

Friday Letter April 26, 2024

Good Friday Friends,

I am looking forward to our time tomorrow with our zoom gathering across the region. 9am from your computer or phone in the comfort of your home, church, or whatever setting is comfortable for you. I enjoy our time together checking in, sharing adventures, hearing about our lives and our churches, and having a wonderful conversation with our Bible study.



This time is our first study from the new 2024 Just Women Study. If you don't have one read the scriptures, read the questions, and you can join the conversation.

Embracing Life, Through the Looking Glass; seeing the world through the eyes of faith! Our first study comes from Sandyha Jha, the scripture references are from Deuteronomy 6:4 and 5 and Leviticus 19:18. Her questions to ponder:

1. Who is the biblical ancestor who tried to engage people different from them in a loving way? If you could ask them questions, what would they be? What might be their responses to those questions.
2. Who in the community is different from you, who don't know well, who have you had conflict with? Who from the Bible might be able to relate to your situation and what might their advice be?
3. Activist Grace Lee Boggs of Detroit talked about " putting the neighbor back in the hood. " Thinking about that last story, are there any small acts that could help you connect more deeply with your own neighbors so you're all in a relationship with each other?

I will be visiting and speaking at Mount Vernon next month May 6th and Warrensburg on June 18th. I am looking forward to seeing old friends and making new. And please mark your calendars for Regional Assembly August 8-10 in St. Joseph. On Saturday August 10th we will have our Disciples Women's Luncheon. I would love to hear from you. When you have special gatherings, special events, let me know to share with others and if I can, maybe I could join you.

From the Weekly Update.

Bootheel Leadership Workshop

The Bootheel Leadership Workshop held last Saturday at FCC in Sikeston was a terrific success! Twenty-seven people from five congregations participated, making for some great interaction and a wonderful day of learning and growing together.

Thanks to all the planners, worship leaders, workshop facilitators, and participants for making the event possible!

Outreach Box

Kennett First Christian Church has installed an "outreach box" which is available to anyone in need. It is stocked with shelf stable foods, one serving items, plastic utensils, bottled water, toiletry and personal hygiene items, toothpaste and toothbrushes, and seasonal clothing like hoodies and sweatpants. Pop top cans are helpful for those who may not have kitchen facilities available to them. They do not monitor who takes the items or how often, and It is apparently serving a need in the community. The congregation is stocking the box, and encourages others in the community who want to help to feel free to add their contributions.

Blessing of the Bikes 6/1

All are welcome to a Blessing of the Bikes taking place on Saturday, June 1 at First Christian Church in California. The event begins at noon and includes games, live music, food, and a veterans devotion. The worship and blessing begin at 1:00.

News from the farm:

This week's been much quieter on the farm! I'm sure a relief for the critters but busier for Tim and I catching up on things that have been overlooked for a while. We've also planted grass seed and spread straw. And we assembled two metal benches together without a hitch. But I am looking forward to my quiet walks in the woods.

These quiet times that we use to catch up on things around our homes reminded me of how we need to in the quiet times catch up on our spiritual walks. Maybe when we have those quiet slower times, we should use them to listen more to our God who provides those quiet times for us.

Prayerfully see you tomorrow.

Blessings,

Pastor Jennifer

Jennifer Long is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Disciples Women

Time: Apr 27, 2024 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85103457025?pwd=cE9jT2JzWEJ0MUZRUXQ0ZFdkcVgrUT09>

Meeting ID: 851 0345 7025 Passcode: 859436

Dial by your location

• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kd8tPzkIro>

Rev. Jennifer Long

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Micah 6:8 Message: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor,

be compassionate and loyal in your love, And don't take yourself too seriously— take God seriously.

C.S. Lewis : "Believe in God like you believe in the sunrise. Not because you can see it, but because you can see all it touches."