

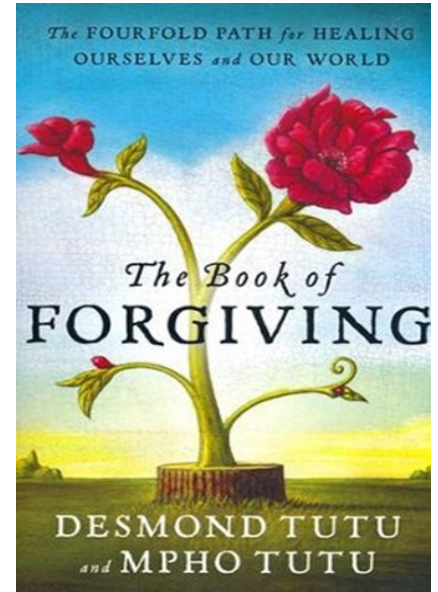
The Brooke ~ June 2021

Dear Church Family,

“Forgiveness is nothing less than the way we heal the world. We heal the world by healing each and every one of our hearts. The process is simple, but it is not easy.” — Desmond Tutu, *The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World*

These words offer just a glimpse of the wisdom from the wonderful book by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his daughter Mpho Tutu. Throughout the month of June we'll be studying this book alongside passages of scripture that teach us about God's forgiveness and invite us to be forgiving and reconciling people. Here are the verses we'll look to:

June 6 th	Matthew 18:15-22
June 13 th	2 Corinthians 7:8-11
June 20 th	Genesis 50:17-21
June 27 th	2 Timothy 3:1-5, 14-17



As we begin this new sermon series on Sunday, May 30th, we'll first reflect together on Micah 7:18-19, which reads, “Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity, overlooking the sin of the few remaining for his inheritance? He doesn’t hold on to his anger forever; he delights in faithful love. He will once again have compassion on us; he will tread down our iniquities. You will hurl all our sins into the depths of the sea.” I especially love that imagery of our sins being thrown to the bottom of the ocean, and on Sunday we'll do an activity in worship to remind us of that promise. If you're receiving a paper copy of this newsletter, you'll also find a small piece of thin paper attached where you're invited to write something you'd like to ask God to forgive, perhaps something that you've been holding on to for a long time and having difficulty letting go. This special paper reminds us of the promise of Micah and a God who erases our sins in the water. Sunday morning we'll each write our own thoughts on a piece of this paper and then place it into a bowl of water. If you do this at home on Sunday, watch what happens to the words you've written and remember the promise of God's forgiveness.

I'm looking forward to worshipping with you throughout this month!

*Blessings,
Pastor Violet*

On June 6th, Pastor Violet will be reviewing the Rule of Christ method for conflict resolution. For your reference, here is the full outline:

Rule of Christ

The Northern Illinois Conference has an approach to conflict resolution that all churches are recommended to follow when seeking to resolve disagreements. Based on Biblical models of restoring broken relationships, this approach involves six steps that are listed below.

We give thanks that most disagreements among us are quickly resolved between the people who are impacted, but we want to remind you that we have a process in place to address any more serious issues. As you will see in the following documents, the first step is to process the issue on your own by writing responses to “Discernment Journal” prompts. If, after that and conversation with the other person affected, the conflict is not resolved, you can complete a “Concern Summary” form asking for conversation with Staff Parish Relations Committee. These forms are copied below and can also be found in the church library.

The Rule of Christ exists as a tool we hope not to have to use, but we wanted you to be aware of the conflict resolution process that we and all other churches in our conference have in place. Please note that this process does not apply to the very serious issues of abuse or harassment, and if you ever suspect or experience such a thing please talk to the pastor, SPRC chair, and/or police as you feel comfortable. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask, or read more about the Rule of Christ by visiting this website:

<https://www.umcnic.org/media/files/resources/Rule-of-Christ-Documents.pdf>

DISCERNMENT JOURNAL

For personal use, not to be shared with anyone

Matthew 18 provides a process Christians can use to resolve conflicts. The first step in this process (verses 8-9) asks you to examine yourself. This journal will help you do that. The second step in the process (verse 15) is to go directly to the person, “when the two of you are alone” and work it out if you can

Begin in prayer. Ask God for direction and then complete this journal.

