

## Moral Clarity – Situational Complexity

### Moral Clarity Amid Situational Complexity

MARCH  
NEWSLETTER 2020

Sometimes, when people talk about the good old days, I think they refer to a time when it seemed decisions were straightforward and moral ambiguity did not exist. *If* those days ever existed, today, we live in a world where moral ambiguity has been elevated to an art form. Too often, when well-meaning souls face complex circumstances, they throw up their hands in defeat or reduce the complexities to simplicities that are *easy* to solve. But in reality, those kinds of solutions cannot work.

It seems many have grown weary of trying to figure a way through complexity. "They" (maybe, read I) would rather stake out a position and not be bothered by the challenging tasks of dialogue, discovery, or drafting new directions. My friends, how did we get here? How did we become a nation of people that take sides and have no interest in the views of others? How did we decide that being right is more important than being wise or gaining knowledge? When did we get so lazy that the opinion mongers became our opinion-makers?

And, as Christians, when did we decide that it is legitimate to take a stand without checking in with the one whom we claim to follow? No Christian should stake out a position without asking what the habits, actions, and words of Jesus lend to or detract from a chosen position.

The truth is, situational complexity will always be with us. But an even greater truth is, our moral clarity, our moral center, must always be grounded in the habits, actions, and words of the one we claim to follow. That center, that clarity, has to be the place out of which we make our choices and order our thoughts and behaviors.

So, what does this mean? How do we act out of a moral center, with moral courage? Is it as simple as asking What Would Jesus Do? The answer to the latter question is, no. It was never that easy. Jesus did not live with Facebook or a 24-hour media cycle. But he did tell us to ask, seek, and knock (Matthew 7:7-8). God's word does tell us to desire wisdom (Proverbs 8:11). And we are called, more than once in our sacred writ, to love as our highest ethic and goal. We have to study and find out what Jesus believed and how it changes us.

If we will not do this work, we will be reduced to finding our way through situational complexities without the compass of moral courage, and we will be lost. We will devolve further into a world of people who shout at others or turn away from any opportunity to seek moral clarity. And that frightens me.

Given this, I want those of us who gather here for worship and life to be counter-cultural. I want us be relentless in investigating how our faith calls us to grapple with the questions facing our nation and our world. And then, I want us to act out of the courage of our moral, faith tested, biblically informed souls.

My friends, each of us has to know how the moral center of our Christian faith guides us and we have to put it into practice. Even as situational complexities swirl about us, this is still our call, whether it is convenient or not. But, after all, this act of moral courage is just a part of taking up our crosses and following Christ during Lent and all of the days of our lives.

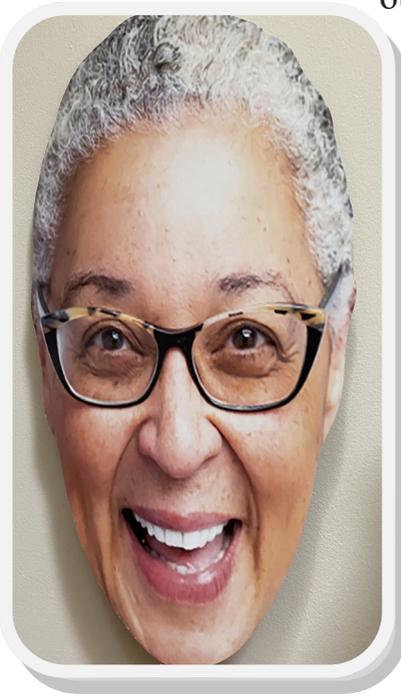
# Fearless

Jayne Majzan, Moderator

**Fearless** Adjective. Defined as lacking fear. Also known as bold, brave, courageous, intrepid, valiant, spirited or spunky.

**So, what does it mean to be fearless?** Fearlessness is not the absence of fear. Rather, it's the mastery of fear. Fearlessness is about getting up one more time than we fall down. The more comfortable we are with the possibility of falling down, the more fearless we will be, and the easier our journey will become.

