



First Mennonite Church of Champaign-Urbana

February/March 2018

The Vine

What the Angel Said

by Bruce Miller

I put this Easter song together years ago. The tune is roughly "Don't be Cruel" by O. Blackwell and E. Presley. The tune writers may be a little before your time. If you have free time Easter afternoon, see how many of the scripture references you can locate and write down in 15 minutes.

Early that sad Sunday,
Women went to the grave
To pay their last respects.
This is not what they expect.

chorus:

"Jesus lives,"
That's what the angel said.
"Jesus lives.
Why look among the dead?"

They fetched Pete and John,
Who came on the run,
Found the stone rolled aside,
Empty grave-clothes inside.

chorus

Jesus spoke with Magdalene,
Peter and the other ten,
To five-hundred on the hill,
Stopped Paul on his way to kill.

chorus

(bridge I'm not happy with but D_bC has one):

He is the risen lord.
He will be here and everywhere adored.

First Mennonite 44th Annual Menno Nite

at Faith United Methodist Church

Saturday, February 17
6:00 pm

Adults and high school youth are invited to attend this evening of good food and entertainment. Sarah Lubienski and Dan Schreiber will emcee and are seeking talent.

Sign up on the FMC website or downstairs through Feb. 11.



Ash Wednesday Service
February 14
6:30 pm

The Church's season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. To mark this day, we will have a brief service with the Imposition of Ashes.

All are welcome!

Service and Outreach Committee Update

by Jan Sabey

The Service and Outreach committee has recommended that 12 local charitable organizations be included in the spending plan for 2018 which was approved at the annual congregational meeting on January 21, 2018. At the January S&O meeting, we decided to provide some info) to the congregation -- in the form of articles for *The Vine* -- about these various local groups with which we work and to whom we donate money. This is the first such article.

C-U at Home

What: CU at Home is an organization that provides opportunities for people with permanent addresses in C-U to learn about issues regarding homelessness in the community and to help in assisting the most vulnerable homeless in finding their way to healing and restoration. C-U at Home has 5 areas of focus: housing, transportation, street outreach, education and advocacy, and the Phoenix Daytime Drop-In Center. The Phoenix is the best-known part of the C-U at Home's work and is one of the main ways that friends from the community have an opportunity to interact with those without an address.

Less widely known is the fact that C-U at Home operates three homes that provide people an opportunity to get their lives together. This supportive transitional housing includes weekly case management sessions and spiritual mentoring. The transportation ministry provides safe transportation to other communities which provide substance rehab and detox beds (currently there are no detox services in Champaign County for those without insurance) and shelter programs.

Who: C-U at home has at least 5 paid people (some full-time, some part-time), and a full-time intern to staff the various ministries. However, it depends upon a large network of volunteers, business partners and faith communities to help at the Phoenix, and to provide in-kind and financial donations. C-U at Home gets no governmental funding through state or federal grants. Its main fundraiser is the One Winter's Night event. FMC has participated in this event for at least 4 of its 6 years.

Where: The Phoenix building also includes the staff offices of C-U at Home. It is located at 34 E. Green St., Champaign (about 1 block west of First Street).

When: The Phoenix is open Tuesday – Friday, noon to 5:00 p.m. The other outreaches are on-going and some (such as the street outreach) are almost 24/7.

For more info: www.cuathome.us and/or contact Jan Sabey (FMC)

Austin's Place

What: Austin's Place is the only emergency overnight shelter for single women in Champaign County. It has a capacity for 8 women and is open only during winter months. It is in its 11 season. In 2016-17, during its three months of service, it provided 301 beds and served 22 different women.

Who: Austin's Place is manned and staffed entirely by volunteers. This includes two female volunteers every night and others who launder the bedding, provide transportation, handle publicity and keep account of the donations.

Austin's Place works with Courage Connection, which provides a screening/registration and check-in service each evening. Then volunteers transport the women to the shelter itself.

Austin's Place depends on community support financially. It works at raising awareness of issues surrounding homelessness by having info tables at public and community events and providing speakers. Though it doesn't have a regular fund-raising event, it has been one of the "Round-Up" recipients at Common Ground Food Co-op for a few years.

