



Prayers

family of *Kay Burney*, who died recently; *Pipi Peterson*, remaining at the Florence Home, but now in hospice care; *Cheryl Roche*, now at home; family of *Enrique Miranda*, living through the civil war in Nicaragua.

Joys

First Central is celebrating its 162 year anniversary! *Allison & Kenny Brown* are celebrating the birth of *Jack Martin Brown* – proud big sister *Grace* and great-grandparents *Sam & Jenny Pfeifer* are also celebrating!

Celebrations

Your support of First Central's ministry is changing lives:

- Thanks to our Community Meal Team for serving lunch to our neighbors last week.
- Rev. Katie Miller and some of FirstYouth spent last weekend working at Kamp Kaleo, prepping for summer camp.

The Religion of Democracy

"Liberal" was originally a religious word?"

Historian *Amy Kittelstrom* narrates the history of how our New England Congregationalist ancestors gave birth to a new American Reformation that resulted in democracy and our belief in universal human rights. In *The Religion of Democracy: Seven Liberals and the American Moral Tradition* she explores the moral and religious dimensions of democracy by focusing on seven key historical figures from John Adams to Jane Addams.

Senior Minister Scott Jones will review and discuss this exciting book at our next **Theology Brunch** on **Thursday, May 31 at noon** at Early Bird Brunch.

FIRST CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

NOTICE OF 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the FCCCCF will be held on Thursday, **May 31, 2018** at 6:00 pm at 2316 North 55th Street, Omaha, NE 68104. Meeting will be adjourned no later than 8:00 pm.

The agenda for the meeting will include a financial report by the treasurer, a report by the president of activity in 2017, and a discussion of possible future activity for the Foundation.

Other topics may be added to the Agenda at any time prior to twenty four hours before the meeting.

Dated this 27th day of April, 2018

Mark Winn, Secretary

Strengthen the Church Offering

Please join us Sunday, **May 20th**, in planting the seeds needed to grow and sustain our denomination by making a gift to the Strengthen the Church offering. This offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

Katie's Musings: Top Ten

Those "1,000 places to visit before you die" lists that always come out around this time of year kind of annoy me. Like, a lot.

Don't get me wrong. I'd LOVE to visit all those places. I'd love to meander along Norway's coast, or take a photograph safari in South Africa, or climb up Mayan ruins in Belize, or sample the delights of Bangkok's floating market. It'd be great. But I also really enjoy eating food and paying rent and having a car to get around and confronting the massive pile of student debt I possess.

I'm not alone in this perspective. An article came out recently about a trend among the millennials who are foregoing the stability of an apartment and a 9-5 in favor of buying old camper vans, fixing them up, and living in them full time while working online to save massive amounts of money and see more of the world than their tiny budgets would have allowed them to otherwise. They vlog (video log) about it on YouTube and potentially make a little more money from ads and sponsors whilst simultaneously passing on their van-life wisdom to others who may be considering such a life. And this trend makes sense: for a large cross section of our population, the most highly educated and underemployed generation in memory, buying a home is a pipe dream, let alone actually having the cash to visit even one of those 1,000 places. But a camper van makes more of those things accessible.

Anyway, in thinking about such lists, it occurred to me that maybe what matters is less the places themselves, but more the experience they provide: the experience of getting out of one's own comfort zone and being a part of unfamiliar surroundings. And maybe one doesn't necessarily require piles and heaps of cash to make those experiences happen. So I've devised my own list for a new age (and less financially stable generation.)

TOP 10 EXPERIENCES TO HAVE BEFORE YOU DIE

1. Hike to the top of a mountain. Doesn't matter which one. Hike to the top, look out over the land below, and feel like a powerful lord of the land.
2. Lay on the ground at night where you have a relatively unobstructed view of the stars. Doesn't matter where. Look up and feel completely and relatively insignificant.
3. Watch the sun come up somewhere unimpeded. Start to finish. And witness the glory of a new creation. See, sunrise is about as good a reminder as we have that God is, always and forever, doing a new thing.

4. Go somewhere you are surrounded by people. One in a crowd. Bonus points if within that crowd, no one looks like you.
5. Go somewhere you cannot see another living soul for miles, beyond bugs and plants and the occasional wildlife.
6. Do something that gets your heart racing and helps you to confront a fear you wish to get rid of. Scared of heights? Ride a ferris wheel. Don't like bugs? Walk through the bug exhibit at the zoo. Something like that.
7. Meet a stranger and make them a friend. My mom and I vacation together sometimes, and we cannot go anywhere without her striking up a conversation with someone random. On my lone overseas trip, we were on a train from Rome to Venice, sitting in different seats. At one point during the trip, I look over and she's showing the Italian guy next to her pictures from our journey thus far. He didn't speak a word of English, mom didn't know Italian, but we eventually figured out that he and his brother were cherry farmers, on their way to a relative's house. They got off the train before Venice, but not before leaving us a giant bag of cherries to enjoy the rest of the trip. Strangers don't have to be scary. (But, you know, use your common sense and stuff...)
8. Swim somewhere wild where you cannot see the bottom. (I realize this may go hand in hand with #6, but it's worth it.)
9. Get lost in an unfamiliar town. Because then you have to ask for directions. And there is nothing more humbling than being a stranger in a town and asking for directions.
10. Take a solo road trip. The destination doesn't matter. The tunes do. Because it's one thing to go on a fancy, flashy adventure with someone else. It's quite another to be wholly with your own company. To decide when you're waking up and where you're stopping for bathroom breaks. To be unabashedly in the company of yourself. To eat in a strange restaurant by yourself. Bonus points if you don't bring out a book.

