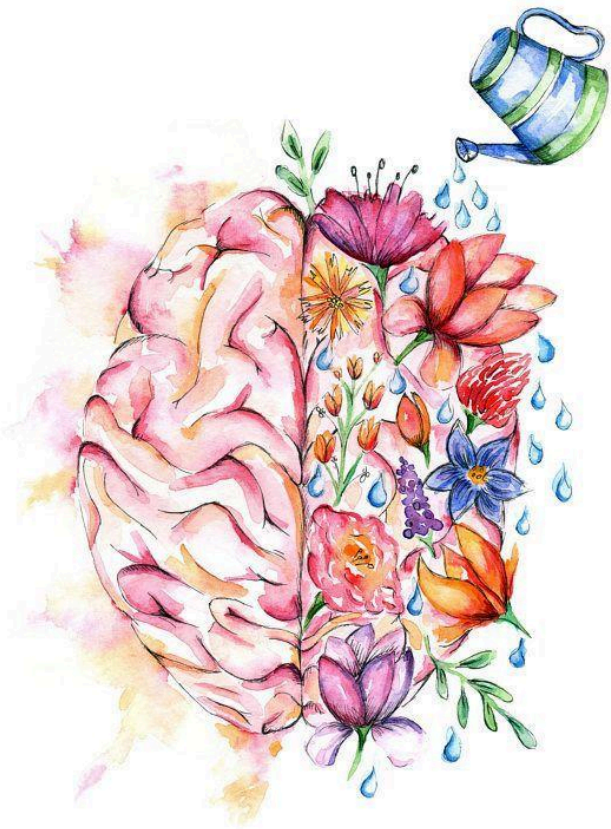


Worship Notes May 7, 2023

ART:





Mailchimp

May is brain health awareness month and the United Church of Christ highly recommends that congregations dedicate at least one Sunday in May to brain health awareness. This coming Sunday, we are going to be addressing brain health in church.

The church has absolutely, positively failed at talking about mental health crises, and suicide in particular. Some theologies label suicide a sin, as if heaping fear and guilt on people already buckling under the weight of fear and guilt could save a life. Some theologies label all mental illness as weakness, or evidence of a lack of faith. This is all nonsense. The Bible says that nothing can separate us from the love of God, not height or depth, not death or life, angels or rulers, or powers, things past or present.... NOTHING, including suicide, separates us from the love of God. NOTHING.

Whenever we speak openly and honestly about brain health, we lessen the stigma surrounding it and beckon people into the wholeness. By celebrating Brain Health Sunday as a church, we participate in this important, life-giving work. Lots of people in the scriptures wrestle with suicidal desperation: many of the poets of our Psalms, Job, Elijah, Jonah, Jeremiah, Paul, King Saul, and Judas, just to name a few. But our scripture text this week describes a successful suicide intervention. A moment where a life is saved from the book of Acts.

Now this can be a very personal and sensitive subject for many of us and so I want to encourage each of you that if at any time you feel activated, please do whatever you need to take care of yourself.

And please, if you can, take out your phone and put this number in it, if not for yourself, someone you love might also need it.

Dubuque Mobile Crisis: 1-855-581-8111

You are not alone.

For Mailchimp not bulletin photo-this will be in newsletter only with links to resources



IN OUR PRAYERS

Joys & Thanksgivings:

For the birth of Wyatt Lee Fagan, first grandchild of Tom & Lisa Bodnar born on May 2

Comfort family & friends of:

Kevin Davis, brother in law of Jon (Tina) Aguilar who passed away April 22

Margaret, Sister of Sam Bauer, who passed away April 22

Jim Spiegel, brother of Janet (Jeff) Mozena who passed away April 15

Healing in Mind, Body and Spirit:

Those suffering from brain health

Mary Smith, mother of Carrie (Patrick) recovering from hip surgery April 25

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESOURCES FOR MEMBERS AND THE COMMUNITY ON OUR WEBSITE

Do you or someone you know need help? Under the “Connect” tab on our website is a list of local resources that are in our community such as: Veteran Services, Food, Shelter and Hygiene Assistance, LGBTQIA, Brain Health and more.

HEARING ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT NOW AT STEEPLE SQUARE

We were able to move our hearing adaptive devices from our church to Steeple Square. There are two types available. One is to amplify the current sound with or without use of hearing aid. The second is a loop system that uses the Tcoil in your hearing aid. Devices and instructions are at the coffee bar on Sunday mornings. See Nikki if you need assistance.

