

THE WINDOW

On a journey with the living Christ; connecting with God, others, and the world.

July 2020

Moving Across the Threshold Together by Andy Hamer, Pastor

Last September we jumped into a sermon series about the journey of God's people from slavery to the promise land. We noted that God's people were at a threshold time. That was a threshold time for West Hills as well. After years of ups and downs, it was time to apply the lessons learned as we stepped forward. Little did we know that some of our first steps would be into a global pandemic and racial turbulence. How can we continue on our Kingdom path, when so much of what anchors our community is in flux?

In those first months of the Exodus, God guided his people to create a division of labor to accomplish specific tasks. Even Moses learned new things about leadership, e.g. to depend on his family and the Elders of the people. Moses' own father-in-law challenged him toward greater service to God's people through the use of delegation, (Exodus 18:13-26). Today, God's people rely on the gifts of the Spirit spread throughout the Body of Christ. In this time of great upheaval we have needed to rely on one another. Our call to live out the Kingdom has become difficult amidst confusion and physical separation. Yet, we find ourselves also needing to keep up with the constantly shifting progress of a pandemic and respond to a centuries old ache at the heart of our nation.

To this end, our Session has reached out in the spirit of Moses' delegation and in the blessings found through the gifting of the Body of Christ. When a large and novel tasks confront churches, Sessions can address them by creating a task force. It is a sign of the times that in the June meeting of our Session, we voted to create **four** such task forces. Each task force is made up of at least 2 Elders and several members of the congregation with expertise and or experience in the task they are to address. Each of these task forces will be responsible to aid the coordination and communication of our response to these complex issues. Additionally, these task forces will help our discernment process by making recommendations to the Session.

The Covid-19 Task Force will focus on our response to the pandemic. One of their initial points is the ongoing question of when to resume in-person worship. Should we continue our previous direction or shift course? Like most issues relating to Covid-19 this is a complex question. What benchmarks should be used; which officials should guide us; which statistics are critical?

The Racial Reconciliation Task Force will guide our congregation's response to racial upheaval. West Hills has a history of engaging racial reconciliation, but recent events have our members asking if we have further to go. This Task Force will help us frame our discussion. What are the important questions? What resources can guide us toward a biblically faithful response? What local leaders and organizations might help us engage beyond a theoretical approach?

The final two task forces will address our need for more pastoral staff. In the coming months one task force will begin to gather information from the congregation in preparation for the election of an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

The final task force will focus on a search for a **temporary** part-time Associate Pastor. To be clear, our Session has decided to hire temporary pastoral leadership until a more permanent Associate Pastor is called. We hope this temporary Associate Pastor will join us this fall.

The four task forces will help us address these pivotal issues, while allowing us to remain attentive to existing areas of our mission and congregational life. In the words, of Moses' father-in-law, "If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace." (Exodus 18:23).

A task force may reach out to you or to a Ministry Area in which you are involved in order to hear your concerns and questions. In the meantime, feel free to contact the church office or to email clerkofsession@whcomaha.org in order to connect with the Elders of a particular task force.

“Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds;”

Proverbs 27:23

By Gary Anders,
Elder for Personnel

In a time like this, with social distancing, online worshipping, and many staff working remotely from home, how do we as members “give attention to” or “know the condition” of the employees we have entrusted to keep West Hills functioning on a day to day basis?

In January, I became your Elder for Personnel. At the time it became necessary to quarantine, isolate and social distance, I was beginning to get to know the employees of WHC. Since the church building closed and online services were started, the opportunities for face to face and casual encounters ended. It is a challenge to “give attention to” or “know the condition” of the staff. However, I am amazed at how positive and effective the staff have been during this journey.

Our **director of Church Administration**, Mike Alfieri’s quick action was key in obtaining the \$100,000 plus grant to boost the church’s budget. Mike has many responsibilities that often go unnoticed, but his dedication and hard work is key to the success of our church.

The **Youth and Young Adult coordinator**, Luke Burns, and **summer intern**, Mia Sherlock, are working hard to connect with the youth and young adults in the church. To name a few accomplishments: Monday Funday, a new name 406 Youth, the 406 Spotlight on July 19 when the 406 Flock liturgical dance praise team and the 406 Band will perform. In addition, while social distancing, Luke and Mia frequently connect with the youth on a personal basis.

