

Saint Giles Presbyterian Church
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September 9th, 2020

“The scale of need is daunting. More than a million North Carolina households are at risk of eviction this year.”

--Alexandra Sirota, director of the Budget & Tax Center at the N.C. Justice Center

Have you ever lived at the edge of your resources? Have you ever been down to your last \$100 and had to make the difficult decision between food and rent? The CEO of the United Way once came to my church and we played a simulation game to understand American poverty. It consisted of juggling decisions amidst scarcity. For instance, if your car broke down, did you fix it in order to go to work... knowing that if you did so, there would be one less meal for the month?

If you are interested, you too can try this simulation game:

<http://www.makingtoughchoices.org/>

The game was launched well before the pandemic, so life has considerably worsened for millions of Americans. I know it breaks God's heart. I know it breaks your heart and mine.

The Apostle Paul writes, “God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (Romans 5:5). Christian hope is not a simple wish for the future with no guarantee that this wish will come true. Christian hope is the presence of divine love in each of us, in a people linked together in the Holy Spirit. This hope is a current of life that carries us to the ocean of full human communion.

Paying attention to heartbreak is how Christians discern their ministry. While many members of St. Giles must stay safe at home, others may be interested in the Interfaith Food Shuttle's many opportunities to volunteer:

<https://www.foodshuttle.org/volunteer>

One opportunity that struck my attention is “Grocery Bags for Seniors”:

https://foodshuttle.galaxydigital.com/agency/detail/?agency_id=94180

Your new Mission chair, Tom Augspurger, and I will be thinking about where St. Giles' ministry may be in the weeks ahead. We'd love your thoughts.

Blessings,
Rebecca

Church Hike

The Saint Giles Children's Ministry is inviting the congregation to a hike at Durant Nature Preserve on Sunday, September 20th at 2pm.

To locate the Saint Giles group, please use the North Entrance off Durant Road and park in the lot on Camp Durant Road. The parking lot is not too big, so you should be able to locate the group!

Here is a link to the map:

<https://cityofraleighodrupal.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/drupal-prod/COR24/durant-nature-preserve-map.pdf>

For more information, reach out to Karen Patterson or contact the church office.

Zoom Coffee Hour

Join us for a virtual coffee hour at 10:30am on Sept. 20. You provide your own coffee, we'll provide the opportunity to chat and connect with your St. Giles community. Jennifer Gospodarek will admit people from the "Waiting Room", so please sign on with a name that will be recognized.

Topic: Zoom Coffee Hour

Time: Sep 20, 2020: 10:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82074270116?pwd=b1hpNjBUK2FRcHlCL1pOSFZuL2I5dz09>

Meeting ID: 820 7427 0116

Passcode: 655358

To join by phone, call +1 646 876 9923 and use Meeting ID: 820 7427 0116

THESE DAYS

If you would like a copy of the These Days devotional mailed to you, please contact the church office and we will gladly send one to you.

Contemporary Issues Zoom Class

Saint Giles Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 13, 9:30 a.m.

Krista Tippett on “Reconnecting with Compassion” 15:38 min

https://www.ted.com/talks/krista_tippett_reconnecting_with_compassion

The term “compassion” - typically reserved for the saintly or the sappy - has fallen out of touch with reality.

At a special TEDPrize@UN, journalist Krista Tippett deconstructs the meaning of compassion through several moving stories, and proposes a new, more attainable definition for the word.

Krista hosts the national public radio program “On Being,” which takes up the great, animating questions of human life: What does it mean to be human? And how do we want to live? To listen to her show is to hear how intelligent and thoughtful religious people can be when they are allowed to be subjective and not merely regurgitate dogma.

To sign up for this class and receive the zoom link, please contact Phill Stiles or the church office!

If you need assistance with shopping or other errands, or can assist with these needs, please contact Emmie (office@saintgiles.org).