



Pastor's Reflection by Stacey Simpson Duke

June 27, 2018

We are well into Ordinary Time now, that part of the church year that falls outside of the major liturgical seasons of Advent/Christmas/Epiphany and Lent/Easter/Pentecost. Ordinary Time makes up the largest part of the Christian year and is meant to represent the "ordered life" of the Church - the period that is marked not by penance (as in Advent and Lent) or feasting (as in Christmas and Easter) but instead by the more ordinary rhythms of Christian living. Specifically, Ordinary Time is meant to be a season focused on growing in faith - hence the color green is the liturgical color of the season.

The spaciousness of summer, with its longer days and more relaxed schedule, offers us beautiful opportunities to live into Ordinary Time in ways that nurture our growth in faith. It's a good time to renew our focus on what really matters and to recommit ourselves to the basic, ordinary practices that feed and sustain our faith.

One of the essential practices for nourishing Christian faith is reading Scripture, yet many of us struggle to develop a regular rhythm of reading our Bible. This summer, I am challenging our youth to read through the Gospel of Mark. I wonder if the rest of you might want to join us in this challenge. While the entire Gospel of Mark can easily be read in one sitting (and I encourage you to do that at some point!), it also offers depth and richness in bite-size portions. For this summer, I've developed a reading plan that should be accessible for anyone - I've broken down the 16 chapters of Mark over the course of nine weeks, from July 1 to September 1, with a few verses of the gospel every Monday through Saturday, and a reading from the Psalms for each Sunday.

For this challenge, I invite you to approach this practice not just as something to check off your list, but as a chance to develop your relationship with God and to grow in your faith. One easy way to approach personal Bible study is something called the SOAP method.

**S=Scripture.** Read a passage of Scripture. Reread it. Focus on a verse or two that really connects with you or stands out to you. Write it down if that's helpful.

**O=Observation.** What do you notice in this passage? What repetitions, comparisons, or contrasts are there? What connections do you see between this passage and other passages of Scripture? What do you think is the (or a) message of this passage?

**A=Application.** This step helps us see the personal connections between Scripture and our own lives. How do you think this passage might apply to your life right now? What is the invitation or the challenge in this passage for you? Are there changes you need to make, or actions you need to take?

**P=Prayer.** Talk to God about what you've observed and learned in the passage, and about the invitation or challenge the Scripture offers to you. Ask for God's guidance or help in putting your faith into practice. Spend some time in silence, just listening.

This way of reading Scripture can seem very basic and simple, but it can open up some of the depths of Scripture for our individual lives.

Would you like to take the Summer Bible Reading Challenge? Find the passages on the next page - tear out this page from your newsletter so that you have not only the passages but also the SOAP reading guide. And if you'd like an added challenge - discuss what you're learning from the Gospel of Mark with someone else in the church. May the ordinary practices of Ordinary Time yield extraordinary growth in all our lives.

