



Words of Wisdom

"Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows."

Those who are most "Seasoned" in life will recognize this admonition from the 1930's and 1940's popular comic book that turned into a radio show where Lamont Cranston, who was really Kent Allard, was known as the "Shadow." It was a highly sophisticated and detailed, thought-provoking series written in a crime genre. It was the first series that rooted itself in the famous or infamous location of Gotham City.

You might be asking yourself, "Where is Pastor Dick going with this? What does this have to do with anything?" Well, just hang with me, I'm getting there.

A few days ago, I joined my wife at my brother and sister-in-law's home in a small town in Indiana. They have 5 acres there and I found myself with nothing to do, you know, a forced disconnect of sorts. We were there to visit them but most importantly to see our 2 niece's baby boys. So, for a couple of days we cooked, ate, listened to stories, passed the babies around, constantly refreshed the fire in the firepit and disconnected.

Midafternoon, on one of those days, I found myself staring into the pond and thinking about all that has gone on so far in 2020.

- Covid19 since January
- Enduring the country shut down while quarantining at home,
- Shock and outrage at the death of George Floyd at the hands of police officers, igniting deep wounds from past deaths stemming from accusations of racism.
- An explosion of protests that turned into riots initially rooted in the outrage over George Floyd's death that grew into opportunities by anarchist organizations hijacking many of nonviolent protests into full blown riots.

- The wounding or deaths of law enforcement officers trying to protect life and property in the volatile areas,
- Racism taking center stage, recognized as the injustice it is, building into a frenzy pitting people of color against whites, friends against foes, friends against friends, family members against family members, with the fires of fear growing into hatred being fanned and doused with gasoline by those who revel in the pitting of one against another in any form.
- Normal patterns of life upended like church, moving around without a mask, sending our kids off to school, being able to visit our parents in a nursing home, going to work that is a location more than 10 feet away from us, not in our home.
- The emotional buildup to the national election of the next president, which in terms of opinion, political ideology, personal animus, spiking fears, anger and the need to win at any cost, fomented by the political class dominates all media and either intense conversation or fearful silence among each of us.

I'm sure I missed a few things but by this time I was pretty much depressed bordering on catatonic.

In time, as "consciousness" creeped back in, I noticed my (dog) Shadow. She was simply in the moment, savoring every foot of those five acres with the smells, the possibilities, the exploration, the freedom she was feeling. I don't know how her tail stayed on with that unending wagging. Her happiest moment, or perhaps mine watching her, was when she discovered movement by the edge of the pond. I soon realized that as she traveled closer to the movement, it was frogs. When Shadow got within a few feet, they dove into the water of the pond ahead of her. Being the instinctive hunter, she was bred to be, she went in right after them.

Of course, she never caught them. But it didn't matter, she was savoring every interaction, every possibility, her freedom to stretch and focus on who she was created to be. She was naturally tracking and hunting, exploring and navigating, not out of commands or instructions but out of her freedom to be herself. I'm not sure if that dog has ever been happier than those moments, I watched her.

Shadow wants to be a good dog, to please and express her affection and I saw it all that day. As many of you know, she goes with me most everywhere. When we are in our everyday world, she still has those desires to be herself, but she knows the world around her can be unsafe and hurtful. She has experienced it, deeply enough that she is on guard most of the time, vigilant against getting hurt. That seems to be a lot like we are. "Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows." Because she has experienced it.

The same is true for many if not most of us. We flourish when we feel safe, unjudged, free to be who we have been created to be. Over time we can forget that feeling because we learn how to navigate life, vigilant, even hypervigilant, trying to avoid being hurt or hurt again. Shadow reminded me of what life can be like that day and I believe it is worth thinking about and seeking. Where is your safe place? Whose presence can you be in without having to watch your back? Who delights in you just being you?

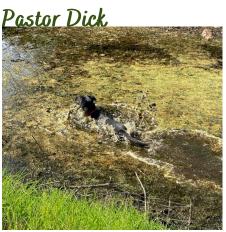




Well, for sure, Jesus is each of those things for each of us. Maybe you don't know that or that doesn't seem real to you. Why don't you try him out, watch him, chat with him, try trusting him? You will be stunned how peace filled you will be, even with all the rest of this stuff swirling around us.

To be sure, evil is around us in many forms. But it need not control or dominate us. That is a decision we get to make. Think about who you have been created to be, as a person, as a son or daughter, parent or sibling, as a co-worker or neighbor, a boss or leader, or as a child of God. Try returning to be that person. I believe it takes conscious effort to get back there. We are inundated every single day to not be that person, by the world around us. It's just the way the world works. And when you throw in the reality that there are some people out there who want to push us into their self-absorbed agendas, as well, it makes our setting aside time to return to our roots, our returning to be who we are created to be, it makes taking that time all the more imperative. Godspeed on your journey!

P.S. I've returned to reality. But I am actually listening to my own advice. I can't say that I've got this mastered, but I'm making progress, which I'm a little surprised at. "Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows." But My "Shadow" also knows how to remind me to return to who I am created to be. Thank you, Jesus, for never giving up on me, for always being there for me, for not judging me, and for taking me by the hand leading me back onto the path of being who you created me to be!



OCTOBER 4th

We'll be serving Holy Communion at the church from 11-12:30pm.



This Sunday, we'll be celebrating "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!

