



that we are not really a part of the church is exposed, then the work of connecting with others and growing close to them is the expectation we participate in.

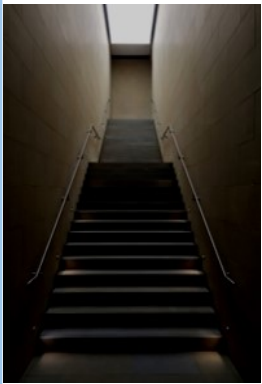
A common thought that I recognize as a lie is that I am not really a part of the church, but it is God's truth that counters it.

Nadine, who works at the office for MEC, has had a similar experience in the past, "When I wanted to attend a new Bible study at my church, that had been going on for several years already, I wasn't sure if I would fit in as I hardly knew any of the people. I remember vividly standing at the bottom of the stairs looking up at the room and hearing people talk and laugh. Something in my mind told me to "just forget it, go home, you don't know any

of them, you won't belong". And I would have done just that if not for a voice saying, "Go, it'll be alright." How thankful I am for this prompting from the Lord, as I have now been a part of that Bible study for five years and I'm so grateful for all the connections and friendships have made."



Years ago, I was away from home and my parents moved unexpectedly. For a time, they stayed in a protestant Christian community that used to be a convent. While visiting them,



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- March 1—26th (started Feb. 24th)
- Thurs. the 27th & Fridays 7:30pm
- Saturdays : 11th 7:30
- On the 18th & 27th 2:00PM & 7:30PM
- Sundays 2 PM

**CONTENT WARNING:** While based on a powerfully redemptive true story, this play addresses issues related to sexual assault and depicts brief but intense moments of stage violence.

Recommended for ages 13 and up.  
Viewer discretion is advised. See the guiding principles for our redemptive, multigenerational plays on the OWT website.

Regular tickets \$20.00 -30.00

Group discounts available

Go to Open Windows Theatre Website,  
<https://openwindowtheatre.org/>

Hours for office

1:00-5:00pm: Tuesday – Friday

Tel. 612-615-1515

email: [boxoffice@openwindowtheatre.org](mailto:boxoffice@openwindowtheatre.org)

Address: 5300 S. Robert Trail  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

For regular or PAYA tickets or Pay-As-You're-Able

On a tight budget? There are two Pay-As-You're-Able dates coming up on Saturday 3/18 at 2:00 PM & Saturday 3/25 at 2:00 PM. PAYA tickets are available in advance as well as at the door pending availability. Call our box office at 612-615-1515 for tickets.

Or go to OWT Website for more info.

## Ministry Shout-Out

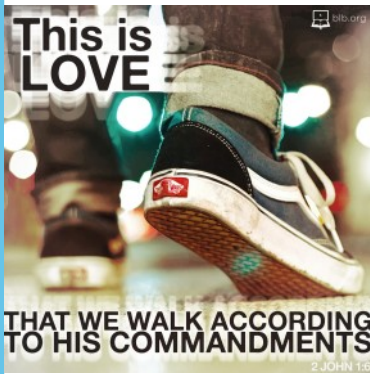
We know we are not alone in ministry. This months shoutout goes to

**OPEN WINDOW  
THEATRE** 

Bringing multigenerational professional theater with a redemptive vision to the Twin Cities. We focus on telling relevant stories of faith, hope, and reconciliation in an intimate and immersive environment.

Art, and particularly live theater, has a unique ability to not only bring joy through entertainment but also to educate and inspire by provoking profound self-reflection about the deepest and most important aspects of our humanity.

Of their core principles number 5 says We believe religious faith is something to celebrate—not denigrate—through art and we believe in exploring issues of faith & spirituality in a serious and thought-provoking way.  
See above article on Mercy Unrelenting for contact information



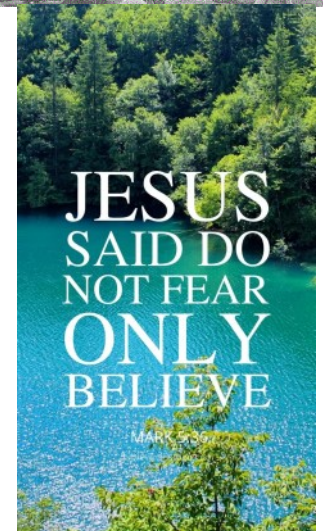
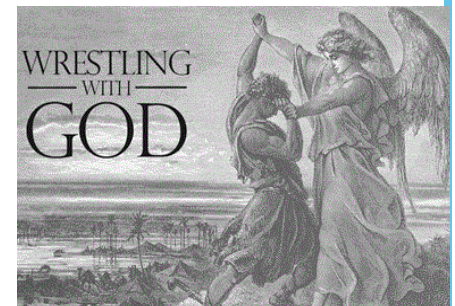
someone from the church asked me what part of the body I thought I was. My response was, “Maybe a tendon or a ligament, I do not know where I fit, but I think it has something to do with connecting people from different parts of the body of Christ.” Since we visited other churches and Bible Studies when it did not work to drive the distance to where our church was. Since then, I have grown to be part of some church communities but have had to battle and work through beliefs that would keep me from this.

It is ironic how many times that statement of being “one who connects” has come back to me over the years. As a nurse advocating for patients or handicapped people in a world that has not experienced similar challenges was one way. I was startled when I recognized myself in the main character of a children’s book who seemed to have no talent, but won a prize for helping others. In the jail ministry, trying to get inmates to see the good and the worth of creating relationships in healthy places and helping those in churches to understand the needs of those with legal challenges or addictions are important.

Even within major groupings, there are a lot of subcultures which presents barriers. The healthiest people are those who become bicultural and can function successfully in both cultures. This can be so hard. Doing so or even attempting to do so can create all kinds of pushback. I have been speechless at the reactions of some people in more than one situation where I had no power and lost positions which were very much a part of my identity because of this. It is God’s work. He carries us and He carries the battles. It is in our weakness that His strength becomes known, to us and to others.

In the past, I had my arm tendons damaged and needed two surgeries. My arms need therapy, exercise, stretching and forced rest. Recently, some muscles, tendons and ligaments in my calf have been strained to the point of unbearable pain, making it hard to walk, and at times move. I am incredibly thankful that God is our healer and has and is healing us constantly. Through this, our Father God has shown me how important these connections are to our functioning. This has helped me catch a glimpse of how much He values me and us. It is easy to make this more general and touching to feel it more individually, moving it from head to heart. May we see God’s love and work in the things we struggle with the most.

Thank you, Becky, for sharing your story and inspiring these words.



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