



*your only limit
is your mind*

Words of Wisdom



Well, here we are entering November of 2020 which is by all accounts the most bizarre year we have ever faced. So, of course it is appropriate to have a presidential election which pretty much divides the country in half. I see the tensions, emotions, anxieties and fears played out every day in people's lives in a myriad of ways from irritation to aggravation, from nervousness to anxiety. We are after all human beings who like control or the illusion thereof because it feels safer. Of course, we have limited control in life at best.

We can control, however, what we believe, how we act, and whether or not we react, or we respond to the situations and issues that we are confronted with each day. We can do that based on whether we are democrats, republicans, libertarians or independents. But isn't our fundamental identity derived from claiming to be Christians, followers of Christ? If so, how are we to address inequities, problems, or politics today.

Following is an article written by Rev. Tim Keller, a prolific writer and founding pastor of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, NY. I find this article fascinating and thought provoking. I hope you will find it thought provoking as well. Our path as Christians is not easy. But, it wasn't easy for Jesus either. There are not simple answers to the complexities of life today whether we are talking about racial inequities, sexual orientation, abortion, immigration and the list goes on. I personally can't live under the label of any of the current political parties nor do I want to be defined by them. But as a follower of Jesus, I try to sort out how to best live out his teachings in the world around me today, constantly thinking, evaluating and acting on the issue at hand not using a simplistic or cookie cutter approach to a solution or more likely a simple impact in this moment of time. Godspeed, as you read and reflect.

Pastor Dick

How Do Christians Fit Into the Two-Party System? They Don't

By Timothy Keller - September 29, 2018

What should the role of Christians in politics be? More people than ever are asking that question. Christians cannot pretend they can transcend politics and simply "preach the Gospel." Those who avoid all political discussions and engagement are essentially casting a vote for the social status quo. American churches in the early 19th century that did not speak out against slavery because that was what we would now call "getting political" were actually supporting slavery by doing so. To not be political is to be political.

The Bible shows believers as holding important posts in pagan governments — think of Joseph and Daniel in the Old Testament. Christians should be involved politically as a way of loving our neighbors, whether they believe as we do or not. To work for better public schools or for a justice system not weighted against the poor or to end racial segregation requires political engagement. Christians have done these things in the past and should continue to do so.

Nevertheless, while believers can register under a party affiliation and be active in politics, they should not identify the Christian church or faith with a political party as the only Christian one. There are a number of reasons to insist on this.

One is that it gives those considering the Christian faith the strong impression that to be converted, they need not only to believe in Jesus but also to become members of the (fill in the blank) Party. It confirms what many skeptics want to believe about religion — that it is merely one more voting bloc aiming for power.

Another reason not to align the Christian faith with one party is that most political positions are not matters of biblical command but of practical wisdom. This does not mean that the church can never speak on social, economic and political realities, because the Bible often does. Racism is a sin, violating the second of the two great commandments of Jesus, to “love your neighbor.” The biblical commands to lift up the poor and to defend the rights of the oppressed are moral imperatives for believers. For individual Christians to speak out against egregious violations of these moral requirements is not optional.

However, there are many possible ways to help the poor. Should we shrink government and let private capital markets allocate resources, or should we expand the government and give the state more of the power to redistribute wealth? Or is the right path one of the many possibilities in between? The Bible does not give exact answers to these questions for every time, place and culture.

I know of a man from Mississippi who was a conservative Republican and a traditional Presbyterian. He visited the Scottish Highlands and found the churches there as strict and as orthodox as he had hoped. No one so much as turned on a television on a Sunday. Everyone memorized catechisms and Scripture. But one day he discovered that the Scottish Christian friends he admired were (in his view) socialists. Their understanding of government economic policy and the state’s responsibilities was by his lights very left-wing, yet also grounded in their Christian convictions. He returned to the United States not more politically liberal but, in his words, “humbled and chastened.” He realized that thoughtful Christians, all trying to obey God’s call, could reasonably appear at different places on the political spectrum, with loyalties to different political strategies

Another reason Christians these days cannot allow the church to be fully identified with any particular party is the problem of what the British ethicist James Mumford calls “package-deal ethics.” Increasingly, political parties insist that you cannot work on one issue with them if you don’t embrace all of their approved positions.

