July 2023

quoted text: "the time has come to turn back to GOD and reassert our trust in Him for the healing of America. RONALD REAGAN"

"Called to be the presence of Christ in our community"
As I sit to write my newsletter article for July, I am also multi-tasking setup as a ticket promoter for our performances of Five Lesbians Eating a Quiche in September. Oh the things they don’t teach you in Seminary. . .

Hopefully, by the time you read this, the event will be up, running, and tickets will go on sale. This did not unfold exactly the way I first imagined, but I don’t mind. I’m having fun. Most matters of faith and action seem to be that way. Things don’t go as planned. The work is more than you first imagined. You are doing and learning things that you never thought you would need to do and learn, and yet, it’s still fun. God has a gift for bringing us joy when we are doing God’s work.

I think the hosting of this play is indeed God’s work. I think allowing the community to see us as an open and affirming, anti-racist, pro-reconciling community is God’s work. I think if just one person comes to know and be interested in First Christian Church because of this event, it will all be worth it. Jesus knew that spreading the Gospel was not easy work. But he also promised “the yoke is easy, and the burden is light”. There will be opportunities to be more involved in bringing this production to town in September. For now, look for our ticket links. Maybe buy a ticket. We are hosting two shows: a 3:00 matinee performance and 7:00 evening performance. Each show should be no more than 90 minutes long.

When we open the doors to edgy outside experiences, the spirit has a way of moving. I am hopeful as we prepare to open our doors in big ways over the next few months, the speaker will indeed move.

I look forward to seeing you around Our Lord’s Table,

Rick
As July is approaching when we celebrate our nation’s birth, Dan and I are still adjusting to the sudden loss of his brother, Rick. While we know God blessed Rick with an easy path to his kingdom, we miss him. At this time, we see the importance of God’s grace and the support of family and friends. We are particularly thankful for all your kind prayers and support.

Our Spiritual Direction Committee met in June to evaluate our progress and plan next steps. Rev. Rick’s successful Sweatshirt Spirituality (Short Sleeve Spirituality for the Summer) will continue spreading spiritual practices Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. These are easily viewable through our Facebook page. We are also pleased with the prayer labyrinth and are looking for ways to increase its availability. We are currently offering its use 9:00 am – 10:00 am on Sundays this summer. We are looking to hear from you too - If you have not already done so, please complete one of the surveys by the door to Fellowship Hall. In addition, with our spiritual growth direction, we will also be looking at a better committee structure to support this ministry. Let us know how you would like to help!

As we approach the summer, we will also be working on our Back-to-School Fair – Teacher’s Edition Ministry. We will open it to teachers in the entire Downers Grove school district so lots of supplies will be needed. Our dates for the teachers’ fair at our Church will be Monday and Tuesday August 21st and August 22nd from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. We will soon be inventorying our supplies and creating a list of needs so stay tuned and please let Dan know if you can help!

July also brings our General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky July 29 – August 1st. Several in our congregation plan to attend. We will be joining with Disciples of Christ congregations from across the country to worship, learn and socialize. There is still time to join in the fun!

Faithfully yours, Karen
Did you know…?
By: Bobbie Dean

Question: Why did the United States government establish Indian reservations?

Answer: The government’s objective was to rid the country of its “Indian problem” and open their land for white settlers.

Beginning in 1830 with the Indian Removal Act, the official policy of the United States was to forcibly remove Native Americans from their ancestral lands and relocate them to far-away regions “reserved” only for Indians. Today these are known as reservations. For the Cherokee and other tribes, this is often remembered as the “Trail of Tears.” But it didn’t end there. During the Navajo Long Walk beginning in 1863, thousands of Navajo were also removed from their homelands. Many died or grew ill along the way due to disease and malnutrition. They settled within an area of only 40 square miles and gave up their sacred homeland mountains.

Church Chuckles
By Bobbie Dean

*One Sunday, Pastor Steve asked how many had followed his instructions of the past week and read Mark 17, and every hand went up.

The pastor said, “Mark has only 16 chapters. Let me begin my sermon on the sin of lying.
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 a blessing at all times! Please note: there will be no MIP the last two Mondays in July; July 24th and July 31st due to vacations and the General Assembly but join us the first two weeks in July and also as we move to August.

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:

- Many communities throughout the Chicago suburbs are actively participating in Pride Month with fairs, parades, color runs, and pub crawls.
- At a gas station at a busy Beverly Hills intersection, two security guards pulled up just as a baby quit breathing. The two men quickly went into action and were able to save the child.
- About 1,750 years ago a scribe in Palestine erased a book of the Gospels inscribed with Syriac text. An Australian medievalist has now been able to make legible the lost words on this layered manuscript, one of the earliest translations of the Gospels.

God’s 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
PROPERTY REPORT

There hasn’t been much happening within the property department. Joe has continued to do a great job of keeping the building in good condition, Thank You Joe. Dan will continue to look at companies to take care of the driveway and parking lot. Now that I am home, we will look at what else we need to do.

Have a great July.

Barb and Dan

FISH Pantry Update

Again, thank you for all you do to provide items for those in need, especially while I was gone. Your continued donations are a blessing.

Anything you can donate will be appreciated.

Here are some suggestions for this month:

  Creamy Peanut Butter
  Water packed Tuna
  Maruchan Instant Lunch – Chicken flavor
  SpaghettiOs’s -Canned Pasta with Meatballs

Thank you!

Barb
## JULY BIRTHDAYS

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 7</td>
<td>Beth Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 10</td>
<td>Bryan Johns</td>
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<td>Karen Johns</td>
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## SERVING SCHEDULE

### ELDERS

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>Bob Reese</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 9</td>
<td>Becky Daigle</td>
<td>Martha Anderson</td>
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<td>July 16</td>
<td>Joy Claffey</td>
<td>Bill Cook</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 23</td>
<td>Bob Reese</td>
<td>Sara Hamilton</td>
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### DEACONS

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>Mac Flores</td>
<td>Jeff Igel</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 9</td>
<td>Larry Caley</td>
<td>Galilee Flores</td>
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“Lord, I Hate Buttermilk”

A visiting minister was attending a men’s breakfast in Ohio farm country. He asked one of the impressive older farmers in attendance to say grace that morning. After all were seated, the older farmer began . . .

“Lord, I hate buttermilk.”

The minister opened one eye and wondered to himself where this was going.

Then the farmer loudly proclaimed, “Lord, I hate lard.”

Now the minister was overly worried.

However, without missing a beat, the farmer prayed on, “And Lord, you know I don’t care much for raw white flour.”

Just as the minister was ready to stand and stop everything, the farmer continued.

“But Lord, when you mix ‘em al together and bake ‘em up, I do love fresh biscuits.”

“So Lord, when things come up we don’t like, when life gets hard, when we just don’t understand what you are sayin’ to us, we just need to relax and wait ‘till You are done mixin’, and probably it will be somethin’ even better than biscuits.”

Amen