



DEVOTIONALS: 24 - 30 JULY 2022

LOOKING AT LIFE THRU GOD'S GLASSES

MINDSET SHIFTS THAT CAN RESHAPE YOUR CHURCH'S FUTURE

<https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/7-mindset-shifts-that-can-reshape-your-churchs-future/>

To reshape the future of your church you must set aside old assumptions, fears, and stereotypes and embrace new experiences and methods. This includes exploring generational transition, design thinking, and successful private sector organizations to discern a new direction for the church. This journey begins with a “blank slate” that embraces a new future.

People need more than the Sunday morning hour to experience life transformation. Each day thousands of people in the communities we serve need help with housing, transportation, food, education, health care, and more. Unfortunately, the church often turns the majority of these people

away offering little or no help.

Yet, imagine the very identity of the church once again becoming a place of empathy that connects people to resources while meeting immediate physical and deep spiritual needs. Imagine the church as a place where people find belonging and empowerment. This exciting future requires that we embrace seven essential mindsets.

Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Foundational to a mindset of imagination, envisioning, and hopefulness is faith. Not a generic faith that lives afar and avoids messiness, but an active faith that's activated in the context of particular communities amidst their hopes and struggles with God.

1. See differently.

What would we see if we stepped outside of our comfort zones? What would we see if we sacrificed our own wants for the desires of God in our lives, hearts, churches, and communities? What space might we make for others if we see what God sees? Take some time to pray and to look around and see what you're missing. Ask God to give you a fresh perspective on situations in your life. Ask God to show you things the way that God sees them; ***looking at life thru God's glasses.***

2. Let go of the outcome and be willing to fail.

Nelson Mandela is quoted as saying, "I never lose. ***I either win or I learn.***" Failure is an incredibly powerful tool for learning if we choose to embrace it. As we seek to solve big problems, we're bound to fail. But if we adopt the right mindset, we'll inevitably learn something from that failure and have a better chance for success next time. We don't need to micromanage one another or the universe. We let go of the outcome. And we open ourselves to all sorts of wonderful possibilities that aren't there when we're attached to one "right" path.

Hebrews 11:6 - "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

3. Decide that innovation is mission-critical.

John Wesley preached in open fields, taught holistic healing methods, and cared for the poor. He was committed to trying cutting-edge methods for the mission of holistic salvation without regard for the status quo. Where are you afraid to break new ground? Who can experiment with you? When will you begin?

4. Practice storytelling and naming.

Everyone's story deserves to be told, especially those who have been systemically silenced, sidelined, and stereotyped. As the church leads more people to tell their stories, witness is made to the relationship and interconnectiveness, instead of separation of race, class, education, mental and physical ability, and religious identity. Through storytelling the naming of good and bad, justice and injustice, joy and pain, love and heartache are identified instead of ignored. As a result, the transformation of both individuals and society becomes possible and the mission of the church is lived out.

5. Be relentless in empathy and belonging.

The church is called to meet the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of people in our neighborhoods and within the context of community. This type of engagement is a form of evangelism. It's a connectional, social, boundary-crossing evangelism, and it begins outside the church. This is the deeper, messier work of evangelism that is required to transform our communities. This liberating work can be done in partnership with a variety of organizations and agencies, but authentic spiritual liberation is the primary responsibility of the church of Jesus Christ. It starts in the street, engages with local leaders in law enforcement, local government, and school districts, and includes local congregations. And the foundation for this work is empathy demonstrated by presence in the mist of everyday life with one another. Who is God calling you toward in empathy?

Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

6. Practice the work of empowerment.

A way of demonstrating empathy is empowerment. Empowerment is not granted from an external source. It emerges from within as persons and communities acknowledge and appreciate the gifts and responsibilities that come from our collective physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual depths. The church is called to be a place of empathy, empowerment, and belonging for people in our neighborhoods. We must lead the way in the practices of welcoming hospitality, radical inclusion, and bold justice. Whom are you being called to empower and with whom are you being called to create spaces of belonging? What's stopping you? What's the easiest step you can take today towards this person(s)?