Our **director of Worship and Music**, Kevin Gibson, is key in the development and production of the high-quality online worship services we are enjoying. Kevin’s direction of the Worship and Music Team and his organization of the worship services are exceptional. Kevin’s knowledge, skills and abilities are outstanding, and we look forward to many more excellent services.

The **Facility coordinator**, John Good, and his Maintenance Team, Don Good and Ricardo Lopez, have been hard at work on projects including painting, repairing, updating and maintaining the building and grounds so we will have a pleasant environment when we resume in-person services.

Our **pastor**, Andy Hamer, is doing a phenomenal job in this unique situation. While working remotely from home he is facilitating, directing, coordinating, and leading, not only the staff but the entire congregation on our journey with the living Christ and connecting with God, others and the world. Working with and having Andy as our pastor has been a blessing for me, the staff and the members of West Hills. The lessons Andy provides during his sermons are outstanding.

The **director of Communications and assistant to the pastor**, Heather Hipp, has been amazing when you consider all she has accomplished. The “West Hills Church Queen of Zoom” has made it possible for the staff and many church members to connect through staff meetings, small groups, committee meetings, Session, Bible studies, etc. This is in addition to all of the other tasks Heather accomplishes.

Our **accompanist**, Kathy Leach, unselfishly shares her talent on the keyboard, provides us with emotional and spiritual experiences during the worship services and through the solos she provides online. We look forward to the day when Kathy is able to again share her extraordinary talent on the organ when we resume in-person worship.

The **receptionist/administrative assistant**, Rosa Norman, continues to faithfully answer phones, direct people’s inquiries, and effectively support the rest of the staff.

Our **director of Family Ministries**, Jessica Scheopner, with her creative and dedicated spirit, has provided excellent experiences for many. A few examples are “Welcome to Summer” deliveries for families with preschool and elementary school children, adapting the VBS Camp Everest program to kits provided to 100 children and helping to facilitate fellowship-focused small groups for children. Jessica will be leading a small group “Faith in an Anxious World” for high school girls. Jessica has been assisted by **Nursery coordinator**,

Article by Gary Anders, continued

Erika Hanna, and **Family Ministries assistant**, Kim Sedivy, in this important work. Due to additional responsibilities outside of West Hills, Kim has resigned as Family Ministries assistant, but will continue as a caregiver in the nursery when in-person services resume. We thank Kim for her work and dedication

From the effective work of the staff at West Hills Church, the condition of our staff appears to be good, even in these times when giving attention is a challenge. Even though some may grow weary, especially while being required to do extra duty, learn new skills and learn to do things in a “different way,” the staff are working diligently to do what is right and they have never given up.

We recognize and acknowledge their hard work, thank them for their dedication and keep them in our prayers.

“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

SPIRITUAL CORRESPONDENCE

by Jana Prescott

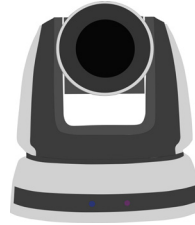
First things first: Are you all still doing okay with our church service on the computer? It did take me a while to find it the first Sunday we used it, as it probably did most of you. But now I can find it and listen to the service. I've got to be honest: I miss all your faces, and I will be overjoyed when I see you all again, when this virus has gone away. But really, thinking about any tough time anyone is going through, I think it's important to remember that in the midst of this, God is with us, keeping us steady and having us really see what will happen in each way we are going. I mean, how glorious is it when we feel His joy in the midst of what we're doing now: Anything from staying home and spending more family time together to listening to a West Hills service online!



APPROVED CAMERA/VIDEO PACKAGE FOR SANCTUARY

by Kevin Gibson, Director of Worship & Music

In their May meeting, the Session approved the purchase of a new two-camera package for use in our sanctuary. Currently, we have a very limited camera/video system, so this new system will be quite an improvement for us.



The cameras that we purchased are known as PTZ: Pan-Tilt-Zoom. The benefits of this type of camera are: 1) they are small and unobtrusive; 2) they can be programmed to capture several views/angles, and 3) one person can operate both cameras via software and/or hardware.

