

THE DISCIPLE

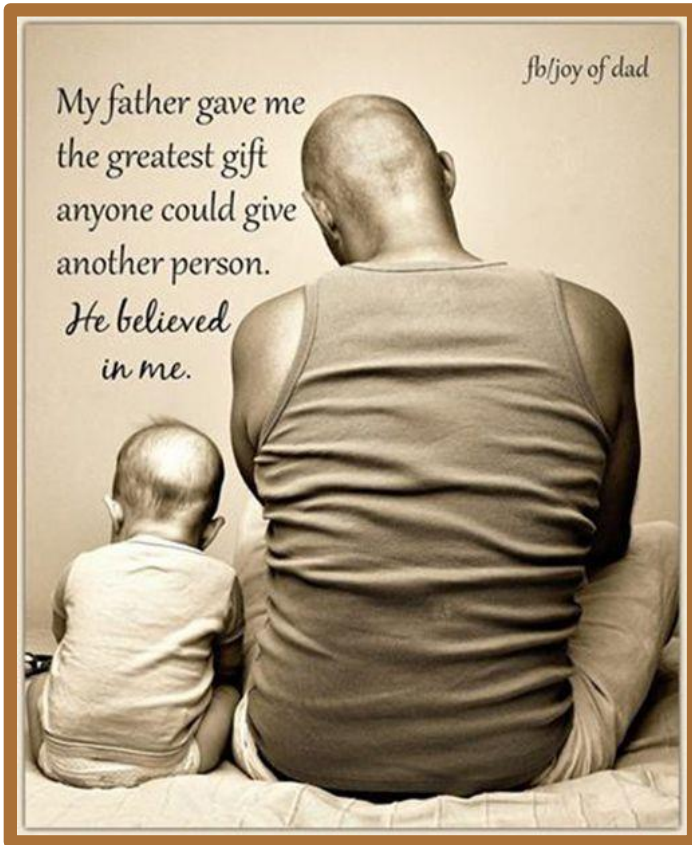


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June 2020

Rev. Rick Hamilton, Minister

Carol Clifford, Editor



*“Called to be the presence of
Christ in our community”*



My father used to say “Just because it may be legal, that doesn’t make it right.” I knew there was a reason I was dragging my heels in writing my June article. Today (Friday the 22nd) I know why.

The President of the US announced today that churches are “Essential Businesses” and must be reopened. He also said that if Governors do not comply he will override them. I’m not sure he can legally override a Governor in this case, and even if he did it does not magically make it safe to go back to church. This news is on the heels of the news that two congregations that opened “early” are now closing indefinitely due to uptick in Covid-19 cases. I have heard the arguments that this is a 2% death rate disease. Well, if we were to start worshipping again, and fifty people came, statistically one will die. I love every one of you too much to choose who that would be, and it’s not like we get to vote on it.

The board anticipated this, and discussed at our last meeting. It was decided that we would not move to summer hours since getting people to figure out online worship is hard enough, and it was decided that we will obey the Illinois Guidelines for returning, which means our area must be at stage four, and even then, we will have to practice social distancing, watch our counts, and be extra vigilant. Friends, I do not love not getting to shake your hands and hug your necks. I do not love video worship. I do not love hearing myself sing on YouTube But I love you. I know we have a large percentage of “at risk” population, and I want to wait until I feel confident we are doing no harm.

To that end, I spent the week figuring out the computer connections so we can simulcast our worship in both the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall, and send it out online through YouTube. I have been hard-wiring our internet connections and working on air transmitters. This will allow us when the time is right to resume safely. Soon I will meet with the Worship Team and the Elders and we will discuss how we want to handle communion and singing upon our return. I think we have a good idea for communion, and I think we will probably have socially distanced song leaders while the rest of us “sing in our hearts”.

Church is not going to be the same for a while. But our faith in God who always remains the same is unwavering. I look forward to seeing you around the virtual Lord’s Table.

Rick



REFLECTIONS AND IDEAS



Spring is here and summer is just around the corner, but we are still remaining at safe distances and are unable to spend our days as we did a year ago. I hope you are able to watch our church services over the internet and still feel that you are a vital part of our congregation. Our pastor, pianist, elder and the family members helping with the video and sound are doing a great job to keep us in touch. We know it is not the same, and we hope to be back together soon. We will not rush into getting back together without having safety precautions to keep everyone as safe as possible. We are definitely working on ways to achieve that goal and will keep you informed of any upcoming changes. Until then we do thank Pastor Rick, Rick Sladek and the Reese family for all they are doing to keep us connected via the internet!

I have a copy of a little booklet of 'golden thoughts.' The booklet is titled 'I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes.' One of my favorite pages is by Mary Dawson Hughes on The Blessings of God. I hope it will have some meaning for you as well.

MERCY abundantly given,
HELP for the difficult place --
COURAGE when it's sorely needed.
STRENGTH for the problems we face!
COMFORT when grief assails us.
LOVE when we need someone to care --
These are the blessings of God
That he gives in answer to prayer!

We hope you are all well and keeping safe. I miss seeing everyone in person, but you are all in my thoughts and prayers until we can be together again. Please share with us if you have prayer concerns or joys because we are still your church family.

God bless all of you. Be safe and stay well.