I had the pleasure of witnessing a clear definition of fearless recently as I enjoyed an evening out at Dancing with the Barrington Stars, featuring our own Rev. Zina Jacque stepping out in her now infamous glitter cowboy boots.



She took the floor as the first of six dancers that evening, and she showed absolutely no fear. She danced her way into history, and I have the I-Phone video to prove it.

**So how did our Zina manage to do this?** I believe it was by simply facing the fear down. She was determined to enjoy this experience and not take it too seriously. She danced over her fears instead of letting them get the best of her.

You see without fear, we can't have courage. We cannot act courageous in any situation unless we have something to protect, something to honor, something to prove, or something to commit to. Fear is a call to action and that action should be **courageous**.

**Our Rev. Zina courageously danced and raised more than \$8,000 that will go toward funding future BACOA (Barrington Area Council on Aging) programs throughout the Barrington area.**

God is calling all of us to be bold. If you have the tendency to not take chances in life because you're afraid of making mistakes, God wants you to know He's pleased with you when you try. It doesn't matter if you don't do everything exactly right. What matters is that you step out in faith, believing God will help you!

***“Courage is not the absence of fear. Courage is the willingness to act in spite of your fear.”***

## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

The Mission and Outreach Committee of Community Church of Barrington has the responsibility of allocating CCB's benevolence funds. Each quarter CCB contributes ten percent (10%) of its total quarterly income (received from pledges, contributions, gifts and loose offerings) to causes outside of the church and to those in need. These funds are divided among local, regional, national and worldwide causes. It is the Committee's privilege to research and select charitable organizations and projects to be the recipients of CCB's offerings. The arms of CCB's caring and compassion reach far and wide. During the fourth quarter of 2019, a total of \$6,700 in benevolence funds was distributed to the following charitable organizations:

1.	ABC Metro (each quarter)	\$600
2.	ABC United (each quarter)	\$300
3.	Bright Hope (David Phinney's daughter, Liz Camp, has served with this organization in Uganda.)	\$2,500
4.	Mindful Waste (Recycles unopened foods to shelters and food pantries) (requests a new cooler for home office or Barrington Middle School)	\$500
5.	Men of Color Creating Higher Aspirations (MOCHA) (Men of color connecting to higher achievements in Chicagoland area, a mentoring program)	\$500
6.	ABC Wisconsin, Baibaltuanbia Berma (Organization translates Bible stories for children)	\$500
7.	Wholesaler/Barrington Giving Day (Back-to-School) (Funds provided to an individual who purchases clothing in bulk/lots at below cost and donates those articles to Barrington Giving Day)	\$500
8.	Project Mobility (Builds motorized, adaptable bikes for those with disabilities, "Changing lives one bike at a time")	\$1,300

With CCB's benevolence funding complete for the year 2019, a total of \$23,900 was disbursed to various organizations and charities that have programs and missions designated to help those in need.

The Committee will meet in April to consider charities as recipients for CCB's first-quarter 2020 funds. If you have an organization that you would like the Missions/Outreach Committee to consider as a recipient of CCB's benevolence funds, please advise a member of the Committee. It is our custom to select smaller organizations whereby our contributions will truly make a difference, rather than large-scale charities which are well known and receive national attention and funding.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Glee Huddlestun, Chair



## THE COLOR PURPLE

(Reprinted from the February 2008 Newsletter)

Beginning on Ash Wednesday (February 26th) the color purple will adorn our sanctuary. Have you ever wondered why?

The color purple has a long and storied history. Mentioned no less than 27 times in the first five books of the Bible, and over 50 times in the Bible in total, the earliest reference to the color purple is found in Exodus 25:1-4. Here God says to Moses; "Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from each man whose heart prompts him to give. These are the offerings you are to receive from them; gold, silver, and bronze; blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen . . . ." Throughout the Biblical text, the color purple is used to dress kings (Judges 8:26), adorn altars (Numbers 4:13), serve as a status symbol (Proverbs 31:22, Luke 16:19), and to reward good deeds (Daniel 5:7).

