

Christ United Methodist Church
S a l t L a k e C i t y
Serving · Loving · Caring

The August 2020 Connection

RUSTY'S REFLECTIONS

This week, I'll be going up to Pinecliff Camp where I've been asked to teach a short study for the Junior High/Senior High Daycamp. The topic I was given was "With God All Things are Possible." It comes from a scripture in the gospel of Matthew, Chapter 19:26c. Jesus says it in response to the disciples after Jesus tells them that it is hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. In fact, he says, "it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."



There are a couple of other scriptures which say something similar. One is found in Genesis 18:14. Sarah is told she's going to have a baby and in the response there's a line that says "Is anything too wonderful for the Lord?"

There are those, I'm sure, who believe that God can do anything, but for many of us our imaginations and reason tell us that there are things that are simply not possible. You can list as many of those as I can! So how does a person change from reading scriptures literally (GOD CAN DO ANYTHING!!) to an understanding that would and could allow the scriptures to be taken in another way which can actually help us through the situations that come in life?

There's the rub! I remember an old sermon by my favorite preacher of all time, Fred Craddock. The essence was that faith (and the Bible) are filled with hyperbole. The scripture that he referenced was found at the end of the gospel of John where it says "But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." Well that's a whole lotta books.

How do you give Senior High Students permission to question whether to take some things literally or not? How do you tell them that some things are just going to be what they are as much as we do not want them to be that way?

Here's some of what I think I will say:

Sometimes the way before us looks closed off. It looks so difficult that we think it's impossible. And sometimes it can drive us into a state of helplessness and hopelessness. But there is creativity in the world and what looks hopeless today may not look the same way tomorrow. And if God has anything to do with creation and creativity then we can trust that tomorrow may look different. And if not tomorrow then maybe next week.

That's what I think I'll say...what would you say?

Rev. Rusty

White Privilege



How do we recognize what white privilege is? How do we respond?

“Race is what other people have, and racism is what other people are responsible for. When one’s life is shaped within the confines of neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and worship settings that are mostly or entirely white, whiteness feels quintessentially American. It’s normal. The standard. The default. Every other skin color is abnormal, other, diverse.” (Peter W. Marty’s article “Becoming Less Defensive About White Privilege” Christian Century, July 6, 2020).

Some of you might respond by saying things like, “I don’t see color,” or “I have a couple of friends who are black,” or “what about reverse prejudice?” White privilege is not about the perks and benefits we enjoy that people of color don’t have. It is not about having more money or better health care or an edge in the educational system.

White privilege is *“essentially an exemption from the weighty psychic burdens that afflict black people (and people of color) every day”* (CC, July 6, 2020). Whites don’t have to instruct their children how to be safe during a traffic stop or when walking or traveling alone in an all white neighborhood.

It takes humility and courage to recognize our blind spots. It takes chutzpah to ask ourselves why we are so defensive. It takes guts to do some honest soul searching and asking God to help us see from a bigger, broader perspective.

All this reminds me of Ezekiel’s vision in Ezekiel 37—the story of the valley of dry bones. The valley floor was covered with sun bleached bones that “couldn’t breathe.” God asks Ezekiel, “can these bones live?”

My prayer is that all of us collectively can hear God’s voice speaking life and breathe into us, and sharing that life and breath through us with all those across our nation today. That is what our Christian message and Gospel is all about.

Pastor Bruce Kolasch
Pastor of congregational care



Deepest condolences to Julie, Gabe and Theo Dabling on the death of Rex Dabling in July. Messages may be sent to the family at 2234 East 3980 South, Holladay, UT 84124

Deepest condolences to Pastor Bruce Kolasch and family on the death of his mother, Dorothy.

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Lorraine Dale, who turns 100 years old on August 13th!

Cards may be sent to:

Lorraine Dale

3805 Highland Cove Lane, Apt. 2D

Salt Lake City, UT 84106

Cards are also welcome for Ted Stathakis who turns 99 on September 26th. His address is:

Ted Stathakis

Salt Lake Veterans Home

700 Foothill Drive, Rm M01A

Salt Lake City, UT 84113



If you need to visit the church at this time, please enter through the West door, even if you have a key. There are masks, sanitizing wipes and gloves available on a table by the door, which is open from 9am to 1pm Monday-Friday.

Please wear a face covering in the building, and observe social distancing guidelines. And please use the sanitizing wipes to clean the surfaces you touch, to protect others that may come in the building after you as well as our Family Promise Guests.

Please **do not** bring any rummage until after the church is re-opened for meetings. The Ringers are unable to move items from the donation closet to the basement at this time. Anything left outside the building will have to be thrown away.

Children, Youth and Families

KNIGHTS OF NORTH CASTLE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



We had a wonderful week for the virtual VBS. A HUGE Thank You to Kristin Hunter (science leader), Kay Grimme (Bible story leader), Monet Palmer (games), and Frank Lengyel (Audio/Visual support) for helping create this successful week for the kids.



Summer Mom Zoom Nights

All Moms are invited to join us for our Summer Zoom meetings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 8:00 pm. We would love to "see" you, even for a few moments. Our next meetings will be August 4th and August 18th.



Log in at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84632283177> .



Need a Bible?

If your family would like to follow along with the *Deep Blue Bibles for Kids* that we are using during this time and you do not have one, contact Kelly at children.and.family@christumcutah.org and we will get a copy to you.

