Prayer shared by Eric F. at Elder Meeting
4/26/20

Grandfather,
Look at our brokenness.
We know that in all creation
Only the human family
Has strayed from the Sacred Way.
We know that we are the ones
Who are divided
And we are the ones
Who must come back together
To walk in the Sacred Way.
We know that we are the ones
Who are divided
And we are the ones
Who must come back together
To walk in the Sacred Way.
Grandfather,
Sacred One,
Teach us love, compassion and honor
That we may heal the earth
And heal each other

Ojibway Prayer
(Taken from a Book “Earth Prayers from Around the World”)

Derek Dayton will be graduating from Tolono High School this year.
Haven Dager, Jess and Ben Dager’s daughter will graduate from Central High School.

Jessi Moves!

Our plans to move home this coming May had to be moved up due to the pandemic. My husband Jay works as an X-ray and CT technologist at Eureka Hospital every weekend, and for the last two years he was spending the night at the hospital. We decided to move a couple months early because of how much risk is involved with him staying there 56 hours in a row. We also wanted to ensure all of our guests that visit the Community Dinner stay as safe as possible and knew this was the best It’s been a gift to have created a plan with Kris long before COVID-19 changed our collective lives, making the early move an easy transition for both my marriage and job! When we can all gather again, I’ll be continuing to work from home while commuting to Champaign 3-4 days a week. way to be certain I can also continue doing my job during this time! It has been a gift to have created a plan with Kris long before COVID-19 changed our collective lives, making the early move an easy transition for both my marriage and job! When we gather again, I’ll be continuing to work from home while commuting to Champaign 3-4 days a week. Since I have been making this trip twice a week for the last two years, it will not be difficult or unknown commute. Love and miss you all so much! I can’t wait to hug you, cry on your shoulders, and share this ministry together without any sort of distancing! Love, Jessi

Stay in touch and keep informed

Go to the website each week to watch the service for the week. https://www.uniplace.org to hear the latest from Pastor Kris. And check out FB page https://www.facebook.com/UniPlaceCU/

Open Door Needs

We are asking for canned vegetables for our Tuesday Open Door food pantry.
Musically Speaking

Once a year I watch a timeless favorite (of many of you as well), *My Fair Lady.*

Contrary to the rule of the novel being better than the play, the play better than the musical, and the musical better than the movie, the 1964 movie based on George Bernard Shaw's play *Pygmalion* stood the time test incredibly well, despite abrupt changes in cultural mores. Not because it won eight Oscars, at a time the Academy Awards still went beyond trends, hype, glitz, and cardboard glamour.

The added musical value made a play about the "music of the words" even more compelling. Unforgettable songs -- such as "On The Street Where You Live", "I Could Have Danced All Night", or even (violet-like humble, yet also moving as one) "I've Grown Accustomed To Her Face" -- didn't dilute the social, moral, cultural, hard hitting issues openly discussed or alluded to, in the play itself. They enhanced them.

What about *The Messenger* and our spiritual life? (The brilliant G. B. Shaw was not known as a religious person, but a somewhat sarcastic and cynical one.) An inadvertent lesson in how the spiritual can inhabit unexpected spaces, how it can intermingle with the secular - and redeem it from the shallow grooves of happenstance.

When the arrogant, not eminently feminist (to put it mildly) Professor Higgins takes under his aegis a somewhat vulgar, yet precious (diamond in the rough) Eliza Doolittle, the relationship between them seems first transactional.

We have an ambitious upper class intellectual attempting to show supreme pedagogical skill, by taking upon himself a seemingly impossible challenge. In his goal of (British spelling used advisedly) moulding Elisa, one can read hubris and unbridled narcissism. A lower class, poor girl is being lured into possibly achieving a higher socio-economic status.

That would be the materialistic interpretation. Is that all, though? Authors of yore had a less rigidly ideological, more multi-layered approach to life, meaning, and art than we often do, enlightened as we like to think we are. On a higher plane, whether or not intended, Eliza and Henry engage in a superb *paideia* exercise: achieving an ideal of beauty which transcends egotisms, subservience, and "class" obsessions. There is asceticism, redemption, and there is transfiguration, in that catchy musical of yesteryear.

