



Wentz's United Church of Christ

February 2019

Neighborly Love

As an ordained Presbyterian minister, Fred Rogers harnessed the power of television to tell children they were loved — and to show them how to love others. In *You Are Special*, he writes, “When we love a person, we accept him or her exactly as is: the lovely with the unlovely, the strong along with the fearful, the true mixed in with the façade, and of course, the only way we can do it is by accepting ourselves that way.”

In a review of the touching documentary *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* a writer for *Variety* notes: “Rogers’ real secret was ... that the call to love your neighbor as yourself isn't a slogan to hang in your kitchen with flowers around it — it's a decision you make at every moment, to view every man, woman and child on earth as your neighbor. If you don't see and feel that, and act on it, then you're just another narcissist with a kitchen slogan.”

Last October, when a synagogue shooting shattered the peace of Rogers’ real-life former neighborhood, residents of all religions embraced one another as neighbors. Afterward, the Fred Rogers Center stated, “We long for a day when there is no more tragedy born from hatred.”

From *NewsletterNewsletter*—February 2019



Sunday Gatherings in February

10:00 am

February 3 —	Words and Language Part I	Lovaas
February 10 —	Words and Language Part II Religion	Lovaas
February 17 —	The Art of Simplicity	Lovaas
February 24 —	State of the Church	Lovaas

Intersectionality and Class

-Scott Lovaas



We continue our series on intersectionality. Last month we read, watched, and discussed race and intersectionality. In February, we will address class or what might be called social class. Social class is a set of concepts in the social sciences and political theory centered on models of social stratification in which people are grouped into a set of hierarchical social categories, the most common being the upper, middle, and lower classes. For decades there has been much discussion about an evaporating middle class and the long term consequences that has on the nation. As followers of Jesus we are sensitive to the plight of those who fall between the cracks. Moreover, Jesus spoke

about wealth and the treasures we keep on earth. A good first step is understanding how class has been changing in America over the last 40 years.

Below are some resources to view or read before our discussion on February 27. You do not have to read the material in order to participate in the discussion.

Articles

How The Working Poor and Middle Class Are Trapped in a Systemic Cycle of Economic Decline

<http://everydayfeminism.com/2015/01/poor-middle-class-trapped-economic-decline/>

Comic that highlights class privilege and how it compounds:

<http://www.boredpanda.com/privilege-explanation-comic-strip-on-a-plate-toby-morris/>

Environmental Justice: Income, Race, and Health (could excerpt a few parts about how low-income folks have higher lead poisoning, asthma, etc. because of trash incinerators, factories etc. being cited in poor neighborhoods) http://www.ase.tufts.edu/gdae/education_materials/modules/Environmental_Justice.pdf

Poor white kids are less likely to go to prison than rich black kids

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/03/23/poor-white-kids-are-less-likely-to-go-to-prison-than-rich-black-kids/?utm_term=.e7bfe0761ad6

Books

Hacker, Jacob and Paul Pierson. *American Amnesia: How the War on Government Led Us to Forget What Made America Prosper* (2016)

Film

Reich, Robert. *Inequality for All*. (2013) We will show this film on Wednesday, February 6 at 7:15 pm in the Guild Room

Discussion

Wednesday, February 27 7:15 pm in the Guild Room



Jesus the Game Changer
Sundays, 9:00 am, Fellowship Hall
Art Bustard Leads
February 3, 10, 17 & 24

Art Bustard continues the documentary series *Jesus the Game Changer* which explores how the life and teachings of Jesus Christ have impacted our western democracies: the equality of all, servant leadership, care for the poor and marginalized, dignity of women and children, education, to name a few.



Sunday Morning Cafe
9:00 am, Meeting Room 1
Scott Lovaas Leads
February 3, 10, 17 & 24

We will read *Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most* by Marcus Borg.

Borg calls all American Christians to reject divisiveness and exclusivity and create communities that celebrate joy, possibility, and renewal. Throughout, he reflects on what matters most, bringing to earth the kingdom of God Jesus talked about and transforming our relationships with one another.

With each chapter embodying a distinct conviction, Borg writes provocatively and compellingly on the beliefs that can deeply ground us and guide us, such as: *God is real and a mystery; salvation is more about this life than an afterlife; the Bible can be true without being literally true; Jesus's death on the cross matters—but not because he paid for our sins; God is passionate about justice and the poor; and to love God is to love like God.*

Please note that we have two copies in the office to read.



Wentz's on Tap
Thursday, February 21 at 7:30 pm
Chadwicks, 2750 Egypt Road, Audubon PA 19403

Reaganomics, Southwest Airlines, Pet Rocks, the Protestant Reformation. All these things can trace their origins to a good conversation in a pub. Join us at this month at Chadwicks and see what we come up with next.

Come in for a pint and good conversation.

Tai Chi Exercise Class

Beginning **Wednesday, February 6 at 6:00 pm**
Wentz's United Church of Christ

Master Charles W. Brynan III will lead us through an exercise class that will strengthen the body while focusing the mind and address a range of physical and mental health issues

including bone strength, joint stability,
cardiovascular health and emotional well-being.

Classes are \$10.

Tai Chi is especially useful for improving balance.

Please contact the church office

if you will be attending.

610.584.4855

office@wentzsucc.org





Annual Congregational Meeting February 24

Our annual Congregational Meeting will be held on
Sunday, February 24 at 11 a.m. (Snow date: March 3)
Please plan on attending.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY OFFERING Sunday, February 17



On February 17 we will be collecting donations for All Saints Day offering. All these gifts go to supplement the health and dental insurance benefits for retired clergy and their spouses/widows, who receive low pension incomes. The recipients of these gifts have served faithfully in our conference and are very grateful for your generosity and thoughtfulness

The Church as Mosaic



A mosaic consists of thousands of little stones. Some are blue, some are green, some are yellow, some are gold. When we bring our faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the beauty of each stone. But as we step back from it, we can see that all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of these stones can tell by itself.

