



The Circuit Writer

Feeding the Spirit, Mind and Body

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MARQUIS MEMORIAL UMC | AUGUST 2019 – VOLUME 19

BEST YEAR EVER!

From the Pastor's Heart...

In keeping with my recent sermon series on “Why? Making Sense of God’s Will,” I offer you a book review on author Kate Bowler’s “Everything Happens for a Reason – And Other Lies I have Loved.” Kate Bowler is a professor at Duke Divinity School with a modest Christian upbringing, but she specializes in the study of the prosperity gospel, a creed that sees fortune as a blessing from God and misfortune as a mark of God's disapproval. At thirty-five, everything in her life seems to point toward “blessing.” She is thriving in her job, married to her high school sweetheart, and loves life with her newborn son.

Then she is diagnosed with stage IV colon cancer.

The prospect of her own mortality forces Kate to realize that she has been quietly subscribing to the prosperity gospel, living with the conviction that she can control the shape of her life with “a surge of determination.” Even as this type of Christianity celebrates the American can-do spirit, it implies that if you “can't do” and succumb to illness or misfortune, you are a failure. Kate is very sick, and no amount of positive thinking will shrink her tumors. What does it mean to die, she wonders, in a society that insists everything happens for a reason? Kate is stripped of this certainty only to discover that without it, life is hard but beautiful in a way it never has been before.

I became acquainted with Bowler’s book while going through my Chaplain Residency at the University of Virginia, 2017-2018. As most of you are aware, I view this pithy Christian

(continued on the next page)

Church Events

- 8/4 Communion Sunday Worship and Back to School Blessing 10:30 am (Sanctuary)
- 8/11 Sunday Worship 10:30 am (Sanctuary)
- 8/11 Ice Cream Social 11:30 am (Social Hall)
- 8/12 Church Council 6:30 pm (Social Hall)
- 8/13 West End Alliance 6:30 pm (Social Hall)
- 8/15 Choir Practice Resumes (Sanctuary)
- 8/18 Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am (Sanctuary)
- 8/19 Newsletter Deadline 12:00 pm
- 8/25 Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am (Sanctuary)
- Food Pantry every Wed at 9 am
- Bible Study every Wed at 6:30 pm in Office Work Room
- Choir Practice every Thu at 6:30 pm in Sanctuary (beginning 8/15)

platitude “everything happens for a reason,” with a hugely skeptical eye. I have come to this conclusion both in my own personal experiences and through sharing in the lives of my congregants for nearly 20 years.

One of the excerpts from Bowler’s book which had the most impact upon me is when Kate shares about her old Sunday school teacher, Carol, who helped her get into her sheep costume for the Christmas pageant year after year. “A couple of Christmases ago, I saw Carol over one of the pews and reached out to give her a hug, remembering only at the last second that she had recently been diagnosed with cancer. I couldn’t figure out what to say when we pulled away and I found I was just staring into her smiling face, stammering something about how sorry I was. She looked back at me with such calm and said something I had never heard anyone say. “I have known Christ in so many good times,” she said, sincerely and directly, “and now I will know Him in his sufferings.” WOW! I all my years of ministry, I have never encountered such an attitude. Later, Bowler comments that while she was sure Carol wanted and prayed for healing – she prayed for more than to be spared. She prayed in the long night of Advent that her waiting would end with a better angle of vision on the baby born to die. Again, WOW.

I recognize this Christian platitude does bring comfort to some people which I would never want to destroy. My caution in our attempt to comfort another who has either received bad news, or is in the midst of a crisis, is to be mindful of both possibilities – that while the words, “Everything happens for a reason,” is comforting to some; for others it sounds flip and uncaring. Our American stick-to-itiveness often leaves us feeling helpless in the face of tragedy and disease and there often is nothing worse for our “can do” spirit when we realize we just don’t have that much power. We cannot fix everything. Like that adorable picture circulating the internet of a dog wearing the “cone of shame,” with a kitten lying close inside the cone comforting him – this is not the only thing you and I can do in the midst of comforting another person...it is the BEST thing we can do.



Frank and funny, dark and wise, Kate Bowler pulls the reader deeply into her life in an account she populates affectionately with a colorful, often hilarious retinue of friends, mega-church preachers, relatives, and doctors. “Everything Happens for a Reason” tells her story, offering up her irreverent, hard-won observations on dying and the ways it has taught her to live. This can be a challenging read, but a good one.

You are loved, Pastor Tizzy

SCHOOL BLESSING

On Sunday, August 4th Pastor Tizzy will have a “Back to School Blessing” for students and teachers during the Time with Young People. ALL students and teachers are invited to come up during this time and bring their backpacks/bags!

