

Pastor Ponderings

It is starting to feel like summer. Summer is the time of year when Paula and I try to take advantage of all that God creates summer to be by spending more time outside. I have found that it is easy for me to fill up the extra daylight hours with wonderful activities, but I often put my availability to God away along with my snowshoes and long underwear.

I invite you to intentionally schedule into your life regular times and places in which you make yourself available to God for intimacy of relationship and the work of transformation that only God can accomplish. Scheduling a place to be available to God is intentionally setting aside a physical place where you will commit to being open to God. This may be a room in your house, a walk in the woods, or a patio chair outside. It is a place that you can be alone with God, without interruption. Scheduling time is committing to a specific time where you will be available to God. Perhaps you begin with 10 minutes. Again, a time that will be free of interruptions.

So what does being available/open to God mean. Mostly it mean being aware of God - quieting ones self and letting God's presence soak in. For some it is helpful to begin by reading a verse in the Bible, being quiet, praying "Come Lord Jesus", etc. There are no have to's. It means any practice that allows the busy-ness, agendas, and burdens of your life to give way to God's presence. Also, it is important to resist the urge to judge your experience. The purpose of being available to God is just to be with God, to commune with him on that beyond-words level that those who are in love know so well.

I encourage you to regularly try it out. Set aside a time and place each week from now until Labor Day and experience your life transformed.

Pastor Tim

Membership Exploration Class - New Date and Time

The rescheduled class will be held on **Sunday, June 22nd from 2pm -4:30pm**. If you are interested in becoming a new member, this is the time to explore what being a member of Greensky Hill Indian Mission United Methodist Church means. If this date/time do not work for you, another class will be held in the fall. ***Please contact Pastor Tim (582-9441) if you are interesting in attending.*** After attending the class, if you desire to join our church we will be accepting new members on an upcoming Sunday.

June Trustees and Council Meeting Date Change

The June Trustees and Council Meetings have been changed to June 17th. The Trustees will be meeting at 6:00pm and the Council at 7:00pm. Please note this on your personal calendar.

Prayer Requests

Scott Groves Family	Jorge Del Castillo Family
Charles Kellogg Family	Kevin and Clydell Willis
Herm Drenth	Little Nicole
George and Marcie DeGraeve	Dan McCreery
Margo and Kala Kalilimoku	David's Son
Rose Greane	Sharon Stout's sister
Angeline Genia	Joshua Gloria
Phyllis John	Dan and Carol
Russell and Karen Funk	Lilly Richardson
Lucy Funk	Scott
Renee Swadling, Casey and Nicole	Jack and Katie
Matthew Cross	The Houghton Family
The Trimper Family	Carol King and Satori
Calvin Hill	Phillip Slocum
Fran Tollas	Kim and Mary
Kay	Matthew B.
Marsha and Nancy	Shirley E.
Rose Kassube	Chris and Libby
Glen and Linda	
Our military and all oppressed peoples in the world	

Liturgists

June

1 Albert Colby, Jr.
8 Daugherty Johnson
15 Matthew Koontz
22 Lynn Groves
29 Judy Johnson

July

6 David Wassenaar
13 Rene Demanaeus
20 Lynn Groves
27 Alice Harvey

August

3 Clydell Willis
10 Ed Jakeway
17 Ed Jakeway
24 Christopher Demanaeus
31 Lynn Groves

Birthdays

June

1 Mike Mitchell
3 Craig Adams
16 Emory Sloan
16 Marsha Sutton
17 Pastor Tim
18 Dora Willis
18 Derek J. Willis
19 Hayden Johnson
19 Derek Willis

July

15 Wendy Sloan
18 Paula Wright
24 Marilyn Williams
27 Aaron Robinson
30 Sara Sheaffer

August

4 George Seamer
8 Dennis Dominic
9 David Wassenaar
10 Judy Elzinga
11 Pastor Geri Litchfield
17 JoAnn Elzinga
17 Neil Cross
19 Dorothy Perry
22 Pastor Carl Litchfield

26 Matt Koontz
30 Carol Tally

Anniversaries

June

22 Dale and Lori Willis

July

4 Mark and Dorothy Perry
5 George and Brenda Seamer

August

3 Duffy and Robin Johnson
13 Bob and Sue Peterson
29 Brian & Valerie Williams

ANNUAL CAMP MEETING – JULY 11, 12, 13, 2008

Please join us at Greensky Hill Church for a fun and spiritual three- day event praising God through music, messages, and tribute. Weather permitting, all services will be in the outside chapel area.

