



A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Written by Rev. Dr. Rebecca Collison

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.. Eph. 5:1-2

Greetings,

If you ask people what a church is supposed to do, most will eventually come to the scripture where Jesus tells his followers, to "go make disciples..." (ref. Matt. 28:19). However, if we are going to make disciples, we need to know what a disciple is.

Recently, a friend shared a YouTube video from preacher and author Francis Chan, that is titled "How NOT to make Disciples." If you are reading this letter digitally, you should be able to access it by this link:

https://youtu.be/9KIA-DGx_3YI

However, if you can't, Chan basically explains that when we played Simon Says as a child, if Simon said something, we did it - however, when Jesus tells us to do something (like make disciples) we don't always do it. He gave the example of his daughter - who when he tells her to clean her room, she goes and cleans her room. He noted that she doesn't come back and say, "I remember what you said... you said, Rach, go clean your room" or "I'm going to have friends over so we can study what clean your room means." Chan said it and she did it. For us, Jesus said "go make disciples," but maybe we have been slack on our end because we forgot what a disciple of Jesus Christ is.

The standard definition of "disciple" (noun) is someone who adheres to the teachings of another. It is a follower or a learner. It refers to someone who takes up the ways of someone else. Applied to Jesus, a disciple is someone who learns from him to live like him - someone who, because of God's awakening grace, conforms to his or her words and ways

of Jesus. Or, you might say, as others have put it in the past, disciples of Jesus are themselves "little Christs" or imitators of ChrIst.

As we are entering this Lenten season at Mariners, our sermon series is on living "**the Altared life**" - a life that is altered or changed because we lay it on the altar of God daily. For that reason, this is the perfect time to revisit **what a disciple looks like** so we will know when we - the church - have answered Christ's call to "make disciples." To that end, it is good to "know, grow, and go" in our walk of faith.

For example:

- **A disciple should KNOW** - God's love, God's forgiveness, saving grace of Jesus Christ, God's love all people - whether they look like me or not.
- **A disciple should GROW** - In relationship with God and others, service, prayer, study of Scripture with others as seen in our compassion, kindness, empathy, forgiveness, and humble passion for God and others.

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Church Office Hours
Monday - Friday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

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- **A disciple should GO** - Practicing faith, meeting others where they are in life and in faith, leaving the walls of the church, and creating new expressions of faith - partnering with others outside of our immediate area who can reach those we can't.

In the coming months, the leadership will continue to pray and plan strategically in order to align ourselves with God's call on our church in this new and different season. As a new Global Methodist Congregation, in a challenging culture, living out our call as a church - the Body of Christ - in a way that transforms lives has to be front and center in all we do.

Mariners may be a big church building on the corner. Mariners may be a non profit. Mariners may be a group of welcoming people. But the people at Mariners Bethel are first and foremost called to offer ourselves on the altar daily so we can be altered/changed into something greater - by grace and for His glory.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Becky

TONGSUNG KIDO - PRAYING TOGETHER OUT LOUD

Written by Rev. Leo Park

I'd like to introduce you a very unique and special Korean prayer style. It is called "Tongsung Kido." Tongsung" means "praying together out loud." "Kido" means "prayer." So, "Tongsung Kido" means "people praying together out loud."

In Korean churches, whether in South Korea or anywhere the world, Korean Christians pray "Tongsung Kido." Korean churches pray this "Tongsung Kido" during Sunday worship services, prayer services, and prayer meetings. The best time to experience the "Tongsung Kido" is at early morning prayer services. Korean churches have what's called "Dawn Prayer Service." Dawn prayer service is held at 4:30 am, 5 am or 6 am every day except Sunday. During the dawn prayer services, the entire congregation joins together to pray out loud at the same time.

How do we do it? It is very simple. The pastor or leader presents a special prayer request and calls the congregation to pray in unison. And the congregation shouts "Lord" three times, "Lord! Lord! Lord!" in unison, then all cry out to God at the same time for a certain period of time.

