

Friday Letter March 8, 2024

Good Friday Friends,

First of all, Pastors, Thank you for passing on the Friday letters to your Ladies! It is so important that they stay informed. Women have been historically the 'back bone' of our churches!



I pray you all are doing well! We are very happy about the much-needed rain! Now its time for our rubber boots and umbrellas!

Did you know that....

This is Women's History Month, learn more.

<https://www.womenshistorymonth.gov/>

The National Council of Churches is highlighting women all month

<https://app.getresponse.com/view.html?x=a62b&m=B9b5gf&mc=Ci&s=QLzRJG&u=xcQv&z=EIWWIya&>

Check it out.

I joined the webinar, 'End Femicide: Invest in Women's Lives,' this morning, and even though I am aware of the problem, I was shocked. The World Council of Churches is looking for ways to end 'Femicide.' It is serious, it is all over the world, and we all need to be aware to make a difference. I encourage all to be aware and work together to stop gender-based violence and femicide. Wear Black on Thursdays in an attempt to continue awareness and break the silence. Don't think that this happens only in other countries. "Femicide in the United States accounts for more than five women daily, and 70% of the total deaths of women among high-income countries".

From their comments online:

An average of 133 women and girls are killed every day by an intimate partner or family member, according to UN Women. Like all forms of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, femicide is a tragedy that affects every country and territory across the globe. Speakers in this webinar will address the societal norms and structures that perpetuate femicide as well as steps for Church and society to seek healing and justice. This includes ways to invest in women's safety and empowerment to disrupt the cycle of violence, save lives, and contribute to gender equality and sustainable development.

I received my Just Women!! Have you? We have one more study in the 2023 edition then we can begin the new one "Through the Looking Glass: Seeing the World Through the Eyes of Faith, Matthew 13:16-17. When you get yours look toward the back, Woman to Woman Worldwide: East Asia is highlighted! I was excited to see that.

Our next Zoom gathering is March 23rd that's a Saturday from the comfort of your own home, church, car or wherever you can! Bible study for March is the last one in the 2023 Just Women Bible Study, titled Learning to Let Go, from Isaiah chapter 43:18-19 is by Rev. Tanya Lopez

Questions for consideration:

1. What are some of the " things that were " that we might have to grieve in our lives today?
2. How can you hold space for yourself as feelings come up in your grieving of these " things "?
3. What examples can you name of times in your life in which God made a way during a time of crisis or deep need.
4. How can you begin the process of " releasing the grip " on things of the past in your life today?

If you don't have a Just Women 2023, read the scripture and the questions and you can join in an enjoyable conversation!

From the Weekly Update:

Amore Dinner

On Sunday, March 3rd, the outreach committee of Neosho FCC gifted the church with an Amore dinner to culminate their Week of Compassion emphasis. It was meant to highlight that compassion can be shown in many ways and we should strive not just for a Week of Compassion but for a Lifetime of Compassion. Three opportunities to show compassion were given at the dinner: Food items for the local food pantry, monetary love gifts for Week of Compassion, and monetary love gifts for the church to help support its ministries. \$806 was given for Week of Compassion, \$1,385 for the church, \$375 plus 80 food items for the Help Center food pantry. The event ended with a song fest led by the children and with each person receiving A Valentine From God – God's way of reminding us what love is and what love isn't, what love does and what love doesn't.

Solar Eclipse 4/8

Abbey Road CC would like to extend to all our area DOC churches an invitation to our unobstructed hill to view and celebrate the total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, 2024. We will have a Meet & Greet in the church at 10:30 am followed by a light lunch at 11:00 am on the grounds. At 12:00 noon there will be a labyrinth walk for those who wish to participate and finger labyrinths for those who cannot walk it.

There is limited seating in our pergola and firepit areas, so please bring your lawn chairs. Also bring any snacks and drinks you wish to have, and sunblock if needed, as well as protective glasses to view the eclipse.

We look forward to seeing you! Please RSVP by Monday, March 25, 2024, so that we may plan for lunch. Thank you! capearcc@gmail.com

Ordination of Rev. Teresa Spear

Rev. Teresa Spear was ordained on Sunday, February 25 at South Street Christian Church in Springfield. She is pictured here (in the green stole) with those who participated in the service. There were eight congregations represented and many ministers attended to support and celebrate. Congratulations!

Celebration for ARM Katherine Kinnamon

Our Associate Regional Minister for Commission on the Order of Ministry Rev. Katherine Kinnamon is retiring effective March 31. We are grateful for her many years of ministry in Mid-America and invite all to join the celebration at Compton Heights CC in St. Louis on Sunday, April 7 during their morning worship. More details will be posted as they become available.

Unsung Heroes

FCC in Maryville served about thirty people on Feb. 28 at their second Unsung Heroes Lenten Dinner for the year. At this dinner they honored sanitation and recycling crews, thanking them for all their hard work and serving them a hot meal of spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, and dessert. Next Wednesday, March 6, they'll be honoring Big Brothers/Big Sisters -- Bigs, Littles, and staff.

News From the Farm:

Last week I shared with you about the little brown goat and not seeing a baby anywhere. I shared with you we had two other mothers that were going to have kids. Well, the two mothers had their kids. It appeared one mother had twins and the other had triplets, but oddly enough one of the triplets looked just like the little brown goat that we thought might have had one. We think it's a possibility that the one goat found the little brown one and adopted it as her own. Moms and all five babies were doing well, for a time. We came home Sunday about an hour before dark to find the set of twins were no longer with us. We don't know what happened for sure, they were fine when we left that morning. Not knowing the cause, we brought the mother and the three little babies to the house and there in the dog pen until the little ones are large enough to enter into the herd.

Farm life can have its mountaintop highs and its valley of lows. Sometimes the world is stable and steady and other times the world is upside down. It's not always the experiences that we encounter that define us as much as our reaction to them.

I pray you have a week full of love and joy.

Blessings,

Pastor Jennifer

Jennifer Long is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: Disciples Women
Time: Mar 23, 2024 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88123748611?pwd=aGU5cnFBKzVCdW1VdFU1YWZFeFZ5QT09>

Meeting ID: 881 2374 8611
Passcode: 290238

Dial by your location

• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcNrk4ZkVK>

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Micah 6:8 Message: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor,
be compassionate and loyal in your love, And don't take yourself too seriously— take God seriously.
C.S. Lewis : "Believe in God like you believe in the sunrise. Not because you can see it, but because you can
see all it touches."