



Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • June 16, 2022

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In-Person Worship Service Sunday, June 19th @ 10:15 a.m.

The service will also be available via Zoom
for those desiring to participate from home
@ <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85903787105>

or by dialing **1-312-626-6799**
and enter the Meeting ID: **859 0378 7105 #.**

Weekly Devotion from Pastor Kristen

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. —1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Last week I had the opportunity to attend the UCC Minnesota Conference Annual meeting. While there we had a chance to hear a lecture from the nationally famous author and theologian, Diana Butler Bass. She spoke to us about her most recent book, *Grateful*. In this lecture she shared some of the research and theory of the benefits of gratitude for our mental and spiritual health. She shared how this idea, of gratitude is connected with and most helpful while we are also grieving. She named both grief and gratitude as “spiritual practice” and encourages us, as congregations to discover the many benefits of these two particular faith practices.

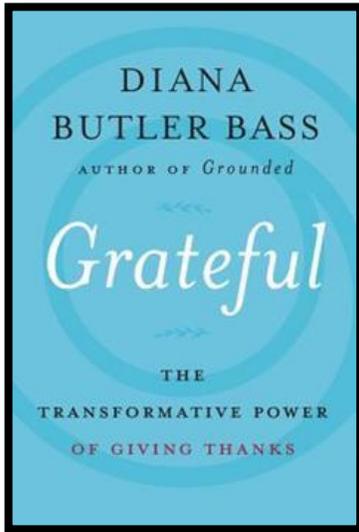
Gratitude while grieving is the act of appreciating the person, relationship, or chapter of life that we have lost. I had a colleague at Hazelden that shared the idea that grief can be processed well as we consider what it is that was lost, what is left and what is possible. Combining gratitude with our own grief process allows us to do this kind of sorting. We can look back with gratitude at what it is that we have lost. We can then look with gratitude at all that we have, all that is left of our own life that is abundant and powerful and good. And then, holding in gratitude these two lists, we can consider what it is that is possible. Gratitude opens up hope. We are grounded in joy by gratitude because we are reminded of the goodness of life.

One of the things that Diana said in her lecture is that we have “privatized” gratitude as communities of faith. We have made this a personal, inside story that we hold in our hearts, minds and journals. But perhaps the power of gratitude is lost for our communities of faith when we hold this practice so close to our vest. What if we shared the practice? What might it look like to become communities of faith that shared gratitude for one another, for the community itself? What might our homes and relationships look like and become if we made gratitude part of what it means to be alive with another person?

I believe that healthy congregations are places of celebration and joy that is shared. Sharing joy—sharing our grateful hearts, our hopeful ideas about abundance and possibility is at the core of thriving congregational life. People are attracted to celebration and joy. People who visit a place of gratitude will return to that space. Gratitude, I would claim, is perhaps the whole point of coming together at all. It is the grace of God, after all, that has brought us to this place of faith; it is the hope of new life, of resurrection, of the new chance that we have to be God's child every day of every life. The face of gratitude is more than just a smile, it is the deep connection of compassion and love that celebrates the very presence of life in our midst.

Diana's claim was that gratitude in our communities of faith will move us from “me” to “we” and lead us to shift beyond the emotion of gratitude to the activity of gratitude. What would active gratitude look like for this congregation? What might change if we became a collective of grateful voices that agree whole heartedly that God has blessed us and will continue to bless us in amazing and wonderful ways?

PRAYER: *God, enlighten my feelings of gratitude for all of the many blessings that you have given me and then lead me to speak, to share and to engage others in this practice of being your grateful people. AMEN.*



For information on Diana Butler Bass:

dianabutlerbass.com

Link to the website A Network for Grateful Living:

gratefulness.org

You can also subscribe to a daily email for *The Word for the Day* at this website.



In Prayer

- Anna Kerr has had some rough days and is currently in the Fairview Riverside Adult Mental Health Unit.
- Healthcare and front-line workers.
- Michelle Liebl's dad, Lee Carlson was diagnosed with cancer.
- Prayers for Doug Allen, Mark Billy, Sandy Davis-Lerner, Julie Ford, Jack Gillespie, Dorothy Lundberg, Annette Ronan, Timm, Tracy & Tristalyn Smith, Gail Stalpes, and Marge Williams

Rummage Sale Recap – Doing Good in the Hood

Thanks to all who helped run and clean up after the Neighborhood Rummage Sale last Friday. We had about 15 families selling and much of the proceeds are going to local charities including Meals on Wheels and Hats and Mittens. It was fun to meet new folks! We will continue to look for additional outreach opportunities and building use ideas. By the way, want to get involved with Chapel Hills Outreach? Talk to us... *Tom and Barb Okonek*





**It's not too late to sign-up
to participate in the
Edina 4th of July Parade.**

(Sign-Up Sheet is in the Narthex)

Looking Ahead

19	JUN, SUN	●	10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
20	JUN, MON	●	12 – 4:30pm	Villard Summer Cello Lessons
		●	7 – 9pm	Classic Big Band Rehearsal
21	JUN, TUE	●	12 – 1:30pm	Picnic Lunch & Conversation
22	JUN, WED	●	12:30 – 5:45pm	Villard Summer Cello Lessons
26	JUN, SUN	●	10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
28	JUN, TUE	●	12 – 1:30pm	Picnic Lunch & Conversation
3	JUL, SUN	●	10:15 – 11:15am	Communion
		●	10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
4	JUL, MON	●	10am – 1pm	Edina 4th of July Parade
5	JUL, TUE	●	12 – 1:30pm	Picnic Lunch & Conversation
6	JUL, WED	●	12 – 5:45pm	Villard Summer Cello Lessons
10	JUL, SUN	●	10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
11	JUL, MON	●	12 – 5:45pm	Villard Summer Cello Lessons



“In God’s Presence”

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Father’s Day

Today’s scripture tells the story of Elijah, worn out by political maneuvering, isolated and afraid. At the very end of his rope, Elijah was ready to give up. God did not give up on him, though, and spoke to him, giving him clarity and a renewed sense of purpose. Strengthened, he was able to go back out to follow God’s way. How about you? Are you also feeling isolated and weary? If so, take heart. God is near! Listen for God’s guidance as you remember that your actions and your voice matter now more than ever.

You need look no further for clarity and purpose than the many *Our Faith, Our Vote* resources available online from the Justice and Local Church Ministries advocacy office in Washington DC. There, you will find nonpartisan resources that will help you study issues through the lens of your faith and conscience, as well as get information on how church communities may and may not legally be involved in this congressional election year.

Sandy Sorensen, director of the Justice and Local Church Ministry Washington DC office, advises that churches can legally “hold voter registration drives, take action for democracy protections, and generate voter mobilization as we near midterms — including rides to polls, getting folks registered, etc. It will also be critical in these divisive times to establish relationships with state and local elections officials to support fair elections...Urge legislators to pass democracy protections. Engage in media advocacy around voting rights in your community through op-eds, letters to the editor, social media and other outlets. Learn what your state legislature is doing to change election laws in your state.”*

The UCC is a longtime supporter of the Poor People’s Campaign, and its actions to ensure equal access to elections, including marches near the date of Juneteenth, which have taken place both on the ground in local cities and online in the past few years. Find out what the Poor People’s Campaign has planned in your area, if you would like to connect with others interested in these issues.

**Holznagel, Hans. “National Ministries Eager to Work with Local Churches on Full 2022 Agenda.” United Church of Christ accessed 4 Jan. 2022, <https://www.ucc.org/national-ministries-eager-to-work-with-local-churches-on-full-2022-agenda/>.*