Sabbath is a commandment, not a suggestion. I wrote that last week and then by Monday remembered how true it was. Our family spent two nights camping last weekend. The wind nearly blew us out of Kansas and straight to Oz but the winds of the Spirit blew just as strong straight into my soul. It was an absolute gift.

I left on Friday weary yet thrilled because we had just received the notice that we shared with you on Sunday that our now historic Frank Lloyd Wright building had been honored with placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The preservation and restoration of our building has been an important part of our work together over the last couple of years and this is a big next step. The response to this news has been tremendous. In just a few days, we have had one the largest responses ever to our social media platforms. On Facebook alone, our press release and Steeple of Light photo was shared 87 times (at least at this writing) with a reach of over 17,000 people. I’ve been shocked by who has shared our news: churches in Virginia, grown children of former senior ministers, architects and FLW lovers, as well as a lot of people that I don’t know. The responses have been exciting and a bit overwhelming! The most common response was surprise that our building was not already on the Register. We already have one news story highlighting our efforts (link below) and others are in the works (fingers crossed). We could not have accomplished this without our relationships at Historic Kansas City, and the guidance and hard work of Rosin Preservation. The application process is complex and extensive and we are deeply grateful to the brilliant people at these organizations.

Our congregation’s sister organization, Wright on Main, is actively engaged throughout the city in fundraising for the restoration of our Steeple of Light. We have already received several four-figure gifts and are anticipating more toward the $60,000 expense for the new lights. However, as I’ve mentioned previously, we will have to deal with the crumbling structure of the dome that “houses” the lights but we are working with a structural engineer on next steps and a more comprehensive plan.

With all that plus everything else we are all navigating I’ve been deeply grateful this week to join with so many of you in using the Merton prayer in my devotions this week. Rev. Ryan did a great job kicking off our new worship series by exploring these powerful words of the uncertainty of our common path and the hope and trust in God’s guidance.

Merton wrote this prayer years ago but it feels like it could have been written for us today. This uncertain road that Merton describes fits most of our journeys in these days. And that’s why we are committed to this time of being “Together in Prayer.” We have so many opportunities for you to grow in being a person of prayer. Whether it’s Sunday morning worship, or Wednesday night vespers, or Saturday morning sits, or joining us in spirit every day as we pray the Psalms of our Soul….I pray you will find it as spirit filling as I do. Investing in our relationship with God and one another with prayer as our foundation.

This week’s prayer will be the Peace Prayer of St. Francis. We’ll use it as we think together about Luke’s story in chapter 9:1-6 and Jesus’ instructions to his disciples about ministry in the world. I invite you to really spend some time with these words that have been attributed to St. Francis….

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

There’s a lot more in the rest of the newsletter that I hope you’ll pay special attention to
including completing your commitment card for next year. It will take all of us Together in
Community as we continue to journey in faith the uncertain roads of life. I’m grateful to be
walking it alongside you.

Blessings,
Shanna

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**Life Together at Community**

Thank you to everyone who has already filled out a commitment card for the coming year!
Completing this card by October 28 greatly helps our Finance Committee. We have
attempted to make this process as easy as possible with the commitment cards available
completely online. You can click [here](#) to access the commitment card. You will find three
options: 1) If you wish to simply continue with your current financial commitment, just
select the button “same as 2020.” 2) If you wish to adjust your giving, click the box
marked, “update my 2020 pledge.” 3) If this is your first time making a pledge there’s a box
for that, as well.

The Finance Committee will present the budget to the Administrative Council on Sunday,
November 1. Pending approval, there will be two Q&A forums, just like last year, to
answer any questions from our membership: Sunday, November 8, at 9 a.m. and
Wednesday, November 10 at 7:15 p.m. We will keep you updated and appreciate all
submitted commitments!

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**Justice and Mercy Partnerships**

For the last few years Community has partnered with Cornerstones of Care to help
support the many youth and children of Kansas City who are part of their care system. In
the last few months, we identified a need with Cornerstones for them to have access to
web streaming services so that their clients could have a wide library of movie and TV
options as they’re stuck indoors during our safe-at-home days. Justice and Mercy is
pleased to let you know that Community is purchasing 10 Apple TV devices, all equipped
with annual Disney+ subscriptions, for the youth and children of Cornerstones! This is a
great way for Community to offer real support to kiddos significantly limited by COVID.

Some of you have also asked about the annual Wish Upon A Star Christmas Gift program,
where Community members sign up to purchase gifts for a child in foster care. There will
be more updates coming soon, but that program will happen this year! You’ll have the
opportunity to sign up online to support a child, and there will be designated times for
dropping off gifts.

For those looking to support our Food Pantry during this time, we are in need of toilet
paper and toiletry items. Donations are appreciated and can be delivered to the church.
Community in the News

We hope you have gotten a chance to read our press release announcement about our church building being listed on the National Register of Historic Places! We're excited about the new opportunities this will bring, including helping us as we move forward with fixing our Steeple of Light. Check out this awesome article that's featured on CityScene KC about our upcoming plans for Wright on Main and refurbishing the Steeple of Light.

Vespers Services

Vespers services continue live on Facebook every Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Join in this short intimate service in our Bonfils Chapel where we share a Psalm, Gospel reading, music from Tim Whitmer, and light candles with the prayers of our hearts. You also have the option to participate live via Zoom by clicking this link.

Halloween Happy Hour

Gather with Community for a special Halloween Happy Hour for all ages on Friday, October 30, at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to gather on Zoom, wear a costume, enjoy your favorite Halloween treats, and show off your carved/painted pumpkins!

Tall Oaks Virtual Gala

The Tall Oaks Virtual Gala is coming up on Sunday, November 8. The evening program and live auction begins at 6 p.m. and this year's theme is "Outside these Walls." Click here to learn more and to view this year's silent and live auction items!
This Sunday at Community

This Sunday, October 25, we will read Luke 9:1-6 and focus on the Peace Prayer of St. Francis. We will also have a special Blessing of the Animals, so make sure to tune in on Facebook or YouTube!

Reserve Time in the Chapel

New times are available to sign up to walk the labyrinth, pray, read, or take some private or family time in Bonfils Chapel. There are sign up times available almost every day, and with enough notice, one of our clergy can be available to pray with you. Want to stop by the chapel but you forgot to sign up or the form is already locked for the day? Call 816-718-7327 to check availability for same day sign ups.

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/c4kcgive
- 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.

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

Wednesday
- 6:30 p.m. Vespers Service live on Facebook and Zoom

Thursday
- 10 a.m. Five(ish) Minute Fun, Faithful Family Devotional on Facebook and YouTube
- Newsletter email sent

Friday
- 3 p.m. Friday Happy Hour with Tim Whitmer on Facebook and YouTube

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

Prayers of Sorrow and Thanksging

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

- Continued prayers for all of our teachers and students; Pattie Whitmer on the passing of her mother; Lyn Yzaguirre, sister of Lura Cayton;
Letha Boyd who is recovering from knee surgery;
Kim Green, niece of Jean Dinwiddie;
Marilyn and Milton Gray;
David Anderson;
Mary Buren;
Peter Voss, great-nephew of Donna and Scott Duschen;
Carol Dollar

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