

2020



2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9 am to 2 pm & 4–6 pm Iglesia Del Septimo
2 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal; 10:30 Morning Worship, Communion and Sunday School; 11:30 am Coffee Hour; 12:00 pm Confirmation	3	4 10:30 am Staff Meeting	5	6	7	8 9 am to 1 pm & 4–6 pm Iglesia Del Septimo Dia
9 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal; 10:30 Morning Worship and Sunday School; 11:30 am Coffee Hour; 12:00 pm Board of Spiritual Life	10	11 10:30 am Staff Meeting	12 10:00 am Wisconsin Minister's Fellowship	13 6:30 pm Board of Trustees	14 	15 9 am to 1 pm & 4–6 pm Iglesia Del Septimo Dia
16 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal; 10:30 Morning Worship and SS; 11:30 am Coffee Hour; 12:00 pm Confirmation Class; 3:00 pm Concert Series	17	18 10:00 am Book Club Spring Primary Election	19	20	21	22 9 am to 1 pm & 4–6 pm Iglesia Del Septimo Dia
23 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal; 10:30 Morning Worship and Sunday School; 11:30 am Coffee Hour	24	25 10:30 am Staff Meeting	26 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	27	28	29 9 am to 1 pm & 4–6 pm Iglesia Del Septimo Dia

Pastor Cindy on vacation February 19-25

February 2020

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Minister's Musings

Winter is here and last week I finished creating the worship services for Lent and Easter. As I did this work, it was getting colder and colder outside. And then, over the weekend, we had some good snow. Those two things happening in the same week—winter cold and snow and planning for Easter—made me think of the new life that we have to look forward to.

Right now, in Epiphany, we celebrate the light of Christ. We learn about it and do our best to live in that light. It is a great gift to us, for light allows us to see. With light we see not only the physical that is in front of us, but also the spiritual that so often seems to be hidden.

I don't believe that God hides the spiritual truth from us, but rather that we put up walls and road blocks that keep us from seeing the illumination Jesus brings. We are too busy, or we are afraid to go deep. We dismiss the joy and beauty of God's Kingdom because of the urgent needs of the world in front of us.

What we need to realize is that these things are not mutually exclusive. In fact, God created us that we might be able to see how it all goes together. Let me try to explain—the spiritual gives us perspective for the earthly. The earthly needs the spiritual. And, when we view the earthly from the spiritual perspective, it allows us to be more mindful of why God has placed us in these situations. It sheds light on what gifts we have been given to deal with all that is earthly—all those everyday necessary things that fill our time each day.

You see, in God's Kingdom it is all one, the earthly and the spiritual. The spiritual is where we are to live in order to live best in the earthly. And so, when you are feeling overwhelmed with the things of this earthly life, think of it from God's perspective. When time seems to be running out in your schedule, stop and say a prayer.

Martin Luther used to say that he prayed an hour every day, except the days when he was really busy. Those days he prayed for two hours! This is a good lesson for us on how to view the powerful and necessary connection between God's realm and this earthly one. They are one, they are woven together. We just need to learn how to see them that way. And when we do, we will have new life, just as God intended.

Pastor Cindy

Church Office Hours
Please call or e-mail
Pastor Cindy to set up
an appointment.
cabaconhammer@gmail.com
274-0833

Little Pilgrims' Hours
6:30am-5:30pm
jessmacarlson@live.com
(608) 274-1675

♥ happy ♥
Valentine's
♥ day ♥

Sunday School



Our Sunday School class is going very well this winter. Our teachers are a shining example of faith for our children. And, our children are wise and faithful beyond their years.

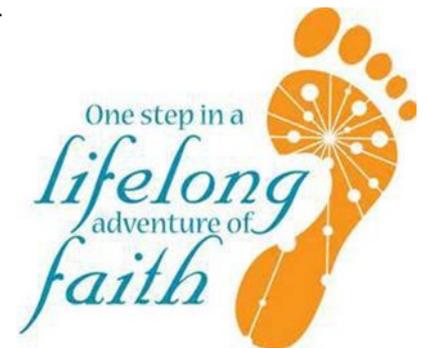
On Sunday, February 9, we will be making valentines for our older members. Pastor Cindy will provide all the supplies needed. Please come with your creativity ready to work! See you then!

