

## And They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love



Beloved, each time we enter the Sanctuary, we place ourselves in a long line of Christians, spanning the centuries. From the 1<sup>st</sup> century of the Common Era forward, human beings have gathered to recite sacred words, sing hymns of lament and praise, exchange the peace, and share in a common, simple meal hosted by Jesus.

Some of the ways we do these things mirrors, exactly, the patterns of our ancient brothers and sisters, and some are as different as innovation and new technologies allow. But, each time we gather, each time we bow our heads or lift our voices, we bear in our bodies and souls the same postures, the same words, and the same hope that is found only in Christ Jesus. Together with saints across the ages, we proclaim Jesus has accounted for our sins and we are forgiven. By his act on the cross we are called to live new lives and live into his words, *Thy Kingdom Come on Earth as it Is in Heaven*.

Every once and a while, it is essential to look over our shoulders and remember the places from which we have come. And though we cannot do so perfectly, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November we will gather for a worship service that looks a bit more like the gathering of our ancient siblings. On the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in November we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for worship and an Agape Feast. We will sit together at tables, share in worship and share in the meal that Jesus commended, the Supper of the Lord.

This practice of coming together for an Agape Feast (and please take the word feast lightly, there will be some *light snacks*), came about as a way for Christians to confess their sins before one another and before God. They did this as a way of preparing their souls to come to the Communion Meal unburdened by the weight of anything that might stand between them, God and anyone else. The Agape Feast is as ancient as the words of the Apostle Paul. In I Corinthians 12:17-22, Paul offers a *stern* warning about the way the folks at Corinth gather for supper. He tells them the ones who have plenty eat well, while the ones who have little go hungry. Paul is clear that this kind of behavior is not of God and shows contempt for what God desires around his table. He makes clear that all must share in this supper of love, equally, and all must be fed.

Additionally, because November 3<sup>rd</sup> is All Saints/Souls Sunday (see page 8 for more information on All Saints/All Souls), we will light candles in memory of those whom we love who are not part of the great cloud of witnesses.

Finally, on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will do one more thing, **we will invite you to bring your Pledge Card to the worship service**. As we look back and honor those whose names flutter above our heads on our All Saints banners, as we look together into one another's faces as we serve and share the Lord's Supper, we will also with joy and hope look forward to the future of our church. Together, around the table, we will commit to our future by bringing our pledges before the Lord in prayer and with thanksgiving.

It will be a marvelous, moving morning and we hope you will join us as we stand in that long line of committed, loving Christians.

I cannot wait to see you. I cannot wait to share in this celebration with you. May God be praised as we gather, in love, to share God's agape in many, many ways.

OCTOBER  
NEWSLETTER 2019

## Renovation – it's not for the timid ...



My husband and I have been renovating two of our three our bathrooms this summer. This process has been both extremely time-consuming and tedious. Construction is often dirty and loud; it can be frustrating at times. And please don't get me started on having three adults using one bathroom and shower every day ... But it's led me to think about how important renovations are in our lives.

To renovate – according to the *Oxford Dictionary*, means to: modernize, revamp, makeover or overhaul. None of these words mean an easy solution to a problem. If you're taking on a renovation, you've got to be ready for noise, dust, and most of all: change.

As I've mentioned before, change is HARD. I do believe, however, that change is a process. Sometimes there's no way out but to go through.

So, as we suffer through this process I am also thinking about the positive aspects of change. The before and after photos, if you will. With our downstairs powder room now complete, I can now enter this space and know that it's exactly what I always wanted. Worth the wait? I believe that it was. Now if I can only get the upstairs bath done, all will be right with the world...

And so this brings me to renovations of a different sort. Members of Community Church's Council and its congregation recently completed a meaningful, thought-provoking retreat where we worked on beginning to articulate our identity as a congregation, while attempting to identify issues that our church might be willing to support moving forward.

While we struggle with finding the role our church will play in the world - and what God is calling us to do – I truly believe that we have built a home at the corner of Lincoln & Grove where we awaken each member's personal spirituality through service and fellowship.

