Some Thoughts on Faith

Embedded in the rhythm of the liturgical calendar is a mini-season known as “carnival.” In Christian churches that pay attention to this calendar, carnival is observed for a week or two before Lent, culminating in the Sunday of the Transfiguration and “Mardi Gras.” In our congregation, we have been observing this season by using the musical form known as jazz in our worship. Last year, we added a Saturday night jazz concert, and this year we are also highlighting an educational opportunity by inviting Arlene McDaniel to lead a Sunday morning class on February 4 as an Introduction to Jazz.

From its beginnings, Jazz has been viewed as having a unique relationship to the religious experience. At first, it was musicians who believed that through the open work of improvisation, one can cut through the layers of artifice to encounter some kind of enlightenment through this genre of music. The roots of jazz were found in Gospel music—its rhythms and melodies and lyrics that were grounded in scripture.

Jason Bivins, professor of Religious Studies at North Carolina State, spoke at our church a couple of years ago. He observes that writing about music is like dancing about architecture. Jazz, in particular, is a subject that eludes definition. Stanley Crouch believes that jazz is “perfect for America because it’s about democratic means being used to arrive at utopian ends.” Jazz seems well suited as a form of music that can be adapted to the Transfiguration—the episode recorded in three of the Gospels when Jesus takes Peter, James and John up the mountain where they are privileged to see Jesus in all his glory, “shining like the sun.” Jazz is a musical form that spills beyond limits—moral, cultural, and musical. It is music that is not dependent upon lyrics in order to communicate something sacred. Like the still, small voice that whispers in Elijah’s ear, jazz is a type of music that suggests God is not always found where we think to look.

Jazz musicians have been outspoken in connecting their music to the religious quest for God. Duke Ellington gave a series of what he called “sacred concerts” in the mid-1960s, concerts that used jazz to give voice to The Lord’s Prayer and David’s dance before the ark of the covenant. “Come Sunday Morning” is now considered a standard jazz tune, but it was composed for these sacred concerts.

These concerts inspired Wynton Marsalis to compose an entire worship service in jazz. “In This House, On This Morning” is his attempt to musically recreate both the solemnity and joy of worshipping God. Prayers are sung, the trombone and bass deliver sermons, and Mr. Marsalis uses his trumpet to gently nudge the band (and the audience) toward heaven.

Bassist Charles Mingus sought to express Pentecostal enthusiasm through his jazz. Yusef Lateef used jazz to communicate something of the mystical beauty of Islam. Hamid Drake linked jazz with Buddhism. Dave Brubeck and Paul Desmond have argued that jazz is a form of music that encourages and builds friendship between musicians. Jeremy Bigbee goes further, saying that jazz improvisation is participation in the free grace of God that Paul talks about in Romans. For Van Morrison, singing is not always about the lyric; he uses his voice in many songs as an instrument of praise, attempting to reach, by sound alone, some place near to the human soul. John Coltrane became convinced that the experience of the divine—religious thoughts and behaviors—could not only be accompanied by music, but realized through it.

Once, when asked by a music writer what he would like to be later in life, Coltrane answered simply, “I would like to be a saint.”

The seasons of Carnival and Lent are two sides of the same coin. Lent is a season for devoting ourselves to religious disciplines. We use our time in Lent to study scripture more diligently, to pray more intentionally, to seek to practice our faith in ways that will build our faith. But Carnival is a season that acknowledges that the religious life is more than the practice of discipline. The poet, Hart Crane, once wrote that jazz is “something clean, sparkling, elusive.” He could have been writing about God as well.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells Nicodemus that “the wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” I invite you this month to experience both sides of the religious experience: to embrace the disciplines of Lent and to let the sounds and visions of Carnival to wash over you.

See you in church,
Guest Preachers

As Rev. Carlson continues to receive chemotherapy treatments, a number of friends and acquaintances have agreed to fill our pulpit over the next few weeks.

Sunday, February 18 -- Rev. Charlie Herrick will be preaching. Charlie is Honorably Retired from the PCUSA and currently serves as a part-time Parish Associate at First Presbyterian Church, Lansing.

