

Calendar – July 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 communion 10am Service	5 Independence Day observed – PC office closed	6 10:30 Commit. on Ministry meets 6:30 Treasures Interfaith steering committee	7	8	9 6pm Taizé svc, 7pm Coffeehouse: Michael Smith, artist <i>Molly's Café</i>	10
11 10am Service LiNK film and discussion	12 Angie on vacation this week.	13	14 5:30pm PBC Board meeting	15 <i>Labor Day picnic letters go out</i>	16 Windy City Ribfest – Uptown Chamber of Commerce Through Sun→	17 Windy City Ribfest 7pm Joseph Bures classical piano <i>P.C. auditorium</i>
18 10am Service Birthday Potluck	19	20 1:30pm 2 Li'l Fishes Fundraising Comm.	21	22	23	24
25 10am Service 11:30 PC Trustees	26	27 6:30 Worship Comm	28	29	30	31

Minister's Notes, cont'd

"Someone who is important needs to counteract all this hate and misinformation!"

I am struck by how much fear people seem to be feeling and expressing – fear on both sides. Lots of publicity is given to those who compare Obama to Hitler and Stalin and other ogres, as in the "tea parties" held around the nation. At those vociferous rallies people's response to their alarm comes out in threatening language, like Sarah Palin's remark about "Lock and load!"

All the racial allusions to Obama and the lack of respect for him as holder of the office of President arouses in others of us fears for Obama's life. In the face of draconian laws like Arizona's about undocumented immigrants, we fear the spread of the culture of hatred. We fear for the fate of our democracy when news is replaced by opinion and hate speech is characterized as "harmless."

But my seat mate's expression of alarm made me think of FDR's famous remark – made in his first Inaugural Address in 1933, when the country had sunk deeply into the Great Depression. "We have nothing to fear but fear itself!" Roosevelt thundered.

We talked about this for awhile – I told her I thought that the fear the right is creating in their followers seems to be infecting everyone else as well.

Our job – as people of faith, faith in the dream our country represents, faith in democracy, in people being able to get along, in spite of our differences – our job right now is to counteract fear. To show others that there is nothing to fear but fear itself. To continue to work and pray and speak out for the things that are precious to us in this country.

One of my favorite poets, Jimmy Baca, writes:

More than my fear, is my love of justice,
more than my pride, is to step aside
when someone is right. But today, no one speaks
the truth, yesterday, no one spoke the truth,
none stood up to say I was right, because

I stood alone, without money, without connections,
so today I stand up, I speak up, and stand with others
who do the same.

This is suffering, pain, anguish, and loneliness,
but also strength, hope, faith, love, it gives a man
those secret properties of the Spirit, that make a man
a man,
it gives to us, what is most lacking,
most powerful and full of extreme beauty and body.²

I talked about not letting fear get the best of us, and the woman next to me on the bus told me she wasn't afraid. She decided to take some action, at the very least to write to a prominent politician to appeal to him to intervene. She could write letters to the editor, too, I suggested.

We are not all on our own; we live and work in organizations that can have an impact. We can follow Jimmy Baca's model and stand with those who are being abused and mistreated. I would like to be able to say along with him, "More than my fear, is my love of justice."

peace, *Jean*

The Labor Day Picnic

Every year we host a giant cook-out, serving ribs, chicken, veggies, and other delicious food, prepared by our cooks and volunteers, and served to several hundred neighborhood people in a festive atmosphere. It'll be September 6th, 10-2, in Margate Park.

We play slow pitch softball, and chat under the trees and have a good time.

Won't you join us?

We can use volunteers, donations of food, or cash support. The feast costs \$1500-\$2000 each year.

Call Grace, 773-771-5350, or the church office (773-784-6633) and leave your name and a way to reach you.



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² Jimmy Santiago Baca, *Immigrants in Our Own Land*, p.36.



ON THE STREET

The Peoples Church of Chicago Newsletter for July, 2010

"A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience"

CALENDAR

Film/Movie Night –

Our projector is getting repaired – we'll start again in September, with a lineup of great films.

Upcoming Services

- ? **Sundays 10am:** Worship Service, **Rev. Jean Darling** preaching, with stories and poetry and music.
- ? **Sun, July 18, 10am:** Service followed by our monthly **Potluck**.
- ? **Sun, July 25, 10am:** Service followed by **Trustees** meeting.

Other Events

- ? **"Second Fri," July 9, 6pm: Taizé service**, followed by special guest **Michael Smith** at the **7pm Coffeeshouse**.
- ? **Fri-Sun, July 16-18: Windy City Ribfest**, on Broadway from Lawrence to Leland – sponsored by Uptown Chamber of Commerce
- ? **Sat, July 17, 7pm, Piano Recital:** Joseph Bures plays two Mozart sonatas and other short pieces.
- ? **Rev. Jean** will be out of town in August. Please contact **Rev. Bob Ford** for any pastoral issues.

2 Li'l Fishes

Each Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, a free lunch is served in Anderson Hall. All are welcome.

If you would like to help, phone Will Pruitt, volunteer coordinator, 773-754-6102.

Minister's Notes: "The Only Thing to Fear..."

Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling

Personally, I don't make a habit of reading the right-wing blogs and I don't watch Fox News (if I can help it – the doctor's office has it running continually). But plenty of alarming material crosses my screen that friends send on. One interesting article was called "Why You Should Care About the Psychology of Disgust," from TruthOut, posted Monday, May 31st. Joe Brewer writes, about recent studies of the brain and emotions:

One of the major discoveries so far is that morality is grounded in our bodily experience. We literally feel right and wrong in our bodies. Disgust is a physical experience that applies to notions of moral purity, moral health, and our judgments about how to handle situations like incest, cannibalism, and rape. For each of these emotionally potent topics, the strength of our feelings corresponds directly with our sentiments about how they should be handled in society.¹

When we bite into an apple that is rotten and spit it out in disgust, our instinctive reaction is meant to save our lives. The right has learned to use this instinctual human response to attach feelings of disgust to political leaders they disagree with, by repeating phrases like "liberal elite," or labeling President Obama a socialist, which many people find frightening. Even more blatant is calling him Barack "Osama," or repeating the untruth that he is Muslim, as if "Muslim" and "terrorist" were synonymous. This particular association is one obvious example of this disgust response.

On the bus back from Minneapolis, where I was attending the UUA General Assembly for 2010, I met an interesting woman who overheard me on my cell phone trying to make last-minute arrangements for a special service we were having here last Sunday. She asked "Are you a pastor?" and that became the beginning of a conversation that ranged from favorite books to politics to religion and back.

My seatmate was very alarmed at the racist attitude of right-wing commentators – and especially at the attacks on President Obama. "Why aren't the Senators defending him?" she asked.

...cont'd

¹ <http://www.truth-out.org/joe-brewer-why-you-should-care-about-psychology-disgust59979>