



The Grapevine

JOYFUL HARVEST CHURCH • “Growing Together for Christ”

December 2020

Volume 7, Issue 3

Notes from the Press Room:

Welcome to the 3rd edition of the new Grapevine!

Verse of the Day: Psalm 27:14 “Wait for the Lord’s help - be strong and brave and wait for the Lord’s help.”

We are looking for some articles from you. Perhaps you have a recipe or a funny story you want to share. Tell us how you came to find Joyful Harvest. Come on, you know you want to! There has got to be writers out there. Where are you? Without caring and sharing how can we go on? OK, I’m done whining!

FROM THE KITCHEN: (submitted by Barb Harmel)

Rigatoni Pasta with Chicken and Sun-Dried Tomatoes (from Juliasalum.com)

Meat: 1 lb. thinly sliced chicken breasts - 2 Tablespoons olive oil - 2 Garlic cloves minced - 4 oz. sun dried tomatoes, chopped (if using tomatoes in oil make sure to drain them) - ¼ Teaspoon salt - ¼ Teaspoon paprika

Pasta: 8 oz. rigatoni

Creamy Pasta Sauce: 1 Cup half and half - 1 Tablespoon dried basil (or 2 Tablespoons fresh) - Dash of Red pepper - 1 Cup shredded mozzarella cheese - 3 Tablespoons capers drained - ½ Cup reserved cooked pasta water or more - ¼ Teaspoon salt

Instructions: In a large pan, on high heat, sauté garlic and sun-dried tomatoes in 2 tablespoons of oil for 30 seconds until garlic is fragrant. Add thinly sliced chicken breast, sprinkle with salt and paprika and cook on high heat for 1 minute on each side. Remove from heat.

In the meantime, cook rigatoni pasta al dente. Drain, reserving some cooked pasta water (about a cup).

While the rigatoni is cooking, make the pasta cream sauce. Add half and half to the skillet with the chicken. Add 1 tablespoon of basil and dash of red pepper. Bring to a gentle boil. Add Mozzarella cheese. Immediately reduce to simmer and cook constantly stirring, until all cheese melts and creamy sauce forms. Add capers, stir to combine.

Add cooked rigatoni to the skillet with the cream sauce and stir to combine. Add about ½ cup or more, pasta water to thin the sauce and make it creamier.

Council News –

Joyful Harvest Church, ELCA

Minutes November 17, 2020

Council Meeting

Meeting Called to Order by Ray at 7:01PM. In attendance via ZOOM: Ray Pratscher, Stephanie Peight, Theresa Ancona, Kim DuBois, Jim Larkin, and Pastor Doug in person and Trudy Moriarty.

Guest Comments: NONE

Opening Prayer and Devotion - A reading from Psalm 23 reminded us that even before we wake up every day, God has prepared our pastures and that we need to let the Lord be our shepherd every day. We need to remain near to God and 6' from others!!

Meeting minutes for October 20, 2020 were presented. P. Doug moved to accept, and Trudy seconded, motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Financial Report

- Financial Statements for October were presented.
- At this time, we are doing okay but Pastor Doug is going to start putting in a slide during ZOOM church to remind people to continue to send in their weekly offerings. Our regular offerings are down about \$2000 from last year at this time.
- We have had a few families leave our church since CoVid restrictions have been put in place. But many love being able to worship safely from home.
- There have been many unforeseen expenses this past year - parking lot, equipment to run ZOOM church services, etc....
- We are missing funds from the use of our building which also impacts our financial status.
- We did receive a sizable donation in the amount of \$20,000 which will be reflected in next month's financial report.
- Looking at the budget for next year, we agreed to increase the Food Pantry budget from \$3000 to \$3500 as one church has decided to stop their monthly support of the pantry and Joyful Harvest will try to pick up the slack.

Pastor's Report

- ZOOM Church will continue until we watch to see number of CoVid cases decline.
- Pastor Doug will meet with Health Professionals on Thursday evening - topic "How to Safely Return to Worship".
- Holiday Services - Thanksgiving Eve 7PM, Blue Christmas - December 20 7PM, and Christmas Eve services 7 and 10 PM. (Hopefully for Christmas Eve, will be prerecorded - music and Old Time Radio Show.)
- Pastor Doug's vacation is again on hold until things normalize a bit around here! The Bishop has provided this weekend's sermon based on Psalm 13.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Mission Endowment Fund/Constitutional Changes** - no changes but Pastor Doug explained that to create an Endowment Fund, we would need to update our Constitution which is at least 25 years old. It's a process we should consider starting once things settle down a bit in our world.

