“If I love you, I have to make you conscious of the things you don’t see.”
~ James Baldwin

This quote has been stuck in my head for almost two weeks now, and if you worshiped with us on Sunday, you know I used it as a centerpiece of my sermon last week. If you are unfamiliar with author and activist James Baldwin, let me invite you to watch the documentary film, “I Am Not Your Negro” which I watched earlier this summer. It’s based on Baldwin’s unfinished manuscript exploring the history of racism through memories of civil rights leaders and his personal observations as a Black man in America during the 1960s-70s.

Since I see so much of everything in the world through the lens of the teachings of Jesus, Baldwin’s quote seems to me like a very Jesus thing to say. Time and again, Jesus is trying to help people become more aware of the things they don’t see. And so, I suppose as difficult (and dangerous) as it can sometimes be, I think that is one of the callings of a preacher/pastor/prophet, as well as a disciple of Jesus. That means you. Yes, you.

How do we do this? We share the teachings of Jesus with compassion and truthfulness. We challenge the status quo and work to change the systems of oppression and division as Jesus did. We love those that others reject; and we love our enemies (as difficult as that can be). It is not just enough to believe in the teachings of Jesus, we must also live out the teachings of Jesus.

Matthew 25 is one of the most difficult passages of the Gospels. I hope you’ll read and pray on that as you read the rest of this newsletter and prayerfully consider the opportunities listed below - and those that we’ll be sharing in the weeks to come.

When Jesus says, “I was sick and you took care of me.” What does that mean for our responsibility to ensure healthcare for our neighbors?

When Jesus says, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” What does that mean for our support of refugees (or a refugee farmer)?

When Jesus says, “I was hungry and you gave me food... thirsty and you gave me something to drink.” What does that mean for our work around food insecurity?

As I said on Sunday, it's NOT enough to say all are welcome at the table of God's love. They might be welcome but if they can't get to the table, how will they be able to feast on that promise?

We must continue to work harder every day to be people who are working to ensure that “For Everyone Born” there is indeed a place at the table. “For God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace.” May it be so. May it be so for us.
worked in collaboration with several other community organizations state-wide last year to successfully get Medicaid expansion on the August ballot. Now, we need 5-10 people who will make phone calls to engage potential voters regarding this ballot initiative; this vital work raises awareness, answers potential questions (a short training is provided), and gets the MORE2 name out in our community. If you are interested in this work, please contact Community member, Jennifer Gwinner at 1-573-819-1297 or jenlizg@yahoo.com or click here: https://www.more2.org/phonebank/.

**July Re-Up with New Roots for Refugees**

The July Re-Up for fresh produce bags from our partners in ministry, New Roots for Refugees, is here! Since the program began we have 20 bags purchased weekly, which is great news to support Bawi and Khin (our partner farmers). That also means that many of our Community members are already enjoying the fresh local produce that they can easily pick up while staying safely distanced in their own cars! Thanks to those who have already signed up and paid for the month of July. If you have expressed that you wish to re-up but have not yet paid, please pay on Saturday when you come to pick up your bag.

Those who are signed up for July will pay in full for the four weeks of produce on the first day that you pick up. Pick ups will be scheduled as normal for Saturday, July 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in front of Community (Main St.). Small produce bags are $10 each and large produce bags are $20 each, so you will pay the full $40 or $80 for all of your July produce at the first pick up.

To sign up for a weekly produce bag please respond to this email or contact Rev. Ryan to let him know which option you would like to sign up for. If you were already signed up in June, please let us know if you would like to continue receiving the same sized bag, if you'd like to downsize or upsize to a different bag, or if you are vegged out for the time being and will not be repurchasing produce. Thanks to everyone who is participating in this program, we look forward to continuing to support our farmers and enjoying a variety of fresh produce together!

**Volunteer at Micah Ministry**

Our ministry partner, Micah Ministry (located at Independence Blvd Christian Church in Northeast KC) serves a sit-down dinner to the city's most vulnerable neighbors each Monday night. Last week they served over 250 folks both dinner and with clothing and hygiene needs. Micah Ministry is in need of additional volunteers to help during this time. Volunteers will help set up tents and tables outside, wear masks, and practice social distancing. They begin setting up around 4 p.m. and serve at 5 p.m. If you are able and interested in volunteering contact Sharon Cantrell at sscantrell@yahoo.com or (913) 909-2126.

**Five Minute Practice**

This week's prayer practice is Five(ish) Minutes for Lego Prayers with Rev. Suzanne and some little helpers! Read the steps below or watch the full video to follow along.

1. Everyone pick a brick.
2. Hold your brick and say a prayer for yourself - give thanks for all that God has given you.
3. Count the bumps on your Lego brick - for each bump, pray for a different person. Thank God for them and ask God to bless them.
4. Find someone with a different color brick than you and thank God for making us all different and special.
5. Create something together with all of your bricks.
Special Music

Check out the special music that was featured in last Sunday's worship livestream! The first video, "For Everyone Born," is edited by Rev. Ryan and features the voices of our own John Stafford, Grace Cox-Johnson, and Rev. Ryan, accompanied by Jonathon Antle. The second featured video is Alyssa Toepfer's version of "He's Got The Whole World In His Hands."

Online Giving

If you'd like to give offering donations to the church during this time, you can mail donations to the church. Mail is still being checked daily and your gifts are gratefully received. If you'd like to give online, you may do so in one of two ways:

- Visit bit.ly/c4kgive
- Text the word "Give" to 816-484-3433 and follow the instructions that are sent to you. The first time you text to give you'll have to set up an account, but from there on out your information will be stored so you can easily text to give.
There will also be a QR code shown during livestreamed worship that will take you directly to the website listed above to donate. Links can also be found in the livestreamed worship comments and on our website.

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**Connect with us online throughout the week!**

**Sunday**
- 9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages on Zoom [bit.ly/steitzss]
- 10 a.m. Piano prelude with Jonathon Antle on Facebook and YouTube
- 10:30 a.m. worship on Facebook and YouTube

**Monday**
- 12:10 p.m. Musical Monday Meditations on Facebook and YouTube

**Tuesday**
- 10 a.m. Storytime with Rev. Suzanne live on Facebook and Zoom [bit.ly/storytimewithsuz]

**Thursday**
- 10 a.m. Storytime with Rev. Suzanne live on Facebook and Zoom [bit.ly/storytimewithsuz]

**Friday**
- 5 p.m. TGIFF - Thank God It's Friday Fellowship via Zoom [bit.ly/tgifridayfellowship]

**Saturday**
- 8 a.m. Saturday Sit with Shanna on Zoom [bit.ly/saturdaysit]

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**Prayers of Sorrow and Thanksgiving**

Please hold the following members of our Community in your prayers:

- **Family of Dr. Jim Atwood**, gun control scholar who spent time with Community a few years ago and passed away on June 26; **Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas** who has received recent and ongoing death threats while he leads our city; **Mary Beth Snyder**, sister of Bob Hill; **Rex Wiant, Sr.**, father of Rex Wiant, Jr.; **Rev. Chuck Blaisdell**; **Coradean Naylor**, mother of Denise Dickerson, who is under care of hospice; **Carol Dollar**; healthcare workers who are caring for our world and their families; all in nursing homes or retirement communities who are isolated from loved ones.

We continue to pray for the courage to work against the sin of racism and the systematic injustices that have divided the children of God in America for 400 years.

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