Sunday, February 25 -- Dr. Laura Smit will be preaching on Ephesians 2. Dr. Smit is a Professor of Religious Studies at Calvin College and is currently working on a project exploring the work of C.S. Lewis.

Sunday, March 11 -- Rev. Matthew Wright will be preaching. Rev. Wright served as pastor at Parkwood Presbyterian Church in Jenison, Michigan for seven years. He recently began doctoral studies at Calvin Theological Seminary.

Sunday, March 18 -- Rev. "Nibs" Stroupe will be our guest preacher, and he will also speak during the Education Hour following. Now retired, Rev. Stroupe, served as pastor of Oakhurst Presbyterian Church since 1983. He has long been an outspoken voice for racial and social justice within the PC(USA) and nationwide, along with his wife of 40 years, Rev. Caroline Leach. He is the author or co-author of four books, leads numerous workshops on race across the denomination, and is a frequent guest speaker on racial issues.

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II
Thursday, February 22, 2018, 5 P.M.

At the Wharton Center for the Performing Arts,
part of the 2018 Slavery to Freedom Lecture Series

Rev. Dr. William Barber II is the president and senior lecturer of Repairers of the Breach; co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call For Moral Revival; visiting professor at Union Theological Seminary; and the author of multiple books. Hearing Barber speak is like being at a black church revival. He draws on prophetic Biblical challenge, comfort, and strength for our times.

Late Breaking Souper Bowl of Caring Report

On Sunday, January 28, those lucky members of the congregation that chose to participate were treated to their choice of seven different soups as part of our annual “Souper Bowl of Caring.” These delicious concoctions were prepared and served by our youth in bowls that were specially glazed by them January 7 for this event. Some participants that couldn’t remain chose the “to go” option, allowing them to enjoy a delicious meal at their leisure. This is all part of our ongoing efforts to raise money for the Greater Lansing Food Bank, which has so far totaled approximately $900. Thanks so much to our youth for their service.
We celebrate:
♦ The birth of Nicholas Angelo Belloli, born to Nick and Ellen Belloli on January 5. Grandparents include Tom and Sally Belloli.
♦ The birth of Marcella Helen Mutti-Horner, born to Mark and Mell Horner on January 11. Grandparents include Iris and David Horner.
♦ Kent Workman’s ‘Excellence in Diversity Award’ for his work at MSU.

We extend sympathy to:
♦ The family of Barbara Schaberg, including Tom (and Jill) Schaberg.
♦ The family of Bobbie Cone, including her husband Bob, and their three children: Holly (and Paul) Nieuima, Brett (and Lynn) Cone, and Brooks (and Kathy) Cone, and grandchildren. A memorial service and luncheon for Bobbie was held at our church on January 13.

Please hold in prayer:
♦ BobBrittain
♦ Rob Carlson
♦ John Duley
♦ Kathy Fabian, friend of Jan Endres
♦ Albert Kish, brother-in-law to Jan Endres
♦ Lyleen Haller
♦ David Hoekstra
♦ Liz Hoekstra
♦ Harriet McDaniel
♦ Kathy and Mark Richardson
♦ Sandy Sharky, Lynn Cone’s mother
♦ Dick Stuart
♦ Jan Timmons
♦ Pete & Jean Weinert
♦ Bill Weir, Jane Bobay’s brother

Thank You’s

Jill and I want to thank all our friends at PCO who have showered us with cards and messages of sympathy over the death of my mother. You have helped bring to us comfort and peace as we deal with her loss. Thank you for remembering us in your thoughts and prayers. We are blessed and humbled by you.

Jill and Tom Schaberg

On behalf of the Cone and Nieuima families, we would like to thank our entire church family for the outpouring of care and support we received after the death of our dear mother/wife Bobbie Cone. We offer our deep appreciation to Rob, Alice and Gail Lira for their contributions to the beautiful and meaningful memorial service. We would also like to thank the Deacons for all the hard work that went into the wonderful lunch provided after the service. We thank God for the blessing of being part of such a loving and caring church family.

Sincerely,
Brett & Lynn Cone
Holly & Paul Nieuima
Robert Cone

Many thanks to everyone for all the prayers, cards, meals, calls and kindnesses to me and Mark over the past six weeks. I’m trying to write notes but can’t get them done quickly enough.