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

On Sunday August 11th, the children will host an Ice Cream Social after church. All are invited to come to the Social Hall for lunch and ice cream!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Peggy Barkley	Kim Rohr
Dave Botkin	Peggy Rohr
Kelly Botkin	George Sanderson
Phil Carletti	Katherine Sheets
Ron Carletti	Faye Shifflett
John Clatterbaugh	Leta Wimer
Carmen Collins	Tommy Wood
Fitz Fairfield	Those in the Armed Services
Jonathan Gillette	The United Methodist Church
Jerry Harman	Our Local United Methodist Churches
Wendy Harman	Our Community
Linda Hutton	Our Nation
Marcella Landram	
William Lawhorne	
Skip Low	
Fern Moran	
Elizabeth Poe	
Jim Rohr	

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

This summer we have welcomed the following members via transfer of membership from another United Methodist Church:

- * Ray Meek & Judy Meek (posthumously)
- * Vern Walker
- * Tommy & Peggy Rosen

Please join us in welcoming the newest members of our Marquis family!

BIRTHDAYS

1 Linda Hulvey	16 Charles Ergenbright
2 Rebecca Dempsey	18 Megan Luckey
Tim Morris	20 Mike Doyle
GlenSmith	23 Sue Vance
Branson Shifflett	24 Charles Johnson
4 Sarah Barton White	25 John Hodges
9 Carla Snyder Colvin	26 Barry Campbell
10 Frank James	28 Shirley Peterson
Toni Landrum	29 Kathy Bush
13 Dicky Fauver	30 Gary Swats
Amelia Mick	

BIBLE READING PLAN

In 2019 we'll be reading the Bible from start to finish, from Genesis to Revelation.

Thu, 8/1	Isaiah 18-22
Fri, 8/2	Isaiah 23-27
Sat, 8/3	Isaiah 28-30
Sun, 8/4	Isaiah 31-35
Mon, 8/5	Isaiah 36-41
Tue, 8/6	Isaiah 42-44
Wed, 8/7	Isaiah 45-48
Thu, 8/8	Isaiah 49-53
Fri, 8/9	Isaiah 54-58
Sat, 8/10	Isaiah 59-63
Sun, 8/11	Isaiah 64-66
Mon, 8/12	Jeremiah 1-3
Tue, 8/13	Jeremiah 4-6
Wed, 8/14	Jeremiah 7-9
Thu, 8/15	Jeremiah 10-13
Fri, 8/16	Jeremiah 14-17
Sat, 8/17	Jeremiah 18-22
Sun, 8/18	Jeremiah 23-25
Mon, 8/19	Jeremiah 26-29
Tue, 8/20	Jeremiah 30-31
Wed, 8/21	Jeremiah 32-34
Thu, 8/22	Jeremiah 35-37
Fri, 8/23	Jeremiah 38-41
Sat, 8/24	Jeremiah 42-45
Sun, 8/25	Jeremiah 46-48
Mon, 8/26	Jeremiah 49-50
Tue, 8/27	Jeremiah 51-52
Wed, 8/28	Lamentations 1-3:36
Thu, 8/29	Lamentations 3:37-5:22
Fri, 8/30	Ezekiel 1-4
Sat, 8/31	Ezekiel 5-8

ANNIVERSARY

♥ Congratulations to Phil & Lois Carletti who are celebrating their 56th wedding anniversary on August 17th.

THANK YOU

Thanks to all for the nice cards, calls, visits and concerns shared with me for the past few months as I recovered. They were so much appreciated. Love and God bless each of you, Leta Wimer

To Our Church Family, Many thanks for all the cards, visits, phone calls, and prayers that everyone at Marquis Memorial United Methodist Church has graciously extended to our family. Ron "Big Daddy" will truly be missed but our memories will last forever. The love this church has given us is greatly appreciated during this difficult time. We thank Pastor Tizzy for her many visits and thoughtfulness. With heavy hearts we send love to each of you. Your expressions of sympathy will always be remembered. ~ Janet Hatcher & Family

Thanks to everyone for their calls, cards, and prayers during my recent surgery. ~ Tim Hanger

ONLINE GIVING - INTERESTED?

The Finance Committee is researching and considering the option of online giving. We have been looking into several different platforms and PayPal seems to be our best option. PayPal will give our donors a secure way to donate electronically without having to share their full financial information. It will also offer the convenience of setting up recurring donations, making donations even if you miss a Sunday and eliminate the need to write a check or obtain cash for your Sunday morning envelope. As a non-profit, PayPal would charge us a fee of 2.2% of the donation + a .30 fee per transaction. What does this mean? Here's an example, if you make a \$50.00 donation, PayPal would charge \$1.40 in fees and the church would receive a donation of \$48.60. The donor has the option of choosing whether to increase the donation by a few dollars in order to cover the applicable fees.

Before we delve too far into the process, we'd like to see how many members would be interested in utilizing this option. If you would be interested, please contact Caryn in the church office at secretary@marquismemorial.org or 540-886-1176 by Sunday, August 11th. We plan to make a decision on this issue at our next council meeting, August 12th.

MISSION COMMITTEE

As summer continues, a reminder to those that have gardens, please donate your extra produce to the food pantry.

During August we will continue to collect school supplies for the food pantry. Once again we are asking for general supplies and backpacks. Items can be left on the table in the arcade.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Happy Summer! The Evangelism has been busy this summer with giving out free water bottles and hotdogs (over 200!) at the Staunton 4th of July parade based on **our** continual theme of sharing God's love in practical ways. Also, we have been available for the events every Tuesday at the Praise in the Park with our Prayer Tent. God is moving in amazing ways and he is doing it through his people at Marquis!