



Cultivating and Letting Go

In Luke 13, Jesus tells a story about a fig tree in a vineyard that would not bear fruit (Luke 13:6-9). The landowner waits three years for figs only to be disappointed. He tells his gardener to cut the tree down to make room for something else. The gardener asks the landowner to wait another year while he especially tends to the tree. The gardener would cultivate the soil with fertilizer, then sit back and wait, hoping for fruit to finally emerge. Jesus doesn't tell us if the landowner agrees or if the gardener's plan works. Instead, we are left wondering, will the barren tree ever be fruitful? Parables give us room to breathe, to question and wonder, where am I in this story? Am I the fig tree, created to bear fruit yet seemingly always barren? How has my life been full of promise only to disappoint others? Am I like the landowner, ready to give up on those around me unless they do what I expect in my timeline? Do I prioritize results over patient growth? Can I learn to be creative, patient, and hopeful like the gardener?

This Lent, we are learning what it means to cultivate and let go. We are attending to our spiritual gardens even as we prepare our physical ones. The natural cycles of the earth—seed, growth, death and rebirth—are all around us, teaching those who have eyes to see. Many of Jesus' parables bring our attention to the natural world that we might see within these cycles the work of the Spirit. What do you need to cultivate and of what do you need to let go?

There is much the Spirit seeks to cultivate in each of us: trust, resilience, change, abundance, generosity and gratitude, to name just a few. To make space for these things, there is much to let go of as well: perfection, fear, certainty, scarcity, judgment and betrayal. Just as we breathe in and out, this Lent you are invited to breathe in what the Spirit is bringing forth in your life. We can be certain that includes love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). This is what God wants for your life. This is all God has ever wanted for your life. Like a patient gardener, God does not give up on us. God cultivates us, nurtures us and then waits to see what springs forth in our lives. It's time to let go of that which is holding us back from experiencing growth. Of course, that is easier said than done, but the good news is that it can be done. With God's help all things are possible. Even the barren trees can bring forth fruit.

As we prepare for Easter and wait for new life to come forth from the earth and from our lives, we wait in the hope that our gardening God is patient and that the story is not over yet. Spring is on the way.

Letting Go

If the trees can do it, then so can I,
At least that's what I tell myself.
For if year after year the trees can let go
Of their brightest leaves and that warm autumn glow,
Then maybe in time, like trees with their leaves,
I can release
That which keeps me from you.
Maybe in time, I can let go
Of my need for certainty
And my need to look good,
My need for busyness,
And my need to numb pain;
The trivial ways I measure my self-worth,
Or the hurtful ways I measure yours.
For if year after year the trees let go,
Then maybe, in time, I can too.
Maybe,
In time,
My heart will know spring.
Prayer by Sarah Are A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Pastor Joel

A new podcast by Three Pastors in our Presbytery *The Bad Calvinists*

This week a new podcast was launched called *The Bad Calvinists* in which three of our Presbytery pastor friends discuss matters of faith with fresh insight and humor. In the first episode of this podcast, Rev. Joel A. Esala, Rev. Dr. Jason Link and Rev. Gray Marshall, along with behavioral therapist Andy Solovey, discuss "Original Goodness" and contrast it with the better known doctrine of Original Sin. Listen and subscribe on iTunes, Facebook or The Bad Calvinists website.

We hope you find our conversations around scripture thoughtful, relevant and funny. Rev. Joel A. Esala, Circleville Presbyterian Church: www.circlevillepresbyterianchurch.com



Gray Marshall, Joel Esala, and Jason Link

Focus On ... Jane Chumley

If you are interested in a Reader's Digest version into Jane's personality, just check out her email address.

She was born and raised in Akron, OH, and matriculated at the local public schools from kindergarten through high school graduation. Many years later, she attended Akron University for one year. Why the delay? Her mother offered to pay her tuition fee if she would continue to live at home, but Jane was eager to spread her wings and fly solo and had no desire to stay any longer in the home in which she was raised.

As a child, she liked being a Girl Scout, going to Girl Scout Camp, took acrobatics and swimming lessons. She has been married to John for 26 years and mothered three children Dan, Jonathon and Sarah. Before John's employer Techniglass shut down, the two of them managed to see a lot of the world by traveling to Alaska, Australia, England, Germany and France.

Before she became a waitress, she was the marriage license clerk for the Summit County Probate Court, worked in accounting at Merrill Lynch Financial Advisors, and taught swimming in Barberton, OH.

But it seems her true calling was to be a waitress, which she did for more than thirty years. She worked in many restaurants, and a few stand out in her memory: Tink's on old Rt. 23 North in Circleville, which served the best onion rings in the world, Deer Creek Lodge, The Southern Hotel, The TAT on James Rd., and a nine-year stint at Swenson's where she had the most fun.

In the past she was an enthusiast when it came to bowling, and now after a 35 year hiatus, she's back in the alleys again. She loves to go dancing with husband, John, participates in exercise classes five days a week – aerobic and yoga.

When she was 25years-old, she hitch-hiked to California to visit two friends and had \$200.00 to cover her expenses. There was \$20.00 in her pocket when she returned after seeing a friend in each Manhattan Beach and San Francisco.

