

WEST HENRIETTA BAPTIST CHURCH

1815-2015

THE LINK



APRIL 2016

A prayer for the church

Furious Prayer for the Church I Love and Have Always Loved but Which Drives Me Insane with Its Fussy Fidgety Prim Tin-Eared Thirst for Control and Rules and Power and Money Rather Than the One Simple Thing the Founder Insisted On

Granted, it's a tough assignment, the original assignment. I get that. Love—Lord help us, could we not have been assigned something easier, like astrophysics or quantum mechanics? But no—love those you cannot love. Love those who are poor and broken and fouled and dirty and sick with sores. Love those who wish to strike you on both cheeks. Love the blowhard, the pompous ass, the arrogant liar. Find the Christ in each heart, even those.

Preach the Gospel and only if necessary talk about it. Be the Word. It is easy to advise and pronounce and counsel and suggest and lecture; it is not so easy to do what must be done without sometimes shrieking. Bring love like a bright

weapon against the dark. The Rabbi did not say build churches, or retreat houses, or secure a fleet of cars for general use, or convene conferences, or issue position papers. He was pretty blunt about the hungry and the naked and the sick. He was not reasonable; we forget this.

The Church is not a reasonable idea. The Church should be a verb. When it is only a noun it is not what the Founder asked of us. Let us pray that we are ever after dissolving the formal officious arrogant thing that wants to rise, and ever fomenting the contradictory revolutionary counter-cultural thing that could change life on this planet. It could, you know. Let's try again today. And so: amen.

From *Uncommon Prayer* by Brian Doyle, novelist, essayist, and poet.

Announcements

Chicago's Male A Capella choir will perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 2, at Henrietta United Church of Christ on Lehigh Station Road. A free-will offering will be taken.

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Sunday, April 3, will be Poetry Sunday with Marshall Smith, Evy Shoots, and Evie Scott performing at the end of fellowship.

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Town hall meetings will resume April 10 during fellowship. We will brainstorm ideas that would enliven our church. They will continue each Sunday of the month. Join the discussion.

*

Antoinette Brown Blackwell, born in Henrietta in 1825, became the first woman in North America to be ordained as a minister in a major denomination. Betty Miller will do a dramatic presentation of Antoinette at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 12, at Henrietta UCC. Part of UCC's bicentennial celebration, the program is free.

Sunday Servants

April 3

Invocation: Connie Voss
Necaster

Scripture: Joyce Shutts

Prayer: Val Bandemer

Greeters: Marti Spaker &
Val Bandemer

Nursery: BOCE

Fellowship: Mary Bailey

April 10

Invocation: Marti Spaker

Scripture: Loretta Hirschman

Prayer: Leanna Shirley

Greeters: Marti Spaker &
Val Bandemer

Nursery: BOCE

Fellowship: Barb Miller &
Barb Zima

April 17

Invocation: Kathy Gosnell

Scripture: Don Peoples

Prayer: Rev. Clara White

Greeters: Marti Spaker &
Val Bandemer

Nursery: BOCE

Fellowship: Joyce Shutts &
Anne Greco

April 24

Invocation: Rev. Clara White

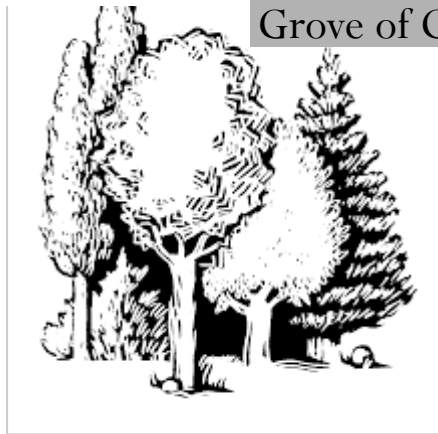
Scripture: Marti Spaker

Prayer: Connie Voss Necaster

Greeters: Marti Spaker &
Val Bandemer

Nursery: BOCE

Fellowship: Available



Grove of Grace

Love Letter to My King

You lift my thoughts above this world
Your mighty hands designed
My soul is whole because of you
Your thoughts refine my mind.

How thrilling the horizon where
Your mountains touch the sky;
What joy is mine in fathoming
Vast wonders far on high!

Your soothing spirit captures mine
When fear tries stealing in,
For what you hid within my heart
Holds peace that fends off din.

I praise you for your tender care,
What mercies you reveal!
Your loving arms encompass me --
Your presence is so real.

I cherish letters you have sent
Which guide all that I do,
You light my way each rainbow day,
Dear Father, I love you!

My thanks to you will never cease,
My praise will ever sing --
All that I hold belongs to you;
My precious Savior-King!

*Written by: Mrs. Evelyn M Shoots
2-20-2000*



Town Meetings

April 10, 17 & 24
During Fellowship

Men's Breakfast

7 a.m. Tuesdays at
Peppermints

Prayer Meeting

9 a.m. Saturdays

Choir Practice

6:30 p.m. Wednesdays

Pastoral Search

6:30 p.m. Thursdays



April 2: Betty Trim

April 3: Lynne Stewart
and Debbie Rissew

April 5: Flo Braker

April 8: Colin Chase

April 11: Cliff Thayer and
Sarah Zima

April 15: Sierrah Griffin

April 16: Trayson Lundy

April 17: Roberta Miller

April 26: Don Hirschman

April 30: Ginny Chase