- **Habitat for Humanity** - They are up and running and looking for people to help. When we feel that it is safe enough for people to participate as a group, we will set up a date. Until that time, if individuals feel safe, they can contact and serve.
- **Feed My Starving Children** - They are up and running with restrictions to size of group, mask-wearing, etc. It was decided that we would let the congregation know and they can decide if they want to start going again.
- **Grief Share** - on hold
- **Media Outreach** - Bruce Harmel will now include minutes from our Council Meetings in the monthly newsletter.
- **ALL ON HOLD - El Divino mission trip, chicken and corn roast, volleyball night, birdhouse painting contest, silver anniversary, concrete pad behind church garage for outdoor worship, electric hookups, water line, Thanksgiving Potluck...**
- Theresa Ancona is selling some of the **Rummage Sale** items on FB Marketplace. Please continue to bring your treasures into the church. Fabulous job, Theresa!
- Work on repairing and refinishing the kitchen floor has begun and continues.
- AED equipment (Zoll) - purchase tabled until we are meeting in person again.
- Cleaning crew has been using a disinfecting sprayer which has been very time efficient for them. They come in monthly at this time or as needed after Blood Drive (small one in December and regular one in January), etc.
- **Things to discuss when we are fully up and running again** - sewing runner in the sanctuary, solar panels and grants to help pay for them - Pastor Doug says there are no grants for IL, Bruce Harmel knows of a church who has the panels and will check with them to see how they financed them. - Still waiting to hear back from Bruce.

NEW BUSINESS

- Hanging of the Greens - Church Council members will meet on Nov. 28 at 9AM to Hang the Greens in the front of the church - the part visible on ZOOM.
- Food Pantry - trying to streamline the distribution of food, always need more workers
- Angel Tree - Pastor Doug has set up a "gift registry" for the Angel Tree tags. **Please go to www.joyfulharvest.org/angeltree to make a purchase.** You will be able to select that item and it will then be removed from the registry so that we don't inadvertently purchase an item twice. Please deliver your gift to the church by Dec. 13!
- We have purchased several more blue chairs for sanctuary - very inexpensive and can be easily disinfected with mister.
- Kim will send coloring book ideas to Pastor as soon as possible to be sent as an Outreach to VBS kids for Christmas.
- It was also recommended that some funds be set aside at the end of the year for future purchase of new heating and air conditioning systems.
- Semiannual meeting will be held Sunday, November 22 after the Zoom worship service.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING - Monday, December 14 2020, at 6:30 - NOTE NEW TIME and DAY!!!!

Closing Prayer lead by Pastor Doug

Meeting adjournment: Kim motioned to adjourn; Ray seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:09

Respectfully submitted,
Kim DuBois, Secretary

Favorite Bible Verses from the Congregation

Challenge yourself, look them up for the context and perhaps you will see why it's a favorite!

Glen Stevens - Matthew 5:3-11 (the Beatitudes)

Donna Truax - Jeremiah 29:11-13

Secret Sisters Update - Rose Stevens

I have asked you all to reveal yourself to your Secret Sister. I hope to hear some cute stories. I'm going to reveal mine now. Ms. Josephine Lin, I am your Secret Sister! It has been so much fun keeping this secret from you. I hope it is a surprise and you didn't figure it out. For those of you who don't know Josephine, she is a sweet and kind lady that I got to know when she and her husband Manny started coming to Joyful Harvest. She is thoughtful and loves to cook! We have all enjoyed the many treats she has brought to fellowship, and have you had her egg rolls?!! I was eating them before service started!! I enjoyed praying for you each day and finding fun little cards. Josephine, it has been a blessing to be your Secret Sister and I am happy it doesn't have to be a secret anymore! You are now forever my sister and I can't wait until we can all get together and celebrate together with all of our sisters!