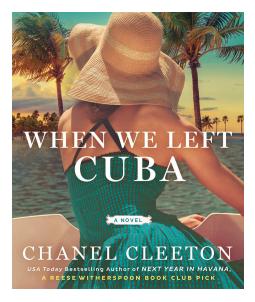


Fall Fest Save the Date

PUMC's Fall Family Fest will be held Sunday, October 18th from 4-6pm on the lawn at the church. Family's are invited to join us to participate as we play, create, and celebrate the season together. All activities will be geared to the family's and will allow us to be "socially distant" but together in faith! Each registered family will receive a special Fall Fest Activity Box to take home and continue the fun! Families can pick up their box without participating in the activities on the lawn.

We want to provide your family a chance to connect and celebrate God's blessings together. Each family's box will be custom made for the number and ages of kids in your family so registration is encouraged. Please visit www.plainfieldumc.com to register your family.

Let's spread the fun -- neighbors and extended family are welcome! *Masks are required for all inperson participants.* Contact Pastor Sherry at sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com with questions.







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 are our upcoming books:

October 15th: When We Left Cuba by Chanel Cleeton
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, October 28th. 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.

Virtual Sunday School

We're off to a great start with our virtual Sunday School this fall! It's never too late to join the fun. Register today at plainfieldumc.com to be sure your kid receives a kit, access to video resources, and links to join the brief Sunday morning (9:15am) Zoom calls to connect with friends. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Sherry at sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com.



Fall Fun for Youth

Pumpkins, Donuts, and Paint - Oh My!
The next Outdoor Youth Group meeting at church will be Sunday, Oct. 11 at 4:30p.m. We'll have pumpkins for the youth to paint, donuts to eat, and a devotion to help them grow in their faith. We will be outside, so please be sure to dress for the weather. *Masks are required for all in-person participants.*

Rain date is Oct. 25. Zoom chats will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wed. Oct. 7 and Oct. 21.

September Prayer List

- George (Fern) Angelos' godson,
 Bob Johnson
- Lonny Bodie
- Connie (Barry) Brown's stepmother,
 Lori Elliot
- Carolyn & Jeff Dement's nephew, Shawn; friend, Lynette Wilson and family
- Judy & Elmer Eddy's friend, Jim Sossong
- · Grea Hill
- Carole Holloway's friend, Nancy Yarbrough
- Heather Holtquist for Baby Cecilia
- Kate (Witkiewicz) Iverson's sister-in-law, April Courtright
- Karen Koziol's dad, Mitchell Koziol
- Bob Kutsy's friend, Henry Young
- Margie & Ron Lee
- Chip Mackley's friend, Paul
- Misty Martin
- Nancy Ziech's mother Violetta; Aunt Amy; Daughter Danielle (Policer Officer)

- Carol May's, father-in-law, Joe May
- Carol May's family on the passing of her sister, Mary Blackburn
- Harriett Nelson's mom, Harriett Crismon
- Diane Robert's sister's friend, Cindy
- Bob Snyder's friend, Joel Swartz
- Traver and Moore families on the passing of MickeySue's father, Jack Moore
- MickeySue Traver's sister-in-law, Angel
- Georgia Whitley
- Heather Young for teachers, school staff, and students who are going back to in-person learning
- Debbie Barker prayers for this nation 8 the world to come together in love
- Mizwicki Family, for their grandsons Cameron and Ian Family
- Ron's (Karen) Mizwicki's uncle, David Colby & Family; Friend, Marie
- Mary and Jeff Kelly & Kathy Beitzel, on the passing of Mary's brother and Kathy's Uncle, Ernest LeDuke
- Kathleen Hermansen's friend, Barb Besco family on Barb's passing
- Roger Beitzel's Brother, Ed Beitzel and Sister-inlaw Pam, on the passing of mother in law, Shirley McClellan

OCTOBER

10-01-2020

1:000pm Secret Sister/ Grandpals

10-04-2020

9:00am Confirmation 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Online Worship 11:am Mobile Communion

10-05-2020

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

10-07-2020

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

10-08-2020

1:00pm Secret Sister/ Grandpals **6:30pm** Education (*Zoom*)

10-11-2020

9:00am Confirmation9:15am Sunday School10:00am Online Worship10:45am Adult Sunday School

10-12-2020

11:30am Lunch Bunch

10-13-2020

7:00pm Membership and Outreach

10-14-2020

3:00pm Chat with the Pastor (Facebook)

10-15-2020

1:00pm Secret Sister/ Grandpals **7:00pm** Women's Book Group

10-18-2020

9:00am Confirmation9:15am Sunday School10:00am Online Worship10:45am Adult Sunday School4:00pm Fall Fest On the Lawn

10-19-2020

11:30am Lunch Bunch

10-21-2020

12:00pm Widows Group **3:00pm** Chat with the Pastor (*Facebook*) **7:00pm** Youth Group (*Zoom*)

10-22-2020

1:00am Secret Sister/ Grandpals

10-25-2020

9:00am Confirmation9:15am Sunday School10:00am Online Worship10:45am Adult Sunday School

10-26-2020

11:30am Lunch Bunch

10-28-2020

11:30am Trinity Food Pantry12:00pm Widows Group3:00pm Chat with the Pastor (Facebook)

10-29-2020

1:00am Secret Sister/ Grandpals

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Worship Services

10am Sunday Online Worship **3pm** Wednesday Online Chat, Pastor Dick or Pastor Sherry