Jane doesn't just talk about her faith; she lives it. To quote her, "I never missed being a good Methodist." Sunday school and junior choir were a regular part of her itinerary. As an adult she became disillusioned with her large church when the wealthy parishioners threatened to leave as African Americans began to attend. It is well-known that church members vote with their purse strings when they are satisfied, and vote with their feet by leaving when they are not. She wasn't unhappy with the church per se, but with the mindset of those who claimed to be Christian. Thirty years later, Jane returned to organized religion at Heidelberg United Church of Christ in Stoutsville.

When I first met her, she was going to Thrift Stores, buying blankets, taking them home to be washed and then taking them to homeless shelters in Columbus. As a cancer survivor, she was aware of the need for mastectomy bras and wigs, so she managed to locate and distribute both to those in need. Lately her focus is more geared to feeding. She works at the Community Kitchen in our church and continues to purchase food for the Free Store in her former Stoutsville church. She discovered that there was a real need for infant Onesies in the Free Store, so back she went to the Thrift Stores where they could be purchased for a very low price before she donated them to the Free Store.

Jane feels her helping attitude began with being a Girl Scout and its promise, "On my honor, I will try: To do my duty, to serve God and my country, to help people at all times and to obey the Girl Scout Law."

Diane Berger

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Friends,
I would like to thank you for all the cards you sent for my birthday. Between the cards and the greetings at church it was a very special day. Thanks again and God be with all.
In Christ's Love
Eugene Dowler

Thank you for the wonderful service and food you gave in honor of Judy Palm.
The family greatly appreciated it.
Jane Schneider

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

Kathy Studebaker
k.stbkr09@gmail.com

NOTE FROM NANCY SCHNEIDER

Hello to everyone and know that you all are loved and missed a bunch. I am fine, as can be for another year of maturing.
Sincerely and in Christian love.
Nancy Schneider

We offer our condolences to the family and friends.....



...of David Dyer, son of Betty Barnes.

...of Lois Jones.

...of Judy Palm.

...of Anita McMunn, mother of Kevin McMunn.

...of Margaret Jean Stevenson Barnhart, sister of Bruce Stevenson and sister-in-law of Bill Richards.

NEW ARRIVALS

Gwen Teresa Modica, born January 10, 2019.
Parents are Katy and Chris Modica and grandparents are John and Teresa Ankrom

Corinne Ellen Selm, born March 12, 2019.
Parents are Paul and Marie Selm and grandparents are Fred and Carla Mavis.

KROGER REWARDS

The Kroger Rewards program is used by our Music Department under the supervision of WMA. Each year it does require enrollment or re-enrollment in April. Just visit www.krogercommunityrewards.com, click on "Ohio" to sign up for a Kroger.com account or click on "Already enrolled? Sign In" if you already have an account. Again, if you need assistance with this, Erin Spring will be available at coffee hour to assist you. Here are the instructions that were used previously.

TO USE THE KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM (FOR NEW ACCOUNTS):

1. Register online at krogercommunityrewards.com
2. Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register your card with your organization after you sign up.
3. If you do not yet have a Kroger Plus card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.
4. Click on Sign In/Register
5. If you are a new online customer, click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box.
6. Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions
7. You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
8. Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.
9. Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.
10. Update or confirm your information.
11. Enter NPO number (**NPO #SD543**) or name of organization (Presbyterian Ch. Music Prog.), select organization from list and click on confirm.
12. To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization's name on the right side of your information page.
13. REMEMBER, purchases will not count for your group until after you register your card(s).
14. Do you use your phone number at the register? Call 877-576-7587 to get your Kroger Plus card number.
15. Then just swipe your registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to it when shopping and each purchase will yield rewards for Circleville Presbyterian in addition to the rewards you already receive!

The Kroger rewards program has benefited the music programs of the church by returning thousands of dollars over the years. If you shop at Kroger, please register your purchases to the church by following the instructions above. Every April you must re-register to stay current.

NOTES FROM AZ

Many of you were concerned when I said that I was driving to Tucson. I was on the road from Feb. 13 through the afternoon of Feb. 17. Art would have done it in 3 days.

Even though I walk using two canes, that was of no concern to me. I have AAA service (for 50 years), Medical Alert, and On-Star on the GMC Acadia. You should know that the most comfortable chair I own is the driver's seat of my GMC. My back doesn't hurt and my legs work properly while seated in it.

First two days of travel were uneventful except for a detour that sent me through the middle of St. Louis. The third morning began with three hours of raining ice in Joplin, MO. It wasn't expected farther south than Kansas City. It covered I-44 all the way to Tulsa, OK. Being in no rush, I did not leave Joplin until 10:30am. It took an hour to clear the ice from the windows, even though I started the GMC to warm from the inside. MoDot and OkDot brined I-44 to Oklahoma City, so my vehicle was a mess the rest of the way to Tucson. It went to the professional car wash the day after arriving.