Things to Remember

- **God loves you - just the way you are.**
- Saturday, Nov. 7th the Cub Scouts hosted a Blood Drive at the church and 20 pints were collected. Thank you - Your donations make a difference in many lives! and the first person who calls Rose and tells her they have read this will win a prize!
- Men's Group will be meeting on Zoom each Saturday at 7:00am - Grab a cup of coffee and your slippers and join the guys as they share their thoughts on our Lord and study His word!
- Bible Study continues on Zoom on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm - Nothing like giving God the Glory!
- Virtual Rummage sale going on - Check it out on the web - you can find it under Joyful Harvest Church
- Savings with Susan: Go to the link on the church website for all your online shopping needs and Joyful Harvest will receive a donation each time you shop. So, sign up and find all the Deals & Giveaways!
- We are unable to work the ministries the way we normally do - But we can still support them! We are collecting monetary donations for the food pantry, OCC, Bernie's Book Bank, etc. You can also make a general donation to the church which will help in additional ministries. Remember the church is in a tight spot right now and cannot continue without your help. Please remember to send in your offerings and perhaps consider a donation to the church as well to help it maintain normal function at this time.

Quotes Shared: (submitted by Bruce Harmel)

" Bacon is nature's Prozac" - Billy Waite, (2010)

" Grandparents sort of sprinkle stardust over the lives of little children"-Alex Haley

"Socrates supposedly would ask before he spoke, is this true, is it kind, is it necessary? -Frazz,(2020)

"Each of us makes a difference. We cannot live through a single day without making an impact on the world around us- and we have a choice as to what sort of difference we make" - Jane Goodall

HOPE YOUR THANKSGIVING WAS FULL OF BLESSINGS & STUFFING!!!

Pastor's Page

⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." -- **Luke 1:46-55**

Who among us will celebrate Christmas correctly? Whoever lays down all power, all honor, all reputation, all vanity, all arrogance, all individualism beside the manger; whoever remains lowly and lets God alone be high; whoever looks at the child in the manger and sees the glory of God precisely in his lowliness. -- Deitrich Bonhoeffer, I Want to Live These Days with You, , p. 377

Mary gets it. She really does. Even though she's important enough in the timeline of the Savior that God would send Gabriel, God's own messenger, to visit her, Mary sees what is truly important. She says, in essence, "Even though God has done great things for me, it's not about me at all. It's all about God and what he has done, is doing, and will do. And I want to help."

Unfortunately, in today's world, we often expect everything to revolve around "me." And if things aren't all about me, then I need to make them about me. If it doesn't benefit me, then what good is it. If it causes me inconvenience, then why in the world would I do it? And, God forbid, it actually costs me something – time, money, energy, perceived freedom – those are mine and mine alone. Why would I give any of those up for someone else?

But Mary. Innocent Mary. What was Mary willing to do for God? Here she was, a girl of probably about 14 years of age. Just been told by an angel that she will have a child out-of-wedlock. Her *best* hope would be that she would be disowned by her family and her future husband-to-be, Joseph. Ostracized by society. Have to leave her home, her family, her friends. And that's her *best* option. More likely, she would be taken outside of town and stoned to death by those same "friends" and "family."

And in the midst of all that, with a cloud of uncertainty headed towards her, she says "It's not about me... Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

What if Mary had said "no"? What if she said "I don't think this is a good thing for me. I think I'll pass." Sound like the silly ramblings of a tired pastor? Maybe. But we say similar things all the time. We tell God no when we think of ourselves before we consider the needs of our neighbor. Mary's "no" might have changed the course of all human history – that's something that we could debate for a long time. But our "yes" or "no" in the face of the needs of this world is just as devastating – it shows the world what resides in our hearts. A "yes" shows the world that a Christian is truly about loving their neighbor. Serving God and changing the world. A "no" shows the world that Christians are all about themselves and that "I'm the most important thing in my life."

What would it take for us to be more like Mary? I don't think much. I think that it only takes a heart that is open to God's will and a willingness to follow wherever God is leading. It needs us to say that there is something more important in this world than me. It requires openness to justice and a passion for love. "I'll do it because God has done so much for me." And it all starts with a few simple words, Mary's words: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

God's peace,
Pastor Doug