

Week of March 5, 2023



From Woody: .We live in a time when people we disagree with are painted as enemies. This is especially true in the realm of politics and public issues. What can Christians bring to the public debate over the issues of the day? One answer to that of course is to ignore them but I don't think that is an option for those of us who try to bring the teachings of Jesus into the life of our society. Jesus taught in the tradition of the prophets of the Old Testament that we should care for the poor and work for peace and justice in our country and in the world. It seems to me that we can do that in a way that doesn't turn those we may disagree with into enemies. I was going through a bag of old family pictures, newspaper stories and other articles I have accumulated over the years. Barbi can affirm that I am a bit of a pack rat. I had recently found a CD of a radio interview I did with our friend George McGovern on the book he had written on Abraham Lincoln, who was one of George's heroes. I also came across an interview he did with "US News and World Report" magazine on the eve of Barack Obama's first term. George had endorsed Hillary Clinton early in the 2008 Presidential Primary season but had later switched to Obama after getting to know him. He expresses in the interview the hope that Obama would become a second Lincoln. But I thought the thing that really spoke to today's politics was when the reporter asked him about President George W. Bush, who was retiring from his second term. George had been a vocal critic of the Iraq War but here was his answer. I think we could use some of this kind of thinking in our politics today:

I don't have any personal malice toward Bush. I wish him well. I've talked to him on a couple of occasions. He's a congenial, likeable guy. I always admired his father, and I hope things will go well for him. I don't think Bush is a bad man. I just think he was mistaken in so many of the judgments he made as President. But I wouldn't throw a shoe at him.

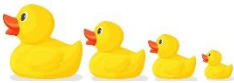
It's time we, as Americans, learn to disagree with people without throwing shoes at them. I think that would really help our country get some good things done. Some of George's best friends were conservative Republicans like Bill Buckley, Bob Dole and Barry Goldwater. We can stand for what we believe without throwing shoes at those we disagree with.



Family Movie and Munchies Night: You are invited to join us on Saturday March 25 5:30-8:00 pm for a family-friendly movie and munchies. Bring your friends! All ages are invited.



The Woodlands' Summer Trip and Oberammergau: After church on Sunday, March 26, Woody and Barb will share slides of their trip last summer, focusing mostly on the Passion Play that is performed every 10 years in Oberammergau, Germany. Everyone is welcome.



Duck Race: We have received notice that Carly Hippert and her team, who have been running the Clifford Nyquist Duck Race in recent years, can't do this year's race. It is a great community event and also raises money for both our church and the Clifford Nyquist Fund. The fund has been revamped so it can be used for college scholarships and other appropriate needs. If you can help with this year's event, please let session members know.



Church Directory: The church is putting together a Church Directory so that church members and friends are able to keep in touch! If for any reason you do not want your name, address, phone number or email address, or any part thereof, included in this six-eight page directory, please notify Craig Anderson carig.nane1980@gmail.com or 603-487-1330. Watch for the new directory on the literature tables in March.



Peace Quote: .The point of nonviolence is to build a floor, a strong new floor, beneath which we can no longer sink. A platform which stands a few feet above napalm, torture, exploitation, poison gas, A and H bombs, the works. Give humans a decent place to stand.....*Joan Baez*