

Church in the Forest

at Erdman Chapel, Stevenson School • 3152 Forest Lake Road
P. O. Box 1027 • Pebble Beach, CA 93953 • 831.624.1374
admin@churchintheforest.org • www.churchintheforest.org

Monday morning, September 3, 2018

Dear Friends,

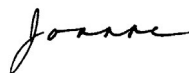
Many don't give a moment's thought to God, going through their days without a trace of faith. But when they see the news that a flood has killed hundreds, or they hear about the death of a child, they will say, "How could a good God allow such suffering? How could a loving God let this happen?"

Pain becomes a pivot point for faith. Pain can drive people away from God—even a God they never believed in! But just as well, pain can drive people toward God. C. S. Lewis famously said, "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain."

This week we begin our Fall Sermon Series, based on Kate Bowler's best-selling account of how cancer changed her faith, [Everything Happens for a Reason \(and Other Lies I've Loved\)](#). We'll follow Kate's journey, in tandem with some of the greatest scriptures about suffering, mortality and loss.

As we live, love and age, we cannot escape pain's pivot point. Let's use the coming weeks to ask ourselves, "Is my pain drawing me closer to God—or away?"

See you Sunday!



The Reverend Joanne M. Swenson

You are invited to brain-storm with community leaders for sustainable solutions to our Monterey County Elder Care Crisis. Sponsored by local clergy and city leaders. Free, with lunch provided. **September 15 from 9 am to 2 pm** at Monterey Peninsula College. For more information about speakers and topics, [click here](#).

Calendar

Sunday September 9, 2018 — 16th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 AM Bible Study in the Multipurpose Room led by the Reverend Ken Feske. Topic: John 9: 1–7

9:15 AM Chapel Concertino **9:30 AM Morning Prayer**

Passages John 9: 1–7; Psalm 26; Job 1–2 (*Excerpts*)

Lector Dennis Riley

Fellowship Carolyn Sanders

Crucifer Rae Janzen

Flowers Sherry St. Clair

Ushers Wim and Tonneke Van der Linden

Altar Care Martha Jordan, Linda Hanel, Linda Mackie

Sermon The Reverend Joanne M. Swenson, Th.D.

Title Sermon Series: Everything Happens for a Reason?

This Sunday: "Pain: the Pivot Point of Faith"

We are grateful to those who each week volunteer to help with ushering, reading, or providing cookies. Might you be able to help? If so, perhaps you could sign up on the bulletin board at church or contact Terri in the office.

SAVE THE DATE: September 16th—Fall Anniversary Party—Sign up at church or contact the office. You don't want to miss it! **Sponsorships still available!** Contact Steve Bellavance, stevenbellavance@gmail.com; or Mia Jarick, miajarick1@yahoo.com; or call the office, 624-1374.

Our new on-line Church Directory is coming; photographs will be taken October 22–25 at CitF. Sign up now! Contact Mia Jarick at (831) 917-3202 or miajarick1@yahoo.com.

SMALL GROUPS: *These are gatherings where CitF members and friends can explore faith and deepen fellowship.*

- The *Small Group Bible Study* is held each **Sunday at 8:30 AM** in the Multipurpose Room where the topic is the sermon Bible lesson of the day.
- The *Men's Small Group Bible Study* gathers **September 6, 10–11:30 AM** in the Multipurpose Room, where they are currently studying the life of King David (1 and 2 Samuel, 1 Kings) with inspiration from the Eugene Peterson book, "Leap Over a Wall."
- *Sisters in the Forest* will gather again on **September 6, 12 noon–1:15 PM** at Linda Mackie's home, 3110 Bird Rock Rd., Pebble Beach. Please join them. All women welcome.
- *Women's Bible Study Small Group* gathers **September 13, 10:30 AM–12:00**, at the Beach and Tennis Club, when we begin our new study, "Women of the New Testament. Always free and newcomers welcome."

Music Box

SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

Tongan Singers of Monterey
David Tulua, director
Melinda Coffey Armstead, piano & organ

CHAPEL CONCERTINO

God's Immeasurable Love
Onward Christian Soldiers
Shall We Gather At the River
God Be With You Till We Meet Again

Jesus, Take My All

Davis, from Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813
arr. by Gilbert Martin

We have an unusual musical treat this Sunday: the Tongan Singers of Monterey, an informal group of family and friends who gather to sing in Tongan for family gatherings, weddings, funerals and celebrations, were referred to me by my pal Phil Bowhay who first heard them perform at a Rotary meeting. They come from many different islands in the Kingdom of Tonga.

Tonga is a Polynesian sovereign state and archipelago comprising 169 islands, of which 36 are inhabited. It has a population of 100,651 people, of whom 70% reside on the main island of Tongatapu. Tonga became known in the West as the "Friendly Islands" because of the congenial reception accorded to Captain James Cook on his first visit in 1773. He arrived at the time of the 'inasi festival, the yearly donation of the First Fruits to the Tu'i Tonga (the islands' paramount chief) and so received an invitation to the festivities. (For more on this fascinating encounter, go to Wikipedia.)

From 1900 to 1970, Tonga had British protected state status, with the United Kingdom looking after its foreign affairs under a Treaty of Friendship. The country never relinquished its sovereignty to any foreign power. In 2010, Tonga took a decisive path towards becoming a constitutional monarchy rather than a traditional absolute kingdom.

Melinda Coffey Armstead



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