

The Carversville Christian

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Carversville United Church of Christ

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“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”



Whiteness

Black Lives Matter.

I venture to say that each person who reads this column has a visceral response to seeing those three words. Minimal or extreme. Pro or con. No one’s gut demonstrates neutrality for the words Black Lives Matter. Why?

Consider Billy and Joey at pre-school. Billy decides he wants the truck Joey is playing with. There’s nothing rational about his decision. He just wants it.

As we grow up, we continue to make decisions without conscious intentions. We have learned how to do a bunch of stuff and hold certain attitudes and values without “thinking” about them.

In a conversation about Black Lives Matter, we might offer various reasons for our responses. Suggesting that we have “reasons” for what we feel, however, is essentially an effort to rationalize taking-for-granted aspects of who we are. We come up with “reasons” in an effort to help us feel better about our feelings.

This is how we function as white people. This is how our culture and institutions have conditioned us

to live. The term we use for our living this way is “white privilege.”

Rev. John Dorhauer, general minister and president of the United Church of Christ, describes himself as one who has lived his life in a culture that presumes “whiteness as the norm.”

“As a white hetero male, [whiteness as the norm] is the hardest thing for me to see. In essence, I move with great ease through a world that is set up to advantage me—and I just don’t see the world that way.

“As far as getting the impact of privilege, this is, for me, where it has to start.

“When I look at the TV or go to the movies as a white man and see news anchors and lead actors who are white, I rarely note the fact that those who look like me are the given.

“When I go down the street and look for a barber, it never occurs to me that I know I won’t have any trouble finding a white guy there who knows how to cut the hair of another white man.

“When I shop at my grocery store, I never stop to think that another white man owns it and will stock the shelves with food he knows I like to eat.

“I don’t even bother to ask, so it may not occur to me that 96% of news media outlets are owned by white men, and therefore they are going to choose news stories that they know I will care about, told from a perspective that doesn’t threaten my worldview.

“When I apply for a job in the church, I assume my education and skills are the reasons I am considered

for the job—and never does it cross my mind that being white had anything to do with being hired in a denomination that is still well over 90% white.

“When I run down the street in the evening, I routinely cross in the middle when traffic is light, never worrying about whether a police officer would stop me; or, if he did, that he would be anything but polite about reminding me that I shouldn’t do that. I almost never have to worry about whether or not one of the police that stops me will be white, or if not, will treat me badly because I am white.

“When I walk into a church, I never have to ask: ‘Why doesn’t Jesus look like me?’ And I don’t even consider the fact that Jesus being white is not reflective of his true racial identity as a Middle Eastern Jew. I grew up believing that he could, that he should, be white.

“I am unaffected by incarceration rates that see one in three black men arrested before their 30th birthday. It is not I or my children who are impacted by that in a system where most police, attorneys, and judges are going to be white.

“Whiteness is part of the air I breathe.”*

We will not feel any different about racism until or unless we accept that, because we are Americans who are members of the white race, we were born on third base. Seventy-five percent of our getting to home plate is accomplished because we were born white. What did your “third base” look like?

— Pastor Fogal

* *White Privilege: Let’s Talk*, a curriculum resource published by the United Church of Christ



July ☞ 2020

“Never think, because you cannot write a letter easily, that it is better not to write at all. The most

awkward note imaginable is better than none.”
Emily Post

Briarleaf continues to remain closed to all visitors and will be reviewing this policy on a week by week basis. We have heard from their Activities Director that the cards we send are greatly appreciated.

We are planning to send 30 cards in July and again in August to cheer the residents at Briarleaf. A big thanks goes out to Jan Heebner for writing a third of our June target!

If you would like to write a short note to a Briarleaf resident on behalf of Carversville UCC, contact Catherine Halper at chalper@aol.com.

The small investment of your time will yield rich rewards!

“To send a letter is a good way to go somewhere, without moving anything but your heart.”
Phyllis Grissim-Theroux



WHAT’S THE BOOK GROUP DOING?

Donning our masks and going well beyond the CDC guidelines, we met for an in person Book Group gathering! Humans! What a unique experience! We all agreed we enjoyed reading an uplifting book, *It All Comes Back To You*, during these difficult times. Beth Duke’s character development made the characters real which brought smiles and tears as we cheered for relationships to work and for some to fail.

We had such a good experience, we’re going to do it again in the social hall on Monday, July 27, at noon

for a brown bag lunch and discussion of the book, The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek, by Kim Michelle Richardson. Don your mask and join us!

Everyone stay well and keep smiling! Happy reading!

Moderator's
Minute 

*"We are not as
twenty-first century
as we think we
are."*

Eric Byers

A century ago, hospitals were the place the poor went to die. Before germ theory and sterilization, death rates were higher for those nursed in hospitals than nursed at home. The middle class and wealthy hired nurses to care for sick and injured at home.