## SUMMER 2018 BIBLE READING CHALLENGE

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|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ July 1 – Psalm 130</li> <li>○ July 2 – Mark 1:1-8</li> <li>○ July 3 – Mark 1:9-15</li> <li>○ July 4 – Mark 1:16-20</li> <li>○ July 5 – Mark 1:21-28</li> <li>○ July 6 – Mark 1:29-34</li> <li>○ July 7 – Mark 1:35-39</li> </ul>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ July 29 – Psalm 14</li> <li>○ July 30 – Mark 7:24-30</li> <li>○ July 31 – Mark 7:31-37</li> <li>○ Aug 1 – Mark 8:1-21</li> <li>○ Aug 2 – Mark 8:22-38</li> <li>○ Aug 3 – Mark 9:1-13</li> <li>○ Aug 4 – Mark 9:14-32</li> </ul>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aug 26 – Psalm 84</li> <li>○ Aug 27 – Mark 14:66-72</li> <li>○ Aug 28 – Mark 15:1-15</li> <li>○ Aug 29 – Mark 15:16-32</li> <li>○ Aug 30 – Mark 15:33-41</li> <li>○ Aug 31 – Mark 15:42-47</li> <li>○ Sept 1 – Mark 16:1-8</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ July 8 – Psalm 48</li> <li>○ July 9 – Mark 1:40-45</li> <li>○ July 10 – Mark 2:1-12</li> <li>○ July 11 – Mark 2:13-17</li> <li>○ July 12 – Mark 2:18-22</li> <li>○ July 13 – Mark 2:23-28</li> <li>○ July 14 – Mark 3:1-6</li> </ul>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aug 5 – Psalm 51:1-12</li> <li>○ Aug 6 – Mark 9:33-41</li> <li>○ Aug 7 – Mark 10:1-16</li> <li>○ Aug 8 – Mark 10:17-31</li> <li>○ Aug 9 – Mark 10:32-45</li> <li>○ Aug 10 – Mark 10:46-52</li> <li>○ Aug 11 – Mark 11:1-11</li> </ul>   | <p>“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">– Psalm 119:105</p>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ July 15 – Psalm 24</li> <li>○ July 16 – Mark 3:7-19a</li> <li>○ July 17 – Mark 3:19b-35</li> <li>○ July 18 – Mark 4:1-20</li> <li>○ July 19 – Mark 4:21-34</li> <li>○ July 20 – Mark 4:35-41</li> <li>○ July 21 – Mark 5:1-20</li> </ul>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aug 12 – Psalm 130</li> <li>○ Aug 13 – Mark 12:1-12</li> <li>○ Aug 14 – Mark 12:13-17</li> <li>○ Aug 15 – Mark 12:18-27</li> <li>○ Aug 16 – Mark 12:28-37</li> <li>○ Aug 17 – Mark 12:38-44</li> <li>○ Aug 18 – Mark 13:1-23</li> </ul> | <p>“For the word of God is living and active....”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- Hebrews 4:12a</p>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ July 22 – Psalm 89:20-37</li> <li>○ July 23 – Mark 5:21-43</li> <li>○ July 24 – Mark 6:1-13</li> <li>○ July 25 – Mark 6:14-29</li> <li>○ July 26 – Mark 6:30-44</li> <li>○ July 27 – Mark 6:45-56</li> <li>○ July 28 – Mark 7:1-23</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aug 19 – Psalm 111</li> <li>○ Aug 20 – Mark 13:24-37</li> <li>○ Aug 21 – Mark 14:1-9</li> <li>○ Aug 22 – Mark 14:10-21</li> <li>○ Aug 23 – Mark 14:22-31</li> <li>○ Aug 24 – Mark 14:32-51</li> <li>○ Aug 25 – Mark 14:53-65</li> </ul> | <p>“But be doers of the word and not hearers only....”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- James 1:22</p>  |

## Children's Christian Education

Dear God...

During the summer months, our combined children's church school class will be journeying with Jesus using Archbishop Desmond Tutu's, "Children of God Storybook Bible." Bishop Tutu offers a prayer at the end of each Bible story. The kids will be making a visual representation of each prayer. As you walk into worship, take a moment to notice the new prayer added each week. This past Sunday's prayer was, "Dear God, help us to speak with your wisdom."



## *FBC News & Happenings*

### Art Fairs Parking Lot

The Art Fairs will soon be here - and once again we are renting out the church parking lot to raise funds for the Youth mission trips and our Vespers program. Many volunteers are needed to supervise the lot. It is not difficult work - we just need a person or two, sitting in the shade and watching to be sure unauthorized vehicles don't try to sneak in to park. Please sign up at the Information Counter for your 2-hour shift or contact Sue Ellen ([gloverse@hotmail.com](mailto:gloverse@hotmail.com)). In addition to our gratitude, volunteers "earn" a free half-day parking spot to be used any time during the Fairs!



