

May 2024

Friends,

I am a documentary junky. (I know, you've probably heard me say it before.) I like to listen to things about history, with two exceptions: I don't like history documentaries that primarily focus on war, and I don't like true crime murder stories. Mostly, I like to hear about how society functioned during different points in time across the span of human existence.

Today, I am thinking about how life is different than it was 30 years ago. The majority of people within the congregation have lived through this time and so we have experienced these changing times as part of the natural rhythms of life. But life is in many ways different than it was just three decades ago. Unless we intentionally stop to think about it, 1990 probably doesn't seem that much different than 2024.

Many cultural and social changes have crept up on us subtly, though we can certainly name some major changes – the wide availability of cell phones, the rise in the internet, texting, and social media. There have been other changes, too: great advancements in medical technology and pharmaceuticals have happened. Renting a VHS or DVD has become essentially obsolete, newspapers and TV evening news are no longer the fastest way to get current event information. The list goes on.

In terms of people, in the 1990s, the U.S. population was growing about 1.3% a year. In 2020s, that growth has slowed by about half to .7% a year. And the population is aging; as Baby Boomers age, the shift to those in the U.S. over 65 years of age has increased from 12% to 17%.

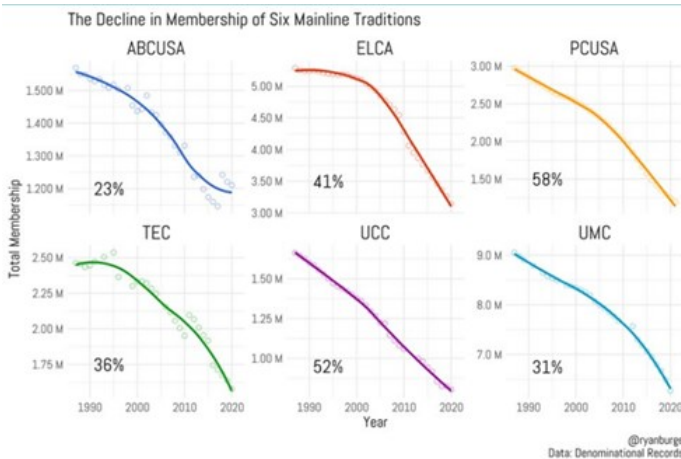
Church has changed, too. The acceptance of women ministers, divorcees serving as elders, and a host of other changes have occurred. Some changes have been welcomed, and other changes have been difficult.

Now, post-COVID, we are looking at our church institutions and individual churches to see how they are functioning in this moment in time. Online worship is at a high, using technology that was too expensive and not readily available just a decade ago.

The Church (universal) has been many things in 2000 years – a place of education, a shelter, a place of refuge, a place of condemnation, a hub of local communities, and so much more. We – the people who make up the church- get to decide what we want to be now and into the future.

What will we look like in another 5 years, 10 years, or 30 years?

[IN 1990] AMERICANS BUILT BIGGER AND MORE ELABORATE HOMES AND DROVE MORE EXPENSIVE AUTOMOBILES, THEN WORKED LONGER HOURS TO PAY FOR THEM. AMERICANS SPENT MORE, BORROWED MORE, AND WENT MORE DEEPLY INTO DEBT. THEY DRANK MORE COFFEE, SMOKED MORE CIGARS, AND TURNED GAMBLING INTO A NATIONAL PASTIME.
www.encyclopedia.com



Mainline Decline by R. Burge, available from twitter.com/ryanburge/status/1523695377337430016/photo/1

May 2024

SHARING OUR SUNRISE JOYS AND CONCERNS

"And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth. And it was so." (Genesis 1:11)

The days are longer, the mornings fresh with dew, the afternoons filled with the warmth of the sun; and the yearning to plant, to sow some seeds comes alive. The showers of April have turned the fields green and the trees release their leaves from the buds.

As I patiently wait for the days to get warm enough on these northern plains to plant, I found myself paging through a magazine filled with beautiful summer gardens. One especially caught my eye. It was an English garden planned to bloom and grow all summer with a variety of plants. The commentary stressed that what made it beautiful was the planning; the thoughtful ideas to give it structure, variety of textures, different heights and colors of flowers, variegated foliage, some wispy, some sturdy. So well planned that it looked like it just happened.