7. Imagine, hope, and act.

If you could create anything for your future in the next year, what would you like to create for your life, your church, or community? This question sets the foundation for taking on a big challenge, especially one as large and complex as the social ills of poverty, education, health, and spiritual healing. It's a mindset of hopefulness and confidence about desired outcomes. It is the belief in possibility, the idea that even if we don't know the answer, it's out there and collectively we can find it.

Foundational to a mindset of imagination, envisioning, and hopefulness is faith. Not a generic faith that lives afar and avoids messiness, but an active faith that's activated in the context of particular communities amidst their hopes and struggles with God. It is a faith in community, working in partnership with one another and God. In this place trust is built and the gift of partnership can be realized.

PRAYER: O Lord, Father Almighty, I pray for help to strengthen my faith in you. I believe, but I don't always believe in your power and might. I don't always believe that in you all things are possible. I don't always place my trust in you, instead trying to fix everything on my own. I don't always turn to you first, instead turning to the world for answers and help. I have doubts about your role in the world today. I struggle to relate the scriptures to my own life. Lord, I believe, but help with my unbelief! Help my head and my heart and my soul to believe in you and trust in you fully, without a doubt, knowing that in you all things are possible. Lord, strengthen my faith! Amen.

PRAYER CONCERNS ~ HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU TODAY?

- An urgent need for prayers of healing and support is requested for Mr. Nancy Whitson. She is hospitalized and experiencing a critical medical crisis. God our Helper, we bring to You. Ms. Nancy, who is in need of the Great Physician. We pray that You will bring an anointing of comfort to her and her family. Let them know that with You there is forgiveness. May they be comforted that with You is loving care and with You is redemption in abundance. May Ms. Nancy, our beloved Christian sister, receive the comfort of knowing she is at peace with You, and that her family is at peace with her and with one another. Amen. Cards and notes of prayer and support can be mailed to: Mrs. Nancy Whitson, 922 Hickory Street, West Bend, WI 53095
- A faithful and beloved servant, Mr. William (Bill) Hornung passed away 7 July 2022 surrounded by his family. Well done thy good and faithful servant; come and share my happiness! A private funeral will be held in Michigan on Saturday 30 July 2022; Rev. Clarissa Martinelli will officiate. We extend to Mrs. Ginger and the family our love, strength and support. Your cards and notes of condolences can be mailed to: Mrs. Ginger Hornung, W194N16744 Eagle Dr. Room 3, Jackson, WI 53037
- Our beloved Christian Sister, Ms. June Knowlton-Sengpiel, is starting to degrade in her condition. Cards and notes can be mailed to: Mrs. June Knowlton-Sengpiel, Pavilion at Glacier Valley, 1900 American Eagle Dr., #415B, Slinger, WI 53086
- We grieve the passing of our beloved Wesleyan butterfly, Ms. Betsy Winquist who passed away on Saturday, 21 May 2022. Comfort and peace to her family and friends.
- Bro. Slade request prayer for his family and others that were affected by the torrential rains in St. Louis, MO. Lord in your mercy; hear our prayer.
- We extend our deep and heartfelt condolences to the family of Rev. Wesley "Wes" C. Falk who passed away on 11 June 2022. Cards of care and support may be sent to: Mrs. Bonnie Falk, 5458 E. Moraine Hills Dr., West Bend 53095.
- **Fifth Ave. United Methodist Church, we are in desperate and wanting need for you to step-up and serve on the Accountable Leadership Board (ALB). Your church is in grave and urgent need for fresh, creative and innovative leadership. All positions of the board are open. Please, please contact Pastor Clarissa (847.721.1826) to discern God's call for you to serve your church. You may not think you have the gift, talent, and/or time to serve, however, "If you listen to the word, but do not put it into practice you are like people who look in a mirror and see themselves as they are. They take a good look at themselves and then go away and at once forget what they look like. But if you look closely into the perfect law that sets people free, and keep on paying attention to it but put it into practice—you will be blessed by God in what you do." (James 1:23-25) Good is calling you; inviting you to step forward and serve God's church and God's people. Will you say. "Yes?" We need you!**
- "I found I had less and less to say, until finally, I became silent, and began to listen. I discovered in the silence, the voice of God." Soren Kierkegaard. Base on many forms of church data, many churches will not exist in the next few years. FAUMC leadership has gone as far as to project that our church has only six to ten years of life left. As your devotedly committed and passionate Pastor and Spiritual Leader, I rebuke this death sentence. I have been eagerly attempting to energize the church (the people) and engage our members in a vital and relevant faith journey

