

MCCC Board Report - Pastor's Report - September 2020

As the fall season begins to set in I'm grateful for re-connecting with our congregation on Sunday mornings. We have enjoyed the time of worship, communion, and conversation after worship. The technology is always a challenge, but has provided an outlet for connection.

On a personal note, with school starting there is quite the transition in our home life. Christin is embracing the challenge of teaching Kindergarten in-person and our kids are adjusting to taking classes online. The kids are also doing several extracurricular activities throughout the week and staying active in those ways. I am balancing life as husband, dad, pastor, online school teacher, and car service! I appreciate the congregation's patience, understanding, and grace in this busy (and strange) season in our lives.

Some Observations to Share

Worship By the YouTube numbers...

- Since we closed our joint worship time with Hiram Christian, I have been watching the numbers for our online service. They are as follows:
 - Sept 6 - 54 views
 - Sept 13 - 50 views
- Each of those Sundays we had around 15 people in our "watch party" and those views don't count in this total. Also, the "views" don't reflect how many people sat around the TV, tablet, or phone to watch the video.
- 50 views is fairly consistent with the idea that we serve around 50 households as a congregation. That being said, it is about 100 views down from where we were earlier in the summer. There could be any number of reasons for this.
- No matter the totals, our staff will continue to work hard to provide a time of worship for our congregation members.

Anti-Racism Study Continues...

- I would highly recommend our anti-racism book called "How to be an Anti-Racist" by Ibram X. Kendi. As a historian he includes many powerful anecdotes and examples of our racist past and how they connect to our racist present. I am repeatedly surprised at new ways of understanding the racist and anti-racist ideas I have absorbed over the years in our culture. I think that Kendi's unique approach to this very difficult topic is way more inviting than some might assume. Many white folks are resistant to reading up on racism but I find Kendi to be accessible and invitational to the conversation. I hope there are many in our congregation reading along even if they are not part of the Wednesday night discussion.

Get Centered

I have started an online devotional embracing the prayers from Arianne Braithwaite Lehn's book "Ash & Starlight: For the Chaos and Grace of Daily Life" and so far it has been received well. The videos will gather about 30 views per week and I hope they are a good spiritual boost for folks in our congregation.

Life 101

I'm grateful for the ministry of Carol Buzbee and the Life 101 weekly chat. Carol leads us through a time of sharing joys and then we move to scripture and discussion. The group has honored the health requirements and been very respectful. The conversation has been meaningful and uplifting for all.

Looking forward...

- Drive-In worship at Derthick's Farm on Sept 20th (today!)
- Planning for Stewardship and Advent

Yours in Christ's Service,
Rev. Chad Delaney