"That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither - whatever they do prospers." (Psalm 1:3)

And I thought about God's plans for us. Just like the beautiful English Garden, God's plans for us and our lives were well planned. He gave our lives structure and harmony, yet made us diverse with many variations of talents and gifts, strengths and weaknesses. Some wispy, some sturdy as the plants. Yet planted to be one garden in God's love. As Ephesians 3:16-17 says, *"I pray that according to the richness of His glory Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith as you are being **rooted and grounded in love.**"*

Even among the beautiful flowers of God's love, we are met with sorrows and loss. Many in our congregation have felt that loss in the passing of close friends or extended relatives. In the midst of the sorrow may they see the beauty of the flower that was their loved one and cherish the memories. We especially wrap our arms around Lorrie and Mary Kate Maki as they mourn the loss of their husband and father, Ed. Ed was a man who would understand God's garden, having been a rancher for his life's work and he cherished the creation that God allowed him to enjoy. Prayers for comfort.

We celebrate Rod Paronto's return home after spending time in the hospital in Billings and pray for his continued recovery and patience as he recuperates at home. Prayers for strength for Dixy in the journey. Helen DeVoss is doing well and we were pleased to have her with us in person for worship two times during Holy Week. Prayers for Estelle and her grandsons as they continue to adjust to their lives together.

We have many joys in our garden here at Sunrise. We were blessed to have Pastor Tim share God's message to us in worship teaching us our real faith work is found in the valleys of life as well as on the mountain tops. It was good to hear that after some difficult times Intermountain has hired a new permanent CEO and renewing their spirit. One of the seeds planted long ago at Sunrise was our Holy Week Matins and again this year the messages presented filled our souls.

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What roles do we want to play in the lives of members and in the lives of wider community members? In a time of changing demographics and rapidly changing culture, what do we value most?

These answers aren't easy. But they are good questions, and it is faithful for us to ask them and ponder them.

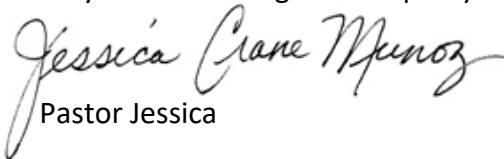
I think of the children's church song "I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord Forever" as I consider the church now and into the future. God's faithfulness is to ALL generations. In and through change, God has a plan for God's church and God's people. Our job as Christians is to faithfully discern where it is that God is leading us.

*I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing, I will sing,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.
With my mouth will I make known
Thy faithfulness, Thy faithfulness,
With my mouth will I make known
Thy faithfulness to all generations,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.*

James H. Filmore, I Will Sing of the Mercies

The Sunrise Session is working to do just this: faithfully discern where God is leading us. Every month, session looks at different aspects and facets of faith and church. The Session elders are dedicated to finding ways for Sunrise to move into the future of church ministry. Thank you to everyone who completed the Sunrise surveys that we sent out in April. Another set of surveys will be heading your way late spring-early summer. Your feedback is of great value as we discern what we hold dear as individuals and as a community.

May God's blessings shine upon you this May.



Pastor Jessica

Continued from p. 2

We had two new families share their faith and talents. What blessings all five mornings were. In our garden there is always extra work to be done cleaning out the weeds, and we are grateful for those families who have stepped forward to clean our church weekly.

"I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God made the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose." (1 Cor 3:6-8)

May your seeds grow in the sunshine of God's Love, Tana

"The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land." (Song of Solomon 2:12)

Palm Sunday Baptisms



Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation Info

Thank you all for your support as I begin this new endeavor working for Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation (OPSF) part-time. Here’s a little of what I’m doing for OPSF. At the end of 2023, OPSF received a \$1.2 million dollar grant from the Lilly Endowment for a new program called Synergos.

Synergos will pair first-call pastors with churches within the Synod of the Rocky Mountains (Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, the panhandle of Nebraska and a tiny piece of Idaho). Churches within this synod can find it difficult to hire ministers for a variety of reasons - isolated geography,

lower wages than coastal regions, and more.

My job has two primary components - find the first-call pastors, and find the churches to pair them with. At the moment, this comprises a lot of leg-work, and a lot of Zoom calls, phone calls, and emails. The position is primarily remote - done from here in Great Falls.

