

Reflections on Faith and Life for June 27, 2021 (Pentecost 5)

As I prepare to depart for a week's vacation in 2 days, my mind is all over the place. Last night's Ecumenical Worship in the Park was a joyous gathering of 3 congregations: The Mill Church, St. John, and St. Stephen. We worked well together, and God was praised in song and word!

This morning my devotional reading contained a brief writing from Corrie Ten Boom, a Dutch watchmaker. During WW II she and her family helped many Jews escape from the Nazis by hiding them in their home. They did this because they believed it was the will of God. These words of wisdom are from her: ***"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."***

On **Thursday evenings in July** we will have a brief worship service (30 minutes) followed by a brief discussion (30 minutes) of the five social justice topics lifted up as concerns at our Synod Assembly in April. Worship will begin at 6:00 p.m. downstairs (where it's infinitely cooler!). At this time I'm planning to do these all at St. Stephen.

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| July 1 | Hunger Ministry (what can we do to help prevent hunger?) |
| July 8 | Gender Equity (are women treated fairly compared to men?) |
| July 15 | Creation Care (how can we do better at stewarding the earth and its resources?) |
| July 22 | Racial Justice |
| July 29 | LGBTQIA+ Education (what do all the letters mean?) |

NOTE: All this planning for worship and discussion has taken place in my head. If anyone has a different suggestion for any of the above, please let me know!

May God's grace and blessings be with you all!