

Confession of the Pastor's Wife: Set Your Mind

... many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. Philippians 3:18-19

Admittedly, this Scripture is an odd lead for a Monday morning. And yet, as I sip on my decadently creamy pour-over coffee made with freshly ground beans, I can't help but think it might just be a little appropriate. The season of Lent is upon us, and for many, this involves rethinking some everyday practices and lifestyle choices. The goal of Lent, of course, is to engage in disciplines that will help us grow closer to Christ. It is a period of intentional diminishment, where we seek to identify and change those behaviors and attitudes that keep us from fully living into the person God created us to be. Lent is about demoing the house, assessing the foundation, and renovating from the inside out.

However, as with New Year's resolutions, many of us struggle to fully commit to the process of Lenten renewal. We have great intentions, but the intentional practice of faith development gets superseded by life's demands, our own personal issues, and a lack of desire to truly change. Like the believers Paul writes to, our minds get set on earthly things.

This weekend, after obsessively following coverage of the coronavirus all week, I felt an intense need to go to the grocery store to "stock up" on items. I elbowed my way through the melee that is suburban grocery shopping on a weekend then stopped in the near-empty condiments aisle to consider what I needed to stock up on. Do you know what came to mind? NOTHING!

Truth be told, we always have a supply of beans in our pantry, our medicine cabinet has a plethora of cold and flu supplies, and a previous bout of the stomach flu meant we still had plenty of disinfectant on hand. I needed nothing...and yet, because I had allowed my anxiety to take control, I was trapped in the midst of grocery store chaos instead of enjoying the beautiful sunny weather outside. I missed an opportunity to spend some time relishing the glory of our Creator God because I set my mind on my anxiety, and not God's goodness. I'm not diminishing situations in our world about which we should truly be concerned. I am, however, suggesting that setting our mind on these issues without first giving them over to God can cause us to dwell in fear and worry instead of in the peace God provides.

Paul goes on to write to the Philippians that, instead of setting their minds on earthly things, they should set their minds on what is:

pure
just
holy
true
praiseworthy
lovely
excellent
admirable



And do you know who embodies all of these characteristics? Jesus, of course! Therefore, our minds should not be set on earthly things, but on Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith. When we set our minds on Jesus, we have a different focus and perspective with which we can engage the world. Peter puts it best when he writes: *“Therefore, once you have your minds ready for action and you are thinking clearly, place your hope completely on the grace that will be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed.”* 1 Peter 1:13

When we set our minds on Jesus, we are ready for action. We can think clearly about the situations and circumstances life throws our way. And, we can hope...completely hope....in Jesus's grace.

As you begin your journey of diminishment this Lenten season, I want to ask you this question...

Where is your mind set?

Blessings and Peace,

Sara



On Sunday morning, Pastor Chris announced that he, Sara, Garrett and Stephen will be leaving our congregation this summer. Pastor Chris has been appointed to serve the Nelson Memorial UMC in Boonville, MO.

The Snyder family's last Sunday will be June 14.

The new pastor for LLCUMC will likely be introduced in the next few weeks. He or she's first Sunday will be June 28.

Please hold the Snyder family, our yet to be identified new pastor and our congregation in your prayers during this time of transition.

Walking With Jesus

Essential Practices
of the Christian Faith

March 1 - April 5



YOGA

*Come find your Zen and stretch out
all the stresses of life.*

Every Wednesday at 6:15

You are in my thoughts
and prayers.



Les Case	Derek Petty
Donald Cohan	Don Raymond
Dorothy Conn	Steve Raymond
Wade Davis	Nancy Rowe
Chad Elmer	Erin Scott
Janet Ford	Larry Sparks
Richard Fuerst	Ray Trowbridge
Winnie Fuerst	Elaine West
Harvey Geary	Dorothy Wilson
Michael Hatfield	

Congregation de Mellier
Heart and Soul Children's
Learning Center
All Ministries
of the Church

The Be an Angel women have been very busy making their mats and now they are in need of more plastic bags. Please bring in your collected plastic bags and drop them in the big basket in the common area. Thanks!!



Lazarus Day of Service

Saturday March 14th 9:00 am

Sign up sheet in the CONNECT area

Contact Randy: 816-525-3891 with questions

March 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Services 8 & 10:00	2	3	4 Be an Angel 10 Yoga 6:15 Women's Bible Study 7:15 pm	5 Men's Bible Study 7:00	6	7
8 Services 8 & 10:00 Daylight Savings	9	10 Missions Meeting 7	11	12	13	14 Serving Lazarus 9:00
15 Services 8 & 10:00	16	17	18 Be an Angel 10 Yoga 6:15 Women's Bible Study 7:15 pm	19 Men's Bible Study 7:00	20	21
22 Services 8 & 10:00	23	24 Church Council 7	25	26	27	28 Beautification Day 9-12:00