Day 5, Sunday, Feb. 17, was an adventure. It began in VanHorn, TX. All the truck stops and car dealerships out here love to fly garrison sized US flags from 50' (and upward) poles. It takes a lot of wind to unfurl that size flag. For seven hours, I herded the GMC through head winds and crosswinds. Driving at 75 mph, all I needed was a proper set of wings to fly. My arms and shoulders ached for two days.

I am packing the house, boxing and shipping things I want to keep, and dividing clothing and household items between Northminster Deacons and Goodwill.

The house is listed with a realtor but goes to MLS on Mar. 27. Unless it sells before that date, I have to move out so my furniture can be sold, and the house cleaned and staged for sale.

The plan is to drive back to Circleville from April 2 to April 6. Please pray for me in this transition. Please, pray for good weather and my safety. Pastor Joel and Marcia Smith will know where I am.

Your Sister in Christ,
Martha Wolfe

THANK YOU

Dearest Church Family,

Thank you all so much for the Facebook condolences, cards, kind words, and visits given to my mother and our family during January and February. We especially wanted to thank the members that helped serve and prepare the delicious meal after her memorial service. We loved the "Buckeye" table arrangement and I'm sure Lois did too. Your thoughtfulness and generosity during this time have been so kind.

Sincerely,

The Family of Lois Jones

ROTARY LAW DAY BREAKFAST - HELP NEEDED

Congregational Care Team is coordinating the Rotary Law Day Breakfast scheduled for Tuesday, May 7 in Campbell Hall. Proceeds will benefit programs and projects of the church. Your help is needed:

Monday, May 6, 9 - 11 AM, to prepare the breakfast casserole and fruit

Monday, May 6, 6:00 PM to set the tables in Campbell Hall

Tuesday, May 7, 6:00 AM, to cook and serve breakfast.

Tuesday, May 7, 8:00 AM, cleanup

We are expecting to serve over 100 for breakfast - so many hands are needed!

Please call or text Alice Harker at 740 - 248 - 6083 (c) or 740 - 474 - 4435 (h) if you are able to help with this project.

SPRING WORKDAY

From dusting to mulch, inside and out, the Trustees are asking you to please come and help with the spring cleaning on Saturday, April 13, 9 to noon. Bring your cleaning supplies, tools, etc. Donuts and coffee will be provided.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Caring Touch

Linda Stevenson

Chapel Hill

Anne Shilling (Paula Thomerson's mother)

Glendora

Woody Jones

Logan Elm Health Care

Donald Maxson

Nancy Weitendorf (Sue Twining's mother)

Pickaway Manor

Eloise Beers (Kathy Studebaker's mother)

Mildred Dyer (Blaine Keckley's mother)

Doris Luna

Sharon Ryan

The Inn at Olentangy Trail

Doris Gruebel

Wyngate

Sharon Sanders (Todd Tomlinson's mother)

Convalescing

Diane Berger

Bill Campbell

Carol Campbell

Judy Corbett

Lou Ann Clark

Scot Clydesdale

Eugene Dowler

Martha Gearhart

Shirley Hall

Jim Hartley

Chris Hedges

Wally Higgins

Marcella Hostetler

Diana Jones

Laura Lamb

Kay Martin

Mitch McAlister

Jimmie McKelvey

Bruce Stevenson

Ron Studebaker

Doris Yamarick

Al York

Martha York

Also Convalescing

Ralph Ankrom (John's dad)

Charley Edgar & Corrine Edgar

Marty (Ward) Hart (Marcella Hostetler's sister)

Becky Myers (Kim Williams' mother)

Betty Topliff (LibbyRushley's mother)

We are sorry if we have missed anyone! If you want someone added or removed, PLEASE call the church office.

LENTEN SERVICE & LUNCH

#2 April 3—St. Joseph Catholic Church

#3 April 10— St. Philip's Episcopal Church

#4 April 17-Community UMC

#5 April 24-Trinity Lutheran Church

Palm Sunday, April 14

Maundy Thursday Service & Communion

7:00pm, April 18

Easter, April 21

CALLING ALL BAKERS & HELP NEEDED

Congregational Care Commission will again be serving lunch to the Pickaway Bar Association and its Administrative Assistants on Wednesday, April 24 at 12:00 noon in Campbell Hall. Although the commission is leading this fundraiser, it by no means is limited to commission members. The proceeds will benefit a cause of the church.

If you love to bake, we are in need of pie, cake and cheesecake. These may be delivered to church on April 23 or anytime before 10:30am on April 24.

If you love to cook, we will need help at 9:30am on April 24 as we set tables and prepare the main dishes.

And if you love to serve, we will need help at 11:30am to serve during the luncheon and afterward as we clean up. If any of these tasks sound fun or fulfilling, please call Marcia Smith at 614-306-8633 or email her at rmsmith74@hotmail.com



CIRCLEVILLE Presbyterian Church

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Website - www.circlevillepresbyterianchurch.com

Please remember to contact the church office with your new address. As bulk mail, the Pres-Line is not forwarded and is returned to the church for a fee.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Organization
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Circleville OH
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Permit Number
195



Looking ahead to.....June /July

June	Summer Schedule begins
23-27	Vacation Bible School
July 19	Deadline Aug./Sept. Pres-line