

The Good News

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

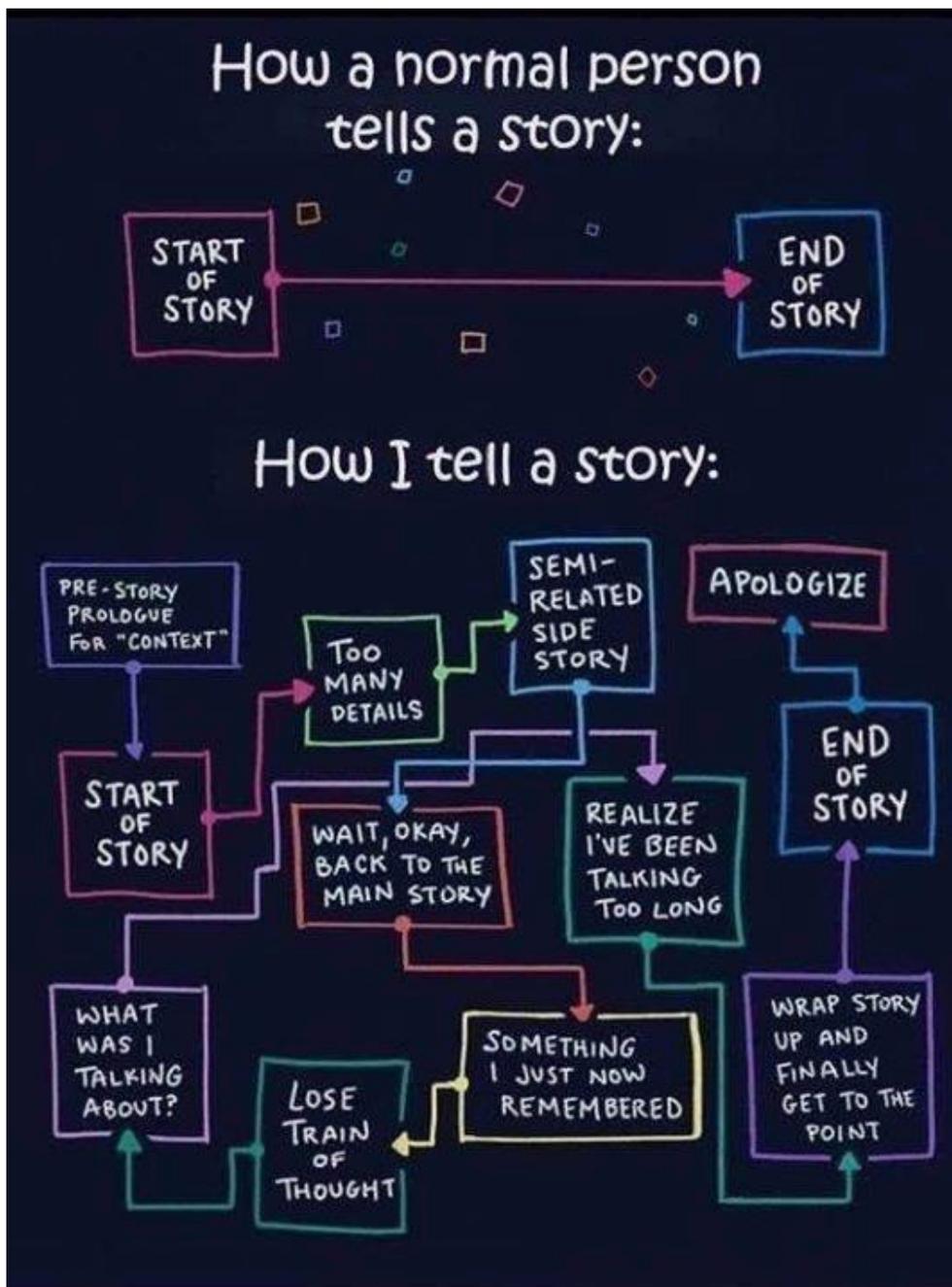
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A loving congregational family that celebrates God's presence among us



This is not only how I tell a story, but how I preach if I don't have a full manuscript in hand. I tend to wander far adrift, so far that I never get to the point or points I think need to be made. I do okay spontaneously, but to not have a full text in front of me is way something no one should be subject too. My mind just does not work that way. It's a gift some have. I don't. And this explains why.



Pastoral Care Needs

Call Pastor Glen in the event of a pastoral care need. Either call his home 651-641-1832 or cell 651-757-0314. Email pastor@citlink.net.

