

Crossroads

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Green Bay

May 2010

Where God's Dream is Alive

August Jeffrey Award

Jenny Solper is the 2010 recipient of the Augusta Jeffrey Award for exemplary volunteerism! She has designated her award winnings to the Youth program. Please join the Board of Deacons in extending congratulations to all of the other nominees as well: The Gehri Family, Loni McCormick and Georjeanna Wilson-Doenges.



Sunday Schedule

Children's Choir 8:45 am

Sunday School 9:00 am

Adult Study 9:00 am

Worship 10:00 am

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Happy Mother's Day—May 9

30 Hour Famine

Our activities started off with a scavenger hunt to Wal-Mart on Friday night for personal care items to donate to the pantry which included items like soap, toothpaste and shampoo. Saturday we headed to the New Community Shelter for a tour and to donate some of our time. After, we went to the Notre Dame Academy Rummage Sale where we purchased clothes and accessories for a fashion show later in the day. The items were then donated to Good Will. During the 30 hours we also worked on

smaller projects like putting 50,000 dots on the Youth Room wall to represent the number of children who die in two days due to starvation, learned about the people of Ethiopia and their daily struggles, and started a paper chair to

represent each dollar that will be raised to benefit World Vision. Movies, games and a Temptation Room filled with goodies also kept everyone busy until we were able to eat on Saturday night.

Thank you to Lisa Olsen and

Dan Larson for preparing the meal!

Participants included and pictured to the left are:

Lacy and Bobbi Schimmel, Katie and Loni McCormick, Lynaya and Chuck Spang, Christian, Robyn, Matt and Holly Gehri, CJ Olsen, Sarah Solper, Jordan Doenges, Megan Jurrens, Henry Kneiszel, Sam Schrader, and Hailey Schunke.



A Note from Pastor Randy

In the month of May, we celebrate Pentecost. Fifty days after Easter, the disciples were gathered in Jerusalem and the Spirit descended upon them. The Spirit gave them power to proclaim and follow the risen Jesus with new confidence and boldness to the ends of the earth. It was the birthday of the church!

You can read the story in Acts 2. One sign of the Spirit's presence and work was that the disciples were able to "dream dreams." God's dream for the world now became the church's dream and gave shape to its mission.

I have been challenging every member of First Presbyterian Church to undertake a personal mission in 2010. On Pentecost Sunday, May 23, we will distribute an "Opportunities List" to help you in your dreaming. You may want to consider a mission on that list or it may prompt you to imagine something entirely different. It is my



hope that the list will grow as new ideas and possibilities are suggested by church members.

You will also soon begin to see a new banner and mission story posters in the church hallway. The banner was donated by Peg Zenko and Brian Hulse. The architectural drawings have come down and will be replaced with photos and narratives of our mission experiences. The first mission poster will be about Jessica's recent trip to Haiti. Like the early apostles, we want to tell stories about what God is doing in the world and how we are participating!

May God bless us as we seek to be a missional church with big dreams!

Peace to you,
Pastor Randy



Church Life

Sympathy:

To the family and friends of Will and Esther Kocha on the death of their son **Jim**, on April 2.

To Pat Piaskowski on the death of her daughter-in-law **Jean Roebke** on April 7.



CHURCH FAMILY

Thank You!

A big thank you goes to Susan Jensen for helping Bobbie De Laruelle make new blue ribbon page markers for our church hymnals. Now that we have two different hymnals, we hope that you will find them helpful and will use them.

My church family is so important in my life and your thoughts, prayers and beautiful cards with messages helped me so much during my recovery process. Thank you dear friends. I am looking forward to being back with you soon. Gratefully, Jo Leicht

Mission Statement

To fulfill God's plan

To know, love, and **serve** God
To **welcome**, spiritually **enrich**,
and love one another.

Vision Statement

We extend a warm and friendly spiritual environment that encourages and empowers people to **worship and serve God**.

We live and *change with contemporary issues* while *maintaining traditional values, ethics, and Presbyterian practices*.

We are guided and sustained by God as we follow a flexible strategic plan that addresses growth, simplifies and prioritizes our objectives, and facilitates a vibrant ministry.