Briefly identify the issue: (Use only one sentence. This will help you focus)

Your position on the issue:

Your perception of the other person’s/group’s position on the issue:

Put yourself in the other person’s/group’s shoes.

What might they say that you have contributed to the conflict?

Describe the need you want to have addressed. There is a need for:

What are some possible Scripture images for this situation:

Is there a history behind your concern? Is this history impacting your reactions?

What steps can you take to remain calm, confident and connected to the other person?

Author Rev. Terry N. Gladstone

Rule of Christ ~ A Biblical Process for Dealing with Concerns

Step One: Look at Yourself (Matthew 18:8-9)

Jesus tells us to take time to examine our role in the conflict. Ask yourself these questions:

- Can I let it go? (If the answer is yes, there is no need to confront the other person.) If not...
- What may the other person perceive that I have contributed to this problem?
- What does God see?

Journal on these questions to gain insight for the next steps. At this point, you may see things in your own behavior that needs changing. Resolve to do that. Think through what it is you hope to communicate with the person with whom you are in conflict, and what you would like to see as an outcome.

Step Two: One on One (Matthew 18:15)

The purpose of the second step is to resolve the conflict....not to get mad or to get even. Remember to:

- Speak for yourself by starting your sentences with "I"
- Work hard to understand the other person's point of view
- Work together to create solutions

If not resolved by a one-on-one conversation....

Step Three: Get Some Objective Help (Matthew 18:16)

Others can help the two parties see possibilities. You can invite someone to come with you as you meet with the other person to help mediate or facilitate the process. Or you can involve the SPRC to assist in you resolving this concern. To do that:

- Make sure you have done steps 1 and 2 first.
 - Write a one page summary of your concern and give it to the SPRC.
 - The SPRC upon reviewing the concern will work with you in resolving the issue.
- If not resolved by involving the SPRC...

Step Four: Take It to the Church (Matthew 18:17a)

Use the resources of the Church. This might be the time to bring in the Conflict Transformation Team or to be in contact with the District Superintendent. If not resolved by outside help from the wider church...

Step Five: Shake the Dust (Matthew 18:17b)

There are some issues that cannot be resolved. The church should remember its mission. Let go of the anger and disappointment at the unresolved issues and move on with your ministry.

Step Six: God is There (Matthew 18:20) Remember God's powerful promise to be with us in the midst of our problems.

Concern Summary
(to be shared with SPRC and the parties involved)

Your name:

Date:

Name the person or group with whom you have a concern:

Briefly describe the issue: (use only one or two sentences. This will help you focus.)

Briefly describe the steps you have taken to resolve and communicate this concern with the party(ies) involved:

What have the two of you agreed to?

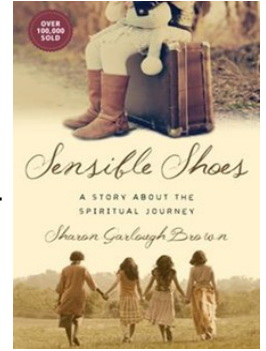
What remains to be resolved?

State your desired outcome as a need.
(It is very important to be concise in this statement. That will provide clarity for the committee.)

I need....

Book Study

Please join Deb Thingvold as she leads a book study starting July 7 @ 7 pm. This study will last for 12 weeks, one chapter each week, meeting for approximately 45 minutes to an hour. The book we will be reading is *Sensible Shoes*, a Story about the Spiritual Journey by Sharon Garlough Brown. The story follows the lives of 4 women as they are drawn into a spiritual formation journey at a retreat center. Deb will be leading the group via Zoom, however arrangements can be made for a joint viewing at the church if you would prefer to join that way. Once this book is completed, there are three more books in the series if we are interested in going further into their journey. If you have questions, please call Deb @ 262-424-4374 or debthingvold@gmail.com.



On June 8, 2021, we will meet at 12:30 PM at Stockholm Inn for our lunch. Time to be together again and enjoy fellowship and food. RSVP to Lyla Flynn if you plan to join us.

