

News Update This Week...

Winter Newsletter: If you would like to submit something for our winter newsletter, please send it to Paula via email by tomorrow, Monday morning, November 26th. Thank you!

One To One's-Today, after church, we will select names for a visit, either during our coffee time or at another scheduled time that you wish to set up. This is a nice way to get to know someone better or someone new in the community.

A special Retreat in January: “The Long and Winding Road: Spirituality for Our Life Journey,” Tuesday, January 15, 2019
9:00 am – 4:00 pm Marie Joseph Retreat Center, Biddeford Pool
Cost: \$35, includes lunch. Please sign up with a deposit in the front foyer of the church. If you have any questions, please ask Paula.

Safety Planning- We held a discussion on safety plans following the Service a few weeks ago and then held a fire drill. If you would like more information or have questions about this, please speak with our Pastor or one of the Deacons.

Snacks for Children: A reminder that we are collecting healthy snacks for students at the Biddeford Primary School to be delivered following the first Sunday of each month.

Advent Begins on Sunday, December 2nd. -We will be decorating the church on Wednesday, Nov 28th at 10am. Please join us? On Tuesday, Nov 27th, Cris Hudson invites all who are interested in helping create some of the decorations to a gathering at her home at 10am. Please speak with Cris for more info.

For Your Reflection:

Jesus clearly says the kingdom of heaven is among us (Luke 17:21) or “at hand” (Matthew 3:2; 4:17). This realm appears to be his singular and constant message. Without this utterly new and absolute frame of reference, it is hard to know what Jesus is talking about.

The price for real transformation is high. It means that we have to change our loyalties from power, success, money, ego, and control to the imitation of a Vulnerable God where servanthood, surrender, and simplicity reign. Of course, most people never imagine God as vulnerable, humble, or incarnate in matter. We see God as Almighty, and that vision validates almightiness all the way down the chain. Look at history to see Christianity’s role in affirming oppression and violence.

G. K. Chesterton wrote, “It is merely that when a man (person) has found something which he prefers to life itself, he then for the first time begins to live.” We are all searching for Someone to surrender to, something we can prefer to our small life. *Without such a lifeline of love, the span between God and the soul is not bridged.*

And here is the wonderful surprise: We can surrender to God without losing ourselves! The irony is that we find ourselves in a new and much larger field of meaning. Jesus’ metaphor for that larger field of meaning, purpose, and connection is “The Realm of God.”

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