



# SOUL FULL OF SUNSHINE

# *Words of Wisdom*

## **Youth Ministry During a Pandemic: As Told by Roger Bietzel**

When I started working in Youth Ministry 25 years ago, I knew it involved relationships, friendship, fun, and faith building. I knew it was very interactive and involved a lot of personal contact and conversation. I embraced all of that and have worked to become the best Youth Director I could be through the following years. I have become accustomed to seeing my youth on a regular basis, chatting with them on Sunday mornings or at Youth Group. I've come to value the brief conversations I have with their parents at church – a chance to check in and assure the parents that their youth has not morphed into an alien from another planet, despite all evidence to the contrary.

I never dreamed I would be leading Youth Ministry during a time when personal contact was severely limited. A time when the church building would be closed to protect everyone's health, and families would be hunkered down as part of a larger strategy to save lives during a world-wide health crisis. God created human beings to have relationships, to be in community with one another. This shutdown has been hard on all of us!

Yet here we are – working through week 11 of such a shutdown. The shutdown has had a significant impact on Youth Ministry at PUMC. We've not met as a Youth Group at church since March 8. Confirmation Class has not met in person since our field trip to Chicago on March 1. Sadly, our Youth Ministry Advisory Panel decided it was necessary to cancel the Summer Mission Trip we had scheduled for June – again, trying to keep everyone safe and healthy. We have brainstormed ways to meet safely in person, once the restrictions are lifted. And we are all very hopeful we can re-open the building and have in-person youth groups again in the Fall. But, only time will tell. Technology has allowed us to do Youth Ministry in new ways and stay in touch with many of our youth. We began weekly Youth Group meetings on Zoom in April. We continue to meet with the Senior High twice a week, and Junior High once a week.

I've been able to meet with our Confirmation class on Zoom and go over the membership vows with them. We arranged a time for the students to come to church and pick up the supplies to make their stoles – we could not let that tradition fall! The next step will happen on Sunday, May 31. At 1:00 Pastor Dick, Pastor Sherry, and I will join with our Confirmation students and their families on a very special, very important Zoom call. We will go through the first part of the Confirmation service on that day and ask each student the questions necessary for them to become full members of the church. We will invite their parents and family members to physically place their hands on them, while extended family, the pastors, and I will do it virtually through the computer.

Pastor Dick will say those holy words over each one of them: "The Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born of water and the Spirit, you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ." We trust and believe that the Holy Spirit is present whenever and wherever God's faithful people gather. We also know the Holy Spirit is not limited by technology or a pandemic, so we are confident we can call on the Holy Spirit, in good faith, to Confirm our students over a Zoom call. I invite you to say a special prayer for all of them on May 31. The second part of the Confirmation service will take place during online worship on Sunday, June 28. This is when we will present our Confirmands to the congregation and the congregation will welcome them in love and promise again to live a faithful Christian life.

I don't yet know when I will see them – or you – in person again. But, I know God continues to lead, love, and bless all of us. I have always worked to do my best in whatever phase of Youth Ministry I have found myself. And I have trusted God to guide me on to the next phase and grant me Wisdom to be effective as we went through it together. I don't yet know what that the next phase of Youth Ministry will look like at PUMC. I'm still trying to figure this one out! But, I do know I will not face it alone.

First, I am so blessed to have the support of all our members. Then, I am blessed by the faithful dedication and support of so many volunteers. Finally, of course, I trust God to lead me and guide all of us through this phase and into the next one and beyond.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support. I look forward so much to the time when we can be together again in person. Until then, stay safe and love one another as Christ has loved us.

Blessings, **Roger**

# Calendar Note

DUE TO THE CANCELLATION OF IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES, WE ARE NOT INCLUDING A CALENDAR THIS MONTH. AS SOON AS WE GET THE "ALL CLEAR" WE WILL SEND OUT A CALENDAR.



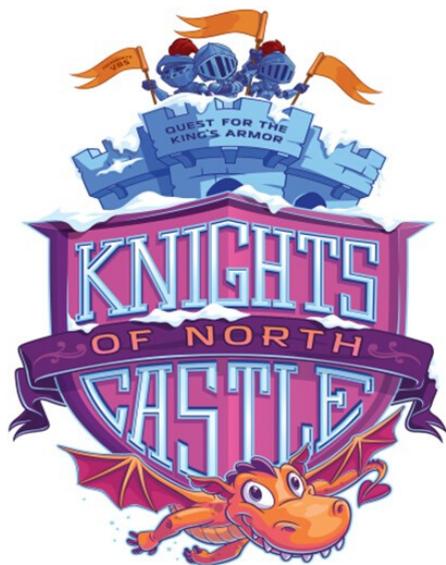
## Extraordinary VBS

Invite your friends and neighbors!