Church Fellowship

What? Yes, Fellowship is returning after Worship on Sunday, June 6. There is one change we're making for now – no coffee. We will have treats and juice. If you would like to furnish treats or donate juice, there will soon be a sign up sheet in the lobby on the bulletin board. Thank you.

Monthly Finance Update

The Finance Committee has provided the following Current Fund information:

April income: \$9,801.78 April disbursements: \$14,192.14

This information is always available to anyone who wants it by contacting Judy Parks (Finance Chair) or Sandy McCallum (Treasurer).

Birthdays and Anniversaries

June 5

Randy Cook
Mary Ann Sarver
Joe Warner

June 9

Steve Witz

June 10

Denny O'Hara

June 15

Don Carlson

June 16

Kyle Johnicker

June 24

Sara Pirrello

June 26

Shelby Coleman
Joanne Talbott

June 30

Jack O'Hara

June 2

Bob & Joanne McKinney

June 8

Don & JoAnne Carlson

June 14

Shelby Colman & Cheryl May

June 18

Randy & Jan Cook

June 25

Chas & Judy Parks

Call...Pray...Visit...Write

Erma Albee
Dave Bargren
Boots Baxter
Chris Beebe
Shelby Coleman & Cheryl May
John & Hazel Dyke
Emerge Church
Debbie Gorzek
Debbie Hintzsche

Peggy Kennedy
Pastor Violet, Kyle, Lincoln
Harvey May
Denny & Sharon O'Hara
Jackie Parod
John Pippel
Vicky Quist
Ron Ross
John Sauer

Phyllis Stafseth
Charlene Taylor
Vivian Schwab
Maxine Zolk
Tom & Cynthia Zolk

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00am TOPS 9:15am Zumba 5:30pm VBS Planning 6:30pm Zumba	2	3 9:15am Zumba 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Zumba	4 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	5
6 10:00am Worship	7 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	8 9:00am TOPS 9:15am Zumba 12:30pm UMW lunch at Stockholm Inn 5:30pm Finance 6:30pm Trustees 6:30pm Zumba	9	10 9:15am Zumba 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Zumba	11 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	12
13 10:00am Worship	14 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	15 9:00am TOPS 9:15am Zumba 12:30pm Mona's Paper Angel Closet 6:00pm Council 6:30pm Zumba	16	17 9:15am Zumba 10:00am Bible Study 2:00pm - 2:45pm Library Mobile Unit 6:30pm Zumba	18 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	19
20 10:00am Worship	21 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	22 9:00am TOPS 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	23	24 9:15am Zumba 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Zumba	25 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	26
27 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Book Group at Warners'	28 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	29 9:00am TOPS 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	30			

Our Mission at The Brooke is.

to transform lives
through faith, love, and service.

Our Vision for The Brooke is.

to be a transforming congregation
of believers to serve the community,
renew lives, and build faith.

**BROOKE ROAD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

1404 BROOKE ROAD
ROCKFORD, IL 61109

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Library Mobile Unit

Rockford Public Library Mobile Unit will be in our west lot (2:00pm - 2:45pm) the following days:

June 17

July 8

July 29

August 19

Thursday Bible Study at 10am

Click here to join the Zoom video call
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/331462010>

OR

call 1-312-626-6799
and when prompted enter code 331-462-010

Sunday Worship Service at 10am

Visit the church Facebook page
to watch the livestream and
participate in the comments section:
www.facebook.com/TheBrookeRockford

OR

Call 1-312-626-6799 and
when prompted enter code 810-0983-5011

OR

Listen via Zoom video call by clicking this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81009835011>

Pastor Violet

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Rockford, IL 61109

Church Office

Phone 815-398-8914
Email brookeroadumc@outlook.com
Website the-brooke.org
Address 1404 Brooke Road
Rockford, IL 61109
Hours M - Th ~ 9:00am - 3:00pm

Social Media Links

facebook.com/TheBrookeRockford
instagram.com/BrookeRoadUMC
twitter.com/BrookeRoadUMC