

Church in the Forest

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

Monday morning, October 9, 2017

Dear Friends,

There is something about autumn that lends itself to reflection on mortality—leaves falling, daylight shortening, temperatures (elsewhere) lowering. Wallace Stevens famously penned, “Death is the mother of beauty.” The fragility of life makes us treasure it. A living bouquet, destined to die, is always more beautiful than an artificial one!

This Sunday we’ll consider Psalm 90, one of the most profound and challenging psalms about mortality. It calls us to measure our days, to take stock of the time we have left, and how God will assess the totality of our days.

An increasingly popular response to mortality by our secular culture is “The Bucket List.” This accumulation of adventures and achievements is the inevitable response of those who only find meaning in accumulating possessions and wealth.

This Sunday’s scriptures show us a different way to respond to our mortality—not with a bucket list, but a blessing list. And, not with items checked off and completed, but with missions so difficult, they must be uncompleted—at least by us.

This is not a depressing topic, for facing our deaths can give birth to beauty and faith.

See you Sunday!



The Rev. Joanne Swenson, Th.D.

Small Groups are gatherings where CitF members and new friends can explore questions of faith and deepen fellowship. These groups are open to visitors who wish to find out more and experience a meeting.

- The *Small Group Bible Study* meets every Sunday at **8:30 AM** in the Multi-purpose Room. This study will link with our new sermon series, using Eugene Peterson’s *Psalms: Prayer of the Heart*. Purchase your book from **Ken** (KenFeske@comcast.net), or at your bookseller.
- The *Men’s Small Group*, led by **Bob Axley** and **John Thorbeck**, will meet **Thursday, October 12, 10–11:30 AM**, in the Multipurpose Room. Please contact **Bob Axley** for more information at: rjaxley@aol.com or 214–384–1023.
- The *Small Group Study* led by the **Rev. Ken Feske** meets on **Tuesday, October 17, 10:15–11:30 am**, at Gloria Bigelow’s, 3138 Bird Rock Rd, PB. We’ll reflect on “Our Happy Place.” Where do we find serenity, joy, connection, well-being? Each gathering is unique and all attendees are unique as well.
- A *Small Group* for those who are grieving, led by the **Rev. Dr. William Rolland**, our minister emeritus and an expert in grief counseling, will meet on **Thursday, October 19, 1:30–3:00 pm**. Please contact **Dr. Rolland** if you have any questions at: wnbr727@gmail.com or call 831-229-2099.

Calendar

Sunday	October 15, 2017 — Ninteenth Sunday after Pentecost
8:30 AM	Bible Study in the Multipurpose Room led by the Rev. Ken Feske Topic: Psalm 90
9:15 AM	Chapel Concertino
9:30 AM	Morning Prayer
Passages	Deuteronomy 34: 1–8; Psalm 90; Philippians 3: 4b–16
	Lector Bruce Rosnes
	Crucifer Rae Janzen
	Ushers Judy Fletcher & Marilyn Gorman
	Cookies Annah Rolland & Mia Jarrick
	Flowers Julie and Dave Nee
	Altar Care Andrea Thatcher & Shirley Temple
Sermon	The Rev. Joanne M. Swenson, Th.D.
Title	“Real Spirituality ~ A Sermon Series on Psalms” This Sunday: “Bucket List or Blessing List?”

Music Box

OCTOBER 15, 2017

Hillet Botha, piano

CHAPEL CONCERTINO

Sonata Opus 57:

“Appassionata” Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

I. Allegro assai

II. Andante con moto

America, the Beautiful Traditional, arranged by Craig Stevens

Sonata Opus 57 Ludwig van Beethoven

III. Allegro ma non troppo – Presto

Dear Citfers,

Bob and I are going on a journey to Japan, leaving this Sunday the 15th and returning November 5. I’ve arranged for pianist Hillet Botha to cover the four Sundays I’ll be away with two solo programs and two soloists: a young flutist and a younger violinist. She has prepared a magnificent program for this Sunday, Beethoven’s 23rd sonata known as the “Appassionata.” One of his greatest and most technically challenging sonatas, it was written in 1804 and 1805, just after Beethoven had come to grips with the irreversibility of his progressive deafness. It is a journey in itself from confusion, fury, and despair to acceptance and defiant courage. Hillet asks us to remember, while listening to this breathtaking music, that in the face of everything that has befallen us in the last weeks, America is beautiful beyond any other place, that balance will return, that life and love will go on as before. Please give her your warmest welcome.

Melinda Gray Homestead



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