Since we were basically starting from scratch, we went with a bang-for-buck package. The cost of this package, including installation/labor is \$10,500. At this point, some of you might be thinking that this sounds a bit pricey to be considered “bang-for-buck” and I understand that thought. However, as a point of reference, churches are regularly spending \$3,500-\$5,000 for a single camera, or even \$10,000 for a camera. (Along with the cameras, the other major expense included in this package is a new designated laptop.)

With the installation of this new camera system, we will be able to live stream our worship services to our website as well as other platforms such as Facebook. We will also be able to save these videos for on-demand viewing on our Vimeo channel. Besides worship services, we will now have the ability to stream and/or record special events, weddings, and funerals. If needed, we can also stream an event by invitation and that is password protected.

As far as the projected installation date, we're currently waiting on one of the cameras that is back-ordered. As you might imagine during this coronavirus season, there has been a high demand for audio/video equipment. We're hopeful this system will be ready-to-go by the time we return to in-person worship.

Have questions? Comments? Feel free to email me at kevin@whcomaha.org.

HOSPITAL & BABY VISITS

by Mary Turner, Deacon of Practical Needs

Hello West Hills! As a Deacon of Practical Needs, I have the pleasure of arranging volunteers to make hospital calls and new baby visits. With the onset of COVID-19, these ministry areas have been directly impacted, but certainly not forgotten. Although we have been unable to send our volunteers to make face-to-face hospital calls due to the restriction of visitors, we have still been able to lift our members up in prayer and reach out via telephone, mail, or social media during this time. Just as we cannot physically see God, we can still feel his presence in our lives, and we hope our members who have been ill can feel the power of the prayers and love we have been sending them during a time of physical and spiritual need.

As a healthcare professional, I have personally been able to visit a few members at Methodist Hospital over the past few months. I had the pleasure of working with Peg Ziegler during this "no visitor" time. For those of you who don't know Peg, she is such a gem! I'm fairly confident I enjoyed the visit just as much, if not more, than she did. I also had another patient who I discovered lives in the Westgate community. Although she doesn't belong to West Hills, she does utilize our "Servant Sunday" services and has a member of our church assist with regular lawn care. She spoke very highly of West Hills and was appreciative of the care she receives from our congregation.

New baby visits can still be arranged and can occur in a safe manner. Please notify the church now if there is a new bundle of joy we can recognize. This includes the delivery of a meal as well as a Bible and a few baby gifts. We can do a simple porch drop-off when making these visits in order to maintain appropriate social distancing.

If you know of a member who has been ill, hospitalized, or has recently had a baby, please notify Heather Hipp. She will get the information into the right hands. And, if you know of a member or friend who lives in a facility that isn't allowing visitors, I encourage you to reach out to them in some capacity. This has been a time of great loneliness for many, and hearing a familiar voice or receiving a card may be the perfect glimpse of Jesus they are longing for.

-- JOIN US LIVE --
406 SPOTLIGHT
July 19 at 7:00 PM

The **406 Spotlight** will be a night of worship, dance, prayer, scripture reading, and interactive Bible stories led entirely by our Youth Ministry! The youth are very excited to use their gifts and talents to shine a spotlight on Jesus!

The **406 Spotlight** can be enjoyed from the comfort and safety of your own car. The youth will perform outside on the west staircase that leads to the front doors of the church. The entire night's festivities will be broadcast via an FM radio transmitter, so you can hear everything through your car radio at 107.9. We believe this night will be a blessing for our church and a great outing for the entire family!

FAITH @ HOME IS FOR YOU!

by Jessica Scheopner, Director of Family Ministries

During this pandemic, we have all had to look for new ways to connect with God, one another, and the world. One of the unexpected blessings in this hard season is that there has been an incredible amount of applied creativity in all areas of ministry and mission. I bet you can think of examples in your life right now. Maybe you have participated in one of the Friday night events or taken time to write an encouraging note or delivered a surprise to someone's porch. Maybe you have served in mission in a new way by bringing sloppy joes to a cooler, or food bank donations to a barrel, or served a neighbor with a need. Maybe you have volunteered to lead a small group via technology or shared your artistic talents online. Nimble innovation has been one of the good things that has come about because of the pandemic.