But how do we renovate this "home" to make it a place where any and all who come are welcomed and integrated into our congregation? How do we use our limited resources to make the changes necessary to update our physical plant while remaining a warm, inviting space where all our members are comfortable? How do we use social media to invite others to join us in our faith journey?

Throughout this fall we will be discussing what makes our little church such an authentic, faith-filled place where you are free to engage with others. What are the cornerstones of our commitment to CCB? Please join me in Sunday services for the next six weeks as we explain the importance of these cornerstones as move forward through the season of Stewardship.

Making "renovations" at a church can provide the same opportunities for change and growth that can be found with home remodeling. Working with others, we hopefully will make the changes that will strengthen our relationships, solidify our goals going forward and provide opportunities to move out into the world from a place of faith, love and hope for the future.

*Jayne Majzan, Moderator*

***"The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it." John Ruskin***

## A Gathering of Minds and Souls: Sunday, September 15, 2019

Peer Lykke, Assistant Moderator and Stewardship Committee Chairperson

Twenty-five caring souls, led by our facilitator, Syl Boeder, came together at the Barrington White House to dedicate their minds, hearts and experience to nearly 4 hours of lively constructive dialogue about the future of our church. Syl is a well-known leader in the larger Barrington area with tremendous expertise in the operations and governance of non-profit organizations.

Introduced by Pastor Zina, Syl started the program with two questions: What are examples of issues that you see *in your world, in your daily life* that we as a congregation can impact? And, what would *you* be inspired to work on?

Responses had much in common with each other. Issues raised included helping those who are materially needy and/or living in isolation; trying to find common ground in addressing the social, monetary and other barriers that separate people. With Christ as our example and leader, how do we lay pathways to live in the inclusive world He envisioned for us? Young people are of great concern. What answers do we have for millennials who are dissatisfied with organized religions in general? How do we combat the growing alienation we see among young people who rely on electronic media for information, guidance and communication?

The majority of our time was spent on the present health and future state of our church. As a starting point, Pastor Zina told us that we are relatively strong and healthy when compared to other small churches during this historic period of declining public interest in church attendance. However, we cannot rest on our laurels. Our financial position could be stronger, and our church could certainly accommodate more members.

Everyone agreed that ours is a warm and welcoming church, that the feedback we receive from new attendees is very positive on both those counts and others as well. However, it is also true that we rarely see new younger peoples or families with children coming through our doors. Nearly all who enter and “stick” are in the range of 45-70 years old.

It was generally agreed that two approaches will probably yield the greatest results: One-on-one invitations and increasingly savvy use of social media like Facebook and Instagram. Other possibilities included making our services more “progressive” and contemporary; doing more to attract youth; expanding our mission groups to include people outside our church. Zina reminded us that word of mouth is still our most powerful vehicle for spreading the good news. She said we should try to talk about what *others want to hear* in their own lives rather than what *we want to tell them*.

All participants were given the chance to summarize their take-aways from our gathering. We heard words like hope, inspiration, community and fellowship. We heard excitement about taking next steps so the power and products of the minds and souls gathered that Sunday would not be allowed to fizzle away. We left understanding this was only the first step in writing the next chapter in the story of an amazing little church about to celebrate its 172<sup>nd</sup> birthday!

## NOTES FROM THE 2019 GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

### JIA JANG *OVERCOMING REJECTION*



When Jia Jang was a little boy, he experienced rejection in his first-grade classroom. His teacher asked all of the children to write notes about what they liked about the other children in the class. The teacher then, one at a time, opened the notes and read them aloud. Jang, a sweet, small 5-year-old, listened intently, waiting for a note commending him. The moment did not arrive. He did not get one note of encouragement, not one, from his first-grade peers. Jang never forgot that experience, an experience of rejections. However, little did he know, that same experience would become for him, in his adult years, a portal to educate and elevate others. Here is how.

