



CALVARY NEWSLETTER

Calvary Presbyterian Community Church of Pine River

February, 2021

Just Being Honest emrys tyler

We are entering late winter, when many Christian traditions celebrate a season called “Lent.” These 40 days before Easter evolved into a preparation time for new Christians before their baptism on Easter Sunday. Part of that preparation was a meditation on the power of sin in one’s life and the need for grace and mercy from God.

In the after-effects of the last presidential administration I noticed many references to “soul-searching.” The vitriol of political discourse, the shocking events at the national Capitol building on January 6th, and the frequent accusations of intentional deception have caused many to ask, “What’s going on?” or “How can this happen?”

When we recognize that all of us, on every side, in every party, share a common humanity, we are faced with the possibility that the disturbing thoughts and behavior of others could just as easily be true of us. I could have ended up on the Capitol steps chanting for the death of elected officials. I could turn into an embittered troll spitting acid accusations at all opposition. There is a heart of darkness in each of us which, when fed, grows into ugly things.

Those ugly things are usually not big enough to make national news. My darkness may be misuse of food. It may be language that damages others. It may be destructive ambition. There is a long list of possibilities. Whatever the particulars, we know that we have both positive impulses in our souls and a persistent power of darkness.

Every generation attempts to gloss over, ignore, or deny that darkness. It can be hard to dwell on. But history reveals that the darkness does not obey human will. It relishes being ignored, since willful ignorance contributes to the darkness. Denying the darkness is like saying that because the sun is bright there will never be night again.

We Christians call this daily and global darkness “sin.” When we sin we fall short of our intended purpose, of what our Divine Creator longs for from us. The ancient teacher Paul of Tarsus described it to an ancient church: “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” The contemporary philosopher puts it more blandly: “Nobody’s perfect.” Over time this failure brings guilt, shame, and resignation.

The season of Lent is a time for getting real. It is a time to be honest and declare both that we’re not perfect and that we want to be better. We know that there is a darkness inside and that we want it flooded with light. We know that our hearts can be hard, but we want to be loving and good.

Many would prefer not to dwell on their own sin and the power of darkness. We say it’s pessimistic or depressing. But for the sake of healing we need to name the disease. We know that we can’t just ignore a fever and go on living without threat to ourselves and others. If our foot suddenly hurt too much to stand on, we wouldn’t say, “That’s depressing to talk about; I’m just going to pretend it’s fine.” We would get the problem diagnosed and seek healing.

Lent is the diagnosis that leads to the healing of Resurrection Sunday: In the face of human evil we speak a word of hope. Jesus Christ passed through death and rose again to life. The evil that put Christ to death—sin—did not get

the last word. Nor does evil in the present. The Spirit of God that raised Jesus works in us to heal the ravages of sin through faith, conversation, community, protest, and reconciliation.

If the cold and snow of winter gives you any extra time inside, I invite you to join me in looking within and naming those places where the darkness needs light. And when you discover them, I invite you to join me in looking to the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, who guarantees that in him we will always have “the light of life” (recounted for us in the gospel according to John 8:12).

Join me in the work of Lent, and join the Church in the great celebration of Easter. For when we acknowledge our sin and ask for Christ’s healing, God does amazing things.

<https://achurchforstarvingartists.blog/2021/02/16/moving-always-hurts/> (Suggestion from Emyrs for us to read)

WORSHIP SERVICES WITHIN OUR CHURCH RESUMED FEBRUARY 7TH. ZOOM WILL ALSO CONTINUE FOR THOSE UNABLE TO WORSHIP IN PERSON.

There will be a Congregational Meeting March 7th after church for the purpose of electing our Pastor Nominating Committee members. If you feel called to serve on either the Mission Study Team or the Pastor Nominating Committee, please contact a session member as soon as possible.

