



The Tower

Monthly Newsletter of
Pocatello First United Methodist Church



May 2022

From Our Pastor

Supposing Him to be the Gardener: An Easter Sermon on John 20:1-18



After Jesus had died and needed to be buried, John tells us that “there was a garden in the place where [Jesus] was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb...And so, because...the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there” (John 19:41-42). And when Mary Magdalene went to grieve at that tomb two days later, she initially mistook the risen Christ for the gardener.

Which means... there was a gardener. *A gardener.*

In that cemetery adjacent to the part of town where people were regularly being crucified, a man had been appointed to tend a garden.

What a *bummer* of a job.

What a horrible placement! His colleagues in the gardening guild, they were tending their beds in the courtyards of temples and palaces, in the terraced neighborhoods of the nobility, around the public parks and pools. *He* was pressing his spade into the ground of an execution chamber. No one ever came to his cemetery to honor a life that had passed naturally, only to weep for those who'd been brutally put to shame.

What a bummer of a job.

The entire time Jesus was ministering in Israel and gaining in both popularity and infamy, this guy was ascending the hill of crucifixion to go to work.

While Jesus was turning water into wine, the gardener was stooped over a seedling.

While Jesus was running the money changers out of the Temple, the gardener was pulling another pest off of a green leaf.

While Jesus was performing his miracles - feeding the crowds, healing the sick, walking upon water - the gardener was pushing his wheelbarrow.

While the crowds from Jerusalem were going out to see the man who raised Lazarus from the dead, while their *Hosannas* hung in the air, the gardener was pruning his vines.

Always he went about his work in proximity to those crosses; always he was gardening with death in view.

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Now, I don't think the gardener was any kind of radical - at least not at first. Surely he was a government man at the lowest point on the totem pole, or a wage worker compelled by necessity to take a placement no one else wanted. He'd be reliable and collect his pay.

Nor do I think the garden was his idea. I think the Romans wanted it planted as a way of trying to hide the horrors of that place, to make what went on there seem a bit more palatable. A well-kempt garden would give clear testimony to their rightly ordered world, to the necessity of their crosses.

Yet I do sense that he, like any patient and faithful gardener, must've grown to care about his work. As a man who worried over drought and rejoiced over first blossoms, he could never have loved the sights and sounds of death. As a man of living trees, he could never have loved those crosses. A garden means color and fragrance and shade, microbes and insects and birds. Perhaps he began to see in his dedication a humble offering, a last offering of lovely earth to dimming eyes, of freshened air to laboring lungs.

But no matter his personal feelings toward it, he had grown a garden in the Place of the Skull. He had labored for beauty among the dying and dead. It was *his* garden that got its miracle. The place to which he gave his attention everyday received its resurrection. Jesus made his first resurrection appearance in Golgotha's Garden.

On that first Easter morning, when Mary Magdalene thought Jesus to be the gardener, she was wrong, sure, but she might as well have been right. *For this, too, is what Jesus does.* He goes into the worst possible places and begins the slow work bringing forth life and beauty, of adding invisible minerals and microbes and seeds to the ground of our lives. He plants. He waters. He tends. He prunes. He grows. His love and hope and kindness establish their roots, and their fruits grow sweeter with every passing year.

At some level, don't we all hope this about our lives?

Don't we hope that, in being faithful to the work set before us, by tending what we have been given, more would one day be set before us? Oh, that we'd see a resurrection!

Isn't it Jesus who said, "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much" (Luke 16:10)? There is *power* in being faithful to very little, to gardening in your own little corner of the world, if its where God has called you to be.

If God has ever set a person, a people, a place, a vocation before you, and it feels like taking a position as the gardener in Golgotha; if you've ever asked God, "Why is *this* the thing I've been called to do? Why is *this* the place I've been called to be?" There is good news for you: resurrection comes.

Garden of Golgotha! Are you not the first plot in the Kingdom of Christ? You, a garden on the outskirts of a city, in a place where green things do not belong, do you not show us the way to abundant life?

As for the gardener himself, we won't ever know his name, but I believe he was made happy on that Easter day, that he was satisfied. I'm sure after the commotion of the morning, he got right back to his work. He had trees that needed watering and beds that needed weeding. He couldn't very well stop caring for this ground now, now that he knew its work was not - had never been - in vain.

