

Wednesday Musings October 3, 2018

Good morning. Let me start with a word of thanks to Matt and Dotti for the program they put together Sunday, both before and during worship. If you missed it, a link to the video that Matt showed is available on the church's web site. It's well worth even a second look! Also, many thanks need to go to Keith Miller and Ken Little for getting our elevator back in service. Each followed up in meeting repair people, and Keith in particular was persistent in making sure that a broken part was found and replaced. Let me also mention that the recording of our morning services is back and posted on our web site. It went missing for a couple of weeks due to the cancelation of our service the weekend of Florence, and then again when we worshipped in the Bray Hall that doesn't have a recording capability. Also, at the end of this Musings, look for some pictures from our Homecoming celebration. Thank you to our resident photographer, Ken Little.

This coming Sunday will be both World Communion Sunday as well as Stewardship Sunday. Stewardship materials were mailed out. This Sunday we ask you to return your pledge card in support of the ministry of this church for the coming year. Place your cards in the offerings plate on Sunday and we will consecrate them during the service. Also, on Sunday we will recognize the world-wide scope of the ministry of Jesus Christ. We will sing hymns from around the world. Matt has promised to put his world flags back around the sanctuary. And for communion we will use breads that represent people from the four corners of the earth. It should be a good morning.

Looking ahead just a bit, the 21st of October will also be a day made busy by two different activities. First, that day will be Laity Sunday and for that service we are asking your help. Think of a hymn or scripture passage that has been deeply meaningful to you at crucial times in your life. Would you be willing to share those hymns and passages with us as well as say a word about why they touched your life? Margot actually suggested this idea to me. They did it once at the church she served in Ashville and she said that it was very moving. In your bulletin and October newsletter you'll find a tear-off sheet where you can volunteer your suggestions. I hope you will! Then immediately after worship on the 21st, the deacons will host a hot dog lunch and cake and pie auction. They hope to raise money to repair the ceiling lights in the sanctuary, many of which are out. If you can contribute a cake or pie, deacons ask that you tightly wrap it in plastic wrap so that it may be frozen and saved for Thanksgiving or Christmas feasts. Bring a friend as well as your checkbook and join us for this special day.

So far we have collected \$720 for disaster relief efforts. We will collect funds for another Sunday or so. Make checks payable to the church and writes "disaster relief" on the memo line. Also, the denomination was offerings grants up to \$250 to churches that were planning to make Church World Service "Clean Up Kits" that could be used in this latest flood. I applied for a grant on the church's behalf and it was granted. With another \$250 dollars from the UCC, we will have nearly \$1000 for the kits. The kits are 5-gallon, sealable plastic buckets that can be filled with various needed cleaning supplies. In the near future, we'll put out word about a day to make the buckets. Like the Stop Hunger Now programs we participated in in the past, this will be a way, not only to offer our gifts, but offer our hands and heart as well.

Finally, because a number of Official Board members will be out of town, the October meeting a week from Sunday has been cancelled.

On the prayer concern front, please remember the people of Indonesia. The death count from this tsunami has risen to over 1200 and is likely to go much higher. It puts

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our woes related to Florence in perspective. This afternoon Benjie will be having surgery on one of his hands. Mark Garrison was back at church on Sunday and he is doing much better. He still has digestive issues that doctors are exploring, but his improvement has been great. We got word that Peggy Johnson's mother's condition has worsened, and Parkie King continues to struggle. Along with these, please continue to remember Anna Gerow, Margaret Turner, Louise Walters, Nancy Thomas and Donna Freeman in prayer.

Hope to see you Sunday.

Mark

