

MCCC Board Report - Pastor's Report - April 2021

Once again I was so moved by a service during the high holy days. Despite being “at the Windows” Christmas Eve was such a powerful service and this year we again experienced Lent and Holy Week differently. The Palm Sunday Service was wonderful as it included so much special music and readers from the congregation. How awesome was it to have the scriptures read by our young adults scattered around the country?! This year’s Easter Sunrise Service at Derthick’s Farm was absolutely incredible. The sky was perfectly clear and we got to see the sunrise while singing *Christ the Lord is Risen Today!* It left all of us feeling awe and wonder at God’s gift of the Resurrection and Creation. I was also so blessed by our Easter service which left me feeling inspired and uplifted. Thanks to Jon Secaur and Beth Schabel for providing such wonderful music and to Pam Auble who provided the children with a wonderful egg activity to tell the story of Jesus. It has come up many times over the course of this pandemic--we are incredibly blessed with so many people willing to offer their time, talent, and creativity to keep the church moving and alive!

Some anecdotes to share

- **Joint Worship** - I was glad to have partnered with Hiram Christian Church for our Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service this year. Who would have thought we could do a solemn Tenebrae service on Zoom video conferencing? Thanks to Rev. Chris McCreight and Hiram Church for hosting and for all of our readers who read scripture.
- **Special Music with Pam and Beth** - During this pandemic, we’ve had to get creative with music and I don’t know what we’d do without the extraordinary contributions of Pam Auble and Beth Schabel. From leading the hymns to singing solos, we have been blessed and inspired by their beautiful voices.
- **MCCC Worship** - In May, we will begin worshipping outdoors at the church. There is an incredible amount to plan/prepare for in terms of the logistical and technological needs. Carol Magyarics just keeps finding ways to do what we would like to do in meaningful ways...what an incredible gift she is.
- **Tuesday Night Study** - Our Tuesday study looking at Julian of Norwich has gone so well that we’ve extended the study by 3 weeks. The chapters have been engaging and the conversation has been fantastic. Thanks to all who have joined in and made it a challenging and meaningful experience.
- **New Church Ministry Coaching** - Since I began in ministry I’ve always wanted to be involved in the Regional and/or General Church and have been able to do that. Over the years I have served on the Regional Commission on Ministry, the Regional Church Council, the Camp Christian Committee, and we were involved in the Xplor Program for 6 years! At the moment, however, all of those have come to a close. I will always be involved at Camp Christian, but I have also been open to serving in different ways and an opportunity was made for

me to do so. The New Church Ministry of the Christian Church (DOC) has coaching as part of their ministry vision. After conversation with them and after training, I will come on as one of their coaches! I will have a pastor or two that I will meet with once-a-month to encourage and support them with coaching. I'm really excited to be able to use my coaching skills and to serve the General Church in this way.

Looking forward...

- Over the summer we are going to do a series on the Fruits of the Spirit and have different preachers and leaders. I'm looking forward to taking vacation at that time with my family and getting some rest after a very busy start to the year.

Yours in Christ's Service,
Rev. Chad Delaney