Sure, today there might be more crosses raised, but his garden would be making its witness. And its finest fruit, its brightest bloom was now out there somewhere, changing the world.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

United Women in Faith

Our next United Women in Faith meeting will be Wednesday, May 25th at 10:00am in the Fireside Room. We take the summer off so this will be our last meeting until September. All women are invited to come and enjoy Christian fellowship, a great program and light refreshments. We would like to thank Roger Boe for the terrific program at our April meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Cresswell at 208-233-6852.



Member Spotlight

What wondrous love is this

Jenna Krasa has grown up here at the Pocatello United Methodist Church -- from childhood to adulthood - from Vacation Bible School to being an acolyte, ministering at Children's Church, and counting the offering. She has blessed others and been blessed by this congregation. Outside this building, she has seen God as the giver of life in the mountains while hiking, skiing, and riding horses. She has also witnessed God's order of life at a cellular level in laboratories while earning a microbiology degree at Idaho State University in 2022.

A few favorite Bible verses for her future:

"I have plans for you - to prosper you and give you hope and a future," declares the Lord in Jeremiah 29:11. And Isaiah 55:12 reminds us, "We shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and hills shall break forth with singing, and the trees and fields shall clap their hands."

To spotlight a member in next month's *Tower*, email tower@pocatelloumc.org (Subject line: (Member Spotlight))

Church Directory Updates

◆ Please update your Church Directory with the following:

Chris Dorsey - cell phone: 208-252-2958, email - chdorsey323@gmail.com

Edith Hone - cell phone: 208-705-3318 remove 208-237-7727

Jenna Krasa - address: 348 E. Dillon, Pocatello ID 83204, email - krasjenna@isu.edu

William Sage - address: 206 Tiger St, Wolfforth, TX 79382

Sharon Shore - phone: 208-251-2247

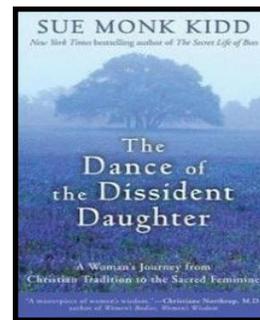
Monthly Book Reviews

The Dance of The Dissident Daughter

By Sue Monk Kidd, first published 1996

Reviewed by Harlan Van Hees

Sue Monk Kidd was an obedient, conservative Christian woman, and the wife of a conservative Christian minister. Her experience with blatant sexism in her personal life, and patriarchal Christianity within her church caused great discomfort. It created and then enhanced her feelings regarding feminine inferiority in society and in Christianity. These feelings lit a fire under her. She could not accept this and decided to do something about it.



Through research, prayer, meditation, interactions with others, among other activities, she awoke to the idea that a patriarchal God wasn't necessarily accurate. The thought of a "Feminine Divine", "The Sacred Feminine", or "Goddess" was not new, but had been minimalized through the centuries in favor of Masculine Divine. To understand the vastness of God, she needed an image, a sacred feminine persona that could mediate her concept of God. She experienced an awakening which led her on a journey, sometimes painful, to feminine spirituality and wholeness. She endured criticism, was accused of heresy, and was given some not-nice labels. She persevered and brought other women into her effort; her husband bought into her awakening. The result was a new confidence, the realization that the feminine is as valid as the masculine.

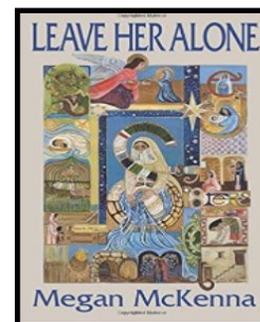
I am grateful I found and read this book. In so doing, It added to my understanding and enhanced my realization the more I learn, how little I know.

Leave Her Alone

By Megan McKenna, first published 2000

Reviewed by Lou Engelhardt

A lovely book was given to me recently that extended my appreciation for Mary, who was there at Lazarus house the week before Jesus went to Jerusalem, and also opened up new thoughts about other stories of women in scripture.



Leave Her Alone, by Megan McKenna particularly touched me with the chapter on Hannah, the mother of Samuel, whose position in the household of her husband was changed by her brave, heartrending prayer as she finally stood in public, even in front of a priest, and wept and prayed out loud her plea for Yawheh to give her a child. As Megan points out, "She knows who she is: a woman in anguish. She stands her ground, on the edges of the temple and before the priest in Shiloh."

Hannah was a prophet in her willingness to stand proudly and pray out loud in a place where women were traditionally not heard. This grief-stricken heartfelt prayer was heard by God, and answered. It makes me wonder how loud and grief filled our prayers might need to be to help heal this earth and cease the wars.

