

THE DISCIPLE



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

P.O. Box 568, Downers Grove, IL 60515

801 63rd St., Downers Grove, IL 60516

630-968-7818

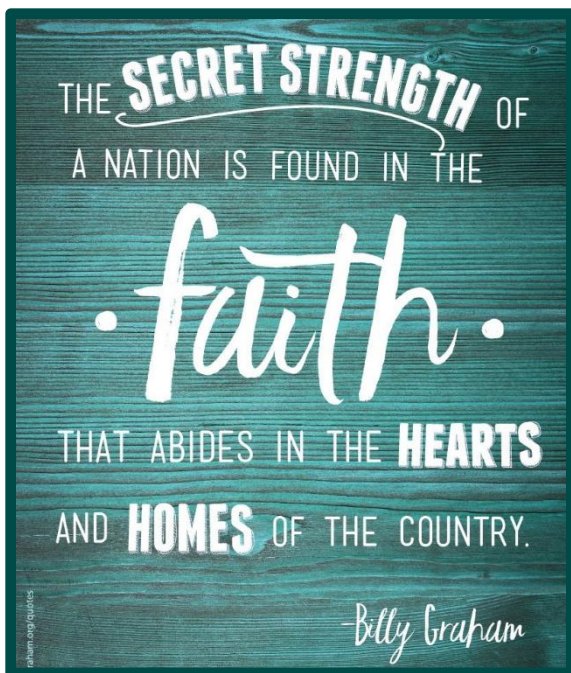
Email: firstccdg@gmail.com Web: fccdg.org

