

Friday Letter February 23, 2024

Good Friday Friends,

Greetings all, I pray you are enjoying this warmer weather.



Tomorrow is our zoom gathering! I am looking forward to seeing many of your beautiful faces. From the comfort of your home or wherever you would like to gather we will spend an hour catching up and hearing what's going on in each other's lives and churches. Then, our Judi Linville will lead us in conversation over our lesson. I am thankful for she has a way of bringing the lesson to life. Do join us, I believe you'll be happy you did.

Our Bible study tomorrow is from Just Women, if you do not have a copy, please don't let that stop you from joining our gathering. Read the scripture, read the questions and you'll be able to join us in meaningful conversation. And if you don't have time to read join us anyway, I know you will find meaning in the conversation. The Bible Study is by Rev. Dr. Cristal L. Williams.

Scripture verse is from Numbers chapter 27:1-7 The title is The Daughters of Zelophehad Versus the People. Her questions for consideration:

1. What do you believe is the cost for women speaking out in the 21st century?
2. What would it take for you to be a conduit of change?
3. Is there a gift in this story for you? What is it?
4. Who are the women in your life, church, circle that have used their voices to bring hope, change, and inspiration?
5. What makes you uncomfortable about the story?
6. What does God's redemption look like to you in this story? And in the story of your own life?

Mark your calendars in August we will be having our Disciples Women's luncheon at the Regional Assembly on Saturday August 10th in St Joe I will share more information as it is available.

From the weekly update:

ALEX Reporting

With less than two weeks left to complete our Yearbook reporting in the ALEX database, only 19% of our Mid-America congregations have done so. It really is a quick and easy, though vital, process. Sign in, answer a few questions, skip the ones you don't know, and submit. There's an online help desk to answer lots of frequently asked questions. Contact the St. Louis Regional office if you don't know how to start, or get stuck at any point. Pastors and lay leaders, please make sure that your congregation reports as its tax-exempt status could be affected.

Worksheet: <https://files.constantcontact.com/4f2f02eb001/66e19224-01fe-4f12-968f-b7e004513501.pdf?rdr=true>

Mt. Vernon's Super Donation

On Sunday, February 11, First Christian Church in Mt. Vernon celebrated the Super Bowl by donating non-perishable food to the local food bank, St. Susanne Food Pantry.

The congregants wore their favorite team colors and put the food under the goal posts of either the San Francisco 49ers or the Kansas City Chiefs. Needless to say, the Chiefs goal post harbored the most donations. In the end, everybody won with this outreach project!

Threads of Joy

Join our Rural Ministry Network for these discussions designed to encourage, equip, and connect Disciples of Christ churches in Mid-America as we grow in Christ.

These are free events, and a meal will be provided at each.

More information, including the agenda, Five different dates/locations to choose from!

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/53c68a2de4b0929c16dd9bf2/t/65b12219441ae618fa7b8ad2/1706107418777/ThreadsFlyer2.pdf>

Convocation April 13th

Make sure your calendar is marked for our annual African American Convocation coming up on Saturday, April 13. Fifth Street Christian Church in Columbia will be hosting the event. The special guest speaker will be Dr. Delesslyn Kennabrew, Executive Director of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Associate General Minister. <https://www.mid-americadisciples.org/upcoming-events/2024/4/13/african-american-convocation>

Teresa Spear's Ordination news from Teresa:

Hello Friends and Family!

Several of you asked if my ordination service would be livestreamed - good news - it is!

To join online, just go to the South Street Christian Church Facebook page. If you don't see the video screen, you may have to click the "live" section.

<https://www.facebook.com/southstreetchristian>

Thank you for all you do to help me be a better person and minister!
Grace and Peace,
Teresa

News from the farm:

Paul is doing better. We are thankful for that.



The farm has a new addition, I'm not talking about a living breathing creature, I'm talking about a large blue, with a cab, New Holland tractor. Tim has wanted an enclosed tractor as long as we've been married and after 40 almost 41 years, we had a new to you, delivered to the farm this week. You'll notice in the picture he's a very happy farmer. I have a feeling I'm going to see much less of him since this fancy rig has a cup holder, heat, air conditioning, and even a radio. He will be prepared for all seasons! I'm still happy with my small Kubota tractor open air. I can still bundle up when it's cold and wear a lightweight t-shirt when it's hot. We laughed when we bought it that his was blue and mine was almost red, now, we just need white, and we'll be patriotic.

Seeing the joy on Tim's face after finding something that he had been looking forward to for so long, made me think of the joy that our Lord must have when we come to him. Something he's wanted and waited for so long.

Thank you Lord for loving us and caring for us so much.

Have a wonderful God filled week.

Blessings,

Pastor Jennifer

Jennifer Long is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Disciples Women

Time: Feb 24, 2024 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81653914930?pwd=d0RWRmZHUHpFeVdJcHdqdBByZW03UT09>

Meeting ID: 816 5391 4930

Passcode: 187080

Dial by your location

• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcstxuY43y>

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."