

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

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Upper Room

Don't forget to let us know if you would like a copy of the Upper Room! Volunteers are willing to drive them over to your home!

New Generations

We celebrate the new life that has come into our families:

Bev Engel welcomes: great grand daughter, **Elise Tala**.

Brian and Peggy Krebs welcome: great grandson, **Jameson**.

Wynona Morrison welcomes: great grand daughter, **Nora Lucille** (Nora is a variation of Norman, Wynona's late husband).

New generations to share? Talk to Jan Olson or Beth Schmidt.

Prayers

We continue to pray for:

Sheila Streigl

Arlene Kern

Evelyn Bohrer



Graduation in the Age of Pandemic



Youth Sunday is always an anticipated highlight each year. However, in the age of corona virus, this Sunday provided an emotional reflection on this watershed moment. Northminster has two high school graduates this year, Annika Carlson and Andy Voyles. Annika plans to continue her study at North Seattle Community College. Andy has plans to study at Montana State University in the fall, pending the

opening of the dorms.



The Church Library is Going on the Road!

Jan Olson, caretaker and curator of the Northminster Library, has offered to organize a drive-by library.

See the enclosed article for an update of new books. Special thanks to Jan for paying careful attention to our cultural moment and helping us to gain increasing understanding of how to gain a broader perspective.

Please call Jan directly if you would like a drive-by library experience. Her phone number is: 206-629-4482.

New Church Directories!

After much hard work, we have new church directories to distribute. If you would like one, please call the Church Office and let us know by leaving a message.

Pastor of Poetry

Many remember our October Friendship Luncheon, where we had the honor of being with Rev. Gordon Cramer, Pastor Emeritus of Northminster Presbyterian Church. Gordon lives locally, and continues to write poetry for family and friends. When I reached out to Gordon to ask for his most recent work, he was more than happy to share.

FOR CAROLYN

(written for his sister, whose husband died in early June)

The duet has concluded;
the players have made their bows,
been duly thanked and praised
by those present;
who have shared with laughter and tears
their memories of
themes and melodies
experienced.
While notes just played continue to resonate,
an encore
is called for and encouraged.
One player having already left the hall;
the encore will be
solo;
an improvisation
composed
of memories of music from the past;
old harmonies
woven as
summation
of all that has gone before;
with a few new notes added
anticipating
a future.

g.cramer 6/9/2020



Jan's Book List:

RACE and SOCIAL JUSTICE:

Alexander, Michelle. **The new Jim Crow: mass incarceration in the age of colorblindness.** 2012

Angelou, Maya. **I know why the caged bird sings.** 1969

Baldwin, James. **If Beale street could talk.** 1974

DiAngelo, Robin. **White fragility: why it's so hard for white people to talk about race.** 2018

Ellison, Ralph. **Invisible man.** 1952

Obama, Michelle. **Becoming.** 2018

Taylor, Quintard. **The Forging of a Black Community: Seattle's Central District from 1870 through the Civil Rights Era** 1994

Okada, John. **No-no boy,** 1957 (2014 ed.)

Skloot, Rebecca. **The immortal life of Henrietta Lacks.** 2010

Stevenson, Bryan. **Just mercy.** 2014

Whitehead, Colson. **The underground railroad.** 2016 (Winner of the Pulitzer Price and The National Book Award)

iNSPIRATION and FAITH:

Book of joy: lasting happiness in a changing world, 2016 (Desmond Tutu & the Dali Lama)

Frankl, Viktor E. **Yes to life in spite of everything,** 2019 ed. (author of Man's search for meaning. Just printed in English.)

Gaffigan, Jeannie. **When life gives you pears; the healing power of family, faith,**

BEN
Graduation Time
2020

A
long trail
easy, hard, boring challenging;
seeming without end;
then,
finally attained,
the top.
Sigh of relief,
sense of accomplishment;
pause to celebrate,
rest a bit;
be grateful for teachers,
mentors, supporters, encouragers,
all who helped
along the way.
Now what?
looking out your window
you see
a world no-one
has looked on before;
a changed world, a different world,
no marked trails;
no maps or charts, or guides;
you realize that you
like a Viking of old,
must take your degree, your wife,
your hopes and dreams,
to set forth on an uncharted sea;
venturing into the unknown,
seeking the way.

An old man sits watching from the shore;
knowing that youth, energy, and determination
will find the way to do what needs to be done.

g.cramer 6/25/2020

Book List, cont. :

Prejean, Sister Helen. **River of fire: my spiritual journey,** 2019
(author of Dead man walking)

Sifton, Elisabeth. **No ordinary men: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Hans von Dohnanyi.** 2013

Wiesenthal, Simon. **The Sunflower; on the possibilities and limits of forgiveness.** 1997 rev. ed.

Pastoral Remarks

The end of June resulted in a session decision to keep our facility closed to worship until further notice. While we recognize that not gathering in person has costs, such as loneliness, faith disorientation, isolation, and grief - the session, with much discernment, concluded that we must continue to bear these costs rather than risk the health of our beloved congregation. This is a deep grief, indeed. But one that we are hoping to relieve in part by providing other forms of connection and communication. Never has there been a greater time to pick up the phone and make a call just to say hello. Never has there been a greater time to send a letter or a card. Never has there been a greater time to greet the people around you with a kind word. Our times are deeply challenging. Yet our faith continues to teach us that as people of the resurrection, we stretch beyond the fear of death, even now, to greet others in compassion and kindness.

While we continue to meet each Sunday on the digital ZOOM platform, we recognize this is not for everyone. For those that continue to hang in there, I offer deep thanks! For those that have created some distance to see how things unfold, I understand and respect that. This is a hard time for everyone. We must not judge one another's choices in the face of such challenges, but instead stand by with increasing compassion.

I often think of our pre-pandemic time, and wonder if there was more that we could have done to imagine or prepare.

Imagine if we knew that our building would be used as a home 24 hours a day for those that are the most vulnerable?

Imagine if we knew that those that are staying in the building as a home have cared for it in a way that we could not during this isolated time?

Imagine if we knew the increasing value of small social connection over coffee?

Imagine if we knew the privilege of singing together in a congregation?

There are so many strange reflections during this time. And like always, they help us to see both the pain of the world and the faithfulness of God. We see the pain of our isolation, and we wonder if anything will return to a sort of normalcy. Yet, we also see the faithfulness of God, in the facility that has been cared for so that the church is not totally shuttered in this time. These two truths are held together as a faithful paradox.

I think of Martin Luther's famous phrase, "I do not know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future." Perhaps nothing better can be said as we face increasing uncertainty, change, and a wild expanse of unknown.

Very Warmly,

Pastor Dani