However, the presence of the color purple is not limited to our sacred text. Records indicate that as early as 1600 B.C.E. "Tyrian Purple" was produced from the mucus glands of various species of marine mollusks, notably the Murex. It took some 12,000 shellfish to extract 1.5 grams of the pure dye; hence it was an extravagant color.

Legend credits its discovery to Herakles, or rather to his dog, whose mouth was stained purple from chewing on snails along the Levantine coast. In the *Iliad*, Homer depicts Agamemnon in a purple cloak, and Hector's ashes are deposited in an urn covered with purple. According to the *Odyssey* Penelope gives her husband a purple cloak as he leaves for Troy. The color purple, from antiquity, has symbolized the *presence of* power, prestige, position and wealth.

Yet, none of this explains why the color purple adorns our sanctuary during the season of Lent. The answer to this inquiry lies in the Passion story of our Christ. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and John report that the Roman soldiers dressed Jesus in a crown of thorns and a purple robe before they mocked him as the King of the Jews (Matthew 27: 28, Mark 15:19, John 19:2). Each Gospel makes clear that the color of the robe was a purposeful attempt to point out Jesus' *absence of* power, prestige, position and wealth.

If only the soldiers had known the person they mocked was something more precious than purple and more potent than a hue harvested from the sea they would have . . . Well, we do not know what they would have done, do we?

However, we can ask ourselves what we will do each time we look to the rafters of our sanctuary and see the beauty of the purple cloth hanging above our heads. We can ask ourselves what the purple means to us?

Here is what I would like each of us to do. As we enter into Lent and experience our 2020 theme, ***In The Shadow of the Cross***; I would like you to consider the power of a shadow. What happens when you encounter shadows? What do they bring to mind? And what do you imagine we might find hidden in the shadow of the cross? Join me as we spend the season of Lent considering the power of the shadow of the cross.

Welcome beloved, to this blessed season of Lent.



## THE ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, we will join our brothers and sisters from St. Michael's Church for a visit to the third largest holocaust museum in the world, The Illinois Holocaust Museum (Skokie, IL). We will meet at St. Michael's at 9 am or at the Museum at 10 am to begin our tour. We will spend 2 ½ hours viewing the museum (10 – 12:30) and then we will have lunch. We anticipate the cost for the entire day will be about \$40. During lunch we will have a robust conversation about our visit and how we see the weight of the suffering caused by this dark time in the world's history. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Sign ups will be taken through March 10<sup>th</sup>.



### A MUST SEE DESTINATION

The third-largest Holocaust museum in the world, Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center provides a world-class museum and education experience, honoring memories and inspiring individuals, regardless of age, to stand up for what they believe in.

### WHAT TO SEE. WHAT TO DO. WHAT TO LEARN

Karkomi Holocaust Exhibition seamlessly weaves Survivor narratives, personal belongings, photographs, and videos into a moving and responsive experience.

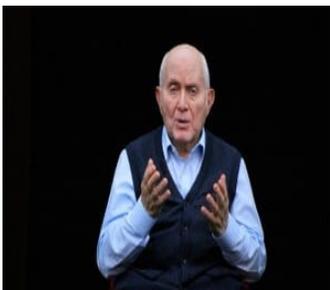
(TIME: 90 Minutes)



### INTERACTIVE SURVIVOR EXPERIENCE

Stories for Generations to Come...

