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ABBAY ROAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

ARCC NEWS

The Pastor's Ponderings

What a dark and gloomy day it is.

And I am pondering many things today: the way the house shook when the thunder and lightning struck last night and this morning and again a little while ago. This California Hothouse Flower has never been shaken out of bed by a storm before, only by earthquakes!!

As we approach a year of Pandemic living with all of its bizarre changes, how are you doing?

Some of us have had our own episodes and experiences with Covid 19. Some have experienced loss of family and friends. Some haven't experienced that kind of deep loss that involves the loss of life, but at the same time many of us have hardly stepped foot outside our homes and are having pretty intense stir craziness and frustration.

Some of us respond by eating too much ice cream, while others cope by upping their exercise. Many who work at home have grown used to wearing pajamas and sweat suits to the (home) office and have given up hair stylists and shaving and make-up and hair coloring.

It's true!

Now, I tend toward casual dressing anyway, and rarely wear makeup if it isn't Sunday, but I hadn't quite slipped down the slope to wearing pajamas all day so we change from our Daytime PJs to our after work PJs, as the joke goes.

But today....today was different. With the dark clouds and rain, I found myself making my lunch still in my pajamas. And now, a couple hours later at 3pm, as I got up to go fetch in the mail, I realized I am still in them, for Pete's sake. I wonder why?

While I am wondering why, I look over and notice my Christmas tree is still sitting in the corner with piles of house decorations waiting to go back in boxes and into the garage.

What the heck is going on here?

Well... I think I'll blame Covid fatigue! I'm just darned tired of social- distancing and of not socializing.

I miss in-person worship and Sunday School, and even meetings! I miss being able to visit folk in the hospital when they are ill or going to have a procedure; or in their home when they aren't able to get out. I miss having company!

I hate that the most social events of the past 9 months have been memorial funeral services.

Now, lest you begin to think that I am just being a big whiny baby, let me go on to say that if I were a better, I'd bet you money that some of you are just as frustrated as I am! Maybe even more!

And that is ok. We are living through challenging times. Why not take it easy on yourself? And anyone else who is having a hard time as Covid life keeps rolling along without signs of a total halt too soon.

And while you are at it, make sure you are drinking enough water, washing your hands and masks and getting some exercise.

And let's give thanks to God for the miracle of science and medicine as we queue up for our vaccinations.

This too shall pass, and the day will come when we can meet together and maybe even eat together. And it might be sooner than we originally thought.

So look around and give thanks for life and breath, family and friends, freedom and even frustration. We are alive and we are loved by the One who brought us life!

It is going to be alright!

Peace and Love to you all!

Pastor E



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(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

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- ◆ Reminder: the PFLAG Cape Girardeau Street Clean Up 2021 event takes place this Saturday, January 30, at 10AM. Come help clean up Cape! Meet at the Assembly of God parking lot across from Kiwanis Park on Perryville Road!
- ◆ The **5TH SUNDAY OFFERING FOR THE HELPING HAND FUND** will be received the week of January 31. This fund assists local families/individuals with rent, utilities, transportation, medical needs, and groceries, to name a few. The fund is solely supported by members and friends of our congregation. Please give generously! Thank you!
- ◆ You may view the JANUARY 24 worship service by clicking this link:
<https://www.wevideo.com/view/2019579542> Thank you to Roanne for supplying the link each week.

The Intent for the
January 31
Meditation/Centering
Prayer group is
Unity




John & Deborah Browne, Luther Hunt, Mark Faith, Bill Cox, Joe Robb Blattner, Susan Spooler, Carol Gleason, Liz Meyer, Debbie Bradley, Dawn Knoderer, Kim Farrar Frank, George & Helen Amick, Pat Murray & Wally Allstun, Ed Sheridan & Nita Brackin, Martha D., Mary Hendrix, Wayne Piker, Kim Wells Schott, frontline workers, Felicia Fox, Henry S., Edna Ohmart, David H., Frank & Sue Batchelor, Troy & Wilma Dooley, Dorothy R., Calvin Wells, Linda Dillman, Ed Tilley, Alan Myers, Carla Jordan, relatives & friends serving in the military, all who are hurting, lonely, and afraid.
Do you have someone to add to our prayer list? Please inform the church office.



3 Bruce McKenzie	23 Tony Balsano
11 Norman Brooks	25 Melanie Sherinski
Deanna Easley	27 Larry Easley
16 Andrew Bentlage	28 Steve Jordan

February 14, 2021 is Scout Sunday at Abbey Road Christian Church!

Each year on Feb. 8, Scouting celebrates its birthday. It's a date officially known as Scouting Anniversary Day. But this is more than an excuse to have s'mores for dessert and celebrate another year of Scouting adventures.

It's also when packs, troops, crews and ships honor a Scout's "duty to God." Scouts do this with their worshipping community via a trio of faith-based celebrations known as Scout Sunday, Scout Sabbath and Scout Jumuah.

The exact dates may vary, (ours is Feb.14) but each one is an opportunity for Scouts to publicly demonstrate the 12th point of the Scout Law: A Scout is Reverent.

That might mean an act as simple as wearing the full field uniform to worship services. Or it might mean participating in the worship services by doing a reading, singing a song, or presenting religious emblems and awards.

We would like to invite you who are or were scouts to help us to celebrate Scouting safely. If you would like to be part of the Feb. 14 worship service as we lift up scouting, let Pastor Elaine know! We will safely record the worship service the Wednesday before the 14th, and we hope to make an outdoor video celebrating our new fire pit which was the Eagle Project of Kaleb Posey of Troop 21, that the congregation helped support with their donations.

So, Scouts young and young at heart, brush off your uniforms and polish up your medals so you can look Scout sharp on video!!

And don't forget to let Pastor E know that you would like to participate!

