

WILDERNESS WORDS

Editors

If there is anything that you would like to have included in the Newsletter: 313-673-6519 and dmc@chem.wayne.edu or pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu

This Sunday:

Leading: Beth
Preaching: Carol Mork
Presiding: Mary Ellen

Readings this week:

Twenty First Sunday After Pentecost, 29 October, 2017

First Reading: Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 **OR** Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 and Psalm 1
Psalm: Above
Epistle: Thessalonians 2:1-8
Gospel: Matthew 22:34-46

(To link directly to the readings (click) <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=165>



Reflections:

By Mary Ellen

Kids in Church

Some Sundays at Spirit of the Wilderness are pretty quiet—almost sedate. Then there are others when that is not the first word that springs to mind! Yesterday was one of those, with seven kids there.



Inviting Mystery, Embracing Compassion, Encountering Christ.

It’s wonderful that we have kids that want to be in church, who are involved, and feel that they are fully included! I had 5 grandchildren around me this weekend (lucky me!) and when someone asked at the table, “So who’s going to church tomorrow?” there was a resounding, enthusiastic “ME!!!!” (Not all of them came, which was no doubt a good thing....)

This most precious gift--of kids feeling that they belong, that they are fully welcome and fully involved, that SOTW is THEIR CHURCH—is absolutely fabulous. But I’d like to explore ways we could more fully shape their experience.

I invite you to think with me about how we might do that. Having the kids at the front means they are fully aware of what’s going on, even if they don’t appear to be. Dorothy Danielson’s gift of a padded table cloth is a great help in terms of noise abatement. How else can we make this work for all?

A couple ideas I’ve had:

- I’ve known churches that use a ‘liturgical clock’—which shows the different color coded Sundays in the church year. Before the service starts, you get the kids to look around for clues and set the clock.
- At that point they might also be given certain ‘directed’ materials—say coloring related to the gospel.
- We could have the leader or someone else, before the service, give the children a few instructions.



Forums: 2016 - 2017

Forums — immediately following services we grab our coffee and treats and spend an hour learning.

Oct. 29 — *Evolution and Faith*
MEA

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- To 'set apart' the eucharist from the chaos of the peace, we might include a moment of silence or a rope looped across or a sign to indicate this is a different part of the service.
- Or one church in the Twin Cities has some little benches, and kids who want to watch closely can come up and stand on those near the altar.

What ideas do you have for how we can continue to celebrate these wonderful kids, while helping to shape their faith experience?

I look forward to hearing from you!

Notes:

- 1.) This Sunday. **Forum** after Church. "Evolution and Faith" by Mary Ellen.
- 2.) We would like to have more different voices in our newsletter **Reflections**. Would you like to sign up--perhaps for once a month or once every two months? Please let Mary Ellen know.
- 3.) Save the Date: **Enneagram Retreat** Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1 & 2. Location TBD. Led by Marcia Hyatt and Mary Ellen Ashcroft
Early bird sign up: \$150.00. Space will be limited, so if you'd like to do the retreat sign up early with Mary Ellen

Photos by Ellen Stubbs