**Story of Rejection Therapy.** As an adult, Jang became an entrepreneur. As such, he often reached out to investors to support his business ideas. One investor, who had been deeply engaged, at the eleventh hour, withdrew his support. Rejected, Jang felt precisely as he did in that first-grade classroom, embarrassed, pushed to the side and failed. Overwhelmed by the experience, at the same time, Jang became deeply curious about the power of rejection. He wondered how he might overcome the debilitating effects of an experience certain to happen to everyone. He began to research the theme of rejection and came upon a website called **Rejection Therapy**. It was a game created using a deck of cards. For 30 days, it challenged people to do things to get rejected, purposefully, thereby desensitizing them to its effects.

Jang decided to play the game, not for 30 days but for 100 days. He did all sorts of things to be rejected but, about halfway through the process, he found that people started saying yes. It was amazing. In one case he knocked on a stranger's door and asked the man if he could practice his soccer skills in his back yard. The man said, yes. In another case, he asked a woman in a donut shop if she could make the Olympic Rings out of donuts. Not only did she say yes, but she worked on this project for over an hour, and then when she presented Jang with her creation, she did not charge him. She said it was her pleasure.

Jang now believes that rejection is not as powerful as we allow it to be. He suggests rejection says more about the one offering the rejection than the rejected. In other words, the person who is doing the rejecting is telling you what he or she can trust, understand, or accept. It may be that their point of view is inaccurate and that the one doing the rejection is the one out of step and out of line. Jang notes, also, rejection is nothing more than an opinion. It is not a universal right or wrong; it is not a moral stamp of any approval or disapproval. It is just one person's perspective on something.

Finally, Jang encourages those who want to learn how to take rejection in stride, to lean in; to realize that rejection will come, but it need not stop you. Rejection from one person can turn into acceptance from another. As men and women of faith, we wonder why our hopes and dreams seem to fade why our plans seem to come back "rejected." In the face of this, Jang has something to share. He would have us understand that when one path gets blocked, when one door seems locked tight, when one answer seems to be no; you need not quit! Any moment of rejection is not the end; there is always another path, another attempt, another moment, when the next person may say, yes.

Go for it, my friends. Do not be afraid of rejection. And, if you would like to see Jia Jang in action, working his way through 100 days of rejection, go to his website, [www.rejectiontherapy.com](http://www.rejectiontherapy.com).

JIA  
JIANG

what is  
REJECTION?

USING REJECTION  
AS LEADERS



- Everyone is afraid of REJECTION.
- Every time you want to be bold, there is a battle
- Would anyone successful want to give up after rejection?
- When you make a change, there is no turning back.
- If you look for rejection instead of running away from it, you desensitize yourself to it.

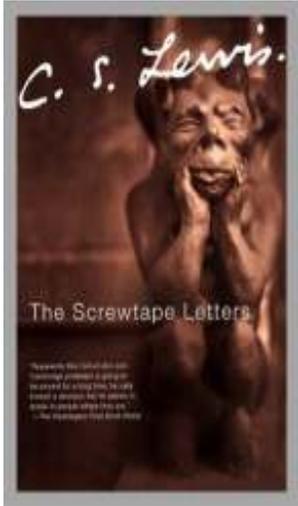
1. A NUMBERS GAME - every rejection has a number. Eventually a no can turn to a yes.
2. AN OPINION - there is no universal rejector or acceptor
3. HUMAN - rejection tells more about the Rejector than the Rejected.

- ACKNOWLEDGE DOUBTS
- EXPLAIN WHY
- OFFER ALTERNATIVES
- DELIVER QUICKLY

100 DAYS  
OF  
REJECTION

"you can change yourself by leaning into your fear & embracing your fear."

## LEARNING FROM OTHERS AS WE TRAVEL TOGETHER ALONG THE WAY



There are classics in my life. Books I read over and over. One of them is C.S. Lewis' The Screwtape Letters. The last time I read this book, I remembered the warning leveled by the writer of the Letter to the Ephesians. In Ephesians 6:12 the writer says, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."



