



Olive Tree Newsletter

October 2023

*For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who Thee by faith before the world confessed;
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
in praise of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

**“For All the Saints”,
William Walsham How**

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Minister's Musings *



Thomas Fedorka, LLM

Autumn brings many changes; church services are traditionally back in full swing, people have returned from vacation, school has resumed, and work becomes busier for many.

Autumn also brings a change in weather. Here in New England, autumn brings with it colder, crisper weather and decreasing daylight. Deciduous trees begin changing from green to gold, orange, and red, blanketing the hills in warm colors.

Reach up and thank God for the sun, the moon, the stars, and the creatures that fly in the air. Thank God for the air we breathe and for the atmosphere that gives us life. Think about how trees are moved by the wind and how this echoes God's Spirit blowing and moving among us. Pray for that Spirit to move in people and places in need of hope, healing, and inspiration. Pray for the health of the earth and the natural environment.

The church is always reforming, responding to the world around us. How will we respond to the changes that God has planned?

Autumn is also a time to be reminded of our human tendency to judge ourselves as worthy as compared to others around us. We must intentionally choose to reorient ourselves toward God's vision of who is deserving, who is just as sacred and beloved as everyone else. Jesus' parable of the workers paid equally whether they arrived at the last hour or worked from the beginning of the day challenges us to rethink our conventional ideas about what justice looks like and whom we ourselves may judge to be unworthy of the full measure of benefits that the ostensibly "worthy" among us receive. Think about who is being talked about in the media or by leaders as unworthy or as being at fault for the woes of your community. Think about how our Gospel stories might fit (or change) this narrative.

*Excerpted from Sundays and Seasons

All Saints' Day

Submitted by Sara Kjendal

On November 5th we will be celebrating All Saints Day at Gethsemane. We are hoping to reestablish some of the traditions of remembrance that we previously practiced. Upon entering you may take an LED tea light. Thomas will instruct us to turn them on and bring them up to a small table in front during the first hymn...in remembrance of any and all of our dearly departed, regardless of when they died. The older we get, the more loved ones we remember with thanksgiving for all they meant to us in their lifetime including their witness to God's promise of everlasting life with Christ.

Later in the service, we will name each person who died during the previous year and ring a chime for each name. These include members and those who are dear to a member or friend of Gethsemane. This is where we need your help. If you want someone included in this, please send an email to Thomas with the person's name. Our hope is that this will give added meaning to this service.



Book Review

Submitted by Thomas Fedorka

JUST MERCY A Story of Justice and Redemption, by Bryan Stevenson
Uncried Tears--by Ian Manuel, Union Correctional Institution

*Imagine teardrops left uncried
From pain trapped inside
Waiting to escape
Through the windows of your eyes.*

*The conscience told the tears
"I know you really want me to cry
But if I release you from bondage,
In gaining your freedom you die."*

*"Why won't you let us out?"
The tears question the conscience
"Relinquish your fears and doubts
And heal yourself in the process."*

*The tears gave it some thought
Before giving the conscience an answer
"If crying brings you to triumph
Then dying's not such a disaster."*

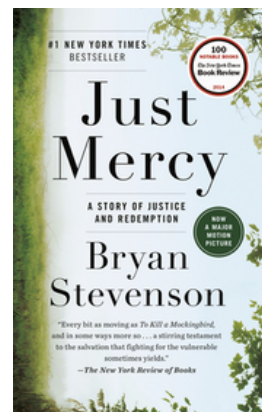
Just Mercy is not a book of poems, although the above poem is featured in the book. Just Mercy is mostly a book about Walter McMillian, but it is so much more. Bryan Stevenson is an attorney who focuses on incarcerated people who have been wrongly accused or unjustly punished. Through telling the story of Walter McMillian and so many others, Stevenson weaves a wonderful journey through the US justice system.

Stevenson tells about antiquated laws used to subjugate and discriminate, mostly against poor people of color. We learn that the US is the only nation on Earth that allows the sentencing of juveniles to life in prison without parole. Imagine 13-year-old children convicted of non-violent crimes, sentenced to die in prison.

Through the efforts of Stevenson and other attorneys working with him, reforms have happened. There is still much more to do.

While often heartbreaking, Stevenson's storytelling brings life to these forgotten people. There are laughs, smiles, drama, tragedy, and loss. There is even forgiveness and triumph. A true story of justice and redemption. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have.

**Do you have a book, religious or not, that you enjoyed reading recently?
Write a review for the Olive Tree!**



What's Your Why?

Submitted by Crystal Bluto

Our hope is that this will become a series, and folks will contribute short pieces describing an aspect of Church that they find meaningful and keeps them coming back.

I was raised in a tradition that did not celebrate Holy Communion every week; only once a month. My grandmother was, and is to this day, responsible for baking a loaf of bread for Communion Sundays at our rural church. One ill-fated weekend she had to bake a second loaf, after having forgotten to label the first loaf "Communion". By the time Grandma realized she hadn't labeled the Communion bread, I had already eaten a thick slice of it, toasted with some blackberry jam on top! Fortunately I only made that mistake once.

