#### Lamoille Community Presbyterian Church

"Pursuing a faith that makes a difference"

### **Crossroads Outpost**

#### Lamoille, Nevada



Lamoille Community Presbyterian Church

#### **Our Vision**

We stand together at the crossroads where God's powerful love compels us to worship Him fully, follow Jesus daily, and live in the Spirit joyfully.

#### **Our Mission**

Our mission is to pursue this vision with commitment, character, and in community.



#### Perspectives on patriotism



While pondering differences between patriotism and nationalism, Ryan Hamm looks to Jesus' example in Luke 19:41-44. "Jesus, it seems, loved his people, his city, his nation — so much so that he cried over it," he writes in Christianity Today. "He didn't despise his country or wish ill upon it — instead, he wanted nothing but the best for it, and it grieved him to see how his people had rejected his teachings."

This example of "patriotism perfected" can serve as a guide for modern-day Christians, according to Hamm. "It's an example that's both pragmatic and romantic, shot through with justice, truth and love. It's not a nationalistic patriotism — it's a love for nation that doesn't pit it against other nations. Instead, it's a recognition of love followed by a mournful recognition of shortcomings."

Put another way, God doesn't love America more than any other nation. And he doesn't want us to worship our nation alongside him, because that is idolatry. Instead, we are to love and proclaim God above any earthly realm.

#### Holy ground

For me, there's nothing quite like taking off my sandals in the summer and walking through the grass. But when our sons were infants, neither shared that love of going barefoot. When we'd attempt to lower them to play outside, they'd raise their legs, trying not to touch the tickly, prickly, green ground.

"Do not come any closer," the Lord warned Moses through the burning bush. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5, NIV). In God's presence, Moses faced a turning point: either resist God's instructions or obey, leading the Israelites out of Egypt.

Maybe taking off my sandals this summer can remind me that I'm standing in God's presence. I may not hear a booming voice, and I might just be standing at the kitchen sink doing chores. Or I might be at a barbecue, with the opportunity to truly listen to my neighbors. God's presence permeates life's big moments as well as the mundane.

How can you "take off your sandals" and enter what God has for you?

—Janna Firestone

## On the right,

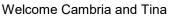
Adam, Cambria, Dena, Kane and Haven

**Baptism Sunday** 

The Klack Family,

Brian York and his son, London were among those that were baptized on June

> June began as a joyful and meaningful month at our church, marked was a beautiful start to the summer, filled with celebration, faith, and commitment.













June had been a very busy month. It started out with baptisms and we welcomed two new member.

We are overjoyed to welcome Cambria Upton and Teena Jones. Their decision to join us is a blessings, and we look forward to walking alongside them in faith, fellowship, and service. May their journey here be filled with spiritual growth, friendship, and the love of Christ.

#### Fire transforming us for the good



For many people, relaxing by a campfire is a favorite summer activity. Nestling into the surrounding darkness while gazing into dancing flames, we sense God's love and let the day's chaos go. In contrast, Exodus 24:17 describes, "Now the appearance of the glory of God was like a devouring fire."

Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes offers another take, writing about God using flames to change us. (The full poem is here: unfoldinglight.net/2025/02/24/fire)
God, your presence is like a consuming fire — not destructive, but transformative, not the fire of anger but the flame of love, the fire of glassblowers and bakers the grace to make us more beautiful, strong and useful. Your glory is no tame campfire where we sit and make

It burns out of our control. The furnace of your love

s'mores.

roars about our hearts, remaking us

Teach us to be unafraid. ...

When you bask in firelight glow — and maybe eat some s'mores! — ponder how God is transforming you with love, and for the sake of love.



#### **Complete joy**

Because Jesus came to do such serious work, we often imagine him straight-faced. Yet Jesus also enjoyed fun times, such as the wedding celebration at Cana. When the wine ran out, Jesus miraculously produced more.

Jesus also warmly welcomed children. Picture him lifting an infant into the air or tickling a giggling youngster while another child, grinning, climbs on his back.

Summer usually allows more time for fun and play. So use these months to teach the kids in your life — and to remind yourself — that Jesus came so our "joy may be complete" (John 15:11). Laughing, playing, having fun, relaxing and enjoying life are part of living and loving as faithful disciples.

#### The gift of the Bible

Certain parts of the Bible are hard to understand — and even harder to explain to children. But the late Rachel Held Evans made a start, and then coauthor Matthew Paul Turner completed *What Is the Bible?* This picture book can help adults as well as kids receive the gift of Scripture.

The Bible is often described as a library of books. Held and Turner explain that it's also many different kinds of writing: stories, poems, wise sayings, songs, letters. Scripture tells of Creation, good and evil rulers, miraculous events, animals that spoke or brought food to hungry people, even monsters!

The best part, the authors write, is that "in the Bible we meet Jesus, who teaches us new things about God, faith, and ourselves" — above all, that God loves us. "And if a story in [Scripture] is confusing or scary or sad, we can imagine how Jesus, who loves us, might tell us that story."

Bible scholars call this "the canon within the canon." As Christians, we read all other parts of Scripture through the lens of the Gospels, where we meet God *in person*, as Jesus. Similarly, 500 years ago Martin Luther called the Bible "the cradle that holds the Christ." That's a word-picture even children can grasp!