The artists with their motorhomes, vans, trucks and trailers begin arriving Tuesday, July 17, and starting on that date the whole church parking lot will be needed for their vehicles and our staff until Sunday night. You will not be able to use the lot unless you are on church business (free) or coming to the Art Fairs (for a donation). If you come to church that week, please ask the volunteer on duty where you should park. We will always find a parking space for people in our congregation. We may need to double-park your car and keep your keys so we can move it if necessary but we will always have space for folks in our church family.

We will have worship service as usual on Sunday, July 22. Parking vouchers will be given out that will allow you to park in the structure across the street for free beginning at 9 AM. We will also have a limited amount of spaces in our lot available for those needing to be close to the entrance.

### Parking Vouchers for Sunday of Art Fairs

This year's Art Fair is scheduled for Thursday, July 19, through Sunday, July 22. Our own parking lot is used during Art Fair for artist parking; free parking for everyone attending worship will be available across Washington Street in the Liberty Square parking garage. We will have parking vouchers available at the Information Counter; these will provide for free entry for those attending worship. The Republic Parking attendant will collect the vouchers at the entrance of the parking structure. We need one or two volunteers who will be willing to stand at the parking garage entrance before worship to give vouchers to church visitors and others attending worship without a voucher. Please see Stacey if you would like to volunteer. After worship, if you would like to visit the Art Fair (which opens at 1:00 on Sunday), you can leave your car in the garage for free. **If you will need assistance with being dropped off at the entrance and having your car parked, please let Stacey or Sue Ellen know.**

**Thank you** for your thoughts and prayers for our family these last few months, during my father Murphy Stumpf's brief illness and passing. Your words of support and comfort were sincerely appreciated during this sad time. Thank you also for the generous welcome you've given to my mother, Carol Stumpf. We are blessed to have such a warm church family! - Janice Stumpf

### **Youth Family Film Night**

*"The only thing that ever really changes the world is the idea that love can abound ... and be shared."* - Fred Rogers

On Thursday, June 21, we had our first youth event of the summer (and our first youth event ever for our incoming youth!). We met for dinner on State Street and then went to see "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" - an inspiring and thought-provoking documentary about Fred Rogers and his show "Mister Rogers Neighborhood." Afterwards, we went across the street for ice cream and a discussion of what we learned from the film. We had 19 participants for this fun event (nine youth, eight parents, and two siblings), and we gave the movie 38 thumbs-up! We left feeling hopeful and empowered about our ability to contribute meaningfully to our world, and we would highly recommend this movie for anyone who needs to be reminded that each one of us has the power to make a positive impact by giving what is uniquely ours to give.

- Pastor Stacey



**Follow us on Facebook!** If you aren't already a fan of FBCA2 on Facebook, come on over and "Like" our page: [facebook.com/fbca2](https://www.facebook.com/fbca2). We post regular updates there about what's going on around here, along with the occasional devotional thought. You can post on our wall as well. If you are already a fan, did you know that you can easily share certain FBCA2 posts with your own Facebook friends? Events and links that can be shared will have a "Share" button (in addition to the usual "Like" and "Comment" buttons). Click "share" and the event or link will show up on your own Facebook page for all your friends to see. It's a great way to get the word out about special happenings at our church.



**We had a great week at Vacation Bible School!**

We had 20 campers and 17 volunteers from First Baptist Church participate in VBS which we co-hosted with 4 other local churches. As the kids "traveled" back to Jesus' time they made fish prints and shell boxes, played games, watched dramas, attended Synagogue school and ate snacks! A big thank you to our volunteers who made the week a huge success - Heidi Goodhart, Derek Bingham, Syd Weissinger, Josh Emenheiser, Betsy Foote, Vicky Rushton, Robb Rushton, Ricky Rushton, Nancy Rushton, Helena Kremer, Mary Margaret Hatt, Charlotte DeVries, Nancy Rhodes, Charlie Duke, Rob Duke, Betty Doman and Jill Damon.





