

September 4, 2022

CENTENNIAL NEWS

All Are
Welcome

COMMITMENT
are you all in?

• • GET CONNECTED • •

This is a copy of our Email Newsletter, all links referred to can be found at www.centennialumc.org when you click on the button that says "Upcoming Church Events."

You can also find information on our website about Small Groups, Care Teams, Service Opportunities, Kids & Youth Activities, Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Adult Music Groups, and other Support.

JOIN US FOR
SUNDAY WORSHIP
IN-PERSON & ONLINE



Join us for our Sunday Worship services:

Worship at Roseville Campus is at 9:00am and will be live streamed on our Youtube Channel [\[CLICK HERE\]](#).
St. Anthony Park Worship is at 10:30am and is live streamed on our Facebook Page [\[CLICK HERE\]](#).

Preaching this week:
Pastor Dave Comstock

DAVE'S DELIBERATIONS



God is Good, but...life can still be painful. Fifteen years ago this September 13th, I was witness to a fatal car accident on my way to work in Marion. A young man in his early twenties passed me at a high rate of speed and disappeared over a rise in the road. When I crested the hill myself a few SECONDS later, the accident was over. I saw things that I had hoped I would never see. There was nothing for me to do except to pray with the one other witness and to await the arrival of the police. We prayed for the young man, for ourselves, and for his parents, and for the emergency responders. I still pray for all of those people when the seasons begin to turn and there is a bright sunny September morning. Here are a few of the things I learned as a result of that experience.

1. Life is fragile and the thread that links us to this world is gossamer thin. It was less than 10 seconds between when the young man passed me and when I saw the aftermath of the accident.
2. Because of that, the first thing I HAD – to do – LONGED to do -- was to call my own sons and hear their voices and tell them that I love them. Treasure those you love and tell them that you love them. Deal directly with the issues that you have and don't waste one precious second on pouting, yelling, hurting each others feelings, or playing games with each other.
3. Even though my car wasn't involved in the accident... I WAS. My wife and others in my support network helped me to see that what happened to me on that day was trauma and that it was real. On their advice, I took my feelings and the "intrusive images" from the accident seriously, and began through prayer and conversation with trusted friends to process and integrate what I had seen.
4. I needed to share – to some degree – the details of my experience with others which meant sharing the violence and letting them share the trauma with me second hand. I only shared everything with Carol. She was willing to receive these wounds because she loves me. This was part of what our marriage vows meant thirty three years ago. We can't "go it alone". We need each other.
5. Through my conversations with others I realized that I needed some act of "closure" and decided to attend the calling hours for the young man. That turned out to be an important healing for me. Seeing his extended, loving circle of family and friends, his baby pictures, and his body laid out so respectfully and lovingly gave me a new and better "last impression" of this young man's life and took the edge off of my memories of the crash scene.
6. Never underestimate the power of prayer. The other witness and I prayed that morning simply because we didn't know what else to do. Little did we know how important that would be to his family later, to know that in those first few moments after their son's death that brothers and sisters in the faith were already holding him, and them, up to God for healing. Hearing that helped me to see God's purpose in putting me there at that time and in that place. Somehow it's easier to bear a burden when you know you are carrying it for a reason.
7. Finally, I learned that God IS good ALL the time ... even in the midst of pain and loss and horror and death. Life isn't always good... but God is.

As the weather begins to turn toward Fall, I find myself thinking about these events again, as I do every Fall, and marveling at God's faithfulness! Love each other and treasure each moment. Life is beautiful but it's also fragile. God is Good.

Pastor Dave

• TOP ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS •

Welcome Sunday Cookout St. Anthony Park Campus: Sunday, September 11th 11:30am St. Anthony Park Campus Lawn | Join us on Sunday, September 11th for a welcome Sunday cookout following the worship service at the SAP campus! Hotdogs, brats and vegetarian/vegan dogs. No need to bring sides, all provided! Bring a lawn chair or picnic blanket and join us! If you would like to help prep or serve, email Amanda Schultz at mandaroo112@gmail.com

Food Insecurity Help: More than 300,000 children in Minnesota live with food insecurity. Some of these children attend Edgerton Elementary in the Roseville Area School District. For several years, Church and Society has provided volunteers to pack nutritious food in backpacks for weekends when children don't have access to school prepared meals. Bags of food include those with East African, Latino and Southeast Asian dietary preferences and those with ready to eat items for students in transitory housing situations. Distribution is generally once a month on Friday with occasional Thursdays or Wednesdays depending on the school calendar and take less than an hour. Starting date is still to be determined but will occur in September. If you would like to volunteer, contact Bonnie Koch, toouray@aol.com.

Connect Cards: SO... how important is it that I fill out a connection card?? IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT!! As we slowly emerge from the pandemic it is critical for the pastoral staff to know who is still with us and who may have slipped away during the time when normal church life was interrupted. One of the best ways to know that is to pay attention to who is regularly participating in worship in person and via the internet. So please fill out either a paper or electronic connect card [\[CLICK HERE\]](#).

• SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES •

Mentors needed! Confirmation classes are starting up this September and we would love to partner each student with a mentor from our congregation. Each mentor needs to take our Safe Gatherings training beforehand which includes a background check prior to starting. Commitment is two Sunday evenings a month for the school year, full calendar provided upon request. For more information or to volunteer for this or other youth ministry opportunities, contact Amanda Schultz at mandaroo112@gmail.com

Help Centennial be good Earthkeepers: In an attempt to take a step to do our best job to save the planet and be good stewards of the earth as God would want, we have started a new composting program and need volunteers at Sunday morning coffee hour and other church events to guide people at the new composting, trash recycling bins that are now in place throughout the church (Roseville Site). Contact Carole White at 651-343-2847 or cjwdew1@comcast.net

• COMMUNITY RESOURCES •

Free Farmers Market Drive Thru Events: All are welcome! You will receive free, fresh fruits and vegetables. Multiple days and locations. Please register through the website. Learn more at: <https://keystoneservices.org/>

Wellness Education Classes: Connect with others and gain tools that can help you take control of your health by participating in a wellness education class through 2nd Half with Lyngblomsten. Fall 2022 classes include: A Matter of Balance (Sept 12-Oct 31, 1:30-3:30pm), Powerful Tools for Caregivers (Sept 20-Oct 25, 1:00-2:30pm) and Living Well with Chronic Conditions (Sept 28-Nov 2, 1-3pm). Visit www.lyngblomsten.org/wellnesseducation for more information and to register.

• THANK YOU •

Kids in Need Foundation Support: Church and Society thanks CUMC members for their generous help to make sure students in under-resourced schools get supplies they need to begin a successful new school year. We collected \$1,390 in monetary donations and large bags of actual items from both campuses that were delivered to the Kids in Need Foundation for distribution. Your supplies will provide conducive classroom experiences for students with the tools they need to be prepared, participate, and engage in learning.

[Would you like to submit something to run in our Centennial News? CLICK HERE.](#)

GIVE REMOTELY

QR code if you would like to give online.

You can Text the amount of your donation to:
844-945-2571
Then follow the directions on your phone to complete the donation.

NEWS SUBMISSIONS

QR code to submit an announcement to the Centennial News