

From Rev. Zina Jacque

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM II CHRONICLES

Israel was in trouble when the text from II Chronicles was written. They were about to be taken into captivity and all seemed lost. Leaders were warring against one another, the people were arguing with each other, and enemies were staging on the borders ready to attack. Children were dying in the streets. Some preachers were preaching a prosperity gospel, while others were running to the hills. Yes, Israel was in a world of trouble with no clear path, and no strong leader. Into this morass comes the word of the Lord!

**IF
HUMBLE
PRAY
SEEK
TURN
THEN**

Between the “if” and “then” of this text the people of Israel had some work to do. They were called to humble themselves, pray, seek God’s face and turn from their wicked ways.

Between the “if” of our day (if people would just, you fill in the blank) and the “then” of our tomorrow (then we would live in a country that . . .) those who name themselves as followers of Christ have some work to do.

We must humble ourselves, meaning we neither overestimate ourselves *or* underestimate ourselves. We are made in the *Imago Dei* (the image of God). We have a role to play in the work of God. Now is the *Kairos* moment.

We must pray. That is why we are engaging in 21 days of prayer, together. May our hearts align with God. May we remember prayer is a conduit to our power.

We must seek. The Gospel of Matthew reminds us we must seek *first* the Kingdom of Heaven. In other words, we must seek after the things God wants for the creation; love, peace hope, joy.

We must turn from the old ways of doing things and seek new ways of being community and going forward, as God commands.

Between the *if* of before the election, and the *then* of after the election, this is the work we must do; humbly pray and seek the ways of God, and turning from anything that would block God’s light and love. Because the challenges of Covid, an economic downturn, and racial unrest have taken their toll on each of us, this work is doubly hard. Still, we are called to live with hope and in hope between the if and the then. We do so, empowered by God’s Spirit; we do so because God meets us in the space, between the if and then. Let us continue our work for God.

If My people
who are called by My name,
will humble themselves
Pray, and seek My face,
Turn from their wicked ways,
then I will hear from heaven
I will forgive their sin,
I will heal their land.
2 Chronicles 7:14

**NOVEMBER
NEWSLETTER 2020**

And So, We Begin ...



It is with pride and confidence that I am writing today to announce the members of the Community Church Pastoral Search Committee for 2020-2022. This committee will select and present to our congregation one ordained person as the candidate to fill Pastor Zina's vacancy. The Search Committee will work with the Finance Committee throughout the process and will consult with the Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago for guidance and counsel.

Our Pastoral Search Committee Members are: Tom Alton, Peer Lykke, Jayne Majzan, Lynn Minuskin, Ted Newman, Heloise Pechan and Bonnie Stevens.

Alternate Committee Members, who would be called to serve if a committee member is unable to fulfill his/her duties, are: Alayne McNulty and David Phinney.

As discussed at the Annual Meeting in September, the timeline will officially begin following the initial Search Committee meeting where a chair, secretary and treasurer will be appointed. Members will then work to review and complete the church profile package, prior to the posting of the package and job description in early January. All submissions will be reviewed and ranked by the committee by April 2021. Potential candidates will be interviewed throughout the summer with the desired applicant hopefully named between Advent and Lent of 2021-2022.

At this point, the church profile package is being written and the completed package will be professionally designed by our expert in-house graphic designer, Cindy Alton.

We're on our way – with much more to come!

Jayne Majzan, Moderator



Preparing Community Church of Barrington's Profile

One of the many steps in preparing to open a search process for a new pastor is the development of a church profile. This document tells the story of the church, shares insights on the community, includes a job description, and provides other information of importance. As the Strategic Planning Committee works on finalizing Community Church's profile, we would like to ask for your help.

When you think of the church, *this church*, what do you think we should ***be?*** We have asked some of the leaders, and we have included their responses below. And now, we want you to help flesh out this list. We have included a card for your input. We ask that you return it to the church by the 19th of November. You may mail it or place the card in the offering tray, located in the Tower Hallway, near the entry to the Sanctuary. Please share anything you would like to add to this list and, if there are items that you believe should be deleted, feel free to share that information as well.

