



# The Good Tidings

Arena Congregational Church

September 2017

CELEBRATING OUR PAST-EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

Affiliated with the Wisconsin Congregational Association

## Thoughts from here and there...Come and walk with me

Ezra Tull, a character in one of Anne Tyler's novels, had a very rugged existence. His father abandoned the family when Ezra was a small boy. The one woman he loved and to whom he was engaged jilted him and married his smooth, rich brother, Cody. Even his mother failed him, offering only discipline and venom when what Ezra needed was warmth and encouragement. Toward the end of the book, having somehow survived life's continuing disappointments and losses, Ezra states the homespun philosophy that has kept him sane and alive: "Life is a continual shoring up."<sup>1</sup>

What an excellent metaphor. "Life is a continual shoring up." It is clearly evident that the shoring up that we need to experience cannot be done by you or me alone. We need help. Phillips Brooks offers us the need to recognize that we walk along side one another and especially letting Jesus walk along side.

To walk alongside, rather than stand against, means that, in the words of Phillips Brooks, we will "face the music even when we don't like the tune."

My mother had a rendition of this adage which went like this: "Leonard, just bloom where you are planted." However ugly or screeching or demeaning the sound - however awful the conditions, total the rejection, mean the boss, etc. - the Christian doesn't protest the weather, or wait for better weather before working. The Christian who follows Jesus in walking alongside, rather than standing against, looks for ways to serve God even in the most difficult of places. Christians are people who live fully in the thick of things, who live wholly in the thickness of time.

In the words that Norman Cousins made famous:  
Accept the Diagnosis;  
Defy the Prognosis.

This poem "All in the State of Mind" is circulating underground, with e-mail copies galore. Its author is unknown. It speaks to a powerful "thumbs-up"

<sup>1</sup> --Anne Tyler, *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1982), 99, quoted in Michael Scrogin, *Practical Guide to Christian Living* (Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1985), 75.

movement in our culture, which is good as long as there is, alongside it, the bowed-down movement that recognizes God is able; not "I am able," but that I can do "all things ... through Christ, who strengthens me."

If you think you're beaten, you are.  
If you think you dare not, you don't.  
If you'd like to win, but think you can't,  
It's almost a cinch you won't.  
If you think you'll lose, you've lost,  
For out in the world you find  
Success begins with a fellow's will;  
It's all in the state of mind.

Full many a race is lost  
Ere ever a step is run;  
And many a coward fails  
Ere ever his work's begun.  
Think big, and your deeds will grow;  
Think small, and you'll fall behind;  
Think that you can, and you will.  
It's all in the state of mind.

If you think you're outclassed, you are;  
You've got to think high to rise;  
You've got to be sure of yourself before  
You can ever win a prize.  
Life's battles don't always go  
To the stronger or faster man,  
But soon or late the one who wins  
Is the one who thinks, "I can."

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. I hope that you are letting Jesus walk with you.

## Sermons for September

September 3, Labor Sunday: Lesson: Isaiah 55.1-7;  
Philippians 2.12-18, Sermon Title: Working

**SERMON** We all work at one job or another. Work is done in an honorable way to bring in the necessary income to feed, cloth, and house the family. There is another kind of work.

**SCHEDULE** Work out your salvation. Do you conceive salvation as a work?

*(Continued on [page 2](#))*

September 10, Sunday School Begins,  
Grandparents Day: Lesson: Romans 13:8-14,  
Sermon Title: Do No Wrong

The whole law can be summed up in a simple statement. The one who loves has fulfilled with law. It is all about relationships.

September 17: Lesson: Romans 14:1-12, Sermon  
Title: Do Not Judge

People judge one another by the cut of the hair, the clothes you wear, the style of life that you bear. But we are all different. Does that allow for sitting in judgement?

September 24: Lesson: Matthew 20:1-16, Sermon  
Title: God Equal Employer

Have you ever thought of God as an equal opportunity employer. Is this the message of this story told by Jesus?

October 1, World Communion Sunday, Guest  
Speaker, Pastor Carol Taylor: Lesson: To Be  
Announced, Sermon Title: To Be Announced



### Special Days in the Secular and Church Calendar

September 3, Labor Day Sunday

September 4, Labor Day

September 10, (S), Grandparent's Day

September 16, Step-family Day

September 17 (S), Citizenship Day, Constitution Day

September 22, First Day of Autumn

October, Pastor's Appreciation Month

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this publication should be addressed to the editor and sent  
to his home address.

