

Week of August 6 2023



From Woody: .I read a story in this morning's UNION LEADER about increasing numbers of people who are not engaging news. It is understandable but also disturbing. The news media focuses on controversy and bad news. That is because bad news is, by definition, news. That is not to say that they also shouldn't cover good news and they do. Both print and electronic media often run stories about people and organizations who do great things for many people. But as I sometimes share in talking with people, when I did radio news I didn't report on the air every school bus that safely arrived at the local schools in the morning but if one bus was in an accident of some kind, that would lead a local newscast because that was the exception and people needed to know that. So news coverage does more reporting on something negative.

As for controversy, that is also important in the democracy we live in. If we take seriously our role as citizens, then we need to have an understanding of the issues that shape our town, state, country and world. I believe that those sorts of issues, which often are full of controversy are ones that God is concerned about. These are questions of war and peace, of justice and fairness, of who we strive to be as Americans. These kinds of issues have been with us since the beginning of time. The Old Testament prophets certainly proclaimed that God wants us to treat everyone with kindness and justice. Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, talks about how we, as his followers, should treat our fellow human beings. It is significant that the crucial issues of our history, like slavery and racism, war and peace and economic justice have seen significant leadership from Christian churches. In our lifetime certainly Dr. King's Civil Rights Movement had great leadership from Christian and Jewish leaders,

So we walk a fine line...trying to maintain our own mental health by not being overwhelmed by the harsh political words of the news in these times , but also doing what we can to support policies that lead to peace, justice and understanding. With God's presence, we are both called to act according to Jesus' teaching but also not to forget that God is with us, loves us and reminds us to take time for our own mental health and that of our family and friends. It is not always an easy task.



Brownie Sundaes: We will again be selling brownie sundaes at the Concert on the Common, Tuesday, August 8 at 6 pm. I hope you plan to come and enjoy the concert and a delicious brownie sundaes!



For July and August, flowers for the sanctuary will be "Potpourri" meaning a mixture of whatever anyone would like to share from their garden. No need to sign up. Vases are available in the kitchen if you need one. And many thanks in advance to those who can contribute to our worship service.



Church Library: The Church Library up and running in the church parlor. We are just getting started but if anyone wants to borrow a book it will be on the honor system. Borrow whatever book you want to read and return it when you're done. Also, if you have a book that you'd like to donate to the church library just leave it on the shelf. We want only books by Christian authors.



Peace Quote: Blessed are the peacemakers, they shall be called children of God.....*Jesus*