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Minister: Rev. Hal A. Lingerman

June
2009

Return Service Requested

OPEN HOUSE JUNE 14TH
EVERYONE IS WELCOME
2:00-4:00 p.m.

Bring a friend
for tasty refreshments and a guided tour
of our lovely chapel, peace garden & sanctuary.

The choir will perform as well as a music
ensemble program of organ, piano and strings.

We want to tell about our prayer ministry
and Bible classes, writing classes,
and the extensive book and movie library
right here at the United Church of Christ!

They also should be aware of the availability of
pastoral counseling and visitations.
Weddings, Baptisms and Memorial services
are also part of our Ministry.

No Need to Ask

Your generosity is vaster than the sea
it does not wait for tomorrow.

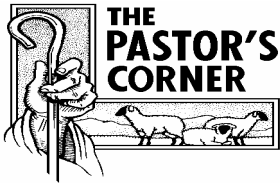
No need to ask You for anything.

Does anyone ever ask the Sun for light?

Do not look back, my friend
no one knows how the world ever began.
Do not fear the future, nothing lasts forever.

If you dwell on the past or future
you will miss the moment.

(RUMI)



KEEP LEARNING AND LOVING

**“Make your ear attentive to skillful and godly Wisdom,
and direct your heart and mind to the quest for understanding....
The mind of the wise instructs one’s mouth, and adds learning
and persuasiveness to one’s lips.” (Proverbs 2: 2; 16: 23)**

As we move along in life, it is essential to keep loving, learning and sharing.

We remember Jesus’ words, “KEEP ALERT.”

If we decide to do so, we can set ourselves to learn something new each day.

Even in our last breath taken in this earthly dimension of life,
anything we learn or awaken in our soul is awakened forever for future use and expression.

NOTHING IS LOST IN SPIRIT.

Certain persons may have specific “passions” and areas of learning that inspire them.

Here are a few: politics, sports, investments, global events, education, biographies, communication, philosophy, world cultures, history of civilization, cinema, bridge, astronomy, billiards, anthropology, archeology, architecture, painting, music, dance, ballet, photography, cars, pottery, poetry, psychology, physiology, gardening, prayer and meditation, genealogy, sacred literature, mechanics, animals, global synthesis, volunteering, tutoring, community projects, fundraising, angels, etc..

There is no end or limit to our learning. Learning helps us to love and share in a larger variety of ways with friends and other fellow human beings.

Recently, Rosemary and I received in the mail a marvelous 24-lecture tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The complete course comes on DVDs and includes crystal clear reproductions of more than 400 masterpieces of art among the 2.5 million pieces currently housed in the Met.

(Hundreds of wonderful courses on CD or DVD: The Teaching Company - 1 - 800 - 832 - 2412)

It is so important and healthy to keep our minds fresh, flexible and stirred by BEAUTY, not negativity.

So many persons are making a vital and constructive difference in our world today, and it improves our energy and spiritual awareness to focus on what is meaningful and uplifting around us.

Likewise, the Living Christ among us communicates and abides with us more powerfully as we set our minds to learning, loving and sharing in ways that expand our consciousness.

This summer, I invite you to pick some area of learning that interests you and learn more about it. Go to bed at night after reading some piece of inspiring literature or after listening to some piece of beautiful music. Enter into sleep with a prayer of gratitude for the vast horizons of learning open to you and the great mysteries of life that urge us all forward.

The more we learn, the less we know. But how magnificent are the gleaming portals of Spirit that offer each of us limitless beauty, music, inspiration and joy.

Life need never be boring. By focusing on some area of learning and loving that gets us up early each morning, we find that each minute here on earth is precious - valuable to us and to all those with whom we can share God’s miracle of living. A happy and healthy summer to all of you !

From the Associate Pastor

Ken Carlson

In the next few issues I hope to explore and persuade a few of the grace of the ancient tradition of spiritual guidance, friendship, companionship or direction. As the terms are equivalent you may choose the one most suitable. Since creation's beginning we're warned of the dangers of not going on our journey alone—*it is not good to be alone.*

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil

For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help (Ecclesiastes 4)

The crucial New Testament word is **paraclesis** - one who comes alongside another for their good, and this is associated with the Spirit of God. More about this later.

Forgive some personal reminiscences, but the part of my ministerial calling relating to hospice work, traditionally called "Care of Souls," as its heart is the accompaniment of one who listens. Spiritual companionship or direction falls under this ministry. One person of faith guides another, faith seeking a deepening understanding of one's relationship to God in Christ. Along with all those I've sought to accompany along the way to crossing over into the Eternal, the care of my own soul in spiritual direction has been a necessity as well as a job requirement. Pastoral care of any variety demands nothing less.

