

**This is Koinonia.**

by Jodi Borowicz

Love-giving, spirit-filling, and awe-inspiring worship. This is Koinonia. To know this worship service at 11:45 a.m. Sunday morning is to know and meet God. To know and meet Jesus. To know and meet the true disciples of the here and now religion.

This is Koinonia.

This worship service opens its doors to all humans that need a space. A space to Be. Be heard. Be loved. Be taught. Be cherished. Be loud. Be together. Come as you are and Koinonia will be here to hold you as you are.

This is Koinonia.

Straight, Gay, Queer, Lesbian, Transgender, Tiny Bodies, Awkward Bodies, Laughing

Bodies, Sobbing Bodies, Empty Bodies, Love Over-Flowing Bodies. All weaved together in tattered clothing, best-dressed suits and dresses, Converse All-Stars, high-heeled pumps, comfy sweats, and perfect to tasseled hair or even no hair---Nobody would even notice these things because ALL are welcome. As you are. Every week.

This is Koinonia.

Words are spoken by Rev. Tom Ryberg, lay ministers, invited clergy, parishioners, and “prayers from the people,” themselves True words from the heart and mind that resonate deeply. Words to cause questions. Words to cause head-nodding praise. Words that cause “Amen’s” from the bodies in worship space. Words that cause tears that have no words. Words that cause personal release of emotions that are needed to be lifted up or seeped out of bodies that are just too full and need to be freed.

This is Koinonia.

Koinonia fills everyone or can give the ability to release. This juxtaposition of filling and releasing, just works. From the oldest member at 85, Jim, to the newest newborn to be added, Johnathon, born in November of 2015, the mingling of personalities know how to live and breathe in this sacred space.

This is Koinonia.

To be a part of a small world within this gigantic galaxy that gives back to each other, the community, and the world. Every second, every minute, every hour, every day and each and every Sunday, Koinonia gives back. Through kind words to the people we each navigate around in our day to day lives. Through work families and friendships that add variety to our lives. And, our own personal families that mean everything to us.

This is Koinonia.

Koinonia means inviting anyone off the street, anyone that are considered acquaintances, anyone that are considered friends, and anyone that could use or want a perfect love and space to call their own. Their family.

This is Koinonia.

Koinonia means reaching out to the people who only feel comfortable navigating life behind a screen. Koinonia means being in virtual contact with those people who live too far away to be in mutual space daily. Koinonia means a life-line for those who had to move away from their Koinonia family but look to their strength and love each day. The Koinonia Facebook page has become a savior to all of these humans who just can not be in physical space within the community.

This is Koinonia.

Koinonia is responding publicly, positively, and powerfully to our Facebook members with, “We are with you.” “We are here with you.” We don’t want to fix any of your problems, we just need you to know we can hold it all with you.”

This is Koinonia.

We are completely here when you are at your utmost best, and we are completely here when you are feeling like the world has pulled the rug out from under you. We will open our doors for you to sleep on our couches, or just get a bite to eat, or to just give you a new space to get a new perspective. We will meet you during the week for a cup of coffee or a beer, because Sunday service just doesn’t fit into your schedule.

We are Koinonia.

We can be anywhere with you because our church is not just Sunday service. Koinonia is our life. We have connected so deeply that we are a part of you even if we’ve just met you for the first time. You matter. We matter.

We are Koinonia.

We will be a legacy of love to live on in every cell it will ever touch. We will live and breathe within everyone...You are Koinonia, I am Koinonia, We are Koinonia.