God says in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to Me and I will answer you..." "Call to Me" literally means "cry out to Me." Jesus Christ says in Matthew 18:19, "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven." There is a power when the people of God come together crying out to God in agreement at the same time, for the same thing.

I hope to see our church practice this "Tongsung Kido" during our Sunday worship services.

FEED YOUR BODY & SPIRIT THIS LENTEN SEASON PRAYER, SOUP & SALAD AT NOON

March 6 St. Matthew's by the Sea UMC (Fenwick)

March 13 Bethany Beach Community Church (Bethany Beach)

March 20 Saint Ann's Catholic Church (Bethany Beach)

All are welcome to attend!





IS THERE A DRAUGHT IN THE HOUSE?

Written by Dennis Rader

I intentionally used this British spelling in lieu of our more commonly used American version, Draft, just to get your attention. And by "Draught," I specifically mean "a current of unpleasantly cold air blowing through a room." Over the past couple of months during our winter season, which has been mild, we have received many comments from people attending bible studies, church events, or from other non-Mariners events regarding the temperature (or more accurately the lack of temperature) of our classrooms and the social hall. We have intentionally set all the thermostats in the church to 70 degrees to maintain a constant and moderate temperature. Does that seem chilly to you? Let me explain.

During the month of January our electricity bills were nearly \$6,300.00 and we also paid over \$2,900.00 for heating oil and propane. We spent over \$9,000 on these utilities in a single month. This is money which now cannot be utilized for Mariners missions. How can you help? Well, I am glad you asked. When you plan to attend worship, a class, or an event at Mariners, please be mindful of the outside temperature and dress accordingly. If you tend to feel cold, please bring a sweater to wear. For those who are working in ministries if you are loading or unloading a vehicle please only prop open a door when absolutely necessary and for as short a period as possible. Preferably, have another individual open the door each time you enter with your hands full. Please act as if this were your home (it is!) and you are paying the bill (you are!)

Our goal is to make you feel as comfortable as possible and at the same time ensure we spend your tithes and gifts as prudently and effectively as possible. We appreciate your efforts to reduce OUR bills.

A MESSAGE FROM MARINERS CHURCH COUNCIL

Written by Jim Rindfuss, Chair

The Church Council met for its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 20 at 6:30pm. I continue to encourage church members to attend these meetings which are held on the third Tuesday of every month. The next Church Council meeting will be on Tuesday, March 19 at 6:30pm in the Social Hall.

In addition to addressing normal church matters, the Council continues to work on Mariner's future vision and strategic planning as we grow into the Global Methodist Church. We have taken an inventory of our current ministries and are beginning to prioritize those ministries that align with our future vision. This work is in alignment with the GMC mission to be a Ministry to All People which is one of the five pillars of the Missional Priorities of the GMC. We will be communicating more about this vision and strategic planning work as we move forward in 2024. The Council appreciates your prayers for this important work.

The Council is also seeking input from the congregation on how we can become a more welcoming church. Specifically, we want to work on improving the experience a new visitor would have at Mariner's as they walk into the church for the first time. Would a visitor see, hear and experience a church that was welcoming to a visitor? Would they be moved and encouraged to return to Mariner's? Please prayerfully consider ways that we can improve on us becoming this welcoming church and share your thoughts and ideas with any Council member.

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As always, if you have any questions about the strategic planning process or other church matters, please feel free to email me at jimrindfuss212@gmail.com or call/text me at (302) 354-3585. I truly appreciate your comments.

FAMILY & KIDS EVENTS AT MARINERS

Written by Tiffany Kelley & Michelle Christopher

Family Easter Event: Tell all your family, neighbors, and friends! Mariner's annual free family Easter event will be held on **Sunday, March 24th from 2-4PM** in the Hope Center. This event includes crafts, face paint, our beloved DJ Randy, resurrection eggs, balloon twisters, Journey to the Cross experience, and of course, an egg hunt! In order to ensure a successful event, we need your help! Sign up in the lobby or on planning center to volunteer at the event. Areas we need help with include parking, greeting, games, egg hunt, snacks, Journey to the Cross, and clean up. If you can't help the day of the event, maybe you can fill some eggs for us? There are unfilled bags of 25 eggs by the sign-up table; please take a bag, or two, fill them up, and return them by March 17th. Contact Michelle Christopher with any questions you may have. Thank you for your support and we hope to see you there!



