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 **Prayer** 

**By Stephanie Weiner**

God of justice,  
and mercy,  
and peace,  
and truth,

Our country,  
our way of life,  
our understanding  
of our faith  
seem to be on  
trial today.

Help us be  
responsible  
citizens,  
knowing that  
no one side  
holds all  
the truth.

Energize us  
to be  
involved.

Quiet our  
passions  
to listen to  
others.

Quicken

## A Conference E-Pistle

Brought to you by Our Church's Wider Mission

Reflections From  
The Indiana-Kentucky Conference



Oct. 3, 2016

Pilate asked Jesus, "What is truth?" John 18:38a

A friend was asked to attend a meeting about starting a new church. When presented with the questions that were to be core to the new endeavor, she shared with the presenter that none of them seemed relevant to life as she knows it.

Given, her life is not the only one, but she is seeking what so many say they don't find in the church: relevance to daily life.

Sometimes we are cautioned to avoid politics in the church. How can we do that? Politics is about power. Power is about energy to get things done. There is so much to do in our world - God's world - and so many ways to do it.

So much of our faith and our core story is relevant! Think of Pilate's question at Jesus' trial. Think of the statements that are being made as we approach the November election.

In the July 25, 2016 issue of "The New Yorker Magazine," Tony Schwartz, the ghostwriter of "The Art of the Deal," tells of the Faustian deal he made in the hope of providing security for his family. He now regrets that deal. In the article, he admits to coining the phrase "truthful hyperbole."

Schwartz writes, "People want to believe that something is the biggest and greatest and the most spectacular. I call it truthful hyperbole. It is an innocent form of exaggeration. It's a very effective form of promotion. (Except), deceit is never innocent. Truthful hyperbole is a contraction in terms. It is a way of saying, 'It's a lie, but who cares?'"

We need to care. Truth is basic to trust. Trust is basic to life well-lived. Life is God's gift to all of us, all of us, no exceptions.

The Christian faith belief is that life defeats death. It has some companions: love is stronger than hate, joy comes out of sorrow, hope is tougher than despair - and truth is more valuable than deceit, even truthful hyperbole.

our tongues  
to speak  
against  
injustice.

Be in  
our minds  
and  
our hearts  
as we seek  
to sort out  
the truth.  
Amen

One of your companions in search of truth,

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Sincerely,

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The Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ  
was selected as a Constant Contact All Star in 2011, 2012 & 2013

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