In October 1982, the year of my graduation from seminary, the alumni journal published its first issue entitled "Spirituality." Though I was familiar with the term, I had little depth in the history and tradition behind this now wildly popular pursuit. **Spiritual theology** has to do with living life in Christ instead of just thinking about it. An article entitled, "C.S. Lewis: Soul Friend," written by a Roman Catholic PHD candidate (later an acquaintance and soul friend) radically changed the course of my calling and journey.

We both shared a love for Lewis as a soul friend. Paul's chosen field he described as **Ecumenical Spirituality**. Since then I describe my vocation with those words as well, frequently with interfaith dimensions.

Three personal spiritual directors have served me well over seventeen years of hospice chaplaincy. Even today I meet monthly with a spiritual director. Says Thomas Merton, *Spiritual Direction is, in reality, nothing more than a way of leading us to see and listen to the real director—the Holy Spirit hidden in the depth of our soul.*

Spiritual direction occurs in a variety of forms—formal and informal, person-to-person, and in small groups. For now I will focus on the personal. All need to look with realistic honesty, simplicity and sincerity at their relationship with God as we live it out in everyday life. The Spirit calls us to ever deepening levels of intimacy with our own truest self, with other people of faith, with God and all of creation. To live our lives in the Great Communion is which God is becoming "all in all." *It is your face, O God, that I seek.*

Personal spiritual direction usually involves a covenanted relationship where two meet once a month in a compassionate, non-judgmental atmosphere. There is no prepared agenda beyond prayer, scripture and conversation flowing from the one Spirit we share in faith. In conversation and silence, the art of listening is carried out in the context of a trusting relationship. The language is that of healing and maturing. Soul friends in the ancient traditions were physicians of the soul, not judges. Spiritual guidance is being present in the moment, seeing and honoring the sacred mystery of the soul of another. The mystery is witnessed and reflected back in word, prayer, and encouragement.

Paul Ford writes of Lewis as a man who made himself available. More than any single thing he did for people, his continual prayer for them was perhaps, from the perspective of eternity, his greatest contribution to their lives. He spoke and wrote of himself as a "fellow-patient" of the same hospital, who, having arrived a little earlier, might be of some help. He offered direction in ways of going to God, and, through the imagination, the experience of how God actually loves us and works through our lives. "More than explaining that belief in heaven is reasonable, Lewis gets us excited about going." More about Spiritual Direction and C.S. Lewis to come.

Don't Run Away

I have come to drag you out of yourself
and take you into my heart.

I have come to bring out the beauty
you never knew you had
and lift you like a prayer to the sky.

If no one can recognize you, I do
because you are my lie and soul.

Don't run away, accept your wounds and
let bravery be your shield.

It takes a thousand stages
for the completed being to evolve.

Every step of the way I will walk with you
and never leave you stranded.

Be patient, do not open the lid too soon
simmer away until you are ready.

In this game I make the rules.

I roll you like a ball and chase you
when I choose.

(RUMI)

Whoever drinks from my mouth shall become
as I am, and I myself will embody the person,
and the hidden things shall be revealed to this one.

(Words attributed to Jesus the Christ)

Across the Valley

Across the valley a thin ribbon of road
rises to the rim of the horizon and disappears
from sight. It looks like the edge of the world
where everything stops simply
because it is out of view.

But other valleys, new hills and unseen roads
exist beyond what we might see
from just one point.

What seems to be the end of one road
is only a bend in the road. Keep going
and you will find a broader view,
a larger and clearer vision.

The outer eye can see only so far,
but the inner eye has vision without limit.
We can make our views beautiful or ugly,
negative or positive.

What do you see from here?

(Joyce Sequichie Hifler)

The person who shares my life and
Whose life I share will always be fruitful.

(Words attributed to Jesus the Christ)

SCRIP NEWS

Whenever you are shopping for dads, grads or yourself, please, think about **SCRIP**. There are some great retailers on our list, many more than are on our short order form (write-ins). Every time you buy **SCRIP**, your church benefits financially. Not only groceries and restaurants, but home improvement (new appliances or plants), gas for the car and travel benefits are included. There is something for everyone. Please stop by the office and check the list. Dollar for dollar it's great for us all. You pay nothing extra, and your church benefits ! Keep buying your **SCRIP** !

TODDLER AREA

It's finally happening! We are setting aside an area for toddlers during service. Plans are to use the north end of the Narthex (behind the sound system). This is a largely unused area, close to bathrooms. We do need a few supplies - a solid little person's table and chairs, some minor construction, a small, sturdy bookcase, and some volunteers to help with the care. Several of the mothers have offered to work on a rotation basis, but they need some extra help. If you are interested and can work occasionally as an instant grandparent, please let the church office know. Thank you.

