

September 4, 2020

Dear Friends,

On Wednesday evening I ate Greek on Wheels take-out with some friends. It was so good that yesterday for my 50th birthday party I decided to order Greek on Wheels again. Two nights in a row. I have leftovers, so guess what I will be eating this evening? Yep.

I talked my family members into booking themselves for the Canterbury pool lap swim last evening. Lap swimming together. What better way to celebrate a birthday?

Let's enter into a thought experiment. What if I order Greek on Wheels again tomorrow, and the day after that, etc.? What started out as enjoyment of good food would turn into one large belly ache or an evolving physique. Or what if I lane swim at Canterbury pool every day then stand on a platform on my front lawn near the bus stop so that all passersby can admire my emerging swimming biceps?

It strikes me that I - and we - are prone to take good things and turn them into ultimate things.

During Covid-19 the rug has been pulled out from under us. There's nothing like a pandemic to cause us to scramble around to feel good by taking good things and turning them into ultimate things. We are at risk of taking small "g" goods and mixing them up with ultimate Good.

God is Good. He is the Creator of all good things. Ultimately, we need God. And we enjoy His good gifts.

I've begun an online course on addictions based on Richard Rohr's *Breathing Under Water: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps* and Gerald May's *Addiction and Grace*. This seems fitting these days, or any day. Rohr proposes that "we are all addicts. Human beings are addictive by nature. Addiction is a modern name and honest description for what the biblical tradition called 'sin,' and medieval Christians called 'passions' or 'attachments.'" During this pandemic may we let created things take their right place, and may we attach ourselves to our Creator, Giver of all good things, Source of all comfort and help.

Praying with the Psalmists: In-Person Evening Gatherings, this Fall

The last two Wednesdays of September, October, and November we will hold in-person worship and prayer gatherings in the church sanctuary. You may [register here](#) for either September 23rd or 30th at 7-8 p.m. The room will hold up to 48 people at a time. This month's theme is Living Through Loneliness. All people know what it is to be lonely. There are different types of loneliness; one is a kind of restlessness for the Good. Saint Augustine points to God as our ultimate desire and need: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."

We will hear scripture and reflections on different types of loneliness. We will reflect on how to respond to loneliness. We will hear music, pray, and participate in Communion. We will remember Jesus Christ, broken and given for us and for our salvation: God with us.

Sunday Online Worship Gathering at 10 a.m.

This Sunday I will be speaking on "Looking Out for Each Other," based on Matthew 18:15-20. Being the Church is about helping each other, and others, attach to Jesus Christ as the one we need.

The drawing challenge and individual story-telling in our gathering will be based on this question: What is one way that you have been helped by the Church to do what is best for you?

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

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

Fall Opportunities to Be the Church

You do not need to be isolated from community this fall. There are multiple ways to receive input and to come alongside others to encourage them. Check out our fall brochure [here](#). You will often be able to choose to be part of the community either online or in-person. When meeting in-person we will align with [Ottawa Public Health's Covid-19 Guidance for Places of Worship](#).

Have a great week! See you Sunday online.

With love and prayers,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)