

Mid-week Musings

April 22, 2020

<https://youtu.be/Ag6CYY0cbFc>

Halleluiah Chorus

From Rev. Jim Antal's blog, Retired Conference Minister of the Historic MA UCC Conference

In only a few weeks, how the world lives from day to day has changed. As Suzanna Arundhati Roy, famed author and political activist, suggests, "this pandemic is a portal – a gateway – that can lead to a more just and sustainable world. It's up to us, working with others, to decide what we will bring with us through that portal. The current crisis is a clarion call to people of every faith persuasion around the world to raise our voices and mobilize our bodies and our assets to advocate for a more just and sustainable world."

Celebrating Earth Day with Mac - video

Using our backyard trail with the family or going driving to an outdoor destination are Mac's two favorite activities. Why? We all like to be in nature. Let's check it out to see if this is true.

I ask Mac if he wants to go on a walk. He jumps and turns 360 degrees to celebrate. There's no backing away from the invitation. We are all ready to go with appropriate muck boots, tic treated coats and hats, and poles. We walk through the backyard and onto the trail down to Elmer Brook. Mac loves to smell and chase, but loves being with us in the woods. So do we. Nature is where creativity is fostered and our spirits can be refreshed. It's time to do something to prevent further erosion. How will you celebrate? How will you sustain the Creator's goodness?

Jesus says "Listen to words passed to me through my rabbinic teachers-from Psalm 8: *Yaweh, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*"

Hymn

Restless Weaver

Thomas Merton from New Seeds of Contemplation: *Give me strength that waits upon you in silence and peace. Give me humility which alone is rest, and deliver me from pride which is the heaviest of burdens. Possess my whole heart and soul with the simplicity of love. Occupy my whole like with the one thought and the one desire of love, that I may love not for the sake of merit, not for the sake of perfection, not for the sake of virtue, not for the sake of sanctity, but for You alone.*



Thanks for all those getting in touch with one another. I heard on NPR how one person said, "If I am lonely, I call someone and that makes me feel better." If you have needs, please call the church at 532-2262 or Lori at 455-4401. If you would like to have Lori announce a Joy or Concern during the Sunday worship please email her by the end of the day Thursday (lorijeansouder@gmail.com). If you have an announcement you would like included in the "bulletin" please email Thia at centerchurch@verizon.net

What's happening at Center Church?

Zoom Chat with Mount Holyoke College students from California to Connecticut: Six students, Lorain Giles and Lori, had an hour's time together checking in with one another. We were introduced to their bedrooms at home. Many find the online learning frustrating, and the unknown disconcerting. We swapped favorite TV shows to watch. While we miss them and miss how they contribute to Center Church, we are glad they are safe.

The Sunday School (Promise Land) met at two different times using virtual tech. Martha and Simone (in CA) separate the Littles from the older children. Martha read the Genesis story and shared a proverb from the Kikuyu people of Kenya: *"You must treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents. It is loaned to you by your children."* Simone read a book about finding peaceful solutions to conflicts between owl and rabbit. The Holy Spirit was alive with lots of laughter and sweet responses. The Youth Group met with Emma (KY) and Maddie(CT) to talk about the Fruits of the Spirit. *"The Youth have been great these past few weeks. Coming to the virtual Youth Group is a testament to their character and their faith!"*

Zoom Chat with a missionary from Mexico We jumped on the possibility to chat with a missionary who has returned from Mexico. We would like to invite you join us on Zoom using a link we will send out. Be brave and click or call in and use your phone. Chances are this will occur on a Sunday morning. Beforehand we will send out info on Abby's work in Mexico.

Food For Friends served 94 meals to homebound residents in South Hadley and Granby. Thank you for all the work, especially Charlotte Bujnarowski and her family. Sanitary and health regulations were observed.

Zoom Council Meeting at 7pm on April 28 Anyone is welcome to join us by clicking on the link or calling in, but only Council Members can vote:

Description: Lori Souder is inviting you to a scheduled Council Meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3988587337?pwd=bms3M1BJZEEeXWHBrUkZLcjhLSkJJdz09>

Meeting ID: 398 858 7337

Password: Malcolm

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,3988587337#,,#107051# US (New York)

+13126266799,,3988587337#,,#107051# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)



Any interest in talking with friends over ZOOM? Sure, you can do it by phone with one other, but how about a **group** of friends from Center Church? Lori will gladly connect through ZOOM. Let Lori know if you would be interested.

Please keep the following people in your prayers

Continual:

Emily Bangs-Orsini (at Mt. St. Vincent)
Barbara Blank's great-grandson, Cayden
Luke Bradley
Marjorie Buschner, in Hospice care
Wayne Cowan, short term rehab at Care One
Dolly Crossland
Muriel Graham
Shelly Granger at Mont Marie, hoping to return soon to Loomis
Lou Hamilton
Audrey Heinrichs
Tom Hazen
Phyllis Lacoste
Anna Sibley
Ruth Thornton - Vero (Wingate)

We keep all those affected by the Coronavirus, in our prayers including medical personnel and first responders, food preparers and deliverers, grocery workers, truckers and all "essential workers".

We keep the incarcerated, those who have lost their jobs or are furloughed, all our elected officials and the world at large in our hearts and prayers.

We keep those serving in the military in our prayers. As well as the residents and healthcare workers at the Holyoke Veterans Home.

Prayers for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe in MA - the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs is attempting to remove reservation status for its more than 300 acres in Massachusetts

Situational:

Julie Burke's cousin, David Driscoll, on waiting list for liver transplant
Emily Carle's dad Jim
George Cobb
Al and Joan Duffy's sister-in-law working at Holyoke Hospital with Soldiers Home veterans infected with Covid -19
Al and Joan Duffy's relative Sonny, on a ventilator
Matt (and Helen) Gage's sister Michelle and Uncle Rick, both with Coronavirus
Nancy Hall, recuperating
Audrey Heaphy's brother-in-law, Bob Brandt
Cathy Irish's friend Beverly
Simone Jacobs' mom, Sandhya, recuperating following an operation.
Gayle Kenneson's grandson Alex, broken leg
Stacey Kuy, Bill and Lorain Giles niece recovering from Covid 19
Rich Normandin, diagnosed with cancer
Lucio Perez, in Sanctuary in Amherst FCC
Family and Loomis friends of Isabelle Pilskein who passed away this week
Randy Purinton's uncle Bob, recuperating after a fall
Art Stanley
Bernice Strong, recuperating
Eric Tipton, needing a kidney transplant

*Our thoughts
and prayers
are with you.*



IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers