



# Revelations

First Evangelical Lutheran Church – 19419 Royalton Road – Strongsville Ohio 44149  
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JULY

2019

Dear Friends:

I just finished reading *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone* by Lori Gottlieb who is a licensed psychotherapist. The book explores some of her experiences with clients, but a parallel track chronicles her own experience in therapy after an unexpected relationship breakup. I found the insight fascinating, and I commend it to you.

Following is an excerpt about the difference between compassion and forgiveness that may seem counter to Christian teaching, but the more I reflected on it the more I came to realize that she may be onto something important.

“So what I say is this: You can have compassion without forgiving. There are many ways to move on, and pretending to feel a certain way isn’t one of them.

“I once had a client named Dave who had a problematic relationship with his father. His father was, by his account, a bully - demeaning, critical, and full of himself. He had alienated both of his sons from a young age and had a distant and contentious relationship with them as adults. When his father was dying Dave was fifty years old, married with children of his own, and he struggled with what to say at his father’s funeral. What would ring true? And then he told me that as his father lay on his deathbed, he had reached out for his son’s hand and said, out of the blue, ‘I wish I’d treated you better. I was a \*%\$#@.’

“Dave was livid - did his father expect absolution now, at the eleventh hour? The time to make repairs, he felt, was long before you left this earth, not on the eve of your departure; you don’t automatically get the gift of closure or forgiveness from a deathbed confession.

“He couldn’t help himself. ‘I don’t forgive you,’ Dave told his dad. He hated himself for saying this, regretted it the second it came out. But after all the pain his father had put him through and all the work he’d done to create a good life for himself and his family, he’d be damned if he was going to soothe his father now with a sugary lie. He’d spent his childhood lying about how he felt. Still, Dave wondered, what kind of person says this to his dying father?

“Dave had started to apologize, but his father interrupted him. ‘I understand,’ he said. ‘If I were you, I wouldn’t forgive me either.’

“And then the strangest thing happened, Dave told me. Sitting there holding his father’s hand, Dave felt something shift. He felt, for the first time in his life, genuine compassion. Not forgiveness, but compassion. Compassion for the sad dying man who must have had his own pain. And it was that compassion that allowed Dave to speak authentically at his father’s funeral.”

Given the rocky relationship I had with my own father, and because my last words to him have haunted me since his death, this story resonated with me in many ways. One parallel is that shortly after my father died a caring, insightful person helped me understand that my father had his own pain, and he carried dysfunctional behaviors with him from his own childhood. Learning that helped me see my father in a more compassionate way, and I was able to let go of some of the anger and resentment I had harbored for too long.

I wonder how this story might strike you. We all have relationships that are broken. We all have someone in our lives who has seemingly hurt us beyond our capacity to forgive. Or so we think. We all struggle with what it means to express compassion for people who don’t appear to deserve it. (Whatever it is that one must do or say to “deserve” compassion.)

But when we begin to understand that everyone is carrying their own pain, and everyone is burdened by their own egregious mistakes, we might also begin to realize that these things do not comprise the entirety of one’s humanity. Then, perhaps, like Dave we can start to heal, or develop empathy, or even forgive. And we can set about the hard, but important and necessary work, of seeing each person as a human being created in the image of a loving God who stands in need of redemption just as we do.

Who in your life needs to be forgiven? Or shown compassion? Who needs to become more human?

Walking with you,

Pastor Chuck



## Worship Notes for



### **Pentecost 4**

Sunday, July 7	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship, Eucharist ELW Setting 4, Eucharist
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### **Pentecost 5**

Sunday, July 14	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship ELW Setting 4
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### **Pentecost 6**

Sunday, July 21	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship, Eucharist ELW Setting 4, Eucharist
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### **Pentecost 7**

Sunday, July 28	10:30 a.m. only	ELW Setting 4
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I want to THANK the entire congregation for reaching out to me and supporting me with your prayers, cards, and visits, during the past few months. As I made my way through leg surgery, rehab, and now continue my recovery, I am blessed to be a member of this church.

Your kindness is so much appreciated.  
Terri Mosley



## KIDS HOPE USA

As the school year ended last month, teachers who had KIDS HOPE students in their classrooms were asked to complete evaluations of our mentoring program and the students' progress. The teachers had many positive things to say in regard to the academic, social, and emotional progress they had seen in the students. I thought members of the congregation would appreciate hearing a sampling of them so that you could hear first-hand about how your support of KIDS HOPE is making a difference in our community.

- "Billy" turned in math homework most of the time. He also passed state testing. He is a kind child. His mentor was awesome!
- "Fred" has excelled in both reading and writing. His mentor was wonderful, and "Fred" looked forward to the visits.
- "Corey" really made huge progress with reading fluency. His comprehension also improved. KIDS HOPE was absolutely beneficial to him. His mentor was a great choice for him.
- "Bud" has shown more control of his emotions.
- "Stuart" is more positive and has shown a desire to want to help others.
- "Frank" completed more in-school assignments, and his reading skills took off! He loved every minute of KIDS HOPE. "Frank" needed a positive role model, and KIDS HOPE provided that for him.

One retiring teacher said, "I feel very honored to have worked with such a tremendous organization and group of people. Thank you for the blessed work and love you share with students."

Another said, "Hard to believe it has been ten years! I have loved being a part of KIDS HOPE. I met amazing people whose dedication for children is inspiring."

As evidenced by these statements, one can clearly see that KIDS HOPE has been a positive influence in children's lives and has helped them to grow and develop in many ways. Thank you to our faithful mentors and prayer partners and to the congregation and Council for their support. You have all contributed greatly to this success in doing God's work.

For the kids,

Gloria Reichert  
Director, KIDS HOPE USA

One **child**

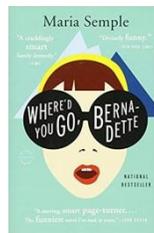
One **hour**

One **church**

One **school**

# WOW NEWS!

**First Church Women's Book Club** will discuss Where'd You Go, Bernadette? by Maria Semple on **Saturday July 20th at 9 am** at the Strongsville Market District Cafe. Join us for book talk and fellowship! Contact Jen for more information. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.



## SUMMER SUNDAY SPECIAL DAYS

The **First Church Education Team** is sponsoring **Summer Sunday Special Days** once a month all summer. The June event was attended by many children and everyone had a great time! Children from **Preschool age through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade** are excused from church after the Children's Sermon for fun workshop activities connected to the scripture that week. Please join us on **July 28** and **August 25**.

**Friends and visitors are welcome!**

## July, 2019 Volunteers

Date	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28 One Service
Acolytes Ellen Kolman 440-846-0947	Madelyn Fox Brielle Rugar	Dylan Bresnahan	Emilie Kuntz Audrey Kuntz	Abbey Uline
Ushers – 9:00 Maureen Shorts 440-725-0445	Joy Blankenship Kurt Blankenship Al Hoffman Shelley Hoffman	Linda Browning Gladys Otto Mary Barnes Alice Treiber	Bob Strong Hank Pekkola Pam Simpson Herb Simpson	
Ushers – 10:30 Dawn Evangelista 440-572-5327	June Zakrajsek Jim Zakrajsek Reiner Mueller Rolf Gaab	Ron Warzel Mary Jane Warzel Eddie Forse Lori Forse	Wayne Mosley Steve Harris John Brinzo Alfonso Hinojosa	Jerry Krueger Barb Krueger Robert Snyder Heather Snyder
Readers Barb Krueger 440-238-9072	9:00 Jeanine Kowalewski 10:30 Debbie Jenkins	9:00 Mike McNamara 10:30 Claudia Lenarz	9:00 Stacey McNamara 10:30 Sue Lindsey	10:30 Gloria Reichert
Communion Assistants 9:00 Barb Krueger 440-238-9072	Jeanine Kowalewski Herb Simpson Pam Simpson Maureen Shorts		Stacey McNamara Don Nielsen Connie Nielsen Gayle Kovach	
Communion Assistants 10:30 Barb Krueger 440-238-9072	Alfonso Hinojosa Barb Krueger Jerry Krueger Cindy Shoens		Mary Ann Tower Ron Warzel Ben Blake Beth David	
Nursery Bonnie Bailey 440-572-5044	Bonnie Bailey	Gerri Sagan Barb Krueger	Sandy Treudler Megan Uline	Jennifer Paine
Counting Team Schedule Terri Mosley 440-785-5711	Jim Gist Sheri Gist Gary Walters Mary Walters Dick Kiplinger	Gayle Kovach Rita Ross Chris Hamel Carol Paulini	Sam Reichert Rolf Gaab Jackie Wojciehowski John Brinzo	Terri Mosley Heather Snyder Bob Snyder Bob Jacob
Altar Guild Beth David 440-238-1281	Billie Hoffman	Pat Saurenheimer Janet Kaiser Sandy Kaskey	Dawn Evangelista Sheri Gist Tricia Nolder	Ellen Kolman Beth David
Communion Bread Maryann Tower 440-238-0176	Luke Thellman		Laurie Uline	

# July 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 7:00 AA	<b>2</b> 5:00 Chair Yoga 7:00 Toastmaster's 7:30 Al-Anon	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Happy Fourth of July! Secretary in the office in the morning.	<b>5</b> Office Closed	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:00 Contemporary Worship/Eucharist 10:30 Traditional Worship/Eucharist	<b>8</b> 7:00 AA	<b>9</b> 5:00 Chair Yoga 7:00 Cabinet Meeting 7:00 Toastmaster's 7:30 Al-Anon	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:30 Strongsville Food Bank
<b>14</b> 9:00 Contemporary Worship 10:30 Traditional Worship	<b>15</b> 7:00 AA	<b>16</b> 5:00 Chair Yoga 7:00 Council 7:00 Toastmaster's 7:30 Al-Anon	<b>17</b> Jim Crow Museum Trip 10:00 Lydia Circle 6:30 Strongsville Homecoming Parade!	<b>18</b> Jim Crow Museum Trip	<b>19</b> Pastor Chuck on vacation	<b>20</b> 9:00 WOW Book Club
<b>21</b> 9:00 Contemporary Worship/Eucharist 10:30 Traditional Worship/Eucharist	<b>22</b> 7:00 AA	<b>23</b> 5:00 Chair Yoga 7:00 Toastmaster's 7:30 Al-Anon	<b>24</b> 6:00 Education Committee	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10:30 Traditional Worship only Summer Sunday Special Days during the Worship service	<b>29</b> Pastor Chuck returns 7:00 AA	<b>30</b> 7:00 Toastmaster's 7:30 Al-Anon	<b>31</b>			

**Pastor Charles Knerem**  
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