VBS: This year's theme is SCUBA! Join us as we "Dive into friendship with God" the week of **July 8-12th** from 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM daily. This annual event is for children ages 4 and up, including middle school! Registration will open soon so be on the lookout for more information in the coming months. Please consider volunteering for the BEST WEEK OF THE YEAR!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2024

2025 Holy Land Trip Information & Luncheon

Hosted by Pastor Becky & Glenn Collison. Meeting in the social hall at 12:30, with lunch at 1:00PM (signup requested for a food count). Presenter: Rev. Dennis Derr, Educational Opportunities. Rev. Derr will also be available at the AHOD table in between services to answer questions concerning this March 3 - 12 2025 land tour, which will include Bethlehem, Cana, Jerusalem, and more. The option is also available for a 4-day extension trip to Jordan and Petra. The trip is open to anyone, not just Mariners members; early registration will provide a discount on the trip. For more information, contact Pastor Becky.



Join us on the *Holy Land* Classic Journey



STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (SPRC)

WRITTEN BY JEFF HEINTZELMAN, CHAIR

When Liz and I joined Mariners 9 years ago, we were told that the SPRC functioned as the Human Resources department of the church. While it deals with standard HR matters like compensation, hiring decisions, staffing levels & structure, defining job roles, and soliciting staff feedback; I discovered its primary goal is to encourage, strengthen, nurture, support, and respect the pastors, staff, and their families. However, the GMC Book of Discipline mentions an additional responsibility: to promote unity in the church. Therefore, we've created the following mission statement:

"The Staff-Parish Relations Committee has the responsibility to ensure that our church's staff and congregational interests are integrated to focus on the mission of the church."

So just how do we hope to ensure that our pastors, staff, and congregational interests are best addressed?

- First, our pastors and staff need your prayers, support, and encouragement.
- Next, we want to be more transparent. While much of what the SPRC discusses and does must be held in strict confidence, due to the sensitivity of personnel matters, we will share as much information as possible and with greater frequency, starting with this article.
- Thirdly, we hope to soon have a new committee member identified who will focus primarily on Congregational Engagement. More will be shared when we have that person in place, but until then every member of the SPRC is willing to receive your feedback and questions. They will be addressed at our next monthly meeting with a response to promptly follow. If your matter needs to be addressed by another person or committee, you will be informed.

So that you know to whom you can turn, I'd like you to be aware of the other committee members: Karen Brassart, Carolyn Christenbury, Diane Donohue, Jim Jewell, Bob Lueckel (Lay Leader), Mark MacMicking, and Trina Williams. With all this in place, I'm confident that with prayer and unity, we will be better able to focus on our overall mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ. That is something we can all unite behind!



BIRTHDAYS

3/1 - Delaney McCowan	3/15 - Bobbi Shoff
3/1 - Betty Kestner	3/16 - Pat Schlauch
3/1 - Theresa Pitman	3/17 - Becky Brewer
3/3 - Dianne Archut	3/17 - Chantal Willis
3/4 - Michelle Christopher	3/19 - Joanne Hearne
3/6 - Chloe Wilkerson	3/19 - Nancy Lueckel
3/7 - Karl Gude	3/24 - Bill McCowan
3/7 - Albert Smith	3/24 - Daniel Orendorf
3/9 - Ruby Quillen	3/24 - Rob Cuddeback II
3/10 - Trina Williams	3/26 - Carlene Smith
3/11 - Cynthia Tetzloff	3/29 - Paul Grandell
3/13 - Russ Rudakiewicz	3/29 - Mary Beth Murray
3/14 - Brenda Kerber	3/30 - Drake Burd
2/14 - Hannah Howell	3/30 - Janice Kolbeck

ANNIVERSARIES

3/6 - Scott & Pat Resnick
3/18 - Jim & Ada Carr
3/18 - Scott & Jennifer Carey
3/19 - Russ & Debra Richards