Moving from a tradition where Communion was celebrated only once a month to one where it is celebrated every week, my thoughts about the sacrament have evolved. I no longer have the smell of fresh-baked bread in my home one Saturday a month to remind me that the next day is a special day. Rather, every Sunday I have the opportunity to share, in this very tangible way, the love Christ has for all of us. It is a weekly reminder that Jesus is here with us, and his love is available, even for me.

Across cultures, the act of eating means so much more than taking in nutrients; to remember Jesus when we eat and drink makes so much sense when we look through it with that lens. And by eating together, we show that we are all loved the same by Jesus, there are no have's or have-not's. It has become an important part of my week and is a big part of the "Why" that keeps me coming back to Gethsemane.





Bible Study Update

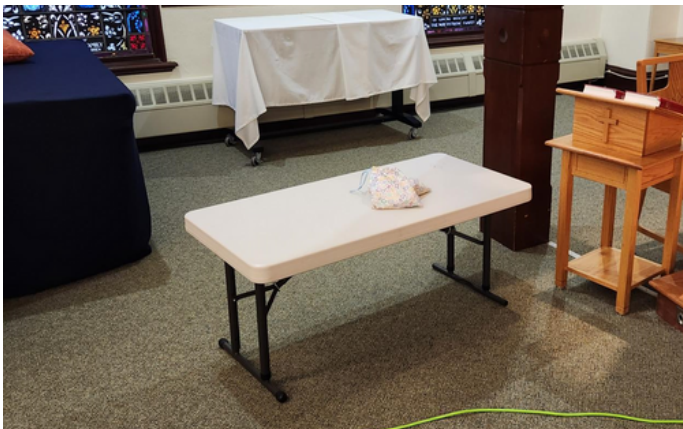
Submitted by Janine Danzi

Here's the answers to last month's questions:

- The two who were raped were Dinah and Tamar.
- The daughters of Zelophehad were Mahlah, Noah, Haglah, Micah, and Tirzah. They asked Moses to allow them to inherit their father's land as there were no sons, only daughters. Moses asked God and it was allowed.
- Samson's mother was a Godly woman and she listened to him. Both of Samson's parents wanted him to marry an Israelite woman. He would not listen, and there goes the rest of the story. Trick question! She was not named, and only referred to as "Samson's mother."
- And finally, the last advocate for Jesus was Pilate's wife. She interrupted Pilate while he was sitting on the judgment seat (which was unheard of at that time) with a message that said, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream about him." (Matthew 27:19). Pilate ignored her warning, as he was under pressures from the Jewish leaders.

Some of these women have only one line in scripture, but they are there for a reason and are significant to the story!

New Sanctuary Activity Table



Our newly re-installed children's activity table can be found to the left of the Altar area. Children can use it at anytime, without fear of disrupting the service. It really is the best seat in the house...well, sanctuary!

Mary Martha Update

Submitted by Carol Burgess

The Mary Martha group met for the first of our regular meetings for the fall on September 11th.

The first order of business was to have our elections for the coming year. Carol Burgess was reelected president, Judie Chary secretary, and Jeanne Manseau treasurer. We took a moment to remember what September 11th did to change our country. We enjoyed our lunches, finished by a delicious dessert made by Jeanne, with the assistance of Janine Danzi as hostess. Much of the early meeting was spent catching up with everyone's news.

The main business was to discuss a Ladies Night in mid October. More information will be coming soon. Watch for a blast with all the information.

The second main business was the subject of the Fair. All of the ladies who usually set it up and see it through are aging out or have other commitments and not able put in the effort necessary for a successful fair. The jobs needed are: arranging the vendors and setting them up in the Mary Martha room, being in charge of the basket raffle, the bake sale, putting signs up in the neighborhood, advertising the date, getting people to help, and supervising the cleanup when it is done. This has been a Mary Martha project and our ladies will help as able. The proceeds that usually go to the Mary Martha coffers will be divided between them and the church. Mary Martha group gives most of their money to projects for the church as needed, the pastors discretionary fund, and the community meal program. It is hoped that some younger, more energetic people will step up and help with the fair. Without this help, there won't be a fair this year, a project that turns out to be a lot of work but a lot of fun. Think of this as a group building activity. If anyone has questions about this very profitable activity, please ask Monica or Carol we will be happy to answer your questions.

We ended our meeting with plenty of conversation and enjoying each other's company. As usual, this group is open to any woman in the congregation and our group would love to welcome new members.



ReachOut Updates

Submitted by Crystal Bluto

Fall is a busy time for outreach activities at Gethsemane, and this fall has been no exception. We kicked off the school year with our God's Work. Our Hands. project: the annual school supply drive. Over 120 local students were equipped with the supplies they needed to start the school year: backpacks, pens and pencils, notebooks, earbuds, crayons, binders, and more.

September's community meal served 81 people: the menu featured lasagna, bread, and oranges. Thank you to everyone who came out for that event! We are already gearing up for our October community meal. We are so grateful for everyone who has continued to support this ministry with their time and money. Every month we are told how grateful people in our Manchester community are to have this warm meal made with love.