In The Screwtape Letters, we meet, face to face, one of those rulers of darkness, Screwtape. Screwtape, better known as *His Abysmal Sublimity Screwtape, Under Secretary of the Satanic Lowerarchy*, is a demon highly placed in the administration of Hell. His task in Lewis' work is to advise his nephew, Wormwood. Wormwood, a young demon, is newly graduated from the Tempters School for Young Demons. His current assignment is to direct the soul of the human being, to which he has been assigned, straight to hell. Wormwood's assigned human is known to the readers as Patient. We know he is a man who lives, with his mother, in 1940's England. We know he falls in love with a good Christian girl, that he struggles with prayer and temptation and that he finds God in the simple pleasures of life. We know also that he is tempted by pride, greed, selfishness, and the rest of the seven deadly sins. And we know he is helped along this path by the work of his personal demon, Wormwood.

The book is structured with one side of the conversation between Screwtape and Wormwood. We hear Screwtape offer nefarious ways for Wormwood to get into Patient's mind and to keep him focused on the mundane things of life and away from a focus on the goodness of God.

As I read the Screwtape Letters, the line that arrests my thoughts is, "The safest path to hell is a gradual one." Screwtape encourages Wormwood to "ease" Patient toward hell in quiet and unobtrusive ways. He suggests that the capacity to help him be dissatisfied with the routine of worship, convince him that if his prayers are answered, it was likely that they would have been answered without prayer, and if they go unanswered it is because God is not listening. Screwtape instructs Wormwood to teach Patient that he is better than those around him and to think of himself as the center of all things. However, Screwtape urges Wormwood, to do all of this work quietly, leading Patient down the gradual path toward himself and his needs as the most central thing and away from God as the true center.

There is so much more to this marvelous little book. However, what remains with me is that we, who would follow Christ, must be aware of, and careful about, the small accretions in life that take us away from God and toward the desires of our own bellies or psyche.

Wormwood is real, maybe not as a demon, but as an inclination. As we walk through our moments and days, as we consider what is important, may we be aware that there are forces pulling us toward a center that is self centered (as opposed to self-aware, *which is good*). May we, daily, or in the space where the thought surfaces, ask, "God, how are you the center of this thought, this action, this moment?" As we do this, we thwart Wormwood's goals and we grow closer to the one who made us and loves us, deeply.



## IT'S ALL IN THE GREETING!!!!

This past summer I had the opportunity to be blessed in so many ways. I worked with the Navaho Nation, the Hopi, the Cherokee and the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Each nation and each group had a different and unique way of greeting me, of making me feel welcome—of making me feel like family. Often it was a particular word or words along with a meal at their table, as thus I was engaged in a personal way, a relational way. When I returned to CCB and we welcomed each other with the passing of the peace in our worship service, those very fresh memories from Arizona along with the memory of the family and friends greeting of my childhood were refreshed in my mind and in my heart.

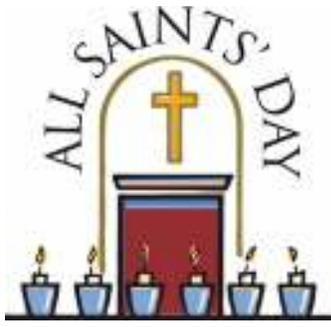
Relational greetings and food are very important in the Palestinian culture, my culture. And if there is one phrase that you hear more than any other when traveling through Palestinian communities, it is this: “Ahlan wa sahlam!” This greeting is loosely translated as ‘welcome’ in the English language. However, it has a deeper meaning, it actually represents something along the lines of, “May you arrive as part of the family and tread an easy path as you enter”.

When we welcome each other at CCB, may we welcome each other and guests as friends and family. May we create a place that is safe, and walk the journey of life and fellowship together. May we create a loving, calm, and peaceful walk together. As we enter the season of fall and all things pumpkin, may we genuinely feel the warmth of the fall sun as we say, Ahlan wa sahlam to each other.

Matthew 25:35 “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.” Praise God that among his children we are all welcome, there are no strangers.

