Pastor Jan’s corner . . . RESURRECTION

Every May it happens (some years later rather than earlier.) The earth’s wintered state begins waking up—stirring, feeling new life beginning to blossom even as the birds “their carols raise”.

Indeed, it is our Master’s world! And with Spring come the stories of the empty tomb, (Resurrection), conversations on the road (Emmaus), breakfast on the seashore (Jesus as chef). And with the Spring we are invited to shake off the dull and dead in us to open ourselves to the unexpected.

I think of people I know who are feeling stuck in the doldrums of the COVID19 restrictions, folk who aren’t yet “springing” forward. Some are those who have lost a loved one, those who covet a hug and face-to-face social interaction, those who are job searching or are awaiting permission to return to work. I think of people who are depressed or are unable to fully grasp what all of this is really about. I think of people, lots of them, who are residents of long term care facilities and never dreamed that they would be physically and socially distanced from family and friends. You too know of many who need, more than anything, an “eastering”, a bright greening in their lives.

It may be a very slow and painful process, watching and waiting for that first green shoot of life returning. But the assurance that we have is that resurrection comes, always comes, in its own time.

I wish for you solace in these times, courage for all that troubles you, and prayers for moments of beauty and joy as the roots of your faith push through all that might weigh you down.

Romans 15:13 I pray that God, who gives hope, will bless you with complete happiness and peace because of your faith...

(Inspired by Out of the Ordinary, Joyce Rupp)
UPDATE ON SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS

Because our Zoom Worship Services are “open” to visitors and others, we are concerned that sharing personal information during morning prayer time invades personal privacy issues.

As a way of sharing within the church community, there are several options:

--Contact Pastor Jan during the week with your concern or joy. An email is most helpful at cocoak@aol.com If you are without a computer, please text or call her at **847-644-1158.** * (Printed Joys and Concerns will be shared through the weekly emails and snail mail packets sent out from the office to our church family.)*

--Connect with our Prayer Group on Wednesday Evenings at 7:30 p.m. for a more social forum. This is one way to offer support to those who desire more contact during social distancing.

--Feel free to contact your deacon with any concerns that you would like to share or talk through, if you’re comfortable doing that.

--Pastor Jan is available to receive and respond to your calls when you are seeking pastoral care. Use the **847-644-1158** cell number whenever possible.

Thank you for remembering that our “live zoom platform” is a public forum and personal information can be garnered by intruders.

With best regards for our continued ministry together—

*Jan King, Pastor*
Zoom Worship is continuing! Thank you for your flexibility and support while we learn how to best use the platform for worship! Lately we’ve had as many people attending our Zoom Worship as we did at church on Sunday.

Please invite your friends and family members to join us Sunday Mornings at 10:30. To access zoom, log onto our website www.wcotb.org or on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wyomissing-Church-of-the-Brethren/197219160299925 Zoom log on instructions should be easy to find.

**Our First Electronic Communion is happening Sunday, May 3.** Be sure to have a drink and a snack--whatever elements you will find meaningful to use for communion.

We are still looking for people to share their gifts of music on our Zoom services. No performance anxiety, you’re performing in your own home! Please contact Music Director, Brenda Bechtel for any gifts of music you wish to offer.

After the worship service, we invite you to stay and unmute your mics for social time! This has become a favorite Sunday activity.

Please stay safe, remember us in your prayers...and hum the Dave Kline song “This Too Shall Pass!”

**SEND US A VIDEO** of you and/or your family showing how you are coping creatively during this corona confinement. The video can be funny or just plain enjoyable. We all need to laugh more these days. Videos will be aired on our ZOOM church services on Sundays. Please keep the video to 30 seconds or less and make sure it is “kid friendly.” Please send to Ray Dotter (ray.dotter@gmail.com) by Saturdays.
OUR GROCERY CART MINISTRY! Please share with your family and friends that our Grocery Cart is full and waiting for shoppers! The Cart is located right inside the front doors, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 3 pm. Thank you to EVERYONE who has donated! This is the true meaning of gifts from the heart.

SOUP KITCHEN - for our meal at New Journey on Monday, May 18th, we will make and deliver 200 (or more) meal bags containing sandwiches, chips, water bottles, apple sauce cups, vegetable packs and cookies. The increased demand along with the social distancing requirements at the center requires this change to our traditional BBQ meal. The church will need to buy the supplies to support this effort. In lieu of providing BBQ, rolls or other supplies, we are asking individuals to support this effort if possible with a financial contribution. Please send your contribution to the Church Office. Contributions should be marked for New Journey meals.
If you have any graduates in your family this May or June, please notify the office, wcotb22@aol.com  Please INCLUDE: The grad’s name, school, degree (if higher ED) and a few notes of interest. A picture would be lovely, if you’re OK to have it shown on Zoom. Your church wants to recognize and celebrate these milestones of your kids, spouses, and grandkids. Please get your graduate’s information to the office by May 20.

Please pray for Jean Bechtel in her grief.
Please pray for Regina Zimmerman who is having a procedure today (Thursday) and hopefully comes home tomorrow (Friday).
Prayers for Linda Kauffman – please keep her away from the virus that is in her care facility.
Prayers for John Kauffman who is moving to Phoebe Berks Personal Care unit tomorrow (Friday). Prayers for adjustment.
Prayers for Sarah Marie (Dotter) Stahlke as she works at Cleveland’s COVID-19 designated hospital.
Prayers for all of us, that we be the most kind and the most gentle to ourselves.
Prayers that we all may discover gratitude…large and small…in all of our lives, especially now!
(ZOOM)

May 3 – At the Table (Communion Sunday)  Luke 10:30-37

May 10 – Celebrating Women: A Story and Scripture Jam

May 17 – Lost in Wonder, Joy and Praise!  Psalm 66:8-20

May 24 – All God’s Children  Matthew 19:13-15

May 31 – What Gift Do You Bring?  (Doris Krick, 5th Sunday Worship)

The Church Office remains open for phone calls (and visits by appointment) during regular office hours Monday – Friday, 8:15 am to 3:30 pm.
You may leave a message on the answering machine after hours.
...joy comes with the morning

(Psalm 30:5)

I like to go for a walk every morning. When I am outside, it never ceases to amaze me how God was able to create such a wonderful world.

Currently many trees are full of blooms, flowers are displaying their colors, birds are proudly singing. In the summer, the sun is warm, the trees are full of green leaves, berries are ripening and ready to pick, the corn gets taller and taller every day. In the fall, the leaves turn different colors, leaves fall and crunch under your feet, pumpkins and gourds decorate our surroundings. In the winter, tree branches are bare and we can see how the tree is growing, white snow blankets the earth, icicles hang and reflect the sunlight.

I am always amazed at how wonderful this world was created. But even more impressive is that God gave us our senses to enjoy this world. We can see the many colors, feel the warmth of the earth, hear the sounds, smell the air, and taste the berries.

How enjoyable, yet how complex to create. God definitely created us with love. He gave us everything we need so we can appreciate his world. I find joy in the morning reconnecting with God while observing his world.

Vicki Clements