As with most other areas, Sunday mornings have been full of innovation and adaptation. As far back as I know, West Hills has continued Sunday School or Crosswalk during the summer. That has served us very well for years, but this summer, we realized that we needed to do discipleship in a different way, and we have adapted our plan in a way that we hope will reach more broadly and deeply by connecting worship and discipleship for children, teens, and adults.

It starts with worship. It is good news that worship is for all ages and stages, in the God-proclaimed beauty of our mundane messiness. This summer, as we gather together in heart to worship, we are encouraging families to purposefully include their children and teens in worship.*

When we began working on a new project called **Faith @ Home**, we started with the idea that it would be ideas for engaging kids, but as it came together, it quickly became clear that **Faith @ Home** is actually a discipleship tool for everyone in the congregation. When you write questions for teens and their parents to discuss over dinner, those same questions are great journal prompts or small group questions for mature adults. When you explore how root systems work, or what it looks like to refine metal, you find there is fascinating learning and metaphor to be explored for kids, teens, and adults. I hope each of you will go to the **Faith @ Home** link on the church

website to find ways to engage with the sermon all week long. There are ideas for children, teens, and adults; discussion questions, links to music or video to give another insight, games, and crafts. **Faith @ Home** changes each week based on the sermon, but the purpose remains the same – to help us each to connect more with God, to connect with one another as a faith family, and for the transformation that happens in those areas to help us connect with the world.

* If you'd like some ideas for engaging in active worship with kids or teens, give me a call – I'd love to brainstorm with you about what might work in your unique home and share some of my favorite resources.



We are so grateful for all of you in helping make our annual Young Life garage sale fundraiser such a success!! We had many families donate items and some even volunteered to help out!! I am happy to announce that we raised over \$6,300; all of that money goes to send kids and their leaders to Young Life camp! This church and all its members are a vital part of reaching kids here in the Omaha metro area with the message of Jesus Christ!!!

We are eternally grateful!!

*Blessings,
Ann Brown and the entire Young Life team*

QUARANTINE DAYS (Part One) by Wendi Meyer

We certainly are experiencing an unprecedented time due to the coronavirus in our lives. Many church members have been staying home or venturing out just a little bit. Certainly, our usual activities have been limited, altered, and curtailed quite a bit.

How blessed we have been by Pastor Andy's online worship services accompanied by our worship team and those who share scriptures. It's a great time to find out about the news of the church. Inspiring as well are the meditation inspirations he shares in his "Thursday Thoughts" for all of us. Musical moments from Kathy Leach lift and soothe our spirits so beautifully. Reading the installment of "She Mail" provides more news of the church, lovely pictures and quotes, as well as book and movie suggestions. We are grateful for your hard work and diligence with these communications, Angela Arner. Some comic relief has been provided by Kevin Gibson and Heather Hipp with mirth and merriment in their fun videos.

So many people have done deep, deep cleaning and disinfecting in their home...then cleaning all over, again and again. Straightening drawers, cleaning out closets and giving homes a complete overhaul were on many people's to do lists and continue to be a top priority.

Quite a few parishioners find solace and pride in working in their gardens and yards. Their efforts pay off in peaceful thought and lovely places to relax and reflect outdoors. In addition, actually putting pen to paper keeps many folks occupied as they write cards, letters, and notes to send out to others. Some have even set a goal to send personal communication every week to others. The results have been heartwarming responses from those who receive the treasured items in their mailbox. Catching up on reading helps to pass the time for many. Getting lost in a good book provides at least a temporary escape.

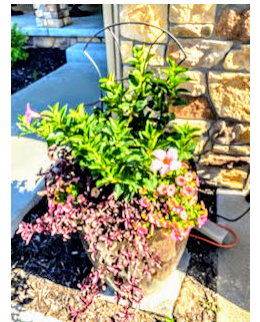
Quite a few folks have made a cottage industry



of creating face masks, each with its own style and pizzazz.