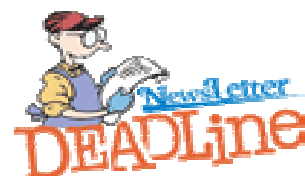
Through our ministry we:

- ◆ Serve, lead, and live a lifestyle of Christian discipleship.
- ◆ Engage in local, national, and global mission & social concerns.
- ◆ Offer Christian education and fellowship opportunities where *all* feel a sense of belonging.
- ◆ Provide a sanctuary to rest, be restored, and be nourished during these busy and turbulent times.

We are a **community of faith** where *diversity* is celebrated, individual *spirituality* is strengthened, *cooperation* is the common good, and *understanding* and *love* of one another is paramount.

Newsletter Deadline!

The deadline is May 16! Please submit your ideas and of course your articles to Jodie Harmsen or place them in the newsletter mailbox in the office workroom.



Local Events / Uplifting Stories

Common Origins, Distinct Paths:

Jews and Christians in Conversation

You won't want to miss internationally renowned speaker and consultant on issues in Jewish-Christian relations, **Professor Amy-Jill Levine**. Ms. Levine is E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt University's Divinity School, Graduate Department of Religion, and Program in Jewish Studies. Ms. Levine describes herself as a "Yankee Jewish Feminist who teaches New Testament in the buckle of the Bible belt."

Winnebago Presbytery is pleased to be one of the sponsors of the events scheduled **May 14-16 at several sites around Green Bay**, including Congregation Cnesses Israel, the YWCA

Grace Lutheran Church, First United Methodist, and St. John the Evangelist Church.



Visit www.winnebagopresbytery.org for a listing of venue dates and times. All religious services and educational sessions are open to the public. If you would like to fellowship during a luncheon the cost is \$5 per person. Deadline for reserving your space at lunch is May 1st, 2010.

I once read that a coincidence is just when God chooses to remain anonymous.....

The Sparrow at Starbucks

The song that silenced the cappuccino machine

It was chilly in Manhattan but warm inside the Starbucks shop on 51st Street and Broadway, just a skip up from Times Square. Early November weather in New York City holds only the slightest hint of the bitter chill of late December and January, but it's enough to send the masses crowding indoors to vie for available space and warmth.

For a musician, it's the most lucrative Starbucks location in the world, I'm told, and consequently, the tips can be substantial if you play your tunes right. Apparently, we were striking all the right chords that night, because our basket was almost overflowing.

It was a fun, low-pressure gig - I was playing keyboard and singing backup for my friend who also added rhythm with an arsenal of percussion instruments. We mostly did pop songs from the '40s to the '90s with a few original tunes thrown in.

During our emotional rendition of the classic, "If You Don't Know Me by

Now," I noticed a lady sitting in one of the lounge chairs across from me. She was swaying to the beat and singing along.

After the tune was over, she approached me. "I apologize for singing along on that song. Did it bother you?" she asked.

"No," I replied. "We love it when the audience joins in. Would you like to sing up front on the next selection?"

To my delight, she accepted my invitation. "You choose," I said. "What are you in the mood to sing?"

"Well. do you know any hymns?"

Hymns? This woman didn't know who she was dealing with. I cut my teeth on hymns. Before I was even born, I was going to church. I gave our guest singer a knowing look. "Name one."

"Oh, I don't know. There are so many good ones. You pick one."

"Okay," I replied. "How about 'His Eye is on the Sparrow'?"

(story continues on page 8)

Church Leadership

Elders

Class of 2010

Brian Hulse, Jenny Solper, Jean Maes, Georjeanna Wilson-Doenges

Class of 2011

Nancy Siewert, Lisa Olson, Kirk Ryder, Phil Mikulsky

Class of 2012

John Early, Jay Rietz, Dawn Spang, Tammy Escott

Clerk of Session:

Georjeanna Wilson-Doenges

Deacons

Class of 2010

Judy Exl, Deb Shober, Peg Zenko, Susan Rietz

Class of 2011

Carol Mickelson, Lynne Shober, Connie Early

Class of 2012

Ann Argall, Russ Christensen, Holly Gehri, Sue Mikulsky

Staff

Pastor:

The Reverend Dr. Randy Argall

Director of Christian Education:

Megan Jurens

Deacons Prayer Chain:

Peg Zenko

Administrative Assistant:

Leah Mott

Financial Secretary:

Linda Cigler

Music Ministries:

Allan Russell (Choir Director)

Pat Piaskowski (Organist)

Jenny Solper (Pianist)

Mary Steeno (Children's Choir)

Custodian:

Mary Belanger

Finance

It's spring some things are worth repeating the following is from May 2001 and May 2008.