Sunday October 29, we will meet in the parking lot for our annual Trunk-or-Treat festivities from 1-3 PM. We are in need of more volunteers to come in costume and hand out candy to the local children. Feel free to decorate your car as well! This is always a fun time, and local families appreciate having a safe place for their children to participate in trick-or-treating.

If you would like to help with any of our upcoming events, please contact Crystal at crystalb.ann@gmail.com



Calumet Weekend

Article Submitted by Thomas Fedorka, Pictures Submitted by Karl Franck

The 2023 GLC retreat weekend was held at Camp Calumet on September 9-10. The weather was beautiful despite the forecast calling for a rain washout.

We all had a wonderful time, making and launching water powered rockets, doing tie dye T-Shirts, and even a yoga class led by our very own Cindy Kaufman. The rest of our time we enjoyed everything Calumet has to offer, hikes, quiet time, lake views, swimming, kayaking, and of course the pontoon boat tour.

Evenings were spent in fellowship, playing games, or around the campfire roasting marshmallows and making s'mores.

Sunday worship was in the beautiful new Oasis Center.

Some came for the day, and some stayed the whole weekend, but everyone had a wonderful time. Please plan to join us in 2024.



Financial Update

Submitted by Dane Hileman

Our weekly bulletins are showing we are continuing to lose money this year. We anticipate at the end of the year to have about a \$25,000 shortfall. We are down about \$35,000 in pledge money from recent deaths in the congregation. We successfully have paid our mortgage since the inception of the loan. The mortgage is due Nov'24. About \$283,000 will be due at term if we successfully continue to pay our monthly mortgage bill. The Church doesn't have \$283,000 in the bank so will need to refinance or default on our loan if we can't raise the funds. We currently have about \$225,000 in the bank of which \$207,000 is available to pay bills. If we do nothing to cut our costs or increase revenue, we would have around \$150,000 in our savings at the time the loan is due.

We must replace the roof within about two years. The estimate for a shingle roof replacement is \$94,000 - \$119,000. We are not sure a shingle replacement will be adequate and might have to pay for an architect firm to validate this option. If we replace the roof with slate tiles, the replacement cost would be much higher than \$120,000.

Several council members recently visited St. Mary's bank to discuss our current mortgage and gather information about obtaining a new mortgage. We would have to disclose the need for roof replacement. It costs about \$10,000 for a new loan application. We currently believe we would be denied a loan with our financial outlook. We need to raise about \$250,000 to pay off the loan and fix the roof.

The Synod is sending in an ordained minister who is a specialist with these situations to discuss our options. She will visit Gethsemane on Sunday October 22, 2023.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>Altar Guild - Judie 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 Adult Christian Ed 6:00pm AA</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:00pm AA HHE 7:00pm AA MNWS 7:30pm COMMUNICATIONS</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00pm AA WB2B</p>	<p>4</p> <p>12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00am AA NO NAME</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Altar Guild - Bonnie 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 Adult Christian Ed 6:00pm AA</p>	<p>9</p> <p>12:00pm MARY MARTHA 5:00pm AA HHE 6:30pm REACHOUT 7:00pm AA MNWS</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00pm AA WB2B 7:00pm FINANCE</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00am AA NO NAME</p>
<p>15</p>  <p>Community Meal</p> <p>Altar Guild - Sue 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 Adult Christian Ed 3:00pm COMMUNITY MEAL 6:00pm AA</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:00pm AA HHE 7:00pm AA MNWS</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00pm AA WB2B</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00pm COUNCIL</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00am AA NO NAME</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Altar Guild - Janine 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 Synod Specialist Mtg 6:00pm AA</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:00pm AA HHE 7:00pm AA MNWS</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00pm AA WB2B</p>	<p>25</p> <p>12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00am AA NO NAME</p>
<p>29</p>  <p>Altar Guild - Judie 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 Adult Christian Ed 1:00pm Trunk-or-Treat 6:00pm AA</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5:00pm AA HHE 7:00pm AA MNWS</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:00pm AA WB2B</p>	<p>1</p> <p>12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00am AA NO NAME</p>



Exploring 3 Eastern Faith Practices
Come learn about the structure, worship practices and the role of women



Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 6:45 p.m.

*Check in begins at 6:15 *** Bring a Friend! ****

*St. Paul's Methodist Church (handicapped accessible)
335 Smyth Road, Manchester, NH 03104*

Meet Our Presenters

*Sue Brewer & Pamela Herring, Baha'i Faith Members
Delia Koshner, Ph.D. Psychologist and Buddhist Meditation Teacher
A leader from the Hindu faith.*

Join us for refreshments and conversation after the program!

Please register via email interfaithwomennh@gmail.com or
call 603-233-7760

Visit us online at: interfaithwomennh.org.

OUR MISSION:

To share religious beliefs, cultures, and traditions among women of diverse faiths
in order to develop understanding and friendship among us and within our community.

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