

## Weekly Update – October 5, 2016

### A Personal Word ...

#### “Reflecting About Faith”

In the sermon on Oct. 2, I explored the nature of faith, through Luke’s description of the disciples’ demand of Jesus to “Increase our faith,” and Paul’s second letter to Timothy in which he reminded Timothy to “rekindle the gift of God...” given him through his grandmother, Lois, and his and mother, Eunice, and affirmed in him through Paul through the “laying on of his hands.”

The disciples believe that they lack the faith they need to heed Jesus’ teaching to forgive a penitent brother “7 times 7” (meaning again and again). Timothy, now stepping out on his own, receives a letter from his mentor encouraging him and reminding him of the gift of faith he has already received from God through his grandmother and mother.

We are just like them. It is all too easy for us to believe we lack faith, rather than recognize the faith we have already received. Even the disciples felt they needed more faith.

We live on a world where people of faith are challenged to “prove” their faith, to show that faith “works,” and to show it with mathematical certainty!

But mathematical certainty is not what the disciples or Timothy or we need. The faith they and we need is trust, confidence, and commitment to a way of life exemplified by Christ’s love.

What does it mean to have faith? Here’s the statement I quoted in Sunday’s sermon, accompanied by references to passages in Luke’s gospel (noted in parentheses).

#### *Faith is:*

- *persistence in reaching out to Jesus (Luke 5:17-26)*
- *trusting in Jesus’ power and authority (Luke 7:1-10)*
- *responding with love to forgiveness received (Luke 7:44-50)*
- *not letting fear get the upper hand (Luke 8:22-25)*
- *being willing to take risks that challenge the status quo (Luke 8:43-48)*
- *giving praise to God (Luke 17:11-19)*
- *having confidence in God’s desire for justice (Luke 18:1-8)*
- *being willing to ask Jesus for what we need (Luke 18:35-43).*

(Audrey L. S. West, et. al., *New Proclamation: Year C, 2010; Easter through Christ the King*, David B. Lott, ed. (Fortress: Minneapolis, 2009), 234.

This week, I invite you to read the indicated passages and rekindle the gift of faith that God has placed within you.

~Jim

## Daily Bible Reading – 2016      Shaping Our Life Experience

Excerpts from both the Old and New Testament are included each day. This is a great way to support your ongoing growth in faith and the Christ Church community as well.

October 4: Isaiah 29-30; Ephesians 6  
October 5: Isaiah 31-33; Philippians 1  
October 6: Isaiah 34-36; Philippians 2  
October 7: Isaiah 37-38; Philippians 3  
October 8: Isaiah 39-40; Philippians 4  
October 9: Isaiah 41-42; Colossians 1  
October 10: Isaiah 43-44; Colossians 2  
October 11: Isaiah 45-47; Colossians 3  
October 12: Isaiah 48-49; Colossians 4

## In Our Prayers

**Joy!** We celebrate with **Pat Noyes** on the marriage of her daughter, **Megan**, on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, in California. We offer our prayers as they begin their new life together.

Carol Teresi, Beth Sweet, Bob Kreib, Glenn Hurst – Comfort care at Beechwood, Guy Castellino Sr.- rehab, Sister’s Hospital, Jean Ericson – MF Suburban, Charles Terranova, Alicia Ticconi, Patty Keller, Carolyn Day, Janet Hill, Susan Schauer, Elvira Gonzalez, Florence Stengel, Richard Mestler, Fred & Lynda Painton, Castellino Family  
Chris Maliken, Alex Dunbar, Lindsey Darling & Ian Johnson – all serve in the US Navy

## This Week at Christ Church

New Church Office hours in effect

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 9 am to 5 pm, Tuesday & Thursday – 9am to Noon**

Wednesday, October 5 -            6 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal

7 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 6 -            7 pm – Church Council at Pollards

7 pm – Elizabeth Circle

**Books We Have Loved changed to Friday, October 14 at 10 am**

Sunday, October 9 -

9 am – Casual Praise

**10 am – FaithXpress – God’s Creation Story**

11 am – Traditional Worship

## All Aboard!

The Men’s Group will be taking a train excursion on the Arcade & Attica Rail tour to enjoy the Fall colors. Info is available online at [arcadeandatticarr.com](http://arcadeandatticarr.com) . Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$15 for those over age 62 and for Veterans. Children are \$14. All are welcome. Carpool from the church at 9:15 am. Train leaves at 11 am. Lunch will follow at a local restaurant.

Got questions? Call Tom Nye at 213-3642

## Opportunities to Make A Difference

### PINKTOBER Candy Sale

The Community Youth will have candy for sale this Sunday, October 9. The All proceeds go to **Making Strides Against Breast Cancer**. If you ordered in advance, your order will be ready for pick up

Chocolate dipped Pretzel Rods w/pink drizzle \$1.50

Chocolate Covered Oreos w/ pink ribbon \$2

Pink Ribbon Chocolate Suckers \$1.50

Chocolate Covered Popcorn - Large bag - \$2, Small bag - \$1

Dark Chocolate Bark with Almond flavor (no nuts) - \$2

Dark Chocolate Bark with Peanuts - \$2.50

### Uganda Wells of Love



An anonymous donor has generously agreed to make a matching gift to the Wells of Love project in Uganda!! All gifts *up to \$5,000* will be matched to provide clean, safe drinking water to remote areas of Uganda. Your gift makes a difference! Donations and questions can be directed to the church office or Kathy Weaver.

## Serving Veterans

During October the following items are being collected for men & women at the local Veterans Hospital...Socks, Underwear, Towels, V-neck T-Shirts, Toiletries, Throws or lap blankets, Gift cards (McDonalds, K-Mart, Wal-Mart, Tops, Wegmans – Please give to Diane Klenk or the church office) Audio Books and DVDs are also collected. There's a bin at the back of the worship space. Got questions? Call Diane Klenk at 651-0236

**Food Pantry** - suggested items:

**October 2 - Beans – canned and dried**  
**October 9 - Pancake Mix**

All food items are always needed. Paper products and toiletries are welcome anytime. Grocery carts are available in the church for your donations. Thank you!

## Hospitality & Welcome

Sign up on the bulletin board in the Café to host some Sunday morning!  
Invite your family, friends, ministry team or group to join you!  
Share in this Café ministry of hospitality and welcome.

**Café** – Donations are welcome in the Café for use on Sunday mornings – baked goods, half & half, oj, fruit & cookies are useful!

**Blood Mobile** –



**Friday, October 28 2-6 pm**  
Call Geoff Hill at 316-1522 to donate or to volunteer

## Coat/Winter Hats, Mittens

During October we're collecting warm coats, hats, mittens, scarves, boots, for Seneca St United Methodist Church located in the Seneca-Babcock area of Buffalo. Warm items will be given to neighbors in need. Look for bins in Crafts Hall.

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The Scriptures are chock full of people in transition. The people of the Bible were wandering people. The Israelites spent forty years in the wilderness,... a generation in Babylon. Paul moved from place to place,...and Jesus takes his disciples to a place that is in-between... Where are they? They're nowhere.

They're everywhere. As much as liminal [in between] periods are opportunities for danger, they are also opportunities for growth. Liminal periods are places where we can grow, where we can 'find ourselves,' and where we can orient our lives to shape what the next room we'll inhabit will look like.

~ Fr. Rick Morley, *a garden path*