

One voice

Weekly Newsletter of The United Church of Phelps

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Pastor Emerita— Reverend Shirley H. Filiatreau

Transitional Pastor— Reverend Ellen Donnan



FROM THE PASTOR: May 18, 2020

Has it really been five weeks since we “celebrated” the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ? Normally, we would have been together to celebrate, greeting each other with “He is risen!” and “He is risen indeed.” In the midst of the pandemic, have we forgotten about Christ’s resurrection?

Before our “normal” became the “new normal,” I decided to consider what it means to live a resurrected lifestyle. If the resurrection of Jesus the Christ made an impact on me as a person, what does that mean? What has changed for me? How do I live that out in everyday, ordinary life? Or does it make a difference in my life?

Eugene Peterson is one of my go-to authors. His life was focused on helping EVERYONE understand the Word of God and he even took on the task of paraphrasing the entire Bible to aid us in understanding – from his perspective – God’s message for us (and he entitled that paraphrase appropriately *The Message*). One of his books is entitled *Living the Resurrection: The Risen Christ in Everyday Life*. Using that resource as a basis for the next few weeks of my column, I want to encourage us to consider what “the life of faith is” as lived out in our lives.

So some thoughts to get us started: If the Church universal does not act as the representative of Christ, is it the church???? If the Church DOES act as Christ’s representative, what does that look like in everyday ordinary life? Can we be the BODY OF CHRIST here on earth if we only say we are without doing something different and unique from the rest of the world?

Why is this topic appropriate for where we find ourselves today? In talking about our culture, Peterson says that we are in a rush to get something or make something. We want instant gratification. We want to do what we want to do. We don’t want to wait, to ponder, to develop. We have forgotten what it means to do without, to do for others, to be courteous. And we, as a culture, have forgotten that God does not rush and developing a relationship with God takes time and discipline. And maybe, we have forgotten that one of the major responsibilities that Christ followers have is to grow spiritually by developing a relationship with our Lord, through prayer, Scripture, encouraging one another, and other spiritual disciplines, so that others see something different from society in our lives.

Part of the issue for our culture is that this spiritual growth does not happen immediately! If only it were that easy.... Billy Sunday was an evangelist a hundred or so years ago. He traveled all over North America with his tent, his chairs, and his sawdust which created a path from the chairs to the front where they would come forward for an altar call and accept Christ as their Lord and Savior. Billy had a formula for the ideal Christian life: “Hit the sawdust trail, fall on your knees, and receive Christ as your Savior. Then walk out of this tent into the street, get hit by a Mack truck, and go straight to heaven.” Not much work with that philosophy, is there?

I want to leave you with this thought: Spirituality is an actual life lived to the glory of God. How do we get from where we are now to when we live this out without having to work hard at it? Is it possible to get to the point where we do not have to work hard in order to bring glory to God through our lives? Stay tuned for the next episode of “Living the Resurrection Life.”

God bless! *Ellen*



The United Church of Phelps
Chicken & Pork BBQ
June 20th at Methodist Park
 (next to Vienna Gardens)

\$10 Dinner includes:
Pork Steak or Chicken Half, Salt Potatoes,
Coleslaw, Roll, Dessert

Orders must be in by June 15th at noon

Email orders to: ucpchickenbbq@gmail.com

Please include: Name, order, phone #

A confirmation email will be sent with a pickup time.

***You may call the church *ONLY* if you *do not* have an email at 315-548-2772, thank you for Understanding**

Social Distancing and protective measures will be used



Memorial DAY

Monday, May 25th

Heavenly Father, on this Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the examples of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Bless the families of our fallen troops, and fill their homes and their lives with Your strength and peace. In union with people of goodwill of every nation, embolden us to answer the call to work for peace and justice, and thus, seek an end to violence and conflict around the globe.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BIBLE STUDY



Let's Dig In together

Jerry Clark has felt a calling to lead a Bible Study. Many do not read their Bible on a regular basis for one reason or another and Jerry would like to offer his hand in helping with that.

This will not be an in-depth study but one where you all can read and have a discussion and try to get familiar and comfortable with the Bible and see how it all works and find your way with the word of God.

There are current limitations on gatherings but we can work out details once the size of interest is determined.

