can call the church office at (717) 244-0655. This is not just for church members, so grab a friend or two and come join us. Deadline to register is Sunday, November 3.



COOKIE WALK

Our annual Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday, December 7, from 9:00 AM until noon (or sold out). A large selection of all types of homemade cookies will be available. Buy as many as you like, mix and match flavors, all for just \$12.00 per pound.

In order for this to be a success we need lots of cookies, so get out your cookbooks, mixing bowls and cookie sheets. Cookies may be dropped off at the church that week from 8:00AM-11:00AM on Wednesday, 8:00AM-1:30PM on Thursday and Friday, also Friday evening 6:30-8:00PM. In addition to bakers, volunteers are also needed to help set up Friday evening and with the sales on Saturday morning. Questions, call Marti Leader at 717-858-6502.



MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will hold their next meeting Tuesday, November 12,



at 7:00 PM at the church. John Sterling is assembling a video "A Step Back into Time" that will highlight some key moments in John's life and others. We all know John's talents working a camera and video equipment so this will be a great program to attend. Everyone is invited.



On Saturday, November 30, from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM we invite you to our Christmas Marketplace.

There will be lots of craft vendors, a bake sale, soup sale, and a used book sale. Please come out and bring your friends. There is still room for a few more vendors. If interested, call Marti Leader at 717-858-6502 for more information. Each crafter's table will be \$25.00.

We are asking for donations of baked goods to sell during this event. Volunteers are also needed to help out at the Bake Sale table. You don't need to be there the entire time, just one or two hours. All profits will be given to our church's general fund. Any questions or to volunteer, call Diana Myers at (717) 855-4752.

WOMEN OF WONDER

Who? What? Where? When? We **WOW!** are a group of women who simply enjoy each other's company, conversation and compassion...while sharing a message of God's love to each other, our church family, and our community. We read scripture and share devotions. We offer advice, support, and sometimes a shoulder. We laugh together and find joy. If this sounds like something you or a friend would like to do, we meet on the 4th Saturday of every month at 11:00 AM at the church. (We also go out to lunch afterward). Hope to see you in the Gathering Room for our next meeting on November 23.

Emmanuel's Closet

We will be giving out grocery gift cards to our clients to be used to purchase meat and other perishable items for both their Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. We will also be giving gift cards in December for each child who is registered at Emmanuel's Closet. The parent can then use the card to buy gifts that they think their child would like or simply give the card to the child to choose their own gifts.

What is Messy Church? It's church, but not as you know it! Messy Church is a form of family church for children and adults. It involves creativity, celebration and hospitality! It's church for people of any age and at all stages of their faith journey. If traditional church is no longer a part of your life, come try out Messy Church!



Our next Messy Church gathering will be held on Friday, November 15, 6:00-8:00 PM. There will be another on December 20, also from 6:00-8:00 PM. Meals will be provided each month.



CARD and GAME CLUB



We have started a group to play card and board games here at the church. Everyone is welcome, and if you don't know how to play certain games, there will be someone who can teach you. You can bring lunch or order in.

We meet the second Wednesday of each month starting at 11:00 AM and playing until people are ready to stop. November's meeting will be on the 13th.

GUIDED MEDITATION AND DRUM CIRCLE



Meditation and Music are very good ways to deepen your personal spiritual practice. Relax, let go of worldly thoughts, and sink into your soul. You are invited to join us Saturday, November 16, at 10:00 AM, for Guided Meditation, followed by Drum Circle, with a variety of instruments available. We have moved the meeting place from the church to the home of Cindy Innerst-Axe, 2285 Swamp Road, Dallastown. Questions, call Cindy (717) 855-6330.



Tree of Lights

As we did last year, we will be including a "Tree of Lights" as part of our Christmas Eve service. You may sponsor a light in memory of or in honor of someone or just as a year end gift to help support our church. This year's donations will be used to help pay for the recent upgrades to our HVAC system.

There is a Sponsorship form on the next page of this newsletter or you can pick one up from the Welcome Table in the Gathering Room.