In one of the rare moments when Professor Higgins does not excoriate some *femme de chambre* - nor rants about "why can't a woman be more like a man" (the song itself is composed tongue-in-cheek, not approvingly) - he spells out the true point of their bumpy interaction:

I know your head aches; I know you're tired; I know your nerves are as raw as meat in a butcher's window... but think what you're trying to accomplish. Think what you're dealing with. The majesty and grandeur of the English language, the greatest possession we have. The noblest thoughts that ever flowed through the hearts of men are contained in its extraordinary, imaginative, and musical mixtures of sounds. And that's what you've set yourself out to conquer Eliza. And conquer it you will.

...We live through a different challenge right now. Using English in an aesthetically pleasing way is perhaps last on our minds nowadays. It is hard to find rhyme and reason in the bubbly, noisy fermenting of suffering, absurdity, fear... but also in the nobility of our fellow citizens and in the hope of us all.

Harmonious sound will follow noise again. When this will be over, we'll appreciate poetry again. We'll make music again. We'll laugh again. Hopefully you'll even get me to the church on time!

Samir
**Elders Meeting**

The elders are meeting on Zoom for the past two meetings. It is a way to stay connected and see faces smiling with God’s love. We discuss our community of faith and who is needing prayer or help currently. Our goal was to touch base once a week but that seems to be a little too much. Please feel free to contact Kris or any elder if you do have a problem or need prayer. We want to be there for you!

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**Prayers for our World**  O God, Our world is upside down! Just as Jesus turned the world upside down that first Easter morning, our world is torn asunder. Be with us as we celebrate the empty tomb. Be with us as we serve your world in these strange times. We rejoice that we can be together on this Easter morning through electronic means. Our sharing today is more like the frightened disciples hidden away than joining in the triumphal hymns of our resurrected Lord we would share in worship. We give you praise and thanks as we tell of the ways we connect and care for your people and your world. May this crisis help us all examine our lives, stop the complaining and bickering, and be grateful to God for life and freedom. May we love our neighbor enough to stay home and stay safe, and if essential life and work activities take us out into Your world, may we protect ourselves from any possibility of infecting our neighbors. Yes, Lord, it is about our neighbor more than it is about ourselves. In the name of our Risen Lord, we pray. Amen.

Judy Ridlen shared this prayer on Easter and it is still appropriate now.

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**Worship at Your Place with UniPlace**  
For at least the Sundays through May we will continue to worship from home via our emailed Worship at Your Place with UniPlace Sunday morning mailings. If you are not receiving these or having trouble finding them, please contact Pastor Kris at revkris-light@yahoo.com for help. You can also access the weekly video through the church website or our UniPlace YouTube channel by Sunday afternoon each week. Let’s stay together, even while we are apart!

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**Pentecost Sunday**  
On May 31, our Disciple Congregations across the world will celebrate Pentecost. This is usually a time when we are asked to wear red. The Pentecost Offering supports Disciples new church development. Planning, nurturing and sustaining new congregation is part of Disciples’ vision. This offering supports the specialized ministry of the new church development through both regional and general programs. Gifts for this offering are divided equally between the region in which they’re give and New Church Ministry.

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Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write then on the tablet of your heart.  
**Proverbs 3:3**
Reflections of Light
Join Us for a Journey

As we begin another 4 weeks of adhering to the stay-at-home order, many of us are eager to journey somewhere new. We also long to connect with friends, old and new. At the same time, we realize that this period of limited engagements, cancelled activities and lower financial expenditures has offered new insights into what is truly valuable to us. This is a good time for a Trek into the World of Enough.

Trek is a 28-day spiritual adventure which challenges us to reevaluate the way our cultural norms order our lives. Current concerns about the global economy remind us that much of our communal life centers around consumerism. Is "consumer" our primary identity? Consumerism in a throw-away society leads to environmental degradation and depletion of Earth's resources. Consumerism stokes false fears that we are not "enough" as God created us. Consumerism drives us to buy the right beauty products, tech gadgets, beverages, fashion accessories, shoes, vehicles (this list goes on and on) in order to fill the void that advertisers convince us we must feel. Consumerism leads to some of the worst behaviors we have seen in the Covid crisis - hoarding, price fixing, scarcity, waste and greed.

In the next 28 days, before we rush to get "back to normal," now is a good time to question which things we really want to bring back into our lives. You can join in the adventure online through our church website. Look for more information in the weekly email updates, or contact Pastor Kris at revkrislight@yahoo.com.

Pastor Kris