**The Board of Care and Community** and your congregation want to be available to help in life's difficulties and transitions, but we can only do that if we know your are experiencing them. We can offer visits, help with food, transportation and possibly other needs. If you or your family lets the church office know, we will contact you by your preferred method to see how we can help.



More than 180 years ago a group of Christians came to Michigan to build and equip the church. This work continues to this day in new and exciting ways. 2018 will be our 11th year to promote and receive the Region Offering to continue the work that was started so many years ago and is still going on within the American Baptist Churches of Michigan (ABC-MI) today.

The Region Offering supports the following causes:

- Pastors - To assist with placement, leadership, training, care and support.
- Leaders - For training, mission opportunities and preparation for ordination.
- Church Members - We offer support, connections with other churches, spiritual growth resources and conflict transformation.
- Partner Organizations - We provide connections to ABC within the region and nationally.

# July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 Worship	2	3 5:30 Vespers	4 Independence Day  Church Office & Buildings Closed	5	6	7
8 10:00 Worship	9	10 1:00 Mission Action 1:30 ChristCare 5:30 Vespers	11 6:00 Christian Education 7:30 ChristCare	12	13	14 Habitat for Humanity Work Day
15 10:00 Worship 11:00 Lemonade on the Lawn	16 10:30 McCollough service	17 5:30 Vespers	18 * newsletter *	19	20	21
Ann Arbor Art Fairs						
22 10:00 Worship	23	24 5:30 Vespers	25	26	27	28 2:00 Mothering Justice Webinar
29 10:00 Worship	30	31 5:30 Vespers				



Tim Hillebrand  
 Will Spotts  
 Lynn Blunt  
 Sam Halliday  
 Jacqueline Snyder  
 Cesar Alaniz  
 Chloe Eavy  
 Linda Turner  
 Rick Rushton  
 Oscar Tapia Ko  
 Alan Burton  
 Kendra KehI-Fie  
 Marlene Francis

1 James Rushton 15  
 5 Charise Hastings 16  
 6 Clay Scott 16  
 10 Shannon Floyd 17  
 10 Maeven Barry 18  
 12 Paul Simpson Duke 18  
 12 Elli Barron 21  
 12 Megan Hudson 24  
 13 Elizabeth Redinger 24  
 13 Kate Gregg 25  
 14 Macauley Rybar 27  
 14 Ivy Mangrum 30  
 15

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The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors

Next  
Newsletter  
Deadline:  
Sunday, July 15

### **Habitat for Humanity - Good News Houses 2018**

Dates have been set for our weekend and weekday workdays with Habitat for Humanity. The next congregational work day is Saturday July 14, starting at 8:30 AM and ending at 3:00PM. For those members with flexible weekday schedules, our other work date is Friday Aug 3.

The Good News Houses for 2018 are to be the renovations of two 1950's ranch houses in Ypsilanti. The houses are at 679 and 830 Calder. We will also need lunches on those dates.

Please contact Scott Diels at 734-649-2787(Cell) or [hscottdiels@att.net](mailto:hscottdiels@att.net) if you are able to participate.

Thanks, Scott Diels

### **Anti-Racism 101 Series at the Ypsilanti District Library**

The Board of Mission Action invites you to join ICPJ and the Ypsilanti District Library for their Anti-Racism 101 series, facilitated by La'Ron Williams who is an award-winning storyteller and anti-racist educator.

On **Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>**, Dr. Tricia Rose, professor of Africana studies and director of the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America (CSREA), at Brown University, will speak on "**How Structural Racism Works**," – what it is, and how it shows up in our everyday lives. By using specific examples, stories, and overwhelming evidence, Dr. Rose explores how to transform a condition of relative public indifference into one of concern and commitment to undoing chronic and widespread racial disparities.

**When:** Sunday, July 22, at 2 PM

**Where:** Ypsilanti District Library, Whittaker Road Branch, at 5577 Whittaker Rd.

**Cost:** Both events are free and open to the public.

For more information, call 734-663-1870 or email Chuck Warpehoski at [chuck@icpj.org](mailto:chuck@icpj.org).