



Every now and then— New York shook its soul out. It assailed you with an image, or a day, or a crime, or a terror, or a beauty so difficult to wrap your mind around that you had to shake your head in disbelief.

- Colum McCann, *Let the Great World Spin*

FROM THE PASTOR

Philippe Petit was a 24 year old french acrobat with a grand vision—walk on a high-wire between the north and south towers of The World Trade Center.

The above photo was snapped August 7, 1974. Petit is visible walking toward the South Tower—while a plane soars overhead.

Philippe was discouraged by several friends to give up this ludicrous plan (wouldn't you give the same advice!).

He simply responded, *“Yes, it is impossible—now, let's get to work!”*

And on this August morning—Petit performed for 45 minutes.

He walked between the towers 8 times—pausing to lay down, kneel, dance and salute thousands—watching 1,776 feet below—from the New York City streets—all looked up in wonder!

The narrative story of this remarkable photograph changed forever on September 11, 2001.

The photograph foreshadows horror, death and unimaginable destruction. The eye no longer focuses on Petit—but a familiar image of a plane flying “too close and too low” to the Twin Towers.

The photographic story now changes to one of polar opposites:

August 7, 1974 Philip Petit brought creativity, joy and wonder.

September 11, 2001 religious zealots brought death and destruction.

I’m not a big fan of absolutes—I feel a bit more comfortable navigating shades of gray. However, I need to exercise caution and not live in a place of naivety.

Humanity does encounter evil, darkness and destructive forces; those who choose life over death, bondage over freedom. The faces of evil, which mirror Satan’s primary characteristic—*a father of lies, for this is the language he speaks*.

In the past few weeks we have witnessed heartbreaking images.

And as followers of Jesus Christ—there is only one road to travel—*walk in the light as He is in the Light*—a difficult tightrope to walk in these days!

Please keep this in mind when encountering evil...

Greater is He that is in you; than he that is in the world.

You are to shine the light of truth and love and dispel the darkness—and live with the consequences.

Jesus teaches you to speak truth in love (in the face of darkness) and pray for your enemies.

Christian, these are the days to exercise courage, question boldly while simultaneously bearing the Fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness.

Do not confront darkness with darkness; but overcome evil with good.

The road of love is a hard road—but the only option for a disciple of Jesus.

Is it hard?

Yes, it does seem impossible—so let’s get to work...

All Will Be Well,
Tommy

Family Ministries

Dear Families,

I am currently reading a book, *The Promise of Despair*, by Andrew Root. It is an admittedly striking and odd title by this voice I have come to trust when it comes to ministry with youth and children. Though this book has been on my shelf for years I just now picked it up and I am glad:

- as the short-lived window of whatever the new normal is now a distant memory
- we begin another strange school year
- mayhem in Afghanistan
- earthquake in Haiti
- continued gun violence in our community

Despair seems a constant companion.
The list continues...

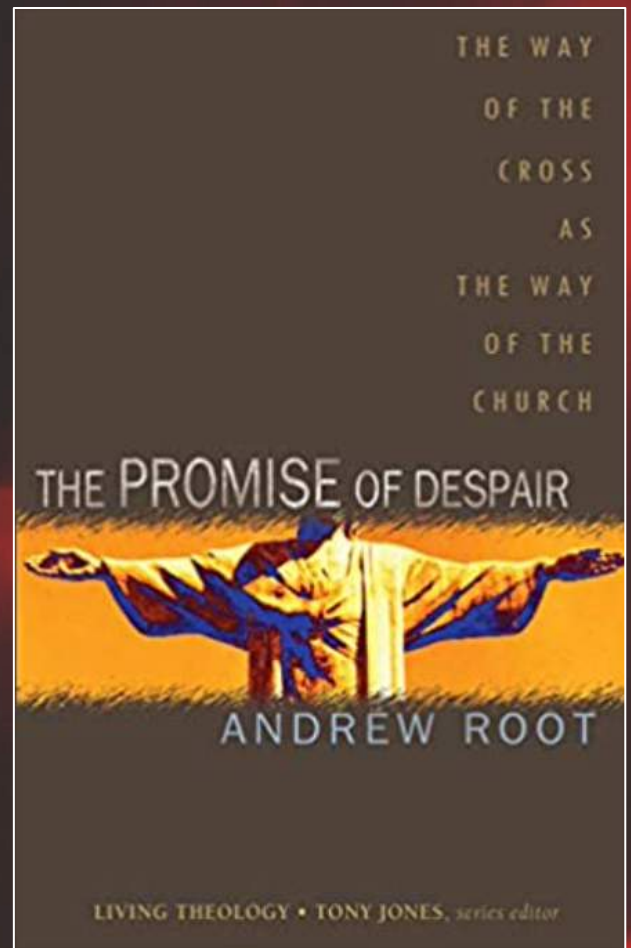
—how long Lord?

The difficult, trying, and maybe even frustrating Good News is that even in despair God chooses to be with us. And this is most often realized when we are present with others!

My encouragement has been you: our church family, our children and youth, who have faithfully been present in worship, in zoom, in service, prayers, and care for one another and our world.



Rev. Drew Phillips
Minister to Families



God is calling us - even in this brokenness - to be open to one another and anyone else God might see fit to cross our paths. Because all people, whether in despair or not, are loved by God, precious to God, and image bearers of God.

Continue to pray, meet with, and love one another because as we do, we love God.