Volunteer Schedule

Sunday June 2nd

Greeter: Steve and Jackie Sullivan
Reader: Jackie Sullivan
Sound Technician: Byron Nowariak

Sunday June 9th

Greeter: Jon and Julie Woodman
Reader: Julie Woodman
Sound Technician: TBD

Sunday June 16th

Greeter: Bill and Emily Peterson
Reader: Emily Peterson
Sound Technician: TBD

Sunday June 23rd

Greeter: Joe and Stacy Coyle
Reader: Stacy Coyle
Sound Technician: TBD

Sunday June 30th

Greeter: Jim and Pat Green
Reader: Pat Green
Sound Technician: TBD

Serving Committee for June

The Serving Committee for June is Jim and Bonnie Hvistendahl and Ray and Sandra Meglic.

Prayer Chain

Morning - Bonnie Hvistendahl 263-4120

Evening - Mavis Johnson 263-2857



When you are in need of prayer for yourself or others, please call the church office at 263-2901. Your request will be passed along to the above prayer chains.

Education/Fellowship

Anyone is welcome to join us at any time!

Tuesday Bible Study meets weekly at 10 a.m. at church. We usually meet for just over an hour, as long as we manage to stay on task! Pastor Glen leads the study, focusing on the text(s) planned for the coming Sunday's sermon.

Sunday Morning Study begins about 15 minutes after worship ends, and meets each week, except for the last Sunday of each month. On June 2, we will continue our discussion of the article, "Biblical Israel, Contemporary Israel: Are They the Same?" (copies available from Pastor Glen.) We will then suspend our meetings until July 7.

From the Mission Committee



We believe that God wants to take care of our needs and give us enough to share with others. As individuals and as the church, it is our privilege to give generously to people in need; locally, regionally, nationally, and abroad.

In May we focused on One Great Hour of Sharing as part of Our Churches Wider Mission. We are continuing this offering for the next couple of weeks so people can have the chance to pledge.

Minnesota Conference UCC Annual Meeting

Registration, housing and meals for two delegates to the MN Conference UCC Annual Meeting, June 7-8, has been paid. The meeting is at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, just west of St. Cloud, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Friday and concluding late Saturday afternoon.

The keynote speaker will be Rev. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the UCC. The theme of the meeting is **Created for Connection: One Body, Many Members.**

This is an excellent opportunity to sing, worship, and learn about the ministry we share with UCC churches across Minnesota. If you are interested in attending and representing First Congregational, talk to Pastor Glen.

Youth Workcamp June 14-22

Eleven workcampers traveling from First Congo will be leaving from Cannon Falls for Parma OH on Friday evening, June 14, for the annual youth workcamp. They will join a few hundred other youth and adults from across the country for a week of work on the

Christian Century Article

When we have a distaste for certain people with whom we're obligated to work or associate, we may try to encourage ourselves to find ways to lessen our distaste. There must be a way to put up with that individual, we tell ourselves. Surely I can find the patience to avoid displaying hostility. I'll just keep a distance and endure her behavior or his antics.



The instinct to be tolerant is commendable. But relationships for which we're responsible or in which we play a role deserve something more positive than mere forbearance. When the attitudes, opinions, and behaviors of others within our circles bother us, that shouldn't be an excuse for not cultivating a positive regard. Tolerance is lukewarm at best, condescending at worst. It's putting up with what we're not wild about. Enduring someone we disapprove of. Trying to demonstrate we're unprejudiced.

Some differences we have with others are too strong to ignore or too consequential to overlook. But if there's one behavior we could afford to cultivate more thoroughly, it's one that would warm us up to others whom we're inclined to dislike.

Todd Pittinsky of Stonybrook University has spent years promoting the idea of allophilia—the positive feeling of “loving or liking the other.” Feelings of allophilia can exist toward members of a different race, religion, ethnicity, athletic team, sexual orientation, work group, or any other category we may contemplate or construct. When I work with clergy who are quick to disregard people in their congregation whom they find difficult, I try to talk to them about allophilia (without using that term). Leaders in other realms face comparable challenges. All of us need to look for ways to be positively predisposed to those who don't see the world the way we do. There's great long-term benefit in spending time with those who are difficult, warming up to them, engaging them, befriending them, finding ways to admire them, identifying goals to share with them. Tolerance isn't enough. Tolerating

homes of local residents in the community just southwest of Cleveland. Work projects typically include building wheelchair ramps and handrails, weatherizing homes and trailers, reconstructing porches and decks, significant painting projects, interior and exterior carpentry, and other home repair projects that the homeowner cannot otherwise complete. (Remember the local workcamp here two summers ago?)

Adults participating are Joe Coyle, Cindy Mae Nelson, Jon Sagers, John Coyle (Joe's brother), and Glen Herrington-Hall. Youth include Samuel and Thomas Coyle (Joe's sons), Brady and Taylor Coyle (John's children), and a couple of friends.

After returning late Saturday evening June 22, the group will lead worship and speak about the experience during the sermon time on June 23.