As for Dee Buckley, oh, she not only went through the drive-

through safari park but has been cleaning out her own yard. Special attention has been spent on her lovely flower beds. The Spieckers have passed many hours with the meticulous work involved in putting together 1000 piece puzzles. Peggy and Mike Kelley are like many who order their groceries online. She and Mike enjoy old movies from home as well as connecting with others on Zoom. Kelly Latimer-Briggs and her husband, Tim, spent much of this time in Florida. Since returning home, Kelly has tackled the job of painting cabinets and drawers in her bathroom.



Debra Chadwick, like so many others, has been getting things together from her home to donate. She is also cooking more and zooming all over the place. Recording marvelous music every day and putting it on Facebook for all to enjoy has been a splendid gift from Alan Anderson. Karen Lofgren Anderson continues to create her stunning quilts, working from home and tending her gardens that produce bright enchanting flowers for all to see. For Judy Nelson, zooming with family allowed her to meet her granddaughter, Ava, who was born on March 31 to Brandon and Sarah. Another avid gardener, Judy filled up multiple waste containers with weeds, planted and maintained her yard, and spruced up the landscaping. Trink Traudt's joy has been going on walks and conversing with folks from their porches to the sidewalks as they social distance. She loves to greet others and start warm conversations with them.

Sewing blankets, quilting, reading and overhauling her scrapbook area has kept Jane Loeck busy. Jane has "coffee online" or socially distanced lunches with friends when she isn't babysitting. Our dear Donna Peterson had a sty in her eye that went awry. The air-conditioning conked out in her home,

QUARANTINE DAYS, continued

enough to make her cry. The eye was operated on and is just fine now. Luckily, Donna was able to stay with family while she healed and the new air conditioning was put in her house.

As is the case with so many of our church members, Martin and Virginia Kurtz have been staying close to home. They go on walks for great exercise and fresh air. Sitting on their gorgeous patio is such a treat, as they listen to the peaceful sounds of nature all around them. It is interesting to note that Virginia even bought Jamaica Me Crazy coffee recently because the smell and taste remind her of our fellowship times and all of her friends at West Hills.

What a busy lady Peggy Shirley has been! Her days have been filled with volunteering at church wherever she has been needed, especially at the front desk. Peggy's other opportunities to serve include helping with the drive-through for Heartland Hope Mission as well as being involved with the Young Life garage sale. She looks forward to meeting with her small group in empty parking lots as they sit six feet apart in lawn chairs to study the word.



My days have been spent in various ways. I still enjoy drawing all over my deck at home with chalk. I stay in contact with my college roommates and may even do a fun little dance or two to some 60s and 70s music as we visit online. We take turns picking the music and it's quite a hoot to see senior citizens revisiting their

youth in such a zany way! Scrapbooking is one of my passions and it has been wonderful to have the time to keep on organizing pictures and mementos.

It may be a very different season of our lives with all of the impact the coronavirus has made on us in different ways. How thankful we are to draw close to the Lord for his guidance and assurances during this time. No doubt we will tell our children and their children about our experiences during this time in our lives. *This ends part one of a two-part series. Check back next month for more activities from our church community.*

THANK YOU
WEST HILLS CHURCH
FOR YOUR DONATIONS
OF CANNED GOODS AND
HYGIENE ITEMS FOR
OUR MISSION PARTNER



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Almond Cookies by Gloria Zinn

You may have tried one of these cookies during Sunday morning fellowship (before coronavirus). They were a favorite among many...so sweet and buttery! Thanks to Gloria for providing an ongoing supply of these each week over coffee and conversation.