However, I will have times when I travel to seminaries, a potential church site, or to Lilly-sponsored events.

Pastor Jessica



I will be traveling for OPSF the week of May 13-17. I will be in the office for Sunrise additional hours the following week.

Pastor Jessica’s May schedule. Office hours will be modified based upon evening meeting needs.	Day of Week	Organization	Time
	Sunday	Sunrise	8:30-12:30
	Monday	Sunrise	8:30-5
	Tuesday	Sunrise	8:30-5
	Wednesday	Sunrise	8:30-12:30
	Wednesday	OPSF	1-5
	Thursday	OPSF	8:30-5
	Friday	OPSF	8:30-5
	Saturday		

May 2024

May Calendar of Events			
May 2	Thur	10:00 am	Women’s Bible Study
May 5	Sun	9:30 am	Worship,
		10:45 am	Fellowship, Children’s Sunday School
		11:00 am	Deacons’ Meeting
May 7	Tue	6:30 pm	Worship Committee Meeting
May 12	Sun	9:30 am	Worship, Communion
		10:45 am	Fellowship—Muffins for Moms, No Sunday School today
May 13	Mon		Jessica Out-of-Office (5/13-5/16)
May 15	Wed	6:00 pm	Faith, Mission, Outreach Committee Meeting
May 16	Thur	10:00 am	Women’s Bible Study
May 19	Sun	9:30 am	Worship– Pentecost, FISH Collection, Guest Speaker—Carrie Parker, Helping Hands
		10:45 am	Fellowship, Children’s Sunday School
May 20	Mon		Newsletter Deadline
May 26	Sun	9:30 am	Worship
		10:45 am	Fellowship, Children’s Sunday School
May 28	Tue	5:30 pm	Session
May 29	Wed		Newsletter Deadline
Deacon on call for May: Marilyn Andrews			

Upcoming in Worship:

- Mother’s Day - muffins for mom during fellowship, **May 12.**
- Guest speaker from Helping Hands (at First English Lutheran) on **May 19.**
- We’ll begin our Crayon Initiative at the end of May, taking boxes and flyers to schools to round-up those end-of year crayons that would otherwise be tossed out. More information to come in the June newsletter. Last day of GFPS this year is June 6.



Reminder: When donating cans to the can shed, please remember to tie the bags they are donated in. Thank you for being committed to the aluminum can recycling project! We collect \$10-20 of cans per month and this money goes to provide shipping for our pill bottle reuse endeavors.





FISH Food Bank



	Mar '24	Year to Date
Families (non-Single)	42	125
Singles	58	159
Adults	140	387
Children	46	126
Meals	2,790	7,695
Pounds of Food	6,918	18,090

- Food Suggestions for May:**
- Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Mustard
 - Boxed Macaroni & Cheese
 - Salad Dressing
 - Any Type of Soup—Tomato, Chicken Noodle, Cream of Mushroom, etc.

FISH Updates:

Our Loves and Fishes Dinner and Auction brought in close to \$3100 for FISH in March. We commend all the people who contributed their time and gifts to make it all possible!

Special thanks to Janette Forsyth, Jacinte McCullough, Scott Shull, and Carol Stilli for volunteering at FISH the week before Easter. Our next volunteer week will be **June 17th - 21st**, at which time we'll need more volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Maribeth Doan at 406 - 452 - 2727

Reminder: FISH Bowl Sunday is the third Sunday of each month.

Thank you to all who faithfully contribute to FISH.

-Maribeth Doan

The Crayon Initiative

Donate used and broken crayons at the end of the school year to be recycled and given to children in hospitals across the United States.

Drop off crayons at

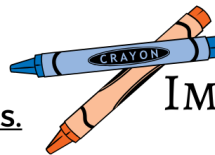
Sunrise Presbyterian Church

June 1st - June 15th.

Drop-boxes are located outside entrances.

3809 6th Ave South, Great Falls

Crayons don't biodegrade. Give your old crayons new life by donating them to The Crayon Initiative. Crayons will be melted and remanufactured into new crayons for kids at hospitals across the country.



