



Chapel Chimes

June 2022

A Pastor's Note from Rev. Mark

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Complaining. I've been complaining a lot lately. There is much to complain about, isn't there? Inflation, politics, war, shootings, homelessness, are some of my big complaints. Eyeglasses that won't stay clean, too much summer traffic, too much rain, my slow internet connection are a few of my smaller complaints. The list could go on and on, but I'll stop for now.

I'm not sure why I complain, especially when there is much that goes right every day. Does my complaining make anything better? Does my complaining fix anything? How does my complaining affect others around me? Complaining has a way of spreading like a wildfire and can be detrimental to a community. I don't want to be that person I complain about who always complains.

So, how to cut back on Complaining? Being grateful each day can be helpful. It helps when I thank God for the weather, even if I don't like it. It helps when I think of all the ways things worked out yesterday. It helps when I don't blame others for the problems that affect my life. It helps to start the day with gratitude. I thank God for the opportunities I have for the day in front of me. When I come across the things I can't change and I don't like it, that's when I ask God to help me either accept or fix the problem, and to help me to see the difference. If I do feel the need to complain I will try to keep it to myself or take it to the person I'm having a problem with.

So why am I writing about complaining on this gracious day that the Lord has made? Because when I thought about having to write the Pastor's note I started to complain. Writing my pastor's note is an opportunity and I'm thankful, even if I don't have much to say. The following scripture I believe also can help us all when we find ourselves complaining:

Imitating Christ's Humility

² If then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the

same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

We share this journey of following in the way of Jesus Christ. We are not alone. Christ is with us always and together we share Christ's love wherever we go. Be ever mindful of this love and be ever careful with the gifts we have each day.

In grace and peace of Jesus Christ,

Mark



BOOKS BY THE SEA

The Books by the Sea book club meets on Thursday June 9 at 1:00PM at the church. This month's book is "The Survivors" by Jane Harper, presented by Roberta Porter.

"As always, Harper skillfully evokes the landscape as she weaves a complicated, elegant web, full of long-buried secrets ready to come to light." -*The New York Times Book Review*

Kieran Elliott's life changed forever on the day a reckless mistake led to devastating consequences.

The guilt that still haunts him resurfaces during a visit with his young family to the small coastal community he once called home.

Kieran's parents are struggling in a town where fortunes are forged by the sea. Between them all is his absent brother, Finn.

When a body is discovered on the beach, long-held secrets threaten to emerge. A sunken wreck, a missing girl, and questions that have never washed away... (Amazon review)



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Bill Porter – June 5

Shirley Dunne – June 10

Jeff Winn – June 10

April Ronnau – June 12

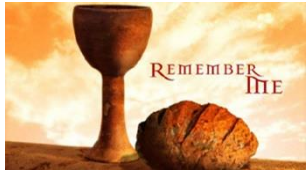
Theresa Winn – June 20

Wendy Olson – June 21

Mary Buck – June 22

Nancy Boerma – June 26

Rev. Ric Neese – June 27



COMMUNION SHARED –

As the situation with Covid-19 shifts, activities at the church are also shifting. The mask mandate in the building has been lifted, Coffee Hour has returned and there is more singing.

The next adjustment is a return to more communal communion. The Session and Deacons have been considering various alternatives, balancing the best and most practical method to distribute and serve the elements.

We have had tiny, self-contained, plastic communion for almost two years. Sunday, June 5th, real juice and fresh bread will be prepared and on the communion table. Those able to come forward will be given the elements to take back to their seats. For those unable to come forward, it will be brought to them.

We will try this for June and adjust moving forward, always working to enrich the experience of God among us and of our connection to one another.



OUTDOOR SUMMER VESPERS –

July and August will see a return to outdoor worship. Mark your calendars and join in the fun.

- Last Thursday of July & August (July 28th and August 25th)
- 4 p.m.
- Church parking lot
- Singing, with guitars
- Interacting “preaching”
- Lively prayers



OLSONS' ON VACATION -

Mark & Wendy will be on vacation beginning June 20th. They will be back at “work” on July 6th.
Revs Cathye Wehr and Ric Neese will fill the pulpit while the Olsons are away.

ROBIN SEYFERT “HOME” –

Robin is back for her summer respite and will be preaching on Sunday June 19th, with a Basha sale following worship. You want to catch this rare sighting of our beloved friend and servant of Christ, as she brings deep insight into the work of Christ and new and beautiful items from Basha artisans.



FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITY FOR JUNE

The fellowship committee plans on holding a fellowship activity each month during the year. For June the activity is a share your hobby night.

On June 29 at 5:00 bring a finger food to share and an example of a hobby you enjoy to share with the group. We will put all our hobbies on a table and see who can correctly guess who goes with which hobby and ask you to briefly share a bit about your hobby.