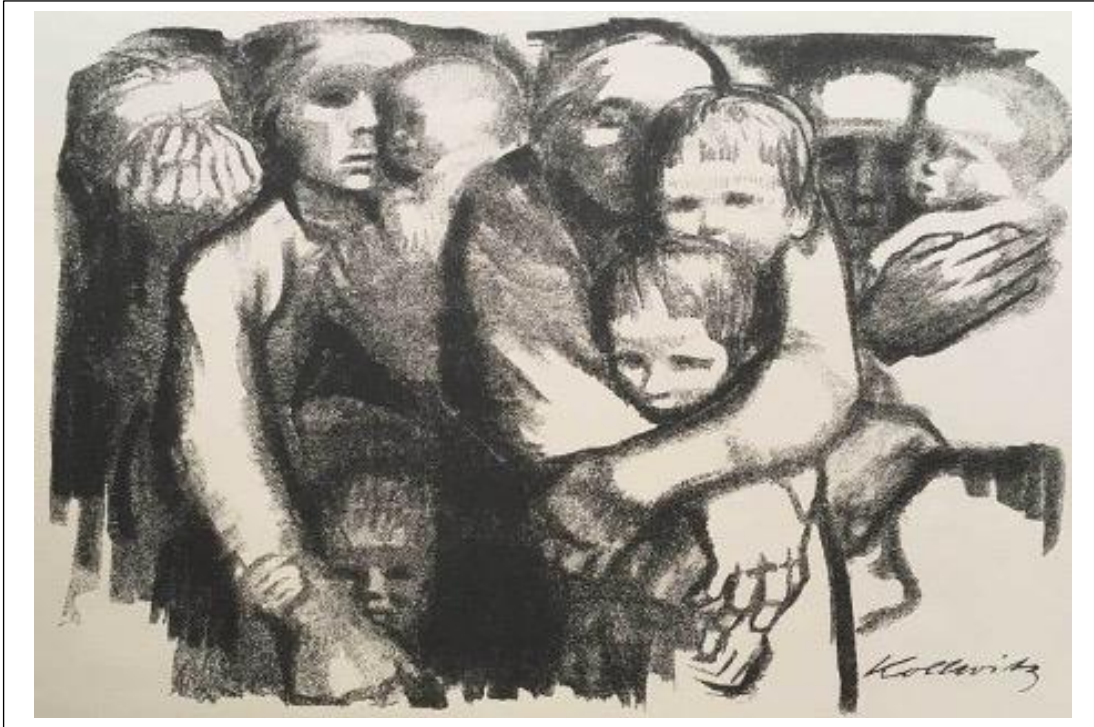




Third Base

Vol 88, Issue 2 · February 2024



Kathe Kollwitz, *The Mothers*, 1919

From the Pastor

The Battle of the Marne was one of the decisive battles of the world not because it would determine that Germany would ultimately lose or the Allies would ultimately win the war—but because it determined that the war would go on.

“There was no looking back,” Joffre (commander of the French army) said on the eve of battle.

Afterward, there was no turning back. The nations were caught in a trap, a trap made during the first 30 days—

out of the battles that failed to be decisive—a trap from which there was—and has been—No Exit.

*—Final words from Barbara Tuchman’s book, *The Guns of August**

America needs to calm down, navigating months leading to the 2024 election.

Civil War, accusations of being a Nazi, are rhetorical devices, used to describe political opponents.

Civil War? Ok, let's go there for a moment.

Do purveyors of this idiocy believe a war will be fought between "Red States" and "Blue States?"

Consider: in the deep red state of Alabama, 850,000 voted blue in the last presidential election.

In the deep blue state of California, 6,000,000 voted red.

A Civil "war" will be fought between brothers and sisters, neighbors, friends, and relatives.

~

The Guns of August reviews the first months of World War I—leading to a trap—a place of no escape.

"How did we get to this place of horror?" is asked when it's too late. Take a moment and ponder The Great War to end all wars, tragic consequences on Christianity and culture, leading to an age of nihilism and disillusionment.

