

WEEKDAY WORDS

Thursday, May 25, 2023

THIS SUNDAY IS PENTECOST!

Wear your **RED** this Sunday!

Our Faith Formation classes will work on Faith Formation inspired art in preparation for Faith Formation Sunday in June.

We are delighted to welcome the Rev. Ryan Henderson among us this Sunday. Rev. Henderson is Associate Conference Minister for Communication within our NY Conference of the UCC. Ryan is our “tech guru” as well as a gifted spiritual leader. On this Pentecost Sunday, we look forward to a gift of music, “*Who Will Be a Witness*” from the men of our choir.

This Sunday is the day when most UCC churches will receive the special offering called *Strengthen the Church*. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. Envelopes will be available on Sunday.

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

Monday Memorial Day – our office will be closed.

Thursday Our Trustees will meet with representatives from the school and area businesses to discuss the parking situation for this summer.

Next Sunday:

9:30 Faith Formation will prepare for Faith Formation Sunday.

10:30 It is Communion Sunday and Rev. Janice Michaels Marsi will lead worship. Joanne Cincotta is the Deacon for June.

TOGETHER WE PRAY...

With joy, we thank God for two graduation celebrations:

Olivia Harrington graduated last Saturday with her Master of Social Work.

Brianna Darling graduated yesterday (Wednesday) with her Master of Divinity.

Pray for Jean Cadwallader’s family as they grieve the passing of her brother, Larry.

Pray for those who continue to deal with Covid 19, significant allergies and other illnesses.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

- 1 Tyler Masterson
- 3 Evan, Kenian, Molly Ulrich, Clay Benedict
- 6 Theo Menard-Seiffert
- 10 Mark Bertram
- 18 Henry Cornwell
- 19 Harry Newcomb
- 20 Maureen Tarry Hilts
- 21 Keith Palm

PASTOR VICKI'S CHECK-IN...

Hope is as necessary as air. ~ Brené Brown

Last week was the **Festival of Homiletics** in Minneapolis, MN. The theme was *Preaching Hope for a Weary World*. For four days we listened to extraordinary preachers offering sermons and lectures – all based on HOPE. In so many ways the experience was a kind of balm for the soul. (Some of us may already be humming that spiritual ...*there is a balm in Gilead...*) There were over 1,000 participants in person and another 900 online. We came from something like 15 different countries including Australia, Canada, India, and Sweden.

I am pondering all that I heard...letting it sink into my soul. How does one capture such an experience? Perhaps with snippets of wisdom...perhaps with pictures...

From the Most Rev. Michael Curry, presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church:

Describing what incarnation at Christmas:

God said, "I've had you online for a long time...I think I'll just show up in person now."

Speaking about Jesus' new commandment in John 13:

Jesus said, "Moses gave you 10 Commandments but I'm gonna summarize them all in one: Love God and one another as I have loved you."

Rev. Curry compared our lives in faith to a tree. We grow our roots deep. And yes, that was the moment when my soul sang, again, "*When I pray, I feel my faith grow deeper...*"

Today, I leave you with a couple of pictures.



The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
(Officiant for the wedding of
Prince Harry & Megan)

Speaker at Festival of Homiletics
May 16, 2023



Stained Glass:
Lutheran (above) & Presbyterian
churches in Minneapolis, MN

