

Church in the Forest

at Erdman Chapel, Stevenson School • 3152 Forest Lake Road,
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Monday morning, November 6, 2017

Dear Friends,

By Monday morning, as we all heard the news, our tears were flowing for our Christian brothers and sisters at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas. An armed man entered the church during Sunday worship, killed at least twenty-six and injured twenty more.

News accounts suggest the shooting started at that moment that we, here at Church in the Forest, call, “Passing the Peace.”

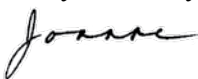
There are many dimensions of this tragedy—guns, family dysfunction, mental health. But I want to highlight a spiritual dimension: the conflict between open hearts and armor.

The gunman was wearing a “ballistics vest”—bullet-proof armor. The congregation was greeting each other with handshakes and hugs. That picture sums up this spiritual war zone. The way of Christ is bold, reaching love. The way of evil is fearful aggression, isolation and armor.

This Sunday we honor Veterans Day and study Psalm Six, a prayer of tears. Eugene Peterson says of Psalm Six’s tears, “Tears are often considered a sign that something is wrong with us... but what if they are a sign of something right with us?”

Let’s cry because something is wrong with us, shown in this killing. And let’s cry to show that something is right with us—we’re grieving, angry and relying on God to guide us in right action!

See you Sunday!



The Rev. Joanne Swenson, Th.D.

PS: This Sunday we will honor **Veterans Day** and will feature Star ranked Boy Scout Peter Akcan, who will present the American flag. Retired Army Lieutenant Colonel “Gene” Griffin will lead the congregation in the Pledge of Allegiance. Special music from Kevin Jordan, trumpet—see the Music Box—and wear your red, white and blue!

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 Fall sermon series, using Eugene Peterson’s *Psalms: Prayer of the Heart*. Purchase your book from **Ken** (KenFeske@comcast.net), or at your bookseller.
- *The Small Group Study* led by the **Rev. Ken Feske** meets on the **third Tuesday of the month, 10:15-11:30 am**. The next location and topic to be announced at a later date.
- Are you interested in helping Pastor Joanne launch “*Soul Sisters Two*”? Our first *Soul Sisters* is fabulous but full. An organizing meeting for a new group was just held. Please ask Pastor Joanne for more information.
- The *Men’s Small Group*, led by **Bob Axley** and **John Thorbeck**, will meet **Thursday, November 9, 10–11:30 AM**, in the Multipurpose Room.
- A *Small Group* for those who are grieving, led by the **Rev. Dr. William Rolland**, our minister emeritus and an expert in grief counseling, is temporarily on break, while **Dr. Rolland** recovers from illness.

Calendar

Sunday	November 12, 2017 — 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
	Honoring Veterans Day—wear your red, white and blue!
8:30 AM	Bible Study in the Multipurpose Room led by the Rev. Ken Feske Topic: Psalm 6
9:15 AM	Chapel Concertino
9:30 AM	Morning Prayer
Passages	2 Kings: 20 1–6; Psalm 6; John 11 (<i>excerpts</i>)
	Lector Bob Mulford
	Crucifer Leslie Mulford
	Ushers Arlen and Cindy Lackey
	Cookies Marge Moore and Diane Elliott
	Flowers Ken and Lupita Harrison
	Altar Care Martha Jordan and Sandy Rice
Sermon	The Rev. Joanne M. Swenson, Th.D.
Title	“Real Spirituality ~ A Sermon Series on Psalms” This Sunday: “Prayer’s Most Real Language”

Music Box

NOVEMBER 12, 2017

Kevin Jordan, trumpet
Melinda Coffey Armstead, piano & organ

CHAPEL CONCERTINO FOR VETERANS DAY

- La Reine D'Amour (1879).....John Philip Sousa (1854-1932)
- Peaceful World.....Gilles Rocha (b. 1988)
- Variations on a Hymn..... Phil Snedecor (b. 1963)
- The Marines' Hymn anonymous
- The Wild Blue Yonder..... Robert Crawford
- Semper Paratus
(Always Ready) .. Capt. Francis Saltus Van Loskerck, U.S.C.G.
- Caisson Song..... U. S. Army song
- Anchors Aweigh..... Capt. Alfred H. Miles, U.S.N.
and Chas. A. Zimmerman

*Current and former members of the military
are invited to stand when their march is played*

God Bless America Irving Berlin (1888-1989)

On Veterans Day

The gift they gave to us is all around us, undeserved,
Except by those who gave themselves, or loved ones, reassured
By no one that their innocence and lives would not be lost.
Our freedom was the prize, egregious sacrifice the cost.
They paid, and benefits rain gently down on us, but we
Remember: freedom such as ours was never, ever, free.

—RLA

Please bring your framed photo of your loved one in uniform for
our “Table of Honor” as we did last year. I’m bringing mine of my
dad in his dress white Navy uniform ca. 1957.

—MCA

Melinda Coffey Armstead



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