In my family, it was my grandmother who served this role. Both Grandma and the Toronto Western Hospital had their origins in 1895. Grandma was born in August. By December, twelve doctors signed a prescription pad pledging \$100 each towards the furnishing of a hospital in Toronto's west end. By April 1896, the School of Nursing at Toronto Western Hospital admitted their first class. They graduated in 1898. Grandma entered their School for nursing after grade eight & graduated in 1913, just before Canada entered the "Great War".



Early nurses' uniforms were designed to convey servitude, yet authority: domestic service, yet professionalism. The cap evolved from a nun's veil. Grandma's uniform was an ankle-length dress with detachable collar & cuffs, a huge starched apron and a starched cap – all in white to withstand frequent bleaching. Her caps were cut from cotton in a flat pattern, so they could be unfolded for cleaning and pressing. Starched to a high sheen & cardboard

rigidity & perched high on her head, it proclaimed her status.

Grandma had been nursing for 5 years when the Flu Pandemic killed 55,000 people in Canada in several waves, 90% occurring during the second wave. The 2-year death toll was just 5,000 short of the number of Canadians killed in service during the four years of the "Great War." (1914-18).

With inadequate quarantine measures, no effective treatment nor a vaccine against the illness, and a lack of coordinated efforts from authorities, chaos reigned. Then, as today, countless nurses risked their lives to minimize mortality rates. They deserve our cooperation and prayers.

Catherine Halper


Oyster Pork
Dinner

**OYSTER
PORK
DINNER
UPDATE**

The COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted all our lives. In addition to the countless daily disruptions, planning for future events has become a nightmare. Our church faces that with regard to what would be the 149th year for the Oyster Pork Dinner. We have come to the conclusion that for the safety of all concerned, we will not be having the dinner this year.

FOOD FESTIVAL UPDATE



In consideration of the health and safety of the people who make up the Food Festival ~ the vendors; the volunteers; and, the customers ~ the Food Festival Committee has made a unanimous decision to

cancel this year's event.

We have notified the vendors of this decision and several have responded and thanked us for letting them know in a timely manner.

We regret having to make this decision, but feel it is the right thing to do given these uncertain times.

We look forward to 2021 and the most successful Food Festival to date!

Cathy Price, Chair



NO MORE "MARRIED ON SUNDAY, FIRED ON MONDAY BLUES"!

"Today, we must decide whether an employer can fire someone simply for being homosexual or transgender. The answer is clear, an employer who fires an individual for being homosexual or transgender fires that person for traits or actions it would not have questioned in members of a different sex. Sex plays a necessary and undisguisable role in the decision, exactly what Title VII¹ forbids." Justice Neil M. Gorsuch² A headline alert on my phone took this month's column into an entirely different direction. (*The only other time this happened was when Notre Dame Cathedral burned.*) The Supreme Court ruled Monday³ that federal anti-discrimination laws protect gay and transgender employees. It is a major LGTBQ Rights ruling *written by one of the court's most conservative justices.* The ruling reverses over 50

¹ Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

² Gorsuch and Roberts were joined by Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen G. Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan

³ 15 Jun 2020

years of court rulings that interpreted Title VII's prohibition on discrimination because of sex to mean only that women could not be treated worse than men, and vice versa, not that discrimination on the basis of sex included LGBTQ people.

James Esseks of the American Civil Liberties Union is quoted⁴ as saying: *"The court has caught up to the majority of our country, which already knows that discriminating against LGBTQ people is both unfair and against the law."*

We know that claims that "homosexuality is explicitly forbidden by the bible" are a result of poor biblical scholarship and cultural bias read into the Bible. For those of us seeking further on the topic, here is some summer reading to explore (these books are available on Kindle):

In *Freedom Glorious Freedom: The Spiritual Journey to the Fullness of Life for Gays, Lesbians, and Everybody Else.* (1994) A Grandfather of the Christian LGBTQ movement John J. McNeil completed his trilogy (*The Church and the Homosexual* and *Taking a Chance on God*) with a discussion of freedom of conscience and discernment of spirits, ancient teachings of the Christian church that have a special urgency for lesbian and gay people who need to free themselves and deal with God on a direct and personal basis.

What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality Daniel A. Helminiak Ph.D. (2000. Alamo Square Press) "most thoughtful, lucid & accessible summary I know of current biblical scholarship relating to homosexual issues." James B. Nelson, Professor of Christian Ethics, United Theological Seminary, Twin Cities

Recognizing Ourselves: Ceremonies of Lesbian and Gay Commitment by Ellen Lewin (Columbia University Press, 1998)

UnClobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible... by Melton, Glennon Doyle, Martin, Colby (2016. Westminster John Knox Press.) "UnClobber is a great gift for all who are seeking deeper understanding, faith, and compassion. And Colby

⁴ Robert Barnes. Washington Post. 15 Jun 2020 12:10 pm

Martin is a gift to all who are finding their way through the complex understandings of faith, Christianity, sexuality and understanding the Bible in our day."Doug Pagitt, Pastor, Author, and Goodness Conspirator

memories. Ralph Fey Architects is working with our trustees as a *pro bono* project. Early in the period of pandemic, Mr. Fey announced he would match any contributions to Fisherman’s Mark Social Services. Our Board of Trustees decided to participate in that challenge with a gift of \$100.00.