Stewardship Minute

June 2019

Do you remember these words from Psalm 42 describing the thirst for something greater?

*As a deer longs for flowing streams,
So my soul longs for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the
Living God. (Psalm 42:2)*

Our wholeness comes from having our total existence fed: body, mind, and spirit. To put it plainly, wholeness, meaning, and joy come to us completely when we love and serve God with our entire being. That is, when we choose to be good stewards of our entire existence: bodies, minds, and souls.

Remember the “One does not live by bread alone” (Mt. 4:4). As important as bread is for one's life, food alone does not satisfy our inner needs. Our spirit needs to be fed as well. The hymn writer, Charles Wesley, put it well in these words:

*A charge to keep I have, a God to glorify,
A never dying soul to save, and fit it for
the sky.*

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to have the spiritual strength, to serve you with our whole being: body, mind, and spirit. In Christ's name. Amen.

someone else doesn't make room for enjoying that person. It may be the warmest disposition we think we can muster at a given moment, especially if we're scared of the person. But one way to break down fear is to become more curious. Developing curiosity is wonderful for discovering what gives other people joy.

Part of the genius of Martin Luther King Jr., it seems to me, was his refusal to speak of nonviolence as an end itself. Stopping hatred may be vital in a world strewn with conflict. But for King, blunting something as negative as hatred was only a beginning. Not until we find the positive strength to love our brothers and sisters will the world become an abundant place for all.

Tolerance may be a necessity in certain political or legal realms of our diverse world. But elevating such behavior to default status will never be good enough for Jesus, who said, "Love your neighbor," not "Tolerate your neighbor."

Women's Coffee



Join us every 3rd Thursday at 10:00 am for coffee at Hi-Quality Bakery.

Choir Schedule

The choir will not sing June through August. **Please note:** All For You will play the first and last Sunday in June.

CCIC Monthly Supper

The Community Churches Interaction Council (CCIC) holds monthly suppers on the last Sunday of each month at FCC. June's supper will be hosted by Urland Lutheran Church on June 30th at 5:00 pm.

Disciples Together Rural Life Sunday

In many early Christian traditions, prayers for the renewal of the earth were offered in the days before Ascension Thursday. Lay folks and clergy walked throughout the parish fields and petitioned God to bless land and seeds. These were called Rogation Days in Latin, *rogate* means "to ask."

A Prayer for Planting

Bless the land, Creator God;
bless pavement and open field,
rocky cliff and desert sands,
forest floor and ocean bottom.

Hear, O hear our prayer...

Bless the water, Creator God;
bless crystal streams and deep blue oceans,
dancing waves on the lake and swirling eddies and rising tides.

Hear, O hear our prayer...

Bless the air, Creator God;
bless gentle breezes and powerful gusts,
hurricanes and tornados
and the silent stillness after a great storm.

Hear, O hear our prayer...

Bless the animal kingdom, Creator God;
bless house pets and forest dweller and residents of the desert,
bless four legged and many legged and the winged ones,
bless the furry and the sleek and the scaly.

Hear, O hear our prayer...

Bless our neighbors, Creator God;
bless the factory worker and the farmer,
the CEO and the waitress,
the over-the-road trucker, the computer analyst, the unemployed and all your children.

Hear, O hear our prayer...

Bless these little seeds we have planted,
Creator God,
and all that grows upon the earth.
Bless us with desire to care for your earth
so that your bounty will increase and
all may share it!

Hear, O hear our prayer...

Bless us, O God,
let appreciation of your creation
expand beyond our imaginings. **Amen.**

Taken from *Outside the Gates Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday of Easter*, written by the Reverend Jill K. Warner, Pastor of Plymouth Congregational UCC in Aberdeen, SD.



June, 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 am Worship w/communion All For You to sing 10:30 am Adult Study	3 4:00 & 6:15 pm - Yoga	4 10:00 am Bible Study	5 6:00 pm Praise Band	6	7 MN Conference UCC	8
9 9:30 am Worship	10 10:30 am Grief Support 4:00 & 6:15 pm - Yoga	11 10:00 am Bible Study	12 6:00 pm Praise Band	13	14  FLAG DAY	15 1:30 - 3:00 Garden's Visit
16 9:30 am Worship 	17 4:00 & 6:15 pm - Yoga	18 10:00 am Bible Study	19 6:00 pm Praise Band	20 10:00 am Women's Coffee	21	22 Workcamp
Workcamp in Parma Ohio						
23 9:30 am Worship	24 10:30 am Grief Support 4:00 & 6:15 pm - Yoga	25 10:00 am Bible Study	26 6:00 pm Praise Band	27	28	29
30 9:30 am Worship All For You to sing 5:00 pm CCIC Dinner						

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