This emphasis on package deals puts pressure on Christians in politics. For example, following both the Bible and the early church, Christians should be committed to racial justice and the poor, but also to the understanding that sex is only for marriage and for nurturing family. One of those views seems liberal and the other looks oppressively conservative. The historical Christian positions on social issues do not fit into contemporary political alignments.

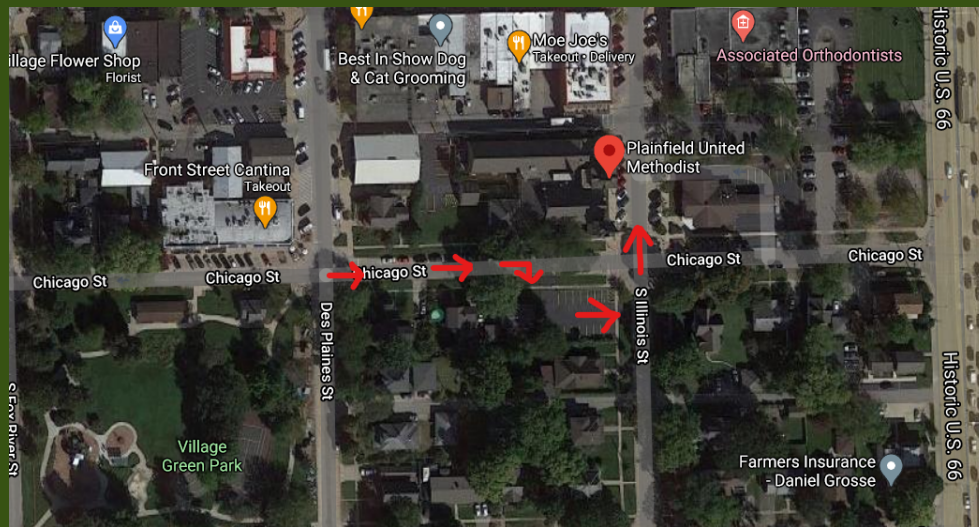
So, Christians are pushed toward two main options. One is to withdraw and try to be apolitical. The second is to assimilate and fully adopt one party’s whole package in order to have your place at the table. Neither of these options is valid. In the Good Samaritan parable told in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus points us to a man risking his life to give material help to someone of a different race and religion. Jesus forbids us to withhold help from our neighbors, and this will inevitably require that we participate in political processes. If we experience exclusion and even persecution for doing so, we are assured that God is with us (Matthew 5:10-11) and that some will still see our “good deeds and glorify God” (1 Peter 2:11-12). If we are only offensive or only attractive to the world and not both, we can be sure we are failing to live as we ought.

The Gospel gives us the resources to love people who reject both our beliefs and us personally. Christians should think of how God rescued them. He did it not by taking power but by coming to earth, losing glory and power, serving and dying on a cross. How did Jesus save? Not with a sword but with nails in his hands.

Timothy Keller, founder of the Redeemer Presbyterian churches in New York City, is the author of “Prodigal Prophet: Jonah and the Mystery of God’s Mercy,” from which this essay is adapted.

NOVEMBER 1st

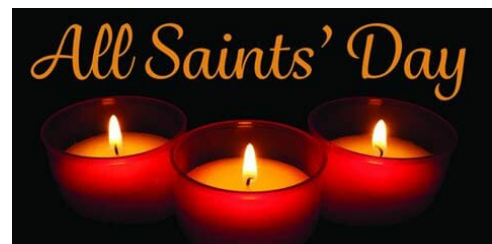
Join us for ALL SAINTS DAY and Communion from 11-12:30pm.