This year's main speaker is the Rev. Carol Lakota Eastin. Rev. Carol Lakota Eastin is the founding pastor of the Native American Fellowship-Dayspring UMC, E. Peoria, Illinois.

Carol's heritage is Lakota, Yakima, French, Irish, and Algonquin by adoption. Her native name was given to her by the Yupik people. Her husband, Bill, is a United Methodist Pastor. They have one living son, Luke, 18, and another son in the spirit world. Her journey with grief and loss has had a profound impact on her life and ministry.

Carol received her BA in Music Education and Psychology from Mac Murray College, her Master of Divinity and MA in Christian Education from the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, and her MA in Counseling Psychology from Illinois State University. She has worked in local church, hospital, and clinical settings. She is a fellow in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.

Carol serves on the General Commission on Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns, executive and theological education committee of the World Methodist Council. She has served on the board NUMNAC, NAIC, Flying with Eagles, and the NCKCONAM. She is the Executive Director of the NCJ Native American Course of Study School. Carol was the founding director of Return to Pimiteoui Pow Wow, and is the founding director of the Seven Circles Heritage Center – an intercultural / interfaith center.

CAMP MEETING (FRIDAY JULY 11 – SUNDAY JULY 13)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Friday: Camper Set-up all day.

5:00-6:30 PM- Fish Fry

7:00PM - Worship with Rev. Marshall and Mary Collins

9:00PM - Campfire, singing, storytelling, food

Saturday: Heritage Day (Cultural Displays all day)

10:00AM- 5:00PM Canoeing, horseshoes, volleyball, fishing

12:00PM – 2:00PM Hot dog Lunch

12:00PM - 5:00PM Native Crafts

2:00PM - Games: 3 legged race, balloon toss etc.

3:00PM - Learn Native Dancing

4:00PM - Two local artists will paint a 8ft x 8ft mural to music in 15 minutes, then recreate a new painting in the next 15 minutes.

5:00PM - Native Dinner

7:00PM - Outdoor Worship with Rev. Carol Lakota Eastin

9:00PM - Campfire, singing, storytelling, food

Sunday

11:00AM - Worship with Rev. Carol Lakota Eastin

12:30PM - Potluck (meat provided)

2:00PM - Video of “ The Four Directions”

5:00PM - Worship with Rev. Marshall and Mary Collins UMC NATIVE

AMERICAN LAY SPEAKER TRAINING

(July 11th-July 13th)

During Camp Meeting, you will have the opportunity to take the United Methodist Native American Lay Speaker Training course. This course is open to any person who is a member of a Native American Church. This will be a 10-hour training; those completing the course will become a certified lay speaker in the United Methodist Church.

Basic Class: Learn how to use your gifts as:

- A worship leader
- Sunday School teacher
- Leader of committee
- Visitation
- Witness in the community

Advanced Class: For persons who have completed the Basic Class
For more information see: Pastor Tim, Judy Johnson, or Molly Tate.

ORDINATION AND CELEBRATION

During the 2008 Clergy Session of the Western Michigan Annual Conference, Pastor Tim will be ordained. Pastor Tim's ordination will be held on Saturday, June 7th in the Fine Arts Festival Building at 7:00 PM on the campus of Calvin College in Grand Rapids.

