**Steinbach United**

Welcome Back Sunday

September 9, 2018

**A couple of weeks ago Karen Toole spoke about Belief.**

**Marcus Borg writes in his book – “Speaking Christian” about Believing and Beloving:**

“The Reformation of the sixteenth century emphasized that our relationship with God is primarily about faith: we are “saved by faith,” not “by works.” Ever since, Protestants in particular have spoken of believing and faith as foundational to being Christian. But the common meanings of these words in modern English are very different from their premodern and ancient Christian meanings.

These meanings of believe, religious and nonreligious, are reflected in the most common dictionary definitions:

*Oxford American: “To accept something as true; feel sure of the truth of; accept the statement of someone as true. To have faith, esp. religious faith. To hold as an opinion; think or suppose.”*

The modern meaning of *believe* is very different from its meanings from Christian antiquity until the seventieth century. The meaning of believe prior to about 1600 includes more. It comes from the Old English *be loef*, which means “to hold dear.” The similarity to the modern English word *belove* is obvious. To believe meant not only confidence and trust in a person, but also to behold that person dear – to *belove* that person. Believing and *beloving* were synonyms.

The modern meaning of believe is thus a major distortion of ancient Christian and biblical meanings. To put the contrast very concisely, it is the difference between:

Believing that a set of statements about God, Jesus, and the Bible are true.

*Beloving* God – and for Christians, this means *beloving* God as known especially in Jesus.

For some, perhaps a majority of American Protestant and some Catholics, the former is what “saves us.” But does believing that a set of statements are true save us, transform us? Or is it *beloving* God as known in Jesus that saves us by transforming us? The questions are rhetorical. Believing that a set of statements are true has little transforming power. But *beloving* God as known in Jesus has great transforming power.

**Sunday Morning Service**  September 9, 2018

Worship Lead by:

Growing Spiritually and Building Community Teams

Call to Worship with Drums – The Taiko Drums ( a broad range of [Japanese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traditional_Japanese_musical_instruments) [percussion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Percussion) instruments) that are being used, have been gifted to ***Steinbach United Church in Memory of Len Froebe***

Announcements and Sharing of Celebrations

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prayer *-( in unison)*

Songs “One More Step” (vs 1,3,5) VU 639 “Teach Me to Dance” (Chorus & vs 1)

Sharing and Learning – Stone Soup

Song “Draw the Circle Wide” MV 145

Intro to Readings

Scripture Reading Exodus 2:1-4 & Exodus 13-15 selected verses

Song “Come Let Us Sing” (vs 1,2,3) VU 222

Reflection - Dare to Dance

Song “Praise the Mother”

Song “Like a River of Tears” MV 98

Offering

Offering Song “What Can I Do?” MV 191

Minute for Mission “Training Effective Leaders”

Prayers of the People

Sending Song “My Soul Cries Out” (vs 1,2,3) MV 120

Blessing and Sharing the Peace

**Everyone Welcome for Potluck Lunch and Fellowship – Soups were made with some of the veggies grown in the church garden.**

**NEWS AND NOTES**

**Looking Ahead**

**Tuesday – 7PM - Board Meeting**

**Sept 16th – Josh Ward from St. Matthews Maryland Community Ministry**

**Sept 23rd - Brent Denham**

**Sept 30th - Brent Denham**

**Steinbach United Church**

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**Board Meeting** – Tuesday, Sept 11 at 7PM -   All committees please have a report ready to present at the meeting.

**Steinbach Legion Fall Supper -**Saturday, Sept 15 from 4-7PM.

Full turkey dinner with all the dressings – Cost $15 for adults,   
$12 for ages 12-17, $6 for ages 6-12, 5 and under free.

**West Broadway Community Ministry Annual Walk A Mile In My Shoes** event on Sept 29th, 2018. This educational tour will be heading into a new neighborhood this year and introducing participants to new sites and information. Every dollar raised goes to support WBCM, and its work ensuring that every person can access food and a place of safety when times are hard. Registration forms can be picked up outside church office. See more info on Poster.

**Office Hours Next** **week-** Office hours will again be Tuesday and Friday from 9am-2pm. It’s good to be back and I wish to Thank Carolien Westerbeek for filling in for me for a couple of the days as I need to be away. Pearl Wintoniw.