We look forward to your input. And, once the profile is complete, we will share it with the entire church. Continue to pray with the Strategic Planning Committee as we move forward in our process of beginning the search for a new pastor.

A place of safety and love.

The hands and feet of Jesus.

Loving – not judging. We are invited to stand with, not against each other.

A place to deepen our faith.

A home. A place for solace, caring, and restoration.

CCB is exactly what it should be; “the place to go for friendship, faith and fun!

A place where all are welcome, known, and loved as Jesus loves them – unconditionally!

A place of true friendship flavored with grace and mercy.

A place to empower each other to be all that God wants us to be.

A place to do life together.

A place where we gain strength and resilience to go into the world to work and to walk with others.

A place to learn the stories of Christ; to speak into other lives about how God loves and walks with them.

Welcome and serve all ages, serving them with grace and love.

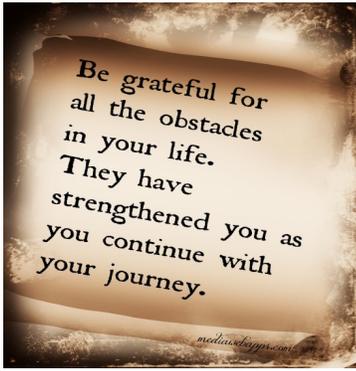
A place where people will realize this church is their church, a place for them.

A church should be a place to go for peace and prayer. A true port in life's storms.

Be there for one another, no matter what.

Share in the work of the Holy Spirit.

A place “where somebody knows your name.”



Gratitude When There Are Obstacles

Dr. Samira El-Yasir

With the leaves turning brilliant colors and the air becoming cooler, the words Gratitude and Thankfulness feel so appropriate for all my senses this time of year. Yet, as I prayed and reflected on the year and its challenges, my heart and mind thought about all there was to be grateful for in spite of what the world has thrown at us and continues to throw at us.

While pondering, I was reminded of times where other challenges occurred. Times when the youth thought the challenges were just too much and their courage to try was in question for them. Let me explain. These challenges were of a physical kind. Prior to a mission trip we would take the Sr. High youth to Stronghold Conference Center for leadership retreats. While there we would participate in various obstacle courses and activities designed to pull the team together to work through the challenges. One high ropes obstacle was a large pole minus the telephone wires. It is also called a Pamper Pole. It is a 32.8 foot pole with metal climbing pegs nailed into it that go to the top. One thing to note, the pole sways and moves with your weight and there is nothing to hold onto to as you climb to the top.



Imagine having a rappelling harness that is strapped around your legs and waist for safety and a helmet on your head. As each of the youth that wished to attempt this obstacle clipped the safety onto their harness, they begin to climb the pole. The pole shakes and though you know there is a safety harness around you, that does not give you comfort. So, you continue to climb with courage and faith and then just as you start to get into a rhythm, you run out of pegs for your feet. You're at the top of the pole and you are to hoist yourself on top of the pole and lunge to grab a trapeze bar or risk falling. At the moment of falling you instinctively know you should grab something, anything, but the harness pulls you and then lowers you safely to the ground.

This describes for me the year of 2020. But more importantly it reminds me of the courage and strength of those in our faith family. One thing that gave the youth courage to climb the pole were the words of encouragement and claps of job well done no matter how high they would or would not climb, and of course the knowledge that there was a safety harness wrapped around them.

Our safety harness is God, 2 Timothy 2:13 says, "If we are not faithful, he will still be faithful, because he cannot be false to himself." During these times I am so glad He is faithful to us. His daily blessings in these times are not given because of the depth of our faith rather the blessings to be grateful and courageous are given according to HIS grace. This verse is important during these times. More than ever we should not give up but rather, let's all look up. Let's trust and believe because we have a God that is worthy. He has not failed anyone in the past and He will not fail us now. So, as you face your obstacle let's look up and realize we have so much to be grateful for.