On Sunday, June 22, 2008 a Celebration for Pastor Tim will be held at Susan Hall after the 5:00PM worship service. This celebration will be a potluck (please bring a dish to pass) and all Greensky Hill members and attendees are invited to honor Pastor Tim.

Pastor Tim does not wish any personal gifts for his ordination, but if anyone is interested in giving something in honor of his ordination, he would like it contributed to the Haiti Hot Lunch Program #418790. All contributions will be sent by Greensky Hill Church.

Congratulations, Pastor Tim!

FLEA MARKET – SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2008

The Greensky Hill UMW and the Men's Group will be working jointly to sponsor a Flea Market to be held On Saturday, June 28, 2008 from 9:00AM – 4:00PM at Susan Hall.

The groups are accepting donations to sell at the Flea market. If you have any items that you would like to donate, please bring them to Susan Hall on Friday evening, June 27th. For further information, please call 547-2745.

CHICAGO TRIP May 5, 2008

I just got back from Chicago where my youngest granddaughter, Lindsay Heise, graduated from Northeastern Illinois University. Her mother, two aunts and I went by train from Kalamazoo and arrived Friday afternoon. My other granddaughter, Becky, flew up from Lakeland, Florida.

We had reservations at a Holiday Inn-Mart-Plaza in the loop on the Chicago River. Our rooms were on the 20th floor; we registered on the 15th floor as the Chicago Sun-Times occupied the first 14.

We went out to dinner that night and got up early on Saturday to be at the university by 8a.m. as the outdoors ceremony was at 9:00. The sun was out, but it was VERY windy.

Later we walked the “magnificent mile” and saw a manhole cover from the East Jordan Iron Works. Returning to Lindsay’s apartment, we had treats and lovely Mother’s Day cards for the four of us.

Of course, we all had a good time and DIDN’T come home with another tattoo.

Madlyn Heise

COVENANT OF CONQUEST from a Sermon by Hoover Rupert

We create our own destiny by the way we live. If you are worried about Heaven or hell in the after life, take a look at your life now. Hell and Heaven are already present realities in the life of each of us. Life is eternal now, not at some distant date when death shall call us. How you live, the attitudes that govern your life, the service that render or fail to render—its accounting is not reserved for some distant day of judgment. Every day is a day of judgment for your life and mine. And we determine our destiny by the quality of our lives.

Gerald Kennedy once wrote that the most tragic kind of funeral service a minister is called on to conduct is not the kind that would seem obviously to be tragic. It is not the service for a youth whose life has suddenly snuffed out before he has even reached maturity, nor the infant who never gets a chance at living. But, said the Bishop, the most tragic funeral service is that for those who never learned to live! Those who come to the final hour with no friends—there is tragedy. Those who have made no contribution to the well being of the world—there is real disaster. And those who have created nothing in life worthy of paradise—there is failure! Life is judged on its quality of living, not on its length of days.

PEOPLE ARE SPECIAL

Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints on your heart.

To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart. Anger is only one letter short of danger! If someone betrays once, it is his fault... if he betrays you twice, it is your fault.

Great minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, small minds discuss people. He who loses money, loses much; he who loses a friend, loses much more; he who loses faith loses all.

Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art.

Learn from the mistakes of others... you can't live long enough to make them yourself.

Friends we are, you and me... you brought another... now we are three... we started a group... our circle of friends, and like that circle, there is no beginning or end.

Yesterday is history... tomorrow is a mystery... today is a gift... that's why it's called the present. *Author unknown*

TIPS TO IMPROVE FUEL ECONOMY

- Keep your car tires properly inflated and wheels aligned. Proper inflation increases fuel economy by as much as 5%.
- Lighten your load. Don't store unneeded items in the trunk. Every 100 pounds of extra weight reduces typical vehicle gas mileage by 1 to 2 percent.
- Drive at the posted speed limit.
- Avoid "jack rabbit" stops and starts.
- Don't let your car idle for extended periods.
- Driving wisely is good for your health.

Q & A FOR RETIREES

What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?

Ans. If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.