This Sunday, we'll be celebrating All Saints Day / remembering those we have lost this past year along with "mobile" Holy Communion at the church property. Join us online as we bless the elements in the service. Then, come to the church parking lot (corner of Illinois and Chicago Streets) anytime between 11am-12:30pm to receive the elements. Please stay in your car and line up facing east on Chicago Street (see map). Much care will be taken to prepare and handle the bread and juice safely and to minimize contact as you are served. As always, the bread is gluten free and ALL people of all ages are welcome to join us. We can't wait to see you face to face!

As we celebrate All Saints' Day on November 1st, we want to bless the memories of those lost from our congregation this past year.

Phillip E. Glotfelty March 6, 1948 - November 1, 2019
Louise Corey July 12, 1927 - December 20, 2019
Lorraine M. Pennington September 16, 1927 - February 19, 2020
Ruth A. Marcks March 24, 1923 - April 11, 2020
S. Ronald Henbest (Ron) April 27, 1939 - May 7, 2020
Carolyn L. Martens October 27, 1923 - October 14, 2020



MEMORIAL DEDICATION 2020

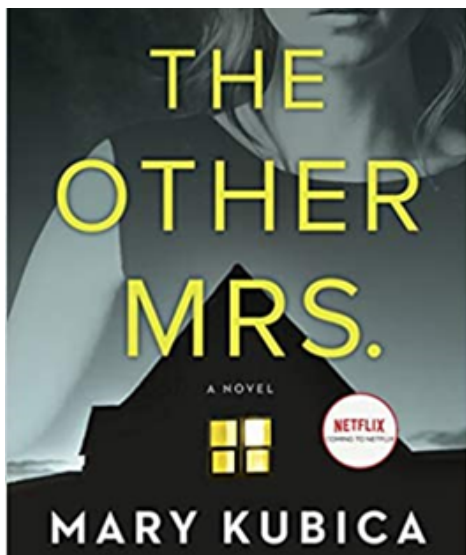
The following items were purchased by the Memorial Committee through monies given in HONOR & MEMORY of loved ones from our congregational family:

PRAISE BAND WORSHIP AND SONG HYMNALS

100 worship and song hymnals with cross and flame for use in the Sanctuary and Balcony of the church during 11am worship service with the Praise Band.-given in loving memory by the families of James Culver, Marilyn Williams, Helen Savageau, Russell Corey, Fred Martens, Edward Brown, Wilbert Mather, and Ruth Kinley, to the Glory of God.

FURNITURE FOR PARKS FRIENDSHIP CENTER

For use in friendship center for those choosing to sit and meditate there, and front office waiting area- given by family of Patricia Brown, to the Glory of God



Women's Book Group

Looking for something fun to add this fall? Try out the Women's Book Group! Pop in any month you can for a great discussion via Zoom. Links are sent via email, so contact Pastor Sherry to be added to the email list (sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com). Here's our upcoming books:

November 19th: The Other Mrs. by Mary Kubica
(with Special Author Visit via ZOOM!)

December 17th: Untamed, by Glennon Doyle



Volunteers Needed!

PUMC is scheduled to serve at the Ridgewood Pantry in Joliet on Wednesday, November 25th. We need helpers in the afternoon who can lift boxes and load them into client's cars. Strong arms and backs required; social distancing measures must be followed. Can you help? Contact Pastor Sherry at sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com.



Youth Ministry Fun

We're planning a special Live on the Lawn again for Sunday, Nov. 8. We'll gather at 3:00 p.m. around a fire, make S'mores, and tell campfire stories! (Rain date is Nov. 15) Youth Chats will be on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 4 and Nov. 11.

