

National Avenue Christian Church

24 March 2011

Springfield, Missouri

Searching for the Ancient Paths

~ Lent 2011 ~

Thus says the Eternal One, "Stand at the crossroads and look. Ask about the ancient paths. Ask what the good way is, and walk that way. Then you will find peace within yourselves."

Jeremiah 16:6

Lenten Schedule

Sunday, March 27 th	Third Sunday of Lent 10:00 am Worship ~ The Contemplative Way 3:00 to 5:00 pm ~ Walking the Labyrinth
Sunday, April 3 rd	Fourth Sunday of Lent 10:00 am Worship ~ The Communal Practices 3:00 to 5:00 pm ~ Walking the Labyrinth
Sunday, April 10 th	Fifth Sunday of Lent 10:00 am Worship ~ The Activist Way 3:00 to 5:00 pm ~ Walking the Labyrinth
Sunday, April 17 th	Palm Sunday 10:00 am Worship ~ Moving On 3:00 to 5:00 pm ~ Walking the Labyrinth 7:00 pm ~ A Special Musical Performance with Selections from Mozart's Requiem ~ Stone Chapel, Drury University Campus
Thursday, April 21 st	6:00 pm ~ Maundy Thursday Dinners ~ various homes
Friday, April 22 nd	4:00 pm ~ Midnight, Stations of the Cross

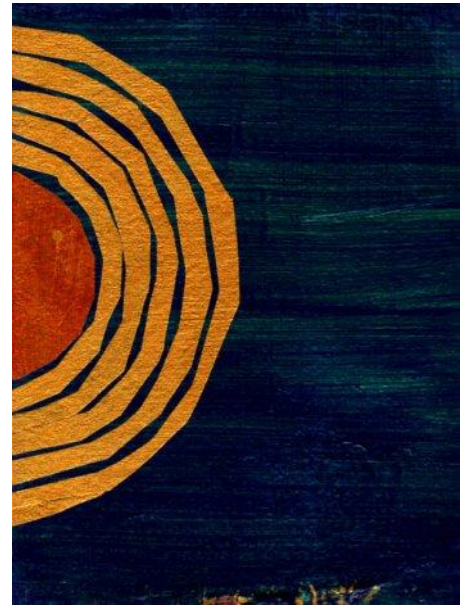
Walking the Labyrinth...

Labyrinths are wonderful aids to prayer and meditation, and during the season of Lent, we will have a labyrinth in the Gallery each Sunday afternoon. This week, Tom Boone will be available to introduce you to the Labyrinth if you have not walked one before. You are invited to walk the path into the center and back out again. You will be asked to take your shoes off as you walk and use this time to reflect, and perhaps redefine, your journey with God.

Lenten Study Groups...

There is still time to join one of the Lenten Study Groups.

Monday Lunch Group	12noon at <i>Wanna Get a Pizza</i>	John Mihalevich, leading
Wednesday Evening Group	6pm at NACC	John White and Matt Gallion, leading
Saturday Group	2pm at NACC	Amy McMasters, leading



This Sunday Morning in the Parlor...

One of the most ancient paths to experiencing our oneness with the Divine is the contemplative path. Following this path includes participating in spiritual practices such as contemplative prayer, meditation, reflection, silence and solitude. Jesus made these practices a part of his journey and many Christians through the centuries have followed his example. In 16th century Spain a number of women and men such as Teresa of Avila, St. John the Divine and Ignatius Loyola did much to enrich and advance the contemplative tradition.

St. Ignatius' contributions to the contemplative dimension of Christian spirituality is as alive as ever as it comes to us through religious order he founded known as the Society of Jesus or the Jesuits. In the course of his lifetime, as a result of his spiritual formation work with the novices who wished to join the order, Ignatius developed an approach to contemplative practice that came to be known as the Spiritual Exercises. There are two key ingredients in these Exercises. One is an approach to relational prayer in which one uses as many of the five senses as possible to gain a deep sense of the presence of the Sacred as well as an experience of our absolute oneness with the Divine. The second is an annual spiritual retreat of several days length made in relative silence and solitude with the guidance of a spiritual director.

You are invited to join Peter Browning's class for a session about Ignatian Spirituality that will include a guided Ignatian contemplative prayer experience on March 27 in the Parlor at 9:00am. The learning experience will be facilitated by Rev. Tom Boone an ordained minister, graduate of the Christian Spirituality Program of Creighton University and founder of Mystic Trace Retreat Center near Pleasant Hope, Missouri.

Maundy Thursday Dinners...

