

Wonderfully Weird in a Weirdly, Wonderful Way

Recently, I received a text from a dear friend after a rather funny text conversation, and it simply said: "Also, you are weird." This was indeed a very sincere compliment that made me chuckle as I completely understood the context in which it was written. It was a way to say after a hilarious conversation between friends, "You are really a wonderful person."

It started me thinking about how wonderfully weird we all are in this moment of time. It also made me think of the Psalmist words, "I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." As I reflected on Psalm 139 for my next morning's devotion, I pictured God saying to me, "And Steven, also you are weird!" What joy it brought to my heart thinking the God of all creation would find humor in the quirkiness of my life God created. And just as God would have it, the very next week's devotion in my United Church of Christ daily devotions was on exactly this Psalm.

Rev. Talitha Arnold from Santa Fe, New Mexico, writes this:

I wonder how old the psalmist was when they wrote this psalm. I wonder what gender they were, if they were short or tall, if they had big feet or if their ears stuck out. I wonder about the color of their skin, the color of their eyes, the texture of their hair. I wonder how much the psalmist weighed.

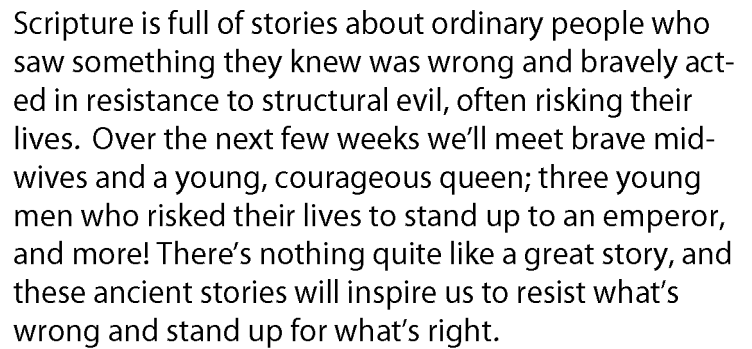
The one thing the psalmist doesn't wonder about is that they are "fearfully and wonderfully made." Of that they are certain, and that is reason enough to praise God.

I wonder what would happen if we, too, believed we are fearfully and wonderfully made. That despite what the world says about us or what we believe about ourselves, our creation – yours and mine, here and now, warts and all – is wonderful.

This month I reach my mid-50's and it has me thinking. If I am weirdly wonderful, maybe I should start living in a weirdly, wonderful way by bringing laughter, quirkiness, and sheer joy to people I encounter. I may not have accomplished everything I had hoped to achieve by this time in my life, but I am confident of this. If something called coronavirus has taught me one thing is that I, like the psalmist, can live and exemplify the joy of being called one of God's "wonderfully weird" children. Will you join me?

Rev. Steven C. Baines
Interim Executive Pastor

**The News of National City is a monthly publication.
Please submit articles for the September Newsletter by August 15
to Diana Morse at morsediana@comcast.net**



Pastor Amy

THOUSANDS OF PROTESTERS. 45 ARRESTS. 30 YEARS IN CONGRESS.

SOMETIMES CHANGING CAME FOR A LITTLE TROUBLE.

**JOHN LEWIS:
GOOD TROUBLE**

CASTING BY JAMES H. HAMILTON
PRODUCTION DESIGNER JAMES H. HAMILTON
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JAMES H. HAMILTON
PRODUCED BY JAMES H. HAMILTON
WRITTEN BY JAMES H. HAMILTON
DIRECTED BY JAMES H. HAMILTON

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WINNER
BEST DOCUMENTARY
AT THE 2012
SAN FRANCISCO
FILM FESTIVAL

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AT THE 2012
SAN FRANCISCO
FILM FESTIVAL

WINNER
BEST DOCUMENTARY
AT THE 2012
SAN FRANCISCO
FILM FESTIVAL

THE HAND THAT FEEDS

SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO MAKE
YOUR OWN JUSTICE.

AND YOU CAN BE A HERO. WITHOUT A MASK. THE HAND THAT FEEDS IS A STORY OF ONE MAN
WHO, AS AN UNDERPAINTING, FIGHTS AND FEEDS THE HOMELESS AND THE HUNGRY IN
SAN FRANCISCO. THE HAND THAT FEEDS IS A STORY OF ONE MAN WHO, AS AN UNDERPAINTING,
FIGHTS AND FEEDS THE HOMELESS AND THE HUNGRY IN SAN FRANCISCO.

THE HAND THAT FEEDS IS NOW

"A look at risking everything to make a difference."

THE MAKING OF A THROUGH WHOSE GETTING FULLY FIRED UP.

KNOCK DOWN HOUSE

A FILM BY JESSICA KASSABOV

Save the Date!

