

Pastor Kent's Miller Avenue Church Newsletter for February 2023

Dear Church Family,

Yesterday, January 29, following our morning service, we gathered for our year end congregational meeting, and it was wonderful. We have been through quite an ordeal in the past two years, and now, most of us likely, have a sense of relief as though dark clouds had dissipated. So then at home following the service I was reading the newspaper, the IJ, and came across an article on health titled "What to know about seasonal affective disorder."

I looked it over, talked about it with Katie, and I realized that I had a touch, at minimum, of this disorder. (No, I am not ashamed to admit this.)

This emotional malfunction is common with people during the winter especially when the sun is not in the sky as long, days are often cloudy, they are colder, and the result can produce slight to serious depression and anxiety. I read it and said, "Yes, that's me." And it brought me a certain peace and simply by seeing that what I was experiencing was common and that no, I am not a psycho after all. I am writing this because I suspect others might be experiencing something similar.

Well, dear friends, our little congregation is pretty healthy, we are growing some, we are doing well moneywise, we have some good work out ahead of us, and I actually look forward to coming to church on Sunday mornings now.

The covid thing, well it seems to me that we are fairly close to normal now. Some folks wear masks Sunday, fine with me, and we still separate, but not as much as a few months ago. From all indications, we are on the downside now. When I go to the high school, it all seems normal as well, plus I see the same around town.

One thing I want to mention, and I do not think I have ever, or close to ever, gotten into politics and such. My belief is that this is healthy. Some are on the left, some on the right, but the Gospel takes center stage. I have old high school buddies who are on the far right and I hear their arguments a lot, and they urge me to get out there and do what is right, according to them. My response is that our publishing books on homosexuality, transgender, and other things, does more than promoting a politician and waving flags at intersections. We are witnesses for Christ, evangelism is our chief priority after worshipping our Lord and following closely after Him.

In Jesus' day there was a right and a left, both politically and religiously, and Jesus stayed in the middle. And of course, He was attacked on both sides. I mean here the Pharisees and the Sadducees, not to mention the Zealots and Herodians. That era was highly political. We understand what counts is presenting the message of the Gospel; this is our focus in all we do.

Okay, the psychic book, my part of it is done, after two years, and I think this contributed to my seasonal affective disorder, I mean dealing with the satanic almost every day. Now Katie is beginning the editing process. Please pray for her.

She thinks it will take about three months.