September Prayer List

- Betty & Tom Sacco's step-grandson, Pat Kelly
- George Adolfson
- Mary Sears
- Lonny Bodie
- Carolyn & Jeff Dement's nephew, Shawn; friend, Lynette Wilson and family
- Judy & Elmer Eddy's friend, Jim Sossong
- Greg Hill
- Margie & Ron Lee
- Carole Holloway's friend, Nancy Yarbrough
- Misty Martin
- Nancy Ziech's mother Violetta ; Aunt Amy; Daughter Danielle (Police Officer)
- Carol May's, father-in-law, Joe May
- Carol May's family on the passing of her sister Mary Blackburn
- Diane Robert's sister's friend, Cindy
- Bob Snyder's friend, Joel Swartz
- Georgia Whitley
- Ron (Karen) Mizwicki's uncle, David Colby & Family; friend, Marie
- Jennifer & David Garcia's friend's 15 year old son
- Carolyn Marten's Family on her passing
- Rena (Bob) Snyder's brother, Mike and sister-in-law, Lisa covid19
- Mary Kelly & Kathy Beitzel, on the passing of Mary's brother and Kathy's Uncle, Ernest LeDuke
- Heather Young - for teachers, school staff, and students who are going back to in-person learning

NOVEMBER

11-01-2020

9:00am Confirmation
9:15am Sunday School
10:00am Online Worship
10:45am Adult Sunday School
11:am All Saints Day/ Mobile Communion

11-02-2020

11:30am Lunch Bunch
6:30pm Staff Parish

11-04-2020

3:00pm Chat with the Pastor (*Facebook*)
7:00pm Youth Group (*Zoom*)

11-05-2020

1:00pm Secret Sister/ Grandpals

11-08-2020

9:00am Confirmation
9:15am Sunday School
10:00am Online Worship
10:45am Adult Sunday School
3:00pm Youth-live on the Lawn

11-09-2020

11:30am Lunch Bunch

11-10-2020

7:00pm Membership and Outreach (*Zoom*)

11-11-2020

3:00pm Chat with the Pastor (*Facebook*)
7:00pm Youth Group (*Zoom*)

11-12-2020

1:00pm Secret Sister/ Grandpals

11-15-2020

9:00am Confirmation
9:15am Sunday School
10:00am Online Worship
10:45am Adult Sunday School

11-16-2020

11:30am Lunch Bunch

11-18-2020

12:00pm Widows Group
3:00pm Chat with the Pastor (*Facebook*)

11-19-2020

1:00am Secret Sister/ Grandpals
7:00pm Women's Book Group (*Zoom*)

11-22-2020

9:00am Confirmation
9:15am Sunday School
10:00am Online Worship
10:45am Adult Sunday School

11-23-2020

11:30am Lunch Bunch

11-25-2020

11:30am Trinity Food Pantry
3:00pm Chat with the Pastor (*Facebook*)

11-26-2020

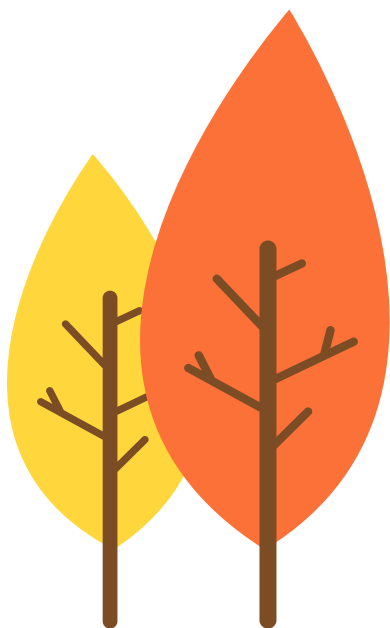
HAPPY THANKSGIVING

11-29-2020

9:00am Confirmation
9:15am Sunday School
10:00am Online Worship
10:45am Adult Sunday School

11-30-2020

11:30am Lunch Bunch
6:15pm Staff Parish (*Zoom*)
7:00pm Church Conference (*Zoom*)



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Worship Services

10am Sunday Online Worship

3pm Wednesday Online Chat, Pastor Dick or Pastor Sherry