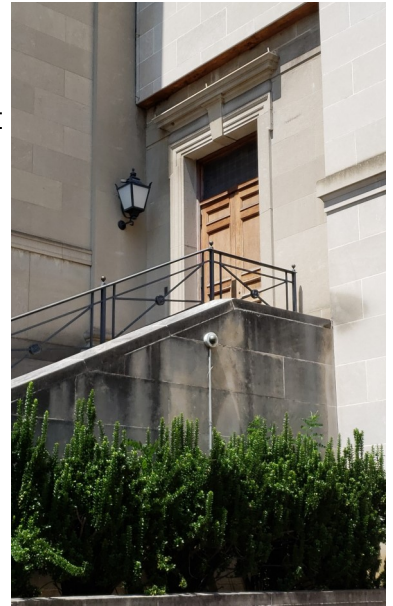
Federal Emergency Management Agency Awards National City \$42,000 Grant

National City Christian Church was recently awarded a \$42,000 grant as part of the Federal Emergency Management's (FEMA) yearly awards to institutions across the country for use in increasing security of facilities and infrastructure. These funds will provide:

- improved lighting outside the Sanctuary;
- high resolution video cameras outside and inside the Sanctuary;
- new reinforced doors and security locks to replace some side doors that have rotted out;
- updated state-of-the-art software for our computers: best anti-hacking and antiviral protection.

The super bonus is that this \$42,000 FEMA grant counts toward our \$500,000 matching funds required by the National Fund for Sacred Places (NFSP). We are happy to report that over \$300,000 of the required matching funds has now been raised by our team. This amount well exceeds the minimum requirement of the NFSP to disperse the approved funds. Steven Baines is submitting the paperwork for our church to receive the \$250,000, a key part of our Capital Campaign II.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact either of us at sbaines@nationalcitycc.org or kathleen.burgergerada@gmail.com.



Kathleen Burger, Capital Campaign II Chair
Rev. Steven Baines, Interim Executive Minister

The Sun Shines Brightly at 5 Thomas Circle

While COVID-19 might have shuttered our day-to-day business operations, it has not closed the church! National City's vibrant outreach and beautified presence is still shining and providing witness of God's extravagant welcome. Food Pantry distribution continues in the outdoor courtyard every Wednesday; the Memorial Fountain is clean and flowing once again; and new, brighter, and more inclusive LGBTQ signs have been installed on our front steps.



August Birthdays

- 1 Wesley Gentle
- 2 Grace Swihart*
- 3 Eddie Franklin
- 4 Steven Baines
- 6 Valeria Foster
- 7 Debbie Stewart
- 8 Lolita Neal
- 9 Esther Tyson
- 10 Monte Hillis
- 13 Sharon Stanley-Rea
- 14 Kristi Dane
- Warren Brooks
- Shana Williams
- 17 Kathryn Farley
- 18 Roger Webb
- 19 Dominic Neal
- 21 Jessica Max
- 22 Tamara Webb
- Janice Glover
- 24 Trevor Dane
- Cole Murphy
- 25 Lisa Arterberry
- Sage Williams*
- 26 Anne-Michele Maher
- Robin Schacht
- 27 Kelsey Goodman
- 28 Addison Bolston *
- 30 Colleen Walsh
- 31 Mia Skelly*

*Indicates child or student

For changes or additions, contact Kathleen Swihart at kswihart62@gmail.com

September Birthdays

- 2 Ben Moore
- 4 Noemi Mena
- Peggy Washington
- 5 Marcella Hill
- 6 Cyril Jones
- 8 Megan Dirickson
- 10 Sterling Washington
- 11 Katie Campbell-Morrison
- 13 Caitlin Malone Frye
- Casey Underwood
- Sadye Sanders
- 14 Moe Jackson
- 16 Deloris Ruddock
- 17 Betty Crudup
- 18 Beth Kelley
- Marc Reber
- 19 Woodie Rea
- 21 Ellen Crowder
- Polly He
- 22 Roy Hatton
- John Sparkman
- 27 Rick Bahr
- Faye Goodman
- 29 Noah Craig*
- Faye Goodman

Christian Pathways To Resume in September via Zoom.

Virtual Coffee Hour

Sundays at 11 a.m. Bring your coffee and enjoy virtual conversation with your National City family! We will send out a link on Fridays. Subscribe to our email list via our website, if you haven't already, to receive the link. You can also email Colleen Walsh at cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org to be subscribed to our email list.

Call-In Prayer Time on Saturdays

If you would like to join our weekly prayer, you are invited to call in on Saturdays at 8 a.m. for community prayer. Call 712-775-7031 and use code 371015. If you have questions regarding the prayer line, contact Loretta Tate.

Catherine Nowicki in A New Movie

Catherine Nowicki, daughter of Ann & "Cappy" Cappiello and mother of Tristan Nowicki, appears in a new movie, "Easy Does It;" an adventure comedy that follows two best friends and their accidental hostage as they careen across 1970's American South on a treasure hunt turned crime spree. While Catherine doesn't have any scenes with the star, Linda Hamilton, she says that she does have some good monologues throughout the movie.

Catherine is hopeful that this movie will be picked up by Netflix.

In Sympathy

We extend our sympathies to **Alexis Taylor** in the death of her mother, Gloria Taylor. Alexis had been spending many months caring for her mother in New Jersey. Mrs. Taylor and Alexis have been on our prayer list and fervently prayed for during our weekly Saturday prayer calls. If you would like to send a note or condolence card to Alexis, she is remaining in New Jersey during this time: Alexis Taylor, 460 Franklin Blvd, Somerset, NJ 08873.

We mourn the death of both **Frances and Bob Beck**. Frances was the manager and cook of our Christian Church Conference Center at Bethany Beach for 25 years. Frances passed away on April 24th at the age of 95 and Bob passed away June 26th at the age of 97. Prior to moving to Pennsylvania they were members of National City. They celebrated their 76th wedding anniversary in April.