Kathy Richardson

I want to thank all of you who offered prayers, expressed sympathy, sent cards with condolences, or talked at length about the death of my twin brother, Don. In particular, the sessions with the men’s breakfast group and the book discussion group helped immensely.

The memorial service for Don in League City, Texas, on January 13 produced lots of tears, humor, laughter, loving memories, and embellished tales. Barbara and I have appreciated your expressions of sympathy and consolation.

Ron & Barbara Dorr
MISSION COMMITTEE UPDATES

♦ Mission Committee held a retreat on January 7, 2018, to plan for 2018 and beyond!

♦ PCO Mission Committee is considering partnering with Faith Lutheran to assist unaccompanied Central American minors who are without any support. Rev. Jim Kocher spoke of this issue in his sermon on January 7. Faith Lutheran has a parsonage which is available for some of these teens to live in as they await word on their status.

♦ For 2018, depending on funding levels, the Mission Committee would like to increase focus on three main areas:
  ◦ Local programs: Expanded support for GIL including securing finances to supporting part-time teachers.
  ◦ State and National needs: Cass Tiny Homes project, collaborating with other churches to fund and support construction of more tiny homes.
  ◦ International Missions: Mission trip opportunities to Simbolei (Kenya) and HAPI (Haiti).

New projects being developed for 2018 include (these are just ideas):
  ◦ Edgewood Village – involve youth and older with the group planting trees in the neighborhood and more.
  ◦ Assisted living facilities – As a new mission, providing basic services to these facilities.
  ◦ Resuming participation in the Presbytery’s "Shared Mission Giving"—PCO stopped participating in 2004. The committee will entertain a visit from John Best to determine the extent of our participation.
  ◦ With the wonderful support of this generous and compassionate community, the Mission Committee will continue to work diligently to support our dear traditional missions locally, nationally and around the world.

2018 Mission Trip to Cass Community Social Services, February 17-18

Our annual mission trip to Cass Community Social Services in Detroit is planned for Saturday and Sunday of Presidents’ Day weekend, February 17-18. This year we will be doing repairs and painting in the Littleton Building (formerly Moms’ Place II), which contains 13 apartments for permanent supportive housing. All adults and youth are welcome, as are upper elementary kids if accompanied by an adult family member.

We plan to meet at the church at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday and return late Sunday afternoon, although some may choose to participate on either Saturday or Sunday. In addition to the volunteer work, other activities will include:

  Dinner Saturday night at Los Galanos, a locally owned nearby Mexican restaurant.

  Church services Sunday morning at Cass United Methodist church, pastored by Rev. Faith Fowler.

  A Sunday afternoon “walk about” around the seven currently constructed Cass Tiny Homes, which have gained national acclaim as the first tiny house project designed for home ownership rather than rentals.

  Forms will be available from Ellen Hoekstra, as well as in the church office and near the Mission bulletin board. Participants spending the night on site (very nice looking cots in the church) have a fee of $20. Please bring $20 for dinner Saturday night and wear your most disreputable painting clothes.

  Members of the congregation not going on the trip can participate by providing food and water for our lunches, as well as praying for those going on the trip and offering other support. On this trip, we also ask for contributions of bedding, especially sheets, blankets, mattress covers mainly twin and standard full size. On our “advance” trip, we noticed many residents lacked these comforts. These need not be matching sets and they can be used, providing they are in good shape. We also would like to bring 6-8 small kitchen chairs, if anyone has extras.

  There is a sign-up sheet for these items available in Fellowship Hall.
Plan to attend the **Ash Wednesday Community Worship Services** on February 14, at Noon and at 7:00 P.M. at Faith Lutheran Church, (4515 Dobie Road, Okemos). The homily will be given by Rev. Alice Fleming Townley. The service will include an invitation to Lenten disciplines, imposition of ashes, and Holy Communion.

**Lenten Classes:** Beginning the week of Sunday, February 18

*The Cup of Our Life: a Guide to Spiritual Growth,* by Joyce Rupp

Devotional Books available at church and at Schuler’s Bookstore for $15

**Four small group opportunities to discuss The Cup of Our Life:**

☞ Sunday mornings during the CE hour at church; led by Andrea Kaitany

☞ Monday evenings, 6:00—8:00 P.M.; led by Doug and Jane Paterson

   Dinner and discussion at the Coaches Corner, a private dining room within the restaurant of the Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Order from the menu. You do not need to be a member of the M.A.C. to attend.

☞ Tuesday evenings, 7:30 P.M at the home of Emily & Jeff Conroy-Krutz

☞ Wednesday mornings, 10:00--11:30 A.M. at church; led by Alice Townley

**One combined class on Sunday morning, March 25, during the CE Hour**

*EMBODIED: Mind, Body, Heart and Soul*

Lenten calendar and companion devotional, available at church for $10

Discussion on Tuesdays, 1:00 P.M. at church; led by Sue Schnackenberg

**Lent: A Time for Reflection and Action**

Sunday mornings during the CE hour at church: led by Ron Dorr and Kent Workman

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**Mid-Week Classes**

**Men’s Group** meets Tuesday mornings at 6:45 A.M. in Fellowship Hall.

**Artists’ Circle,** meets Tuesdays, 1:00—3:00 P.M., in Room 108.

Come join our delightful group as we explore the ideas and concepts of Art and Christianity. We look forward to having you join us!

**Conversation and Contemplation** with Alice Townley, Wednesdays, 10:00 A.M. in Room 108.

**Adult Bible Study**

Thursdays, 9:30 A.M. in Room 108, temporary leadership coordinator is Ewen Todd.

**Other Opportunities**

**Writing Life Stories** will meet At 12:30 A.M. on Sunday, February 4, in Room 108

**Book Discussion Group** will discuss Mitch Alkm’s book, HAVE A LITTLE FAITH, at 12:30 P.M. on February 18 in Room 108. Alkm’s book compares the religious faith of a Jewish rabbi with a street preacher in Detroit.

**Women’s Connection** will meet Sunday, February 25, 12:30 P.M. After a time of fellowship and sharing lunch, Rebecca Urban will speak on her life and faith journey. She is a very new PCO member, coming with her two young sons, and has “jumped in” to activities here. Please plan now to join us and get to know Rebecca. All women are welcome and encouraged to invite friends.

**Women’s Dinner Out**

**Who:** All women, members and friends

**What:** Dinner Out!

**Where:** Sindhu Indian Cuisine, 4790 Hagadorn, #132, East Lansing.

**When:** 5:30 P.M. Monday, February 19
Save the Date!
Masquerade Murder Mystery Dinner
Join us for a night out! Enjoy a catered dinner while we solve a murder mystery together.

Detective Notes:
When: Saturday, March 24, 2018
Where: Fellowship Hall
Time: 6:00-7:30 (ish)
Who: Church members and friends

Reservations are required.
Tickets will be sold at church in March.
This event is appropriate for ages 13 and up.
If you would like to be an actor or actresses for this fun-filled night, contact Deb Major at 517-230-8949 or Jerri Gillet at 517-351-3816.

Presented by Parish Life.

State Public Policy Update from the Mission Committee

In Late December, the Lansing State Journal published what editors thought were the ten most important state laws passed in 2017. While most did not affect issues relevant to the Mission Committee, some certainly did. The first was a package of bills intended to reduce our state’s opioid epidemic. The commentary mentioned that from 1999-2016, the annual number of opioid overdose deaths increased seventeen fold—from 99 to 1689. Imagine that deaths from another disease—measles or tuberculosis—were to increase at such a rate! The Detroit Free Press ranks Michigan as having the 15th highest rate of death from drug overdoses in the country. At the end of the year, Governor Snyder signed legislation requiring physicians to check a prescription database before prescribing certain painkillers. Other legislation in this multiple bill, bi-partisan package reduce the amount of opioids that may be prescribed and require that physicians can prescribe such drugs only when they have a “bona fide” physician-patient relationship.