Confirmation

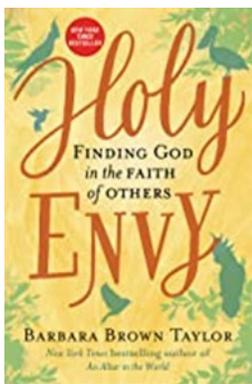
Our Confirmation class began with a bang on Sunday, January 12! Our first class since 2013, our three students are Maya Hilgendorf, Thea Leuschen and Sydney Taylor. Bibles in hand, at this first meeting, they read and learned and shared with great enthusiasm, wisdom and care during our first session.

As our journey continues, please ask these bright young ladies how it is going in Confirmation class—what they are studying, what have they learned, what have they found most interesting.

The rite of Confirmation will be held on Sunday, May 31, Pentecost Sunday. Please be here to congratulate, pray for and support these three students on the completion of their course of study.



Adult Education



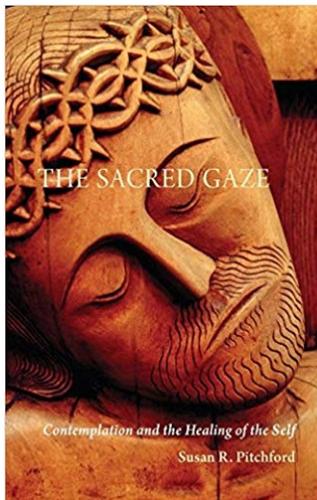
Since our class on Congregationalism was unable to begin in January due to scheduling conflicts, it has been moved to summer. Pastor Cindy will come out with a schedule for the summer class in early May.

Our Book Club will continue reading Barbara Brown Taylor's *Holy Envy* in February. We will meet on February 18 and discuss chapters 7-12.

Our Lenten Book Study begins on Wednesday, March 4. We will meet each week at 6 pm and begin with soup and bread. After a short worship time, we will then begin our book study.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2



Together we will look at the book *The Sacred Gaze*, by Susan R. Pitchford. I heard Dr. Pitchford speak last fall at Dubuque Seminary, and was impressed. Her scholarship is unimpeachable, her narrative well crafted and her questions and conclusions thought-provoking. I purchased all of her books that I could find and began reading. I settled on

this one for our Lenten study.

Book sellers describe the book in this way: *Eight hundred years ago, Clare of Assisi advised a correspondent to gaze into the mirror of the crucified Christ and study her own face within it. A hundred years ago, sociologist Charles Horton Cooley said we can know our self only as it is reflected to us by others. Contemplation is the choice to find our reflection in the divine Mirror. In The Sacred Gaze, Susan Pitchford explores how a false self is created by distortions in the mirrors around us. Drawing from the mystical and sociological traditions, and with practical suggestions for how to begin, Pitchford shows how gazing into the face of Christ can reveal to us who we really are. When the true self is known, and known as God's beloved, the way is opened to radical freedom and joy.*

I have chosen this book for our study because of the journey it will take us on. Like the Lenten journey, there may be pain and disappointment along the way, but at the end, there will be radiance and joy.

Join us Wednesdays at 6:00 pm for soup and bread, a short time of worship at 6:30 and discussion of *The Sacred Gaze* at 6:45. Six books will be made available through the office. Please let Elizabeth know if you would like one. More can be ordered if needed. The cost per book is \$19.12. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. *Pastor Cindy*

Strat Op Update



Exciting things are happening with our Strat Op Process. Our Marketing group is looking over some ideas of how we might make better use of social media. The Big Ideas group has presented the Prudential Board with some of the options they have considered. And, our Worship and Spiritual Growth folks are just beginning to work and imagine!

As always, this is a Congregational process. Your input is extremely valuable and the fruitfulness of what we do in this process depends largely on your participation. Please share any thoughts or ideas you have with Sue Carter-Marketing, Andy Forsaith-Big Ideas, and Mitch Taylor-Worship and Spiritual Growth. If you would like to participate directly by joining one of these three groups, you are more than welcome! We would love to have you!