On the journey with you.

*Dr. Samira El-Yasir*



## All Saints' Day 2019 – November 3<sup>rd</sup>

Diana Severance, Ph.D.

Portions adapted from *Christianity.com*.

Would it surprise you to know that "Halloween" started as a holy Christian celebration?

Hallow, in Old English, means "holy" or "sacred." Therefore, "Hallows' Eve," or "Halloween" simply meant "the evening of holy persons" and refers to the evening before All Saints Day, which is celebrated on November 1 on both Anglican and Catholic calendars and on the Sunday closest to November 1<sup>st</sup> by many churches in the free church or congregational tradition.

In the early years when the Roman Empire persecuted Christians, so many martyrs died for their faith, the Church set aside special days to honor them. For example, in 607, Emperor Phocas presented to the pope the beautiful Roman Pantheon temple. The pope removed the statues of Jupiter and the pagan gods and consecrated the Pantheon to "all the saints" who had died from Roman persecution in the first three hundred years after Christ. Many bones were brought from other graves and placed in the rededicated Pantheon church. Since there were too many martyrs for each to be given a day, they were lumped together into one day.

In the next century, All Saints Day was changed by Pope Gregory III to November 1<sup>st</sup>. People prepared for their celebration with a night of vigil on Hallows' Eve -- Halloween (possibly because of the strong holdover influence of the Celtic Samhein festival which many Christians in Ireland, Britain Scotland and Wales had continued to observe).

In the 10th century, Abbot Odela of the Cluny monastery added the next day--November 2<sup>nd</sup>--as "All Souls" Day" to honor not just the martyrs, but all Christians who had died. People prayed for the dead, but many unchristian superstitions prospered. People believed that on these two days, souls in purgatory would take the form of witches, toads, or demons and haunt persons who had wronged them during their lifetime. Here is the beginning of the pagan roots of Halloween.

However, at CCB, we honor All Saints and All Souls Day by dedicating a portion of the worship service to a candle lighting ceremony. Any and all may come forward to light a candle and hold a thought of the one remembered in your heart. We will also follow our tradition and hang banners from the rafters; banners that contain the names of those we love who have passed from this life into the next. On All Saints and All Souls, you and I can think of and focus on those Christians, well known and in the shadows, who inspired us and call us to be our better selves.

And, *if you* would like to add the name of a loved one who has passed away to the All Saints and All Souls banners, please email the office **no later than October 6<sup>th</sup>**. **We need:**

- **The correct spelling of the person's name,**
- **Your name,**
- **Your relationship with the person (for instance, friend, parent, niece, etc.).**

**Thank you for helping us meet our October 6<sup>th</sup> deadline. Your kindness is much appreciated.**

## JOIN US FOR WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY OCTOBER 6, 2019



Region	ESTIMATED 2010 CHRISTIAN POPULATION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT IS CHRISTIAN	PERCENTAGE OF WORLD CHRISTIAN POPULATION
Americas	804,070,000	85.0%	56.8%
Europe	565,560,000	76.2	25.9
Sub-Saharan Africa	516,470,000	62.7	23.6
Asia Pacific	285,120,000	7.0	13.1
Middle East-North Africa	12,840,000	3.8	0.6
<b>World Total</b>	<b>2,184,060,000</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousand. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.

Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life  
Global Christianity, December 2011

World Communion Sunday – celebrated the first Sunday in October – is one of the most venerable of "special Sundays." The day has taken on new relevance and depth of meaning in a world where acts of terror, among and between Christians, often undermined peace and justice – and in a time when fear divides God's people.

On World Communion Sunday, the 2.18 **billion** Christians have the opportunity to celebrate our oneness in Christ, the Prince of Peace. We can bring

about healing in a world we are called to serve – a world ever more in need of peacemaking.

World Communion Sunday originated in the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 1936. From the very beginning, it was planned so that other denomination could participate and now, many denominations share in this day.