And we especially thank Reverend Ken and Judy Carlson, who have already GENEROUSLY donated our first NEW children's crib.

SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks to all the wonderful folks who helped with the big mailing. You are terrific! Say an extra prayer for the good results.

Becky Miller



STEWARDSHIP & YOU

Now that summer is fast approaching, we hope all of you will continue to be faithful in giving your pledges.

Unfortunately, our water bills and our air conditioning bills rise in the hot weather.

THANK YOU for any extra donations you can Afford ! These extra gifts will mean a lot, especially when the higher bills soon arrive.

And thank you for all you kindnesses to your church and your faithfulness to God's ministry here and to the larger community..

Dorothy Flory,
Stewardship Chair

God has sent me to heal the broken-hearted,

to preach deliverance to the captives,

recovery of sight to the blind,

and to set free those who are bruised.

I am come to seek out and save

that which was lost.

(Luke 4: 18; 19: 10)

VISITATION

Please let us know if and when you would like a home visit. Immediately, Pastor Hal, Pastor Ken, Pastor Don or Pastor Doree will be at your doorstep. Please let us know your needs.



JUNE VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS

6/07 - To be announced
 6/14 - To be announced
 6/21 - To be announced
 6/28 - To be announced

GUEST BOOK

6/07 - Cynn timer Vannoy
 6/14 - Rosemary Lingerman
 6/21 - Ken & Jeanne Dukes
 6/28 - Jean Jewell

LAY READERS

6/07 - Marylou Snider
 6/14 - Shirley Wilson
 6/21 - Donna Goodrich
 6/28 - Richard Goward

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

6/7 - 6/28 - J. L. & Carol Hisel

SOUND TECHNICIAN

6/07 & 6/28 - Todd Ross
 6/14 & 6/21 - J. Hisel

SECURITY

6/01 - 6/15 - Don Ross
 6/16 - 6/30 - Wally Hutchison
 * * * * *

**I will give you a mouth
 and wisdom, which all your
 adversaries shall NOT be able
 to gainsay or resist.**

(Luke 24: 32)

JUNE Anniversaries

Scott & Denise Gierhart
 (10 years)

 Leroy & Joice Beenken
 (54 years)

 Urwin & Doris Kraut
 (67 years)

 Carl & Claire Palmer
 (62 years)

 Dave & Diomy Alexander
 (12 years)

 Richard & Esther Craig
 (58 years)

JUNE Birthdays

Mary Alice Cochrane, (2nd)
 Betty Grant, (4th)
 James Wilson, (6th)
 Lillie Hays, (8th)
 Doris Kraut, (9th)
 Esther Craig, (10th)
 Carl Palmer, (11th)
 Helen Duenas, (12th)
 Jeanne Dukes, (16th)
 Benjamin Mensah, (18th)
 Art Peterson, (27th)

**Lectionary Lessons
 for June**

6/07 - Trinity Sunday
 (First Sunday after Pentecost)
 Isa 6: 1-8 * Ps 29
 Rom 8: 12-17 * **John 3: 1-17**
MYSTERIOUS ENCOUNTER

**6/14 - Eleventh Sunday
 in Ordinary Time**
 (Second Sunday after Pentecost)
 1 Sam 15: 34-16: 13 * Ps 20 or
 Ezek 17: 22-24 * Ps 92: 1-4, 12-
 15 * 2 Cor 5: 6-10, 14-17 or 2
 Cor 5: 6-17 * **Mark 4: 26-34**
FLOURISHING

**6/21 - Twelfth Sunday
 in Ordinary Time**
 (Third Sunday after Pentecost)
 1 Sam 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-
 49 * Ps 9: 9-20 or Job 38: 1-11
 Ps 107: 1-3, 23-32
 2 Cor 6: 1-13 * **Mark 4: 34-41**
IN THE BOAT TOGETHER

**6/28-Thirteenth Seventh
 in Ordinary Time**
 (Fourth Sunday after Pentecost)
 2 Sam 1: 1, 17-27 * Ps 130 or
 Wis of Sol 1: 13-15, 2: 23-24
 Ps 30 * 2 Cor 8: 7-15
Mark 5: 21-43
HEALING POWERS

Treasurer's Report		
Month Ending February 2009		
General Funds Only		
<u>Apr Inc</u>	<u>Apr Exp</u>	<u>Gain (Loss)</u>
\$11,478.50	\$16,669.26	(\$5,190.76)
 Year to Date Totals		
<u>4 Mo Inc</u>	<u>4 Mo. Exp</u>	<u>Gain (Loss)</u>
\$59,327.01	\$64,278.59	(\$4,951.58)
Respectfully submitted, Richard Westlund		