That is what our life in [the church] is about. Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Nobody can say: "I make God visible." But others who see us together can say: "They make God visible." [Christian] community is where humility and glory touch.

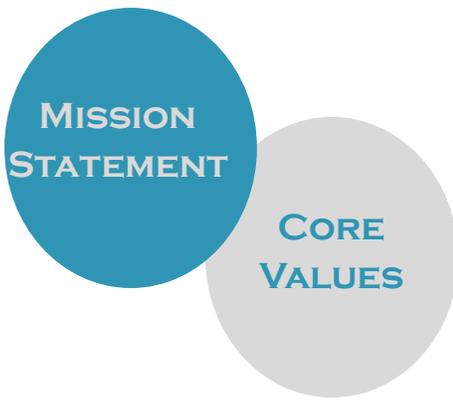
—Henri J.M. Nouwen

Prayer Requests

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation by prayer and petition present your requests to God. ~ Philippians 4:6

*Bill Detwiler
Nancy Domurat
Jay Fenstermacher
Donna Kriebel
Don Lamparella
Claire Metzger
Pauline Thacker*

**Please make sure we have permission to add names to the prayer list. Please contact the church office if you would like your loved one to continue to be listed on the prayer list next month.*



Mission Statement

Mission Statement and Values we lift up.

The Consistory voted on January 9, 2019 to adopt a new mission statement for Wentz. A small group spent several sessions this past fall writing and re-writing the statement and values. A draft was in the bulletin for several weeks. Finally, like all mission statements, it will serve for a period of time and will need to be updated.

Wentz's Mission Statement and Values

Wentz's mission is to put faith into action:

Exploring faith

Building community

Growing gratitude

Sharing peace and kindness

Values we lift up:

Community: We believe that the key to a thriving church is an atmosphere of accepting relationships—where people are building authentic connections. We believe that people need a safe place where they have a sense of belonging, experience healing, find forgiveness, receive support and encouragement.

Focus on Yes: The word yes opens up doors. At Wentz's we believe in a spirit of possibility. We try and find ways to say yes—to new models, new ideas, and new patterns. For us, the spirit of God is about saying yes to new experiences, new relationships, and new avenues of growth.

We just need willing hearts.

Inclusive: No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. As followers of Jesus, we believe that all persons are children of God. We affirm the inherent value, worth, and dignity of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, without regard to one's family structure, faith, economic and social standing, mental and physical ability, civilian or military status, or citizenship.

Music: Music and art are avenues in which God reaches out and touches our spirit. Art and music have the ability to arouse, elicit, and sooth our soul. Music can be transformative for individuals, families, and communities. Wentz's invests in and cherishes a wide variety of music for all ages. We value the performance of live music.

Wisdom: Wisdom comes from living. As a multi-generational church wisdom comes from the old to young and young to old. Community elders possess a unique perspective on life—they are living human documents. The young are on the frontier of change and possess emerging knowledge and wisdom. Wentz's respects, honors, and cherishes the lives and teachings from all. All individuals possess considerable value to our community—we are all teachers and all learners.

☼ 10 am Worship Service
 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Saxophones
 Cherub Choir/Junior Choir/following Children's Message
 9:45 am Prelude chimes & Allegro Ringers
 ☼Summer Schedule: 9:30 am Worship Service

February 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8pm AA (Men)	2
3☼ 9am Sunday Morning Cafe 9am Jesus the Game Changer 6:30pm Youth Group Meeting	4 6:30pm AA (Women Only)	5 6pm Flute Choir 7pm Resounding Ringers 7:30pm AA	6 6pm Tai Chi 7:15 pm Movie & Discussion 8pm AA	7 6:30pm Journey Band 7:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm AA	8 8pm AA (Men)	9
10☼ 9am Sunday Morning Cafe 9am Jesus the Game Changer	11 6:30pm AA (Women Only)	12 6pm Flute Choir 7pm Resounding Ringers	13 6pm Tai Chi 6pm Elders Meeting 7pm Consistory Mtg 8pm AA	14 6:30pm Journey Band 7:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm AA	15 8pm AA (Men) <u>Articles for March Newsletter Due</u>	16
17☼ 9am Sunday Morning Cafe 9am Jesus the Game Changer 6:30pm Youth Group Mtg	18 6:30pm AA (Women Only)	19 6pm Flute Choir 7pm Resounding Ringers 7:30pm AA	20 6pm Tai Chi 8pm AA	21 6:30pm Journey Band 7:30pm Wentz on Tap Chadwicks 7:30 Chancel Choir 7:30pm AA	22 8pm AA (Men)	23
24☼ 9am Sunday Morning Cafe 9am Jesus the Game Changer 11am Congregational Meeting	25 6:30pm AA (Women Only)	26 6pm Flute Choir 7pm Resounding Ringers 7:30pm AA	27 6pm Tai Chi 7:15pm Discussion on Class 8pm AA	28 6:30pm Journey Band 7:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm AA		

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Officers of Wentz's UCC

Tom Broderick, *Consistory President*; Kathy Wells, *Treasurer*; Mark Landis, *Financial Secretary*; Hilda McFarland, *Recording Secretary*; Rita Cipriano, Ruth Geisel, John Grebe, Jim O'Donnell *Elders*; Tom Broderick, Matthew Slater, Corey Taragna, *Deacons*; William Anderson, Bob DuBree, Gerald Rader, Jennifer Schultz, Richard Wilkie, *Trustees*.