

COVID-qué

A mini
Newsletter
for these
unusual times

MAY 2021

Our Mission:

As a fellowship of Christ's followers, our mission is to journey through life with the inclusive Christ and embrace ALL with God's transforming love.

*Tell all the Truth but tell it slant-
Success in Circuit lies
Too bright for our infirm Delight
The Truth's superb surprise*

*As Lightening to the Children eased
With explanation kind
The truth must dazzle gradually
Or every man be blind-*



Emily Dickinson has captured imaginations and souls through her poems for over 100 years. And it is the above poem, #1129, that has stuck with me for the past handful of years. "Tell all the Truth but tell it slant-" Dickinson suggests that rarely can we take *all* of truth at one time, however broad or narrow you want to define 'truth'. Take for example a parent who tries to explain thunder to a young child. "What's that sound you say? It's...well... angels bowling in the sky." The parent does not go into a full scientific explanation that thunder is really the result of a sudden increase in pressure and temperature resulting from lightening because at this age, the child wouldn't understand. *Tell the Truth but tell it slant-...the Truth must dazzle gradually or every man be blind-*

Curiously, in the poem, Dickinson capitalizes "Truth". She might be describing divine truth...and the need for multiple lenses for us to see, hear, and understand all of God. Like Moses who had to hide behind the rock as the glory of God passed him by, we too are overwhelmed when we try to grasp all that is God and all of the movement of God. So, we need various lenses to see this Truth. We need various slants to hear the Truth. We hear through the slant of Scripture. We see through the slant of Jesus. We hear through the slant of history. We see through the slant of personal experience. We need various stories and various slants to more fully grasp all the goodness of God. *Tell all the Truth but tell it slant-*

We are presently in the season of Easter. In the church calendar, Easter is not limited to one particular day, but is a full season in which we consider and pay attention to the continued ways that resurrections take place around us and within us.

In the spirit of Easter, in what ways are you experiencing resurrection differently this year than you have in years past? What new lenses do you use now that you have not done so in previous times to see the resurrected Christ? As Richard Rohr describes it, you and I live in a "Christ-soaked world." The Truth is all around us. The Truth is all within us. Our work is to embrace more and more of this Truth, that is God.

Tell the Truth. Embrace the Truth. See the Truth as it is told slant.

Raise Your Hand!

When you see this icon (hands with hearts raised) throughout this newsletter, you'll find a church mission opportunity to serve God and God's Creation.





Business Meeting May 19, 2021

Our quarterly church Business Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 19 at 6:30**. The Business Meeting will be conducted on Zoom. You can participate in this meeting on your computer or by telephone. So that we can begin at 6:30, please logon to Zoom a few minutes prior to that time.

The link to access the zoom meeting:

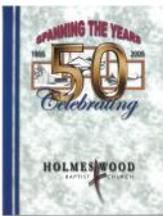
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87446852915?pwd=aExKM0lwV1NBbXVUTXJzWHJ0cmRZUT09>

**If using your telephone, dial:
(312) 626-6799**

Meeting ID: 874 4685 2915

Passcode: 588375

LIBRARY NEWS

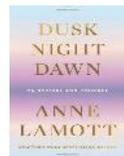


“BUILDING ON OUR LEGACY” is the theme of our renovation campaign.

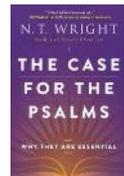
DO YOU KNOW THE LEGACY OF HOLMESWOOD? Here are a few questions to test your knowledge: In what African country did we build a church? When did we welcome the Russian congregation? What church bought our property and started HBC as a mission church? How many joined the mission church on the first Sunday? Who were the two members we sent to Taiwan as missionaries? When did we leave SBC? When did we first ordain women? Who were the 5 members who went to Tilbury, England on a mission trip? Our work crew built a sanctuary in Northboro, Massachusetts in what year? 200 homeless came from City Union Mission for dinner in what year? How many pastors have we had? The church had 1279 members in what year?

The answers to these questions and many more about our legacy are found in the history book **SPANNING THE YEARS, 1955-2005.....**it’s in the Library. It has the significant actions from every business meeting from 1955 to 2005. Check it out to discover our legacy !

NEW IN THE LIBRARY.....



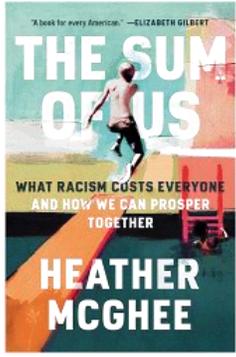
DUSK NIGHT DAWN: ON REVIVAL AND COURAGE by Anne Lamott. This new book is the 12th faith based-essay collection by Lamott. The book cover blurb says “Lamott shows the intimate and individual ways we can adopt to move through life’s dark places and toward the light of hope that still burns for all of us”.