This year, maybe more than most, the vast Christian church must work to see ourselves as members of the same body, with one head, who is Christ. We must work to hear and answer His call to reconciliation and healing, within and beyond our numbers.

On October 6th, we will kick off our Stewardship Drive but, what better way to do so than to think about our call to be together around God's table, stewarding relationships. May we, on this particular Sunday, sit together, share the same meal, hear the same message, and be nourished and fed to go out and make a difference.

We hope to see you in worship on October 6<sup>th</sup>, and we pray that you might join us in asking God to bind His people together, on one accord. May Christ guide us in being the servant people He intended, bringing his blessings into the world.

*We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.  
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.  
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

**Lord, please hasten the day, when in love we gather around Your table.**

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10-04-19 Glenna Gilleland  
10-12-19 Wayne Jacobsen  
10-20-19 Aria Dines  
10-22-19 Carolyn Dwyer  
10-23-19 Rodie Wright  
10-27-19 Zandra Palomo  
10-28-19 Leah Hornig  
10-30-19 Rev. Zina Jacque  
10-30-19 Jake Davis

### *Anniversaries*

*10-04-19 Peter & Patty Luchsinger*

## CROP WALK - October 13th

Over \$1.5 million has been raised and over 12,800 walkers have participated in its thirty-six year history. Twenty-five percent of funds raised in Barrington stays in our area benefiting the Northern Illinois Food Bank, the FISH Food Pantry--Carpentersville, BACOA Meals With Wheels, Wauconda-Island Lake Food Pantry, United Partnership for a Better Community Summer Lunch Program in Wauconda, Project HOPE, and the People in Need program of the Barrington Area Ministerial Association.

So please mark your calendars and plan on joining us, whether as a walker or sponsor. Together -- with your family, CCB family or friends, we can change the world, one step at a time. If you have any questions or want to sign up as a walker or sponsor, see Sharon Hornig.

**G.R.O.W.** The ladies of GROW will meet on **Thursday, October 17th at the church.** All women of the church are invited. Please RSVP to the church office by **Tuesday, October 14th .**

**WOMEN WHO BREAKFAST - Join us, Wednesday, October 2nd for breakfast and coffee, or just drop in for a chat at the Bread Basket 7:30 a.m. All ladies are welcome.**

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP** meets on the second and fourth Saturday of each month at the church. This month they will meet on **October 12th and 26th.**

### **Are you a reader? Do you love to sit down with a great book?**

We're meeting at Community Church for lively discussion of a new book every month! Please join us at 1:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month where we'll discuss our latest selection, have a light dessert and learn more about each other. Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> - we hope to see you there!

**POTLUCK— Join us for Potluck on Wednesday, October 2nd. Bring a dish to pass and prepare to share fellowship and great conversation with all who attend. It starts at 6:00 pm.**

# October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Women Who Breakfast  Potluck	3 Al-Anon Youth Group	4 Peter & Patty Luchsinger Annivrsary  Glenna Gilleland B'Day	5
6 WORSHIP 10:30	7	8 Deacons Meeting  Book Club	9	10 Al-Anon  Youth Group	11	12 Men's Fellowship  Wayne Jacobsen B'Day
13 WORSHIP 10:30  Crop Walk	14	15	16	17 Al-Anon  G.R.O.W.  Youth Group	18	19
20 WORSHIP 10:30  Aria Dines B'Day	21	22 Carolyn Dwyer B'Day  Council Meeting	23 Rodie Wright B'Day	24 Al-Anon  Youth Group	25	26 Men's Fellowship
27 WORSHIP 10:30 Zandra Palomo B'Day	28 Leah Hornig B'Day	29	30 Rev. Zina B'Day  Jake Davis B'Day  Kay Dockery B'Day	31 Al-Anon  Youth Group		

Community Church of Barrington  
407 S. Grove Avenue  
Barrington IL 60010



October gave a party;  
The leaves by hundreds came-  
The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples,  
And leaves of every name.  
The Sunshine spread a carpet,  
And everything was grand,  
Miss Weather led the dancing,  
Professor Wind the band.