Plant a Garden for Daily Living

Plant three rows of Peas

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul

Plant four rows of Squash

1. Squash Gossip
2. Squash Indifference
3. Squash Grumbling
4. Squash Selfishness

Plant four rows of Lettuce

1. Lettuce be Faithful
2. Lettuce be Kind
3. Lettuce be Patient
4. Lettuce really Love each other

No garden without Turnips

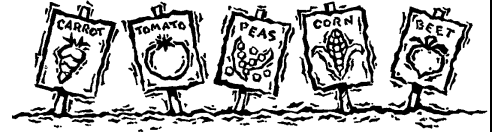
1. Turnip for Meetings
2. Turnip for Service
3. Turnip to Help one another

Must have Thyme

1. Thyme for Each Other
2. Thyme for Family
3. Thyme for Friends

Water freely with Patience and cultivate with Love.

There is much Fruit in your garden because you Reap what you Sow.



Quote of the Month:

In a world where the big things make little difference,

It's the little things that make a big difference.

-Peter Thomson



Ministry Cash Flow Report

March 2010

Beginning Balance	\$1,883.62
Receipts from Offering	\$31,633.19
Receipts from Prior Years	\$0.00
Expenses	(\$26,055.02)
Payroll tax and transfer timing differences	(\$5.50)
Ending Balance	\$7,456.29

Finance Committee Meeting

April 5, 2010

The Finance Committee continues to work on suggestions in the governance letter received from the recent audit regarding procedures and security. The committee received a report from Pastor Randy Argall, David Wilson and John Early referencing the Stewardship Conference they attended in Indianapolis.

A special gift for the 2010 Ministry Budget has been received.

The Leicht Cottage Property, bequeathed to First Presbyterian Church (3/4) and to the Boy Scouts (1/4), has been sold. The Committee discussed how important First Presbyterian Church was in the lives of Gene, Margaret and Russ Leicht. They

contributed to our church with time, expertise and financial resources. To perpetuate their giving to the future, the Finance Committee made and unanimously passed the following motion and approved by the Session.

In order to perpetuate the support of Gene, Margaret and Russ Leicht to First Presbyterian Church for future annual budgets, the proceeds received from their estates will be placed in a perpetual endowment fund. On January 1st of each year, 3% of the principal balance of the fund will be transferred to the ministry budget to support the on-going mission of First Presbyterian Church of Green Bay.

(Report continues on page 6)

Little Blue Report

Hi, I am back to give you a report as of March 31.

The good news is we have had an increase of 10.0% in per capita giving over 2009. Forty-four percent of our giving units have responded which is also an increase. Thank you for this positive response to date.

The annual amount has been paid to our connected Church-at-large. Therefore, there is still a need to have the outstanding members to make an effort to fill their little blue envelope. Please help us meet our goal.

Your early response will be greatly appreciated.

- Little Blue

Groups / Special Interest

Letter Carrier's Food Drive, May 8

The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) will hold the nation's largest annual food drive to combat hunger on Saturday, May 8. On that day, letter carriers will collect non-perishable donations from homes as they deliver mail along their postal routes.

The 18th annual NALC National Food Drive to "Stamp Out Hunger" is the largest one-day food drive in the nation. Carriers collected a record 73.4 million pounds of food in last year's drive. The drive is held annually on the second Saturday in May in over 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam.

You can be a part of this special day! The First Presbyterian Pantry benefits from this food drive, but we need your help to really make it a success. We need as many people as possible to help sort the donated food once it arrives at church. Please plan to be in Banner Hall around **3:15 p.m.** on that day. Snacks will be available! If you have any questions or need further information please call **Clarence Mickelson** at.