## Spotlight on the family

### Bridging the Gap<sup>1</sup>

In I Corinthians 12:14-18 Paul writes about the value of each member of the body of Christ. Grandparents hold a unique place in our children's lives, so it seems proper to honor them on a special day. Grandparents' Day is celebrated on the second Sunday in September



in the United States and Canada. Choose that date, or another one that works for your family, to help your children develop an appreciation for the gifts and talents of some of the older members of God's family.

If you wish to "adopt" grandparents, consider inviting neighbors or asking at a care center or your church for the names of people who have no relatives living nearby.

Make "Helping Hands" gift cards. Pour liquid tempera paint onto foam meat trays and dip your children's hands in the paint. Press the wet hands on the front of folded construction paper cards. When the paint dries, help the children print or draw ways to thank their grandparents for special things they have done. Attach the cards to homemade gifts. Fill a tote tray with gardening tools and seeds for that favorite gardening grandparent. Fill a basket with thread, scissors, and sewing gadgets for that special seamstress. Make coupons for special gifts of time and talent such as: house or yard work, hugs, or *(Continued on [page 3](#))*

<sup>1</sup> From Family Newsletters on Disk, copyright 1995 Augsburg Fortress.



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other special projects. Wrap the gifts in homemade gift wrap. Cut shapes such as hearts, stars, or crosses from cellulose sponges. Dip them in liquid tempera and use them as stamps to create a print on shelf paper or tissue paper.

Have a Grandparents Day celebration! Audio or videotape family members as they tell their favorite family memories. Grandparents can share their knowledge and stories of family roots. If your grandparents live far away, you may wish to record a tape of greetings to send to them.

Provide materials that let the grandparents share a hobby or craft with the children. For example, if the grandparents like to paint china or ceramics, they might like to create a special family plate with your children. If they are whizzes at gardening or baking, ask them to share these hobbies.

Serve a "Grand Meal." Provide sliced English muffins for making individual pizzas. Offer a variety of toppings like: pizza sauce, sliced olives, meats, and grated cheese. Let each person put their favorite toppings on half an English muffin. Broil these "pizzas" until the cheese melts.

Pray an acrostic prayer. Print each grandparent's name vertically. Next to the letters, write positive qualities starting with that letter. Name these qualities in a prayer of thanks.

## A Promise and A Prayer

### A Promise

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend



your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David, (Isaiah 55:1-3 NRSV).

### A Thought

"Come, buy wine and milk, without money and without price." This is terrible economics, but perfect spirituality. Wine and milk represent, to the Oriental mind, products which exemplify all the good and desirable things of life. God invites us to come and buy, without money and without price, yet it is not without cost. The cost is our personal desire that is realized by accepting what it is that God is offering.

### A Prayer

My God, you make all things necessary for life and salvation possible for me. Help me not to be distracted by the buying and selling that I am involved in and that goes on constantly around me. Help me to understand how cheap the world is by contrast to the great wealth that you offer me. Help me to choose what is good and beneficial for me and my family and friends, Amen.



## Officers for 2017 - 2018

### Governing Board

President: Jim Favreau, 753.2334

Vice-president: Joanne Brown, 753-2316

Treasurer: Steven Wilkinson, 753.2131

Clerk: Joe Hodgson, 753-2520

Financial Secretary: Ray Johnson, 753-2845

Church Secretary: Steve Wilkinson, 753.2131

### Officers

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## Recipe of the Month

### Pineapple Cream Cake (very easy)

From the recipe files of Helga Shultz

1 yellow cake mix

1 16-ounce can crushed pineapple, undrained

1 large or 2 small packages of instant vanilla or French vanilla pudding mix

whipped cream or Cool Whip

chopped nuts for topping

Grease and flour a 9-X 13 inch pan

Make cake according to directions on box. While cake is still warm poke with fork several times and spread pineapple over cake.

When making the pudding use  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup less liquid for large box or scant  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup less liquid for each small box.

When the cake is cold cover with pudding and top with whipped cream or Cool Whip.

Sprinkle with chopped nuts.



Sunday School Superintendent, Karen Wilkinson, 753-2131

Choir Director, Leslie Shultz, 574-0707

Head Usher Jim Favreau, 753.2334 and Ray Johnson, 753.2845



### Meetings

Governing Board: Second Monday, September 11, 6:30 p.m.

Men's Breakfast: Third Saturday, 7:30 a.m., at Grandma Mary's. Our next Men's Breakfast will be on October 21.



### Greeters

September -3 - Jeff and Joanne Brown Family

September -10 - Pastor and Helga Shultz

September -17 - Kathy Johnson

September -24 - Jim Favreau Family

October -1 - Joyce Reimann



### Adult Study Group

We are meeting at the home of Steve and Karen Wilkinson, 817 Brown St., Arena. Our study resumes on

September 12, 6:30 p.m.



