

February/March 2024



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter from The Community Church of Barrington

Get Weird!

When I first moved to Portland, Oregon I noticed a big billboard downtown that said, “Keep Portland Weird.” This sentiment was also expressed on bumper stickers and decals that people plastered on their cars and laptops. The idea behind the phrase was to keep the greater Portland area from becoming like every other major city in America. They were attempting to avoid the takeover of chain restaurants, fast food franchises, and a certain coffee company named after a Moby Dick character. Essentially, Portland was trying to hold on to its unique identity. It was trying to stay weird.

Weirdness is often thought of as a negative trait. As children, we try to find commonalities with one another and use them to bond with those around us. This is an important part of growing up. We are social beasts and need to learn how to live together socially. However, this can be taken to an extreme wherein we lose our uniqueness and what makes us "weird". As Dr Seuss famously wrote (and Alayne has printed on her window entering the art class), "Why blend in when you were made to stand out?"



The theme of Lent this year is “LENT: Outside the Box.” During the season we will be looking at the book. *Get Weird: The Surprising Secret to Making a Difference* by author CJ Casciotta. In this book he claims that what makes us weird is our advantage. This is not to say that we should just be weird for the sake of being weird, but

rather we should explore what makes us unique as individuals and as a church, and highlight that uniqueness. In this way, we can make the greatest impact.

Lent is often a time of self-reflection and evaluating our relationship with God. It is a time of confession, repentance, forgiveness, and redemption culminating in the Passion and Easter narrative. I think it is fitting to study weirdness during Lent because the story of Jesus is what makes Christianity unique among religions. Many religions have a creation story, a process of judgment by a higher power, and even a narrative of what will happen at the end of the world. However, Christianity is unique in that it believes in a God that loved and desired connection with humanity to the point of becoming human.

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Moderator's Update

MINISTRY MAGIC



“Miss Alayne, this is the best time I ever had!” exclaimed one young lady. “Me too!”, said her friend. They were just two of the over 50 kids, parents and grandparents who filled Fellowship Hall for our Ground Hog Day Game Night, Friday, February 2nd. All were there because our church offered a wonderful opportunity to be a part of the magic that is our Art Together program created and run by our very own “Miss Alayne” McNulty.

I was only able to visit for a short time, but I can tell you the vibe was so good, and the sight of seeing so many people of various ages was such a jolt of pure energy to my Moderator soul, that I really hated to leave. This, I thought, is a snapshot of at least one possibility for the future of our church. Game Night wasn't at 10:30 Sunday morning, but it still felt like “church” – a gathering filled with God's love and His hope for every person who joined us for a fun evening of games together.



I'm not sure we all realize that Art Together is a ministry of our church – that we support and offer it for reasons beyond the joy of creating pieces of art. We offer this program because it provides a safe place for all to explore and express themselves. To have fun. And, perhaps, to find a safe harbor for their souls, as well. Church doesn't only happen on Sunday mornings!

Let's all thank God for Art Together, Miss Alayne, those like Christy, Lauren, Rene, and Pam who helped out, and most of all the little girl who had “the best time” of her life!

-Peer Lykke



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Furthermore, it extends this process of humility and servanthood to its teaching for its followers. In a world that is still obsessed with gaining power and control, this message is as weird today as when Jesus first taught it.

I hope you will join me throughout Lent as we explore the revolutionary weirdness of this message and its effects both on the life of Jesus, his followers, and us. We will begin on February 14th, Valentine's Day, with an Ash Wednesday service in collaboration with Salem Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m. If you cannot make the service but would like to still receive ashes, the church will be open from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. that day for prayer and the giving of ashes.

Come learn what it will mean to Keep CCB Weird. -*Pastor Chris*

Rest & Retreat

Here are some pictures from my recent retreat to Holy Wisdom Monastery in Wisconsin. I would recommend it to anyone looking to get away. Enjoy! - *Pastor Chris*



Lenten Offerings 2024

Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday Service at
Community Church of Barrington

Sunday, March 10th at 5:00 pm

Evensong Service at St. Michael's
Episcopal Church

Thursday, March 28th at 6:30 pm

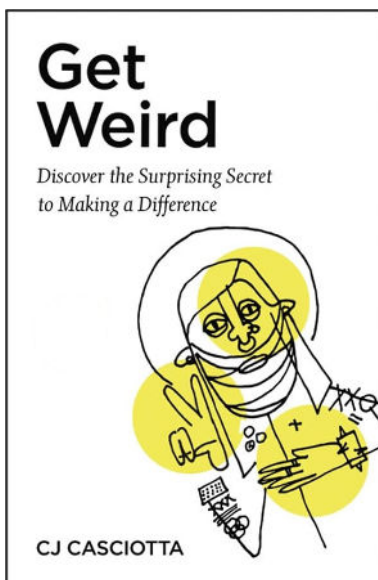
Maundy Thursday Service at St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Friday, March 29th at 7:00 pm

Good Friday Service at Salem Methodist Church



Adult Sunday School



During the season of Lent, the 9:15 a.m. Sunday School class will be reading the book, "Get Weird: Discover the Surprising Secret to Making a Difference," and discovering how weirdness is the best thing we can offer to our art, business, friends, family, church, and ourselves. As part of our "Lent: Out of the Box" theme for this year, we will look at how uniqueness is prevalent and proscribed throughout scripture.

Get the book at any bookseller or ask Pastor Chris for a copy. Then, join us at 9:15 a.m. to get weird.

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 <i>Chris & Marjorie Newman Anniv.</i>	3
4 <i>Worship Service 10:30</i>	5	6	7	8	9	10 <i>Leslie Lirgameris B'day</i>
11 <i>Worship Service 10:30</i>	12	13	14 <i>Marge Boynton B'day Ash Wednesday</i>	15	16	17
18 <i>Worship Service 10:30 First Sunday in Lent</i>	19	20	21 POTLUCK	22	23 <i>Rene Shade B'day</i>	24
25 <i>Worship Service 10:30 Produce Sunday</i>	26	27	28 <i>Brian Shade B'day</i>	29		

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <i>Worship Service</i> 10:30 <i>Alayne McNulty</i> B'day	4	5	6	7	8	9 <i>Spring Ahead</i> <i>Tonight!</i>
10 <i>Worship Service</i> 10:30	11	12	13	14	15	16 <i>Judy Haack</i> B'day
17 <i>Worship Service</i> 10:30 <i>Patty</i> <i>Luchsinger</i> B'day	18	19 <i>Bill Athmann</i> B'day	20 Potluck	21	22	23
24 <i>Worship Service</i> 10:30	25	26 Council Meeting	27	28 <i>Maundy</i> <i>Thursday</i>	29 <i>Good Friday</i>	30
31 <i>Worship Service</i> 10:30 Easter						

Community Church of Barrington

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Written In March

Like an army defeated
The snow hath retreated,
And now doth fare ill
On the top of the bare hill;
The plowboy is whooping- anon-anon:
There's joy in the mountains;
There's life in the fountains;
Small clouds are sailing,
Blue sky prevailing;
The rain is over and gone!

William Wadsworth