To submit a book review for next month's *Tower*, email tower@pocatelloumc.org (Subject line: Book Review)

Prayer Concerns

- Andrea Doeder - prayers for healing and strength - diagnosed with pancreatic cancer - Marlys's cousin.
- Jane Streubel's friend - Rod Seely - prayers for his healing. Suffered a massive stroke and has been in and out of the ICU several times.
- Prayers for Floyd and Peggy Anderson and family - Floyd had a stroke and is in the hospital.
- Bill Akersten's health condition has deteriorated to in-home hospice. Prayers for Bill, Sue, Holly, and family.
- Judy Del Debbio's granddaughter Blaine Coppini - diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos - will receive therapy at home - prayers for Blaine's strength and healing and prayers for the family.
- Rebecca Anderson's 11-week old granddaughter Faith - prayers for diagnosis and healing.
- Marvin McCall - continued prayers for the family and friends of Wayne Cru who took his life.
- Andrew Bambolo has been deployed in Turkey - Prayers for his safety and others on his team.
- Lou Engelhardt - Continued rain - prayers for Paula that she gets the help she needs for Melissa. For healing of differences and building of communities.

Classifieds

Congregational Care Team

- ◆ You are invited to join us at 10:00am every Wednesday in the Fireside Room. It is uplifting to be with friends as we write notes to other friends. Know that all are welcome to join us. Contact Nancy Kell if questions, at 208-604-0646.

Pinochle

- ◆ Want to learn to play pinochle? Join us on **Saturday, May 21st, at 7:00pm** in the Fireside Room. Bring a friend, and a finger food to share. Questions, contact Stacey Jensen at 208-530-0208.

Worship

- ◆ Would you be a liturgist for our Worship service? The liturgist reads the first and second readings from the Bible and may be involved in other parts of the service. The week that you are liturgist, you will receive an email from the church office telling you which verses you will be reading and if you are involved in any other part of the service. There is a sign-up sheet for 2022 on the bulletin board outside the office or you may call the church office.

To submit a classified for next month's *Tower*, email tower@pocatelloumc.org (Subject line: Classifieds)

Upcoming Events

May Birthdays

1 Kyran Patterson
 7 Elsie Oyoma
 8 Kay Daw
 9 Kris Rudd
 16 Emma Morton
 19 Jane Davis
 22 Mike Conner
 23 Nola Price
 24 Brandon Baney
 24 Ryan Fleischmann
 24 Daysha Rupp
 25 Elaine Smith

26 Susannah Mann
 28 Rachel Dingman
 30 Dana Hoyle

May Anniversaries

26 Larry & Arleigh Morton
 27 Jesse Kiboko & Sandra Mankand

- ◆ Celebrate with Jenna! Jenna Krasa has graduated from ISU with a microbiology degree. Please come and celebrate this accomplishment with her in the Oelwein room after church, on **May 8th**. You have been a blessing in her life.
- ◆ Pastor Mike and family will be away on an East Coast vacation from **Monday, May 9 to Tuesday, May 24**. If in need of a pastoral visit/conversation, or if you have a personal emergency, please contact your Lay Leader, Robin Terrell, at (208) 406-9530; your Chair of Staff-Parish Relations, Lynda Montgomery at (208) 317-7196; your Congregational Care Team leader, Debbie Wheeler at (208) 251-4180; or the church office. These folks will direct your need to Rev. Christy Dirren (Blackfoot UMC) who will be providing pastoral care coverage. Pastor Mike will not be returning emails, texts, or calls while away.
- ◆ Help Pastor Mike move! **On Saturday, May 28**, Mike will be renting a U-Haul to move the Conner's stuff from Pocatello Heights to their new home downtown. If you'd be willing to lend a hand, we'll convene outside the Wesley entrance to the church at 1pm that afternoon.. Separately, if you'd like to help Mike pack some boxes on **May 26 & 27** or clean the apartment for its final inspection on **May 29 & 30**, please get in touch with him directly.
- ◆ Once again, the Annual Conference will be held virtually this year. Pastor Mike will be attending and representing First UMC at the OR-ID Clergy and Plenary Sessions, and Marlys McCurdy will be representing First UMC at the GNW Laity and OR-ID Plenary Sessions. Mike has also been asked to be the Sage District Clergy Representative at this year's Legislative Assembly, which he has accepted. (That will have taken place prior to the printing of this Tower, but you're welcome to ask him about it!)