If interested or have questions call or text Jerry at 315-406-5814



The church is reaching out and asking if anyone has a rug cleaner they are willing to lend the church so we may do some spring cleaning of the rugs in the office area. Rug shampoo has been graciously donated already. Please call or email the church if you are able to help.

Thank you!

Will be meeting virtually this year.

In an effort to preserve safety and health, NWMC will be presenting an online conference for 2020.

WE WALK BY FAITH NOT BY SIGHT"



**With great sadness
Camp Casowasco and Camp Whitman
Will not be open this year.**

The United Church of Phelps

BOTTLE & CAN DRIVE

FUNDRAISING



Who has a stock pile of cans and bottles that you have not been able to return? Here is the perfect way to get rid of them and help the church. To make it as convenient as possible, there are several places you can bring your cans and bottles. This will be on-going so save up those cans & bottles and drop them at one of the many places to help support your church!

- Pat Hemminger's home, 229 Main Street Phelps, back by the red barn with a big –there will be a big crate with a sign to drop them off at.
- You can also drop them at the church. There is a BIG crate by the ramp with a sign. Frank and Missy are checking it often and returning them as needed.
- Coon Can's is OPEN. Hours are Mon-Fri 9:00 am - 5:30 pm and Saturdays 8:00 am - 4:00 .pm. You may drop them off there and just *specify* that you would like the money to go to "The United Church of Phelps".
- There has been an account set up at the bottle redemption in Clifton Springs by Dollar General Just *specify* the money to go to "The United Church of Phelps".

Thank you EVERYBODY!

**A giggle a day,
keeps the
grumps away!**



♡ Snoopy

If you get melted chocolate all over your hands, you're
Eating it too slowly!

Put "eat chocolate" at the top of your to do list.
That way you'll at least get one thing done.

The United Church of Phelps

May 24, 2020

Memorial Day Weekend

10:50 AM

Boldface text is said in unison

PRAISE SONGS

God is On the Move by 7eventh Time Down

Anytime a heart turns from darkness to light
Anytime temptation comes and someone stands to fight
Anytime somebody lives to serve and not be served
I know, I know, I know, I know
God is on the move, on the move
Hallelujah
God is on the move
In many mighty ways
God is on the move, on the move
Hallelujah
God is on the move
On the move today
Anytime in weakness someone falls upon their knees
Or dares to speak the truth that sets men free
Anytime the choice is made to stand upon the Word
I know, I know, I know, I know
God is on the move, on the move
Hallelujah
God is on the move
In many mighty ways
God is on the move, on the move
Hallelujah
God is on the move
On the move today
I see your generation standing on the truth
In each and everyday saying God is on the move
Anytime the Gospel stirs a searching souls
And someone says "send me, here I go"
I know, I know, I know, I know
God is on the move, on the move
Hallelujah
God is on the move
In many mighty ways
God is on the move, on the move
Hallelujah

God is on the move
On the move today
God is on the move, on the move
Hallelujah
God is on the move
In many mighty ways
God is on the move, on the move
Hallelujah
God is on the move
On the move today
I see your generation standing on the truth
In each and everyday saying God is on the
move

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

We give thanks to you, God our Father, for mercy that reaches out,

for patience that waits our returning,

for your love that is ever ready to welcome sinners.

We praise you that in Jesus Christ you came to us with forgiveness,

and that by your Holy Spirit, you move us to repent and receive your love.

Though we separate ourselves from you, you are faithful and worthy of all praise.

We praise you, great God, in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*SONG

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,

For purple mountains majesties above the fruited plain!

America! America! God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good

With brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,

Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!

America! America! May God thy gold refine, till all success

Be nobleness, and every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years

Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!

America! America! God mend thine every flaw, confirm thy soul

In self control, thy liberty in law.

CONFESSION

Our Father, forgive us for thinking small thoughts of you and for ignoring your immensity and greatness. Lord Jesus, forgive us when we forget that you rule the nations and our small lives. Holy Spirit, we offend you in minimizing your power and squandering your gifts. We confess that our blindness to your glory has resulted in shallow confession, tepid conviction, and only mild repentance. Have mercy upon us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear these words of assurance: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Believe the good news that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

GOD'S WORD

Romans 14

MESSAGE

Build Each Other Up

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

* SONG **Battle Hymn of the Republic**

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat;
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him; be jubilant, my Feet!
Our God is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free!
While God is marching on.

*BLESSING

