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July 27, 2021

Hello church family and friends!

I almost always miss the opening ceremonies of the Olympics. Sometimes I'll try to catch a recording of it online later, but I find I'm always occupied with something else. Almost always church business of one kind or another. Last Olympics it was probably wedding planning...it's Dennis' and my 5th anniversary in a couple of weeks. But it turns out that my beloved Dennis is an Olympics watcher, and he generally has control of the remote, so...there I was, earlier this week, watching the first opening ceremonies I've seen in a very long time.

It wasn't the fireworks or the performances, though those were neat. It wasn't the final passing of the torch and the lighting of the flame, though that was moving. It wasn't even the singing of "Imagine", though that definitely brought a tear or two (although...Keith Urban representing Oceania?? Weird.). I can't put my finger on it exactly, but somewhere between the Parade of Nations and the 1800 drones creating a globe in the sky there was a palpable longing for peace. A sense of, at that moment, being right up close to the possibility of global unity. Every athlete there is there to win, for themselves and for their country, and yet...somehow, camaraderie. Mutual respect, and even gladness to be part of this thing together.

I don't have the poetic talent to describe it well in writing. But in watching, it was profound. A sense of relief, of walls between people coming down, even for a moment. A thought not just of hope (although that too), but of glimpsing a real hint of paradise, not way off in the foggy future but right here, right now.

I know, that sounds over the top. Over-romanticized. And I know I probably talk and write too often about coming together across our differences. But...I can't help it. There are few things more important to me than fostering understanding and true Christian friendship between those who live and love and believe and see the world differently. I believe that is where paradise is found in this life, and what we will discover about paradise in the next life. In my own walk of faith, it is in experiences of that kind of coming together where I have most often experienced God in Jesus Christ, alive and active and transforming the world.

In Vacation Bible School this week, our first day was all about God creating the world and calling it GOOD. That's how our human story begins, full of beauty and perfect harmony. In Revelation 22, we are told that is how our story is completed, too, with the Tree of Life for the healing of the nations, and the light of God shining on everyone. All I can think is, come Lord Jesus.

We puny humans in Fallon, Nevada have little control over what nations do. But, as with everything, it all begins at home. Come Lord Jesus. Fill our hearts with your Spirit. Heal us, save us, and make us bearers of your Light.

As the deer, longing,

Pastor Dawn

Worship Any and Everywhere!

THE RACE: Growing Stronger in the Race Set Before Us

This week we begin a new worship series based in Hebrews 12:1-3 and Timothy 4:7, inspired by the athletes competing this year in the Olympics. It's a little strange to think of, but athletics was just as important in Jesus' time and place as any other, and there is some evidence that one of Paul's prison cells was located where he could hear athletes training for games like wrestling, javelin, and foot races. Paul and other writers used the metaphor of athletics to talk about our life in faith, and so we will too! See you Sunday.



News and Fun Stuff

Membership and Pizza with the Pastor

Several of you have mentioned a desire to know more about Epworth and what it means to be a member of our church. Pastor Dawn would love to talk with you about that! **Let's sit down together after worship and have some lunch at Pizza Barn, on Sunday August 1 at noon.** We'll get to know each other a bit, answer any questions you have, and talk about what membership means. If you can't make it, or if you prefer, Pastor Dawn would be happy to meet with you whenever it works best for your schedule. You can always reach her at 775-671-5553.

Vacation Bible School Was a Joy!

Thank you to all of our leaders who put in so much time, prayer, and love to make the experience wonderful for our kids. Kathy Fraker led science, Michele Berney and Judy Pritchard led the art class, Cathy McKean and Laura Butcher led the Bible story, Kenny and Levia Coval led recreation, the whole Coval-McGarity family created the artwork, Steve Russell and Lorri Freeman helped coordinate and direct, and so many more contributed materials and prayers. The Hero Club staff were amazing, too, participating with enthusiasm and managing the kids. We all learned a lot, and felt the grace of God surrounding us! The kids may not remember all of the details, but they will remember the love you showed them and the way God touched them forever.

Men's Breakfast

See you bright and early for breakfast, prayer, and fellowship beginning the first Monday in August, at 6:30am in the Wolf Center dining room. For more info, call the church office at 423-4714 or Jim Wieboldt at 619-302-3362.

Adult Sunday School

We are finishing up our study of the parables, and will start a new study on women in the Bible in mid-August, led by Jeanette Strong. We meet after worship in the Wolf Center dining room. Join us!

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.”

Deut 6:5-7

August Birthdays!

Sophia Jeffs, 8/2
Jim Foster, 8/4
♥Robert McCallum, 8/5
Debbie Mills, 8/6
Brody Hughes, 8/7
John Miller, 8/8
Ann Rapp, 8/10
Steve Russell, 8/10
Sylvia Fausey, 8/12
Barbie Hertz, 8/12
Sue Ansotegui, 8/14
Donna Strickland, 8/19
Tim Bennett, 8/20
Ayden Butcher, 8/20
Logan Butcher, 8/20
Carol Roeder, 8/26
Kay Knudtsen, 8/29
Susan Hurd, 8/30
♥Jerry Ivey, 8/31

♥Our beloved members who
have passed away. We are
so grateful for their lives, and
their presence in ours.

Be a part of the Labor Day Parade!

Help design the float, put it together the day before, or (and!) ride on the float to represent Epworth to our community. And especially, **we need candy** to toss to the kiddos! Nothing that will melt in the hot sun, please, but anything else is welcome. Bring candy here to worship on Sundays, or to the office on Mondays or Tuesdays. Thank you!!

