

VISITOR

January 31, 2023



Casey First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

200 SE 8th St. · P.O. Box 303 · Casey, IL 62420

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Pastor Evan Sherar, 812-698-7504, pastor.evansherar@gmail.com

Pastor Office Hours: Monday 10 am-4 pm, Tues-Thurs 9 am-2 pm

Secretary Office Hours: Wednesday 8:00 am - Noon

Sunday Services: 9:00 am Sunday School, 10:00 am Worship

To Know God-To Love God-To Serve God

Greetings Church!

Every year, we celebrate February as Black History Month. It's a month to learn about and celebrate the contributions and achievements of African-American people to our culture and society. I thought I would take this opportunity to write about Black contributions to Christian life and culture by recommending a book by an incredibly influential Black theologian, Howard Thurman. The book is *Jesus and the Disinherited*.

Thurman's classic, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, lays out his thoughts about who Jesus was in the context of Roman-occupied, first-century Palestine. He relates this to his contemporary context, which is the 1940's United States (i.e. pre-civil rights era), and writes rather personally about those who find themselves "with their backs against the wall." In other words, this is those in a society who have been utterly disinherited from the American promise of liberty, who live in adversity simply because who they are has been deemed less than human. Thurman connects his own life context with the context of Jesus's life to offer a look at what it means to follow Jesus in the midst of African-American struggle.

I remember reading this book in my first year of seminary. For some of my peers it didn't seem like a big deal. Some of them had already read it on their own in college. For me, this book totally changed my faith. And as I was re-reading it to write this recommendation, I have again been struck by how strikingly applicable it remains for Christian faith today. I don't have to tell you that the Black experience in America remains fundamentally different and full of adversity, even almost 60 years since the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

We all saw it on TV, a Black man was lynched by police officers down in Memphis, TN. We all saw it. There have been many opinions flying through the airwaves about it and about what

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should be done or what is being done in response, but none of that changes what we all saw happen.

As we celebrate this month as Black History Month, we cannot think that the story of Black struggle in America is over, with a happy ending. And part of why I recommend this book by Howard Thurman is because, along with Gandhi, Thurman was one of the influences on Martin Luther King Jr.'s life that inspired him to be adamantly non-violent. Thurman encourages a response to violent oppression that insists upon radical love. For Thurman, it is the Love that Jesus embodies that defeat hatred, fear, and deception. It is radical Love that makes the world a better place and heals our broken culture.

The last thing I'll say about Howard Thurman's Jesus and the Disinherited is to remember that when you read this book, it is not necessarily written for you. You may not immediately connect to this book. You might not feel like it really applies to you, or that it represents the kind of Christian faith that's meaningful for you. That's okay. Not everything is about you. But God has created humans with wonderful, beautiful diversity. We come in all shapes and sizes and colors. We come in all sorts of cultures and genders and ways of expressing ourselves. God dwells in all of us, and in each of us down to the very particularity of our existence in time and space. Thurman writes from his own experience, primarily to those who share similar experience, and since most of us have never had the experience of being a Black man in the 1940's, what he says may not immediately connect with your heart. That's okay. My hope is that by reading something that may put us out of our comfort zones a bit, that maybe shares a perspective we never encountered before, that we can develop stronger empathy for others. With stronger empathy, it becomes easier and easier to love people who are different from us.

My prayer for us and for this church is for our hearts to be flung wide open, to love all the different people God has made, that love would overflow and that, following the leading of Jesus, we would participate in creating a world where each and every person is valued and belongs.

May God's abounding love and grace restore our world, reconcile us all to each other, and give us peace that abounds in justice for all.

Peace,

Pastor Evan Sherar
Casey First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Casey, Illinois
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Prayer Requests

Cindy Wimbley
John Graham
Larry Patchett
Kenny & Steph Shobe
Family of Bobby Staley
Sarah Meyers

Doris Taylor
Mona Moore
The Campau Family
Gordon Crutchfield
Ranger
Ralph Fitch, C/O Cumberland Rehab,
Rm # 114, 300 N. Marietta St.,
Greenup, IL 62428



*Prayer Requests
for Our Nursing
Home Residents*

[Heartland Nursing & Rehab](#)

[Simple Blessings](#)

David Hickox

[Casey Health Care](#)

Ruth Fitch

[Cumberland Rehab](#)

Ralph Fitch

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FEBRUARY SERVING SCHEDULES

ELDERS: 2/5 Sharon Durham, 2/12 Kathy Hayes, 2/19 Ruthie Wimbley, 2/26 Nina Meeker

DEACONS: 2/5 Jeanne U, Michelle W, Jenny W, 2/12 Lynda G, Brad H, Cassie R,

2/19 Connie R, Sharon R, Cathy S, 2/26 Shellie S, Devan S, Cheryl S

CHALLENGER REFRESHMENTS: 2/5 Linda C, 2/12 Sharon D, 2/19 Lynda G, 2/26 ???

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

February 1, 2023, Wednesday 6:30 pm Board Meeting

February 7, 2023, Tuesday 6:30 pm Bible Study

February 13, 2023, Monday 5:30 pm Dinner & A Prayer

February 15, 2023, Wednesday 9:30 am Worship Team Meeting

February 19, 2023, Sunday Week of Compassion Special Offering

February 22, 2023, ASH WEDNESDAY

February 26, 2023, Sunday Week of Compassion Special Offering

March 1, 2023, Monday 6:30 pm Board Meeting

FEBRUARY 2023



11 – Rosie Galey

12 – Charles & Nina Meeker

14 – Dean & Sharon Roberts

15 – Peggy Hickox

15 – Larry & Kay Smith

25 – Sharon Durham

27 – Steph Shobe

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FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Board Mtg. 6:30 pm	2	3	4
5 Elder: Sharon D	6 MML 9 am	7 Bible Study 6:30 pm	8	9	10	11
12 Elder: Kathy H	13 MML 9 am Dinner & a Prayer 5:30 pm	14 Bible Study 6:30 pm	15 Worship Team Mtg. 9:30 am	16	17	18
19 Elder: Ruthie W Week of Compassion Special Offering	20 MML 9 am	21 Bible Study 6:30 pm	22 ASH WEDNESDAY	23	24	25
26 Elder: Nina M Week of Compassion Special Offering	27 MML 9 am	28 Bible Study 6:30 pm				
		FH – Fellowship Hall MML – Monday Morning Ladies <u>SUNDAYS</u> <u>9:00 am Sunday School, 10:00 am Worship</u>				