That's my list. For now.

Gonna try to knock one or two out this summer.

But probably not in a camper van.

For now.



April - May FIRSTKids Program....

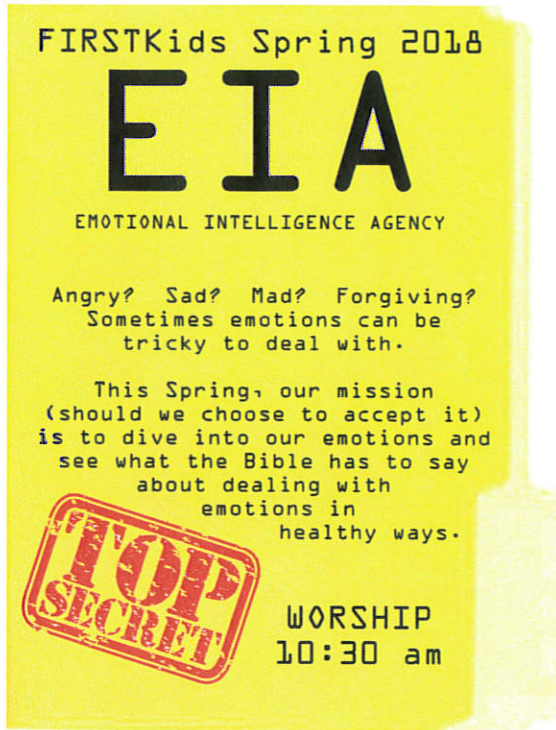


FIRST FORUM

Adult Education

Third Floor Parlor 9:15 - 10:15 AM

Childcare available in the 1st Floor Nursery



May 13th:

SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPLICATIONS OF AI

Zachary Zaiss will be conducting a follow-up conversation to last year's discussion, about Artificial Intelligence and what developments there could mean for the social justice landscape.

May 20th:

inCOMMON Community Development

One of the most effective ways we can stop poverty at the roots is by strengthening low-income neighborhoods. Although there are many ways to go about neighborhood transformation, not all models promote the empowerment of neighborhood residents themselves. Come learn about the unique, strength-based model inCOMMON Community Development has been applying in the Park Avenue area, and how you might utilize these same principles in your own neighborhood.

May 27th: Memorial Day Weekend

NO FIRST FORUM

FIRST YOUTH

Sundays, 5:30-8 pm, supper provided

FIRSTYouth are looking for some fundraising opportunities for the upcoming year. If you have any ideas, contact **Katie** at church!

THIRD WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT

END-OF-SCHOOL POTLUCK PICNIC

May 16, 5:30 PM

Elmwood Park Picnic Pads

Hotdogs & Beverages provided, Please bring a dessert or side dish to share! Families and folks of all ages are invited to join in this fun celebration of the end of the school year!

CALLING ALL KAMP KALEO FANS!!

Registration for the Summer 2018 Camping season is underway! Opportunities are available for enthusiasts of all ages. If you want your child to go to camp, please alert Rev. Katie by **MAY 13th!**



Sunday Mornings

Regularly scheduled events

- 9:00 Coffee in the Parlor
9:15 First Forum (Adult Education), 3rd floor
9:15 Nursery Care to 11:45 a.m.
10:30 Service of Worship
FIRSTKids (church
school for Pre-K – 5th grade)
unless otherwise stated
11:30 Coffee Hour, Parlor

next newsletter deadline

Sunday, May 20th

email articles to

officeadministrator@firstcentral.org

Week of May 13

Sunday, May 13

First Forum, 9:15 a.m., Third Floor Parlor
Health Team, 11:40 a.m., Family Room
Church Chat, 11:40 a.m., Pastor's Study

Monday, May 14

Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m., Pastor's Study

Wednesday, May 16

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m.– 2 p.m.
(through Friday)

Third Wednesday Family Night, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, May 18

Siena/Francis House, 4:30 p.m.

It's our turn to serve dinner!

Saturday, May 19

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Week of May 20

Sunday, May 20

First Forum, 9:15 a.m., Third Floor Parlor
Graduate Recognition, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Blood Pressure Screenings, 11:40 a.m., Family Room
Yoga Restorative, 1-3 p.m., Third Floor Parlor

Monday, May 21

Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m., Pastor's Study

Wednesday, May 23

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m.– 2 p.m.
(through Friday)

Saturday, May 19

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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