Tree Lighting Service

Christmas Eve, December 24 - 7:00 PM

St. John's Blymire's United Church of Christ

1009 Blymire Road

Dallastown, PA 17313

Tree of Lights 2024

*Proceeds will be used to help pay for
the HVAC system upgrades.*

You may sponsor a light on the Christmas Tree:

In memory of a loved one

To honor a family member, mentor or friend

As a year end gift to our church

**Please Note! – In order to be listed on the Scroll of Honor in the Christmas Eve bulletin,
light sponsorships must be received by December 15th**

\$500 = Red Light

\$100 = Blue Light

\$ 50 = Green Light

\$ 25 = Gold Light

\$ 10 = White Light

(Sponsorship form on back)

Person giving the Light _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

TYPE OF GIFT:

IN HONOR OF: _____

(list name as you would like it displayed on the Scroll of Honor)

IN MEMORY OF: _____

(list name as you would like it displayed on the Scroll of Honor)

YEAR-END GIFT to St. John's Blymire's UCC _____

TYPE OF LIGHT: _____ \$500 Red Light
 _____ \$100 Blue Light
 _____ \$ 50 Green Light
 _____ \$ 25 Gold Light
 _____ \$ 10 White Light

Please drop your form and check in the offering plate or mail them to:

St. John's Blymire's UCC
1009 Blymire Rd.
Dallastown, PA 17313

In order to be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin, forms must be received no later than December 15th

Questions? Please call the church office @ 717-244-0655

FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2024	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$10,102.00	\$9,943.43	\$600.89	\$319.65	\$784.93	\$0.00
February	\$7,747.00	\$10,447.49	\$1,200.83	\$318.91	\$1,652.89	\$500.00
March	\$8,402.00	\$10,244.71	\$0.91	\$556.38	\$26.59	\$792.24
April	\$13,187.00	\$11,317.37	\$0.81	\$258.87	\$2.74	\$3,187.50
May	\$9,242.00	\$9,355.00	\$0.71	\$178.64	\$438.87	\$3,159.28
June	\$9,161.00	\$10,126.11	\$0.84	\$390.96	\$907.30	\$3,840.02
July	\$10,860.18	\$18,635.10	\$0.78	\$126.04	\$15.71	\$2,742.49
August	\$7,379.00	\$9,311.18	\$0.74	\$126.99	\$309.62	\$2,395.26
September	\$8,702.00	\$12,148.91	\$75.78	\$344.31	\$203.74	\$2,684.38
October						
November						
December						
Total	\$84,782.18	\$101,529.28	\$1,882.29	\$2,620.76	\$4,342.39	\$19,301.17

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ October 1, 2024

(\$9,429.53)

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ October 1, 2024
(Includes \$61,554.06 Endowment)

\$65,690.37

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ October 1, 2024

(Includes \$875,504.97 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation)

\$893,781.49

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2024

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 956.17
January	1	\$25.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 979.17
February	1	\$50.00	\$ 192.00	\$ 1121.17
March			\$ 93.00	\$ 1214.17
April	3	\$420.00	\$ 404.00	\$ 1198.17
May			\$ 265.15	\$ 1463.32
June	2	\$100.00	\$ 110.04	\$ 1473.36
July	4	\$300.00	\$ 84.00	\$ 1257.36
August	3	\$225.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 1122.36
September	5	\$940.00	\$ 472.72	\$ 655.08
October				
November				
December				
Total	19	\$2,060.00	\$ 1,758.91	



DON'T FALL ASLEEP IN CHURCH!

I fell asleep in church and then I heard "stand up", so I stood up and people clapped. Then the pastor said, "who else will give \$2000 dollars?"

"Sometimes you are unsatisfied with your life, while many people in this world are dreaming of living your life..."

A child on a farm sees a plane fly overhead & dreams of flying.

But, a pilot on the plane sees the farmhouse & dreams of returning home.

That's life! Enjoy yours...

If wealth is the secret to happiness, the rich should be dancing on the streets.

But only poor kids do that.

If power ensures security, then the officials should walk unguarded.

But those who live simply, sleep soundly.

