

Glade Weekly News

October 7 - 13, 2024



Glade
Church
faith · diversity · justice

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.

Lectionary Readings for the Week

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 — Psalm 90:12-17 — Hebrews 4:12-16 — Mark 10:17-31

Scripture for the Week

Job 1:1, 2:1-10 (Common English Bible)

¹A man in the land of Uz was named Job. That man was honest, a person of absolute integrity; he feared God and avoided evil.

¹One day the divine beings came to present themselves before the Lord. The Adversary also came among them to present himself before the Lord.

²The Lord said to the Adversary, “Where have you come from?”

The Adversary answered the Lord, “From wandering throughout the earth.”

³The Lord said to the Adversary, “Have you thought about my servant Job, for there is no one like him on earth, a man who is honest, who is of absolute integrity, who reveres God and avoids evil? He still holds on to his integrity, even though you incited me to ruin him for no reason.”

⁴The Adversary responded to the Lord, “Skin for skin—people will give up everything they have in exchange for their lives.

⁵But stretch out your hand and strike his bones and flesh. Then he will definitely curse you to your face.”

⁶The Lord answered the Adversary, “There he is—within your power; only preserve his life.”

⁷The Adversary departed from the Lord’s presence and struck Job with severe sores from the sole of his foot to the top of his head.

⁸Job took a piece of broken pottery to scratch himself and sat down on a mound of ashes.

⁹Job’s wife said to him, “Are you still clinging to your integrity? Curse God, and die.”

¹⁰Job said to her, “You’re talking like a foolish woman. Will we receive good from God but not also receive bad?” In all this, Job didn’t sin with his lips.

Word for the Week

Word for the Week

REVELATION
BELEGATION



Pastor Kelly’s Comments on the Scripture

The book of Job gets us to sit with a very uncomfortable question. Why? Ancient peoples, including the author(s) of Job, believed that everything, *EVERYTHING*, that happened to anyone because of how God felt about them. If God was pleased, life was good. If God was displeased, then life was hard.

Following this logic, we’re left with the question of why God would allow such horrible things to happen to an honorable, *innocent* man. Satan, the Adversary, was only following orders from God. Everything done to Job was with God’s knowledge and sanction.

Job was righteous. He had never done a thing wrong. His life was picture-perfect, filled with blessings and abundance. It’s only natural for these people to wonder why bad things would happen to good people.

We even wonder that today, don't we? If God is good, if God is just, how can They allow such horrible things to happen on earth? How can God allow war? How can They allow famine and poverty? Doesn't God care?! Of course, God cares. The problem is that we still view God much like the ancient people of Job did.

We lay the responsibility of every earthly atrocity at the feet of God, taking none of the responsibility for ourselves. We think of God like a personal superhero who will swoop in to make everything right while we never lift a finger. Poverty and war are horrible, but if you pray about it, God will magically make it all go away. For example, the theory of the Rapture is a big reason why so many evangelicals don't care about preserving the environment. God is going to come soon and do away with it all anyway, so what's the point? They don't need to accept responsibility for future generations because we're all living in the last days.

This sort of logic will be the ruination of us all. God is not a personal superhero. God works through us. God is not magic. God guides in our work to end poverty and war ourselves. And God does not punish us through physical or mental illness. Diseases and disorders happen, often with no rhyme or reason, but none of it means that God does not love us. Rather, I believe that illness and other things that make our lives difficult are what cause compassion and kindness to spring forth from our neighbors in ways that might not otherwise happen. They're opportunities for us to grow closer, uplifting and supporting one another.

As we grow and are ready to know the truth, God reveals Himself as They truly are to us. This revelation lets us see that, though God is not a personal superhero, They do work through us, making sure that the arc of the moral universe continues to bend toward justice (MLK). It takes time and a lot of work, but we simply must roll up our sleeves and do absolutely everything that we can to fight injustice. God takes care of the rest, and that is what makes all change possible.