OR-ID Clergy Session - May 31, 1:30 PT, 2:30 MT

GNW Laity Session - June 14, 6:30 p.m. PT, 7:30 p.m. PT

GNW Opening Session - June 19, evening

OR-ID Plenary Session - June 23, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. PT, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. MT

OR-ID Service of Ordination - June 24, daytime

GNW Closing Session - June 25, daytime



**Pocatello First
United Methodist Church**
200 N. 15th Ave.
PO Box 4015
Pocatello, ID 83205
(208)232-1353
www.pocatelloumc.org

OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Thursday
8:15am-1:00pm

FR=Fireside Room
CR=Conference Rm
CH=Chapel



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:00am-Adult Sunday School-Fireside Rm 9:00am Children's Sunday School 10:00am-Worship Svc Sanctuary Offering-Pastor's Discretionary Fund Native American Ministries Sunday Happy Birthday Kyran Patterson	2	3 10:00am Seasoned by Grace Bible Study Fireside Room	4 8:00am-UMM @ Butterburr's 10:00am Congregational Care—card writing FR 4:00pm-Tai Chi-Chapel 7:00pm-Rune Stone Practice-Chapel	5 National Day of Prayer 7:00am-Women's Fellowship @ Butterburr's 7:00pm-UMC teaching session-Chapel 7:00pm- Volleyball Gym	6	7 Happy Birthday Elsie Oyama
8 9:00am-Adult Sunday School-Fireside Rm 9:00am Children's Sunday School 10:00am-Worship Svc Sanctuary Offering- Millie's Nickels Happy Birthday Kay Daw	9 Pastor Mike-vacation starts Happy Birthday Kris Rudd	10 10:00am Seasoned by Grace Bible Study Fireside Room	11 8:00am-UMM @ Butterburr's 10:00am Congregational Care—card writing FR 4:00pm-Tai Chi-Chapel	12 7:00am-Women's Fellowship @ Butterburr's 10:00am-PEO- FR 6:30pm- Administrative Board meeting-FR 7:00pm- Volleyball Gym	13	14
15 9:00am-Adult Sunday School-FR 9:00am-Children's Sunday School 10:00am-Worship Svc Sanctuary Jesse Kiboko Preaching	16 11:00amHighland HS practice-Sanctuary 6:30pm rehearsal 7:30pm Highland HS recital-Sanctuary Happy Birthday Emma Morton	17 10:00am Seasoned by Grace Bible study Fireside Room	18 8:00am-UMM @ Butterburr's 10:00am Congregational Care—card writing FR 4:00pm-Tai Chi-Chapel 7:00pm-Rune Stone Practice-Chapel	19 7:00am-Women's Fellowship @ Butterburr's 10:00am-PEO- FR 7:00pm-Worship Svc Sanctuary 7:00pm- Volleyball Gym Happy Birthday Jane Davis	20	21 7:00 pm Pinochle Fireside Room
22 9:00am-Children's Sunday School 10:00am-Worship Svc Sanctuary Happy Birthday Mike Conner Kay Flowers Preaching	23 Happy Birthday Nola Price	24 10:00am Seasoned by Grace Bible study Fireside Room Pastor Mike-vacation ends Happy Birthday Brandon Baney Ryan Fleischmann Daysha Rupp	25 8:00am-UMM @ Butterburr's 10:00am Congregational Care—card writing FR 4:00pm-Tai Chi-Chapel Happy Birthday Elaine Smith	26 7:00am-Women's Fellowship @ Butterburr's 10:00am-PEO- FR 7:00pm- Volleyball Gym Happy Anniversary Larry & Arleigh Morton Happy Birthday Susannah Mann	27 Happy Anniversary Jesse Kiboko & Sandra Mankand	28 Moving Day Mike Conner Happy Birthday Rachel Dingman
29 10:00am-Worship Svc Sanctuary Ascension of the Lord	30 Memorial Day Office Closed Happy Birthday Dana Hoyle	31 10:00am Seasoned by Grace Bible Study Fireside Room 2:30pm-OR-ID Clergy Seesion				



Pocatello
First United
Methodist Church
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Pocatello, ID 83205

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United Methodist Men

All men of the church are invited to join the United Methodist Men for breakfast and fellowship at Butterburr's every Wednesday morning at 8:00 am.

Women's Fellowship

Please come and join us for breakfast and fellowship at Butterburr's every Thursday morning at 7:00 am.

Office Hours
Monday-Thursday
8:15am-1:00pm
You may contact us by phone at
(208) 232-1353
office@pocatelloumc.org