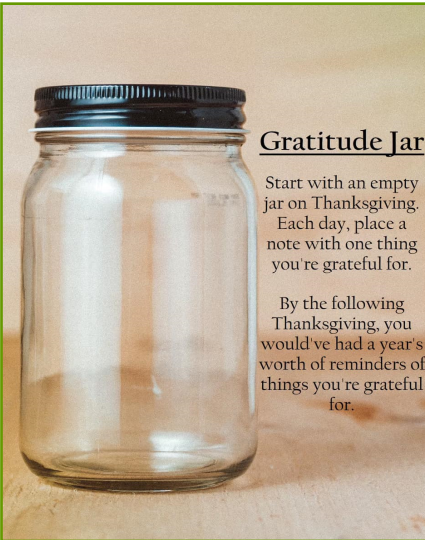
If beauty and fame bring ideal relationships,

then celebrities should have the best marriages.

Live simply, walk humbly and Love genuinely...

All good will come back to you..."

Dr. Ben Carson



Gratitude Jar

Start with an empty jar on Thanksgiving.

Each day, place a note with one thing you're grateful for.

By the following Thanksgiving, you would've had a year's worth of reminders of things you're grateful for.

GRATITUDE

This may sound weird, but that's okay: one of the times that I consistently feel the most gratitude in life is when I get into a hot bubble bath and feel the hot water warm my entire body. "Thank you" are always the words that leap into my mind at that point, and I'm not sure why. It's inevitable--I get into the hot water and the words come out. When I think about it, of course, I can come up with some logical reasons for being grateful to have a nice tub full of hot water to get into, but the words are automatic. I don't think about them at all until after I say them.

"Those little things that you alone see, aren't by chance.

The sign, the squirrel, the dragonfly; the whisper, the song, the lily. It's me.

I'm always with you..

I'll do anything to reach you

— to give you hope,

keep you on track,

answer your questions.

Look even closer.

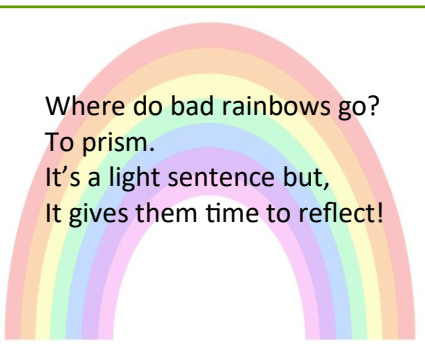
The Universe

The simple things in life are those for which we can be the most grateful, if we open our eyes and hearts to appreciate them. The simple things are the most consistent--they're the things that make us feel good over and over, that make us see the beauty and joy and goodness of the world in small doses. Personally, I would rather see one beautiful flower every day than to spend one day in a beautiful garden or a florist's shop. The garden has its place and its own beauty and the memories it provides can be priceless, but the flower every day is a constant reminder of the beauty of life and living. And if I feel an impulse in my heart to say "thank you" to the flower, it's all the better, for then my gratitude joins with the beauty and creates something even more.

Most religion is based on gratitude. Our feelings of thankfulness for all that we have and the opportunity to live on this beautiful planet are a driving force in our lives, and our lives become something less when we start to take things for granted and not feel thankful any longer. We lose the ability to see and recognize beauty when we're not thankful for it, and we lose the ability to enjoy music when we don't feel gratitude for the fact that it exists.

Gratitude shouldn't be saved for Thanksgiving Day. Gratitude should be a way of life just as any given religion should be a way of life rather than a set of beliefs and a weekly walk-through of a ceremony or two. If you feel religion in your heart, make it a way of life and walk the walk. If you feel gratitude in your heart, extend it to virtually every aspect of your life and see the shine that your life takes on.

Tom Walsh



Where do bad rainbows go?

To prism.

It's a light sentence but,

It gives them time to reflect!

NOT RED OR BLUE, BUT GOD'S



First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. - 1 Timothy 2:1-2

My wife often proclaims, "We are not red people or blue people, we are God's people!" These days, when she starts this sentence from the pulpit, her congregation recites it with her. It's their mantra in this extra-divisive and unsettling presidential election year. It's a reminder that when the dust of the election settles, we still have God's work to do. Welcoming the immigrant, feeding the hungry, and visiting the prisoner will go on no matter who is in the White House. It's a reminder that whatever we are doing in God's name, our call is to wrap it all in prayer.