Pres Folk

Our April speaker, Janice Robertson of Clarity Care was very enjoyable and most informative. She spoke of the many resources available to help us keep active and independent even when times get tough.

It does not seem possible but we are at the end of our season and it is time for our annual picnic. We will meet on **Thursday, May 20th.**

The picnic lunch will begin at **NOON.** Each of us can bring a dish to pass. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board so you can note what favorite dish you plan to bring and share. Please feel free to invite a friend. Thank you all for another great season.

Church Representative Needed

Ft. Howard Apartments has a representative from each area church on their Board of Directors. Donna Jansen represents First Presbyterian Church. The Board is looking to enlarge with one more representative from each church. They meet once a month at 4:00 p.m. if anyone is interested. You can get more information from **Donna Jansen.**

Game On!

Are you interested in:

1. Getting to know believers in other Churches.
2. Having a Christ like attitude in a game where emotions can be challenged.
3. Developing fellowship and relationships.

If the answer is yes, why not join our church softball team? The season begins Sunday, **May 16th** at **5:30 p.m.** at **Murphy Park.**

What a great way to grow socially, physically, and spiritually through healthy competition.

Please sign up on the church bulletin board or contact **John Early** for more information.



Special Music for Summer Sundays

May 16 is the last Sunday for which the Chancel Choir will sing until fall. It is hoped that "special music" can be scheduled for each Sunday during the summer. This special music can be vocal or instrumental. It can be a solo, duet, or a selection by a group. If you like to sing or play an instrument, you are invited and encouraged to participate in the summer music program by selecting a Sunday and calling **Allan Russell.**



Welcome New Organist

The Personnel and Administration Committee is happy to announce that we have filled the position of church organist. We have selected and appointed **Kristin Cox** as our new organist. Kristin's home town is Oconto and is currently attending St Norbert College, concentrating in Piano Pedagogy. She expects to graduate in July, move to Sheboygan in August, and some day open her own private studio.

We are looking forward to getting to know Kristin. She will be playing for our worship for the first time on Sunday, May 2, 2010.

WELCOME, KRISTIN COX! Thanks be to God for blessing us now and in the days to come.

Christian Education

Men's Bible Study/Breakfast

We concluded our Lenten Series on 'The Prodigal God' on Saturday, April 3. Everyone thought the study was very enriching and gave us a totally new perspective into this wonderful parable. Thanks to all that joined in this study during Lent.

On May 1 the Men's Bible Study will return to their study of the Book of James. We will be studying **Chapters 7 and 8**. The meeting will begin at **8:00 a.m.** in **Banner Hall**.

Vacation Bible School Planning

Join us on **May 4 at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Fellowship** room to help plan and prepare for this year's Vacation Bible School. VBS will be **August 9 – 12**. We will be joined again by 2 or more churches and we need your help to make it a success here at our home location, First Presbyterian! Even if you won't be able to be present during VBS, we still need volunteers for set up, decorating, clean up, skits, music, food and much more. Contact **Megan Jurens** if you are unable to attend, but are interested in helping.

May Birthdays!!

Alice Akerboom
 Karen Walker
 Ross Early
 Cassandra Jimenez
 Steve Shive
 Jane Bies
 Bill Bloeser
 Regina Young
 James Clemens
 Aaron Spurduto
 Louise Lowery
 Rebecca Schmitt
 Jo Ann Rood
 Angela Johnson
 Warren Holmes
 Les Schoffelman
 Elden Wheelock
 Jessica Price
 Jack MacLean
 Emily Belonge
 Jonathan Anderson
 Jonathon Sellers
 David Young
 Judy Exl
 Richard Parkinson
 Garret Lowery
 Owen Spang
 Jo Leicht
 Emma Laughrin
 Megan Jurens
 Debbie Mylener
 C.J. Olson
 Nicholas Young
 Gary Walker

Finance Report

(Continued from page 4)

2010 - Ministry Budget Year To Date

March 2010 – Status

Budgeted Giving To Date	\$ 56,279.25
Received Amount	\$ 53,981.00
Special Gifts	\$ 10,000.00
Budgeted Expenses To Date	\$ 3,671.87
Actual Expenses To Date	\$ 68,585.16
Endowment Funds Budgeted	\$ 14,000.00
Amount Used To Date	\$ 0.00
Bequest income Budgeted	\$ 12,000.00
Amount Used To Date	\$ 0.00
2010 Other Income Budgeted	\$ 14,582.28
Amount Received To Date	\$ 11,811.85

