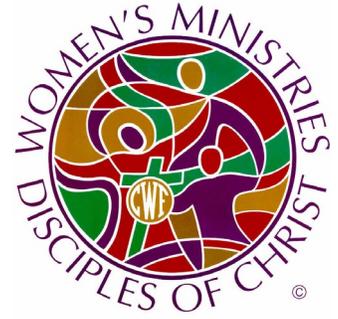


Friday Letter March 1, 2024

Good Friday Friends,

Wow, what a wonderful time we had together Saturday on our zoom! We were blessed to have Paula Holiday with us, we thank her daughter for helping her get on the zoom! She's doing better but continue the prayers please!



Everyone checked in about their churches and their lives and we all caught up with each other. We laughed, we prayed, we shared, and enjoyed every moment together, even went a little bit over time lol. Some of us shared including:

Fay shared they are doing a Bible study and were celebrating 130 years of stained glass in their church. We are very proud of her lifetime accomplishments as a "Faithful Disciple".

Sheila shared The Great Dechurching, by Jim Davis & Michael Graham, she has been reading and sharing the content.

Jane shared, Rest & Resilience: Following the Way of Jesus through Lent, by Bethany Fellows, they are using this through Lent.

Judi shared her journey in writing for family history, a writing camp, beautiful story.

Letitia shared they are doing a Bible Study of Loaves and Fishes.

Eileen says they are gearing up for pie making.

Cindy shared beautiful scenery.

Theresa shared with us her church is using a Bible Study for women by Angela Hogan.

Ron shared with us about the creative work with the Rural Ministry Network.

The region is in planning stages for the Regional Assembly, August 8-10, in St. Joseph, and some of our guest speakers will be Yvonne Gilmore and Terri Hord-Owens.

Our Disciples Women's Luncheon will be that Sat August 10th. Some of you at the Lathrop Gathering mentioned helping, please drop me a note if you are still interested.

Our Bible Study was once again thought provoking. More time would have been nice. Thank you, Judi, for always bring the texts to life.

Prayers for Judi's knee and Fay's son and of course Paula's continued healing.



I was blessed to be a part of Teresa Spears ordination Sunday! What a beautiful day, beautiful service, and beautiful Child of God!! It was so nice to see 'old friends' and make new.

If you are still trying to find the just women Bible study here's a link that Theresa Hamilton shared with us <http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/product/2024-just-women-bible-study-copy-5/>

Our next Bible study for March is the last one in the 2023 Just Women Bible Study, titled Learning to Let Go, from Isaiah chapter 43:18-19 is by Rev. Tanya Lopez

Questions for consideration:

1. What are some of the " things that were " that we might have to grieve in our lives today?
2. How can you hold space for yourself as feelings come up in your grieving of these " things "?
3. What examples can you name of times in your life in which God made a way during a time of crisis or deep need.
4. How can you begin the process of " releasing the grip " on things of the past in your life today?

From the Weekly Update:

Burns Night in Columbia

Burns Night is an annual fundraiser led by the youth of First Christian Church in Columbia to support their annual mission trips. A traditional Scottish celebration, Burns Night is a commemoration of the Romantic poet Robert Burns. It is also an opportunity to don your fanciest kilt, try some haggis, and dance the night away! The youth do a bit of everything to facilitate the event, including cooking, serving, setting up, childcare, dishwashing, and cleanup. This was the second year the congregation held the event, so it will evolve as the tradition continues.

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.

Drum Birthing Retreat

Participants will experience the joy of constructing their very own Native American style drum made by their own hands while in fellowship with other men. Together we'll participate in deep conversations. Through sharing our stories and listening to the experiences of other men, we will learn from one another. May 3-5 at Jabez Retreat Center. Space very limited

<https://www.mid-america-disciples.org/upcoming-events/2024/5/4/drum-birthing-weekend>

Celebration in Troy

On 2/11, FCC in Troy celebrated "Retirement of the Education Building Note." In about one year, the congregation paid off a \$1 million loan, that was utilized for the construction of a brand new education building. With a very successful capital campaign, and gifts from the church and First Step Preschool, the church built the new facility which features modern restrooms, a conference room, and four classrooms. Participating in the "tearing up" of the symbolic loan note was Dream Team Co-Chairmen, George Tucker and Dr. Scott Falls, along with Rev. Seth Rash, Associate Minister of Family and Youth, and Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Moore, Senior Minister.

News from the farm:



It's been an exciting week on the farm! Spring is in the air. As I was moving hay, the cows were coming up to me and I saw one coming up in the rear and it looked like she had six legs, lol. I looked again to see that she had a little one with her. He had been born long enough that his little body was dry, and he was mobile, not steady but trying very hard to keep up with Mama. I jumped off my tractor to see this beautiful baby and began waving my arms at Tim who was on his new blue tractor, to come and see! Ocho, the mother cow, had her little one on Tuesday. A beautiful little boy. One of those early in the year blessings. His arrival happened on the day that we were 77°! Of course, that night it got down into the twenties but he's doing well. We named him Rio.

We've been watching the goats, a couple of the girls that had babies last year are definitely preparing to have little ones. But we had a real surprise this morning when we went up to the goats and one of the yearlings showed signs of birth, but we couldn't find the baby. Tim got one of his hound dogs in to see if he could find it, but we were unsuccessful. It had been a very cold night down in the '20s, but I told Tim we're not super familiar with them birthing in the wild and if they're like deer and they tell their little ones to stay put and hide them, they will stay until the mama comes back. So maybe this afternoon when we get back, we will find her with her

little one. We never dreamed she was old enough to have a baby and she showed no signs of pregnancy either. It could be she was too young, and the pregnancy was not viable, or it could have been a false pregnancy, hard to tell when so young.

I am often reminded of hope. With the little goat, hope that we might find the kid and or hope that she is healthy and able to kid in the future. She appears to be in good health now. There is always hope.

Have a wonderful week full of hope.

Blessings,

Pastor Jennifer

Jennifer Long is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Disciples Women

Time: Mar 23, 2024 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88123748611?pwd=aGU5cnFBKzVCdW1VdFU1YWZFeFZ5QT09>

Meeting ID: 881 2374 8611

Passcode: 290238

Dial by your location

• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcNrk4ZkVK>

Rev. Jennifer Long

Associate Regional Minister for Disciples Women's Ministries

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Faith Christian Church

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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."