Where: Austin's Place is hosted at First United Methodist Church of Champaign located at 210 W. Church Street in Champaign (near West Side Park).

When: This season, Austin's Place is open from December 11, 2017 to March 15, 2018. Check-in at Courage Connection is at about 8:00 p.m. each evening

For more information: Ruth Moore at FUMC – ruth@champaignfumc.org; website: shelter-austinsplace.weebly.com; or Donna Nelson (at FMC)

Acrostic Psalm 111

by Thursday Morning Bible Study

Thursday Morning Bible Study recently studied the praise-filled Psalm 111 and learned that it was an acrostic psalm – each line beginning with a successive letter of the 22 character Hebrew alphabet. We wrote the following praise-filled acrostic Psalm using the English alphabet.

Amazing God, you never give up on us.
Beyond our imagination you are, O God!
Changing difficulties into joy, dark times to light.
Delight in the ways God shows us glory and works miracles.
Earth and sky show your majesty and beauty.
Faithful and true to your word, O God.
Gracious God, your love and mercy hold us up.
Holy God, you let us glimpse your holiness.
In glory we praise your name.
Kathy praises your name in the company of all these saints around me.
Lavish love on the loveless, O God.
My life is full because of your bounteous mercies.
Nothing escapes your notice and your compassion, O God.
Open our hearts to those who need us each day.
Powerful possibilities roll from your fingertips, O God.
Quiet is when we hear your voice.
Righteousness and mercy flow from you, God.
Surely, goodness and mercy have followed me – thank you!
Trust in God for hope and healing.
Upon your grace I will rely.
Vitality you give us, let us use it to praise your name.
When darkness swallows the light, you are present and remain faithful.
Xalting (exalting) your name above all names, we sing your praises.
Yelling your greatness at the top of my lungs will be my joy.
Zion declares your glory throughout the nations.



Upstander

- by Pete Shungu



There's no such thing as an
 innocent bystander
 Cuz if you see someone being bullied
 Or you see someone being victimized by domestic violence
 and you do nothing
 then you are encouraging that violence to continue
 If you consistently turn your back on situations where people are suffering, people are in trouble
 and say it's not my problem
 then you are part of the problem
 We live in a world of privilege and oppression
 of haves and have nots
 This world is far from perfect, but it's all that we got
 So we got- to care for one another, share with one another,
 play fair with one another,
 And instead of standing by
 we need to start standing up.
 Be an upstander
 Cuz when we stand up together,
 we got each other's backs
 When we stand up together,
 we stop bullying and domestic violence in its tracks
 When we stand up together,
 we help to provide a safe space
 When we stand up together,
 we make the world a better place
 When we value each person as a unique human being,
 And allow each person to just be themselves
 instead of all trying to fit into some cookie cutter image of what we think is cool
 Then we all thrive-- we all survive
 Cuz no one should ever be told that who they are is wrong
 This is for that Black student who gets called the n word by a white person and feels powerless to say or do anything
 about it
 This is for that gay student who's getting bullied every day and feels like there's no escape
 This is for that student who gets arrested for bringing a clock to school
 because some ignorant people think that brown skin plus Muslim sounding name equals terrorist
 This is for that female student who gets told that she's ugly because she doesn't look just like those impossibly thin
 models in the entertainment industry-- not realizing that she truly is beautiful, both inside and out
 This is for that student who doesn't fit into our false socially-constructed gender binary, who doesn't feel that those
 neat little boxes of male and female fully describe who they are, and is told that means something's wrong with them
 Nothing's wrong with you
 What's wrong is society
 But we have the power to change that
 We have the power to change the world

Difficult conversations about racism

- Shared by Pastor Deb

The book list below is from an online conversation forum that engages people in difficult conversations about race. Want to join the forum? Talk to Pastor Deb for details (cost is \$5).

