

# From the Pastor's Desk



Thursday, August 20, 2020

## August Blessings

### Sunday Worship

**This Sunday, August 23, the Sunday morning worship service of Montreat Presbyterian Church will be distributed via Constant Contact by 10:00 A.M.**

All indications continue to reaffirm that for the health and safety of our community and the world, our worship services will be online at least through September.

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### Church Chats

Links are provided below for Church Chats:  
Join us on Sunday mornings, 9:00-9:45 A.M.,  
and/or  
Thursday afternoons, 5:00-5:45 P.M.!

**FOR THURSDAYS:**  
**5:00-5:45 P.M. Church Chat**  
**[Click here](#) to join friends on Thursday afternoon**  
**for Thursday Church Chat!**

**FOR SUNDAYS:**

**9:00-9:45 A.M. Church Chat**

**[Click here](#) to join friends before the service  
for Sunday Church Chat,**

an online Zoom opportunity to see friends and check in before  
worship. **Drop in and leave as you feel comfortable.**

A greeter will simply make sure that everyone who wants to check in  
and catch up can do so. Feel free to join **even if you think you  
want to be a silent participant.** Everyone is welcome!

\*

Excerpts from a prayer of Nadia Bolz-Weber:

Dear God.

We are going to just be taking turns for a while, if that's ok.

Yesterday was mine. My turn to be depressed about the closing of  
beloved, been-around-for-decades local businesses. My turn to be  
afraid because the wildfires are so bad that my eyes sting and the  
interstate is closed. My turn to be angry. My turn to indulge in post-  
apocalyptic future-casting.

Please help me not feel bad when it's my turn, Lord. And with your  
grace, may my turn to completely freak out not last one minute  
longer than necessary. But also may it last as long as needed in order  
to allow it to pass when it's time to move on and just go make the  
salad for dinner.

And Lord, may I be a non-anxious presence to the next person whose  
turn it is. May I not fear their fear so much that I fail to listen well.  
When I have even the tiniest extra bit of hope may I offer it without  
fear of being judged for "not paying attention."

And may I remember that my terror is not a sign of your absence and  
my hope is not a sign of your presence.

Because you never take turns.

Amen.

From Nadia Bolz-Weber, "Sunday Prayers - Aug 16th 2020: Total freak-out edition" in The Corners (weekly email), Aug 16, 2020.



*You shall worship the LORD your God,  
and I will bless your bread and your water;  
and I will take sickness away from among you.*

Exodus 23:25

*I hereby command you:  
Be strong and courageous;  
do not be frightened or dismayed,  
for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*

Joshua 1:9

## Contact Information

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**Clara Hare-Grogg,  
Young Adult Volunteer**

**Clara's YAV Weblog page [Link](#)**

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