Ingredients:

1 cup butter	2 cups flour
¾ cup sugar	½ tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. almond extract	¼ tsp. salt

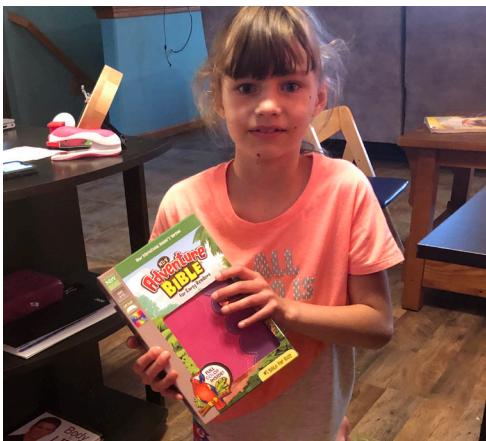
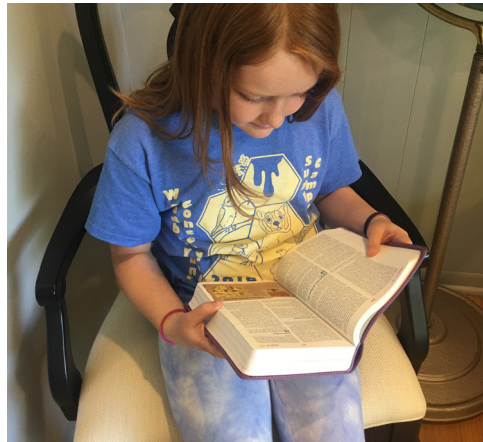
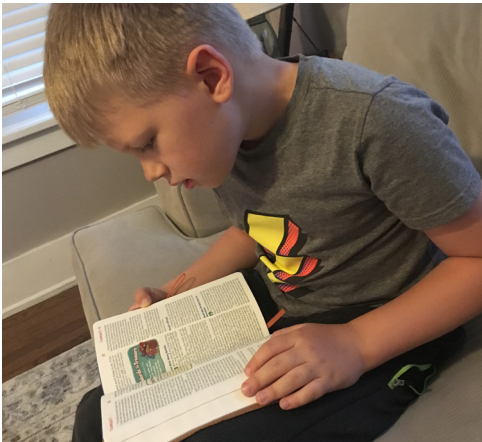
Mix ingredients until creamy. Roll into balls and place on cookie sheet (they spread so make balls small). Flatten each ball with the bottom of a glass dipped in sugar. Bake in 400 degree oven for 7-9 minutes (don't let them brown). Once cooled, frost with glaze: GLAZE: 1 and ½ cups of powdered sugar, 1 tsp. almond extract, 4-5 tsp. of water. Put an almond or almond slice on top of each cookie.

2ND GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

At West Hills we strive to support parents in their role of nurturing their child's faith. One way we do that is through our long-standing tradition of presenting a Bible to students when they learn to read independently. Usually we do this as part of Sunday worship to signify the importance of this milestone and the excitement of the whole congregation for their faith journey.

When we present the Bibles, we remind the parents that one of West Hills' values is that we are "Focused on the Word of God." This means we believe that the Bible is God's Word to us and through it we understand Jesus Christ as the living Word of God whom we are to hear, trust, and obey. Our church's confessions speak to scripture's importance in every aspect of our lives, so we ask the parents to help their children learn to love and use their Bibles while we teach this at Crosswalk.

This year, we did a couple of things differently: the Family Ministries Leadership Team decided to present the children with the same Bible that we use at Crosswalk - the NIV Adventure Bible - which the kids have already loved using in the classroom. Because of the pandemic, we wrapped and delivered the Bibles to each home for the parents to present to their children. We are thankful to have these pictures so we can celebrate this milestone and pray for our brothers and sisters to begin a lifelong adventure in God's Word!



- Mike Geiler, who is a candidate for ministry in the PCUSA and is under care of the West Hills Session, will meet with and provide an update to the Session at the July meeting.
- Due to scams, West Hills elder emails on the WHC WEBSITE will be replaced with the email address for the Clerk of Session (clerkofsession@whcomaha.org)
- Staff/volunteers will help troubleshoot ZOOM issues.
- Approved the motion to pay Nursery workers from the CARES ACT Grant.
- Approved the motion to stay the course with the decision made in May of adopting the Opening Up American Again (OUAA) Guidelines and revisit this decision at each monthly Session meeting.
- Approved setting up four task force teams with the following mandates: make recommendations to Session, coordinate between ministry areas, and communicate to the congregation.
 - Covid-19 Response
 - Racial Reconciliation
 - Temporary Pastoral Supply
 - Initiate the information gathering process necessary before beginning the search for an Associate Pastor.