What will happen when the Holocaust Survivors are no longer here to tell their stories? Illinois Holocaust Museum is the world's first museum to feature groundbreaking interactive voice recognition technology enabling visitors to engage in conversation with a three-dimensional, strikingly life-like image of an actual Holocaust Survivor. Visitors are encouraged to ask questions and hear the answers and stories in the Survivor's own voice. (TIME: 30 MINUTES)



### NOTORIOUS RBG: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF RUTH BADER GINSBURG

The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg is a vibrant exploration of Justice Ginsburg's life and her numerous, often-simultaneous roles as a student, wife, mother, lawyer, judge, women's rights pioneer, and Internet phenomenon. The exhibition tells Ginsburg's story using a dynamic array of gallery interactives, listening stations, archival photographs and documents, historical artifacts, and contemporary art. Based on the book and Tumblr page of the same name, Notorious RBG is the first-ever museum exhibition focused solely on the judicial icon.



For more information please go to <https://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/>

## A COUNTER CULTURAL CHURCH

Pastor Zina



Sigh! One night last week, I looked up and realized I was grouchy and tired. I sat in my favorite chair and looked back over the past week. It turned out I had not been to bed before midnight and had not slept past 6:15 am for more than a week. No wonder I was grouchy. It is just not healthy to try and function on a regular diet of 6 hours of sleep (or less). But, we live in a culture that honors and prizes production. We applaud those who say, *I can get by on 4 hours of sleep*. We stand in awe of those who seem able to produce results around the clock. In fact, the only addiction we willingly support is the addiction to work.

But this behavior is not of God. God tells us in Exodus 31:12-17 that we must rest or die, *die*. And God is serious. Science backs this up (see the article below). So how do we shift our behavior so that we honor God's word for us? How do we rest? Some of us need to rest from worry, some from activities, some from external demands, some from Facebook, some from . . . well, you fill in the blank. From what do you need to rest?

Maybe this year, a Lenten practice might be formed around resting from something that pulls you into its grip and causes you to behave outside of the way God designed you to behave. This Lenten season, I am going to rest from the foolishness of my schedule and, in the end, I pray I will be less grouchy, more rested, and far more able to hear and respond to the prompting of my God. So beloved, from what will you rest?

### WHY SHOULD WE REST?

Article Source: <http://EzineArticles.com>

Life is busy and it seems each year it just gets busier. Work, family, school, and other commitments just eat the day away and leave you with no time to sit back and relax. However, rest and relaxation is very important. In fact, getting enough rest is imperative to living a healthy lifestyle and when you do not relax and get enough sleep you are putting yourself at risk for illness as well as other side effects.

Side Effects of Not Getting Enough Rest: Believe it or not but the body needs enough rest each night to function properly. The amount of rest each individual needs every night differs, however the average adult needs approximately 7-8 hours of sleep each night to restore their body with the energy it needs to handle all of the demands of living each day. However, most individuals cut back on their sleep to pack more activities into their day.

Unfortunately, this runs the body down allowing more viruses and diseases to attack the body because the immune system is not functioning as well as it should. Then, the individual gets sick and misses days or even weeks of all of those important activities. When you get enough rest your body runs as it should and your immune system is stronger and able to fight off infections more easily.

Also, when you don't get enough rest you have difficult concentrating, thinking clearly, and even remembering things. You might not notice this at first or blame it on your busy schedule, but the more sleep and rest you miss out on the more pronounced these symptoms will become.

In addition, a lack of rest and relaxation can really work a number on your mood. It is a scientific fact that when individuals miss out on good nightly rest their personality is affected and they are generally grumpy, less patient, and quicker to snap. As a result, missing out on rest to fit in all those activities might make you a bear to be around, which is not much fun at all. So, the next time you think it is a good idea to stay up late to complete a task or hang out with friends, think again. Of course, one night is not going to hurt you, but night after night of not getting enough rest really will.

## HOW TO RECOGNIZE FAKE NEWS



As we enter into a period of relentless advertising and political promotion, the question arises, how do we protect ourselves from false information. Both sides, all sides, seem willing to pervert the truth and pull in readers in any way possible. Journalism gives way to opinion and opinion gives way to plain old lying. Nick Robins Early, a freelance journalist, has some suggestions about consuming information with a wise eye. May this information assist each of us in knowing how to navigate what lies ahead.

