

The Belltower

February 2020

A Monthly Publication of Dunnellon Presbyterian Church

Declaring and Demonstrating the Promises of Christ



Dear Members and Other Friends:

February is often thought of by many to be a month for celebrating love. Members of the choir will help us celebrate love at a fun Fellowship Dinner on February 12th at 6:30. The Choir will provide wonderful pasta dishes accompanied by salads and desserts you bring. (See the details of the “Family Night Dinner” article in this Belltower.)

We will then be serenaded with love songs by various members of the choir and will have some “sing-alongs” as well.

Thinking about February I recalled a meditation I had read about love, our loving God and God loving us. It is in a book titled “Looking for God in Messy Places” by Methodist pastor Jake Owensby. I hope you enjoy.

If you're trying to please God, I really wish you would stop. That's not what real love looks like; it's just people-pleasing on a cosmic scale. And people-pleasing misconstrues love as a transaction.

People-pleasers are some of the nicest, most helpful people you'll ever meet. They never say no, largely because they're afraid of disappointing you. Like all of us, they need to be loved. Somewhere along the line, they came to equate love with other people's approval. And they've learned that they have to earn that approval.

Risking your disapproval by drawing a boundary for themselves is very difficult for people-pleasers. That's because they are driven by fear of rejection. So, they'll help you even if it sucks the life right out of them.

Let's get this straight: Love is not a transaction. It's always a gift. When we treat love like a transaction, we damage ourselves and we damage the very people we say that we love.

Psychologists tell us that people-pleasers tend to neglect their own needs, get taken advantage of, and are especially susceptible to stress and depression. Moreover, their relationships with others suffer. Their mounting resentments can express themselves in passive-aggressive behaviors, and they struggle to like the very people whose needs they are scurrying to meet.

God wants more for us than an unfulfilled existence and distorted relationships. And yet many Christians get precisely that because they are stuck on the idea that we have to please God. They're convinced that God accepts us only when we profess the right theology or adhere to some version of the moral law. In other words, we earn God's love by pleasing God. The corollary is that we risk losing God's love by displeasing him.

The story of Jesus' baptism makes several points that, together, offer an antidote to this transactional distortion of love. For starters, John baptizes Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, John seems a bit confused and embarrassed by this. John tells Jesus, "Shouldn't you be baptizing me?" But Jesus insists. That's because he wants us to see that you can't baptize yourself.

You can't baptize yourself because baptism is God's own declaration that she loves you. You are the beloved. That's different from saying that you love yourself. Being the beloved means that someone else is all in with you, no matter what.

Even when I say along with Brené Brown that I am enough, it's not the same thing as knowing in my bones that I'm never alone, that I'm understood, and that I'll never be abandoned.

Finally, in Matthew's telling, we hear a voice from heaven say, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17) Initially you may think that the voice's declaration about being "well pleased" undermines everything I've just said. "See," you might think, "God does want us to please her."

Well, try this translation on for size. "This is my Son, the Beloved, in whom I delight." God's delight is not a response to Jesus' achievements. God loves Jesus simply because he is. There is no other like him, because God made him. For the sheer delight of it. God made Jesus to love him.

And God made each of us to love us. To delight in us. There is no other like us.

At your baptism you may not have heard a voice say, "This is my Child, the Beloved, in whom I delight." But hearing that voice—in one way or another—is our truest baptism, a moment in our spiritual walk in which we truly come into our own.

It's the moment that we realize who we are and why we are here: We are God's beloved. And because we are the Beloved, God's love can overflow to nurture and heal this fragile, beautiful, aching world.

God is already delighted with you. Stop trying to please God. And once you do, you may find that you can love yourself and love your neighbor in the way that Jesus taught us to do.

Loving each one of you,

Pastor Jeff

TREASURER'S REPORT

CONCERT SERIES

Christine Jones-Woods

Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 3:00 pm

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 16th, at 3:00 pm, when we will have Soprano soloist, **Christine Jones-Woods** for a return concert, accompanied by GaeLyn Capitano, pianist. Christine is well known to many of us as a professional opera singer and a popular song stylist as well as a soloist with the Central Florida Master Choir. She has chosen her favorite gospel and hymn arrangements to entertain us with this time, and with her unique styling, you are sure to enjoy this time with her.

Everyone is encouraged to attend!

All concerts are free and open to the public. A free-will love offering is received for the artist(s).

Memorial Garden

During the winter months, we could use volunteer help to maintain the garden. An hour or two a week would be appreciated. Any questions, please contact Jean K. 352-489-2682.

Thank You

January 3, 2020

Dear Reverend Welch,

I wanted to let you know that Dad (Bruce A. C.) passed August 30, 2019. Though he had not been attending services regularly for quite a few years, we remember your kindness and caring to our family, especially when Mom passed in 2011. Too often silent kind deeds are not recognized. We want to thank you. Losing Dad has left a huge hole in our hearts but we know he is resting with Jesus.