COYOPE MEETING - GET-TOGETHER MAY 18 AT BURKEY'S

Coyople will meet on Thursday, May 18th at 11AM at BURKEY'S - 10638 Key West Drive. (from Downtown - off #61 So. in Key West.) We will be in the side room. Park in front or east side of the building - Not in the street. Program "Getting to Know You" - Think of one personal event in your life that will help us know you better. Don't be shy about sharing - after all, we've all "been there and back". The "event" can be anything - job, friendship, children, trip, favorite food, special talent, even "X" rated within reason. Lunch will be roast beef sandwich, potatoes, vegetable and beverage = \$12.00 RSVP to Barbara Collins - bcsstudio@aol.com by Mon. May 15th.

PARKING LOT WORSHIP & BASEBALL POTLUCK COOKOUT MAY 21 RAIN OR SHINE

This year, we have tents that will be set up in our parking lot on Sunday, May 21 for outdoor worship at 9:30 AM followed by a cookout by Church Life. Brats, Hotdogs, Hamburgers, Refreshments will be provided. Don't forget to wear your favorite Baseball Team's Gear as we will be having a special performance!! Sign up with the church office or in the weekly email for dish to pass!

END OF YEAR PICNIC AND PARTY KIDS CLUB, YOUTH & THEIR FAMILIES MAY 31

Kids Club, Youth and their families are invited to the end of year picnic and party at AY McDonald Park on Wednesday, May 31st from 5:30-7:30 PM. Yard Games, Food and Fun. Contact Kirsten Weidemann

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PRIDE FAMILY PICNIC JUNE 3 12PM-3PM

We are excited to be a major sponsor of this year's PRIDE Family Picnic!! After hosting a crowd of over 550 in 2022, the Multicultural Family Center's Dubuque Pride Family Picnic + Block Party returns June 3rd, 2023, NOON-3pm in and around the MFC, located at 1157 Central Avenue. This year's event is slated to be the biggest ever, featuring a live DJ and dance area, bounce houses and face painting for the kids, a PRIDE selfie wall, and numerous vendor and resource booths. There will once again be cotton candy, snow cones and popcorn machines, and a free lunch with vegan and gluten free options available (while supplies last), but new this year are various food trucks offering coffee and other non-alcoholic drinks, gelato, tacos and more. This is a free, family friendly event, with all additional donations helping fund future yearly events, Bi-Monthly Support Groups, and future initiatives such as Ally Training, Quarterly Youth & Adult Social Events, Safe Zone Training and more through the MFC. We are looking for member volunteers to work our booth and assist in other ways that they need. Sign up through weekly email or contact Church Office.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, May 7
9:30 AM Worship

Monday, May 8

5:30 PM Search Committee~ Business Center

Tuesday, May 9
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, May 10
5:30 PM Adult Book Club~ Business Center
6:00-PM-8:00 PM Youth Programming



First Congregational United Church of Christ
May 7, 2023
Brain Health Sunday
9:30 AM



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
DUBUQUE, IOWA

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

PRELUDE It is Well With My Soul David Nevue

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Kaity Kemp

CALL TO WORSHIP

Congregation, seated

PASTOR: God calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves;

ALL: The one who is weak and the one who is strong,

PASTOR: the one who is happy and the one who is sad,

ALL: The one who is enjoying mental wellness today

PASTOR: and the one who is struggling with mental illness today,

ALL: The one whom we understand and the one we don't,

PASTOR: the one who is embraced and the one who is shunned,

ALL: The one who is like us and the one who is different.

PASTOR: Come, let us worship together!

ALL: We come, trusting God's abundant love!

OPENING HYMN #438

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

See insert, Congregation sings, standing

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Kaity Kemp

PASSING OF THE PEACE

VIDEO

“My brain health story”

Marty McNamer, member

SPECIAL MUSIC

“I'll Stand by You” by The Pretenders

Travis Nelson

PRAYER SONG #469 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying *Congregation sings seated, before & after prayers*

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, Listen to your children praying.

Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Congregation, seated

Let us cast all our anxiety on you, O Bearer of Burdens, as we seek to follow in your footsteps.

Even when we are reviled, even when we feel abandoned, even when we suffer physically and

mentally and emotionally, we ask that you will help us to remember that we are, no matter what,

your children. Even when we pretend to hide from you, ashamed of our wandering, ashamed of our weakness, we know you will find us and forgive us when we ask. We want to resist evil, and to remain steadfast in our faith, because we know there are many who share in our suffering. Direct us toward them, o Healing God, that we might not shy away but instead deeply engage those who are in need of your love. AMEN.

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Kaity Kemp

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

Canon of Praise

Chancel Choir

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

Pastor Kaity Kemp

SCRIPTURE

Acts 16:25-34

Mary Bryant

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

SERMON

Pastor Kaity Kemp

SERMON VIDEO

"Stay With Us"

Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber

HYMN #314

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness *See insert, Congregation sings standing*

BENEDICTION

Pastor Kaity Kemp

ALL: Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE Lord God on High Lani Smith