### By Nick Robins-Early

If you've been looking at Facebook lately, you may have seen that Pope Francis endorsed Donald Trump, a town in Texas was quarantined due to a deadly disease and Germany just approved child marriage. To be clear, none of these events really happened — but that didn't stop news of them from spreading like a virus. Fake news articles — especially throughout this election year — have increasingly become a fixture on social media. These posts, designed to deceive, run rampant across the internet. Only later, if ever, do readers discover that the stories they shared may have been false.

The publication of blatantly inaccurate stories is certainly not new to the digital age, or even the analog era — just check your local supermarket aisle for tabloids — but what is new is how easy it is for a reader to scan a headline on Facebook, hit share and watch his 500 followers do the same. In the final three months before the election, 20 top-performing fake news stories on Facebook outperformed 20 top-performing factual stories from 19 major media outlets in terms of engagement, according to a BuzzFeed study published last week.

As it stands, there are few checks and balances to prevent any outlet from posting an article that is made up of false facts. In the coming months social media platforms will need to address many broader questions, including what level of editorial control sites like Facebook should exercise over the content on their platforms. After initially downplaying the problem, Facebook announced on Friday that it would begin seeking out ways to weed out some kinds of fake news from feeds. Google, too, said it plans to stop fake news sites from using its ad-selling service.

But part of stopping the spread of hoaxes and misinformation also falls on readers who email these articles to friends and family or post them on social media, lending these stories their own credibility. In order to prevent the spread of fake news, here is a quick guide to spotting it.

### 1. Read Past The Headline

One way that fake news gets amplified is that busy readers may not look past the headline or opening paragraph before they decide to share an article. Fake news publishers sometimes exploit this tendency, writing the beginning of a story in a straightforward way before filling in the rest with obviously false information. In other cases, clicking through to the article will reveal that the story really has nothing to do with the headline at all or provides nothing to back it up.

### 2. Check What News Outlet Published It

Unfamiliar websites plastered with ads and all-caps headlines should draw immediate skepticism. Googling a site's name and checking out other articles it posts should also help determine whether it's trustworthy. Many fake news sites will outright say that they are satire or don't contain factual information, but others are made to mimic major news outlets. Check the URL names of pages that look suspect, making sure that it's not a hoax site that is pretending to be a trusted source.

### **3. Check The Publish Date And Time**

Another common element in fake news is that old articles or events can resurface and lead people to believe they just happened. Checking the publish time stamp is something readers can quickly do to prevent being misled. Sometimes, however, finding out when an event happened can take a bit more work — such as when the date of an article is current, but the events described within it are old. Click through links and read carefully to determine when the event described actually happened.

### **4. Who Is The Author?**

Looking at who wrote the article can reveal a lot of information about the news source. Searching through the author's previous articles can show whether they are a legitimate journalist or have a history of hoaxes.

### **5. Look At What Links And Sources Are Used**

A lack of links or sources for claims in an article is an obvious warning sign that the post is likely false. Fake sites may also provide numerous links to sites that appear to back up their claims, but are themselves spreading misinformation. Check to see that claims supported by links actually come from reliable sources.

### **6. Look Out For Questionable Quotes And Photos**

It's incredibly easy for fake news writers to invent false quotes, even attributing them to major public figures. Be skeptical of shocking or suspicious quotes, and search to see if they have been reported elsewhere. Likewise, it's easy to take a photo from one event and say it's from another. Images can also be altered for a certain story. Reverse image searches, either through Google or tools like TinEye, can help you find where an image originated.

### **7. Beware Confirmation Bias**

People are often drawn to stories that reinforce the way they see the world and how they feel about certain issues. Fake news is no exception, and many of the articles that fall under its umbrella are designed to stir up emotion in readers and prey on their biases. It is important to check that news stories are based in fact, rather than sharing them because they support one side of an argument or bolster pre-existing political beliefs.