Other important legislation enacted was designed to reduce recidivism by setting up a program that prescribes progressively harsher penalties for violating terms of parole rather than automatically returning parolees back to prison if they have not committed a new crime. Also, individuals convicted of felonies who are put on probation will be incarcerated for no more than 30 days per probation violation. In both cases, the new laws are intended to distinguish between violating rules and committing new crimes, with the goal of reserving prison for criminal actions. Please note:

Several elected officials and their staff showed support for refugees by attending the “Longest Night” prayer vigil; Representative Sam Singh of the 69th District, where PCO is located; Representative Tom Cochran of the 67th District, where Mt. Hope UMC is located; Stuart Pigler, staff for Congressman Mike Bishop of the 8th Congressional District, and Ingham County Commissioner Ryan Sebolt of the 2nd District. All have been thanked for their participation.

The Michigan Supreme Court is expected to hear arguments regarding whether schools have the right to exclude individuals with concealed pistols from their premises. The Michigan Indigent Defense Commission has rejected reform plans or budget requests from 26 counties of the 78 submitted. In nearly half of convictions overturned in Michigan, lack of adequate legal defense was a factor, according to the National Registry of Exoneration.

The Governor has signed a bill sponsored by former State Representative (now Lansing mayor) Andy Schor that incentivizes grocery stores to locate in urban areas that are “food deserts.”

Some educators in Michigan are working with the Michigan Department of Education to develop a “seal of biliteracy.” Twenty-seven other states already have such programs, with standards set by each state and typically including languages learned at home, as well as those studied in schools. Evidence of proficiency in a second language is attractive to many employers.

The Washington Post has predicted a potential $13 billion loss in donations for nonprofits, with giving expected to fall more among middle-income donors as a consequence of the changes to federal tax law. Wealthier donors may be more likely to favor museums and universities over religious and social service organizations.

Michigan’s legislature returned to Lansing on January 10 with one priority being reform of driver responsibility fees. State Representative Sam Singh, whose district includes many PCO members, has announced his 2018 coffee hours. The first is Monday, Jan. 29, 8:00 A.M. at Blondie’s Barn, 5640 Marsh Road in Haslett. Next is Monday February 26, 6 P.M., at the East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road. Such events are open to all constituents and provide an opportunity for updates on state legislation and a chance to express any concerns you may have.
From the CE Desk,
By Sue Schnackenberg

Schedule for Youth, and Children

February
4 Parents, please join your youth for the first half hour of our group. Bring your calendar and food money (if you have not yet paid).
11 Begin planning for Children’s Sermon of Youth Sunday
17-18 Cass Mission trip
18 No Youth Group, President’s Day Weekend
25 Youth Sunday Prep

March
4 Youth Sunday Prep
11 Movie: A Wrinkle in Time
18 High School Musical - East Lansing High School
25 Youth Group

April
1 Easter- Egg Hunt, Spring Break, No Church School classes
8 Christian Education but No Youth Group
15 Youth Group
22 Dress Rehearsal for Youth Sunday
29 Youth Sunday

May 6 End of the year picnic

SAVE THE DATE
July 10-13; 8:45 A.M. - 12 Noon
A WRINKLE IN TIME VBS
If you are interested in helping contact Sue Schnackenberg 517-643-0562.

CROP Walk, 2017: Final Report

Several new phenomena occurred in our church’s participation in the Lansing CROP Walk on October 8, 2017. (1) Contributions reached an all-time high: $17,100.11. (2) Three anonymous donors challenged our youth: if our youth would garner $4,000, the donors would provide $3,000. Our youth met that challenge. (3) We invited members of the Islamic Center of East Lansing to join us. Six members—three adults and three children—participated. On that Sunday, David Horner also persuaded two Argentinian visitors to walk. (4) We added a third poster board last fall, focusing on where and how CROP funds would be used.

Several continuities remained. (1) The number of walkers—36—was the most among all participating units in the Lansing CROP Walk. (2) In addition to receiving a plaque for the highest number of participants, we will receive another plaque for the highest amount in contributions (for the seventh year in a row). Three youths’ eyes sparkled when they accepted plaques at the gym. (3) Though the number of youth walkers was down because several families were out of town, seven kids rose to the occasion of matching the donors’ challenges: Becca and Laurel Boldrey, Owen Locke, Andrew Mayhew, Clarisse Pendo, Grace and Jonathan Townley. (4) The Mission Committee sponsored a lovely lunch; Iris Horner did a wonderful job of coordinating efforts for this endeavor.

