

Members and Friends

MT. PLEASANT CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Spiritual Pandemiportunities

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I just made up a word. Pandemiportunity. I doubt it will catch on. But somebody came up with “brunch” and “hangry.” So...who knows?

What is a pandemiportunity? It is an opportunity provided by the experience of the pandemic we’ve endured over the last sixteen months.

It was a hard and disastrous year in many ways. Perhaps you or someone you know actually suffered Covid-19. Perhaps someone you know died. Perhaps you suffered isolation, or job loss, or financial uncertainty. You certainly experienced massive changes in your daily routine, and your ability to interact with others. Many experienced intense loneliness.

Yet it was also good and beautiful in many ways. Many experienced this break of routine as a time of new beginnings. Some families found the new found rhythms of time together to be an opportunity to connect around family meals, game nights, or even just in conversation. Breaking from (bad) financial habits gave people an opportunity to rethink how they spent money. So...some good stuff.

What does it mean spiritually? Certainly for the church it presented many challenges – we had to stop doing many of the things we think of as normal. For eleven weeks we met online only.

We are only now ready to restart some programs like Sunday School. But, it was also good for our church in many ways. People stepped up to serve one another in important ways. Our giving actually increased during the pandemic. We’ve seen an uptick in visitors from our pre-pandemic days.

What about for you personally and for your spiritual growth?

Having been rattled out of “normal,” what opportunities are available to you to allow God to use this for good in your life and walk with him?

Pray, and ask God to use the present moment as a pandemiportunity to grow in him.



Upcoming Sermons

- 9-19-21 - 1 Peter 3:15-16
- 9-26-21 - John 14:6
- 10-3-21 - Romans 10:9-10
- 10-10-21 - Revelation 22:1-6



Blessed Assurance

ASSURANCE: *noun* a promise. In religion, Salvation by the inner witness of the Holy Spirit that we are justified. No harm will come, with great faith.

Fanny Jane Crosby was born in 1820 and died in 1915 at the age of 95. At the age of 6 weeks a doctor put a mustard plaster on Fanny's eyes and she was blind the rest of her life. Fanny refused to weep and sigh because she was blind. She said, "I cannot and I will not." Fanny said her blindness was a great blessing the Creator gave her.

Fanny wrote over 8,000 gospel songs. In 1873, at the age of 42, Fanny was visiting a lady named Knapp. Mrs. Knapp had written some music. Mrs. Knapp played the music on the piano and she asked Fanny, "What is this music saying?" Fanny got on her knees and prayed a few minutes then Fanny got up and said: "The song's music says: Blessed Assurance Jesus is mine." So, Mrs. Knapp grabbed a pen as Fanny spoke the words to the song...*Blessed Assurance*.

*Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine!
O, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood,
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

Source: www.sermoncentral.com



From time to time we hear statistics about how people first came into church membership. These figures trace back to the Institute for American Church Growth, which asked 10,000 people about their pilgrimage.

What led them in?

Answers were:

Special need: 2%

Walk-in: 3%

Pastor: 6%

Visitation: 1%

Sunday school: 5%

Evangelistic crusade: 5%

Program: 3%

Friend/relative: 79%

Source: www.sermoncentral.com