From: The Family of Bruce A. C.,
Cathy, Donna, and Randy

Church Contact Information

Church Office Phone: 352-489-2682
Office Hours: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Mon - Fri
Email: dunnpreschurch@gmail.com
Website: www.dunnellonpcusa.org
www.facebook.com/DunnellonPresbyterian

PRESBYTERIAN MEN

February Men's Breakfast

Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 8:00 am

All men are invited to bring their love of their life (no golf clubs, cars, or boats!) to the February Breakfast Meeting 02/20/2020. Please notify Don K. of the number you will have at the meeting at the Purple Sage Café. Please notify Don K. 352-489-2682 or email dunnpreschurch@gmail.com by Monday, Feb. 17th if you will be attending.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

A Note from the PW Moderator

SAVE THE DATES!

**Friday, February 7th and
Saturday, February 8th**

are two of the biggest and busiest days on the PW calendar –

the annual PW Flea Market!

It is at the Flea Market that PW raises the majority of its funds used during the year for its missions. We'll be accepting items and setting up the week leading up to the sale and would certainly appreciate your help. This is such an exciting time so don't miss it, whether as a helper, a buyer or, better yet, both!

Joh L.

PW Coordinating Team

will meet on Wednesday,
**February 19, 2020 at 10:00 am,
in the library.**

FLEA MARKET NEWS

Start cleaning your drawers and cabinets and putting aside your items for the Dunnellon Presbyterian Church Annual Flea Market. It will be so big that this year it will be held on two days - Friday, February 7th and Saturday, February 8th from 8:00 am till 12:00 noon. We will begin collecting items on Sunday,



February 2nd through noon on February 6th. This sale is known for the high quality of its items including collectibles, home decor, jewelry, linens and designer accessories, as well as small appliances and dishes for the kitchen. The Bake Sale will have gourmet goodies.

RECEIVING OF ITEMS & SET-UP

9:30 am - 2:00 pm Sun. Feb 2nd - Wed. Feb 5th

9:30 am - 12:00 noon on Thursday, Feb. 6th

TWO FLEA MARKET SALE DAYS

Friday, Feb. 7th - 8:00 am - 12:00 noon

Saturday, Feb. 8th - 8:00 am - 12:00 noon

PW Circles

Wednesday, February 5, 2020
1:00 Pat McDowell Circle
7:00 Lydia Circle

PW Quilt Circle

Tuesdays, February 11 and 25

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

The quilting women will be meeting on Tuesday, February 11 and 25. We meet from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch at a local eatery. Come for a visit to see what we are up to.

Jean K.

FEBRUARY FAMILY NIGHT DINNER

“Heart to Heart”



The Choir Members invite you to a “Pasta Love Fest”.
Wednesday, February 12th, at 6:30 p.m.

They will “lovingly” provide a variety of pasta dishes,
including vegetarian, bread and beverages.

They ask you to bring a salad or dessert to share.

The night will then continue
as choir members will entertain with “love songs” and
everyone will join hands to a “sing along” conclusion.

MOVIES WITH MEANING

Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 1:00 pm

Triumph of the Will

Adolf Hitler was appointed German chancellor at the end of January, 1933, and the suspicious Reichstag fire at the end of February gave his government the pretext for suspending civil rights. We all know what happened and have perhaps asked ourselves what possessed people to follow such a demagogue.

Triumph of the Will is the cinematically influential 1935 Nazi film which most of us have heard of but probably never seen. It's 85 years old now (and of course unrated) but perhaps it's worth a look.

Leni Riefenstahl's infamous propaganda film documenting the Third Reich's 1934 Nuremberg Party Rally features a cast of thousands -- including Adolf Hitler, Heinrich Himmler, Joseph Goebbels, Rudolf Hess, Hermann Goering and other top officials. Images of cheering crowds, precision marching, military bands, banners lining Nuremberg's streets and Hitler's climactic speech illustrate with chilling clarity how Germany fell under his spell. You can join us at 1 p.m. Saturday, February 1st, to watch the movie and share your opinions with fellow DPC members and friends. Popcorn and drinks provided.

Here are some comments from contemporary reviewers on Netflix:

Let's face it, Riefenstahl did a good job. Hindsight is 20/20; had we been able to see the film in 1934 with our then-isolationist viewpoint, we would have been impressed. Indeed, many were impressed by the Nazis including many famous and notable icons in American industry. For me, the fascination was to try to see signs of the rot which would eventually destroy the Nazis and half of Europe with them. There are some signs; for example, one individual (I forget who) who claims racial purity is crucial to a country's survival, but for the most part the film proclaims altruism, teamwork, and sacrifice, traits which any nation values. I guess I was looking for a warning that would have been recognizable at the time. I can't claim I saw one. Then again, this was a propaganda film. The Germans were, and are, intelligent people. If they can be duped, we can too. I just was hoping to gain some insight to learn from their mistakes.

A fascinating & amazing glimpse into a world that shouldn't have been. Riefenstahl's cinematography is breathtaking. How she used only the light from torches during night shots yet had everything see-able, and how she framed her shots...well, I could go on and on and on about how amazing she was. I cannot recommend this film highly enough from historical and cinematography aspects. By the way, the commentary option is fantastic!!!

Dunnellon Presbyterian Church
Annual
FLEA MARKET

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7th

and

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8th

8:00 am - 12:00 noon

20641 Chestnut Street, Dunnellon FL 34431