

our heritage



authentic
love



radical
generosity



hopeful
partnership



intense
spirituality



faithful
risk



passionate
mission

We have been given the ministry
of **RECONCILIATION**.

2 Corinthians 5:11-14a, 17-21 [NIV]

¹¹ Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. ¹² We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. ¹³ If we are “out of our mind,” as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For Christ’s love compels us...

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Notes:

"I am struck by how sharing our weakness and difficulties is more nourishing to others than sharing our qualities and successes." ~ Jean Vanier

Evidences of **Hopeful Partnership:**

- Call out the *Imago Dei* in people.
- Experience the power and fullness of doing life together.
- Effectively empower, enrich, and elevate others.

Evidences of **Passionate Mission:**

- Build "bridges" in intentional relationships.
- See all people walk in true freedom.
- Strive to facilitate justice & reconciliation.

What is Argrow's House?

Argrow's House is a safe space where free services are offered daily for women healing from violence and abuse. Services range from domestic violence support group, spiritual direction, art therapy, massage therapy, and more. Argrow's House is also a bath and body business where women healing from violence and abuse create beautiful bath products that provide a living wage for themselves in a safe space that celebrates who they are.

<https://argrowshouse.org>



ARGROW'S
HOUSE



National trainer, spiritual director, and professor, **Dr. Kit Evans-Ford** is a woman who is passionate about nonviolence, God, and serving others. She has been a trainer and activist for 14 years working relentlessly in the areas of nonviolence education and assisting people in healing from violence and abuse.

Kit holds a BA in Communications Studies, a MA in Teaching: Special Education, MA in Social Justice and Community Development, MDiv degree and a Doctor of

Ministry Degree in Spiritual Direction from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL.

Kit is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Theology at St. Ambrose University. She is the author of 101 Testimonies of Hope: Life Stories to Encourage Your Faith in God and A Children's Book On Bishop Richard Allen: A Nonviolent Journey. She is also a certified spiritual director and the founder of Argrow's House of Healing and Hope in Davenport, Iowa. Dr. Kit serves as a minister at Grace City Church. Kit resides in Davenport, Iowa with her husband, Pastor Dwight L. Ford, and children; Imani and Justice.

Prayer of the People

Throughout "Our Heritage," we are inviting the entire Heritage family to participate in what some traditions have called "Prayers of the People." These prayers provide an opportunity to connect with God in one heart and voice even as we disperse through the week.

This week we invite you to pray a prayer of reconciliation that the global church has prayed together for hundreds of years.

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy;
O Divine Master, Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console; To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

(The Prayer of St. Francis)



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How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) *Admitting that you, like everyone, are in need of rescue.*
- 2) *Asking God to forgive your sins.*
- 3) *Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.*

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to look to you and follow you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

For Further Reflection:

:: What is one thing God has been showing you about yourself, or Himself, in the “Our Heritage” journey?

:: The story that God is writing at Thurgood Marshall is one that is being written over the long haul. How is Hopeful Partnership being cultivated there? We invite you to be praying for the healing spaces that are growing at Thurgood and rippling out to the community.

:: Reread 2 Corinthians 5:11-21.

:: Where have you personally experienced a need for reconciliation?

:: How do you embody being an ambassador of reconciliation?

:: How does reconciliation with God inform our ability to be reconciled with others? What areas of brokenness in our world need the reconciling love of Jesus? What is your part in that mending?

:: As you reflect on the conversation with Dr. Kit, what is one takeaway that encourages you? What is one that challenges you? Please consider praying for the crucial work that Argrow’s House is advancing.

:: You have been invited to prayerfully step into a specific Go.Be.Love expression over the next 6 weeks and potentially beyond.

:: Identify one thing you believe God may be asking you to do next.

:: Ask God to give you strength to be on passionate mission with Him.