

## *Blessed Be the Tie That Binds*

This week, I share the third and final verse of the hymn.

*When we asunder part, It gives us inward pain;*

This is a tough line to interpret. It is the adverb *asunder* that makes it difficult. It is a word that is only used in poetry; it is certainly not one you and I would use in everyday conversation! It is an archaic word that means “divide” or “part.” I used to think that the word had a negative connotation—more like “tearing” or “ripping”—and that colored my understanding of this verse. But I was wrong. When we leave worship each Sunday morning, we are parting ways and going to our own homes or events. We certainly are not all going the same place! In doing so, this line of the hymn is saying that there should feel a little bit of mourning or sorrow (“inward pain”) as we leave the fellowship we have in Christ Jesus on Sunday morning and face a world that is contrary, and in some cases hostile, to the values of love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness we hold so dear as disciples of Jesus Christ.

*But we shall still be joined in heart, And hope to meet again.*

But not all is lost when we part ways after worship and face the world around us. God continues to see us, be with us, and strengthen us whenever we are not in worship together. The Spirit of Christ unites us wherever we are. It bridges the time and distance between those who love God and love their neighbor. This is especially true when one or more of our members cannot be in worship with us. When we pray for that person, either in printed form, verbally mentioned, or lifted up in silence, in our time of worship, they are spiritually connected to us. In the sacramental language of Holy Communion, we call that the mystery of faith. We will never understand how it all works for good for those in Christ Jesus in this earthly life, and we don’t have to. We just have to trust God to hold us together as a congregation of the faithful until we can meet again.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Tom*





### **RESTART OF ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL!!**

You are invited to a genesis of our adult Sunday school class on **February 7** at 9:00 on Sunday mornings! We will be using the **NOOMA Videos Series** by Rob Bell (feel free to Google him). There will be 24 sessions in this video series. A discussion off the video will then follow that will be facilitated by Pastor Tom. The video is short (10-15 min.) and will give us food for thought as Rob shares elements and applications of biblical truth and Christ-like living to our relationship with God through Christ our Lord in his unique style of presentation. The first video is titled "Rain" where he talks about the storms of life.

Rob is a well known pastor and author of ten books, including the New York Times bestsellers "What We Talk About When We Talk About God", "The Zimzum of Love", "Love Wins", and "What Is the Bible?" His podcast, called the RobCast, was named by iTunes Best of 2015. He's been profiled in the New Yorker and Time Magazine named him one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World in 2011.

The title of each week's video will be in this newsletter prior to each Sunday and sent to specific persons who attend the class via email. No purchase of a book is necessary; just come and share in the fellowship between the two services. Coffee will be available on that Sunday. Should we outgrow the large classroom, we will move to the sanctuary in order to maintain physical distancing.



***SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, WILL BE A SPECIAL DAY!***

LLLCUMC is the chartering organization for **Boy Scout Troop 251**, and has been for many years. Our church building and grounds have benefitted from Eagle Scout projects over those years. On Sunday, February 7, the troop will be with us in our **10:00 a.m.** worship service, sharing with us their accomplishments over the past year, and participating in the service. Since this is the first Sunday of the month, we will be observing the sacrament of Holy Communion only at the 8:00 service.

In addition to the sacrament, we will be using our new equipment at the 10:00 service on February 7 and migrate our live stream (online) worship service from Facebook Live® to our YouTube® channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyEeRhrXoEs>). We still need volunteers to expand our media team during the 10:00 service in order to produce a quality service for those who will be tuning in from all sorts of places, near and far. Additional help will also allow us to once again have the elements of worship projected onto the screens during worship.

## *Monthly Mission Opportunities*

The Missions and Community Outreach Committee has developed a plan for 2021 to give our congregation opportunities to learn about the needs of others in our metropolitan area (or internationally) and to provide a service to organizations trying to meet those needs. Each month we will introduce a service organization and provide our congregation an opportunity to serve that organization through our donations and hands-on activities (as appropriate).

On January 31, Pastor Tom and Cindy Morehead updated us on the G-MARC shelter in Kenya that we donated to in December. They explained to us how the people in Kenya will be benefiting from our giving. If you missed that church service, please view the recorded service on the church's Facebook page. This month we will learn about Della Lamb Community Services in Kansas City and how we can serve this very deserving organization.



### **What is Della Lamb Community Services?**

Della Lamb Community Services was founded more than 120 years ago by Methodist to assist the marginalized in Kansas City. Today Della Lamb has a small early childhood center for underprivileged children in Kansas City and it also provides social services and youth services to area families; but its main focus is to assist in the resettlement of refugees. Currently they are assisting refugees from Burma, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Iraq. These refugees are people who have fled from their home countries to escape danger or persecution, and many have since been living in refugee camps in other countries. They come to the United States after they have been approved by our country for entry and resettlement. Della Lamb helps refugees find housing and employment, and assists with learning English.

There are many opportunities for us to assist Della Lamb in its mission through our donations or hands-on service. They are always in need of volunteers to assist with reading to and tutoring of children, teaching ESL (English language) classes to adults, assisting with youth services, coaching athletics, organizing special events, and preparing housing for newly arriving refugees.

**February LLCUMC Mission Activity:** Due to the pandemic we are not going to organize a hands-on activity this month, but we as a church can still provide a service. During the month of February, we will be collecting food and supplies for Della Lamb's community food pantry. If you prefer, you may provide a cash donation and someone from the missions committee will purchase a food donation for you (please write "Della Lamb" in the memo line of your check). The food pantry is in need of:

Canned soup/Canned fruits and vegetables/Canned meat/Peanut butter/Pasta/boxed dinners/Milk products (powered milk, boxed pudding, etc.)/Grains (rice, bread, bagels, etc.)/Cereal and oatmeal/Baby food/Spices/salt/pepper/Cleaning supplies

**GOD IS MY  
REFUGE AND  
STRENGTH**  
*a very present help in trouble*  
Psalm 46:10

GingerHarrington.com



**On Going:** Les Case, Wade Davis, Roger Grable, Richard Fuerst, Winnie Fuerst, Harvey Geary, Michael Hatfield, Linda Koleiny, Shane Miley, Kirk Morehead, Nancy Rowe, all the families who have lost loved ones or are sick from the Covid Virus

**Depression and Mental Health:** Robby Sherrod

**Strength and Healing:** Kaleb Lamb, Mike McMillin, Rev. John Morrison, DJ Petty, Sophia, Paula Schmedding, Andrew White

**Missions:** Kenyan G-Marc Project, Chics for Chicks, Hillcrest Transitional Housing, Harvester's Food Bank, Lazarus Ministries, Tarsney Lake Families, Congregation de Mellier, Heart and Soul Children's Learning Center

**Please contact the office to update or add prayer requests**

***I would like to wish a very Happy Birthday  
to the following February babies.***

Tammy Brown, Bill Kanai, Dean Rohr, Seth Cromer,  
Mark Hassler, Mike McFadden, Patty Ford, Barbara  
Bergman, Sandy Hassler, Kolson Kimbrough

May you all have a wonderful birthday month!!

# February 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>31 Services</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:00 am</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>7 Services 8 &amp; 10:00</b> <b>Boy Scout Sunday</b>	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>14 Services</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:00 am</b>	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>21 Services</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:00 am</b>	22	23	24	25	26	27
<b>28 Services</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:00 am</b>						