Kelly Bryant

Office Day Next Week: Friday, October 18th Kelly isn't listing hours 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:

Where Is the Love

By: will.i.am, apl.de. ap, Taboo, Justin Timberlake, Printz Board, Michael Fratantuno, George Pajon
<https://youtu.be/FS0JLSVBo70?si=SqUjVhNExn7aX89h>

What's wrong with the world, Mama?
People livin' like they ain't got no mamas
I think the whole world's addicted to the drama
Only attracted to things that'll bring you trauma
Overseas, yeah, we tryna stop terrorism
But we still got terrorists here livin'
In the USA, the big CIA
The Bloods and the Crips and the KKK
But if you only have love for your own race
Then you only leave space to discriminate
And to discriminate only generates hate
And when you hate, then you're bound to get irate, yeah
Madness is what you demonstrate
And that's exactly how anger works and operates
Man, you gotta have love just to set it straight
Take control of your mind and meditate
Let your soul gravitate to the love

It just ain't the same, old ways have changed
New days are strange, is the world insane?
If love and peace is so strong
Why are there pieces of love that don't belong?
Nations droppin' bombs
Chemical gases filling lungs of little ones
With ongoing sufferin' as the youth die young
So ask yourself, is the lovin' really gone?
So I can ask myself, really, what is going wrong

With this world that we livin' in? People keep on givin' in
Makin' wrong decisions, only visions of them dividends
Not respectin' each other, deny thy brother
A war is goin' on, but the reason's undercover
The truth is kept secret, and swept under the rug
If you never know truth, then you never know love
We only got one world, one world.

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=Q3E4Rk95d2llZGtONlVqSDcrMm1xdzO9/#_success

Coffee & Devotion Group Meets via Zoom on Wednesday, September 25 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. This time of fellowship is open to everyone, It's a time to gather for conversation, devotion and prayer. Come meet some people you may not know.

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

Laundry Love

**Thursday, October 10 from 6:00-8:00 pm
at North Main Laundromat.**

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. Click below to volunteer!

[VOLUNTEER FOR LAUNDRY LOVE](#)

Radical Conversations [RadCon] Meets Saturdays 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. RadCon is open to any and every interested individual.

We are doing a series of programs about Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the world of religions. How might the future of AI change the nature of religion—church, synagogue, mosque, temple? How might it impact or even change you?

We began with a brief article and video from the BBC [British Broadcasting Company] that you might find interesting as an introduction to the topic.

God and robots: Will AI transform religion?

BBC, 21 October 2021

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/technology-58983047>

Artificial Intelligence is changing how we interact with everything, from food to healthcare, travel and also religion.

Experts say major global faiths are discussing their relationship with AI, and some are starting to incorporate this technology into their worship. Robot priests can recite prayers, deliver sermons, and even comfort those experiencing a spiritual crisis.

BBC Global Religion reporter Sofia Bettiza has taken a look at whether AIs relationship with religion is just a gimmick, or whether it can truly transform how people experience faith.

Spiritual Formation Coming in October!

Each Sunday morning from 9:45-10:30 we'll begin a time for Spiritual Formation for all ages.

There also will be a time for fellowship and snacks. It's a good time to get to know people better.

Look for more information coming soon. If you have questions, talk with Pastor Kelly for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Denise Dodd and Marshall McDaniel are getting married October 12th @ 1 PM at Glade Church, 1600 Glade Road, Blacksburg, 24060.

Everyone is invited to the ceremony and potluck reception downstairs.

Link to sign up for potluck:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1l6I_H6VgqtT9uJGYZ9wv5ZuR83xyEv70Q3gRpzZnTfQ/edit?usp=sharing

See image below for information on donating to their favorite charities in lieu of gifts and the QR code/link/email address to share photos you take at the ceremony and reception.



Hispanic Heritage Month September 15 – October 15

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

MES DE LA HERENCIA HISPANA



Para que todos sean uno; como tú, oh Padre, en mí, y yo en ti, que también ellos sean uno en nosotros; para que el mundo crea que tú me enviaste. Juan 17:21

I pray they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. I pray that they also will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me. John 17:21



John 17:21 is the scriptural foundation of the United Church of Christ