

September 11, 2020

Dear Friends,

How are you doing?

September transitions are hard for many at the best of times. And these aren't the best of times. The prayer team met this past Tuesday to hold you before God. Families and children were on the top of our minds.

Yesterday I read a wise word about how we approach work. I thought some of you might find it helpful as you begin fall routines. "Unnatural, frantic, anxious work, work done under pressure of greed or fear or any other inordinate passion, cannot properly speaking be dedicated to God, because God never wills such work directly. He may permit that through no fault of our own we may have to work madly and distractedly, due to our sins, and to the sins of the society in which we live. In that case we must tolerate it and make the best of what we cannot avoid. *But let us not be blind to the distinction between sound, healthy work and unnatural toil.*" (T. Merton, *New Seeds of Contemplation* italics mine.)

Where there is the ability to do so, may you find a healthy fall rhythm. And if you find yourself burdened with what seems like "unnatural toil," or if you are without work and need it, please feel free to [share your burden](#). I/we will pray with you.

Sunday Online Worship Gathering at 10 a.m.

From organizing downtown scavenger hunts to creating a virtual escape room for Sunnyside Youth, to producing [TruthSNACK](#) videos on YouTube, to supporting Ottawa youth pastors through [Doulos Ministries](#), our Pastor Matt Bellefeuille has been described as one who "stands at the intersection of faithfulness and fun." It's his turn to preach this coming Sunday on yet another challenging text: Matthew 18:21-35.

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

For this week's scripture readings and other announcements, go to [Sunday's bulletin](#). For fall opportunities to connect with others, please click the "Building Community – Fall 2020" banner [on our website](#).

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

Please [register here](#) to participate either on September 23rd or 30th at 7 p.m. in the church building. 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.

As you continue to make your way forward, one day at a time, I remind you, and myself, of Psalm 4:8: "In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety."

God be with you.

With love and prayers,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)