HAPPY LIFE
CHILDREN'S HOME

The Happy Life Story: saving abandoned children on the streets of Nairobi.

- Providing the abandoned children with a home and a hope for adoption.
- Providing the children with a quality Christian education and a trade to prepare them for future employment.
- Providing the children with quality medical care.

NACCC News

The NACCC is preparing for our 2020 Annual Meeting and Conference, held in Portland, Maine June 27-30. This year's meeting theme is *THE GREAT CROSSING*, to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the Pilgrims' arrival at Plymouth in New England.

Workshop plans are well underway, and there is something for everyone. The Bible Lecturer will be Dr. Greg Mobley, of Andover-Newton Seminary.

And, my good friend and colleague, Rev. Dr. Mimi Biedron, of North Congregational Church in Farmington Hills, Michigan, will deliver the Congregational Lecture.



WCA News



WISCONSIN
CONGREGATIONAL ASSOCIATION

The Wisconsin Congregational Association is planning for their Annual Meeting and Conference, to be held at Pilgrim Church of Green Bay on April 24-25.

Youth Camps are scheduled for July 12-18. The camp brochure will be available on the website—wiscongregational.net—early in February. Pastor Cindy is the Mini-Kamp director this year. The overall camp theme, to coordinate with the 2020 Summer Olympics, is *Faith Olympics*.

Also, our youth, grades 6-12, are invited to join the youth from Faith Community Church for the Milwaukee Kindness Experience, July 27-31. This short-term mission project will focus on several different areas in the city of Milwaukee. See Pastor Cindy for further information.

WHAT SHAPE WILL FORWARD TAKE AT HERITAGE?

Janet Adams, Moderator

We know this will be a year of change for Heritage. With Pastor Cindy's retirement in October 2020, members' consensus at our November meeting was to go forward with an interim pastor until a settled pastor is hired in 2021.

As immediate past moderator, Larry Sommers will chair the effort of the Prudential Board to have an interim pastor in place by October. The Board will be discussing specifics of the interim position including finances. If members have ideas or opinions about the position, or type of individual to hire, share this information with Larry.

The Prudential Board is also beginning to consider options going forward on the "business side" of Heritage. Andy Forsaith and Sean Spindler have done preliminary work in this regard. Each option will be weighed in light of financial considerations and what Heritage members can financially support.

As the Prudential Board prayerfully considers Heritage's future, be assured the congregation will be consulted along the way.

Thoughts on Direction—Larry F. Sommers

Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” —John 6:28-29, New Revised Standard Version

Sometimes we may feel lost and rudderless as a church. But now, a news article reports that [a United Methodist regional conference in Minnesota is evicting and UNwelcoming an old congregation from its own church location](#), in the hope that a wave of young families will somehow be induced to come in.

With that as context, it feels pretty good to be a Congregationalist. At least we hold our fate in our own hands, for whatever that may be worth.

Some United Methodists (surely not all of them!) appear to think the growth and vitality of the church *as an institution* is so important that members’ religious lives must be sacrificed to it. I don’t believe that’s a view we would ever endorse. We would likely say, “What’s wrong with those people?”

Well, now: If we are not prepared to eject the old people from our church to pursue young families, then we must hold a high view of the value of old people. Mustn’t we?

It would not be far from true to say that our church is mostly made up of old people. People in their sixties, seventies, eighties, nineties, and even hundreds.

However, some of our most valued members are under sixty years of age. These are a few families with young-to-middle-aged parents and young-to-college age children. They are not part of our old generations. Not yet.

It is worth noting that even our young people are getting older and will in the future be old people. Right now, as young people, they remain members of our church because *there is something in our church worth being part of*.

This should be some kind of a clue.

Some churches, acknowledging they are filled with old people, try make a virtue of necessity by “serving the needs of” the old. Here and now, I propose that we reject this approach.

Instead, what if we became the church that actually venerates age? A church that doesn’t see older people as a burden, or as the needy clientele for corporate efforts at sainthood. What if, instead of trying to “serve the needs” of old people, we appreciated our age for what it truly is: A tremendous blessing that we are privileged to share with others who may be lost in the insane wilderness of a youth-obsessed society.