~

As the war raged on, artists such as Otto Dix and Kathe Kollwitz (Kollwitz's image is above) expressed outrage at those profiting from war as the death toll rose above 20 million. And the negative effect on Christianity is incalculable. Why? Most of the Allies and Axis powers were predominately "Christian nations."

Do you remember Paul's metaphor—"putting on the whole armor of God?"

Have your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the Gospel of Peace.

The Roman foot soldiers wore sandals fitted with "cleats," offering flexibility and speed on the battlefield.

Followers of Jesus are called to run toward those teaching separation, division and referring to others as "less than human"—counteracting their message with Gospel of Peace.

And in our present context—are America's leaders running toward peace? In my lifetime, America has walked swiftly to one overseas engagement after another—reacting with military force—justifying through domino theories to weapons of mass destruction.

Eisenhower, in his farewell address, warned of a growing "military industrial complex."

~

Christians are charged to participate in arena of ideas—reflecting teachings of Jesus Christ—stand firm and speak truth, in love.

For many of you reading this article, I suspect you're on the north side of 50; therefore, you have a responsibility in preventing younger generations from becoming another war statistic.

History does teach—there is a time of no *looking back*, leading to tragedy of no exit—no *turning back*.

Jesus clearly states, *blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

The Apostle Paul offers clear directions:

For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility.

Grace and Peace,
Tommy

Family Ministries

Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

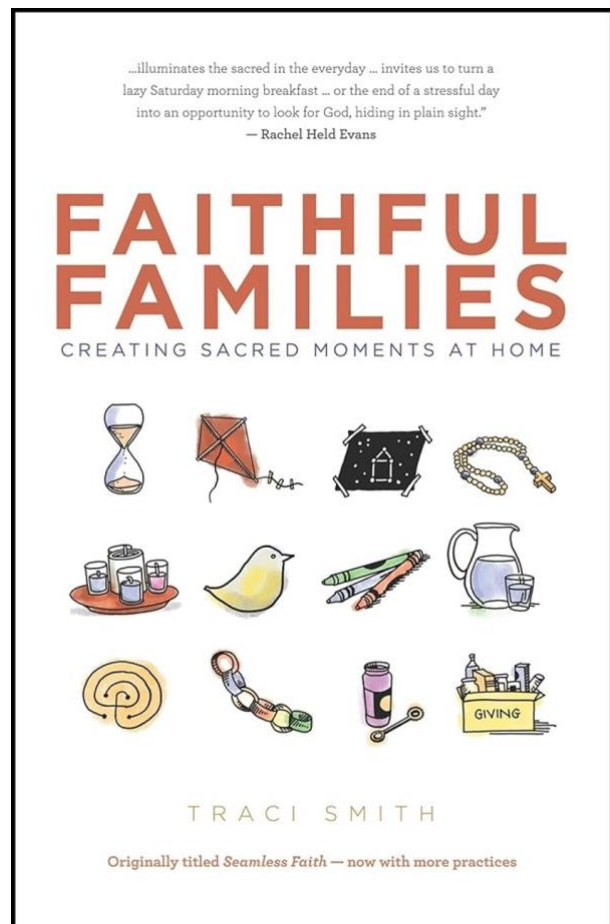
We continue to have a good group of youth gathering on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. In the first half of February, we will proceed with epiphany stories as we head into the Lenten season. Families, I will continue sending weekly devotions and guided prayer on Sundays.

I will be using the “Three Pillars of Lent” from Traci Smith’s outstanding book, *Faithful Families* (Chalice Press, 2017) for families to participate and practice during Lent. These activities will be helpful guides that we can use daily to enter in and enhance our Lenten journey.