Menu for March

Feed My Sheep Cafe
Tuesdays from 11:30-1:00
in the Hope Center

March 5

Stuffed Shells with Meatballs

Soups: Italian wedding Soup and Tuscan Bean Vegetable

March 12

Baked Chicken Legs w/ Mac & Cheese

Soups: Potato Leek and Creamy Chicken w/Spinach

March 19

Sausage Cheeseburgers w/Onion Rings

Soups: Brazilian Sausage and Cheeseburger

March 26

Grilled Chicken Patty w/Cheese & Tater Tots

Soups: Creamed Cauliflower & Sausage and Chicken Brunswick



WOMEN CENTRAL

Come Rock'n'Roll with Women's Central on **April 3** at 7:00pm. A DJ will provide music, snacks will be available, we will play "Mingo" and dance and sing the night away! As all Women Central events, attendance is not limited to Mariners women only; invite a friend and bring her with you!

This is the kickoff for our spring study Perfect Love, beginning **April 10**, with both morning and evening sessions. In six powerful sessions, Lisa Harper, author and teacher, walks us through the Song of Solomon and answers questions like "How do we pursue intimacy with an invisible God? and "What if we do not feel worthy of His love?" and "How can we fill our hearts with the perfect love of Christ?" Harper takes a Christ-centered approach to relate the ancient love story to our current life and our relationship with Jesus today.

Registration will be online or at the table in the Narthex beginning March 10. Don't miss this opportunity to learn to embrace God's Perfect Love and realize your beauty in God's eyes.

FELLOWSHIP & BREAKFAST

Join us in the Social Hall on Sunday, March 17 from 9:30-11:30 AM for a pancake breakfast. What a great way to meet with folks and start your day!

HOLY WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

3/24 Palm Sunday

3/24 Kids Community Easter Event (2-4PM)

3/28 Maundy Thursday Service (6:30PM)

3/29 Good Friday Cross Walk to Bethany (10AM)

3/29 Good Friday Prayer Stations (9-11AM & 4-6PM)

3/31 Sunrise Service at Ocean View VFW (6:30AM)

3/31 Praise & Worship Service at 9:00AM

Traditional Service at 11:00AM

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome Mariners' newest members, who recently completed the Voyage in January:

Meet the
Newest
Mariners

Bottom Left to Right:
Linda Thompson,
Ed Reichert, Pastor Leo Park,
Eileen McDaniel,
Sonia Dittenhafer,
Jodi Paules,
Linda Heintzelman.

Top Left to Right:
Don & Virginia Thackery,
Phil & Mimi Drew,
Rod Cuddeback, Mary Reed,
Mike Heintzelman.



SAVE THE DATE CALENDAR

<p>3/9 Museum of Bible Trip to DC- 7 am to 5:30 pm</p> <p>3/10 Communion Sunday/ Launch</p> <p>3/24 Palm Sunday</p> <p>3/24 Children's Easter event (2-4 pm)</p> <p>3/28 Maundy Thurs. service @ 6:30 pm sanctuary</p> <p>3/29 Good Friday prayer room in Social Hall 9 am to 12 noon & 4-6 pm</p> <p>3/29 CRASH Crosswalk to beach, 10 am to 1 pm</p> <p>3/31 Easter Sunrise service 7 am at VFW</p> <p>3/31 Easter Sunday, services at 9 am and 11 am</p> <p>4/11-13 Northeast Convening Conference of GMC in Camp Hill, PA</p>	<p>4/14 Communion Sunday/ Launch</p> <p>4/20 Tour of Barratt's Chapel in Frederica, DE Leave Hope Center at 9 am</p> <p>4/21 Youth Sunday</p> <p>4/27 Men's Retreat in Hope Center</p> <p>4/28 New Member Sunday</p> <p>5/12 Mother's Day Communion Sunday/ Launch</p> <p>5/18 New Member Voyage</p> <p>5/19 Confirmation Sunday/ Pentecost Sunday</p> <p>5/26 Memorial Day weekend</p> <p>5/27 Memorial Day Monday – offices closed</p>
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TIME TO THINK ABOUT SUMMER CAMP FOR KIDS

Camp Pecometh is located in Centreville, MD. A week of Christian camp in an unplugged environment allows your child or youth to build faith, character, and independence as part of their spiritual journey. Pecometh's mission of God-inspired, life-changing experiences creates space for campers to make memories for a lifetime and come back year after year.