All kids ages 3 (by Sept 1, 2020) to 8th grade (2020-2021 school year) are invited. We are busting out of the walls of the church to bring your family a VBS adventure—from our castle to yours! Join us for Knights of North Castle. Kids will engage in unforgettable scripture stories via online videos and blend them with cool crafts you can do at home, plus science and games that get us outside in a "field trip" format.

We will have exciting music everyone can dance to, and cooking demos that will take your snacks to a new level! Best of all, your kids will receive the encouragement they need to take up the gauntlet, accept the challenge to "armor up," and be strong by remaining with God and sharing God's love in a world that needs it more than ever.

Included in your FREE registration is a VBS kit for your kids that includes crafts, games, science experiments, and access to the week's activities. Registration is limited—sign up today at [Plainfieldumc.com](http://Plainfieldumc.com).



## VBS Volunteers Needed

PUMC is looking for some volunteers to pull off our awesome, ambitious VBS this year! Because of the change in the format, the volunteer needs are different. We need people who will:

- Video themselves explaining/leading a craft or science experiment (pre-VBS week)
- Lead or help with our Zoom gatherings for each grade level (July 12-16 evenings)
- Make "costumes" and horses for the band and leaders (pre-VBS)
- Help as needed in various ways (pre-VBS, during, and post-VBS)

Technology assistance is available, so don't let that hold you back!

We also need the congregation's help in funding our VBS kits and activities. If you would like to make a donation to ensure that our VBS is as AWESOME as ever, send a check or text "Plainfield UMC" to 77977 to give online. Mark your donation for VBS. Contact [sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com](mailto:sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com) or contact the church office to volunteer today!

# May Prayer List

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Alise Anderson's brother, Sean Gately (Covid-19)

Lonny Bodie

Carolyn & Jeff Dement's nephew, Shawn

Kathy Hermansen's sister-in-law's niece, Amira

Greg Hill

Carole Holloway's friend, Becky and friend, Ron Boe (Covid-19)

Kate (Witkiewicz) Iverson's sister-in-law, April Courtright

Sandy Krzywanos' sister, Wendy

Margie & Ron Lee

Chip & Veray Mackley's daughter, Laura Marrero

Veray Mackley's family, for the passing of her sister Marilyn

The Henbest Family, for the passing of Ron Henbest from COVID-19

Misty Martin

Karen Mizwicki's friend, Marie Mokrzycki

Bill Niedoborski

Rich Ponulak's father, Boleslaw Ponulak

Rodriguez Family's uncle Al Thomason

Rylee Soldat's (one of our "new youth") grandmother, Elizabeth Flickinger (Covid-19)

Adam Stephens

Sam Stockton

Angie Sullivan's grandmother, Adrienne King

MickeySue Traver's parents, Jack & Harriett Moore and her sister-in-law, Angel

Don Wachal

Georgia Whitley





## Women's Choir

### Women's Choir

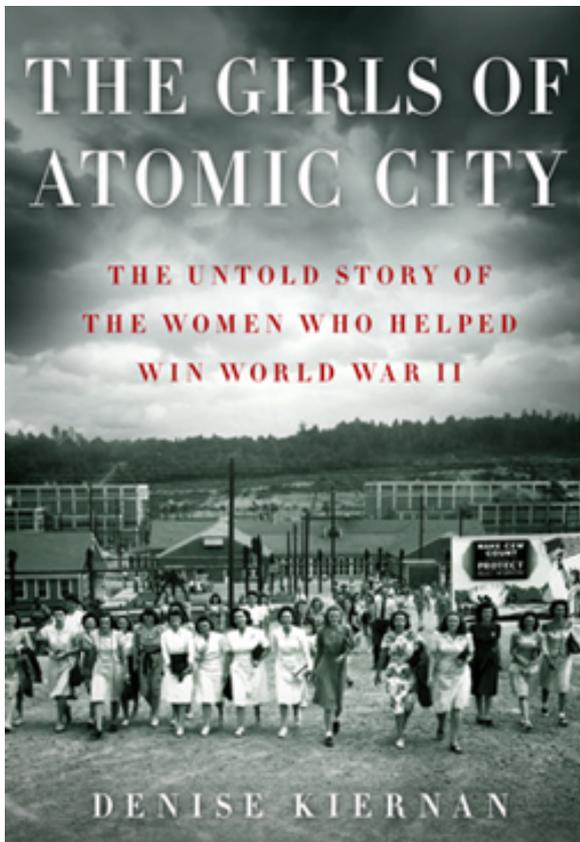
Cooped up during quarantine? Want some musical motivation? How 'bout joining PUMC's new Women's Choir?! If you are high school-age and above, have some interest in music, and would like to try something new, consider joining our new small group choir! We are living a "different normal" right now, but we can still plan for and look forward to the future! Once we are back in our beautiful church home, our plan is:

- to have rehearsals every other week (day/time TBD)
- to share music every couple of months during church services.

In the meantime, we will:

- receive music electronically to rehearse in the comfort of our own homes
- receive assistance with music electronically
- meet via Zoom once in a while to chat, develop friendships and a rapport as a choir, and discuss questions about the music

Questions? Want more information? Interested in joining? Contact Megan Marconi via cell phone or email at (815)302-5781 or [mamarconi1029@gmail.com](mailto:mamarconi1029@gmail.com) Don't be afraid to try something new!



### Women's Book Group

It's a great time to join the Women's Book Group as we pick up some great books this summer! Contact Pastor Sherry at [sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com](mailto:sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com) to be added to our email list for Zoom Link information. We hope you'll read along with us!

- June:** The Girls of Atomic City by Denise Kiernan; Zoom Discussion 6/18 at 7pm
- July:** This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger; Zoom Discussion 7/23 at 7pm
- August:** The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson; Zoom Discussion 8/20 at 7pm

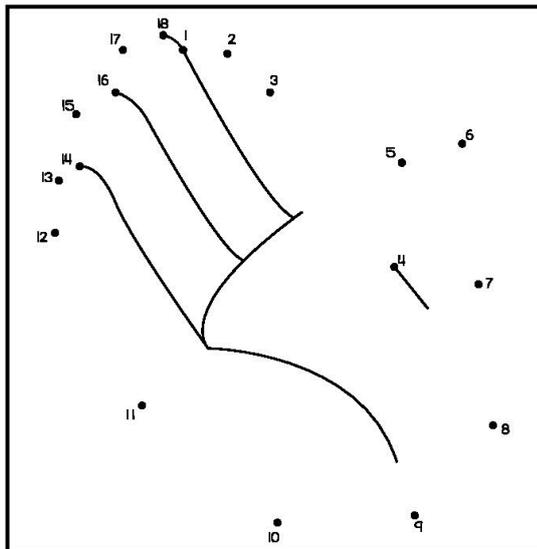


## Special Music Needed

Once we are able to be together in person, not just virtually, we will be attending one service on our summer schedule. We would love to have singers and instrumentalists who can provide special music for that time. We will need music for June 7 through September 6; the first few Sundays would need to be video clips to be included in our virtual services (dates TBA). Please contact the church office to leave your phone number and date preferences. We'll confirm with you as soon as possible. Thank you for sharing the gifts God has given you!

## CONNECT the DOTS

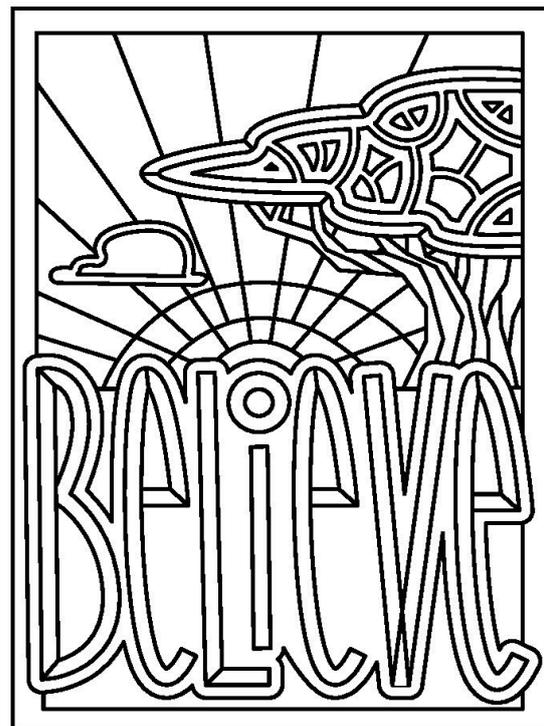
Psalm 16 tells us we will be filled with joy in God's presence for beautiful things are always at God's hand. Connect the dots to form the hand of God. Inside, draw what fills you with joy!