I want to thank those people—youth, elders, and those in between—who walked. Walking and talking with the family of Adam Al-Ansari was a blessing.

Most important, I want to thank the members and friends of the Presbyterian Church of Okemos for your generosity. In 39 years of our congregation’s participation, we have contributed over $310,000 to fight hunger. Such efforts mean a lot to those who are hungry, malnourished, and poor, as well as those people facing continued drought, unexpected flooding from hurricanes, and other disasters.

PCO needs your picture ASAP for a new photo directory. We expect to place the photo directory for review by the end of February, and we need time to assemble the document. Please send photos to directory@okemospres.org, or drop prints in the mailbox for Communications & Engagement. We can reuse photos from the 2012 directory if you send that request to directory@okemospres.org.
Approximately 1,400 people listened to Diane Nash at the thirty-third annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Luncheon in Lansing on January 15, which would have been King's 89th birthday.

According to Lansing State Journal reporter Haley Hansen, Nash reminded the audience that the civil rights movement—past and present—was larger than the man King himself. “There are 300,000,000 of us. That is a lot of brain power and man power and woman power. If we 99 percent of the population allow one percent or less of the population to rule us, we are really chumps.” Nash talked to three of the four Lansing Catholic School football players who knelt at the playing of the national anthem last fall. “I absolutely support them. . . . I’m so proud of them. . . . I think they’re right.” If citizens can be murdered unjustly and no one held accountable, that situation “ought to be protested by any right-thinking citizen.”


On February 16, 2012, appearing in East Lansing, Nash discussed the nature and philosophy of nonviolence, the principles behind it, the six steps in the process of resisting nonviolently, and her advice to young people. Because people have resorted to violence so frequently, she assumed that nonviolence would never be easy or popular.

Nash, who grew up Catholic, preferred her own phrasing, “agapic energy,” to the word, “nonviolence.” “Nonviolence” is too passive a word. “Agapic” is the adjectival form of “agape,” the Greek word for self-sacrificing, universal love of one’s fellow human beings. Such love generated energy—“agapic energy,” which can focus on social change.

Two principles undergird such energy, serving Nash all her life. (1) “People are never your enemy.” Unjust political and economic systems, racist attitudes, emotional and mental illnesses are. You can love and respect the person while you attack the evil. (2) “Oppression always requires the cooperation of the oppressed.” When blacks in Montgomery decided to stop walking to the back of buses in 1955, for instance, segregated busing in effect stopped in that city.

The most illuminating part of Nash’s talk in 2012 focused on resisting nonviolently. The process by which desegregation took place in the South in the 1950-1960s, she said, involved six steps. The first was investigation—gathering information and setting a goal. Next came education—studying, creating genuine not blind followers, recruiting well, and attracting new people. Negotiation followed—face-to-face conversations and strategies. Demonstrations included marches, sit-ins, and pickets that focused on the issues. Resistance included noncooperation and economic withdrawal such as boycotts, work stoppages, nonpayment of taxes, and parallel institutions (one’s own bus transportation, for instance). The last step was ensuring that the issues did not resurface. People needed to make sure history was not rolled back and covered, keeping young people in the dark about such rich moments and movements.

Nash added other advice to young people. Voting is not enough. Be willing to chide leaders. Study is crucial. Read about nonviolence. Trust yourself. Work on issues you are interested in. Stop cooperating with injustice. Don’t let justice sit and wait. Take action. If you just talk and talk about your job and never go in to work, she said, you soon will lose your job. It is the same with facing injustice and oppression.

Asked what her sources of courage were, she said, “The movement itself drew out strengths unknown to us participants. I was scared. I couldn’t have done it without the others. Thousands of people were courageous. We were sources of courage for each other. If we gave in to fear, we’d be letting ourselves down, too.”

“My contemporaries had you in mind,” Nash said, addressing young people in the audience. “We loved you even though we had not yet met you. We wanted a better society for you to be born into.” Some of her contemporaries freaked out in the face of police brutality, hoses spraying kids, and the prospect of jail. On one occasion, Nash put her arms around someone faltering and said, “We’re doing this for generations unborn.” “Future generations will depend on you for the same,” she concluded.

