

The Lyons Community Church

Mid-Week Message

Thursday, November 6, 2014

Often, it's not what you say...

Dear friends and neighbors,

I was recently reminded that God does not need my thoughts or words to make miracles happen - sometimes all I need to do is show up. And anything I try to do beyond that is just getting in the way of God's work.

It's hard for an extrovert like me to keep my mouth shut sometimes. I process my thoughts by speaking them aloud, by hearing what makes sense and what doesn't (which can be embarrassing if what makes no sense was just spoken from the pulpit!). But life is a journey we're all on, and learning takes place on each step of that journey, if we allow it. So what I'm learning this week is that being present sometimes means actively doing nothing: no speaking, no leading, no "activity," except for active listening and being actively open to how the Spirit moves in, through and around me and others in my life.

The gift of presence is not like the gift of apple pie - once its all eaten up, it's gone and there's little memory of it. It's more like parenthood - a gift that keeps giving long after a child is born, raised, and out of the house. Or, considering that next Tuesday is Veteran's Day, like the gift of military service. Soldiers aren't certain what will come of their sacrifice, but they give of themselves because they believe in the values for which they fight. In the best case for both parents and soldiers, there is no direct tie to the outcome, just a willingness to show up and do what needs to be done, trusting in God to do the rest.

Many of us go through life never really feeling 100% present to anyone or anything, racing around in a half-attended craze or stress-hormone-induced daze. We may show up physically, but we are checked out mentally, emotionally, or spiritually. That is not the way God intended us to live.

I heard a pastor say once that Mary Magdalene, the friend and follower of Jesus Christ, was the Patron Saint of Showing Up. She showed up to listen at his feet to his teachings, she showed up during his final days to wash his feet with her tears or hair or



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Sunday, Nov. 9

Sermon: I Love to Tell the Story #4:
Presence, the Stewardship of Showing Up - Pastor Emily Flemming

Scripture: Act 6:1-7

Reader: Vance French

Flowers: The Hunter Family

Greeter: Mark Browning

Refreshments: The Boys Family

Children's Time: Sarah Hunter

Mission Moment: Richard and Deborah Salmon



Artwork by Deborah Campbell Salmon

Pastor's Message (continued)

anointing oil (the stories vary), she showed up at Calvary and watched as the life left his body, and she showed up in the empty tomb to discover his resurrection. She was the first evangelist - the first to tell the other disciples about the good news of Jesus' triumph over death. And all that was because she simply showed up - and was open to do what the Spirit led her.

This Sunday is the 4th of 5 stewardship Sundays - and we'll be talking about the stewardship of our own presence. Where do we show up? To whom, how, and why do we show up? To quote some old songs, what does the Lord require of us? And what can we give freely, freely because we have received? At times, God wants our service, our witness, even our gifts (as we discussed in the past 3 weeks), but sometimes God simply asks us to show up.

So will you be in church on Sunday?

Hoping to see you there,

Pastor Emily

Prayers...

Joy with Debbie and Jerry for 42 years of marriage, Holly's mom visiting from CA, Jason and Byron grandparents' recent visit, apples ready for picking at Geneva's former home (233 Park)

Concern for Karen, Jeanne and the Schwenn family, Steve M. (diagnosis was not Parkinson's, thanks be to God!), Wade T.'s back injury, Mary Chase's father's lung cancer, Debi's friend Twila's broken ankles, Bob S., Jerry P., Vance F., Geneva T., Matt F., Mark H., Stevie L., and the Sims family.

What can I do with the life



that God has given me?

Announcements

The Staff Parish Relations Committee will meet this **Wednesday, Nov. 12th at 7pm** at the church to discuss annual evaluations.

The Children's Committee will meet hold their quarterly meeting this **Thursday, Nov. 13th at 6:30** at the church. All are welcome to join in!

Many thanks to the Lyons Community Foundation for their \$5000 grant to assist in our building renovations! Wesleyan Hall should soon be complete and we plan to celebrate with a special coffee and fellowship after church on **Sunday, Nov. 16th** downstairs in our gorgeous new space. Please invite your friends and neighbors!

With the renovation complete, we also plan to relocate the Food Pantry from the LDS Church on 2nd Ave. back to our Wesleyan Hall. Mark your calendars for **Saturday morning, Nov. 15th** and bring along a pick-up truck to help. Many hands make light (and quick) work.

A celebration of the life of Jeff Schwenn will be held at the church on **Friday, Nov. 21st at 2:00** in the afternoon, followed by a reception in Wesleyan Hall. Debbie is coordinating the reception.