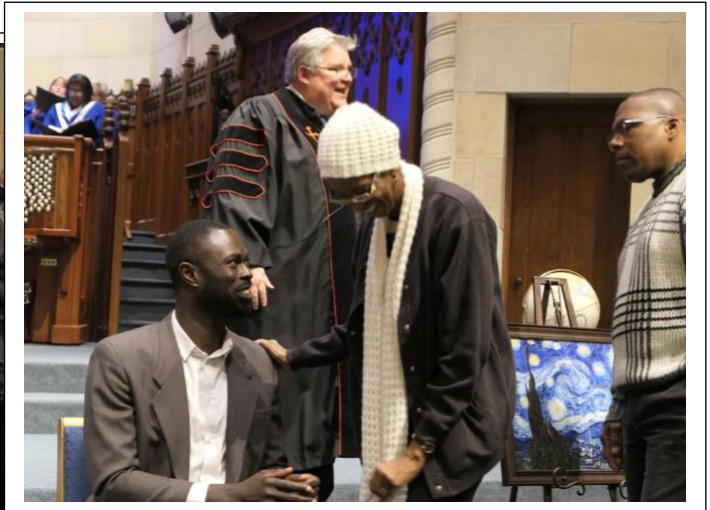
These three practices are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving and are designed for children ages 6 and up. I look forward to practicing these together with you as we walk together.

Mark your calendars! Coming up...

- Wednesday, February 14th: youth will join the adult group for our Ash Wednesday service.
- Friday, March 29th: Youth Lock-In
- July 26-28th: VBS. Interested in helping, questions, etc.? Contact Drew!



Ordination of Chidi Okafor - January 21, 2024

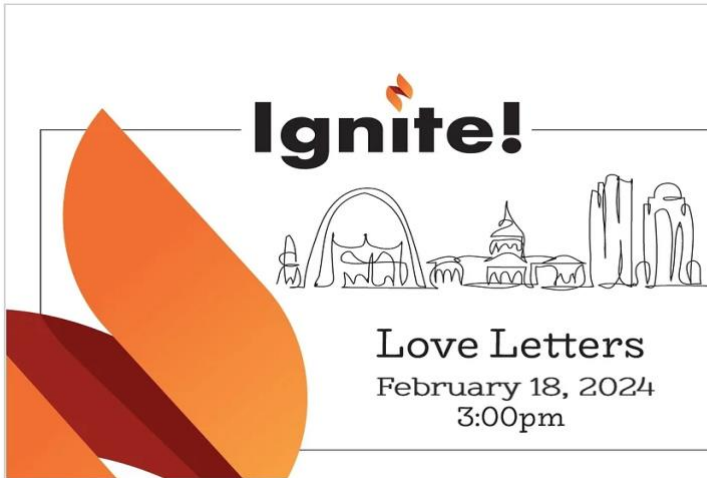


Photos courtesy of Avery Brooks

With GREAT
appreciation...
**Thank You to
Connie Vohsen!**
for contributing your
time and talent to
create yet *another*
beautiful Advent season
for Third Baptist



St. Louis Women's Chorale Concert in February



Time & Location

Feb 18, 2024, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Third Baptist Church, 620 North Grand

About the event

What does it mean to live and love in St. Louis? Our concert will explore the intertwining of heart and home through love letters to the people and places we hold dear. Valentine's Day marks the 260th anniversary of the birth of our fair city. In addition to traditional romantic songs, St. Louis authors Deborah Hart Yemm and LaShaunda Hoffman will share their personal "love letters." We'll also celebrate our iconic architecture and landmarks through beautifully curated drone footage. The concert features regional premiere of Mornings With You by Christina Whitten Thomas, accompanied by flute, clarinet, horn and piano.

The St. Louis Women's Chorale will be joined by the SIUE Treble Choir:




To purchase tickets: <https://www.stlwc.org/tickets>

In the Ignite: the Love Letters section, use **Coupon code 3RDBAPTIST** at Checkout for \$10 discounted tickets!

Thank you, Saint Louis Women's Chorale, for your generosity.

Adult Discipleship





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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to...

01 🎁 Charita Tyus

04 🎁 Michelle Campbell

06 🎁 Delilah Canning &
Maria Gray

09 🎁 Melinda Jackson

10 🎁 LaVerne Graham

11 🎁 Beverly Odell

13 🎁 Kaelyn Smithers

19 🎁 Alex Brooks

20 🎁 Gene Dobbs Bradford

21 🎁 Rick Lay &
Mike Niederer

22 🎁 Edward Sharpe



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