

THE GOOD NEWS



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LETTERS TO THE CHURCH

In September we had a shared Deliberative Dialogue with the good people at Calvary Lutheran Church and their pastor, Rev. Daryl Emowrey. Together on Zoom we talked about the very real political divide in our nation that bleeds into our everyday lives, changing the way we interact with friends, family, and neighbors. In our discussion, we acknowledged that what we need more of is respectful, meaningful conversation, not more polarized positional-ism.

In light of that yearning to continue to talk about what values we hold in common, how our faith informs our witness in the political sphere, and what good we can do together, we are launching a book study of Rev. Dr. William B. Kincaid's latest book, *Letters to the Church: Encouragement and Engagement for the 2020 Election*.

Rev. Dr. Kincaid writes about the unique dissonance we feel in this time. "We are left to question, 'Is the world suddenly more chaotic and brutal than it used to be, or is this the way the world always is and we are just now discovering that?' The question stops us in our tracks and, more often than not, we as individuals and as the church, withdraw to silence, confusion, and powerlessness."

We, individually, as a congregation, and nationally, have been asking the same question and facing the same silence. But in the Gospels we understand that we are called not to run from our neighbor or our enemy (read: those we disagree with), but engage with them and find common ground on which to build a better world.

In light of that work, Kincaid asks, "What difference will your faith make in the way you

think about and participate in the 2020 presidential election?"

Our job is not to identify a singular Christian understanding about civic engagement that we will forcibly apply to all Christians, but to ask ourselves to honestly explore, express, and discuss our own sense of Christian calling when engaging in the political space. We aren't looking to create a Republican or Democratic church, a Socialist or Capitalist church, but a church full of people in relationship through Christ, who share a commitment to let that relationship help inform their civic lives.

Kincaid writes, "There are many red churches and a few blue ones, but most churches are purple. Most congregations include a rich diversity of views and a range of commitments that enrich the whole." He adds, "Purple

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churches are well positioned to model discerning discussions on divisive topics, all the while sharing life together in worship, study, and service."

So I invite you to read with me, to meet with me, and to discuss with me the values this book tries to help us uncover. Starting on Thursday, October 8, and running for 5 weeks, you're invited to engage with this book study via

Zoom. Also invited are the members of Calvary Lutheran Church, with whom we began this dialogue, and who, like our own congregation's participants, expressed an earnest desire to continue the conversation.

Below I've posted the dates of these meetings, as well as the Zoom link; it will be the same for each meeting. Also, I've listed the places you can purchase the

book.

If you would like to participate and cannot afford to purchase a book at this time, please reach out to me. No one will be excluded from this conversation. Thank you for bringing your voice and your honesty to our work as a congregation. When we discern together, we bless one another.

PASTOR NIKKI

LETTERS TO THE CHURCH BOOK STUDY

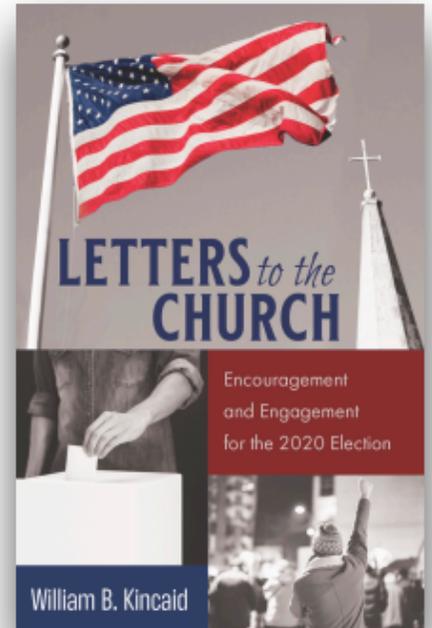
Thursdays at 7 pm, October 8 through November 5, 2020

On Zoom here: <http://bit.ly/LTTCBookStudyZoom>

Buy the book: <http://bit.ly/LTTCKincaid>

A critical presidential election looms before us. Whether you love Donald Trump or despise him, most everyone agrees that he masterfully keeps people and the country off-balance. His acerbic rhetoric, divisive priorities, and erratic leadership foster further division and widespread anxiety. That causes some Americans to go in search of any candidate who can defeat him in the upcoming election. For others, though, Trump's brash style, anti-establishment platform, hardline policies, and "Make America Great Again" promises are reasons to support him and work enthusiastically for his reelection.

