

Friday Letter May 17, 2024,

Good Friday Friends,



I am looking forward to our Zoom gathering tomorrow at 9am! Yes, we are gathering a week early this month because the 4th Saturday falls on Memorial weekend. The time we remember those who paid the price for our freedom and those Loved ones who have gone on before us. We decorate cemeteries, gather as families, and welcome the beginning of summer.

Tomorrow we will check in with one another, hear what's happening in the region, share what's happening in our churches, in our ladies' groups, and in our lives; then have a heartfelt discussion led by Judi Linville on this month's Bible study from Just Women. 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?

Deadline is quickly 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.

News from the farm:

There's never a dull moment on the farm. There are times when things go smoothly but never dull! On our way home Monday afternoon, we came around the corner on the highway and we see Luna, one of our young goats,

outside the fence near the highway! I yelled out to Tim and he slowed the car down, and I jumped out to rescue her. She was a spoiled bottle baby and I was afraid once she saw our car she would make her way right in the middle of the highway. When I was running toward her, she was screaming at the top of her lungs! She was scared to death. Tim held the traffic back while I walked her to the County Road and there, we continued our journey home. I led her the mile or so down the road. As we got close to our gate all the other goats were following, they were very concerned for her welfare.

It wasn't hard getting her back into the fence, there she was comforted and loved by her goat family and was simply happy to be home. Now that she is safe, we must figure out how she got out! There's been so much rain lately and we've had trees down, so we had no idea what we would face. We drove home, got our boots on, loaded our vehicle with a chainsaw wire and other tools so we could fix whatever we were about to find. The problem was in a draw where the water had pushed the fence away and she was able to crawl under it. We fixed the problem and ended our day at almost dark.

All the goats were very happy they were back together. It wasn't just Luna that was concerned about being outside the fence, all the goats were upset and following as we walked Luna home. Well, Luna and I walked, Tim followed us from behind in the car.

Later, I thought about our Good Shepherd and how he leaves the 99 to gather the one. When I saw her out and near the highway, in danger, I knew I had to do something, I had to save her. Isn't that what our Lord and Savior does with us? When we're out of the fence, and lost, when we're in danger, our shepherd comes looking for us! He finds us, guides us, and leads us so that we can get back through the gate to safety. And we all rejoice that, the one who was lost, now is found!

Have a glorious week full of God's unexpected 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>

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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."