THE CASE FOR THE PSALMS: WHY THEY ARE ESSENTIAL BY N.T. WRIGHT. The Psalms offer us a way to worship GOD amid any and all emotional states. They guide our worship and explore what the great promises of GOD mean.



EVERYTHING MUST CHANGE by Brian McLaren. McLaren says our Creator wants us to pursue virtue, collaboration, peace and mutual care for one another and all living creatures. If we align ourselves with GOD’S wisdom, character and dreams for us the world will become a very different place.



The Social Justice Team is facilitating a 5-week book club beginning **Wednesday evening, April 28** on the book *The Sum of Us-What Racism Costs Everyone and How We can Prosper Together* by Heather McGhee. The first gathering will take place via Zoom from 6 - 7pm and then further gathering instructions will be given at that time.

There are several copies of *The Sum of Us* in the church office for \$5 or you can purchase your own copy via amazon.

Summary:

McGhee embarks on a deeply personal journey across the country from Maine to Mississippi to California, tallying what we lose when we buy into the zero-sum paradigm—the idea that progress for some of us must come at the expense of others. Along the way, she meets white people who confide in her about losing their homes, their dreams, and their shot at better jobs to the toxic mix of American racism and greed. This is the story of how public goods in this country—from parks and pools to functioning schools—have become private luxuries; of how unions collapsed, wages stagnated, and inequality increased.

But in unlikely places of worship and work, McGhee finds proof of what she calls the Solidarity Dividend: gains that come when people come together across race, to accomplish what we simply can't do on our own.

With startling empathy, this heartfelt message from a Black woman to a multiracial America leaves us with a new vision for a future in which we finally realize that life can be more than a zero-sum game.

The reading schedule is:

April 28 - Introduction and Chapters 1-2

May 5 - Chapters 3-4

May 12 - Chapters 5-6

May 19 - Business Meeting

May 26 - Chapters 7-8

June 5 - Chapters 9-10

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

May Birthdays

5/01 Jeff Swezy, Logan Urias

5/02 Carolyn Jensen

5/06 John Brown

5/07 Kate Sanders

5/08 Steve Lau, Jan Reid,
Amanda Sanders, Tim Ussery

5/09 Michelle (Farber) Robertson

5/11 Sara Decker, John Williamson,
Mary York

5/13 Jesse Johnson, Miriam McDaniel

5/17 Ellen Duffield, Mark Lowry

5/19 Don Dyer

5/20 Shirley Hall, Phines Sanders

5/21 Austin During, Cindy Lessenden

5/22 Thomas Scott

5/23 Jo Dickerson

5/26 Janet Durbin

5/27 Tammie Kresse-Lowry,
Stephanie Scott, Michelle Smedley

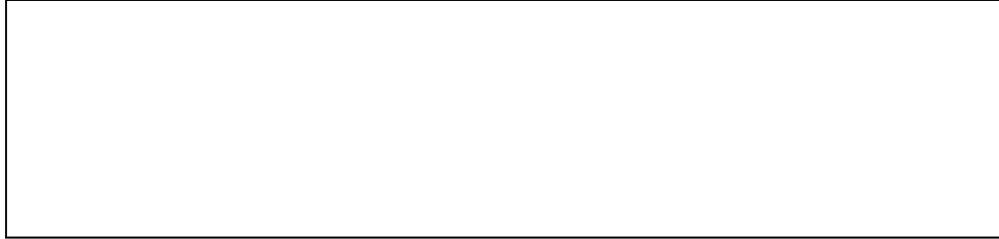
5/30 Mickey Anderson, Carol Myers

5/31 Barbara Fountain



Be sure and send Happy Birthday greetings to this month's birthday friends. A card, text, or a phone call mean so much!

COVID-19



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

9700 Holmes Road
Kansas City, MO 64131-3215
WWW.HOLMESWOOD.ORG

HOLMESWOOD
BAPTIST CHURCH

From the Faith Community Health Team...

Planting Your Spring Garden

For the Garden of Your Daily Living



Plant Three Rows of Peas

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash

1. Squash Gossip
2. Squash Indifference
3. Squash Grumbling
4. Squash Selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce

1. Lettuce Be Faithful
2. Lettuce Be Kind
3. Lettuce Be Patient
4. Lettuce Really Love One Another

No Garden is Complete Without Turnips

1. Turnip for Meetings
2. Turnip for Service
3. Turnip to Help One Another

To Conclude Our Garden We Must Have Thyme

1. Thyme for Each Other
2. Thyme for Family
3. Thyme for Friends

Water freely with Patience and Cultivate with Love.

There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

Pass it On!