

The Lenten Discipline of Gratitude

These days it is easy to slip into complaining. There is so much going on in the world and it isn't all good. In fact, it is quite unnerving. The Coronavirus Disease has the world in a frenzy with confusion and fear. Italy is in a lockdown, Austin cancelled the annual SXSW festival, the financial markets have been topsy-turvy, and everyone wonders what is next. There is much about which to complain just from a world perspective let alone our individual lives. We are called, however, to a life of gratitude. A life that does not ignore real threats but that isn't anchored in them; rather that it is anchored in God. I share another quote from one of my favorite spiritual writers, the late Henri Nouwen:



“Gratitude, however, goes beyond the "mine" and "thine" and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift. In the past I always thought of gratitude as a spontaneous response to the awareness of gifts received, but now I realize that gratitude can also be lived as a discipline. The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy (Henri Nouwen, *The Prodigal Son*).”

What might it look like for you to acknowledge that all that you are and all that you have is a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy?

~ Pastor Cheryl Ann

GWOH Homeless Coalition Donations – THANK YOU!

Donations for the February God's Work Our Hands project have been gratefully accepted by the Homeless Coalition. Thank you to all who contributed!

Leadership Team Update

The Leadership Team met on March 12, 2020 to discuss many planned and ongoing projects. We are grateful to everyone that are sharing their musical gifts with us when Kevin is not available. The Leadership Team discussed CTK Mission statement and will present to the Congregation at this week's Town Hall meeting. We have set aside April 4 to prepare the Sanctuary for Easter – more details to follow. We are drafting a policy to address the Covid-19 virus. We agreed that we will temporarily suspend shaking hands & touching elbows when sharing the peace. We can make the peace sign or use praying hands during this time (or whatever Congregation members are comfortable with).



God's Work Our Hands Dinner

Acting with an abundance of caution, the God's Work Our Hands Dinner is postponed. Details to follow when a new date is set.



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