

Glade Weekly News

June 10-16, 2024



Glade Church, a United Church of Christ (UCC) congregation, is a progressive Christian community—welcoming, compassionate, and joyful—seeking to embrace all people wherever they find themselves in life. We strive to discern God’s still-speaking voice through worship, study, fellowship, and service. We work for God’s peace and social, economic, and ecological justice. We seek a greater understanding of ourselves and others, recognizing that all persons are members of our one human family, God’s family.

Lectionary Readings for the Week

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 *Ezekiel* 17:22-24 *2 Corinthians* 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17 *Mark* 4:26-34

Scripture for the Week

Ezekiel 17:22-24 (CEB)

²² The LORD God proclaims: I myself will take one of the top branches from the tall cedar. I will pluck a tender shoot from its crown, and I myself will plant it on a very high and lofty mountain. ²³ On Israel’s mountainous highlands I will plant it, and it will send out branches and bear fruit. It will grow into a mighty cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it and find shelter in the shade of its boughs. ²⁴ Then all the trees in the countryside will know that I, the LORD, bring down the tall tree and raise up the lowly tree, and make the green tree wither and the dry tree bloom. I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will do it.



Word for the Week

Growth

Pastor Kelly’s Comments on the Scripture

Our passage comes from the lips of a prophet during a time of great suffering for Israel. The people were exiled to Babylon, something that the prophet attributed to the people’s own faithlessness and names King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon an instrument of God, sent to tear down the people of Israel for their disobedience. It’s never easy to know that our dire circumstances are often due to the consequences of choices we make for ourselves.

But here, God is portrayed with profound tenderness, speaking consolation to Their people. God will personally intervene on behalf of Their people, though not with a great army to pulverize the captors. No, God will first prune and plant. The difficult times in Babylon will serve a purpose.

The Merriam-Webster definition of the verb prune is “to cut off or cut back parts of for better shape or more fruitful growth. prune the branches; to cut away what is unwanted or superfluous.” The Israelites went astray of their righteous path with God, so God will use this time to shape the people through hardship to grow back better and stronger than before.

Oftentimes in our own lives, we must endure hardship. And though these difficult times are usually brought about by our own actions or other things beyond our control, such as health problems, God will use these times to prune us, to mold us, to shape us, to help us on our journey to becoming the people that we were born to be. This passage reminds us to give thanks for our difficult times in life. It is during these times that we learn and have new growth.

Kelly Bryant

Office Days: Monday and Tuesday. Kelly isn’t listing hours so as to not place limits on their availability to you. Please contact them for a meeting at a time that fits your schedule on office days. Should you need Pastor Kelly outside of these days, please don’t hesitate to contact them.

540-521-9993, bryantkj@gmail.com.

In Other Words

Taken from:

Change My Heart, O God

by Eddie Espinosa

<https://youtu.be/CEtsHWFE6-w?si=xRrxPkkZ1P4XZ8qb>

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
You are the Potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Announcements for the Week

Join us for worship at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday Morning

Attend in-person at 1600 Glade Rd. Blacksburg, or on Zoom at

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88914981619?pwd=Q3E4Rk95d2llZGtONlVqSDcrMm1xdz09/#_success

Interested in Being Part of the Emergency Response Team?

Let Pastor Kelly know if you are interested in participating in the church's Emergency Response Team.

Signup to Provide Snacks for After Worship Fellowship

There is a [signup sheet outside the sanctuary](#) to sign up to bring a small snack for the fellowship time following worship each Sunday. It can be cookies, fruit, or other small items. Remember, however, that the first Sunday of each month is "Birthday Celebration" when small cakes are welcome.

Opportunities for the Week

Coffee & Devotion Group Meets via Zoom on Wednesday, June 12 at 10:00 am

This virtual get-together meets at 10 a.m. on Zoom and lasts for about an hour for a time to meet people, share thoughts, hear a brief devotion, and join in prayer.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89240288592?pwd=KzhRWlJiQTkzWWRIYTnuRkdPaUNqUTog>

Laundry Love Washes Clothes on Thursday, June 13 from 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Laundry Love has opportunities to volunteer. This is a great way to put "Words" into "Actions" of faith and love. We do this at the laundromat on North Main across from the Y-Thrift Shop. This is not an "evangelism" outreach and we do not say it is a ministry of Glade Church unless someone asks. Like Jesus, we do this out of love and sharing God's grace, meeting people where they live.

[VOLUNTEER FOR LAUNDRY LOVE](#)

Radical Conversations Meets Saturday, June 15 at 11:00 am

Radical Conversations meets from 11:00-12:15 each Saturday morning at the church. This is a time for open discussion of a wide range of topics. We are currently doing a study of Ezra & Nehemiah + Esther from the Hebrew scriptures. It is a topic with considerable meaning for contemporary times.

Everyone is welcome to this informal discussion and fellowship group — many who attend do not attend Glade and we enjoy a wide variety of opinions in our discussions each week.
