

Pastor's Update, Saturday, October 10, 2020

Happy Saturday WFMC Family!

Sunday Worship (Livestream available starting at 8:30 a.m., Sunday)

[WFMC Livestream Service](#)

[WFMC Truthcasting/podcast message only audio](#)

[Print editions of morning worship messages](#)

[Sunday's Worship Folder](#)

Click the links below for the latest information on:

[Corporate Worship Quick Facts / FAQ](#)

[Adult Bible Fellowships](#)

[Youth Bible Fellowships](#)

[Children's Sunday School](#)

[Wednesday Night Ministries](#)

[Youth Ministry Newsletters](#)

Need a Great, Fall-Oriented Activity For Children? [Click here.](#)

Church Directory Photos This Sunday! Taken after each morning worship service in the church foyer. We'd love to include you in the new directory with an updated picture. No appointment necessary. It's all very quick and painless and is so helpful to our church family!

The Latest (Digital) Edition of Light and Life, our denominational magazine, [can be found here.](#)

Prayer News and Notes (PN&N) – a short e-newsletter that includes urgent prayer needs and church information, is sent nearly every weekday from the church office to all who are interested in subscribing. Prayer News and Notes does not use the same distribution list as this Pastor's Update. If you would like to receive PN&N, [let the office know by clicking here.](#)

Mission Week Offering Update from our contribution secretary, Brian Nowitzki: "As of...10/9/2020, the Missions Week offerings total \$6,550.88. This includes all worship service offerings through last Sunday (10/4), all contributions sent/given to the church office through today (10/9) around noon, and online contributions given through today around 8:00pm. This includes ONLY gifts designated specifically for Missions Week and DOES NOT include the church match. All I can say is, 'WOW! Our God is generous and so are His people!'"

Someone Might Appreciate This Word on leadership that our Bishop Cowart and the Superintendents in his area (including me) put together for the conference pastors. [Click here for the 1 hour video.](#)

A Word About Virus Cases

If you receive the Prayer News and Notes, you know that several (6-8 persons over the last ten days) in our church have tested positive for Covid. Most of them have recently completed, or are soon completing, their home quarantine time. None have been hospitalized, all have either experienced no symptoms or mild symptoms, and all are recovering well. We're thankful for this.

Other than one instance where four persons were together in Bible Quiz practice (where masks and distancing protocols have been very faithfully followed,) the cases are disparate...the people travel in different circles and have little, if any, contact with one another in the context of church / church gatherings. That is to say, the infections are not spreading through worship gatherings or whole ABFs or other groups on that sort of scale. They are individual instances. So, again, we're thankful.

These close-by cases, however, call us to remember a few items that medical professionals have been pretty consistently saying since the beginning:

- 1) This virus is uncommonly contagious, so in addition to the faithful practice of simple hygiene, mask-wearing when in close proximity to others and when speaking or singing loudly helps limit the spread of airborne droplets on which the virus rides. It's the simple act of keeping our spit to ourselves, and this is no remarkable thing; surgeons have practiced this for decades to limit infection.
- 2) This virus can prove especially difficult for those who are older, those who are already medically compromised in some way, and those who are overweight / out of shape. Considering the number of people in our church and communities who fall into these categories, it is simply the loving thing to try to limit their exposure in reasonable ways.
- 3) This virus is going to continue to spread, however, no matter what we do. That fact has been stated by health officials from the beginning, and the goal of the protocols they ask of us was never to keep the virus from infecting anyone; the goal was to keep hospitals from being overwhelmed with infected people all at once. Sooner or later, apart from an effective vaccine, most or all of us will very likely be exposed to it, and the statistics prove that the vast majority of us who are exposed to it will suffer a slight fever, some degree of flu-like symptoms, and then recover in a few days with no issue.

We need to keep all these things in perspective as we walk through these days, so we can continue the balance of living our lives while caring for others the best we can.

A Good Word From Rabbi Daniel Lapin *A Time for Everything*

Whether because of COVID-19 or due to governmental reaction to the virus, these past months have provided a stark message to the world that many things are outside our control. Businesses have failed no matter how hard their owners labored; people have fallen ill no matter how many health foods they consumed, and political currents have destroyed cities no matter how decent the people who live there.

Imagine a baby newly aware of his ability to deliberately move his arms, hands and feet. Lying on a blanket near a window, he sees that each time he waves his arms, the leaves outside the window dance. Delighted with this power, he repeats his gestures. Suddenly, the leaves stay rigidly still and our baby bursts into tears. Unbeknownst to him, the leaves were responding to an autumn wind, not to his machinations.

There are things in this world that we can influence and other things that we cannot. One of the secrets to sanity and happiness is recognizing the difference.

The world-record for the biggest-selling popular song with the oldest lyrics belongs to The Byrds' rendition of Turn, Turn, Turn from 1965, containing words from the third chapter of King Solomon's book of Ecclesiastes. This book, Kohelet in Hebrew, is read during the holyday of Sukot each year, a joyous week that we are currently celebrating. It contains a credible explanation for our mystery.

A time to be born And a time to die A time to plant And a time to pluck... (Kohelet 3:2)

The seven verses of Ecclesiastes we are examining (3:2—3:8) contain twenty-eight events for which "there is a time." Some events are under our individual control. Other times, we can only respond to events in our world. By scrutinizing each verse from the perspective of strong individual control, we find that verses (3:2—3:4) deal with events in our lives where we need to follow external triggers. Verses (3:5—3:7) deal with events under our control.

In Kohelet 7:8, Solomon provided the clue to the pattern he followed:

Better is the end of a thing than its beginning...

This verse tells us to look at the end of the section we are studying for a clue.

A time to love And a time to hate A time for war And a time for peace (Kohelet 3:8)

This verse contains both types of events. Loving and hating are decisions made by each of us. Whether our nation is at war or peace lies outside our personal choice. King Solomon teaches that our lives contain both kinds of events and we need to learn to distinguish between them.

Fatalistic people deem everything in life to 'just happen' so they attempt little and achieve less. Foolish people imagine they can control every aspect of their lives and fritter away their time and energy fighting reality. Those of us who follow King Solomon's guidance recognize that while everything is ultimately in God's control, we must spend our time and efforts on those things our endeavors are likely to impact while adapting to and accepting those things the wind blows our way.

And Finally, in the Interest of Keeping Our Sense of Humor About All This:

Quarantine Update 2.0: we moved onto Scrabble today but he keeps playing the same word! Isn't that cheating somehow?!



Peace and Blessings, Sisters and Brothers,

Pastor Daryl