- What if all us old members saw ourselves as resources and repositories of wisdom for the community and the world in general?
- What if all our younger members not only appreciated the value of us older members, but actually looked forward to becoming old and wise like us?

What if we, as a church, deliberately sought to fill our world’s desperate need for tribal elders? What would be the implications of that? To do that, we would have to take our eldership seriously—as an obligation to actually *be* wise and caring people who can help the community navigate its challenges, because we act and speak from the vantage point of those nearest to Eternity.

Where would that put us in our Christian walk? Maybe it would drive us back to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- Instead of reading self-help books on how to be a more vibrant congregation, we might read Matthew, Mark, Luke/Acts, and John. *Deeply*.
- Instead of studying holiness from recent spokespersons of Twenty-first Century Christianity, we might study Matthew, Mark, Luke/Acts, and John. *Persistently*.

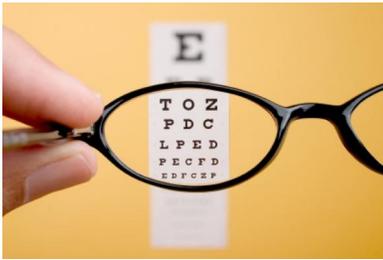
Instead of following a lesson plan on Matthew, Mark, Luke/Acts, and John, we might actually read and study Matthew, Mark, Luke/Acts, and John. *Face-to-face*.

There is an opportunity to focus on the person of Jesus Christ. We could spend our time attending to what the Gospels show us of the Face of God. We could try to make contact with—or, actually, be points of contact with—Jesus Christ in our time and place.

This would not be an easy thing to do. It would not guarantee a way for us all to agree and become a synchronized, well-disciplined movement. Far from it.

But if each of us, jointly and severally, were to dedicate ourselves to this pursuit, I believe that would give rise to an authenticity of witness in our little church that many people, young and old, would find attractive. And that would be something the right future pastor, interim or settled, could work with. Blessings and thanks for reading.

Happy 2020 Heritage Congregational Church!



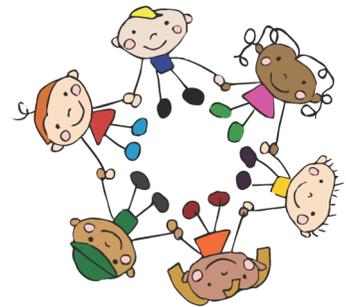
We are off and running this new year already! We hosted a Lions Club vision screening right away on January 6th, the children are always very interested and curious about this - it's super cute to see. Verona Area School District has it's Pre-K informational meetings this month as well. I am actually attending one tonight. I

will be there to introduce myself to future Pre-K families and help with registration. We are also holding our Pre-K open house on Monday, January 27th. This is a chance for families interested in sending their child to Pre-K in the fall of 2020 to see our site and meet our teachers.

Looking ahead to February, I will begin the Young star rating process again. We are in a rating year, so that means we have to be sure all our ducks are in a row! In addition, we continue to have monthly Pyramid Model Leadership Team Meetings with Jennifer Skibba the Pre-K Coordinator. As you may recall, we are now a Pyramid Model Implementation Site. So, at our next staff meeting we will be distributing Matrix templates to all our teachers with the goal of creating common expectations and language throughout our center. We also have two new babies starting care in February - so lots of exciting stuff is happening!

Thank you Heritage for supporting Little Pilgrims and the work we do! Here's to the beginning of a new and wonderful decade!

Jessica Carlson
Director
Little Pilgrims Christian Learning Center
3102 Prairie Rd., Madison, WI 53719
jessmacarlson@live.co,m
608-274-1675



Little Pilgrims'
Christian Learning Center



NACCC FAIR SHARE

Each member church is required to make an annual contribution to the Shared Ministries Fund (SMF), which directly supports the NACCC operations, programs and services. Churches are prayerfully asked to give at the "Fair Share" level or above (\$13 per member annually). Your donation assures the continuation of educational programs, church resources, fellowship opportunities and administrative support that churches and their members find so valuable.

Fair Share is due at the end of March. We will be collecting \$13 per member in February and March.

Heritage Congregational Concert Series

presents



SONGS FROM I DO! I DO!

