



COALVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER



From the Pen of Bro. Len

Jesus started a “Radical” Movement

In Jesus’ time, communities were deeply divided by bitter differences in religious beliefs, political positions, income inequality, legal status, and ethnic differences. Sound familiar?

Jesus lived in the middle of a culture war, too. And though the political systems were different, the greed, hypocrisy, and oppression different groups used to get their way were very similar.

Jesus was born at the height of the Roman Empire’s power. They’d conquered most of the known world, and Israel was no exception. Unlike previous empires that would try to destroy cultures by displacing conquered peoples’ leaders, the Romans didn’t force people to change their religion or customs as long as they kept their obligations to the empire. Rome would install a client king (a puppet government) and exact tribute (cash) in lots of different ways. Families were charged taxes per person—farmers on crops, fishermen on catches, and travelers were charged fees to use the roads. This was in addition to local business and religious taxes charged by priests.

In Israel, political and religious factions were one and the same. Back then, it was Pharisees and Sadducees. Today, we have conservatives and liberals.

The Pharisees were the most religiously conservative leaders. They had the most influence among the common working poor, who were the majority. They believed that a king would come one day to conquer Rome with violence and free their nation. Some preyed upon a mostly illiterate population by adding extra rules and requirements that were designed to force the working poor into a posture of subjugation.

The Sadducees were wealthy aristocrats who had a vested financial interest in Roman rule. They were in charge of the temple, and they didn’t believe any savior king was coming. They made themselves wealthy by exacting unfair taxes and fees from the labor of their own people and by contriving money-making schemes that forced the poor to pay exorbitant prices to participate in temple sacrifice—a critical part of their religion.

There were Zealot groups who hid in the hills and violently resisted Roman occupation, and then there were the Samaritans, often

oppressed and marginalized because of their racial and ethnic identities.

And so, the common farmer, fisherman, or craftsman's family lived through a highly volatile political period. Overbearing religious leaders who despised and oppressed them, wealthy elites who ripped them off, racial and ethnic tension with neighbors, and sporadic violent outbreaks between an oppressive occupying army. So where was Jesus in all of this? Did he align with the religious elites? With the wealthy and powerful? Or did he start an uprising to overthrow them?

None of the above.

He went from town to town, offering hope, new life, and modeling a different way to live and to change the world. Instead of pursuing power, money, or religious authority, he shared a loving and sacrificially generous way of living. He chose not to go along with the schemes others used to impact the world. Instead, he championed a better way.

And so, each of these political groups saw him as a threat. The Pharisees recognized his movement as an affront to their authority—exposing the hypocrisy of their practices. The Sadducees saw Jesus as a threat to their power and wealth because he exposed their money-making schemes. The Zealots violently rejected one of the essential themes of Jesus' movement: love your enemy.

In the end, it took all three of these groups to have him killed. A Zealot (Judas) betrayed his location to those seeking to arrest him, the Sadducees brought him before the Romans to be executed, and when the Romans couldn't find a crime committed, the Pharisees rallied the people to force Rome's hand.

Isn't it ironic how political foes can come together to destroy a common enemy that threatens their designs? **But in spite of their best efforts, his execution was only the beginning of a movement that continues to impact the world thousands of years later.** Jesus offers Hope instead of Hopelessness. **Let us continue to share His Word of Hope.**

On **July 4, 1776** another "radical" movement began. Men of courage and conviction signed their names to a piece of parchment that continues to challenge the culture around us. We have a choice with our democracy just as we have a choice with the HOPE offered by Jesus. Let us continue to share the message of Hope offered by the Declaration of Independence as well as the Hope offered by the Scriptures.

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NO SENIOR LUNCHEON THIS MONTH

Sweet As Can Bee
Join us for a Baby Shower to honor
Chelsea Butler and Baby Arlo
July 7th, 3 - 6 PM
In the
Fellowship Hall

CORNERSTONE

Hello from Cornerstone! Welcome to July.