"Really? Do I have to pray for those people?" I sulk whenever I stumble across this passage from 1 Timothy. But this time, after my initial sulking, I used the reading as an opportunity to practice being neither red nor blue, but God's. I slowed down. I read it again. I got curious.

Now I wonder if maybe Timothy means the same thing as my wife's congregation when they call out that they are God's people. Praying for our nation's leaders, whoever they may be, is our way to give them to God to manage. If we do that, maybe we can peaceably, with godliness and dignity, go about the work of kin-dom building that God has given us to do.

Prayer Almighty God, your reign is bigger than this election or any election. Guide us to prayer and to the path you have forged for us to follow, no matter who is in charge. Amen.

U.C.C. Daily Devotional—J. Garrison

"May our churches become like art classes where brothers and sisters are allowed a safe place to learn Christ by erasing,, scribbling and coloring outside the lines
Less telling, more listening
Less monologues, more dialogues
Less conformity, more unity
Less celebrity, more family" **David Hayward**



We are all of us from birth to death guests at a table which we did not spread. The sun, the earth, love, friends, our very breath are parts of this banquet...

Rebecca Harding Davis

If it feels like God seems quiet right now, remember, no one shouts when they're right next to you.

Unattributed

MASTERPIECE!

The first time I ever came "up close and personal" (I mean less than twelve inches away) with a Rembrandt, I was overwhelmed with emotion. It may sound silly, but I was totally thrilled to be so close to a piece of art that had been painted 400 years ago by a master artist. It was beyond cool!

The interesting thing is, you and I daily come in contact with masterpieces when we come in contact with one another. Ephesians 2:10 (NLT) says, "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

In his book, Sparkling Gems from the Greek, Rick Renner states, "The Greek word here for masterpiece is 'poiema,'[which] carries the idea of something that is artfully created. Once God was finished making you new, you became a masterpiece, skillfully & artfully created in Christ Jesus...God's creative artist, intelligent genius went into your making,"

You are a masterpiece created by the ultimate Artist. You are beautiful. You have value. You are a fine work of art, greater than any masterpiece ever created by human hands. When God created you, He used all His creative genius in doing so. You are not an accident. You are not a mistake. You are a priceless, exquisite & precious work from the hand of God.

For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].
Ephesians 2:10

Alisha Gratehouse

GOD ROCKS!



Make decorative stones as reminders of God's many great attributes.

What you need:

- Flat, smooth stones
- Printed, decorative napkins
- Paintbrush
- Clear-drying craft glue
- Scissors
- Permanent marker



What you do:

1. Unfold the napkin, carefully separating the printed side from the solid side.
2. Brush a thin layer of glue atop a stone. Lay the napkin (printed side up) on the glue and press down. Paint more glue over the napkin. Let dry.
3. Turn the stone over and paint more glue on the back. Wrap the napkin edges around the stone, trimming as needed. Paint more glue over the napkin. Let dry.
4. On the stone, write an attribute of God (loving, wise, powerful, merciful, etc.).
5. Repeat with more stones. Use them as gifts, paperweights, table decorations, etc.



PUZZLE



BECAUSE OF WHO GOD IS

Thanks to who God is, we can talk to him in prayer.

Directions: Unscramble the descriptions of God, using the Bible references as clues. Then write the circled letters below to complete Psalm 109:26, NIV

Psalms 145:8

SGAICURO

_ _ _ _ _

Job 36:5

HGIYMT

_ _ _ _ _

Psalms 90:2

LTAVREENISG

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

2 Peter 3:9

INETTPA

_ _ _ _ _ _

1 Thessalonians 5:24

FUFHIATL

_ _ _ _ _

Isaiah 40:25

OYHL

_ _ _

Help me, Lord my __od;
save __e __ccording __o
your un__ailing l__ve.

Psalm 109:26, NIV

Answers: gracious, mighty, everlasting, patient, faithful, holy; Help me, Lord my God; save me according to your unfailing love. Psalm 109:26, NIV