

KTF July 10, 2025

Dear Ones,

I sit down to write this after a very lively Wednesday morning Bible Study and discussion. It's always my favorite hour of the week, especially as I see people's understanding of the Scriptures deepen and help them to be faithful in this current age. One of the things that came up this morning is how it is a safe space for people to share their thoughts, frustrations, fears, hopes and questions about this world we live in. It is a place where we reflect on the things in hearts through the lens of our faith history.

What did this old priest's heart good was to hear that they take what they have learned and practiced here, and seek to create safe spaces for others out in the world. That is exactly what church is supposed to be! To use a musical metaphor, church is where we learn to read music and practice the scales so that we can go into the wider community to sing the song the Spirit has given us. The song of the Good News.

I know Wednesday mornings don't work for everyone's schedules. It occurred to me this morning that it's been quite a while since I made the offer to gather with small groups at other times in the week for similar faith-building opportunities. We can look at the week's readings, if that's of interest. We can study a particular book of the Bible or meet to discuss some other book (I have wanted to work through Brian McLaren's *We Make the Road by Walking* or Rachel Held Evans *Inspired* for years now). We could work through materials on civil discourse. We could work through another round of Sacred Ground.

Please speak to me about your interests and availability, so that I can start working on a plan when I return from my vacation in mid-August.

In the meantime....*keep the faith*,
Nancy+

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Deuteronomy 30:9-14 * Psalm 25:1-9 * Colossians 1:1-14 * Luke 10:25-37

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Jose Garcia (7//19)

CREATION CARE TIPS

You take away the sin of the World

Sometimes something familiar becomes different. We say the Gloria each time we celebrate the eucharist, but last week, when we had a very lively Wednesday Bible study session, the Gloria twisted a bit between leaving the page and reaching my ear, while it was in the air. It landed differently, too, as it kind of crashed into my brain. Suddenly, the sin of the world was no longer directly human to human – one person ignoring the pain that (s)he caused another, or a group of people excluding another group of people – but it was human-caused destruction of God's beautiful world.

And then the reading from Galatians 6 – the one Peter read on Sunday – when I was a child I heard “As ye sow, so shall ye reap.” But I didn't pay attention to the verses that followed: “If you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary of doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.” Let us not grow weary of doing what is right.

What if, by doing what is right, we can stop the sin against God's creation? Not just by sowing peace, not just by loving our neighbor, but by loving God's creation and fighting, advocating, working for the betterment of the Earth and all its inhabitants?

How and where do we start this? The answer starts in prayer, maybe in this prayer that we heard last Sunday: All the Earth sings out your name. Inspire your people to drink deeply from the beauty of local natural beauty and all your creation. When ecosystems are wounded, bring your healing. When our actions endanger the survival of other species, curb our greed and waste. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Perhaps by drinking deeply of the beauty that surrounds us, we will be inspired to show our love for this planet Earth, our island home. That's a really good first step. Let us not grow weary in doing what is right.

— Patty Watts, Christ Church Earth Keeper

Hurt not the earth—neither the sea—nor the trees. Revelation 7:3

CALENDAR

SAT 7/12	12 Noon	Burial—Marcia Pottle at Elmwood Cemetery in Otisfield
SUN:	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:15 AM	Eucharist
WED:	9:00 AM	Eucharist/Bible Study
THU:	9:00 AM	Christ Church Book Group/Zoom
	7:15 PM	Zoom Compline

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Garden Maintenance We are looking for volunteers to maintain the gardens in the front—mostly weeding and maybe a little trimming. Would you like to help?

Summer Sunday School Sunday School attendance is a little hit-or-miss during the summer months, but we like to offer something for any children who are here. We welcome any of you to help us out with Sunday School this summer. We are especially interested in sharing skills—knitting, baking, building, music, art, storytelling, reflecting on history...We can surely find some Bible story to go with it!

Rector's Vacation Nancy will be on vacation July 28 through August 11.

Coffee Hour (From Holly Stuhr) Do you have what it takes? I am pretty sure you do! I know covering coffee hour at church sounds like a big deal, but not at Christ Church Norway! The coffee, juices, crackers, and paper goods are all provided and stocked up. You just need to bring a little fruit and veggie (who doesn't love carrot sticks) maybe some cheese and a baked good. If you're in the mood to bake, now is the time to try out a new recipe or make an old favorite. If you are short on time or don't like to bake, pick something up at the store. Our group is pretty happy with just about anything. Remember, It's a snack to tide you over till lunch somewhere else. A little nibble to start a conversation with someone new. A chance to break bread together. Consider contributing something to a potluck coffee hour or volunteering for an open slot. Many of our regulars are away, so the numbers are smaller but so are the volunteers.

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