Summer programs fill quickly, so start checking their programs now at www.pecometh.org/summer-camp or call 410-556-6900. Submit copies of your application to Pastor Becky as soon as possible to reserve your space.

A MESSAGE FROM FRAN MILIO

Ecclesiastes 3:1

**There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens.**

After considerable deliberation and prayer, it is now my season to retire from the Feed My Sheep Ministry and move closer to be with my family. I plan to move around the end of April.

I have always had a heart and desire to feed the hungry and God gave me that opportunity through Mariners. It has brought me great joy for years to be part of a ministry that is the hands and feet of Jesus. My faith has grown through serving in this ministry. So many times, at critical moments, I have seen the Lord bring us donations, grants, and volunteers with a heart for those who live with food insecurity.

I believe that this is God's ministry that He planted at Mariners over 12 years ago. Though I am leaving, there are many devoted and trained volunteers who will make sure that Feed My Sheep remains strong. The Lord will provide that it continues to be a beacon of hope and love to those in need in our community.

I must also say goodbye to Mariners Bethel Global Methodist Church. It has been a church that has encouraged me in my faith walk and supported me if I missed a step. You have taught me what it means to have a church family. I have never experienced that at other churches I have attended I will always remember the love and support I have been given.

May God bless you and keep you as you continue to grow in His Grace.

FINANCE UPDATE

	September - January		
	Actual	Budget	VS Budget
Total Income	\$ 471,420	\$ 525,317	\$ (53,897)
Total Expenditures	\$ 491,297	\$ 525,317	\$ 34,020
Net Income/(Expense)	\$ (19,877)	\$ -	\$ (19,877)

Hope Center Loan - \$150,563

Recently we were asked, why should I donate to the general fund versus designating how the funds should be used. Funds from the general fund are used to cover the cost of all the functions/activities of the church. This includes donations to local organizations, the cost to support our ministries (food for the food pantry, shelters and housebound members of our congregation, youth rally, bible studies, a library of bible study/books, after-school program, youth program, senior program, etc.), community events (vacation bible school, etc.), services, staff and building upkeep and running costs. Designating donations defines how they can be used, which could lead to placing limitations on our activities, growth, or the ability to cover the costs of the church. Interested in learning more about the church financials and where the funds are used? Detailed financials are posted in the Faith Center mailroom above the copy machine. Or stop by and see Elliott Workman, Finance Chair, or Dennis Rader, Operations Manager, they can be found in the church lobby on Sundays or can be reached by calling the church office.

March 2024 Sermon Schedule

MARCH 3

**The Altared Life:
Sacrifice of Praise**

Pastor Becky Collison

Scripture: Joshua 8:30-35

MARCH 10

**The Altared Life:
Freedom
Communion Served**

Pastor Becky Collison

Scripture: Gen. 32:22-32;
33:18-20

MARCH 17

**The Altared Life:
At What Cost**

Pastor Leo Park

Scripture:
1 Chronicles 21:18-26

MARCH 24 - PALM SUNDAY

Unexpected

Pastor Becky Collison

Scripture: Luke 19:28-56

MARCH 31 EASTER

See, I Told You

6:30 AM Sunrise Service at VFW
9:00 AM Praise & Worship Service
11:00 AM Traditional Service

Pastor Becky Collison

Scripture: John 20:1-18





Mariners Bethel Global Methodist Church

Navigating the seas of life together with Christ at the helm

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The purpose of Mariners News is to share the message, mission, and ministry of the church. The release date is the 1st of each month; the submission deadline is 10 days prior. All submissions should be sent digitally, if possible, to administrator@marinersbethel.org. Any questions, contact the church office.