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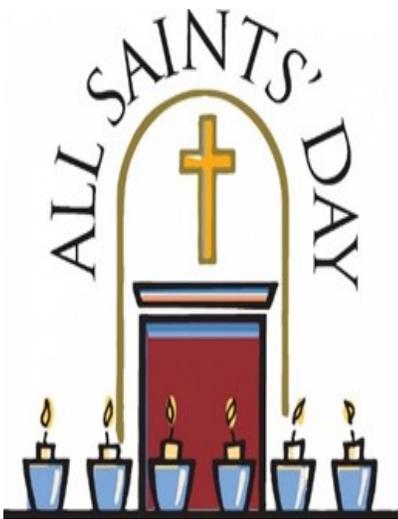


One of the wonderful things we as a church have to be grateful for are those youth and children in our midst. Let me explain, Madison Jensen (a college youth) and I recently had the opportunity to be filled with gratitude as we visited the homes of the children and youth in our church. We were handing out bags of hope filled with pumpkins, candy, and words of encouragement. We found joy as we talked and laughed with children and their dogs or in discussions with parents. Each step reminded us that we are connected in strength and courage because God is in control. Attached are some pictures of the courage and strength that we give each other. Let us not forget to **KEEP LOOKING UP**.



Will 2021 be different? Will it be better? I do not know but I know together we can be grateful and step out with courage and do all we CAN do to make the world a better place. Thank you to Madison for sharing the day with me and to the youth, children, and parents for sharing this wonderful day. And by the way, it was great to see all the pets that God has given to us to love and be loved by on this place called earth. In Gratitude with you...*Dr. Sami*





All Saints' Day 2020 – November 1st

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 1st on both Anglican and Catholic calendars and on the Sunday closest to November 1st 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 1st. 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 2nd--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.



FILLING OUR SOULS WITH TWENTY-ONE DAYS OF PRAYER, THEN GUIDING OUR FEET ALONG STEPPING STONES

Beloved, this newsletter arrived in your mailbox, electronic or otherwise, before the 2020 Presidential election. But the other thing that has landed in your mailbox (electronic or Facebook) are the prayers written by my sister, and friend, Carol Marsh and me. The intent of our prayers is to offer you sustenance for the journey and power to the move toward and through the national elections.

The theologian and activist Soren Kierkegaard says, "Prayer does not change God, but it changes [the one] who prays." We pray so that our hearts will be changed, so that our thoughts will be aligned with God, so that we will be strengthened and moved according to the word of God. We pray so that we will be changed.

We hope the prayers you receive, and are receiving, inspire you and lead you in a thoughtful and powerful manner. And, beyond the election, Ted Newman and I will offer you a series of "stepping stones". The stepping stones will be based on quotes from some of the world's greatest thinkers, both renowned and unknown. These quotes will begin on November 4th and continue to the beginning of Advent.

Now, to end this, there is a Cherokee fable, whose words seem appropriate. It reads as follows.

An old Cherokee is teaching his grandson about life: "A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy. "It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil—he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego." He continued, "The other is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. The same fight is going on inside you—and inside every other person, too." The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf will win?" The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

Beloved, what we feed in us will grow. We pray the 21 Days of Prayer and the Stepping Stones will feed your soul with that which is good. And in you, and through you, the good will grow.

Blessings on your journey.
Pastor Zina

Thanksgiving Fun Facts



Q: Is turkey the real cause of feeling sleepy after a Thanksgiving Day meal?

A: Turkey does contain Tryptophan which could make us feel sleepy; however, sleepiness is likely caused by the over-consumption of alcohol and food, especially desserts.



Q: Is Thanksgiving the biggest drinking night of the year?

A: Yes, more alcohol is consumed on Thanksgiving than any other holiday of the year. So be careful on the roadways if you're traveling Thursday evening.



Q: Did the pilgrims officially declare Thanksgiving as a public holiday?

A: No, Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a public holiday in 1863.



