



Church on Tuesday with a Teller of Stories Keillor

I had the opportunity to go to church last Tuesday evening. We were ushered to our seats and after the announcements were finished the *preacher* finally entered on stage. The staging area, for lack of better descriptors, was simple, non-ornate, curtains hung on the three surrounding walls, with only a single four-legged stool, and a lone microphone stand and mic.

This *preacher* was simply dressed, dark suit, white shirt, bright red tie with socks to match. He began a kind of dance, if you will, with the audience, moving deliberately from side to side, each step and slide appeared chosen and exact, and periodically he would sit on the stool. At one point of small intermission, he came down from the stage and joined us in the center aisle. He began his *sermon* speaking of poetry and the longing need for the art in our culture and society.

He then did a curious thing, he sang a song, and then he invited us to join in the singing with him. There was something about this invitation, and part of it was what I brought into the space with me, the experiences and knowledge that I carried into the *sanctuary* that night; my readings of this persons writing regarding his own political thoughts and struggles with the current political climate, the laughter I have shared listening to his radio show, and the shared grief in knowing he had just buried his seventeen-year-old grandson earlier that day...which he never mentioned.

I must think it was a bit of all of that, but I was touched and struck profoundly for some reason as he coaxed us into the first song we sang, *My Country 'Tis of Thee*. I couldn't sing it, the knot in my stomach, the lump in my throat, and the tears in my eyes would not allow me to sing. So, I stood, soaking in, reveling in whatever this moving moment was about, and listened to the voices sing of this country of mine...of ours.

We sang *Home on the Range*, *How Great Thou Art*, *Only Fools Rush In*, Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*, and *John Jacob Jinglebeimer Schmidt*. These are but a few of the songs we sang; hymns, non-religious songs, we heard Shakespeare and poetry written by our *preacher*. We heard story after story of life and death and faith. We listened to stories of first loves, of bodies pressed against unclothed body, stories of youth and struggling to understand. We heard stories of growing old and health challenges complete with anatomically correct descriptions of medical procedures and prostates. We heard poetry that spoke of bodily function and humor referring to balls of brass and lightening coming out of one's ...well, ass.

We sang, and laughed, I don't know about anyone else but at least one cried, and pondered, and was touched deeply, and encouraged, and challenged. I am not sure what anyone else heard that night in the Stiefel Sanctuary, but here is what I walked away with. I witnessed a quiet man with a deep, deep love of country, family, relationship, and life. I watched him weave the stories of life, faith, humor, and love into a tapestry so very *real* it touched my heart and soul almost from the very beginning of his speaking. For a couple of hours, I watched this teller of stories, draw a crowd of diverse people together into one place and into one voice.

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FINAL DAYS to sign up for Pictures for the New Directory.

We are hoping that ALL that attend CHUM will take advantage of this opportunity.

You do NOT have to be a member of CHUM!
If you attend our services we want you as a part of our directory too.

There are times still available on these dates.

Thursday, August 10
2:00 - 9:00pm

Call the church office to schedule your photo shoot!

Participants will receive a **FREE** directory and 8" x 10" photograph.
Time slots are filling up fast so please call soon!
(316) 683-4643

Just a reminder that you may bring any prop with you for your picture.

Church Services

9:00 am - Sanctuary
Traditional Service

10:15 am - Fellowship Hall
Contemporary Service

11:20 am - Ward Chapel w/ Communion
The 40 Worship Service

Sunday - July 23, 2017
Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

SERMON
Jesus and the Act of War
Uncomfortable Christianity series
Rev. Kent H. Little

July 16, 2017

Attendance 222

Giving \$6,777.00

Christmas in July Sacks

There are still sacks available to be picked up and **returned by July 23rd**. These items will be delivered to Cookson Hills United Methodist Mission to be sold in their gift shop at a discounted price for Christmas gifts.



Tech Help

We need additional persons willing to help run sound and video for our worship services on Sunday mornings. David Bartley, Mattie Predmore, and Patty Ruzich are our primary technicians and periodically they need to be gone and we need some backup. If you would be interested in being trained to help us cover this important part of our worship time contact the church office and we will be scheduling a time for training.

Thank you!
Pastor Kent

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to the CHUM congregation for your donations of items and/or money to help with supplies for our VBS! Also a big thank you to all those who are volunteering these 4-days so that VBS is a success!

Living in the Moment

Meditation is about compassion, interconnectedness and having an open heart. The **mental benefits of meditation** are that anxiety decreases, emotional stability improves, creativity and happiness increases, intuition develops, gain clarity and peace of mind, and problems become smaller. **Physical benefits of meditation** are lower blood pressure, decreases tension-related pain and insomnia, improves the immune system and increases energy level.

We will gather the **First Wednesday of each month starting in August**. We will gather in the CHUM Chapel from 6:30 - 7:30pm. Styles of meditation that will be explored are:

***Mala Meditation:** A mala is a string of beads used for prayer and meditation. Malas are used with a mantra (chant) and provide a tactile meditation experience.

***Walking Meditation:** A form of meditation in action. We become mindful of our experience while walking and try to keep our awareness involved with the experience of walking.

***Mindful Breathing:** Simply focus attention on the inhale and exhale. Also alternate nostril breathing will be explored.

***Guided Meditation:** Meditation in response to guidance provided by a person or a written text or sound recording. A self-reflective journal or diary is recommended.

The classes are free although donations will be accepted. For more info, you can contact:

Beth Ann Larsen, LSCSW,
by phone @ (512) 923-2384,
by email @ larsen8101@gmail.com .

Beth Ann attends the 10:15 am worship service so you may also visit with her before or after the service!

CHUM Women's Gathering

All women are invited and welcome to attend this evening gathering on Wednesday, July 26, at 6:30pm in the CHUM Parlor. Nursery will be provided if you will call the CHUM office to let them know you need it.

