
From Pastor Jayneann's Pen

Pastor Jayneann McIntosh

March 2019

Are your weeks full to overflowing? Mine are, especially since we began our MCCI resourcing last summer. Once each month, I travel to Sun Prairie for a clergy training day. It makes for a long day (and a long week) and sometimes I feel so unready – like I haven't done enough with what we were given the previous month – but I always come away inspired and ready to jump into the next piece of the adventure. (“Inspired” originally from the Latin inspirare ‘breathe or blow into’ Originally used of a divine being, as in ‘impart antruth or idea to someone.’ How does God as Spirit inspire you?)

Besides our 9:03 Breakthrough Prayer which I trust you're all praying with me, we have been watching for ways that God breaks through in our lives – personally, in our communities, and in the life of the church. Lately, I've collected quite a stack of “God Sighting” cards; I need to put them up! We have people who are putting together a First Church Self-Study, looking at our history and who we are as a downtown church in Wausau, Wisconsin. In February, six of us sat in my office for a e-meeting to learn about Growing Generous Givers. On March 3, you are invited and encouraged to join your church community in the Parlor to learn more about MCCI and what we can do – right now – to increase our reach into the community.

That will be Transfiguration Sunday which means that Ash Wednesday is March 6 (and Lent begins).

“Return to me with all your heart.” Joel 2:12 Lent has always been a special time for me. More than Advent, Lent is a time for introspection – something we introverts love to do! How well am I following Christ's lead? Where is self-absorption rearing its ugly head? Who do I need to notice that I'm not seeing? I don't usually fast – except for being more intentional about following Pope Francis' advice (below).

I'm looking forward to our Lenten Worship Series, With All Your Heart. We will consider Lent from a variety of perspectives and places along the Christian journey. New and long-time Christians will hear the call to return to God with all their hearts. It's hard to believe that spring begins on March 20th. Until next time, shalom.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jaymann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.