REPORTS FROM SESSION MEETING FEBRUARY 16, 2021

Amy Deming was elected Clerk of Session for 2021. Thank you Amy, and to you Carolyn Brown for the years of faithful recording of Session business! Judy Norton was elected Treasurer and Financial Secretary. Thank you Judy, and to Sharon Kinton for her conscientious work!

DID YOU KNOW? Calvary Presbyterian Church pays a Covenant Commitment to the Western Slope Presbytery for every active member of the congregation. This year the amount is \$73.66. With all the funds collected from the other Western Slope churches we can support the staff, missions, and programs of the Presbytery. Our Session does not pass the cost along to members, however, if you want to make a donation for the Commitment, please indicate so on your check before you place it in the offering plate. Thank you! **Please remember to mail in your support for the church. P.O. Box 336, Bayfield, 81122. Thank you.**

COVID VACCINE UPDATE: Contact Upper Pine River Fire Protection District at vaccine@upperpinefpd.org to register or call the administration building at 884-9508. You can also contact San Juan Basin Health at <http://bit.ly/35dzClw> for further information.

PROPERTY/BUILDING & GROUNDS TEAM – Judy Norton Judy reports that Jim Sawyer will replace the Manse roof. She also recapped the many improvements made by Jim (and his team) during 2020: concrete parking pad at kitchen entrance, concrete sidewalk to office entrance from Mill Street, new windows in kitchen, hallway & office, new entry door to Berry Hall. Stucco repaired. PROJECTS for 2021: Paint exterior walls of Kitchen, clean out the shed and clean and paint the foyer. Berry Hall furnace considered for repair or replacement.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM – Nancy Senti

Our **Prayer Team** is led by Diane Lane. “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.” 1John 5:14 Contact Diane at 970-883-2454 or her email: philwlane@hotmail.com with your prayer requests. Let Diane know if you desire to be part of our prayer circle team.

There is JOY in fresh snow (and rain). Another joy is having Melanie back with us. Be in prayer for this church, God's church, to move forward in our search for pastoral leadership. Carol Blatnick thanks all for prayers. Pam Dawson thankful that Bill had 4 stents placed successfully. Karen Wickman requests prayers for grandson Tristan, who is in basic training and down with COVID. Their grandson Rowdy may have COVID. Jerry Brown's cousin Milton passed suddenly. Prayers for his family. Melanie thankful for vaccines. Carolyn & Lance's son Greg is back to work and receiving heart treatments. Dan, nephew of George & Sherry Hughes, is on a ventilator.

Prayers for Allie and her family. Her daughter Janie passed after a long struggle.

Jim Frahms brother's granddaughter Desery (almost 4 years old) has an inoperable tumor in the upper spine area. They seek medical help at Mayo Clinic in Phoenix. Prayers for Judy Dennis, who has been in and out of the hospital. Also, remember her caregivers. Carol Blatnick asks us to remember her granddaughter Megan, who has covid.

Sara Tyler would like prayers for those in need of food, warmth and any other needs, and that they *receive* what they need.

Joyce Knoll receives your cards at Box 990, Ignacio 81137. Her phone does not accept calls. She would appreciate our thoughts and prayers. Becky reports that someone prepares her meals and a neighbor checks on her. She is doing well.

Women's Bible Study normally meets Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Our group has been on hiatus since November. We will continue our study of Romans in the Nav/Life series. This is a small group.

Pastor Emyrs has begun a **Bible Study** on Sundays, 2 p.m. This is by Zoom. Members have received Zoom connection instruction by email.

We would like to be more involved with our members who are homebound, hospitalized and unable to keep up with our Sunday Services. Are YOU being called to this ministry?

Samuel's Kids is on Facebook and has a GoFundMe account listed there where you can donate. Carolyn reports that Covid has raised orphanage costs and makes medical care more difficult. Contact her for further information.

WORSHIP TEAM – Carol Blatnick reports that Katy Blatnick Gagne' has made updates and changes to the website. She is willing to continue with us, gifting most of her time. You may contact her directly with information, send pictures, etc. She attaches the newsletters, but removes the financial report because the website is a public document. Katy can be contacted at kabg1015@gmail.com. A helpful feature will be a tab for people to give to the church using a credit card. The website continues to be tuned and refined!