July, 2025

Rev. Daphne Gascot Arias, Minister

Carol Clifford, Editor

~~~~~



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

# *Karen's Korner*



Wow! It's July and we are well into summer! July should be an active month. Not only does our family have two July birthdays, but much is also going on at the Church including a board/elder meeting at the Southern Shore Yacht Club, our Disciples General Assembly, and our Church Barbecue! I hope everyone can share in the fun!

First, as I get into this newsletter, I want to thank Don, Angela, Rev. Daphne, Rick, Becky and all who helped with our many technical issues due to the power surge! I listened to last week's service, and we are well on our way to a much improved and again high-quality stream of our service. This is such an important ministry, and we are blessed to have it back again!

July also brings the General Assembly that will be held in Memphis July 12 – 15. Bill Cook, Rev. Daphne, and I are planning to attend. There is still time to sign up if you are interested. There will be wonderful and inspiring worship sessions, great learning sessions, opportunities for mission, and lots of opportunity for fellowship!

While we are at assembly, we will be hosting our next Mission Sunday on July 13<sup>th</sup>. We are still planning the mission but may be able to provide school supplies to Hope's Front Door. Stay tuned as the time gets closer.

We also have a summer barbecue and sing-along on Wednesday July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 pm. We have invited our nested congregation, the Korean Fellowship Church, to the barbecue so it should be a nice time to have fun and fellowship together! A sign-up sheet will be in Fellowship Hall closer to that date!

As a heads-up, in our meeting with the Korean Fellowship Church, we agreed to share World Communion Sunday with them. We are still in the planning phases but are looking at enabling each congregation to meet for their main service components, including the sermon, but we hope to overlap for praise songs and communion. We also hope to have a meal together. More details will be forthcoming, but please plan to join us for World Communion Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Faithfully yours, Karen



## **Join Us for Monday Intercessory Prayer (MIP)!**

Prayers are being answered! Please join us for MIP Monday nights at 6:00 p.m. from the comforts of your own home! Spending an hour with God feeling his support and love is always a blessing. Please note there will be no MIP Monday July 14 due to the General Assembly. Please plan to join us the other Mondays in July. Prayer is so needed to keep us in peace and trust during this difficult time!

We not only ask for God's help with our concerns, but we also spend time offering praise for all God is doing in our world. Recent praises were for:

- Buddy's Place, a Countryside support group helps kids ages 4-18 with the loss of a loved one plus provides a community of companionship for their families & counseling sessions.
- A 15-year-old boy named Temor Boggs from NC chased a car on his bike for 15 minutes to save a 5-year-old girl, who was kidnapped from her front yard. He was successful
- Jordan Kinyera, a Ugandan man, saw his father lose their land in a legal fight at age 6. He spent 18 years in school and became a lawyer and won back the property 23 years later

God is active and working throughout our world. Hallelujah! Join in our praise!

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, and world
- A brief closing prayer

To Join by Conference Call:

1. Call (607) 374-1123
2. Enter the access code: 390193

For more information email Karen Johns: [johns.karen@gmail.com](mailto:johns.karen@gmail.com)

# An Elder's Heart



I have been writing this article for the Newsletter for as long as I can remember. I have made it more of a mountain than a mole hill. I ask myself, "What do you say, do you tell a story? Next month will come and go. I have beaten myself up for the deep procrastination and poor timeliness in writing to you all, offering a word of encouragement about life. But I am living life with all its ups and downs. And what happens, the sun comes up, I start over again after the darkness, and I have a great day anyway. Does that sound like sometimes?

We are so connected in many ways; we just tell the stories differently. Simply put, I want you to have a great Summer. I want you to enjoy these 90-93 days of sunlight with family and friends and maybe some days in peaceful solitude. Please pray for me to bring in more encouragement next month. I am glad to send a note of gratitude and encouragement for your reading.

Peace to you all, Church, Elder Daphne Hayes.

---

## Help a Hero!

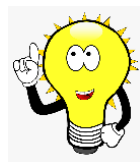
**Support overseas troops...**

**Feed hungry troops!**



Can you spare packages of instant oatmeal, trail mix or granola bars? If so, consider sending the items to the Long Island Blue Star Mothers. The organization will include them in the care packages they send to troops abroad. Send items to LIBSMNY6, Post Office Box 1, Farmingville, NY 11738.

# *Did you know...?* By: Bobbie Dean



**Korean** society is vertically ordered according to tenets of Confucian philosophy. Nearly all interaction is determined by one's place in various social groups or one's status in a relationship. Status is determined by gender, education, family background, wealth, occupation, and/or political ideology. However, age is the primary determiner of status. For example, the elderly are to be respected regardless of socioeconomic status. Success depends on social contacts. Koreans often use extreme modesty when speaking about themselves. They are reluctant to accept high honors and graciously deny compliments.

Giving gifts as a means of obtaining favors is common, especially in the workplace, and accepting a gift carries the responsibility of reciprocity. Open criticism and public disagreement are considered inappropriate because they can damage another person's reputation. Out of respect for the feelings of others, Koreans may withhold bad news or adverse opinions or express them in an indirect way. The hesitancy to criticize and disagree with others is rooted in the cultural importance of "saving face" (avoiding embarrassment, shame, or dishonor). Greater democracy, economic prosperity, and Westernization are changing Korean society for the rising generation and reducing the emphasis placed on traditional Confucian values, though their influence remains strong.



"In reading over the Constitutions of all fifty of our states, I discovered something which some of you may not know: there is in all fifty, without exception, an appeal or a prayer to the Almighty God of the universe.... Through all fifty state Constitutions, without exception, there runs this same appeal and reference to God who is the Creator of our liberties and the preserver of our freedoms."

D. James Kennedy

# Church Chuckles

By Bobbie Dean



A staunchly Baptist couple decided it was important that the pet they own be equally religious. They found a dog they liked and were delighted to find it was very well trained. When they asked the dog to fetch the Bible, it did so immediately. When they asked it to turn to Psalm 23, the dog used its paws with great dexterity to obey quickly. They were impressed, purchased the animal, and went home.

That night they invited friends over so they could show off their new pet. The friends were also quite impressed, and they asked whether the dog was able to do any of the usual dog tricks as well. This stopped the couple cold, as they hadn't thought about it doing "normal" tricks.

They called the dog over and said, "Roll over." The dog promptly rolled over. It proved it could sit up and shake hands as well, so they kept going. The man stood up and said, "Heel!"

Immediately, the dog jumped up on the couch, put its right paw on the woman's forehead, closed its eyes in concentration, and bowed its head.

They had been deceived! The dog was Pentecostal!



"The United States is the only country with a known birthday.... There is no 'Republican,' no 'Democrat,' on the Fourth of July—all are Americans."

—JAMES G. BLAINE,  
ORATION ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

# JULY BIRTHDAYS



July 7      Beth Smith  
July 10     Bryan Johns  
July 29     Karen Johns

---

## SERVING SCHEDULE



### ELDERS

#### Lectern

#### Table

|         |              |              |
|---------|--------------|--------------|
| July 6  | Karen Johns  | Becky Daigle |
| July 13 | Sue Huizinga | Daphne Hayes |
| July 20 | Daphne Hayes | Barb Bates   |
| July 27 | Bob Reese    | Bill Cook    |

### DEACONS

#### Prep and Serve

#### Serve

|         |                |                 |
|---------|----------------|-----------------|
| July 6  | Larry Carley   | Kristi Kijowski |
| July 13 | Gail Reese     | Jeff Igel       |
| July 20 | Galilee Flores | Lisa Johnson    |
| July 27 | David Kijowski | Kristi Kijowski |





## **"Under God" and the Pledge of Allegiance**

The words "under God" were taken from Abraham Lincoln's famous Gettysburg Address, "...that this nation, under God, shall have a new

birth..." and were added to the Pledge of Allegiance on June 14, 1954 by a joint resolution of Congress, 243 (Public Law 83-396). (The Pledge was initially adopted by the 79th Congress on December 28, 1945, as Public Law 287.) On June 14, 1954, President Eisenhower signed into law the pledge:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

President Eisenhower gave his support to the Congressional Act, which added the phrase, "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance, saying:

"In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war."

President Eisenhower then stood on the steps of the Capitol Building and recited the Pledge of Allegiance for the first time with the phrase, "one nation under God."

From America's God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations, William J. Federer, Fame Publishing.