

August 28, 2020

We're heading into the weekend that brings worship back to our building. Hallelujah! We have been careful, perhaps some would think too careful. We're not going to be singing, but I certainly can shout (in my own home) Hallelujah!

This week we have focused on making the church ready for your return. Wednesday, the whole place was ionized. Vickie said when she arrived to work on Thursday that it smelled like a rainstorm! Carol and John Flurschutz painted the new handicap bathroom. Phil Pratt changed all the lightbulbs (how many Pratts does it take to change a lightbulb? 1!) The wifi has been upgraded with access points in the sanctuary, the fellowship hall and the Sunday School hallway. That will help us stream the service on social media. Marcia Pratt and Sue Johnson cleaned up the room to the left of the pulpit to store the bells. Brian Brizzee has been cleaning, cleaning, cleaning.

In other news, the Office for the Aging Luncheon Center is opening up on Monday. They will not be able to play contact games like cards, but will be able to share a meal together. If you're interested in eating together with your friends, call the OFA at 268-9390 to make a reservation. Rev. Beverly Karr-Lyon will be preaching this Sunday. Her sermon is titled "Holy Ground." The scripture readings are Romans 12: 9-21 and Exodus 3: 1-15. Jim Knapp and Carol Flurschutz have prepared special music. The order of worship will be a little different, to accommodate the fact that we won't be singing, passing the offering plate, or having communion. The readers are Sharon Dimmig and Marcia Pratt. Remember to bring your mask. If you don't have one, we'll provide one for you (they're required). And if you don't feel well, please stay home. The service will be on Facebook live and also on Zoom. If you'd like to connect with Zoom, reply to this email and we'll send you the meeting link. It will also be posted on YouTube later.

I've been thinking a lot about our gathering together again. Things will be different. We won't be gathering in the hallway to chat. We'll have to save that for the parking lot. We need to be intentional with our conversations because we can't hang around the coffee pot. We'll have cameras in our pews to send the service to those at home. And you know what happens when technology is involved – glitches happen. Signals can be lost (or crossed). And that's what I've been fussing about.

And then I thought about what our faith teaches us - forgiveness. I think about Peter, the disciple. Even after Jesus told him he would deny he knew him, and Peter said he would never do that, he did just that. Three times! And yet, he was forgiven. Jesus gave his life for the forgiveness of all. God's grace is given unconditionally. We need to be careful with each other as we return to church. We're all trying to do the best we can for this wonderful church family. Mistakes will be made. May we also be abundant with our forgiveness.

Grace and Peace,
Kim