Joy Claffey, Chairman

Back-to-School Fair June Report

by Dan Johns



The goal of the back-to-school fair has always been, first and foremost, outreach to those in need in our community. Because fairs such as the back-to-school fair will be allowed only when Illinois reaches phase 5 of the governor's plan, we will not be hosting the fair this year. Phase 5, as you are probably aware, will begin with one of three things: a good and widely distributed vaccine, an easily available and effective treatment, or the elimination of any new cases over a sustained period.

Despite the sad news that we will not be able to host the fair on our grounds this year, the committee met on May 26 via Zoom to plan this year's course of action. The plan we sketched out includes contacting local schools and assessing their needs. The schools we are targeting are Downers Grove South High School, O'Neill Middle School and Thomas Jefferson Junior High, and Kingsley and El Sierra elementary schools. At the junior high and high school levels, we are going to focus on providing graphing calculators (TI-84s) to students in need. These calculators, essential for performing mathematics and physics calculations at all levels beyond Algebra I, and needed for taking ACT and SAT standardized tests, are expensive and often beyond the reach of some families. At the elementary school level, we will assess their needs closer to the date they re-open (which may not be until January 2021).

Thank you all for your contributions to the fair over the years. It has been a great run and lots of fun! We are confident that we will be able to safely host our next fair in 2021. I hope you look forward, as we do, to adapting to whatever path God chooses for us.

Stay safe and healthy! And feel free to reach out to me or any committee member with ideas and insights at any time.

Join Us for Monday Intercessory Prayer (MIP)!



Prayers are being answered! We are continuing to pray during this difficult time! Please join us for MIP Monday nights at 6:00 p.m. from the comforts of your own home!

The **conference-calling** feature makes it easy to join from anywhere you are. Dial in to join us for the entire session or just to ask for your own prayer concerns. We welcome all prayer concerns!

We document our prayer concerns each week and if you provide us with your email we can send a copy to you each week.

Join us for a spiritually-enriching hour with God! You are free to join in silently or add prayers as you like!

Our Monday night sessions include:

- A brief gathering of any additional prayers and prayer priorities
- A prayer devotion
- Prayers for our joys and concerns:
 - Personal
 - Church
 - Community
 - Country
 - World
- A brief closing prayer

To Join by Conference Call:

1. Call (712) 770-3743
2. Enter the access code: 390193

For more information email Karen Johns:

johns.karen@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Christian Education has completed our study of the gospels Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in Feed the Body and Soul. We have also wrapped up our email study of Spiritual practices for children's Sunday school. We are now in our usual summer hiatus. We hope

everyone will continue to join us for the online summer worship, which will continue at 10:30 a.m. Joining in at 10:00 am for a social gathering before the service is also a nice way to maintain our social contacts!

We are hopeful there will be an opportunity for more social contact to enable us to open our studies in the fall. As that time approaches, we will assess the situation and determine how best to provide our offerings, including picking up Feed the Body and Soul with more New Testament studies! Stay tuned for other offerings! As always we welcome all feedback and suggestions.

Karen, Beth, Sue, Deb, Joy, Alice, Tammy and Angela



JUNE BIRTHDAYS



June 7	Ron Smith
June 18	Cherie Sutter
June 19	Kara Gray
June 25	Norah Peterson
June 27	Bill Martina
June 29	Gage Gilley

Property Report

COM-ED ELECTRIC BILL – CHURCH

Current: 3/24/20 to 4/22/20 \$137.58

Last Year: 3/25/19 to 4/23/19 \$193.05



The Property Team have been busy getting estimates for repair of the driveway and parking lot, looking into removing a Willow tree on the Southwest corner of the property, and looking into unauthorized dumping on the Southeast corner of the property.

We had an impromptu cleanup day last Saturday. Dan and Marve cut down the 2 dead Birch trees and members of our church completed various other tasks to make our grounds look good. Thank you to all who helped with this cleanup.



Did you know...?

By: Bobbie Dean



In the cities of **Kenya**, most people live in modern apartment buildings. In the countryside, typical housing styles vary from tribe to tribe. *Zaramo* houses are made of grass and rectangular in shape; *rundi* houses are beehive-like constructions of reed and bark; *chagga* houses are made from sticks; *nyamwezi* are round huts with thatched roofs. Some rural people have adapted their houses to modern building materials, using bricks or cement blocks and corrugated iron or tin for roofs.



Directory Correction

Scott and Lea Daigle - please change their zip code to 28206



SERVING SCHEDULE



ELDERS Bread /Cup

June 7	Daphne Hayes	Bob Reese
June 14	Karen John	Becky Daigle
June 21	Joy Claffey	Bill Cook
June 28	Martha Anderson	Barb Bates

DEACONS Prep and Serve Serve

June 7	Sandy Allen	Galilee Flores
June 14	Jim Claffey	Suellen Cook, Don Peterson
June 21	Gail Reese	Ron Smith, Dan Johns, Marve Huizinga
June 28	Mac Flores	Galilee Flores, Sandy Allen, Don Peterson

POWER POINT

June	No power point needed
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SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

June	Sunday School will resume in September
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COUNTERS

June 7	Bob Reese and Marve Huizinga
June 14	Bobbie Dean and Sandy Allen
June 21	Dick Anderson and Karen Connery
June 28	Martha Anderson and Barb Bates

