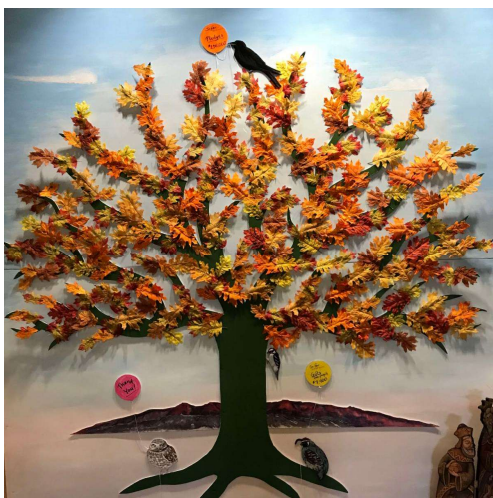




January 9, 2023

Caring for God's House - Together



Watch the creatures being added to the tree with updates.

Tell me Your Story

As a reminder, part of the Capital Campaign is informing us about the varied organizations that use our church, some of which we may never have heard of.

One such group: the Chaplain Corps is here! For the last 5 years the chaplains, a group of 4 to 12 people, have met at RRPC when their schedules and the church's schedule meshed.

Who would you expect to find in the group??? Pastors from several Christian churches? Maybe, but not necessarily. They might not all be Christians! All religions are welcome in the Chaplain Corps. They are a great group of listeners who invite folks who are experiencing the worst days of their lives to unburden themselves by telling their stories.

They are folks who have been called to serve others and be present in ministry to God. And that is probably the single common thread that describes each chaplain in the corps or group. The chaplains come from every walk of life, and where they serve is just as varied.

In **hospitals**, for example, they offer emotional and spiritual support for patients and hospital staff. Chaplains offer **hospice** patients and their families support and are an integral part of the hospice care team. In **nursing homes**, they build friendships with patients. Disaster response chaplains at present to assist after manmade and **natural disasters**, aiding government and NGO groups working with those impacted and the community as a whole, providing a ministry of presence. They are there in good days and bad. **First Responder** chaplains work with fire and police departments and EMS teams. They build relationships with the departments and assist on Crisis Response calls. They work in jails as well, offering educational and spiritual guidance. This is a short list of the places you may find a chaplain at work, in service to others. They also provide support to one another.

Training to be a chaplain is a minimum 6 week course (in person or on line). Subjects covered include (but are not limited to)

- Critical Incident Stress Management
- Spiritual Care
- Depression
- Grief and Loss
- Post Traumatic Stress Injury
- Human Trafficking
- Trauma
- Suicide and Interventions

After successful completion of the course, students are qualified to be members of the International Fellowship of Chaplains (IFOC), a 25 year old organization based in Texas. That membership serves as a license to work with many organizations.

There will be a training class in Albuquerque in March for folks who feel called to serve others. How would you know? First of all, ask yourself if you prefer to be the listener in a group, rather than the person doing all the talking. Review the IFOC web (IFOC.org). If you have questions, you are welcome to talk with Sheila Malmo within RRPC.

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