

Friday Letter March 22, 2024

Good Friday Friends,

I pray this letter finds everyone well! This week has gone by fast. Our zoom meeting is tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m.! I'm looking forward to seeing you all on the screen.



Remember you can join us by computer or by phone in the comfort of your home your church or whatever setting is comfortable for you. We will check in with each other's lives and churches. Talk about things happening throughout the region and have a delightful Bible study with Judi Linville at the helm. We all leave our meeting a bit more enlightened and ready to tackle the world!

Tomorrows Bible Study '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:

Christian Ministries Scholarships Available

The Christian Ministries Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance for those preparing for Christian ministries, both in seminary and undergraduate education. This fund is primarily aimed at supporting those persons from the Christian Church of Mid-America (CCMA) Region who are preparing for the Christian ministries. Our Disciples Women invite anyone interested to apply by May 31.

Rev. Heather Johnston Patten Ordained

Rev. Heather Johnston Patten (center in the brown and green stole) was ordained on Sunday, March 17 at her sponsoring congregation, First Christian Church of Fulton. She is now serving as the Associate Minister at First Christian Church in Jefferson City. Congratulations!

Rev. Lizzy Wolf Installed in Harrisonville

On Sunday, March 17th, Rev. Lizzy Wolf was installed as the new pastor for First Christian Church in Harrisonville. Rev. Dr. Phil Snider brought the sermon and Rev. Ron Routledge presided. Rev. Teresa Spear is pictured anointing Rev. Wolf with oil. A fellowship meal followed.

Black Ministers Retreat 2024 in Mid-America

This year's Black Ministers Retreat took place right here in Mid-America! Dozens gathered at the event for Music, Movement, and Memories. The program included the inspired preaching of Rev. Derrick Perkins (pictured), servant & pastor of Centennial CC in St. Louis. Also featured was excellent community engagement training by Eden Theological Seminary's Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise Baker; Participants were greeted and welcomed to the Region by Associate Regional Minister for Greater St. Louis Rev. David Woodard.

Willow Street CC 150th Anniversary

Willow Street Christian Church celebrated their 150th anniversary last weekend with three days of special events. At the Saturday evening banquet an anniversary certificate was presented to their pastor Rev. Angela Williams (pictured) by Associate Regional Minister Rev David Woodard. Congratulations on 150 years of ministry and service in Hannibal!

Celebration for ARM Katherine Kinnamon

Our Associate Regional Minister for Commission on the Order of Ministry Rev. Katherine Kinnamon is retiring effective March 31. We are grateful for her many years of ministry in Mid-America and invite all to join the celebration at Compton Heights CC in St. Louis on Sunday, April 7 during their 11am worship. A reception will follow at approximately 12:30.

From the farm:

The grass is greener, we can almost watch it grow, and we are thankful. We were having to supplement one of the triplets the mom just didn't have enough nutrition to support three babies. But as hard as we tried, we could not save the littlest of the three. So, we had another sad day on the farm. But the other two are healthy and bouncing and we pray that they will continue to grow, and we pray that the mom can take care of them.

Sometimes as hard as we try, as much as we pray, things don't work out the way we plan. That does not mean God is not listening. He hears and He answers but maybe not in the way we request.

Have a wonderful week as we begin Holy week on Palm Sunday.

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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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."