Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” John 21:3-7

What do you do in the midst of a surreal, life-shattering event? When the narrative of your past has lost its ability to comfort, and your present floats suspended in time? When the path forward is disappearing into an ink-black night?

You go fishing.

Hear from Rev. Linda McCarty, get a glimpse of Guatemala, connect with our event chairs, and watch a special message from our team leaders, Linda Johnson and Kathy Huebner, who will return to Guatemala later this year.

Join us now

What better time than Volunteer Appreciation Month to share our gratitude with
The disciples are stunned. Three years of heartbreaking pain healed by miracle. Pain they had not seen until it came to them through his eyes. Miracle they had not believed possible until they felt the depth of its power within them.

Then, stunning betrayal. Judas’, their own. Bloodthirsty cries echoed by flaying, a gruesome death. Dazed they watch his mother cradle her son’s broken body. They do not trust their own eyes as he holds out his pierced hands in the dim light of an upper room that is choked with fear.

Bewildered, they return to ‘before’. Back to the same shore from which he called them a lifetime ago. Back to where they started. Mindlessly, rhythmically casting their nets as they had done countless times. As if nothing had happened. Fishing. Catching nothing.

Out of the grey dawn they then hear a voice calling, “Cast your nets. But this time, try the other side of the boat.” And, when they do, they find their nets breaking for the weight of this catch.

Fishing on the other side of the boat. A catch beyond imaginings.

What do we do in the midst of this surreal, life-altering event that is COVID-19? Now that the narrative of our pasts is distorted, our presents dangling, our futures amorphous. What do we do now that we are slowly emerging as if from a fog asking ourselves, ‘What just happened?’ ‘What is happening?’

We go fishing.

We return, like they, to what we once knew before the ground shifted under our feet. Mindlessly, rhythmically casting our nets, we strain to root ourselves in what once gave stability, cadence. As they did. Fishing.

But what will we catch?

Jesus created Faith In Practice and has led us every step of the way. Through Transfiguration moments. Through Golgotha moments. In Guatemala, we have witnessed heartbreaking pain healed by miracle. Pain we had not seen until we saw it through his eyes. Miracle we had not believed possible until we felt the depth of its power within us.

We have celebrated his Easter during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now we are fishing on the sea. Stunned, yes, but awakened,
enlivened as we listen for his voice calling us to cast our nets on the other side of the boat.

It will not be easy. Many are hurting, many businesses and non-profits shall not survive. We have already been forced to make some difficult decisions and the future is uncertain. But we are also casting our nets wider, farther, with greater creativity and passion than ever before. Because we believe in the One who promises that if we listen to his voice, our nets will be breaking for the weight of this catch. A catch beyond our imaginings.

Already we have teams rescheduled to return to Guatemala in the fall. Already we are strategizing on how to navigate and source in supply chain. Already we are looking for new ways to engage those who want to make a difference in the lives of those who are suffering as a result of this global pandemic. We do not know exactly what the days ahead will hold. But, we know that Jesus will be in them. And, as Kathy Huebner says, our God is much bigger than COVID-19.

We hope and pray that you will journey with us into this new dawning, into this daring time as we listen for his voice in a new way. As we cast our nets and await his catch which shall certainly be beyond our imaginings.

With a heart filled with gratitude for each of you, now more than ever before,

Rev. Linda L. McCarty
President & CEO
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