

MCCC Board Report - Pastor's Report - February 2021

As we have turned the page over to 2021, there is some hope on the horizon! We are getting word that more and more folks are being vaccinated and cases/hospitalizations/deaths are starting to fall around the country. There are even some initial findings that if someone is vaccinated they are less likely to “share” the disease with someone else. The vaccines have been powerfully effective for those that get them. All of this is great news! All that being said, it is still early in the process and we will continue to listen to the latest guidance and recommendations on all these matters. The wintry weather makes it even harder on those of us who feel isolated and alone. Hopefully every congregation member is doing their part to reach out and connect with people they haven't seen in a while. I am hoping that people have found places/people they can connect with and they take advantage of the opportunities provided by our church.

Some anecdotes to share

- **Get Centered Sessions** - I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting with a number of congregation members so far who have taken me up on the offer of meeting about the wheel. Some have had personal and family goals, some have had church and service goals. I have the privilege of serving amazing people at MCCC and it gives me great joy to meet and reflect with people on their faith journey.
- **Phone Calls, Emails, Texts** - Connecting with people is challenging in the middle of a pandemic. I'm grateful for the technology of today to be able to reach out to people. Weekly I am making phone calls, sending emails, and texts to try to keep up with people. That being said, I am also taking extra time to prepare our worship and fellowship opportunities. I've found this part of ministry challenging and I greatly appreciate the efforts of the Elders and Care Team who have been the arm of care to the congregation...if not for their efforts I don't know where we would be.
- **MCCC Gathering Team** - The Gathering Team is going to meet Sunday, Feb 28 to talk about many issues relating to building use and preparation. There is a lot of new information to process and to see where we are as a congregation. Our top priorities remain to keep people healthy and to follow the guidance that has been given to us. That being said, there are many factors that contribute to this process and we must consider everything from physical health, mental health, and all the concerns involved. There are people on all sides of this issue and we do well to extend as much patience and grace as we can.
- **Online Worship** - We continue to be blessed by the gifts of Pastor Sarah as he puts together our online worship experience every week. We will be offering weekly window experiences as well and hope to enhance the YouTube Live experience through a program called OBS. I will be working with my son, C.J., to see if we can start integrating it more fully in worship. Our Wednesday Worship times will give us an opportunity to explore that before we get to Palm Sunday and Easter.

Looking forward...

- Book Study - Feb 23rd we start our study of Matthew Fox's book on Julian of Norwich. I'm eager to have conversation with the 10-12 people who are joining the study.
- When the weather turns (hopeful sooner rather than later!) we will consider ways we can worship outside. The Worship and Stream team will be working on ways to get to that point and honor both methods of experiencing worship (in-person, online).

Yours in Christ's Service,
Rev. Chad Delaney