

September 10, 2021

Dear Friends,

Faithful Presence

Before 2020, the staff team read David Fitch's *Faithful Presence*. Pastoral staff at the time, along with other spiritual leaders and preachers in our church worked together to offer a sermon series about faithful presence through the fall of 2019. The recordings remain on the website (September 8 to November 10, 2019).

I raise this because while no book is meant to be the be all and end all, some thoughts that come from *Faithful Presence* reflect a type of thinking that has been inspiring me for about twenty years. It includes an eyes-wide-open perspective about the problems in the church in relation to the world, but there is no interest in throwing out the baby with the bathwater declaring the church obsolete. The church is meant to express and live the goodness of Christ in society. To gather as a whole community to honour and encounter Jesus remains a high value, and everything - our smaller relational contexts (like small groups) and our efforts toward mission (elsewhere and local) - is the overflow of the worshipping community present to the Presence of God, carrying his presence in society.

Registrations: 100th Anniversary (Oct. 3), Women's Retreat (Oct. 15-17), Men's Retreat (Nov. 5-7)

We have some wonderful opportunities to be encouraged as Christ-followers and connected to each other. Please register as soon as possible.

First, our **100th Anniversary** outdoor worship service and party is three weeks away. It is off-site in Embrun so please plan accordingly. Event planner Sam Duncan has set us up for a great day. Please [contact the church office](#) for registration details.

Second, we have two retreats coming sooner than we think.

Women's Retreat (Oct. 15-17) at Silver Lake Wesleyan Camp

Rev. Krista Shaver will speak on "The Great Invitation" from Matthew 11:28-30.

Cost: \$130 for the entire weekend. Prices for partial weekend are available.

Men's Retreat (Nov. 5-7) at Silver Lake Wesleyan Camp

Chris Barrett will speak on "Being Rooted and Built Up in Christ" from Colossians 2:6-7.

Cost \$130 for the entire weekend. Prices for partial weekend are available.

Be in touch with [contact the church office](#) for registration details.

Upcoming Opportunities for Worship and Prayer

Monthly Worship Evenings Third Tuesday of the month (Sept 21, Oct 19, Nov 16, Dec 21) at 7:00 p.m.

This will be a low-key, "unplugged" worship evening in the church sanctuary; a time to sit in God's presence together in prayer and worship. You are welcome! Please [register here](#).

Weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting

Please feel free to [send your prayer requests](#) to the prayer team in advance of Tuesday's meeting at 11 a.m. We will remember you before the Lord in prayer.

Sundays In Person or by Livestream

We pretty much reached capacity in both Sunday services last Sunday. It was wonderful to be together. This week I will be speaking from James 3:1-12, a passage that pivots around these words:

“With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.”

What we say can either support or interrupt union between us and God, within ourselves, and with each other. We will share Communion together as a response to these ponderings.

Please [contact the church office](#) if you wish to join our Sunday services. Or you are welcome to [participate at 11 a.m. by livestream](#). Bear with us as we wait for software that will improve your livestream experience, for example, by giving you a good view of the words on the sanctuary screen as you also view the worship facilitators.

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

Peace of Christ to you.

With love and prayers,
Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)