

I can do
all things
through
CHRIST
who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13

Voices of Faith July & August 2018



Our Healthy Shelves Food Drive Continues...

Many thanks to Lisa Stark for visiting Faith this past month to educate us on the Healthy Shelves Initiative, which helps those who are dependent

on area food banks have healthy options available. Thanks to her, we know that many of our neighbors who suffer from chronic illness need items on our shelves that are low sodium, sugar free, or gluten free. Having those options in our food pantry helps them manage their conditions and lead healthier lives. Please consider purchasing and donating a much needed healthy option on your next shopping trip. Thanks :)



In Memory of Lou & Agnes Bach

Please join us on Sunday, July 1st at noon as we remember with thanksgiving the life, love, and legacy of Lou & Agnes Bach. A memorial tree is planned for planting some time in the future, but for now, please join family and community in honoring their memory and dedication. A light lunch will follow the service.

Adult Sunday School will continue to meet at 9AM through July 29th to discuss *Naked Spirituality: A Life with God in 12 Simple Words* by Brian McLaren. Pastor Nicole will also be preaching on themes from the book throughout the month.



Our Beautiful Garden is blessed & growing! (And the spinach is delicious!) Feel free to stop by anytime to water, weed, or just sit and enjoy the beauty of growing things. Our produce will be used to supplement the food pantry at Faith, to support the food ministry at Tricklebee Café, and increase the joy of the congregation.



What can I do?

If you're anything like me, you're really getting sick of all the craziness going on in the world. It seems every day brings with it a new opportunity for anger and outrage. I see other clergy marching and protesting, be active activists- advocates for those in need, and I start to feel a little bit guilty. Shouldn't I be out there standing up for the hurt and oppressed? Shouldn't I lend my voice to the voiceless? Maybe.... Probably... but, I can't. I really believe I'm suffering from a sense of outrage fatigue- the overwhelming sense that I've screamed into the void for so long, that I've lost my own voice in the process.

I guess that makes me a little voiceless too. I feel/felt/feel guilty about that sometimes, but an active activist friend of mine reminded me of something important. She's the type that does door to door voter registration and campaigning for candidates. She seems tireless. She also happens to be a beautiful singer and sings in a choir. She reminded me that sometimes music is written such that a note is expected to be held for a very loooooong time- longer than any one human voice could possibly physically hold. That's when the choir practices staggered breathing. Each person takes turns catching a breath. When the breath is taken, the person comes back in, refreshed and able to hold on longer while someone else takes their turn. In this way, the choir gets rested, but the music goes on. I felt less guilty after that. Maybe it's not that I'm lazy, or cynical, or that by shutting myself down, I've let the bad stuff win. Maybe I'm practicing staggered breathing, and I'm taking my breath. I hope to join the choir for goodness, mercy, lovingkindness, and justice soon, knowing that when I do, others will be able to take the breath I know they've been waiting for. Breathe when you can. The song plays on.

:) ~ *Pastor Nicole*



Vision Team Update

In the month of June, the Vision Team met twice to study scripture, pray, listen, talk, and think through some important issues brought up through our Holy Cow report. At our first meeting, we discussed our covenant together, deciding that God was already at work on Faith's future. Our job is to listen to understand the plan and work right alongside. Our second meeting found us talking about spiritual health and conflict resolution/mitigation as we studied Philippians 4:2-9. Our hope is to remember that God's goodness persists even when we get caught up in conflict. We're hoping to discover health-full ways to work through disagreements even as we look for ways to prevent them in the first place. Keep praying for and with the team as they go about their important work. Team Members: Becky Stribling, Brandon Ward, Jen Gallatin, Judy Bell, Brian Genduso, and Nan Luedtke.

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Sunday, September 2nd, 10AM
Lions Pavillion (behind Franklin City Hall)

Worship Scavenger Hunt, Games,
AND FOOD!

Details to come—watch your bulletin