Letters to the Church seeks to help compassionate, thoughtful Christians regain our bearings and find our voice and courage for honest, hopeful conversations in this de-centering era of Trump. These conversations will help recenter the church for faithful discernment, courageous imagination, and constructive engagement in the broader community. By doing so, the church can renew its own life and model what conversation and participation can look like in a time otherwise characterized by extremism, suspicion, fear and gridlock.



Rev. Dr. Kincaid will join us live for our first meeting on October 8. Please join me in hearing him speak and welcoming on behalf of our congregation.



About Rev. Dr. William B. Kincaid:

Kincaid is the Herald B. Monroe Professor of Leadership and Ministry Studies at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana. An Ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), he is the author of *Like Stepping into a Canoe: Nimbleness and the Transition into Ministry* and *Finding Voice: How Theological Field Education Shapes Pastoral Identity*.

TUESDAY PRAYER AT TEN



In October, Pastor Nikki will be live on Facebook offering Tuesday Prayer at 10. The prayer will later post to YouTube, for those who are not on Facebook. Join her at 10 am each Tuesday, or visit the Facebook or YouTube pages anytime to pray with her at your convenience.

You can find the Facebook Page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/FCUCCAngola>

Our YouTube channel is here, where you can also find many of our previous sermons and services: <https://bit.ly/FCUCCVideos>.

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

Join us for coffee hour virtually on Fridays via Zoom video conference from 10-11:30 am. It's a great way to see and talk to your FCUCC friends. Start by visiting <https://bit.ly/FCUCCVirtualCoffeeHour>.

If you need help, please contact us at info@angolaucc.org or PastorNikki@angolaucc.org.

SCRIPTURE STORIES

Join us via Zoom, Thursdays at noon for Scripture Stories with Pastor Nikki and January Simpson. Find us on Zoom at: <https://zoom.us/j/886794478> (type it into your browser)

October 1 Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

October 8 Phillipians 4:1-9

October 15 Thessalonians 1:1-10

October 22 Matthew 22:34-46

October 29 Matthew 23:1-12

IN-PERSON PRAYER CIRCLE

In person prayer circle is on hiatus until 2021 so that we can focus on preparing and celebrating Advent and Christmastide.



PRAYER LIST:

You can send prayer requests to info@angolaucc.org.

PASTORAL VISIT:

If you would like a pastoral visit, please email or call Pastor Nikki at pastornikki@angolaucc.org or 617-512-8692 (text friendly).



Fine tune your writing strings and explore your creativity and spirituality! Starting on Fridays in July, join us in our UpWrite Facebook group (<https://bit.ly/UpWriteFCUCC>). Click that link, or enter it into your web browser, and request to join the group.

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

SUBMITTED BY GAYLE NEWTON, CLERK



Treasurer's Report: Bruce Andres reported that the church is doing well despite the COVID-19 situation, with most giving units keeping up with their pledges. We went into 2020 with a slight deficit but so far have been able to overcome the deficit due to less expenses and responsible spending by our committees.

Deacons Report: Educator signs are being distributed to current and retired teachers.

Trustees Report: Trustees are creating a list to track due dates of inspections and tasks. Gayle Newton is providing them with contact information on snow removal and lawn care.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Nikki will be taking vacation in November. Hymnals are in and Michelle Armstrong will start list of who donated so that name plates can be added.

Christian Education: Youth and children's church moving to start end of September.

Missions Report: Mission team is looking at what they can do to help with school supplies. Neighbors helping neighbors is another project that they will begin planning for.

ONA: Report on file, contact Clerk, no pressing news.

Financial Secretary: Report on file, contact Clerk, no pressing news.

Pastoral Relations: Report on file, contact Clerk, no pressing news.

Welcoming: Report on file, contact Clerk, no pressing news.

