

Hopewell United Methodist Church

20 Blackwell Avenue, Hopewell, NJ 08525 (609) 466-0471

www.hopewellmethodist.org



October 12, 2021

Rev. Dr. Willy Mafuta

Love in Any language

Last Sunday, having my students from Princeton Seminary in the worship service brought me back twenty years ago when I was student in Grad school in Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL. I remember one year, during my tenure as the President of International Students, we had an international festival where students from different countries were represented. They were from Uruguay, Philippines, Malaysia, Russia, Jordan, Cameroon, Nigeria, Kenya, Egypt, China, Hong Kong, Canada, South Africa, and Germany.

At the end of the worship service, we all sang Sandy Patti's song "love in any language." We held hands and sang it out loud. There was so much emotion that day as a reminder that we were all together in one room as children of God. It was mesmerizing. We are all scattered around the world now and bearing the witness of the Kingdom of God. In fact, the Wheaton College motto is "For Christ and His Kingdom."

As I surveyed the audience last Sunday, I was amazed by its diversity, young and senior citizens, blacks, and whites all together bond in the name of the Gospel. We come from different countries, we speak more than one language, and we all were there praising God together. What a beautiful image of the Kingdom of God. Then an idea came to mind. What if this is the direction the Lord is taking us and to make this Church a conducive environment where people from all over the world living in the borough or passing by could find a niche here. What if people of different nations find the flags of their countries in the narthex or in the sanctuary? It is an idea that is stuck in my mind ever since and doesn't want to go away.

I remember Few weeks back, in our last ad council, I mentioned my vision of "Imagine New People." I have no doubt that we as a church are well equipped and prepared to open our doors and minister to people of different race, nations, ethnicity, and gender. What we

need to do is build structures and programs in place that reflects this vision. In coming weeks and months, we will expand on this vision and all together we will sing one day the following lines as I did twenty years ago,

Je t'aime
Te amo
Ya ti-bya lyu blyu
Ani o hev ot cha
I love you
The sounds are all as different
As the lands from which they came
And though the words are all unique
Our hearts are still the same
Love in any language
Straight from the heart
Pulls us all together
Never apart
And once we learn to speak it
All the world will hear
Love in any language
Fluently spoken here

In His Name,
Pastor Will

Please Join Dr. Will this coming Sunday, October 17, 2021 as he preaches "A Cup of Cold Water." Psalm 13; Matthew 10: 40-42.

N.T Wright, a British theologian says that to hope for a better future in this world- for the poor, the sick, the hungry and homeless, for the abused is not a distraction from the task of mission and evangelism of the Church. In fact, it is central, essential, vital, and life-giving part of the church.

In one of the previous churches, I served in DesMoines, Iowa, although the church was in dire financial situation, once a month we fed after school program kids and members of the community. This meant that once a month, every Thursday, I drove to Kmart, picked up fried chicken and loaded it in my car and delivered it to the team to serve in a church that was in low-income area. We fed from 150 -200 a night. we were known as the church that served fried chicken, and one of committee chair was nicknamed, the fried chicken man. Although many churches served meals as well on different days, but our reputation to serve fried chicken was undisputable.

In this sermon, I make the case that at the heart of the gospel is a simple moral mandate: Kindness, unconditional kindness, a cup of cold water for the thirsty, food for the hungry and clothes for the naked. I argue that Jesus words are the basis for a radical hospitality based on the value and dignity of every human being. We serve a cup of cold water, not because we feel sorry for those who don't have, but because Jesus said so. By doing it, we uplift their dignity as children of God.



Indoor Worship Service: Sundays 10:00 am

(Services will continue to be livestreamed for those of you who will not be able to attend in person.)

This is week 3 of "Why Religion" Adult Sunday School Class starting 11:15- 12:00 pm using the book "Why Religion?" by, Elaine Pagels.

Our Series "Radical Hospitality" continues.

Pastor Will intends to interview some members of our church and our community at large who represent a group of people who have been impacting our borough. October 17: Lyn and the Chubby's project, October 24: Irene and the Secondhand clothing ministry, October 31: Jon, the owner of the Brick Farm Restaurant. Please join us!

A Funeral will be held in the Sanctuary on Saturday, October 16th from 9:30-1:30.