**To experience all of our
video messages and
worship services, please
visit our Vimeo page:
vimeo.com/whcomaha**

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE BIBLE?

1. What was the tenth and final plague that God sent to Egypt to convince Pharaoh to free the Israelite slaves? A. Locusts B. Darkness C. Death of all firstborn D. Boils
2. What was etched on the twelve stones in the high priest's breastplate? A. The names of the kings of Israel B. The names of the tribes of Israel C. Elohim D. Yahweh
3. What two languages did the apostle Paul speak? A. Hebrew and Aramaic B. Greek and French C. Hebrew and Greek D. French and Italian
4. **TRUE OR FALSE?** A. Eve bit into the forbidden apple in the Garden of Eden. B. The phrase "This too shall pass" is found in the Bible. C. "Spare the rod and spoil the child" is a biblical teaching on child raising. D. "God works in mysterious ways" is found in Proverbs. E. "Cleanliness is next to godliness" is a famous Bible quote.
5. How does the 23rd Psalm start? A. "Now I lay me" B. "Our Father who art in Heaven" C. "Blessed are the poor in spirit" D. "The Lord is my shepherd"
6. What is the only sin that cannot be forgiven? A. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit B. Blasphemy against Jesus C. Blasphemy against God D. Blasphemy against the Bible
7. Where was the "wilderness" in which John the Baptist preached? A. Israel B. Jerusalem C. Hebron D. Judah
8. Who was John the Baptist's cousin? A. John B. Jesus C. Luke D. Peter
9. Who was John the Baptist's mother? A. Martha B. Mary C. Elisabeth D. Deborah
10. What was written at the top of Jesus' cross? A. Blasphemer B. King of the Israelites C. King of the Jews D. King of Liars
11. How was Ruth related to Naomi? A. Mother and daughter B. Niece and aunt C. Mother-in-law and daughter-in-law D. Aunt and first cousin
12. Who wrote the majority of the books that form a large part of the New Testament? A. Luke B. John C. Matthew D. Paul

(answers on the back page)



Our mission partner, Crossroads Connection, has also been impacted by the coronavirus. They are not able to meet for church services, but they are receiving devotional materials from their church partners.

Since we can't meet with them, we reached out to see what we could do to help. We are going to run a SNACK DRIVE the week of July 27. You can bring your donations to church on July 28 - 30 between 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and drop them off in the bins at the north entrance. Thank you!

**** Please ensure your donations are the single-serving size. ****

Suggested donation items:

applesauce cups
pudding cups
candy bars
toaster pastries
chips
cookies
Little Debbie snacks
nuts

KIDS CONNECT ART PROJECT

Right before the quarantine began, the Kids Connect group on Wednesday night was working on an art project with artist friend, Rachel Ziegler. As with every project, several steps are involved and the finished project included the video you saw at the end of worship on June 21. Below are a number of photos of the group during the making of this art project. **To watch the video go to www.vimeo.com/whcomaha**



This little light of mine - I am gonna let it shine!

**EVERYWHERE
I GO, I AM
GONNA LET IT
SHINE**

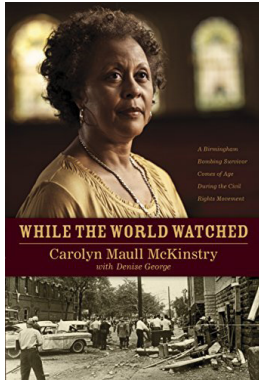


BOOK REVIEWS compiled by Gloria Zinn

In the church library you will find a number of civil rights and Black History books that you may be interested in reading, especially since our world has been experiencing so many demonstrations relating to racial problems. The following reviews are on three of these books:

