
March 2020

Circuit Writer

Jesse Lee United Methodist Church

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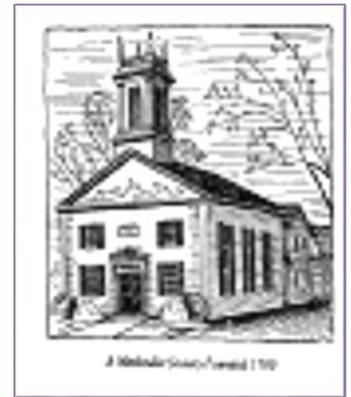
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A Message from Reverend Jim Stinson

As I prepare myself for Open Heart Surgery, as you may suspect, I have a certain amount of anxiety within me. I know the prognosis is excellent. I know the surgeon has experience and training. I know there is a very high probability that all will be well and that I will be up and about fairly quickly following the procedure. My basic personality is to be positive and optimistic. Yet the anxiety is there. Having said that, it is not my dominant emotion or thought. Dominant is the relief of expecting an end to constant dizziness, of having to reach for a cane to steady myself when standing up, of going out with family and friends for dinner and being dropped off at the entrance to minimize the risk of falling. I yearn to get back to the pulpit. I know I could have worse problems and am grateful surgery can and will erase these issues. Yet I get moments of wondering "What if?" (All of you reading this can finish this thought for yourselves.) It is "only human" to have times of doubt. It is also, in my view point, a faithless response. Hear Jesus say: ***Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.*** (Matthew 6:34). Worrying accomplishes nothing.

The God we know as Love is always present no matter where the path leads us. Love does not let us go alone, even when we doubt that truth. Anxiety and worry need not control us. Love can and will, if we allow the possibility. This is a lesson I am still learning. It is one, I suspect to be learning for the rest of my life. The surgeon who will be "fixing me up like new" told me at the pre-op conference that when I saw him post-op he expected me to say, "Mike, you did a great job, I feel like a new man." I willingly and literally expect Mike to do a great job, and certainly expect to say that to Mike. Yet I know that this not enough to curb any



Church Calendar

Choir Rehearsal-March 1,
8, 15,22,29 - 9:00

Mercy Learning Center

Brunch March 10, 9:00

CCGB Delegate meeting-
March 24 6:00

Jesse Lee Birthdays



Brendan Herlihy-March 11
Jon Davis-March 13
Jeff Currier-March 17
Carolee Johnson-March 25
Deborah Schick-March 28



Pastor Jim will be having
heart surgery on March 16.

Please keep Barbara and
Jim in your prayers.

anxiety I may have. Mike might hold my heart in his hands physically, but trusting that God holds my being is what takes away the niggling “What ifs?”!

As the writer of I John 4:18 reminds us, *There is no fear in love, but love casts out fear.* There is no reason to worry about tomorrow, nor is there reason to worry today. Love, my friends is eternal. That is to say it has no beginning or end...it simply is. Wow! How great is that?

My prayer is that you and I and all of God’s creation can move toward God’s realm, eliminate fear and worry and rely on the Eternal One, we call God.

Mercy Learning Center



Under the leadership of Kim Breda, Jesse Lee members provided food and fellowship for the students studying to earn their GED at Mercy Learning Center. Thank you to Andree Halcott, Kathi Sabia, Colleen Monroe, Michelle Wendt, and Suzanne Herlihy.

What Does Progress Look Like For The Women at MLC?

- For women who enter with little English proficiency, progress comes when they are able to explain their symptoms to an emergency room doctor or count their change at the grocery store.
- For women who struggle to make ends meet by working in a minimum wage position, success is celebrated when they receive a job promotion with an increase in wage.

- For the women who work towards completing their high school education and transitioning to college or a job training program, it means a chance for a better life.



The numbers for 2019 at Mercy Learning Center

- The 1153 students enrolled come from 51 countries of origin, 98% from low income families, 95% are mothers or primary caregivers
- 35 women earned high school diplomas
- 53 alumnae were enrolled in college or career certificate programs
- 123 women found new jobs
- 27 women became US Citizens



14th Annual Gourmet Breakfast by Easton Boy Scout Troop 66

March 28-8:00 AM-Noon

Easton Community Center 364 Sport Hill Rd. Easton

\$12 Adults, \$10 Children (10 and under), \$10 Seniors (65 and over)

See Jeffrey Berg or Quintin Haines after church service to purchase tickets.

News from the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport



CCGB SPRING FLING
presents
ROALD DAHL'S
Matilda
THE MUSICAL
MAGICAL. MISCHIEVOUS. MIRACULOUS.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020

AT THE DOWNTOWN CABARET THEATRE IN BRIDGEPORT

6:15pm Reception at City Lights Gallery
265 Golden Hill St. just above the Downtown Cabaret
7:00pm Program at the Cabaret Theatre
7:30pm THE SHOW!
Cabaret Theatre • 263 Golden Hill St.

