



Worship & News

Englewood Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

February 2021

From the Pastor's Pen...



I recently read an article about the Japanese art of repair called *kintsugi*, “golden repair.” It’s a way of mending broken ceramics using precious metals, usually gold, mixed in with the lacquer. This highlights the cracks, rather than trying to hide them.

The article in February’s edition of *Sojourners* magazine interviews artist, theologian, writer, and professor, Makoto Fujimura. Fujimura reflects on the Western mindset of fixing things, so they are like new again, so the damage is hidden, covered, unseen.

In *kintsugi*, he points out, we are invited to see the beauty in the brokenness. “I actually think that there is virtue in being able to see the brokenness and fractures, as painful as they may be.” And that we are called to learn to “look with compassion and love on broken lives and broken systems as the starting point of repair, reform, or healing.”

I thought about this form of art, as well as Makoto’s theological perspective as I considered the season of Lent this year. Lent is the 6 weeks leading up to Easter and a time intended for reflection, repentance, spiritual practices.

I decided “Repair” is a good theme for this Lent. In the spirit of *kintsugi* though, I invite us to take time to acknowledge the broken places, in our lives, our community, our nation, our world, and in creation. Looking, not only to ask, “how can it be fixed,” but looking with compassion. Taking time to lament the brokenness in so many places.

This past year has laid bare deep fractures in many

places: systemic racism and fractured trust between communities of color and law enforcement, inequity in how the pandemic has affected people’s lives and livelihoods, the continued challenge of adequate and affordable medical care for all people, political division, and rancor practically unprecedented in our modern time.

As we consider brokenness, mending, and repair through Lent, we consider it through the lens of the Gospel, the Good News. As followers of Christ, we affirm that God in Christ is “reconciling all things to Himself,” as Paul writes. We trust that the repair work isn’t up to us on our own, alone, but that God’s healing power and life-giving Spirit are also at work. Our part then, becomes being willing to enter into that healing work, mending and repairing in our own ways, with our own gifts.

I encourage you to look for ways of repairing this Lent. Maybe it’s a literal project, repairing or restoring something. Maybe it’s reusing something or being more conscientious about recycling. Maybe it’s focusing on a relationship that needs repair. Perhaps the work is more introspective, taking time for prayer and personal devotion to help repair your own spirit.

My prayer is that our Lenten journey be one of healing, mending, and experiencing God’s work of life and restoration, even in the midst of brokenness.

Peace,

Pastor Kerry





February Highlights

Happy Valentine's Day – Feb. 14th

Presidents Day Feb. 15th

Lent Begins Feb. 17th



Name	Date
April Yates Hardy	2/7
Karlene Jacobs	2/9
Fred Hardt	2/15
David Biddle	2/18
Frank Coburn	2/23
Ruth Hessey	2/25
Sara Best	2/29

February Worship packets will be available Monday the 8th. You will find them on the table by the front door entrance. Included in your packet will be the February worship schedule, Valentine goodies, and Ash and Lent information.

The office will be closed on Feb 8th-10th. Thank you for your prayers as I travel with my Mom to Seattle for her heart surgery. Dawn

Peace Pole Project

You may have noticed our Peace Pole is looking a little run down. The pole needs to be sealed and the signs have faded. David Helseth tracked down the original maker of our Peace Pole and we ordered new signs. Nick Schultz has agreed to refurbish the pole and help install the new signs!

The signs, which say “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in eleven different languages, cost \$40.00 each. We are inviting folks to contribute to the Peace Pole project. You can give online through the website or Breeze, or good old-fashioned check by mail! Please be sure to designate that it’s for the peace pole. We will plan to have a special re-dedication some time in the future.



Covid-19 Vaccination: Below is a link for Yakima County's Covid-19 vaccination information which lists easily understood criteria for the different phases. It shows who is currently eligible, the locations and phone numbers of local clinics for people to call and make an appointment for getting their vaccination. The speed of getting one's vaccination is very dependent on the day-to-day supply that is shipped to the various clinics. <https://www.yakimacounty.us/2472/COVID-19-Vaccine>.

There is excitement that the COVID vaccine is finally being administered in quantity. There are several points to remember before we start seriously talking about reopening for in person worship.

- As with any vaccine, it is not 100% effective, although 95% is better than expected. What that means is that in a congregation of our size, several people could be expected to still be at risk even after vaccination.
- At this time nobody knows whether the vaccine totally prevents infection or just prevents serious illness. Until we get that determination, we have to assume that it is possible to infect someone even after vaccination.
- The current rates of infection are still so high that Yakima continues to be in Phase 1. Hopefully, we will be moving forward to the next Phase within the next couple months.

Therefore, at a minimum we need to know that all attendees have been vaccinated before we resume normal worship. Given the supply problems, that is going to take weeks.

This year we welcome Kay Hartshorn as our incoming Treasurer.

Thank you Kay for stepping into this roll.

We want to give a special thank you to Sue Bennett our outgoing Treasurer. Sue has done an amazing job at giving the financial reports to the Stewardship committee, organizing and keeping the bills, taxes, and bank accounts in good order. Thank you for all your dedication and generous time Sue.

Vision Council Chair: Ed Birdge

Ministry Council Chair: Sandi Vogel

Secretary: Sue Scott

Treasurer: Kay Harsthorn

Personnel Chair: Bob Chicken

Endowment Chair: Dick Cowin

Property Chair: Larry Scholl

Chair of the Elders: April Yates Hardy

Chair of the Diaconate: Dixie Kisner

Cluster Chair: Lynne Lohnes



In your prayers this month, please include Paul Brunn and his brother Mike. Paul has been diagnosed with Prostate cancer, and Paul's brother Mike passed away suddenly last month.

Please continue to keep the Wheeler family in your prayers.



Special Offering, February 2021

"Let Love Flow."

"Rebuilding communities and lives after a disaster takes time; often, it takes years. Media coverage wanes after the immediate impact, so many never witness the later stages of recovery. But needs continue to evolve long after the initial crisis. And sometimes, new needs emerge as well. Week of Compassion is committed to supporting local partners through every stage of disaster recovery as they meet rapidly changing needs in their local communities-- and even face the challenges of compound disasters".



In our weekly updates, we share stories of our presence and impact around the world: from disaster response, to refugee and immigration ministry, to ongoing sustainable development projects in impoverished areas. Catch up on updates you missed, or find stories you want to read and share again!

Follow the link below for an opportunity to donate.

<https://www.weekofcompassion.org/donate.html>

Or you can give through the ECC Breeze link on our webpage.

*Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty,
shade from the sun, shelter from the wind,*

For the Compassionate One guides them, takes them to the best springs.

~ Isaiah 49:10 (The Message)

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Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8am-1pm



But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

Ideas For Fasting This Lent

Fast from hurting words	...and say kind words
Fast from sadness	...and be filled with gratitude
Fast from anger	...and be filled with patience
Fast from pessimism	...and be filled with hope
Fast from worries	...and have trust in God
Fast from complaints	...and contemplate simplicity
Fast from pressures	...and be prayerful
Fast from bitterness	...and fill your hearts with joy
Fast from selfishness	...and be compassionate to others
Fast from grudges	...and be reconciled
Fast from words	...and be silent so you can listen

Ash Wednesday

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, that Easter is coming! Death has no sting, no victory, because of Jesus! Glory and honor and praise to His name! Thank you for rescuing us. Help us keep both the weight and the joy of this season in our hearts and we move through the next several weeks. Help us bear the good fruit of your Spirit.