#### A modern Noah and his ark

A commercial mariner in the Gulf of Mexico makes it his business to save animals from drowning — not just two by two, but hundreds over recent years. In 2018 Brandon Upton first saw shadows floating near his boat. Realizing they were sea turtles, he contacted animal-protection authorities. The creatures were "cold-stunned" because the water had dropped below 56°F. Sea turtles become comatose in such conditions, putting them at risk of drowning, boat strike or, if washed ashore, land predators.

Every winter since, Upton pulls an airboat alongside his main vessel, rescuing any stunned turtles he sees. He brings them to San Padre Island National Seashore workers, who gradually warm them in a rehabilitation center. Then they release the turtles back into the wild. As Christians, we often focus on helping *people* in need. But God created and cares about animals too. Perhaps you share love with a pet or donate to protect endangered species. Maybe you've taken kids to a zoo to learn the wonders of animal life. Perhaps you take pains to carry a spider outside or, like Upton, own special equipment to help animals. We can care for God's creatures in countless ways — no need to build an ark!

—based on a story at GoodNewsNetwork.org

#### **Echoing God's goodness**

Roald Dahl's 1988 novel *Matilda*, since adapted for stage and screen, tells of a young girl surrounded largely by abusive adults. With her exceptional intelligence, wit and courage, Matilda decries her father's lying and cheating, resists injustice against her classmates and kind teacher and, in the end, refuses to perpetuate a cycle of revenge. A community-theater director in Minnesota wrote in the musical's playbill, "Her story reminds us that strength isn't always loud, and power doesn't always look like we expect."

That also aptly describes Jesus, who came not with what society deems strength and power. Instead, the Messiah showed that true strength is kind, compassionate and sometimes quiet. True power is not bullying and domination, but giving of oneself in love. Refusing to curse his opponents or even his executioners, Jesus prayed for their forgiveness, demonstrating how to end cycles of violence and death.

Humans — no matter how brilliant! — can go only so far by themselves. That's why Jesus went farther, rising to new life and defeating death entirely. But in the world around us, particularly in books, plays and other works of art, we can catch echoes of God's goodness. Inspired by characters like Matilda and real-life neighbors who uplift others, we too can echo God's goodness. While we trust above all in our Savior Jesus, let's work courageously and creatively for kindness and care.

-Heidi Hyland Mann



#### Tips for gardeners

"Love is to the heart what the summer is to the farmer's year," said evangelist Billy Graham. "It brings to harvest all the loveliest flowers of the soul." Without summer, our gardens would disappoint, and without love, our hearts wouldn't bloom.

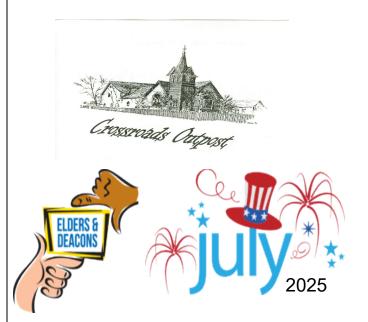
The warmth of summer and love aren't the only ingredients required for abundant physical and spiritual crops, however. Discernment and persistence ensure fruitful yields in both areas. "Unless we know the difference between flowers and weeds, we are not fit to take care of a garden," advised Clyde Francis Lytle. "It is not enough to have truth planted in our minds. We must learn and labor to keep the ground clear of thorns and briars, follies and perversities, which have a wicked propensity to choke the word of life."

# July 2025

Sun	Mon	Ine	Med	Thu	Ë	Sat
		<i>I</i> Dena & Adam Kleck (A)	2	3	4 Kane Kleck (B) (B)	5
<b>6 Rick Glass</b> Barb Palmer (B)	2	8	9	10 Carl & Brittany (A)	11	12
13 Joel Jund	14	15	16 Jennifer London (B) Todd & Nancy (A)	17 Jennifer Koopman yAnn (A) (B) (B) (B)	18 Kris & Mar- yAnn (A) Mary Armstrong (B)	19
20 Kevin D.	21	22	23 Kim Garcia (B) Gina Land (B)	24	25	26
27 Tom Finch	28 Myles Hodgkiss (B)	29	30	31		

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Gregg Lawrence:775-777-8184 Gerry Pennington 775-340-3501 Roger (Whip) Upton 310-405-2309 Barbara Palmer:303-424-1820

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#### .Preventing blind spots

About 40% of any vehicle consists of blind spots, which are responsible for an estimated 800,000 accidents each year in the United States. People also have blind spots, and when they're spiritual, they can have tragic consequences.

Pastor Rick Warren suggests these steps for discovering and overcoming blind spots:

- Pray, asking God to remind you what is true about him — and about you. "Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life" (Psalm 139:24, NLT).
- Ask some trusted Christian friends or family to point out things in you that you can't see. "Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others" (Proverbs 12:15, NLT).
- Finally, ask Jesus to change you. The Bible says the truth will set you free (John 8:32), and Jesus calls himself the truth (John 14:6). So the closer you are to Jesus, the more he will fill you with the truth. As God's truth helps you see clearly, you'll be less vulnerable to self-deception.

#### **Independence Day**

As we celebrate Independence Day, we thank God for the blessings of freedom—and the hope we have in Christ, who sets us truly free. "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." —John 8:36

#### **Summer Worship**

Sundays in July are for sunshine, fellowship, and worship! Whether you're here every week or dropping in between vacations, we'd love to see you.