Announcement: The SPRC met on September 28th to interview candidates for the position of Church Secretary/Pastor's assistant. Unanimously, the position was offered to Jocelyn Donahue. Jocelyn will combine this new position with her current IT intern one for a 20 hour a week part time position. We congratulate Jocelyn. We will miss Liz who with devotion, and dedication has been our secretary for the last two years. Thanks, Liz, for everything you have done. Pls come and visit. You will be missed.

Please see this week's announcements for zoom information and Agenda for the Virtual Annual Charge Conference on October 26th at 7:00 pm



- 1 – Mike Perkins
- 4 – Pat Grant
- 15 – Lorraine Donahue
- 16 – Janet Sutton
- 23 – Mike Petrcjik
- 29 – Ava Bejgrowics
- 30 – Jason Arons



- 2 – Keith & Janet Sutton



October 15th **Deadline for November/December Newsletter**
11:00 am Staff Meeting, Wednesday October 20th
October 26, Annual Charge Conference

Serving you this Sunday: Liturgist: Paul B.
Music: Mary McIntyre/Rich Grant
Ushers: Lilly Petrcjik
IT: Jocelyn Donahue



Join Sue Esche and the Book Talk Group on Tuesday, October 19th, at 7:00 pm in the Sunroom. The group will be discussing the book "Finding Chika" by Mitch Albom.



Lorraine, Royd Garcia and family, Barbara & Al, Marianne & Bob, Kara, Melissa, Brian, Linda, People of Haiti and Afghanistan, Jean, Thelma, Kathy, Sarah and baby, Gina and Tom, Mel and Rachael, Shirley and Paul Sr., Charles, Rich M., Tammy, Kevin, Hannah, Judith, Tom, Pastor Will, Pastor Laura, Karen, Alexa, Robbie. Prayers for healing within The United Methodist Church, Joy, Kara, Francina, Mike, Lily, Sandy and Bucky, Archie.



Online Prayer Meeting – 7:00pm Wednesday Evenings

Let's gather from our homes to bring our concerns to each other and to the Lord. **Prayer Time Zoom Meeting ID:** 867 0701 6102 or **dial by phone:** 1 929 205 6099 and enter the above meeting ID number.



Our mission: To be a home for ALL people to be transformed by the love of God and grow in mind, body and spirit.

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JESUS FOR FARMERS & FISHERS BOOK STUDY

This book study, led by Tori Paquette, the Hopewell Council of Churches intern. The study will begin one week from today! Here is a sign-up link for congregants who are interested:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfczMeKaGAQw6oJDbQ9ENqFw7CivQ-XJer2jQ6QYTg3YIBHjQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

Jesus for Farmers & Fishers Book Study

Join the Hopewell Council of Churches for a six-week book study on Gary Paul Nabhan's new book, "Jesus for Farmers & Fishers," to learn about food justice as we dive into Jesus' parables through an agricultural lens. We will meet at Chubby's on Mondays at 7PM, Oct 11 - Nov 22. Contact tori.paquette@ptsem.edu with questions.

* Required

Email *

Your email _____

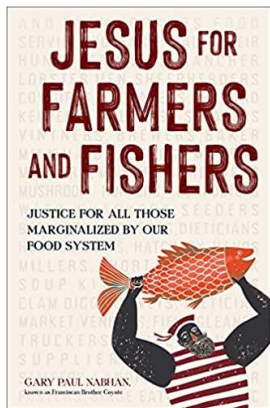
Name *

Your answer _____

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Climate disasters, tariff wars, extractive technologies, and deepening debts are plummeting American food producers into what is quickly becoming the most severe farm crisis of the last half-century. Yet we are largely unaware of the plight of those whose hands and hearts toil to sustain us.

Agrarian and ethnobotanist Gary Paul Nabhan--the "father of the local food movement"--offers a fresh, imaginative look at the parables of Jesus to bring us into a heart of compassion for those in the food economy hit by this unprecedented crisis.

Also attached is a selection from the first section of the book for anyone who'd like to do a little reading before the first meeting but hasn't gotten ahold of the book yet. The selections include a good introduction to the book, as well as a Nabhan's retelling of one of Jesus' agricultural parables that truly makes it come alive. See file below:



Jesus for Farmers and Fishers Intro and