Life Line Health Screening on Wed, August 18

Life Line will be giving health screenings here at Epworth, in our Fireside Room, all day on Wednesday August 18. Your insurance may cover the cost. Because we are hosting, we have a few free screenings to give away! To sign up for an appointment, call 1-800-772-8260. To take advantage of the free ones, call the church office and we will print you a copy of the certificate to bring with you to your appointment.

Scouting Update

Our Boy Scout Troop 1776 has roared back to outdoor activities this summer! They completed one week of Summer Camp at Camp Fleishmann, a 10-mile hike to Marlette Lake near the Tahoe Rim Trial and there are many more awesome outdoor events in the wings. The Fallon "F" on Rattle Snake Hill looks a lot brighter thanks Toby Escobar's Eagle Scout Project, which was sponsored by the City of Fallon and supported by volunteers and local hardware vendors. Finally, Congratulations to J.D. Steele!!! His Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held on Saturday 24 July.



The Troop has resumed weekly meeting in the Wolf Center every Tuesday evening between 6:30 and 8:00 PM. If you know a boy between the ages of 11 and 18 who is interested in joining the Troop, please have them contact Scoutmaster Jeremy Clark at (775) 544-4598.

Mark Your Calendars! Church in the Park on August 29

Join us for worship and a breakfast pot luck in Oats Park on Sunday, August 29 at 9:00am. Praise God, and bless the neighborhood with music, prayer, and scripture all at the same time. It's a ways off, but be sure to remember sunscreen, water, and a fold up chair. Let us know if you need a chair, and we will bring some from church. 😊

Epworth Choir Returns!!

Your choir has missed singing, and we have so missed their gift of music in worship! ANYONE who loves to sing is enthusiastically invited to join us for rehearsals every Thursday at 7:00pm beginning on Thursday, August 26. Join us, too, for a welcome potluck that same day – Thursday the 26th – at 6:00pm.

YOUR CHURCH LEADERS
welcome your ideas,
questions, concerns, and
participation!
Call the church office for
contact info ☺

Pastor Dawn
775-671-5553

Council Chair
Grant Mills

Lay Leaders
Doug Coval &
Kathy Fraker

Finance Team
Jeanie Fahl
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Outreach
Pastor Dawn

Welcome & Nurture
Margaret Knox

Adult Education
Kelly Frost

Adult Ministries
Barbie Hertz

Kids and Families
Ashlee McGarity

Music
Jackie Warburton

Missions/FDB
Kathy Fraker

Hospitality
Kathy Reynolds
& Judy Kroll

EUMC Food Pantry & HELP
Ministries

Margaret Knox

UMW
Judy Pritchard

Scouting
Steve Endacott

HELP SUPPORT WILDFIRE DISASTER RELIEF

As we know by the smoke in the air and the many reports of fires surrounding us, our neighbors need our help. Thank God for the firefighters who have come from all over, and for FEMA too, who has arrived on the sites of several nearby fires. As they did last year, and as they do every time, our Conference Disaster Response Ministry is coordinating other kinds of help with United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Below is an article from our conference website, with links to learn more. Our Northern Nevada churches are working together to gather supplies and find other ways to help. Stay tuned for specifics, and if you'd like to be a part of that effort please call Pastor Dawn! 775-671-5553.

Ukiah UMC joined Pinole UMC, Holy Cross in Stockton and the Sacramento Conference Office as a location where California-Nevada Disaster Response Ministry is stocking wildfire response supplies. Each location includes some, or all, of the following - wildfire buckets, shovels/rakes, cleaning buckets, sifters and emergency hygiene kits for use in assisting survivors after a wildfire.

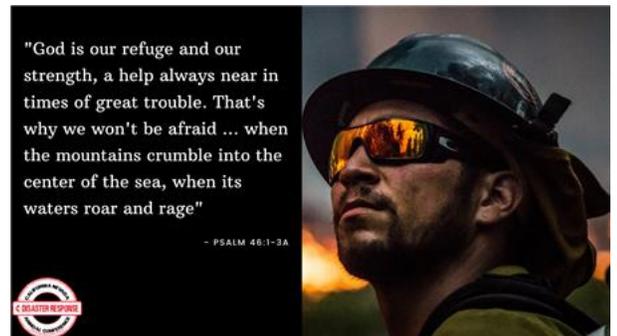
Of particular note is the wildfire bucket which includes the protective equipment and related tools and supplies to safely access the hazardous site of a burned-out home. We provide these buckets and any of the other items to survivors when they visit the fire's local assistance center or when we go to assist them with sifting the ashes.

As a connectional ministry, the buckets and tools stored at the Ukiah church were provided by San Ramon Valley UMC in Alamo, California. "We were delighted to provide this donation to our Conference Disaster Response Ministry." - noted Kim Risedorff, Senior Pastor at the Alamo church.

Jone Duggan, accepted the donation on behalf of the Ukiah Church, noting that they have church members who have lost their homes in wildfires over the years and she spoke to the value these buckets represent, and even more importantly the role our volunteers provide in offering a ministry of presence in a time of need.



Fire Buckets help
find wedding rings,
coin collections,
family heirlooms,
and other
irreplaceable
valuables



"God is our refuge and our strength, a help always near in times of great trouble. That's why we won't be afraid ... when the mountains crumble into the center of the sea, when its waters roar and rage"

- PSALM 46:1-3A

For more information about our Conference wildfire response efforts, other ways to help, and details about the wildfire buckets go to www.cnumc.org/fire-buckets or call our Disaster Response Coordinator Sonja Edd-Bennett at 916-374-1525.