2010 Ministry Budget Special Note

Approved Budget has a deficit of \$ 11,241.00

Special Giving Opportunities

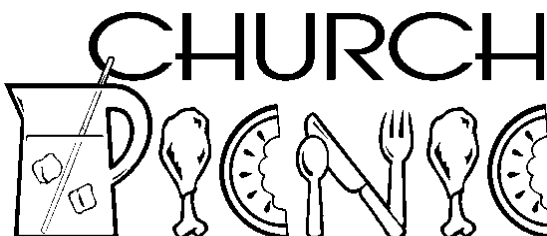
2010 Capital Budget for Special Projects	\$ 10,200.00
• Computers	\$ 2,000.00
• Securing Office	\$ 1,500.00
• Yard Equipment	\$ 1,200.00
• Carpet Cleaning	\$ 1,000.00
• Sidewalk Repairs	\$ 500.00
• Parking Lot Repairs	\$ 3,500.00

Whoa!

In last month's article possibly a question may have been raised as to the nature of a steward. A steward is one whom is expected to be responsible, and follow the wishes of the master. Therefore, since God is the owner of all, and we are His beloved, it is essential to turn to the instruction guide he gave us, the Bible. Paul states in II Corinthians, '*God loves a cheerful giver.*' In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells the rich young ruler, who wishes to seek perfection, '*to go and sell what you have, and give to the poor...*' From these two passages we can discern valuable attributes, we need to have a spirit of generosity and cheerfulness as we go about our acts of stewardship.

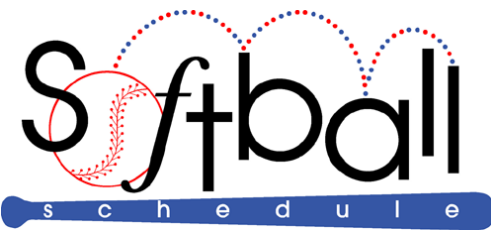


Let us not turn away and be sorrowful, as the rich young ruler, but accept our master's instructions joyfully.



Mark Your Calendars!