Diane Nash practiced what she preached. In Nashville in 1960, she mastered the self-discipline and restraint necessary in sit-ins at segregated lunch counters. When bigots bombed the Freedom Riders’ bus in Anniston, Alabama, on May 14, 1961, she disregarded the advice of Robert Kennedy’s assistant, John Seigenthaler, to discontinue the effort to integrate interstate traveling. “All of us have written our last wills and testaments. We’re going to continue. To give in now is to let violence win.”

Nash continued exploring the meanings and expressions of nonviolence. In Birmingham in 1963, she encouraged King to send children out as marchers even though black parents objected. She taught literacy to black children in the South and got jailed for doing so. She was even willing to have her baby while she was in jail. In 1965, she pestered King until he got involved in the drive for black voters’ rights in Selma.

She believed that big ideas were involved in the civil rights movement. Like King, she “balanced an imperative for equal votes with the original prophetic vision of equal souls before God” (Taylor Branch). Indeed, the voting booth is the shrine of nonviolence.

The theme of the Lansing luncheon in 2018 was, “We must accept finite disappointment but never lose infinite hope” (King’s words). To the forces that diminish life we must offer forces that replenish. For over 50 years, Diane Nash has been such a renewing force.
Jazz Weekend, February 10-11

This year's jazz festivities will begin on Sunday, **February 4th**, with a lecture entitled "**Introduction to Jazz**" by Arlene McDaniel. The lecture will be held in the sanctuary during the Christian education hour (11:30 A.M.).

On Saturday, **February 10, at 7:00 P.M.**, PCO will present "**An Evening of Jazz**" featuring **clarinet virtuoso Dave Bennett and his quartet**. Dave has performed with over 50 orchestras throughout the U.S. and Canada including a performance at Carnegie Hall, and is featured in dozens of music and jazz festivals.

**The Dave Bennett Quartet returns Sunday morning, February 11th,** for the Jazz Worship Service at 10:00 A.M., followed by a pancake brunch. A nursery will be provided for both Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

Please come with family and friends to share this wonderful weekend of great music. If you need a ride for the Saturday evening concert, please call the church office or contact Marlene Brewbaker.
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<td>10</td>
<td>9am-1pm Toastmasters’ contest</td>
<td>7pm Evening of Jazz with Dave Bennett</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Jazz Sunday</td>
<td>Transfiguration of the Lord</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>10am Worship &amp; Communion</td>
<td>11:30am Pancake Brunch</td>
<td>12:30pm Youth Group</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>6:45am Men’s Group</td>
<td>9:30am Nutrition Class</td>
<td>9:30am Men’s Group</td>
<td>9:30am Men’s Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>10am Conversation &amp; Contemplation Class</td>
<td>5:30pm Nutrition Class</td>
<td>7pm Ash Wednesday Worship at Faith Lutheran</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>9:30am Adult Bible Study</td>
<td>5:30pm Toastmasters</td>
<td>7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>10am Conversation &amp; Contemplation Class</td>
<td>5:30pm Toastmasters</td>
<td>7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>10am Conversation &amp; Contemplation Class</td>
<td>5:30pm Toastmasters</td>
<td>7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>1st Sunday of Lent</td>
<td>10am Worship</td>
<td>11am Birthday Cake</td>
<td>11:30am CE Hour</td>
<td>12:30pm Youth Group</td>
<td>Cass Mission Trip</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>6pm Jubilee</td>
<td>6:45pm Monday Mallets</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>6:45am Men’s Group</td>
<td>9:30am Nutrition Class</td>
<td>1pm Artists’ Circle</td>
<td>1:30pm Arthritis Group</td>
<td>5:30pm Nutrition Class</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>10am Conversation &amp; Contemplation Class</td>
<td>5:30pm Overeaters</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Grapevine Deadline</td>
<td>10am Conversation &amp; Contemplation Class</td>
<td>6:30pm Administration Comm</td>
<td>7:30pm Session</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>9:30am Adult Bible Study</td>
<td>5:30pm Toastmasters</td>
<td>7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>8am Capital Area Music Teachers piano competition</td>
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