

Dear Faith Family,

Letter #30

Monday, I mailed a Sunday School lesson to the children based on the plagues God sent to Egypt. How timely!! We are in the middle of a pandemic, the west coast is on fire, the economy has collapsed for working Americans, and a hurricane and floods hit the southeast. Enough is enough!! What's next—frogs, locusts? I don't want to wander 40 years in this wilderness.

God is waiting to hear our laments and our prayers for the end to the suffering the world is experiencing. Psalm 145: 18-19 reminds us: "The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of all who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them."

Council had a productive meeting Thursday night; we are working on new ideas to "gather" the congregation together. We are planning a ZOOM social gathering. In addition, there will be a special event at 10 a.m., October 11th for our children. Book Club begins Monday, October 5th at 9 a.m. The book is DEAR CHURCH by Pastor Lenny Duncan; read the intro and chapter one beforehand.

In this time of social distancing, when we can't GO to church, there is the temptation to not worship at all. There are 168 hours in each week; virtual worship takes one hour or less. You can choose your worship time—it doesn't have to be Sunday morning-- it can fit your schedule. You can wear your pajamas!! If you do not live alone, you are BLESSED to share the gift of communion with those you worship with. You can move your cursor to the parts of the service you like—eliminate the sermon altogether if you choose and just enjoy the music or the reading of the word. I am so grateful for the many people here at Faith who are giving their time to craft worship services. Tune in and honor their efforts. Then share the service on Facebook!

The readings for September 27th: Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25: 1-9; Philippians 2: 1-13; and Matthew 21: 23-32. This gospel is concerned with authority. It is interesting to consider who or what has authority in our lives!!! It is good to remember that, despite the chaos swirling about us, nothing can separate us from the love of God. Let us hang on to that truth!

Love, Pastor Nancy