

Nurture Commission Meeting Minutes July 29, 2020 @7PM via Zoom

1. Present: Beth DeGoede (Chair), Glenn Book, Ellen Flury, Pastor Pam, Kris Strayer
2. Pastor Pam shared a devotional with us called, "A Word for the Day."
The devotional included an excerpt from Yeats's poem "The Second Coming":

"Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity. . . ."

The devotional compared the "centre" of the poem to the Center that **can** hold and does not fall apart.

We reflected on how we are all doing with the pandemic situation. In summary, we are having **all** the feelings, many of them on the downside. Pastor Pam reminded us that our hope is in the Center.

3. The devotional prompted us to suggest that perhaps it would be helpful for nurturing the congregation if the church sent out an all-church email with links to devotional options available for online subscribing. We brainstormed resources that would have already been "vetted" or approved by the umbrella of the Church of the Brethren. Suggestions:
 - a. Oasis Ministries--<https://www.oasismin.org/> There is a section for the Oasis Blog, Glenn's Prayer Notes, and Contemplative Musings. The email signup section is in the bottom right corner.
 - b. Sojourners--<https://sojo.net/> Here is the subscription link--<https://sojo.net/subscriptions/newsletters>. There, one can sign up for "Verse and Voice," which Beth mentioned. There are also a few other newsletters that may be worthy of recommendation, such as "Inscribed." Perhaps **Pastor Pam** could discern which newsletters are the best to mention to the congregation.
 - c. UCC Daily Devotional--https://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional
 - d. John Pavlovitz Blog, "Stuff That Needs to Be Said"-- <https://johnpavlovitz.com/>
Email sign-up--<https://mailchi.mp/johnpavlovitz/email-sign-up>

4. We discussed the possibility of book discussion groups via Zoom, especially some offered in the evenings when day-workers are more available. Groups could meet every two weeks or monthly. We would need leaders for that. Book suggestions:
 - a. John Pavlovitz books. Glenn's small group is already reading *Hope and Other Super Powers*, which makes pop culture references that might be unfamiliar to older readers. Since some have already covered this book, perhaps a different title would be preferred. Two from Pavlovitz's website are as follows: *A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community*; and *Stuff That Needs to Be Said: Essential Words on Life, Death, Faith, Politics, Love, and Giving a Damn*.
 - b. Philip Gulley nonfiction books, such as *The Evolution of Faith; If the Church Were Christian: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus*
 - c. Anne Lamott nonfiction books, such as *Stitches: A Handbook on Meaning, Hope, and Repair*; *Help Thanks Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*; *Almost Everything: Notes on Hope*; *Small Victories: Spotting Improbable Moments of Grace*; *Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy*
 - d. Books on living simply, such as *Living More with Less*, by Longacre
 - e. We discussed that the Anti-racism group is planning to continue and will incorporate books that apply to that topic in their study circle.
5. We discussed the idea of having the church office post interactive game-type activities on the church Facebook page. Ellen had made some suggestions in a previous email. Kris made some suggestions and may look into this idea some more. Someone with editing capabilities would have to make the posts.
6. Pastor Pam reminded us that we have a 3-part video series available on trauma, signs of abuse, and self-care by Linda Corbett, if we feel there is a need for those to be shown. We did mention that with all the service-oriented professions in our congregation, we may not be reaching a new audience with that information.
7. In discussing the need for kindness in our culture, we mentioned the singer Kristin Graves and her "Be Nice" Party. An online concert may be another idea to consider.
8. We reflected on our phone call ministry of outreach to the congregation. Some of us are still working on our list of names. Whenever we have been able to make "in person" contact instead of just leaving a message, our outreach has been appreciated. We have received positive comments from many we have called.

9. Our next meeting is planned for August 26th at 7PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Flury