and discipleship. It all begins with serving (volunteering) God's church and God's people. Where are you being called to serve? How can you take the light of Christ into the dark and hurting world? Please join me as we lead revitalized ministries, programs, and outreach as we're willing open to looking inward in order to have an outward influence that makes a difference to our community and the world. Come, where are you going to serve?

- Bro. Bob Krell, prayers for strength and continued healing. Please mail cards and notes of prayer and encouragement to: Bro. Bob and Mrs. Jean Krell, 804 Lenora Drive, West Bend, WI 53090
- We extend passionate love and support to Mr. John Abuya on his recent diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. Card of love and support can be sent to: Mr. John Abuya, 328 East Washington Street, #1, Slinger, WI 53086.
- Many of our church family members and friends are experiencing health concerns. Please join me in praying for their healing and restoration: "loving God, I pray that you will comfort us in our suffering, lend skill to the hands of the healers, and bless the means used for to cure. Give each of us such confidence in the power of your grace, that even when we are afraid, I may put my whole trust in you; through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen."
- We continue to share our seed of faith to Ms. Lora Santiago, daughter of Mr. Peter and Ms. Katie Glaser, who was diagnosed with melanoma cancer. Ms. Lora is so appreciative of your continued prayers and support. Your seeds of faith through cards and notes can be mailed to: Mrs. Lora Santiago, C/O Mrs. Katie Glaser, N166 W21211 Glencoe Lane, Jackson, WI 53037.
- We send our prayers and support to Mrs. Sandy Wamser. She has returned to Wisconsin. Cards and notes of continued healing and restoration can be mailed to: Mrs. Sandy Wamser, 3742 Pleasant Valley Road, West Bend, WI 53095.
- We ask for your continued prayers of healing and restoration for Rev. Jean Bartlett. She will move to a nursing facility where she will start both radiation and chemotherapy on 21 March 2022. We're also praying for Rev. Jon Bartlett for strength and courage. Cards and emails of comfort, healing and care can be sent to: Rev. Jean and Rev. Jon Bartlett, 813 Seymour Street, Waupun, WI 53963. Email address: bilojon@gmail.com
- Mrs. Janice Liepert-Kempf, continued prayers for healing and strength as she continues to struggle with illness. You can send emails of prayers and support to: alankempf33@gmail.com; or cards and notes to Mrs. Janice Liepert-Kempf, 414B. South Pleasantview Road, Plymouth, WI 53073; phone number: 920.838.1830.
- Ms. Linda Green, sister of Mrs. Debra Matthies, thank you for your continued prayers for strength and courage as her cancer has returned. Cards and notes can be mailed to: Ms. Linda Green, c/o Mrs. Debra Matthies, 1466 North 12th Avenue, West Bend, WI 53090.
- Mr. Len McGinnis, Jr., continues to face medical concern. Your cards and notes of support and well wishes for Mr. Len and Mrs. Shelia McGinnis can be mailed to: 1230 Vogt Drive, West Bend, WI 53095
- Mr. Roger and Mrs. Nobi Sacia, are grateful for your prayers and cards of encouragement. Mr. Roger and Mrs. Nobi, 1626 Jefferson Street, Madison WI 53711
- Mr. Phil Heimerl, son-in-law of Mike & Fay Lewis. He was diagnosed with ALS and continues to request your prayers of healing.

All-Powerful Father, I bow before You because You are awesome and worthy of all the praise. Your word declares that I can do all things through You who strengthens me! I put all my trust in You. You alone are my God. You alone are my joy. You are my heart and my soul. You are the grass under my feet and the sky above. You are seen and unseen, Father. Keep me at Your right hand forever, fill me with Your grace, and make me Yours all the days of my life. Amen.

God's anointing blessings upon you, Pastor Clarissa & Bro. Martin