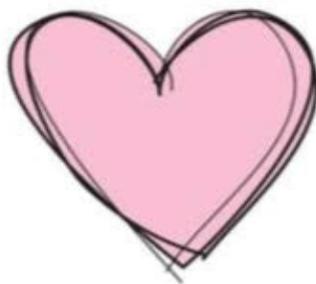


Sunday, February 16, 2020 - 3:00 p.m.



The amazing Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt musical spans 50 years of married life, the perfect way to celebrate the love given to us by God this Valentine's Day weekend!

Admission is Free!



Cynthia Bacon Hammer
Soprano

Michael Hammer
Baritone

Kristine Bengtson
Piano



Heritage Congregational Church
3102 Prairie Rd.
Madison, WI 53719
608-274-0833
heritagemadison.org
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PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS TO ELIMINATE THE JANUARY ANNUAL REPORT MEETING

MAIN (CONTROLLING) AMENDMENT:

Article IV. – Meetings

B. Meetings for Business

1. Meetings of the Congregation

- a. The ~~Budget and Election~~ Annual Meeting shall be held on a Sunday in November chosen by the Prudential Board for the purpose of
 - (1) adoption of a budget
 - (2) election of officers and board members
 - (3) election of members of the nominating committee, and
 - (4) for the transaction of other business.
- b. ~~The Annual Report meeting will be held on a Sunday in January chosen by the Prudential Board for the purpose of~~
 - (1) ~~receiving the annual reports of the officers, boards and committees~~
 - (2) ~~the transaction of other business.~~

[and re-number remaining sub-paragraphs under “1. Meetings of the Congregation”]

[So the new wording shall be:]

B. Meetings for Business

1. Meetings of the Congregation

- a. **The Annual Meeting shall be held on a Sunday in November chosen by the Prudential Board for the purpose of**
 - (1) adoption of a budget**
 - (2) election of officers and boards members**
 - (3) election of members of the nominating committee, and**
 - (4) for the transaction of other business.**
- b. **Special Meetings [etc.]**

SUBSIDIARY (HOUSEKEEPING) AMENDMENTS:

Article II. – Governance

C. In addition to the Prudential Board, there shall be the following Boards: Spiritual Life and Trustees. Each Board shall hold an organizational meeting, which shall be called by the retiring Chairperson within fourteen days after the ~~November Budget and Election~~ Annual Meeting. At that time each Board shall elect a Chairperson, who shall represent the Board to the Prudential Board, and a Recording Secretary. Thereafter, each Board shall meet at least once every two months. Each Board shall submit a written report of its activities to the Annual Meeting.

1. The Board of Spiritual Life shall consist of the Minister(s) and six members each with two-year terms. Half of the terms will be elected at the ~~Budget and Election~~ Annual Meeting in even years and the other half in odd years. The Minister shall act as co-Chairperson of the Board.

D. Committees

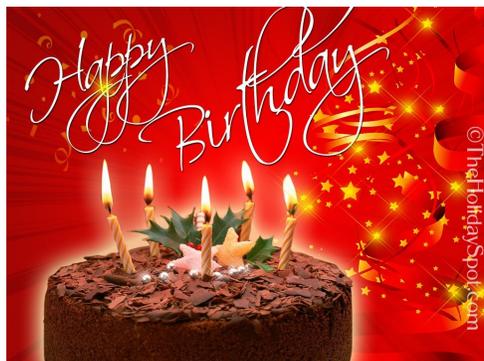
2. Nominating Committee

- b. It shall be the responsibility of the Nominating committee to prepare nominations for the following offices, boards, and committees: Moderator-elect, Treasurer, Clerk, Board of Spiritual Life, Board of Trustees, and at-large members of the Prudential Board. The committee shall, at least two weeks prior to the ~~Budget and Election~~ Annual Meeting, post its completed list of nominations in two different places in the Meeting House. No persons shall be nominated for any position without their consent.
- d. Nominations for any office, board, or committee may be made at the ~~Budget and Election~~ Annual Meeting provided that the nominee has agreed in advance to serve if elected.

Article III. – Officers

A. Elected Officers

The officers of this Church shall be members thereof. They shall be elected at the ~~Budget and Election~~ Annual Meeting to serve for one year beginning at the start of the fiscal year.