The Faith & Community Award will be presented to:
Easton Acts (Area Congregations Together in Service)
A coalition of Easton's larger faith community, partnering to take
action and demonstrate God's love to those who are most in need.

75th Anniversary
Serving Greater Bridgeport
Since 1945

Ticket Price is \$75
Dinner boxes (\$15 each) made by our chef &
culinary students are available for pre-order

RESERVATIONS
Go to www.ccgb.org/springfling

SAFE PLACE

CCGB's office at 1718 Capitol Ave. in Bridgeport is a nationally recognized **Safe Place** for youth under 18 years of age. The prominently displayed sign in our window is a universal sign of youth safety. Youth seeking help or safety can access both through our staff. Please share this information on your social media.

HER TIME-The play

Klein Memorial Auditorium
April 4-7:00 and April 5-2:00
\$15 Adults, \$10 students www.theklein.org
This play mirrors the flaws and successes of second chance society, through the experiences of Kim Williams, an ex-offender who returns home after serving years in federal prison. Kim attempts to start over and reconnect with her family, but she soon realizes that her homecoming isn't as welcoming as she hoped.

Coronavirus Update

The health of our church community is of utmost concern to our pastor and the Church Council and we are doing what we can to stay current with public health guidelines. Worshipers are always encouraged to participate or not, according to their comfort level and medical condition and we ask others to honor these decisions. If you are feeling ill, we ask that you please stay home. If you do stay home please find ways to keep in touch. We don't want our people to feel isolated. During this time we suggest a verbal greeting, a head nod or bow, or an elbow bump at church instead of shaking hands or embracing. We will be serving individually wrapped food items at coffee hour to minimize spread of germs from a common serving plate. Our St. Patrick's Day Luncheon has been cancelled. We will be using individual cups for communion service and only the pastor will handle the bread. Let us pray for nations, communities, families and

individuals impacted by the virus and for the medical and government personnel seeking to respond and provide guidance.



Prayer Requests Raised at Worship Services



Pastor Jim
Bruce and Carla Jaffe
Dwight Smith
Ann Martin
Avery Lin
Barbara Hamann
Bruce and Abby LePage
Luella Ostrofsky
George Lindeberg
Joanne's friend Deb
Kay's cousin Grace

Family of Walter Everett
Linda Nolle
The people of Syria
Helen and Allen Malsburg
Elisabeth Berg and Barlow music dept
Those affect by the Coronavirus
Norma Martin Hummerstone
In memory of Howie Collis

4 Ways to Observe Lent

Lent is a season of focus and preparation. It aligns our hearts with God's heart as we approach Easter.

The following are just a few ways to focus and prepare.



Give It Up

Consider giving up something that distracts from your important relationships: like too much time on Twitter or Clash of Clans.

Maybe cut out screen usage for several hours a day.

Take a day of true rest: let go of toil for 24 hours.



Plug In

Consider adding in something that helps you connect to God.

Read a book of the Bible, a devotional, or practice Lectio Divina on a daily basis.



Serve

Start a new routine of service.

Volunteer regularly as an academic mentor, step up to volunteer in a local church, or visit a nursing home.



Share It

Make it a communal event.

Share your Lent practices with others via a small group and/or attending worship.



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

Feb. 9-In attendance-John and Suzanne Herlihy, Steve and Michelle Wendt, Andree Halcott, Joanne Kant, Jim Riling

Pastor's Report-Pastor Jim was not in attendance because he has been ill. He enjoys getting cards and calls
Financial Report-

- Treasurer's report was unavailable.
- Our church computer system uses Windows 7 which has some security concerns. Michelle Wendt and Joe Stonoha will look into a computer needs assessment.

Urgent Business

- We have retained Pastoral Coverage through the beginning of March with Jim's friend, Rev. George Hilton. Judy Lang has invited our congregation to attend Nichol's UMC for Ash Wednesday Service.
- Briefly discussed our long term needs for a pastor and what we can afford
- Decided to send a sympathy card to Janna Marazitas's family and a \$50 check to the Prison Ministries Fund in memory of Rev. Walter Everett, a former Jesse Lee Pastor

- Parsonage lease needs to be updated soon. For the Daycare lease we need to finalize the computations to determine appropriate billing of all utilities

Trustees Report

- Electrical repairs have been completed upstairs at approx. \$1000. The Scouts would like a light on the back shed and are interested in reimbursing the church. Heating Oil Prices have gone up