Church picnic and Graduate Recognition Sunday is **June 6**. Please join us for food and fellowship after worship.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<p>1 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8:00 – 10:00 am</p> <p>Preparation for Communion Workshop 9:00 am – 3:00 pm</p>
<p>May 16 – Murphy Park, Field 2; 5:30 p.m. May 23 – Murphy Park, Field 1; 6:45 p.m. May 30, No game - Memorial Day Weekend</p>						
<p>2 Children's Choir 8:45 am Sunday School/Adult Study 9:00 am</p> <p>Worship 10:00am Communion 3rd Grade Bible Distribution</p> <p>Communion for the Homebound 1:15 pm</p> <p>Confirmation Class 6:30pm</p>	<p>3 Buildings & Grounds 6:30 – 8 pm</p>	<p>4 Tuesday Adult Study 11:00 – 12:30 pm</p> <p>Tatters 12:30 – 3:00 pm</p> <p>Personnel & Administration 12:00 – 1:00 pm</p> <p>VBS Planning Mtg 6:30 pm</p>	<p>5 Youth Group 6:15 pm – 7:45 pm</p> <p>Chancel Choir 7:00 – 8:00 pm</p>	<p>6 Stephen Ministers 6:30 – 8:00 pm Nativity Catholic Church</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>Food Drive</p>	<p>8 Post Office Food Drive 3:15 pm for sorting</p>
<p>9 Children's Choir 8:45 am</p> <p>Sunday School/Adult Study 9:00 am</p> <p>Worship 10:00 am Baptism of Andrew and Lucas Houle</p>	<p>10 Staff Meeting 11:30 am - 12:30 pm</p> <p>Mission and Social Concerns 5:00 – 7:00 pm</p> <p>Finance Committee 6:30 – 8:00 pm</p>	<p>11 Presbytery Meeting</p> <p>Food Pantry 10 am – 12:00 pm</p> <p>Tuesday Adult Study 11:00 – 12:30 pm</p> <p>Tatters last day 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm</p> <p>Christian Education 6:30 – 8:00 pm</p>	<p>12 Ecumenical Partnership in Housing Luncheon 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm</p> <p>Youth Group 6:15 – 7:45 pm</p> <p>Chancel Choir last rehearsal until August 7:00 – 8:00 pm</p>	<p>13 Esther Circle 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm</p> <p>Worship Committee 7:00 – 9:00 pm</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 Children's Choir 8:45 am</p> <p>Sunday School/Adult Study 9:00 am</p> <p>Worship 10:00 am Baptism of Gabriela and Brianna Jimenez</p> <p>Confirmation Class New Community Shelter 11:15 am - 12:30 pm</p>	<p>17 Evangelism Committee 5:30 – 7:00 pm</p>	<p>18 Tuesday Adult Study 11:00 – 12:30 pm</p> <p>Church Chix 6:00 – 8:00 pm</p>	<p>19 Stewardship Committee 5:15 pm – 7:00 pm</p> <p>Youth Group 6:15 – 7:45 pm</p>	<p>20 Pres Folk Picnic 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm</p> <p>Stephen Ministers 6:30 – 8:00 pm Nativity Catholic Church</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 Last Children's Choir 8:45 am</p> <p>Last Day of Sunday School/Adult Study 9:00 am</p> <p>Worship 10:00 am Teacher Recognition</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Food Pantry 10 am – 12 pm</p> <p>Tuesday Adult Study 11:00 – 12:30 pm</p> <p>Tatters 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm</p> <p>Session 6 – 8 pm</p>	<p>26 Youth Group 6:15 – 7:45 pm</p> <p>History and Preservation 9:30 – 11:00 am</p>	<p>27 Deacons 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> 
<p>30 Worship 10:00 am</p>	<p>31</p>					

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Visit us Online!
www.firstpresgreenbay.org

The Sparrow at Starbucks

(Continued from page 3)

My new friend was silent, her eyes averted. Then she fixed her eyes on mine again and said, "Yeah. Let's do that one."

She slowly nodded her head, put down her purse, straightened her jacket and faced the center of the shop. With my two-bar setup, she began to sing.

Why should I be discouraged? Why should the shadows come?

The audience of coffee drinkers was transfixed. the gurgling noises of the cappuccino machine ceased as the employees stopped what they were doing to listen. The song rose to its conclusion.

I sing because I'm happy; I sing because I'm free. For His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me.

When the last note was sung, the applause crescendoed to a deafening roar that would have rivaled a sold-out crowd at Carnegie Hall. Embarrassed, the woman tried to shout over the din, "Oh,

y'all go back to your coffee! I didn't come in here to do a concert! I just came in here to get somethin' to drink, just like you!" But the ovation continued.. I embraced my new friend. "You, my dear, have made my whole year! That was beautiful!"

"Well, it's funny that you picked that particular hymn," she said.

"Why is that?"

"Well . ." she hesitated again, "that was my daughter's favorite song."

"Really!" I exclaimed.

Yes," she said, and then grabbed my hands. By this time, the applause had subsided and it was business as usual..

"She was 16. She died of a brain tumor last week."

"I said the first thing that found its way through my stunned silence. "Are you going to be okay?" She smiled through tear-filled eyes and squeezed my hands.

"I'm gonna be okay. I've just got to keep trusting the Lord and singing his songs, and everything's gonna be just fine."

She picked up her bag, gave me her card, and then she was gone.

Was it just a coincidence that we happened to be singing in that particular coffee shop on that particular November night? Coincidence that this wonderful lady just happened to walk into that particular shop? Coincidence that of all the hymns to choose from, I just happened to pick the very hymn that was the favorite of her daughter, who had died just the week before? I refuse to believe it.

God has been arranging encounters in human history since the beginning of time, and it's no stretch for me to imagine that he could reach into a coffee shop in midtown Manhattan and turn an ordinary gig into a revival. It was a great reminder that if we keep trusting him and singing his songs, everything's gonna be okay.

God can use you to your full potential. Besides you aren't the message, you are just the messenger.