Q: Why did the Pilgrims first celebrate Thanksgiving?

A: The feast they celebrated in 1621 in Plymouth was the result of a good harvest.

Historians believe the Pilgrims served wild game and vegetables, instead of turkey, at the first Thanksgiving.

Approximately 46 million turkeys are eaten on Thanksgiving every year!

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade began in 1924 with only 400 employees.

Pilgrim means foreigner or traveler from afar!

The state of California consumes the most turkey!



www.TheSilverLining.com

SOURCES:

www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/11/21/thanksgiving-trivia-facts

www.businessinsider.com/fun-thanksgiving-day-facts-statistics-and-thankfulness-2011-11

www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thanksgiving



Assistant to the Assistant

Carol Marsh has volunteered to be the assistant to Bonnie Stevens, the Assistant Treasurer on the traditional Tuesday workday.

The changes in Sunday mornings have eliminated the prior volunteer “counters” and the counting of the offering has become an added responsibility of the Assistant Treasurer as well as the addition of keeping track of online donations and the new Art Together ministry.

Carol’s offer of help was perfect timing to assist Bonnie and also be a backup in case Bonnie becomes ill or wants to take a Tuesday off. So a hearty WELCOME and THANK YOU to Carol Marsh for her assistance and expertise.

Volunteers are such a blessing!

ADVENT THEME: *THE LIGHT AND THE STABLE*

This year Advent begins on November 27th. It will be an Advent like no other. Still, we enter in, awaiting the birth of the one we call Emmanuel. How will we celebrate Advent this year? I am so glad you asked.

We have a gift bag of goodies for you.

We will celebrate with some Christmas caroling.

We will gather in worship each Sunday, in person or virtually, and consider what the light and the stable teach us.

We will consider what the traditional Advent words bring to us this year; hope, peace, love, and joy.

We will celebrate Christmas Eve in our homes, together, online, with a joyous outpouring of expectant praise.

And, we will welcome the Christ Child with hearts open and ready.

November 2020 Birthdays

11-01 Sharon Hornig
11-03 Ted Newman
11-07 Philip Roussel
11-08 Cheryl Schroeder
11-08 Valissa Hilligoss

11-09 Stu Overby
11-11 Peter Luchsinger
11-11 Chris Newman
11-21 Laura Newman
11-21 Maggie Pechan

Anniversaries

11-28 Rev. Zina Jacque & Andre Bell



**A BARRINGTON GIVING DAY
THANK YOU!**

Thank you again for your generous donation of \$500 to help provide headphones to students that receive support through our Back to School event. As you are aware, with the last minute decision to switch to All Distance Learning, we felt it was important to pivot from only providing backpacks to also including headphones to help students with their ability to communicate during Zoom sessions. Families were able to select **EITHER** a New Backpack **OR** a pair of headphones per child.

Over 580 students were served at the event this year. We purchased 378 high quality headphones for a total of \$2658.94 (average cost \$7.03). The options we provided were very well received by the families. Here's a sample.

We really appreciate your support in our mission to help families in need. It is because of partnerships like ours that we are able to make a difference in our community.

We look forward to working together again in the near future!



November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 10:00 Sharon Hornig B'Day Set Clock Forward	2	3 Ted Newman B'Day	4 MORe—Noon Youth Call 1:00	5	6	7 Philip Rousset B'Day
8 Worship 10:00 Cheryl Schroeder B'Day Valissa Hilligoss B'Day	9 Stu Overby B'Day	10 Deacon's Meeting	11 Peter Luchsinger B'Day Chris Newman B'Day MORe—Noon	12	13	14
15 Worship 10:00	16	17	18 Youth Call 1:00	19	20	21 Laura Newman B'Day Maggie Pechan B'Day
22 Worship 10:00 Hanging of the Greens	23	24 Council Meeting	25 MORe—Noon	26 THANKSGIVING	27	28 Rev. Zina & Andre'Bell Anniv.
29 Worship 10:00 Advent	30					

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