### Worship On Compact Disks

The Worship Services are recorded each week on a CD so that you may share in the fellowship and enjoyment of worship. If you would like to listen to a service to share the music, pray the prayers and learn from the sermon call either Steve Wilkinson, 753-2131 or Pastor Shultz, 574-0707 and a CD will be delivered to you. Let us know if you need a CD player.



### Missions

We are supporting the Congregational Mission of Jardin America with a gift of \$40 a month through the missions program of the National Association of Congregational Christians. We also contribute \$50.00 a month to the Arena Food Pantry, and \$25.00 a month to the Food Pantry at the Spring Green Community Church. Thank you for your support of our local and foreign mission projects.



### Something to Think About

"If you sincerely drink poison, it will kill you: if you sincerely cut your throat, you will die. If you sincerely believe a

lie, you will suffer the consequences. You must not only be sincere, but you must be right."

~Charles Spurgeon



### Humor

Out in Kansas, tornadoes often hit with sudden devastation, and without warning. In one case, a house was completely whisked away leaving only the foundation and first floor. A silver-haired farm lady was seen sitting dazed, in a bathtub, the only remaining part of the house left above the floor.

The rescue squad rushed to her aid and found her unhurt. She was just sitting there in the tub, talking to herself. "It was the darndest thing... it was the darndest thing." she kept repeating dazedly.

"What was the darndest thing, Ma'am?" asked one of the rescuers.

"I was visiting my daughter here, taking a bath and all I did was pull the plug and the whole derved house suddenly drained away."

Pastor Tim <posts@cybersaltlists.org>



A couple's happy married life almost went on the rocks because of the presence in the household of old Aunt Emma.

For seventeen long years she lived with them, always crotchety, always demanding.

Eventually, the old girl passed away.

On the way back from the cemetery, the husband confessed to his wife, "Darling, if I didn't love you so much, I don't think I would have (Continued on [page 5](#))



Church planter Rick was familiar with Unchurched Harry and Mary, but nothing in his preparations had trained him for Green Bay Gary.

put up with having your Aunt Emma in the house all those years."

His wife looked at him aghast.

"My Aunt Emma!" she cried. "I thought she was 'your' Aunt Emma!"

Received from You Make Me Laugh. The Good Clean Funnies List <gcfl-info@gcfl.net>



A husband and wife were involved in a petty argument, both of them unwilling to admit they might be in error.

"I'll admit I'm wrong," the wife told her husband in a conciliatory attempt, "if you'll admit I'm right."

He agreed and, like a gentleman, insisted she go first.

"I'm wrong," she said.

With a twinkle in his eye, he responded, "You're right!"

from Thomas E. docsdailychuckle@freegroups.net



A woman stood inside the front door, her arms full of coats. Four small children scurried around her.

Her husband, coming down the stairs, asked why she was standing there.

"Here," she said, handing him the coats,

"This time you put the children into their coats, and I'll go honk the horn."

Pastor Tim <posts@cybersaltlists.org>



## National Step-family Day

In the United States, September 16 has been designated as "National Step-family Day." This is a day dedicated to step-families. A day to honor all the Step Heroes out there who choose every day to be parents to ALL the children in their lives.



## Labor Day

Labor Day is more than the unofficial end of summer. It's more than one last three-day, holiday weekend. It's a day to honor the workers of America, blue and white collar alike. It's a day to reflect on all that is created, produced and distributed that makes our lives more comfortable and easier. We may not go to a parade or a village picnic, but take the time anyway to find a way to say thank-you. If you cannot think of anything to say, here is an Old Irish Blessing that is very appropriate.

May there always be work for your hands to do; may your purse always hold a coin or two; may the sun always shine on your windowpane; may a rainbow be certain to follow each rain; may the hand of a friend always be near you; may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you

—An Irish Blessing



## Citizenship Day

Citizenship Day is focused on the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens both native-born and naturalized. The choice of September 17 for this observance commemorates the events of September 17, 1787 when the United States Constitution was signed by delegates from 12 states at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This day celebrates our Supreme Law of the Land as the oldest working Constitution in the world.



## Grandparents Day

September 10

Marian McQuade, a housewife in Fayette County, West Virginia is responsible for the creation of Grandparents Day. The primary purpose was to support the cause of the lonely elderly in nursing homes. She also hoped to persuade grandchildren to tap the wisdom and heritage their grandparents could provide. President Jimmy Carter, in 1978, proclaimed that National Grandparents Day would be celebrated every year on the first Sunday after Labor Day.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED