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The Steeple



March 16th, 2022

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Wrestling with Adversity

In our faith forum there has been a few times that I have referenced other prayer books, particularly New Zealand's prayer book. Recently, I shared one of my favorite prayers from it. The prayer has been adapted slightly and goes:

God of the present moment; God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; bring hope and courage to all who wait and work through uncertainty; bring hope that you will make us equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is peace and wholeness. You are our God, and we need you. Amen.

I am reminded of that prayer often – especially when storms rage, when the frenetic pace of life is nonstop, and the news cycle seems to cause everyone great consternation. There is so much to hold onto and at times it can be quite overwhelming – especially if we think we need to hold all of it alone, when we don't ask for help, or we forget that we have a church community ready and willing to share some of the load.

Allowing others to come alongside us when we are facing adversity is one of the Graces found in community. And whether the love that flows from that encounter comes in the form of intercessory prayer, cleaning out the gutters on our roof, or watching our dogs so we can go where we are needed – sometimes folks need to be reminded that we cannot do the work of community if the community does not know what's going on in your world.

I know it is hard to ask for help, or to ask for prayer, or to ask for help when we might think that those things we face – we struggle with - are not related to church.

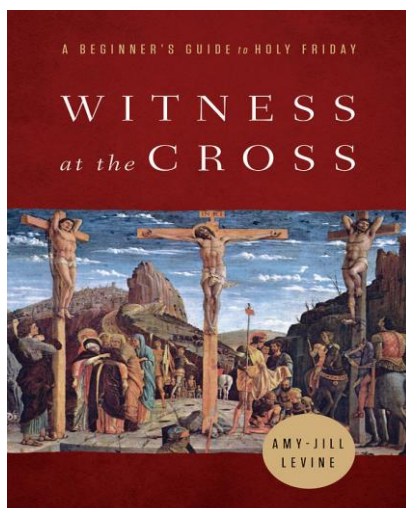
But the fact is, everything is related to church because we are the church. And so, this is a gentle reminder that it's okay to ask for help; in fact, we trust that you will! Let me say that again, we trust that you will. Believe me, it's okay. Trust me. If you could see me right now, you would see me with that knowing smile, because I need to hear this too, just as much as I'm saying it to you.

Asking for help in the face of adversity allows all of us to be in community the way we are supposed to be, it allows us to bear each other's burden's – to share the load, to form deeper relationships by entrusting our vulnerability to those we share our faith with, and to live into the “new commandment.”

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” ... they shall, we shall know each other by our love. You are not alone, we are here – for you...always.

Fr. Nick+

Midweek
Manna
Come Join Us!
Wednesdays
5:45pm
Dinner
Provided





Study Material taken from : 'Witness at the Cross'
By Amy-Jill Levine



Ukrainian Refugee Crisis

What are we to do?

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

-- Mathew 25:40

The number of refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine is climbing every hour. Families very much like our own are now part of the more than 26 million people from around the world including families from Afghanistan, South America and Africa who have been forced from their countries and are seeking the kindness and hospitality of others -- often strangers who open their hearts, their homes and their wallets.



As Christians, we are all called upon to help one another regardless of our differences in faith, language or ethnic background. We are all God's children, and God calls upon each of us to reach out with compassion and care "for the least of these."

These photos were taken just days ago at a church nave transformed into a refugee center at a Polish community just 20 minutes from the border with Ukraine. We cannot offer such shelter ourselves thousands of miles away at St. Luke's. But we CAN pray for the safety and care of these families, and for those who are providing compassion and comfort.

And we CAN offer our financial aid to the dozens of nonprofit organizations that are supporting the day-to-day needs of refugees around the world. Below these photos are links that will take you to some of those organizations including our own Episcopal Relief and Development Fund. If you are able, help make a difference in the lives of these brothers and sisters in desperate need.



Twenty minutes from the border with Ukraine, members of a Polish church have removed the pews in their nave and moved in cots for nearly 300 arriving refugees. As night falls, they rest by the Light of the Cross.

How you can help:

- [Episcopal Relief & Development Fund](#)
- [Charity Navigator Guide to Ukrainian Relief Efforts](#)
- [International Committee of the Red Cross – Ukraine Crisis](#)
- [The United Nations Refugee Agency \(UNHCR\)](#)

(Exclusive photos provided to St. Luke's by Bartlesville contact for Go Global)

Theologians Corner: John O'Donahue



John O'Donahue was born in 1956, into a native Gaelic speaking family, on the farm inhabited by previous generations in the Burren Region of County Clare, Ireland. As the oldest of four children, he learned to work alongside his parents and uncle, developing a close kinship with the wild landscape, framed by an ethereal view of a limestone valley and the beckoning waters of Galway Bay. This valley was the shell of John's soul, forging a deep and powerful connection with the elements shaping him. He was educated at the local primary school, alternating his studies with the farm chores of tending livestock, raising crops and carving peat for fuel, in his youth. John later described the profound influence of his childhood home as, "A huge wild invitation to extend your imagination...an ancient conversation between the land and sea."

At age 18, John entered the University of Ireland in Maynooth, studying English Literature, Philosophy and Theology. During these formative college years, he recalled feeling his, "mind awakening - an exciting, frightening and lonely

experience," and began writing in poetic form. John was ordained into the priesthood in 1982, completing a MA in the same year. In 1986, he began his doctoral studies at the University of Tübingen in Germany and was awarded his PhD in Philosophical Theology in 1990. John wrote a provocative dissertation on the German philosopher, Hegel, later commenting, 'Hegel struck me as someone who puts his eye to the earth at the most unusual angle and manages to glimpse the circle toward which all things aspire. He sticks to the hard edge of what is absolutely real, while encouraging this rich imagination that allows you to glimpse how dualities and contradictions actually entwine around each other.' John's insights into the Self as an unfolding journey of consciousness, memory and spirit reconciled our contradictory human existence as both Individual Person and Person in Relationship to Other. The prestigious journal, *Review of Metaphysics*, commended John's dissertation for, "...breaking new ground in our thinking about consciousness with a richer and deeper notion of Personhood."

Following his rigorous academic studies, John returned to Ireland in 1990, to resume his priestly duties. He began to recognize an affinity of non-dualism between Celtic consciousness and the rhythms of Hegel's thought. Straddling his native folk world and the adopted Germanic culture of a primary architect of twentieth-century thought, proved a rich source of creativity. During these years, John also began working on a post-doctoral dissertation on Meister Eckhart, a 14th century German mystic and philosopher. Eckhart's ideas became a primary and profound influence, offering invitation and companionship for John to venture further in his own exploration.

John's writings emerging from this period of study and reflection illuminated with deep and critical compassion our innate human hunger to belong within the physical and mental landscapes that we mysteriously inhabit. In 1997, ***Anam Cara***, was published, instantly becoming an international best-seller and propelling John onto the world's stage. ***Eternal Echoes: Exploring our Hunger to Belong***, followed in 1998. In 2000, John retired from public priestly ministry, living in a remote cottage in Connemara. He devoted himself full-time to writing and a public life of speaking and advocating for social justice, while inspiring the powerful in society to engage in meaningful change. Subsequently, John's reputation as an internationally-renowned and gifted speaker, as well as seminar leader and organizational consultant, brought him to large audiences around the world. A collection of poetry, ***Conamara Blues***, was published in 2001, followed by ***Divine Beauty: The Invisible Embrace***, in 2004. In 2007, just two months before John's

sudden and unexpected death, *Benedictus* (Europe) / *To Bless the Space Between Us* (USA) was published. *Echoes of Memory*, originally published in 1994, was republished in 2009, followed by, *The Four Elements: Reflections on Nature*, in 2010. A collection of John's interviews with RTÉ Radio broadcaster, John Quinn, *Walking on the Pastures of Wonder*, was published in Ireland in 2015. The counterpart, *Walking in Wonder: Eternal Wisdom for a Modern World*, is now available in the US/UK. Future publications are expected; a significant body of John's writing is being carefully curated and prepared for emergence.