FAITH FORMATION STORIES & READINGS	
DATE	ORDINAL TIME
07/04/20	Mark 6:1-13: <i>Honor in Your Hometown</i>
07/11/20	Psalm 24: <i>Don’t Follow What Is False</i>
07/18/20	Mark 6:30-56: <i>Come Away; Rest Awhile</i>
07/25/20	2 Kings 4:42-44: <i>Eat with Leftovers</i>
08/01/20	Ps 51:1-12: <i>Create in Me a Clean Heart</i>
08/08/20	Ps 34: <i>I Sought the Lord: He Answered</i>
08/15/20	Eph 5:15-20: <i>Be Careful How You Live</i>
08/22/20	Ps 84: <i>Sparrows Home/ Swallows Nest</i>
08/30/20	Mark 7:1-23: <i>What Defiles?</i>

We recently received a thank you letter from Jennifer Williford, Fisherman’s Mark executive director, which reads in part:

In just the past few weeks we have seen a huge increase in the number of clients utilizing our food pantry. We anticipate that we will continue to see a surge in numbers over the next few weeks. The role of Fisherman’s Mark is to help those who are food insecurity by eliminating barriers to food access as well as offering relevant programming and resources that seek to improve the lives of our clients.

Rolling Harvest Food Rescue

You recall that trustees also authorized a \$500.00 grant from our mission funds to Rolling Harvest Food Rescue. Founder and Executive Director Cathy Snyder recently acknowledged that grant, saying in part:

Thank you very much for supporting our mission to provide healthier, more nutritious food choices to individuals, food pantries and other hunger-relief organizations in our region. We find ourselves at the intersection of food waste, hunger relief and better environmental stewardship, and with your help we are well on our way to 2.5 million pounds (10 million servings) of nutritious food rescued to date. Working together with so many of our local farm partners and food producers, we know we are just scratching the surface of all that is available to rescue and redistribute.

Supporters like you help our mission in so many ways, ensuring that our programs for gleaning and distributing can operate effectively and efficiently, helping to grow Nutrition and Culinary Education



My father said there were two kinds of people in the world: givers and takers. The takers may eat better, but the givers sleep better.
— Marlo Thomas

Fisherman’s Mark Social Services

For some time, our CUCC trustees have been working with Ralph Fey Architects to re-orient the sign in front of our church so it stands perpendicular to the building (and not parallel). This re-orientation will make it more visible to drive-by traffic—important since foot traffic exists only in our

outreach by advocating for all those in need in our communities.

Special Gifts to the CUCC Food Fund

Thank you to everyone who has been able to contribute to our Emergency Food Fund. Total gifts—our congregational grants—plus additional gifts are Barclay Food Pantry - \$700.00 and Rolling Harvest Food Rescue - \$1,270.00. Contributions included gifts from non-member viewers of our Virtual Village Church.

Gloria Hang is the Senior Client Experience Associate at an investment firm with which I am acquainted. She composed a recent “weekend reading” from the firm, which offers a perspective on our country’s racism we don’t hear much about in our region. Her words are “worth noting.” I share them with her permission.

~ Pastor Fogal

Dear Clients & Friends,

I am Hmong. I am Asian American. I am a descendant of refugees. I have experienced racism firsthand. I have been discriminated against, called racial slurs, and bullied solely because of the shape of my eyes and the color of my skin. I have been told to speak English. I have been told to go back to my country.

There is a long history of positive collaboration and growth between the African American and Asian American communities. The civil rights that I, and many others, am privileged to delight in today were bought with the blood and tears of black Americans. I understand my responsibility to stand in solidarity with the black community.

We’re given a chance now to recognize that many black Americans are not afforded the same opportunities as other Americans, to better understand their history of oppression, and to acknowledge that these protests are necessary in order to create change.

Questions to ask yourself:

What can you do to support people of color in your community?

When were you taught about race and culture?

When did you become aware of systemic racism?

How can you use anti-racist knowledge to change and progress conversations with friends, family, colleagues, and peers?

Actions you can take:

Educate yourself and read up on what it means to be anti-racist.

Share and re-post resources to educate those around you.

Don’t center the narrative around you.

Identify the privilege and condemn it.

Stop supporting organizations that promote hate.

Continue to donate to funds and support initiatives that you care about if you have the means.

Join the protest or sign a petition.

Organizations you can learn about and donate to:

Asian Americans for Equality (AAEF)
Black Lives Matter
Know Your Rights Camp
Local bail funds across the US
Movement for Black Lives (M4BL)
NAACP Legal Defense Fund
National Police Accountability Project (NPAP)

Petitions you can learn about and sign:

Hands Up Act
National Action Against Police Brutality
Police De-Escalation Training
Police Force Academies – Racial Bias Test
Speak Up Schools