- 2/1 Tracy Henning**
- 2/3 Bob Riley**
- 2/6 Adebose Iyi-Eweka**
- 2/9 Barbara Morris**
- 2/19 Elizabeth Boros-Kazai**
- 2/18 Porter Martin**
- 2/24 Aiden Patrick Riley**
- 2/25 Jeannie Kowing**
- 2/25 Karen Millholland**
- 2/26 Karin Armbruster**



LECTIONARY READINGS

- 2/2: Micah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12
- 2/9: Isaiah 58:1-12; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20
- 2/16: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37
- 2/23: Exodus 24:12-18; 2 Peter 1:16 -21; Matthew 17:1-9
- 2/26 (Ash Wednesday): Psalm 51:1 -17; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**Treasurer's Report
Heritage/Little Pilgrims**

Operating In- come/Expenses	December 2019
Donations and Other Income	\$54,326.20
Expenses	\$48,953.58
Net Income	\$5,372.62

Members of Heritage

Barbara Morris, rehab at Nazareth Stoughton
 Terry Wing, recovering from a fall
 Nancy Andreson, recovering from mini strokes
 Robert Eversman, recovering from foot surgery
 Cassie Harris, cancer free, broken wrist
 Fred Williams, nursing care at Capital Lakes
 Joyce Williams, assisted living at Capital Lakes
 Jill Severson, recovering from cancer treatments

**Friends and relatives of Heritage**

Rob Blakely (son of Susan Zerwick), nerve pain after back surgery
 Mary Jacobs (sister of Steve Heusinger), cancer treatments
 Sue Wallace Travis (sister of Susan Zerwick), undergoing chemotherapy
 Lillian (aunt of Robert Eversman), stroke
 Karen (friends of Robert Eversman), seizure
 Ashleigh Carlson (friend of Pastor Cindy) severe back problem
 Rev. Neil Hunt (NA Pastor), lung cancer
 Steve Fulton (husband of NA staff, Debby Fulton), recovering from fall off roof
 Bea Amsler (mother of Susan Zerwick), broken leg, hospice care
 Rev. Amy Holman, (daughter of NA pastor, Greg Ellcey) stage 4 cancer
 Gene Spindler (father of Sean Spindler) recovering from stroke
 Cyndi Reppen (Aunt of Becky Spindler), grieving
 David Bratber (friend of Mitch Taylor) diagnosed with COPD
 Martha Skelton (cousin of Robert Eversman), advanced cancer
 Al Wilkening (former co-worker of Larry Sommers') pancreatic cancer
 Frank Tocha (cousin of Larry Sommers) complicated health problems & multiple myeloma
 Sebastian (friend of Sarah Westcott), 3-year-old diagnosed with brain tumor
 Those who are victims of domestic abuse
 Those who are facing difficult medical problems
 Those affected by mass shootings
 Those suffering from addiction
 Those looking for work

If you have any corrections or changes to the Prayer Requests, please contact the office at
heritageoffice@heritagemadison.org

Those who are serving our country

Will and Luke Reints, Tom Labenski and Chris Cox (nephews and friends of Porter and Carren Martin)

**Mission of the Month**

Happy Life Children's Home (Kenya)

Heritage Congregational
Church

3102 Prairie Road
Madison, WI 53719

Phone: 608-274-0833

www.heritagemadison.org

February/March Dates to Remember

Faith
Freedom
Fellowship



February 16	Concert Series
February 19-25	Pastor Cindy on Vacation
February 26	Ash Wednesday Worship
March 4, 11, 18, 25 & April 1	Lenten Soup and Study
March 8	Daylight Savings Time

*Highlights
Articles
Due*

In the Church Office
or to Sue Carter by
February 18th.



Faith, Freedom and Fellowship are the hallmarks of the Congregational Way. As a Congregational Church, we are a freely gathered body, centered on Christ and bound together by covenant. We are a church that values spiritual growth, shared dialogue and working together for God's glory. We believe in the freedom of individual conscience regarding Biblical interpretation, and respect theological and social diversity. We invite you to join us in worshipping God.