IMPACT TO DATE:

240 HOSPITAL PARTNERS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

772,800 PATIENTS HAVE RECEIVED CRAYONS

56,951,129 CRAYONS KEPT FROM LANDFILLS



Organized locally by Sunrise Presbyterian Church, 3809 6th Ave. S., Great Falls
www.sunrisegreatfalls.net

May 2024

SUNRISE CABIN CREW

Are you looking for something to do?

A group of Sunrise volunteers have joined forces to help complete a large cabin for the Glacier Presbyterian Camp.

Scott, Joe, Raul, and Eric have been building the roof. Insulation and singles are next. Then the interior will be finished. Hopefully it can be completed in time to have it delivered to the camp in June before the first campers arrive.

If you would like to help, please contact one of these people. The work schedule is whenever two or more can be there at the same time.

No experience needed. :)



A Great History between Sunrise and Prairie Kraft and Glacier Camp:

Somewhere between 25-30 years ago, Prairie Kraft - Loren Smith - donated two cabins to Glacier Camp. Built on site, members of Sunrise went over to Glacier Camp to help assemble the cabins. Jim Pascal, Walter Wrobetz, and Howard Enlow, (and maybe Bill Postler) all helped to get the cabins assembled.



Then, in 2016 Ty Kallstrom raised money and worked to put a cabin together for his Boy Scout Eagle Scout Award. Ty and his family worked to build it at Prairie Kraft and then it was trucked over to the camp in 2017.

Now, Prairie Kraft has donated another set of cabins to Glacier Camp. And once again members of Sunrise are helping to get the cabins assembled (pictures above). What a beautiful symmetry! One of the new cabins is pictured here to the left.

May 2024

May Reading List	
May 1	Isaiah 42:5-9
May 2	Isaiah 49:5-6
May 3	Isaiah 65:17-25
May 4	Psalms 98
May 5	Psalms 97
May 6	1 Timothy 6:11-12
May 7	1 Timothy 6:13-16
May 8	Psalms 93
May 9	Psalms 47
May 10	Revelation 1:9-18
May 11	John 16:4-11
May 12	Psalms 115
May 13	Philippians 1:3-11
May 14	Titus 1:1-9
May 15	John 16:16-24
May 16	1 Corinthians 15:42b-49
May 17	Job 37:1-13
May 18	Psalms 33:12-22
May 19	Psalms 104:24-34, 35b
May 20	1 Corinthians 12:4-11
May 21	1 Corinthians 12:12-27
May 22	John 20:19-23
May 23	Isaiah 1:1-4
May 24	Isaiah 2:1-5
May 25	Isaiah 5:15-24
May 26	Psalms 29
May 27	Psalms 20
May 28	1 Corinthians 2:1-10
May 29	Mark 4:21-25
May 30	Psalms 81:1-10
May 31	1 Samuel 1:19-27

May daily scripture readings are based on the revised common lectionary

Have you ever noticed our sign outside says www.sunrisegf.net? This is our old site name, and if you were to go to this site on the internet, you would find yourself on the old Sunrise page.

Unfortunately, for new visitors who would like to learn more about Sunrise, they will find themselves on our old site with outdated information.

We are trying to track down the folks who used to work on the website to see if we can re-acquire the www.sunrisegf.net site access. This will allow us to point our current website to the site name that is listed on our sign.

If you or someone you know may have worked on the www.sunrisegf.net site, please have them contact the office. Thank you!



May 2024

Committees and Elders:

Admin, Personnel, & Social Media: Joe Hoseck, Scott Schull
Buildings & Grounds: Travis Harp, Lee Hickey, Dale Lambert
Christian Education: Lee Hickey, Erica Rusinski
Faith, Outreach, & Mission: Norman Anderson, Lee Hickey, Joe Hoseck, Dale Lambert, Carol Stilli
Finance, Stewardship, & Memorials: Lianna Gaskins, Joe Hoseck, Dale Lambert, Scott Shull
Nominating:
Worship: Norman Anderson, Lianna Gaskins, Travis Harp, Lee Hickey
Clerk of Session: Millie Sivak

Sunrise

Board of Deacons:

Chair: Ember Woods
Secretary/Treasurer: Janette Forsyth
Marilyn Andrews, Pam Chigbrow, Maribeth Doan, Tana Harp, Beth Hoseck, Sandy Lambert, Jacinte McCullough



«City», «State», «Zip»
«Address»
«First Names» «Last Name»

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