Praying for our schools

Join us in praying for the schools, school districts, teachers, parents and students in our area as they are preparing and heading into the coming school year. Sign up at <https://www.christumcutah.org/schoolprayers> . Contact Kelly at children.and.family@christumcutah.org or 801-486-5473 ext 113 for more information.



August Youth News

Palmer Court Service Project Update

We are planning our next delivery for August 14th. Youth families will re-bag at their own homes. All donations, especially food and treats, are greatly needed. Contact Patsy Simons at 801-808-6641 or YouthDirector@christumcutah.org to arrange for donation drop off.

Church Council Report by Jackie Hibbard

I recently attended a virtual webinar training session offered through the Mountain Sky Conference of the UMC. The training gave us ideas of ways to engage and connect with our congregation during a time when we can't meet safely at in person worship services and activities. We are all craving connection. We are all searching for meaning and want to experience God and be fed spiritually. Many are seeking a spiritual transformation. We want to experience the power of God. We were asked, "How is your soul?"

Some of the following questions were asked: How are we reaching people who aren't online or have access to being online? What can we do to get these people connected? How can we help? For those of you reading this and are in this situation, please reach out by phoning the church 801-486-5473 and leaving a message. You can also write a letter and send it to the church at 2375 East 3300 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84109. We want to know how we can better serve you. Can we connect you with someone who has a computer and through social distancing, can share our online access every week for online services?

We are trying to come up with ideas of how to better connect in a safe manner so everyone feels a connection to God and to our church. We welcome ideas! A great way to stay connected is through the Sunday morning coffee zoom calls. The link is sent out each Sunday morning. If you are not receiving these emails, please sign up through our website, www.christumcutah.org or send an email to Sharon at communications@christumcutah.org. Another idea is for everyone to find our church directory and reach out to people to check in on them. A phone tree was suggested as an idea to help with connection.

During this time of what I call, "pause", I have been using my time to reconnect myself in quiet time in prayer and time spent in gratitude with God. The busyness of my pre-Covid life prevented me with time challenges to really connect with God. This reflection time has really been a gift. It has also made me really look forward to the online worship services as well. Hearing Pastor Rusty's messages and beautiful worship music really warms my heart. No, it isn't the same as in person worship. But it still keeps me grounded and helps me to look for God's presence in the everyday. I am also, personally, trying a new challenge to reach out to three people every day to tell them I am thinking about them. I am doing this through texts, emails, phone calls and cards/letters. I am encouraging my family to do this as well.

May you all have a blessed rest of the summer. Sending out a huge thank you to the clergy, staff and countless volunteers who still work behind the scenes to try and help us all to connect with our church and to God. We will all get through this together.



Thank you as always for your continued support of the church. You may mail a check to the church, give through the [CUMC website](#), or text to give at 801-317-8833.

The Navajo Nation in the four corners region has been hit especially hard by the Covid19 Virus. Pastor Jean Schwien and First UMC in Cortez are working with citizens of the Navajo Nation to get much needed supplies out to those in need. Cash donations are welcome.

Checks should be sent to First UMC of Cortez, PO Box 1016, Cortez, Co 81321.

Charitable donations are most welcome during this time. Donate to Crossroads at

<https://donorbox.org/support-crossroads-urban-center>

Donate to Family Promise at

<https://www.fpgives.org/organizations/family-promise-salt-lake>



We are hosting Family Promise for the rest of the year.

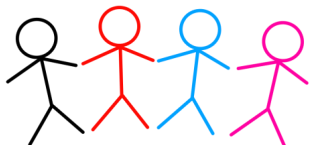
Adult Children of Alcoholics & Dysfunctional Families (ACA)

This Meeting is a 12-Step Discussion Format and Open to All. The program is about healing from the effects of having been raised in a dysfunctional family environment and how that has manifested into problems in adulthood (addictions, relationship problems, mood disorders, anger issues, physical illness, etc.)

In person meetings are planned to resume in August. Please watch the calendar on the church website for the dates. Until mid August the Tuesday meetings are on Zoom . The meeting room opens at 6:00pm, with the actual meeting beginning at 6:30.

The Zoom link is <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/vJUpf-2trD4oStYMtbn6YW6fYfPadjuDQ>
Meeting ID: 114-845-252 Password: millcreek1www.adultchildren.org

VOA Youth Resource Center Wish List June - August

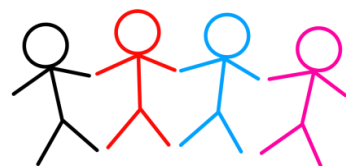


Homeless Youth need our help now more than ever. Due to Covid-19 the Youth Resource Center is not able to accept your in-kind donations until further notice. However, the youth remain in great need of the items normally donated to the Center for them. A wish list has been set up on Amazon of their current most-needed items. Those who wish to help our local homeless youth (ages 15 - 24) can access the Wish List here:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/26RVC5ZOT5MEC?&sort=default>.

In these challenging times, it's nice to know we can still reach out and be the answer to someone's prayer.

Thank you!



CUMC HELPS

If you need help during this time of isolation, or are available to help, go to christumcutah.org/cumchelps
or call the office at 801-486-5473 ext 113 and leave a voicemail on Kelly's phone.

2375 East 3300 South
Salt Lake City, Utah
84109

801-486-5473
www.christumcutah.org



Pastor Visits

If you would like an outdoor, socially distanced, masked pastor visit from Rev. Rusty or Pastor Bruce, please contact Jeanmarie at office manager@christumcutah.org or call the church office and leave a message.
801-486-5473, ext 111