

Friday Letter May 10, 2024

Good Friday Friends,

I pray this letter finds you all doing well and have not suffered any damage from the recent storms. With the weather becoming so unpredictable it is so important to pay attention to your surroundings and listen to warnings, it could save your life or a loved one.

I've had a wonderful week. Monday, I had the opportunity to speak at a Disciples Women's Salad Luncheon at Mount Vernon Christian Church, highlighting the Woman 2 Woman trip to East Asia last year. There were 23 attending from Mount Vernon and other towns. We had a great time enjoying laughter, fellowship, and delicious salads. Thank you, Mt Vernon, for the invitation.



I will be speaking again at the First Christian Church in Warrensburg on June 18th at their 'Ladies of Faith' event. The theme for this event is 'Bloom Where You're Planted', and conversation will be about Today's Women.

Yesterday, I had lunch and conversation with an ole friend, Kirby Gould. It was so nice to see her and catch up. I had the opportunity to show her the church where my congregation now shares space with a Methodist congregation and the blessing, we have been one to the other. My husband took a picture of us in front of our sign. It has been a great week.

I have had so many questions visiting ladies' groups about the farm, so I am hoping to have a collage ready for June to bring along so you can see pictures of the critters and the places I speak of in my letters. Putting a face with the name so to speak.



Stay connected!! With the Region, with the churches, communities and with one another!

Our next Disciple Women's Zoom Gathering is the third Saturday this time due to the holiday weekend coming up. A week from tomorrow May 18 at 9am! Find a comfy spot and join the ladies. Our study is from the

Just Women, don't have one yet? No Worries.... Read the scripture and the questions and join in the conversation.

May Justice Roll by Ayanna Johnson Watkins. Scripture references: Proverbs 31:8-9, Amos 5:20-27, Luke 4:18-19, Deuteronomy 16:20, Psalm 41:1.

Questions to ponder:

1. How does your congregation or Faith community talk about the place of justice work in the lives of people of faith?
2. Does your congregation engage in Justice work? Do you? If so, why, and what does it look like? If not, why not?
3. What scriptural texts are shaping your own thoughts about advocacy, organizing, or other justice work?
4. What are some concrete ways that injustice shows up in your own life or community?

If you don't have a Just Women there's still opportunity to order one through disciples.org. but read the scripture verses and read the questions and still you can join the conversation!

And don't forget... Deadline is approaching: 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 30.

From the Weekly Update:

Men's Retreat

Five Disciples Men and eight Illuman men from Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, and Arizona met at the Jabez Retreat Center near Chillicothe for an incredible Drum Birthing Retreat last weekend. The drums could have been "made" in a few hours but "birthing" invited the participants' spirits and souls to ponder their faith story, intentions for the future, connections with our Creator, Creation, and each other.

Older Adults Ministry Webinar

Join the Older Adults Ministry Innovative Conversation Group as Rev. Kimberly Weir, Pastor Sandy Roberts, and Jan Aerie, Gerontologist, offer valuable viewpoints, ideas, and expertise on creating caring sharing communities. This NBA webinar on Wednesday, May 29 from 11am to noon is free but registration is required.

Disciples Women News

Last Thursday eight ladies from Faith Christian Church joined First Christian Church in Bolivar for their annual Salad Luncheon. They had a wonderful time! Twenty-two ladies enjoyed a time of delicious food, relationship forming fellowship, and a thought-provoking devotion!

Thank you, First Christian Church Bolivar from Faith Christian Church Buffalo.

On Monday May 6th Associate Regional Minister for Disciples Women Rev. Jennifer Long spoke at FCC in Mt. Vernon for their Salad Luncheon. There were twenty-three in attendance. She spoke on her immersion trip to East Asia last September. Everything was decorated so beautifully, and the salads were delicious! A good time was had by all!

News from the farm:

Our double gate down by the barn is in much-need of replacing. Through the years the gate has drooped, been kicked by cows, nudged by tractors, veterinarian trucks, and hay haulers. There are spots that have rusted, the paint is gone, it looks pretty rough, and has become very difficult to open and close. We have been blessed that it has done what it's intended function is, keeping the cows safe and probably would for some time in the future, however. I put my foot on the lower bar the other day and it had rusted so much that the weight from my foot broke it. So now when you open the gate up it catches the ground making it even more difficult to open and close. Now my job is convincing Tim that it needs to be replaced.

Convincing Tim brought a memory to me about my mom and dad. My mom had a way of getting my father to recognize something and do something by planting seeds of her own and then he would all of a sudden think it was his idea, recognizing and accomplishing whatever it might be! And she knew what she was doing when she was doing it. I would stand back and watch and be amazed. Isn't that our task with the Gospel? Aren't we supposed to plant seeds, knowing that they are right, true, and good. And then allowing those seeds to take root in the hearts of those where they are planted and allow them to find their own faith. Something to think about this week.

Have a wonderful week full of life's surprises!

Blessings,
Pastor Jennifer

Jennifer Long is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Disciple Women

Time: May 18, 2024 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85999643507?pwd=RzdxdzAxWHZNV29pZ1pwZGRrdkRhUT09>

Meeting ID: 859 9964 3507

Passcode: 584360

Dial by your location

• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbHD7jLW3V>

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."