

The Chalice Chat

Hooker Memorial Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Rev. Kara Swartz, Minister

January 2021
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Kara's Kerygma

Freedom, choice, and responsibility are the words that came to mind as I read through 1 Corinthians both in Bible Study preparation and on my own. Particularly in chapters 6 through 13. This last year has been one where we have been strangely limited and yet also strangely free. The refrain "It's 2020" has been both permission and excuse for all kinds of things we have done in our lives that we, perhaps, have never done before. Many of us have let go of some of the expectations, the limitations, that we have set, or that society has set, or family has set. We justify the freedoms we do have and give permission for what we can do simply because we have been hemmed in by... so much...so little... our choices... or the expectations 'forced' upon us.

I say 'forced' because it depends much on the lens through which we view things. The reality is that freedom, isn't free. Freedom is not free. It is not free from consequence. It is not free from responsibility. It is not as free as we would wish it to be when we, as people of faith, are subject to the love of God and the call to be the love of God in this world.

When we acknowledge the love of God, we acknowledge that we are linked by that love to the body of Christ. We do not act freely on our own, but as part of the body. Linked, tied, bound together in love means what exactly? It means we can not act independently, but are held accountable to one another as the whole. It means when one says "I am a Christian" we are speaking, acting, and representing the WHOLE BODY of Christ. The caveat of "not like those other Christians" means little to someone who is viewing what you do and say as the representation of the Body of Christ that they encounter.

This concept is both challenge and prayer as we enter 2021. For the turning of the calendar pages shows us 52 weeks of potential and possibility for how we can BE the LOVE of God in this world. We are held accountable to our faith in everything we do. My prayer for us all as we begin 2021 is that we will seek to BE the Jesus Christ that people meet each and every day.

Rev. Kara



Worship

Onsite and Online

January 3 and January 17 at 10:30 AM

Onsite worship is offered currently on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month.

Our online Worship (10:30 AM) is every Sunday.

(No Bible Study during January)



Watch the church YouTube page for Grow in Worship Stories and links to
Worship & Wonder Stories on our Church Facebook Page.

CHECK YOUR EMAILS for ALL ADDITIONAL UPDATES

January Worship

January 3

Light It Up!

Matthew 2:1-12

January 10

Baptized by the Spirit

Mark 1:4-11

January 17

Come and See

John 1:43-51

January 24

Calling Those Who Believe

Mark 1:14-20

January 31

Authority of Faith

Mark 1:21-28

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, cards, and expressions of sympathy for the passing of Steve's brother, "Johnny." Your support at this difficult time was a great comfort to us.

Steve and Jennifer

In Sympathy

Our Christian love and sympathy is extended to the family of Peggy Roberson who passed away on December 17, 2020.

A Message from the Stewardship Committee



Faithfulness to the call from the Holy One hinges on the awareness that God calls us to be true to who we are. Yes, calling requires us to grow and mature. Still, the beginning is grounded in what is already there.

As God has allowed us to be faithful and true to our identity, out of gratitude for such we should respond to the call to go wider, deeper, higher, and farther. Faithful stewardship is holding in tandem where and who we were when Jesus called, with what we are called to be here and now.

Stewardship as a response to our grounding in identity frees us to display care for all things. It is treating people and institutions with a sense of historical value and cultural and spiritual purpose. The past informs the present and provides insight for the future.



Remember to mail in your commitment card!



It is only in recognizing
who we are
that we can move

forward
and remain

faithful.

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SCRIPTURE-PRAYER-ACTION-MISSION

▶▶▶▶ YOUTH GROUP ENCOUNTER 2020-2021

Learning how we can encounter our faith at home, in our community, and in our world through Scripture, Prayer, Action, and Mission.

Coordinating some new things for January and beyond – watch your inbox for more information.

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| C | Y | L | L | I | K | U | I | O | N | WEALTH | NEEDLE | FOLLOW | CAMEL |
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