Here's a quote from my reading that I pray will give you courage:

"...it is not what you do or even what you think that makes you a Christian; it is your desire to seek God in broken places, up against [death].

To be a Christian is to be one who knows impossibility in your own being and in our world, and to seek God in the midst of impossibility, not around or outside it."

With thanks that we are family,
Drew

A Prayer Box for Families

Families and communities find it helpful to have a prayer box on the coffee table or in the room where they gather to pray each day. Whenever someone asks for prayer, or we get a prayer concern email from Pastor Tommy, or we hear of a tragedy on the radio or TV, they write the request on a little slip of paper and put it in the bowl. Then when it's time for morning or evening prayer, each person can take a few slips of paper from the bowl and read out the requests during the time for prayers for others. This is also a good way to remember people we don't see every day, like children in war zones, victims of human trafficking, or our political leaders.

Boxes and slips of paper are at the children's art table at the front of the sanctuary.

Worship in September: The First Fruits



September 5:
Fruits of the Spirit
Galatians 5:22-23



September 19:
Jesus as First
Fruit
(Bringing in the
Sheaves)

Psalm 126

September 12:
Fruits of the Earth
(The Harvest)



Mark 4:1-20

September 26:
Fruits of
Creation
(The Natural
World)



Psalm 19

Urban Ministries News & Call For Proposals

Grants Open

Mission of the DPBC Endowment Fund:

The Des Peres Baptist Church Endowment Fund for Inner-City Ministries at Third Baptist Church is to provide funding for compassionate and relevant ministries in St. Louis City that address spiritual and physical needs as the church strives to be the presence of Christ in the city for good.

We asked: “The Urban Ministries Board is seeking proposals for financial support for “compassionate and relevant ministries ...that address spiritual and physical needs” of our neighbors in the St. Louis area.” And you responded. The Committee received three outstanding requests for grants during the Month of April and we are able to provide partial or full funding for each one. Additionally, we completed a request made last Fall by the North Side Charter School (NSCS).

We partnered with NSCS to provide a project titled Expanding Horizons. Their goal was to provide graduating 8th graders exposure to a variety of careers and/or college opportunities. While the original request incorporated travel, because of Covid it was scaled back to a local venue that included speakers, visits to the St. Louis Aquarium, and much more. The amount needed was finalized early in May, and the grant completed.

This spring, we granted funds to our CBF partners in St. Louis, Sasha and Mira Zivanov who head the **International Fellowship (IF)** ministry. They are partnering with children and families of Oak Hill Elementary School. They requested funds to provide backpacks and school supplies for immigrant children. The children and families have already visited the IF site on Gravois to receive their backpack for the 2021-22 school year.



Humanitri, “as Christ’s hands of mercy,” helps families facing homelessness achieve stability in a safe and supportive community, providing the skills and resources they need to thrive. They have worked in St. Louis for years to provide permanent housing, financial literacy, and accountability and so much more for their clients moving out of homelessness. This year we were able to grants funds toward a project called Together Achieving Goals (TAG). This project for middle school children is designed to mesh with and complement their adult programs. It highlights three fundamental areas: home management, fiscal management, and overall personal responsibility/self-management.

Cortez Lofton introduced us to the **Triumph Academy of STL**, a non-profit, founded by Vanetta Clark. **Rich Food 4 Teens** is a program developed by Vanetta providing several summer sessions to educate young people about healthy eating for a healthy body. This is a serious issue as so many under privileged families face a “food dessert” where fresh fruits and vegetables are simply unavailable. She wants to make healthy eating “cool.” Her second major goal is to teach resiliency. According to USA Today, “About one in five children under 18 – including 6.8 million youths ages 10-17 – live in a household with limited or uncertain access to food.” Data shows this results in shoplifting, auto theft, and selling their bodies to provide food for themselves and their families. This project will be professionally filmed with the hope of bringing attention to the issue to a wider audience, both regionally and nationally.

A second grant cycle begins September 1st. Applications will be received through October 15th. All applicants will receive notice of the committee’s decision by November 15th.

Calling for Proposals

To request an application, please contact Peggy Pittenger:

peggypittenger@gmail.com.

Or contact the church office at 314-533-7340.

**Adult Discipleship in
September
moves to Tuesday
Nights - 6 p.m.
via Zoom:**

***The Stories Jesus
Tells -
The Parables***



September 7

The Petulant Children

Luke 14:15-24

September 14

Love, Fear, and Our Neighbor

Luke 10:25-37

September 21

A Midnight Request

Luke 11:5-13

September 28

The Rich Fool

Luke 12:13-21

EVERYDAY PEOPLE



EXTRAORDINARY GOD

NEW EPISODES FOR THE PODCAST *EVERY DAY PEOPLE* ARE
AVAILABLE ON THIRD'S FACEBOOK PAGE, IN EMAIL
AND ON SPOTIFY

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 01 🎁 Demetria Bryant Austin
- 03 🎁 Lela Jones
- 08 🎁 Danny Lawrence
- 11 🎁 Andre McDaniel
- 12 🎁 Juan Moore
- 14 🎁 Lera Bryant
- 17 🎁 Willard Swyers
& Dani Phillips
- 20 🎁 Sam Meyer
- 22 🎁 Demetrius Bryant
- 24 🎁 Judy Vansickle
- 30 🎁 Mart Wainwright



In the city for good!

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