Suggested for use on the Second Sunday of Easter based on the RCL.  
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## CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31.



# The Breath Prayer

Written by Sheridan Voysey

Lord God, fill me with your Holy Spirit

I receive your **love** & release my **insecurity**

I receive your **joy** & release my **unhappiness**

I receive your **peace** & release my **anxiety**

I receive your **patience** & release my **impulsiveness**

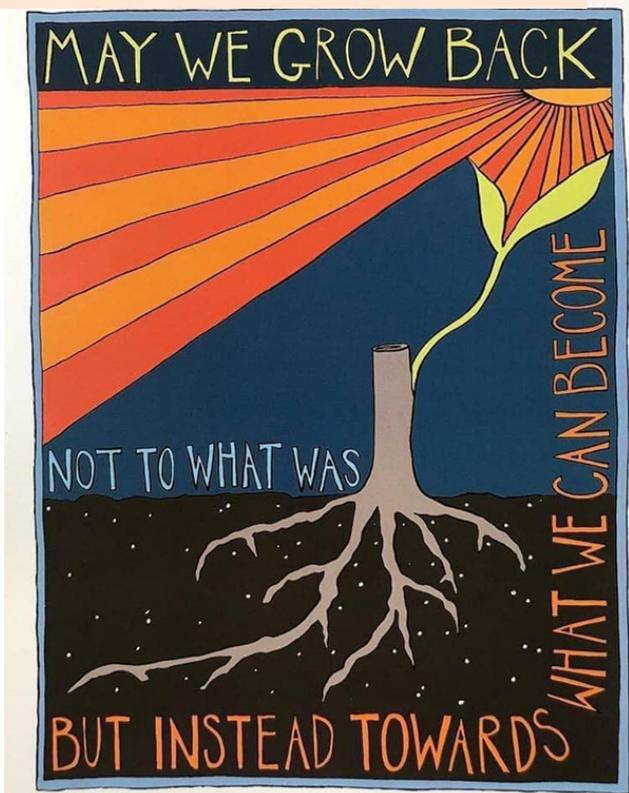
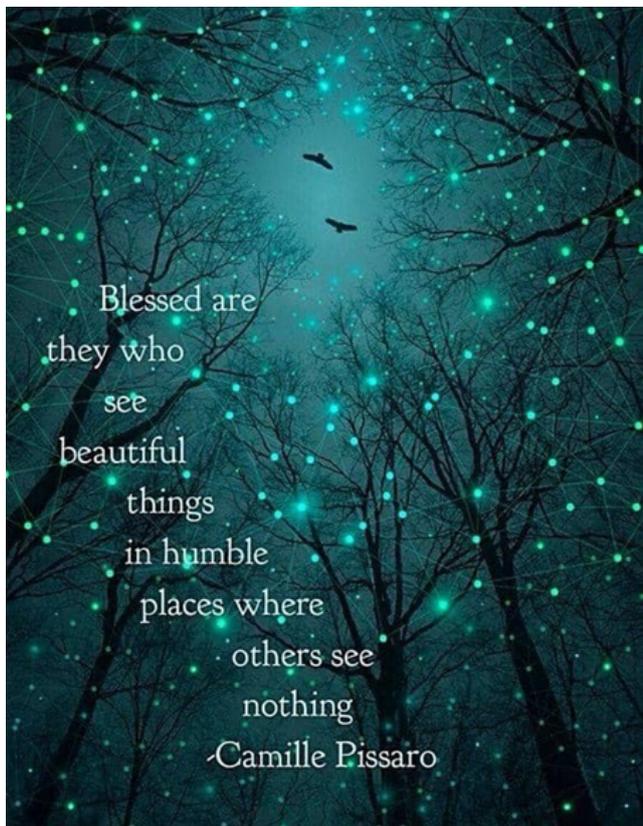
I receive your **kindness** & release my **indifference**

I receive your **goodness** & release my **ungodliness**

I receive your **faithfulness** & release my **disloyalty**

I receive your **gentleness** & release my **severity**

I receive your **self-control** & release my **self-indulgence**



Jennifer Bloom from Radici Studios.

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## Plainfield UMC Staff

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**Roger Beitzel, Youth Director**  
*Roger.Beitzel@Plainfieldumc.com*

## Worship Services

**10am** Sunday Online Worship

**3pm** Tuesday Chat with Pastor Dick or Pastor Sherry

**3pm** Thursday Chat with Pastor Dick or Pastor Sherry