

The Lyons Community Church

Mid-Week Message

Thursday, May 14, 2015

*If you can keep your head
when all about you are losing theirs....*

Dear friends and neighbors,

That is the opening line to one of my favorite poems by Rudyard Kipling, which I memorized in the 11th grade. During the market crash of 2008, I posted a large copy on my office door in Germany. And with all of the rainfall in the past week and a half, I feel like I need to paint it on a billboard and post in on Main Street.

It's a tough time: the sight of the river rushing fast and high reminds us of a flood not too long ago, the sound of rainfall on our roofs is not the gentle comfort it once might have been. Now many of us are on edge, we're nervous or short-tempered and might not even know why. Are we prepared? There is nothing we can do to change our circumstances - so how can we change what is within us, so that we might bear this (and all anxiety) with more grace and calmness?



Open up your wallets! That's right - did you think I was going to say take a deep breath or say a quiet prayer? Sure, those are helpful tools, too, but this Sunday's passage from 2 Corinthians details what the Macedonians did when their lives turned upside down. They stretched themselves and gave more money to God's work in the world than they could actually afford.

OK, I'm not suggesting you bankrupt the family, but I do think that taking a bold action when our lives are on the rocks sets a steady course and reduces our own feelings of anxiety. We say we love God, we trust Jesus, and we're learning to live in Christian community - so why not do something spontaneous and generous, and simply write a check or bring in some cash? No, we're not planning a special building fund or missionary offering. In fact, the church is doing fine financially. We don't need your money (well, we do - but you know what I mean). We'll be fine without your money - but will you be fine if you don't give it?

The Bible lays out some pretty good reasons for giving, which have nothing to do with budgets and spreadsheets. We'll talk more about abundant love, generosity, long-distance running and the paradox of giving this Sunday. And if you'll be out of town - you could always



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Sunday, May 17

Sermon: *The Uprising of Stewardship* - Pastor Emily Flemming
(Final in a 5-week series on Post-Easter Uprisings)

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 (MSG)

Reader: Vance French

Greeters: Ron & Monica McGuckin

Refreshments: The McGuckins

Flowers: The Hunter Family

Children's Time: Pam Browning

Pastor's Message (continued)

drop a check in the mail (PO Box 44, Lyons, CO 80540). See what a difference it makes in your week... I dare you....

With love and hopeful prayers that this rain will soon stop,

Pastor Emily

You can check out any sermons you missed, or share other updates, info and announcements with the church on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LyonsCommunityChurch

Prayers...

Joys for Next week's birthdays - Lillian Flemming Schoedel's 2nd birthday (5/18), Natalie Bear (5/20), Raphaelle Daty (5/20), Jerry Peila (5/21), Ray Thomas Sr.'s 91st birthday (5/22) and James Brighton's 1st birthday (5/22), all the mothers (and grandmothers, family and friends) in our lives who helped us begin our faith journeys and care (d) for us along the way, Alice's return from TX, that our kids grow up safely here (and prayers for those who aren't safe here and elsewhere)

Concerns for Modu's health, those stressed over recent rainfall (esp. Sam and Bonnie), Jodi's job search, transition at LEAF, death of Pat Clemens, Ms. Lora, and Nancy's uncle; Dana's brother Jason's malaria, Steve's mother Faye's surgeries, Jerry's sister Cheryl's cancer, Vance, Pam's grandmother, Deb O'Connor, Marie & Ken Baker (she's back home), Lori, Mary, the Robinson, Chase, and Fikes families; Steve M., Kathy R., 2nd earthquake in Nepal and all those suffering from disaster, war, and disease

You may make prayer requests or join the Prayer Team anytime by contacting Pastor Emily or Chair Kitty Keim kathkeim@earthlink.net.

Announcements

All youth (and interested adults) will meet Sunday at Mark & Christine Boys' home (529 Goranson Ct.) from 12:30-3:30 for pizza and games.

Our Ministry Council will meet this Tuesday, 5/19, from 6:30-8pm in Wesleyan Hall.

The Project:KIDS planners will meet this Wednesday evening, 5/20, in Wesleyan Hall to organize the next event on Saturday, June 6th.



SMILE - we still need your photo for the Directory - just ask Regis on Sunday morning.

If—

BY RUDYARD KIPLING

If you can keep your head when all about you

Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,

If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,

But make allowance for their doubting too;

If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,

Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,

Or being hated, don't give way to hating,

And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;

If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;

If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster

And treat those two impostors just the same;

If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken

Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,

Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,

And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings

And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,

And lose, and start again at your beginnings

And never breathe a word about your loss;

If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew

To serve your turn long after they are gone,

And so hold on when there is nothing in you

Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,

Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,

If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,

If all men count with you, but none too much;

If you can fill the unforgiving minute

With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,

Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,

And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

Source: *A Choice of Kipling's Verse* (1943)