Carol will be the Session member in charge of Worship. Since there is limited attendance, there continues to be a need for individuals to *greet people, take their temperature & hand out sanitizer*. Someone could also act as usher. If you have any questions or suggestions for meaningful worship during these COVID times, please contact her at carol.l.blatnick@gmail.com or 884-2884. She is looking for people to serve on this committee. One project will be boxing up the old hymnals and sending them to a company she found on the internet that will find new homes for them.

COMING SOON! Carol Blatnick reports that technical additions to the church involving a new screen for the sanctuary and one in the Fellowship Hall along with mountain devices, audio and installation is proceeding. These units will provide better audio, ability to share text on the screen, view outside speakers, share pictures of departed at funerals, play CDs for VBS and other events.

February/March/April Pulpit Supply: Emyrs 2/21, 3/7, 3/14 and 4/4 Jane Martinez (Cortez) 2/28

CONGREGATIONAL INVOLVEMENT TEAM – Amy Deming

Kathleen Delzel and Carolyn Brown have finished updating the church directory. Pictures are dated, but all contact information is new and fresh! **If you would like to update your photo, please email photo to Carolyn Brown.** Copies will be available at the church soon. Thank you ladies!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION –Carol Blatnick Session supports plans for VBS 2021. Contact Carolyn Brown for updates as we all know volunteers are needed. This will be implemented according to state restrictions and county COVID recommendations.

MISSION & EVANGELISM TEAM –Melanie Mazur Pine River Shares accepting clothing & household donations by appointment (884-6040) Mondays and Thursdays. On Thursdays, front door is open to entry room where donations of food and clothing are accepted.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection Judy Norton reports that she has tracked 13 of their shoeboxes were shipped to Mexico. She also tracked 6 church shoeboxes to Mexico.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” -- Isaiah 6:8

ALL THE COMMITTEES LISTED ABOVE NEED VOLUNTEERS ON THEIR TEAM. PLEASE CONTACT TEAM LEADERS IF YOU ARE CALLED TO SERVE.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Lighting the Christ Candle, Pouring the Water, Opening Prayer

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

PASSING OF THE PEACE (without touching or moving; looking at each other & sharing the Christ within)

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

SCRIPTURE

SERMON

Music for reflection

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CURRENT SESSION ELDERS 2021

Amy Deming, Clerk

Melanie Mazur

Jerry Brown

Carol Blatnick

Nancy Senti

Judy Norton, Treasurer & Financial Secretary

"I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

Please volunteer for any of the following duties:

- 1: Order, distribute envelopes and make a list of the members for the counters of offerings. The envelopes for 2021 are now available for distribution to mailboxes.
- 2: Update the marquee with Pastor's name and sermon title once church has reopened.
- 3: Collect rent from Manse. Perhaps Property Management Team can handle this.
- 4: Zoom services each Sunday. There is just Pastor, Becky & you in sanctuary.
- 5: Produce Sunday bulletin with help of Pastor once church reopens.

TIME & TALENT COMMITMENT

We look for your talent for the following teams! Please contact the current team leader to participate.

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP --- Judy PROPERTY & GROUNDS --- Judy CONGREGATIONAL CARE --- Nancy Senti
CONGREGATIONAL INVOLVEMENT --- Amy Deming WORSHIP --- Carol Blatnick CHRISTIAN EDUCATION --- Carol
Blatnick MISSION TEAM --- Melanie Mazur

(Won't you start writing to share your life story with us soon!) Please contact Nancy 970-749-7807 and/or nancysenti@gmail.com I have a form with suggestions so that you can get started!

Please feel free to comment, contribute news and join in to celebrate Calvary's heritage in the Bayfield community. Resolve for our church to be this anchor in outreach to our community.