SAVE THE DATE
Friday evening, August 25th
CHUM's Trivia Night
Fellowship Hall

Tai Chi Classes

Al Fleming and all those taking Tai Chi have taken a short break this month of July. The classes will begin again in August. They meet every Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:00 - 7:00pm and gather in Fellowship Hall. The first week of classes will be August 7th and 9th. Be sure to dress in comfortable clothes and shoes. Tai Chi originates from ancient China and is now practiced throughout the world as a very effective exercise for health. It consists of a series of slow, fluid, gentle movements. Breathing is slow, deep and relaxed to aid concentration. It exercises the entire body, all the joints, muscles and internal organs and, at the same time, strengthens the mind. It enhances the Qi or life energy and relieves stress and brings harmony to yourself and others. Most importantly it is enjoyable and makes you feel better about yourself! When you feel good about your life and yourself, everything else gets better too. **Al Fleming** is a certified instructor. The class is free but donations are accepted at each class. You may contact Al with any questions at (316) 990-1420. New classes will begin in September so join now for the review!

Pastor Kent's

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College Hill

United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

Wise in the Ways of the Spirit,

Bold in the Ways of Justice,

and Graceful in relationships

with all Creation.

TGIF

July 21st @ 6:30pm

Hong Kong

3028 S. Seneca

Everyone is welcome to join us for dinner and conversation!

For more information contact

Janice Rich, 265-4879

Also contact Janice for carpooling.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS NOTES

AGAPE, Rm. 201 - Thank you, Bill, for leading our discussion of 3 kinds of laziness: comfort orientation; loss of heart; couldn't care less – we don't need to be busy to avoid laziness. Sunday is chapter 17 on Bodhisattva Activity. Continued prayers for Bob. Sheltons treat next.

BUILDERS, Rm. 305 - There were several items of business needing our attention: where to spend our money, what to do about Meet & Greet, and the upcoming Marketing Committee fundraiser. We will be giving \$200.00 to CHUM Food Pantry and \$100.00 to the Marketing Committee for Trivia night. On July 23, we will host Meet & Greet. All are invited to stop by the Parlor and say hello.

COMMUNICATORS, Rm. 301 - Our thanks go to Lloyd Hanna for informing our class about "The Medical Loan Closet" and how far the arms of grace and support reach. What a great service they provide! A memorial was given to celebrate the life of JoAnn Schroth, Donna Caywood's mother. Reminder: Class party at the Deuser's on Saturday, August 26, at 4:00pm. Prayer Requests: Donna Caywood's brother, David; Joyce Weingartner and family; travelers; and all unspoken prayers.

CONTEMPORARY STUDIES, Rm. B5/7 - Summer continues with people coming and going!! Happy Birthday this week to Behrooz Rahbar. Floyd Hansen is delighted with his adventures taking organ lessons...as is Marilyn with ear plugs! Learned of Augustine's life in this week's lesson. Class discussed how the form of Augustine's story is every Christian's story, and the importance of knowing human condition to understand what education consists of and what its goals are. Sunday, Lecture Seven: St. Patrick and the Conversion of Ireland.

DOUBLE CIRCLE, Rm. B4 - Bob opened the class and Lilaha led us in "Holy, Holy, Holy." Thank you! Betty Clements talked of visiting Betty Burchfield. Paul, we missed your coffee-making! Nancy Eyres gave wonderful devotions. Moe asked for prayers for his daughter, Jane, having surgery Tuesday. Brian gave a double lesson today about Isaiah and Jeremiah. Gods different ways of calling these two great men. God calls each one of us in our own ways. Thank you so much for sharing your knowledge of the Lord. We miss all who cannot be here with us today!

TRAVELING COMPANIONS, Bride's Room B14 @ 11:15 am - Join us for discussion on spiritual development and personal growth.

VICEROY, Rm. B3 - We continue the book study with chapter 12 of Accidental Saints by Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber, as she discusses how we see others.



College Hill United Methodist
Youth Ministry

July 23 - 29
High School Mission Trip
Leave after 10:15 am Worship Service
NO UMY

UPCOMING CALENDAR

July 30
No UMY

August 6
Lunch Bunch
11:30am - 1:00pm

August 13
Water Park and Dinner in Salina
Cost \$20.00
Leave 11:30am
Return 6:30pm-ish



Children's Ministries
Welcomes All Children!
Children's Sunday School
for 2 year olds - 5th Graders

Sunday school will take place in the Children's Center during the Sunday school time from 10:15 - 11:30am. Take children directly to their classroom and pick them up at 11:30am from their classroom.

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As we walked back to our car I told TruDee, "I've been to church tonight... it was SO *REAL!*" Sometimes, this story he told over almost two and half hours that night was not just his story, it was my story, it was all our stories at some point. There was something within this tapestry of telling that spoke to every one of us in the building at some point or another. It was so very *REAL*.

Sometimes, while I ponder, I wish the church could be so real more often, rather than the too frequent of hiding behind self-righteousness, feigned humility and modesty, religious platitudes, judgement, and condemnation.

Sometimes, while I ponder, I wish the church would simply be about the task of loving everyone, *everyone*, bumps, warts, body parts, young, old, weird, strange, different, ... the *REAL* world, imperfect as it...as we are... just trying to make it through this journey together.

Sometimes, while I ponder, I long for such a world, a world where we sit down with our elders, with our peers, with our children and children's children, and simply tell and listen to our stories...without judgement or condemnation, without correction or critique, simple *telling and bearing* our authentic selves and what brought us to this moment.

I long for such a place...

Some Day... Some Day...Until then, tell your story... find a reason to listen to someone else's.

And know you and they are beautiful and loved.

Kent