1. *While the World Watched*

by Carolyn Maull McKinstry

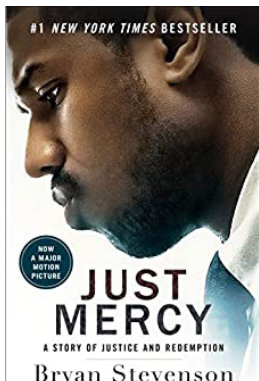


Carolyn Maull was 15 years old when, on a Sunday morning in 1963, a bomb killed four of her best friends who she had just been talking to in the basement of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Her life was never the same. She writes that she had accepted the Jim Crow laws as a normal way of life for all blacks, never

questioning why they were required to follow them, "as long as we obeyed the enforced Jim Crow laws and kept our mouths shut, things were bearable. Fear proved a way of life for most people of color." Ms. Maull wrote that growing up in the South there were signs in restaurant windows that said, "We serve no Negroes, Mexicans or dogs" and as she learned how to read she never thought to question those words....that is until on that fateful day in 1963 when her church and her world came crashing down. Her book tells the story of how, in a matter of minutes, questions began to propel her from a path of innocence toward becoming a Civil Rights activist. It was many years before the 3 men who bombed that famous church faced justice.

2. *Just Mercy*

by Bryan Stevenson

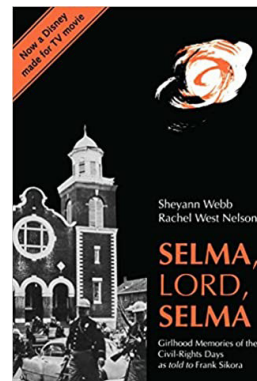


As a newly hired attorney, Mr. Stevenson is sent by his law firm to interview inmates who have been sentenced to death, but have sent letters to the firm requesting help to prove their innocence. These true stories in Mr. Stevenson's fascinating book take you on a journey of heartbreaking truths of wrongly accused

men who were often the victims used to hide some truths law enforcement departments did not want publicized. Through his experiences, Mr. Stevenson founded Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending the poor, the wrongly condemned and "those trapped in the furthest reaches of our criminal justice system no matter what the color of your skin." Part of this book was turned into a movie, so it may be familiar to some of you. It is well worth the time to read this excellent and factual book which describes in detail how there appears to be two forms of justice in our legal system in America.

3. *Selma, Lord, Selma*

by Sheyann Webb and Rachel West Nelson



This is a true story told by two women who, as very young girls, became involved in Dr. Martin Luther King's famous march in 1965 from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. This 50 mile march helped raise awareness of the difficulty faced by black voters in the South and the need for a Voting Rights Act. President Lyndon Johnson went on

national television to pledge his support for Selma-to-Montgomery marchers and lobby for passage of new voting rights legislation. These two young girls share their experiences leading up to that famous march, their experiences during the march, as well as what they felt during that extraordinary time in our history. They also share their involvement with their church and Dr. King's presence in their young lives. A short book, but a very interesting read.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JULY

2-Nancy Anderson
Noreen Johnson
Bud Nelson
Linda Schuchmann
3-Allison Kopperud
Caitlin O'Hare
Alisha Sauer
4-Jon Hoeven
Gavin Wohlgemuth
7-Greg Schuchmann
Tim Weller
8-Ginger Travaille
Jennifer Wohlgemuth
9-Alex Jansen
Kara Lenart
Phil Oftelie
Mike Overby
10-Jim Thomas
11-Jenn Julich
14-Andy Hamer
Karen Jarvis
15-Jim Isaac
Dave Turner
16-Grace Bailey



Barb Westcott
17-Julie Wollen
20-Terry Gadwood
21-Caroline Hamer
Heather Hipp
23-Michaella Dunn
Janet Laughlin
24-Bennett Bates
26-Graham Papenfuss
27-Joe Robb
Paul Springsted
28-Brian Nodes
Bob Sleyster

Sarah Weller
29-Sunny Gill
30-Jeanette Capps
Virginia Kurtz
Chris Moats
Jonathan Scheopner
31-Quinn Bates
August
1-Patti Brownlee
2-Hal Capps
3-Steve Reese
4-Sandy Jernigan

*(the remaining August birthdays will
be listed in the August newsletter)*

Bible Trivia Answers:

1) C 2) B 3) C
4) *All False 5) D 6) A
7) D 8) B 9) C
10) C 11) C 12) D

* Notes regarding trivia
questions

A) no mention of
apple, just fruit

B) not in the Bible

C) from a 17th century
poem

D) from an English
poet, not in the Bible

E) not written any-
where in the Bible