January - [White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide](#) by Carol Anderson

February - [Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People](#) by Mahzarin R. Banaji and Anthony G. Greenwald

March - [Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America](#) by Ibram X. Kendi

April - [Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America](#) by Michael Eric Dyson

May - [The Origin of Others](#) by Toni Morrison

June - [Women, Race, and Class](#) by Angela Y. Davis

July - [The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America](#) by Richard Rothstein

August - [All the Real Indians Died Off: And 20 Other Myths About Native Americans](#) by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and Dina Gilio-Whitaker

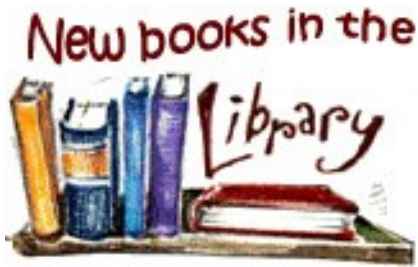
September - [White Awake: An Honest Look at What it Means to Be White](#) by Daniel Hill

October - [The Color of Money: Black Banks and the Racial Wealth Gap](#) by Mehrsa Baradaran

November - [White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Race](#) by Robin DiAngelo

December - [The Other Slavery: The Uncovered Story of Indian Enslavement in America](#) by Andrés Reséndez

**MOVING THE
RACE
CONVERSATION
FORWARD**



Adults

When the Emperor was Divine by Julie Otsuka

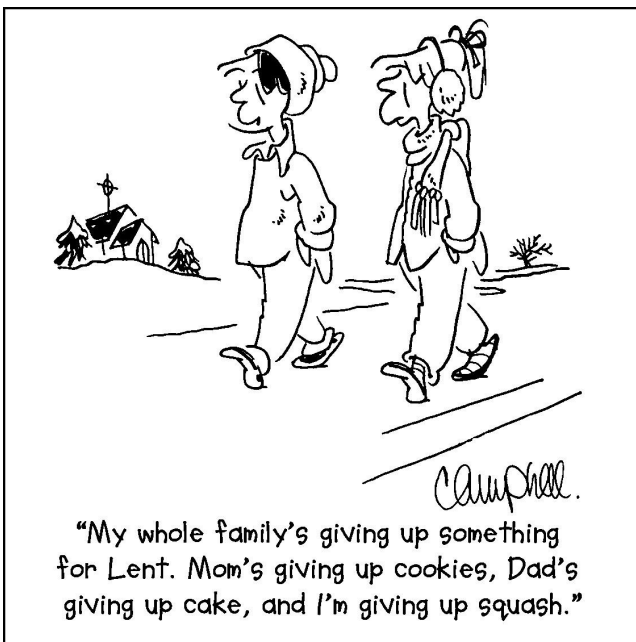
Children

A Northern Nativity by William Kurelek
(donated by Gibsons)

The Barefoot Book of Children by Tessa Strickland & Kate DePalma (donated by Tammie Bouseman)

Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey by Margriet Ruurs

Lent Humor



Lenten Word Search for Kids
(and those young at heart)

Puzzle!

Search for these words that are all associated with the Lenten journey.

<p>crown donkey hosanna penance Pilate sins colt crucifixion forsaken kiss prayer suffer confess death Gethsemane lots repent thorns cross denial Golgotha palms silver vigil</p>

E	N	A	M	E	S	H	T	E	G	R	L	W	Y
C	L	E	U	X	B	M	T	H	B	U	C	W	B
N	R	I	K	Y	P	A	T	E	T	I	Y	X	Y
A	V	J	G	A	L	B	R	E	Y	A	R	P	B
N	G	N	L	I	S	N	L	A	I	N	E	D	X
E	W	M	P	R	V	R	D	H	B	N	R	D	F
P	S	O	G	O	L	G	O	T	H	A	B	S	C
D	L	N	R	O	C	O	N	F	E	S	S	I	K
O	T	H	T	C	P	E	K	W	U	O	U	N	D
M	N	S	H	N	P	W	E	D	R	H	F	S	K
U	N	F	O	E	T	K	Y	C	S	G	F	O	E
H	E	C	R	E	V	L	I	S	W	Q	E	C	M
H	V	H	N	C	X	S	O	C	C	J	R	L	O
F	Q	E	S	U	D	S	H	C	A	A	Y	M	C
C	R	U	C	I	F	I	X	I	O	N	S	R	V