Worship & Music: Sarah Mowrey and Pastor Nikki continue to work on the music for the worship service.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pastor Nikki reported on the Covid-19 Task Force recommendations which would allow the Bell Choir to move forward with rehearsal under the direction of Sarah Mowrey in the next couple of weeks for in-person worship service with proper distancing and masks. A second recommendation is for a limited number of people to be present in the sanctuary to participate in the worship service (instrumentalist, liturgists, and/or children's message). A final recommendation is for the Covid team to begin to look at ways for a limited number of people to safely gather for in-person worship in the sanctuary.

Bruce Andres made a motion that the Covid team is empowered to put together an in-person worship service plan and it will then be brought to council for approval. Gary VandelElst seconded the motion and it was passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kathy Armstrong with JDAI is asking to use the garage. Additional information has been requested and the Council will make a decision once this information has been received, reviewed, and discussed.

FCUCC COUNCIL MEMBERS

Moderator: Liz Andres

Moderator-elect: Linda Mason Bohman

Treasurer: Bruce Andres

Financial Sec.: John French

Clerk: Gayle Newton

Christian Ed.: Jessica Lash, Stephanie Hine

Missions: Babett Ruby, Erin Johnson, Michelle Olson

ONA: Gayle Newton

Pastoral Realties: Lois McEntarfer

Welcoming: Marj Lilley

Worship & Music: Lynn Syler

Deacons: Bonnie Snyder, Mark Elliott, Lauralee MacLeod, June (Bun) Mayer

Trustees: Gary VandenElst, Steve Newman, Cecil Fugate, Jim Wagenknecht

LIMITED, IN-PERSON GATHERING FOR WORSHIP TO BEGIN SOON:

The COVID Team plans have been submitted to Council for review, revision and approval. Once approved, we will distribute news about how to sign up to attend limited, in-person worship. A huge debt of gratitude to the COVID Team and the FCUCC Council for their work on this. Call the office if you have questions.

Calendar of Events

- October 6** 8 AM: ROMEOs via Zoom, <https://bit.ly/RomeosFCUCC>, password 310284
11 AM: Staff Meeting via Zoom
- October 11** 11 AM: Council Meeting following Sunday worship.
- October 15** 3:30 PM: Worship Committee Meeting via Zoom.
- October 20** 8 AM: ROMEOs via Zoom, <https://bit.ly/RomeosFCUCC>, password 310284

Recurring Events

Tuesdays

- **10 AM:** Tuesday Prayer at Ten, on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FCUCCAngola/>

Wednesdays

- **5:30 PM:** Bell Choir in the Sanctuary
- **7:00 PM:** Chancel Choir via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/FCUCCChoir>, password 671381

Thursdays

- **12 PM:** Scripture Stories via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/FCUCCScriptureStories>
- **7 PM:** Starting October 8th, Church Book Study via Zoom at <http://bit.ly/LTTCBookStudyZoom>

Fridays

- **10 AM:** Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/FCUCCCoffeeHour>

Sundays

- **10 AM:** Worship via Zoom <https://bit.ly/FCUCCZoomWorship> and password 165378
- **11 AM:** Sunday Fellowship following Worship via Zoom

OCTOBER

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
314 West Maumee Street
Angola, Indiana 46703

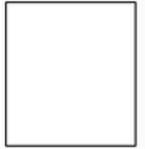
Phone: 260-665-9362

Email Office: info@angolaucc.org

Email Pastor Nikki: PastorNikki@angolaucc.org

Website: angolaucc.org

First Congregational United Church of Christ, as an inclusive and caring Christian community, welcomes into its full life and ministry persons of every race, ethnic background, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, marital status, criminal history and faith background. As we serve those within our church family, the community and the world in the name of Jesus Christ, we celebrate each person's uniqueness and look forward to the gifts they bring to us.



God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



2 - Claudia Camargo
5 - Donna Hankins
8 - Lois McEntarfer
10 - Gayle Newton
11 - Jane Papsdorf
14 - Marge Mueller
15 - Andy Boneff

16 - Cec Shultz
17 - Doug Robinett
18 - Taylor Byrne
18 - Cate Grandlienard
23 - John Curtis
28 - Paul Schmidt, MD
29 - Norma Baker

6 - Marilyn and Steve Newman
19 - Jill and Dick Powers
23 - Linda Mason Bohman and Ted Bohman

October Birthdays & Anniversaries