

May 8, 2020

Dear Friends,

In October 2019, we began to rent space at 58 Grosvenor Avenue to Union City Church (UCC) and their Ashes to Rubies ministry. It didn't take long to realize that UCC is a gift to Sunnyside. They have a whole lot to teach Sunnyside about salvation.

Jon and Vikki Ruby are the founding pastors. I dare you to try bumping into them – when that's allowed – without being moved to love God with your whole heart! They shine. Their fullness of life has come through a hard and hopeful story. Will you check out [Pastor Jon Ruby's story](#)? If you're between the ages of 12 and 100, I highly recommend it. By the third minute of the short film, Jon tells us:

“Over the course of time and the next few years I was introduced to cocaine at one party. And, as I did it, I said, ‘This is what I’ve been missing my whole life...’”

But that's not the end of his story.

Sunday Online Worship Gathering at 10 a.m.

This Sunday we will continue with our sermon series on 1 Peter. The verse that caught my attention this week is: “Like newborn infants, long for pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation.” (1 Peter 2:2) The big question is: What does it mean to “grow into salvation”?

Salvation is sometimes - inaccurately - defined as an escape from this body and this world. Meanwhile, salvation is better defined as “the redemption of the whole [person], lifting [their] entire being into the orbit of grace”. (Mildred Bangs Wynkoop, *A Theology of Love: The Dynamic of Wesleyanism*, 1972)

Through Jesus Christ, God invites us into a life of union with him not separation from him, starting now for eternity. We are invited into the way of whole-hearted love and fullness of life secured through a trust relationship with the crucified and risen Christ.

Salvation happens through embracing the One we've been missing our whole lives. If you heard Jon Ruby's whole story, you'll know he found Jesus (or Jesus found him)!

During our Sunday gathering, we will hear two Sunnyside adults give personal stories about how they are growing into salvation.

For Zoom links, [please contact me](#).

For this week's scripture readings and other announcements, go to [Sunday's bulletin](#).

Sunday School for grades 4-6 at 11:15 a.m.

You may 'send' your child to Sunday School (grades 4-6) May 3 at 11:15 with Simon Snoxell [here](#). (Meeting ID: 964 4226 4208; Password: 925750)

Tired of Zoom?

You're in good company. Check out this New York Times article on [Why Zoom is Terrible](#). Are we thankful for it? Yes. Are some of us tired of it? Yes.

There are psychological and physiological reasons for this. For example, we work harder to interpret social cues through video conferencing tools. Fatigue sets in: “To recognize emotion, we have to actually

embody it, which makes mirroring essential to empathy and connection. When we can't do that seamlessly, as happens during a video chat, we feel unsettled because it's hard to read people's reactions and, thus, predict what they will do."

So, let's go easy on ourselves. We were not built to relate through screens. We will keep figuring our way forward to the best of our abilities with much grace toward one another as we go. And, we pray and hope toward the day when we will be together in the flesh again!

Having trouble praying?

My colleague sent me [this picture](#) that may sum up the prayer experience for some of us! Sometimes there are no words...

I'm reminded of the help offered by the Holy Spirit: "the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words..." (Romans 8:26)

Keep on keeping on. God is with you.

With love and prayers,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)