### **8. Search If Other News Outlets Are Reporting It**

If a story looks suspicious or claims to reveal major news, search to see if other outlets are also reporting the story. A single article from a suspicious source making a grand claim should be viewed with heavy skepticism. If no reliable news outlets are also reporting the story, then it's very likely fake.

### **9. Think**

#### **Before You Share**

Fake news sites rely on readers to share and engage with their articles in order for them to spread. In extreme cases, these fake articles can balloon out of control and have unintended consequences for those involved in the stories.

*Pastor Zina Here. We are intelligent and well educated people. Let's apply our wisdom and learning as we take in the offerings of any, and all, media outlets. Let's promise ourselves and those who look up to us to do our best to pass on what is quality information. All will benefit, all will be wiser, if we do.*

More Resources For Spotting Fake News:

[Snopes.com](http://Snopes.com)

[Melissa Zimdars' List Of Fake News Sites](#)

[On The Media Fake News Handbook](#)

[FactCheck.org](http://FactCheck.org)

[TinEye Reverse Image Search](#)

[Washington Post Fact Checker](#)

[Poynter's Tips For Debunking Fake News](#)

***Birthdays March 2020***

3-03-20 Alayne McNulty  
3-03-20 Serenity Jensen  
3-13-20 Madison Jensen  
3-16-20 Judy Haack

03-17-20 Patty Luchsinger  
03-19-20 Bill Athmann  
03-19-20 Dave Pratscher

**Our New Office Hours are:  
Tuesday thru Thursday  
8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.**

**G.R.O.W.** This month GROW will be on the second Tuesday, March 12, 2020. Bring your lunch and join us at 11:30 for a wonderful time of sharing. We will provide beverages and details.

**WOMEN WHO BREAKFAST - Join us, Wednesday, March 1st for breakfast and coffee, or just drop in for a chat at the Bread Basket 7:30 a.m. All ladies are welcome.**

**A NEW FOCUS FOR VISITOR CARDS.** For the past several years, each Sunday we welcomed members and visitors to complete an attendance card. Beginning two weeks ago, we created a shift in focus. Going forward we hope our visitors will complete the cards. Regular attendees can now relax and enjoy the service. Thank you, everyone.

**HOSPITALITY IDEA.** Many of our members and friends would like to support the Hospitality hour but cannot physically shop or set up the refreshments. If there are those who would like to share in the hospitality hour, please take a look at those who have signed up and offer to contribute to their fare. And friends, if someone offers to help, please accept their kind offer. Thanks, everyone.

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP** meets on the second and fourth Saturday of each month at the church. This month they will meet on March 14th and 28th.

**Third Sundays at CCB are LOVE HIS HOUSE Sundays. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.**

**Fourth Sundays are PRODUCE SUNDAY Sundays. Again, thank you for your truly open and loving hearts.**

**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, March 10th - we hope to see you there!

**POTLUCK— Join us for Potluck on Wednesday, March 1st. Bring a dish to pass and prepare to share fellowship and great conversation with all who attend. It starts at 6:00 pm.**

# March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 10:30	2	3 Serenity Jensen B'Day  Alayne McNulty B'Day	4 Women Who Breakfast  Potluck	5 Youth Group Al-Anon	6	7
8 Worship 10:30	9	10 Book Club  Deacons Mtg.	11	12 Youth Group Al-Anon  G.R.O.W.	13 Maddie Jensen B'Day	14 Men's Fellowship
15 Worship 10:30	16 Judy Haack B'Day	17 Patty Luchsinger B'Day	18	19 Youth Group Al-Anon Bill Athmann B'Day Dave Pratscher B'Day	20	21
22 Worship 10:30	23	24 Council Meeting	25	26 Youth Group Al-Anon	27	28 Men's Fellowship
29 Worship 10:30	30	31				

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