Remembering that Jesus and his friends often gathered for meals, this year on Maundy Thursday, which is April 21st, several people in our congregation will be hosting dinners in their homes. On Maundy Thursday we recall Jesus' last meal with his disciples and the new commandment he gave to love one another. As part of the evening's meals, the Lord's Supper will be shared. It will be a special time together as we prepare to journey through Good Friday and the Stations of the Cross. If you would like to attend one of the dinners, please sign up at the Welcome Table in the Gallery.

Making a Difference at Home -Fresh Fruit Drive for Crosslines...

Thank you so much to those of you who have contributed low-sugar cereal and other essential items to Crosslines. We were able to provide healthier cereal to over 40 Crosslines families! Many of our Crosslines families don't have the ability to enjoy fresh fruit, so we would like to treat them to fresh fruit on April 1. If you are willing, please donate bags of oranges or apples (fruit of the less perishable type) by Tuesday, March 29. Thank you again for your continued support, Kim Zimmerman.

CWF Project for the Month of March...

CWF will be serving Sigma House located at 800 South Park during the month of March. The Sigma House was founded by the Council of Churches of the Ozarks and it is a separate corporation today, operating as a non-profit, full spectrum drug and alcohol treatment center. The Sigma House will appreciate anything we can take to them. We would appreciate your help in providing the following items: fresh fruit, vegetables, popcorn, chips, cheese, crackers, peanuts, peanut butter, cake mixes, brownie mix, personal items and good reading materials [books, catalogues, magazines]. It has been requested that no home made items or mouth wash be contributed. There will be a box in the fellowship hall in the northwest corner for our delivery on each Monday. We will be collecting items and making the deliveries from February 28th to March 27th.

The Kitchen's GED Program...

Genny Cramer teaches in The Kitchen's GED program and they are in need of a good used larger coffee pot. The coffee that is offered to the students is an important part of the hospitality that is extended as students come to work on something that will be life changing for many of them. If you have a good used coffee pot or would like to purchase a new one for the program, please contact Genny at 881-7070 or at gennycramer@missouristate.edu.

A Congregational Care Plan...

This past week, our Elders and Deacons began implementing a plan for congregational care that was formed at the Deacon and Elder meetings this fall and in January. These groups were formed to help build community, ensure that our communications are reaching everyone, and to provide additional care to our members. You may have already been contacted by an Elder or a Deacon telling you of the plan or you will be receiving a card or note from them in the near future. Each person in the congregation has been assigned to a group that will be looked after by a group of Elders and Deacons. You will be provided with contact information for them and they will be available to help you as needs arise. You will find some additional information listed below that explain the priorities of this new Congregational Care Plan.

- ***Community Building:*** This was the number one priority for the Steering Committee that finished its work almost two years ago. It was extremely important to the church at that time and continues to be a central to who we are and what we do. The Congregational Care groups are intended to enhance the sense of community at National Avenue. This sense of community comes in part from knowing there is someone who truly cares for you. It is our hope that this plan will further build the foundation that has been helping us realize our potential as a community of faith that truly values the people who call National Avenue their church home.
- ***Communication:*** Making sure everyone in the congregation is aware of what is happening is also vital within our church community. We are coming to realize that even though we now use several means of communication, some people are still not receiving all the information they need. It helps a great deal if each of us has someone in leadership to contact with questions. In this way, we hope to have more opportunities to keep everyone in the loop.
- ***Care:*** There simply are not enough hours in the week for our staff to provide all the care that is needed. While Hubert Lines sees people who are no longer able to attend church on a regular basis, it is so wonderful to have additional people who can help – in sending out cards, remembering birthdays, and keeping in touch in case there are any new or special needs. In the same way, while Pastor Laura is the person normally involved in crisis situations, it is hard for her to do all the needed follow up care that in some cases can go on for months. It will be wonderful for the Deacons and Elders to share this responsibility.

If you have any questions about the new plan, please do not hesitate to contact our Elder Chairs, Neil Guion and Jill Denton or our Deacon Chairs, Stephanie Young and Charrie Dixon. We look forward to all these new connections.

Our Sympathies are Extended to...

The family of Jane Ellen Fatzinger who died on March 21st. Jane had been a member of National Avenue for several years but had been unable to attend services recently. A service of remembrance was held for Jane on Thursday at the Lodge at Creekside, where she had lived for the last nine years.

■ National Avenue Christian Church ■

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Rev. Laura Fregin, Senior Minister
Matthew Gallion, Pastoral Resident
Kevin Williams, Music Director

Rev. Hubert Lines, Minister of Visitation
Dr. John White, Scholar in Residence
Wayland Schue, Organist