The second Sunday luncheon this month will be on **July 14th**. Bring your favorite dish and join us **after 11 AM** service.

We missed Bro Len while he was on vacation, but we have really enjoyed having Devry preach at the second service three times now! We are excited to watch him grow in his ministry.

Happy 4th of July to all and may you have a safe and blessed holiday! God bless America!

"It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." Deuteronomy 31:8..NRSV



Brothers and Sisters, Right now, while we are spending more time inside, "out of the heat, let's take the opportunity to spend more time in prayer. **THE NEED IS GREAT!** And, our church needs every one of us to pray. **Read, pray, and apply** these scriptures to your daily walk with Jesus. Let's begin by building our faith.

Pray that you will:

Philippians 4:6 – 7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5:16 – 18 "Rejoice always. pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Also pray:

Father, we praise and thank You for all things. May You richly provide our church and its ministries with everything it needs to carry forth your Word. Protect salaries and the financial needs of the church. May your people unfailingly trust You to supply all our personal needs that we may tithe as we should.

Father, we also pray that we will not become distracted by politics **but stay focused on prayer which is the spiritual weapon for defeating the evil in our world.** We thank You for hearing our prayers. All these things we ask in the mighty name of Jesus Christ. **Amen** 🙏🙏

4th Of July Crossword Puzzle

Across

3. It's a hot _____ day.
6. We live in the United States Of _____ Day.
7. The 4th of July is _____ Day.
8. We celebrate the 4th of _____.
9. Someone who loves and supports America is _____.

Down

1. Our flag is red, white and _____.
2. Soldiers fight for our _____.
4. There is a _____ show on the beach.
5. Chicken and burgers are cooking on the _____.

www.morethanamomofthree.com

Shoebboxes Operation Christmas Child

Samaritans purse folks tell us children love and need school supplies. After July 4, Walmart and others have sale prices on school supplies. Think about your boxes in July and save some money.

Birthdays
Anniversaries
Monthly Events
Scheduled Meetings
Weekly Events
CLC – Christian Life Center
FH – Fellowship Hall

S – Sanctuary
CW – Contemporary Worship
TW – Traditional Worship
2nd SL – 2nd Sunday Luncheon
AB – Administrative Board
BG – BUNCO Group
BS – Baby Shower

CB – Cornerstone Band
FISH – Young Adults
JAM – Children’s Ministry
MT – Mission Team
SL – Senior Luncheon
UMYF - Youth

July 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Becky Jiminez Witt Weston	2 Bob Torjusen Carol Richardson	3 Jana Franco Michael Nalley	4 OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY 4TH of JULY	5 [-----CLC-----] 7 PM, AA, FH	6 Joseph Byrd --RESERVED----
7 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S Juli Bocek 3 – 6 PM, BS, FH 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC 6 PM, FISH, CLC	8 6 PM, AB, FH	9	10 Greg Rushing	11 12 – 3 PM, BG, FH 6 PM, Choir, S 7 PM, CB, S	12 7 PM, AA, FH	13
14 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S 12 PM, 2 nd SL, FH Bob & Karen S. 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC 6 PM, FISH, CLC	15 Dylan Thomas Karen Sherlock	16	17	18 6 PM, Choir, S 7 PM, CB, S	19 Levi Childers 7 PM, AA, FH	20 Tiffany Talbot 9 AM – 3 PM, GT, CLC
21 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S Dian McKaig 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC 6 PM, FISH, CLC	22 Ronnie Plummer	23	24	25 6 PM, Choir, S 7 PM, CB, S	26 Belle McGrew 7 PM, AA, FH	27
28 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S Lili Cobar 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC 6 PM, FISH, CLC	29	30	31	Backpack Blessings 7th – Chicken Noodle Soup 14th – oatmeal/grits 21st – Beanie Weanies 28th – Ramen noodles		