John's legacy directs our search for intimacy to crucial thresholds: tradition and modernity, past and future, life and death, the visible and the invisible world. At the heart of John's awakened beliefs was the premise that ancient wisdom could offer desperately needed nourishment for the spiritual hunger experienced in our modern world. John is fondly remembered by an international readership as one who could blend critical analytic thought with imaginative evocation, enabling people to release themselves from the false shelter of the familiar and repetitive to become agents of transformation and change.



Choir for Holy Week and Easter

There's still time to come around and make music with the Choir! We made a good start last week and will continue rehearsals each Wednesday beginning at 5:00pm as requested by one of our singers! We are preparing to be ready to sing for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter! Yes, there is plenty of room, plenty of music, and robes to fit every size!

FAITH FORUM on Sundays 9:15 a.m.- 10:15 a.m. Metcalf Hall

March 20th Prayer ~from Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, and Prayer.
March 27th A Visit from our Ministry Partner, CONCERN of Bartlesville.

April 3rd Stations of the Cross – History and Tradition.

April 10th Palm Sunday – Holy Week Overview.

April 17th Easter Sunday – No Faith Forum.

April 24th Stations of the Resurrection – History and Tradition.

May 1st Easter Series – A 5 Week Series - TBD.

June 5th Pentecost - No Faith Forum (Parish Picnic).



Project Manager Needed: Parish Archivist

There is history to preserve upstairs and as good stewards of what has been given to us, it is my hope that our history could be tended to in such a way as it would be accessible to

everyone and preserved the right way for future generations. Does such a mission call to you?



Pub Theology

Pub Theology is scheduled for the last Thursday of each month.

The next meeting will be at **6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 31st**
at Tumbleweed's Steak House.



Congregational Vitality Assessment: <https://www.cvatool.org/survey/take/st-lukes-bartlesville-31/>

Children's Programming K-5th grade

Music this week!

Drop your K-5th graders off upstairs at 10:15am. Each week, we will alternate between music and Godly Play, giving children a chance to experience both! The children will rejoin their families in church before communion. Please contact Keeli Droege: keelidroege@gmail.com



Luke's Place March 17th -March 23rd , 2022

Mar 17th - Men's Breakfast, 7-8:30am Metcalf Hall

Fr Nick on vacation

Mar 20th - Rite I Eucharist, 8am, Chapel

Rector's Forum- 9:15am-10:15am

Children's Godly Play, 10:15am, upstairs Playroom 1

Rite II Eucharist, 10:30am

COFFEE HOUR IS BACK! Metcalf Hall, after 10:30am service

Mar 21th – Vestry meeting, Vestry room, 5:30pm

Mar 23rd - Choir Rehearsal 5:15pm Choir Room

Midweek Manna 5:45pm Dinner Metcalf Hall

Please note: No Morning or Evening prayer this Thursday .

Rector's Bible Study No study this Thursday 17th

Birthdays and Anniversaries, -March 17th – March 23rd , 2022

Birthdays

Nick Bonham

20th

Cheryl Bridendolph

20th

Cindy Gasior

21st

Nick Conner

23rd

Anniversaries

Camden Campbell & Bill Pendley 18th

If your or a loved one's name doesn't appear on the list, please email or call the office, and we will add your birthday or anniversary!



St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Doug McIver, Sr. Warden -- dmciver@susandickcpa.com 785-342-4328
- Nancy Woods, Jr. Warden -- Nancywoods120@gmail.com
- Jo Baughman -- jybokla@aol.com
- Karole Cozby -- kscozby916@gmail.com
- Chad Ellis -- w.chadwick.ellis@gmail.com
- Karen Lewey -- kgrammy07@yahoo.com
- Laura Birk -- lpbirk73@gmail.com
- Mark Peterson- m_mpeterson@hotmail.com
- Steve Van Aken -- scvanaken@sbcglobal.net
- Robert Lonski- rjtazski@yahoo.com
- Katherine Powell -- kmpbmp48@gmail.com
- Brad Borg- bradborg@yahoo.com

Welcome Spring!

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