

Covenant Church Newsletter

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A Christ centered covenant community;

Loving God,

Loving People,

Making Disciples

April 2021

Pastor's Ponderings

For this past month I have been listening to a book called *Mastermind: How to Think Like Sherlock Holmes*, by Maria Konnikova as I drive back and forth to Casa Grande. Not that I think I will ever think like Sherlock Holmes, but the title intrigued me (and for the record, I tend to bounce back and forth between reading Christian authors and secular authors in an effort to stay well rounded and in touch with what's going on).

There are some helpful tips and tidbits in the book, including a longish section on the phenomenon of priming, the psychological phenomenon in which being exposed to some kind of stimulus or cue that influences the way we act without our even knowing it. In one study, for example, people who read words like *wrinkle* and *Florida* were reported to unintentionally walk slower as a result of the age-related cues (and who knew that *Florida* was such a powerful stimulus to think of old people!).

The main ways that priming gets used is in education and sales, but of course there are lots of other possibilities. I think priming is exactly what happens every time you and I read the Bible, go to church, or sing a hymn or praise song. God has put these disciplines into our lives as a way of giving us cues about how we should act and react. In other words, when we read God's Word with our morning cup of coffee, or listen to Christian radio as we leave the house, or come to church week after week, we are front-loading our lives successfully being the kind of Christian we want to be.

So, it turns out that Konnikova's book, in ways I doubt she intended, IS a Christian book, or at least provides some good discipleship advice. We don't really need to know how to think like Sherlock Holmes, but we do want to have *the mind of Christ* as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 2:16. In Romans 12:2 Paul encourages us to be transformed by the renewing of our mind, and of course in Philippians 2:5 he tells us to have the mind and attitude of Christ as we humble

ourselves in service to others. All of this happens more readily if we are *primed* by our habit of meeting our Lord in daily devotion, and by faithfully gathering together in weekly worship.

In Christ,

Brant

Many of us participated in the Home of Hope virtual fundraising dinner, which generated a \$544 donation. Seen here, Everett Greenwood and Gary Schmadeke make a check presentation to the new Home of Hope director, Jennifer Toro (herself a graduate from Home of Hope!)



FROM THE CLERK

As usual there's been a lot of activity for Missions. Our congregation bought two tables for the Home of Hope virtual banquet. The Mission Team will be donating to Seeds of Hope on Arizona Gives Day on April 6. We encourage all of our members to take advantage of the Arizona Tax Credit program and donate either online or by taking a check to the Seeds of Hope at Boston's Restaurant between 4:00 and 8:00 PM. Pick up some food while you're there and Boston's will donate a portion of that to the Seeds of Hope also. Mission team also thanks those who gave a Lenten offering to Habitat for Humanity and to those who gave Memorials in memory of Wiley Smith.

A financial review of our bookkeeping procedures was conducted and found to be in good order with the procedures of ECO. All reports for 2020 have been turned into our Hope Presbytery. Thanks to those who take such excellent care of the finances of Covenant. We are being good stewards of your offerings.

Men's Bible Study

The Men of the church meet each Thursday at 11:30am, all men are welcome, and you can bring a sack lunch if you like. Wearing a mask is optional. If you would like to be part of the Bible study, please call Brant for more information (520-876- 2888 or 480-458- 7628).

Neighborhood Help Team

The Neighborhood Help Team is continuing a service for those who could use a little bit of help. We would like to help you in replacing A/C filters or with some landscape trimming on the 4th Saturday of each month. Contact Nelson Moore in person or call him @ 520-483-0461.

April Calendar

- 1 Maundy Thursday Worship & The Lord's Supper, 5:30pm.
- 2 Good Friday
- 4 Easter Sunday
- 8 Worship Team meeting, Thursday, April 8 at 1:00pm.
- 14 Prayers at the flagpole at McCartney Ranch Elementary at 9:00am.
- 14 Prayer Night, Wednesday, April 14, 6:30pm at Carol Smith's.
- 18 Adult Sunday School, after service, 11:15 – Noon. Title: "Forbidden Spiritual Contact".
- 21 Session meeting, Wednesday, April 21 at 6:00pm.
- 28 Prayer Night, Wednesday, April 28, 6:30pm at Carol Smith's.

April Birthdays

- 2 Ken Hodson
- 2 Karen Baker
- 2 Linda Smith
- 27 Lori Polito
- 29 Anthony Kirkbride
- 29 Gary Wayne Croll

April Anniversaries

- 27 Nelson & Mary Moore