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Happy beautiful summer's day, church family!

I so love this time of year here in Fallon. I love to see crop after crop of corn and alfalfa growing in the fields, all of the veggies growing in folks' home gardens and on the bigger farms for sale. I am writing right now in the cool of the morning, before it gets a bit too hot to do that, listening to the birds and watching our new little puppy, Franklin, run around like a crazy person and play with our old dog, Moose. Why do they *have* to play under the table, is my question. Every few seconds one of them bumps their head on the table top or legs. You'd think they'd want to move away so that doesn't keep happening. But no. There's a sermon in there, I'm sure.

With Independence Day weekend coming up, I am thinking a lot about freedom, the meaning of it and its limits. On July 4 we celebrate the brilliant ingenuity and courageous rebel spirit of our country's founders in drafting and finally signing our Declaration of Independence from England on July 4, 1776, after years of skirmishes and the declaration of all-out war a year earlier. But this time of year marks the anniversaries of a whole lot of other freedoms, too:

- On June 19, 1865, about a month after the end of the Civil War, the Emancipation Proclamation – signed by Abraham Lincoln 2 years earlier – is read aloud in one of the last pro-slavery holdouts in Galveston, Texas, finally declaring that “all persons held as slaves...are and henceforward shall be free.”
- Passed by Congress on June 4 1919 and ratified on August 18, 1920, women gain the freedom to vote
- About 100 years after slavery was ended in the US, on July 2, 1964, the Civil Rights acts are signed by President Lyndon Johnson, granting (on paper, at least) equal freedoms to all citizens regardless of “race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.”
- On June 12, 1967 Loving vs Virginia gives interracial couples the freedom to marry, a day thereafter celebrated as “Loving Day”
- Remembering the awful Stonewall Riots in June of 1968, LGBTQ+ people celebrate their freedom to exist during Pride Month in June of every year
- On June 26 2015, Obergefell vs Hodges gives same-sex couples the freedom to marry.

And that's just some of them! I'm thinking that the entire month from June 4 to July 4 could be celebrated as Freedom Month. Which makes it an excellent time to soak up the powerful messages about freedom that God gives us in scripture and in Jesus Christ himself.

“Is not this the fast that I [the Lord] choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.” *Isaiah 58:6-8*

**But now that
you have been
set free from
sin and
become slaves
to God, the
benefit you
reap leads to
holiness, and
the result is
eternal life.**

Romans 6:22

“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” *Isaiah 61:1-2a*

“You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
Galatians 5:13-14

“Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” *John 8:31-32*

Aaahhhh doesn’t that feel good? These passages are a balm for my soul right now, and I hope they are for you too. They feed my spirit and warm my heart, and help center my mind not on the stresses of today but on abundant life in God. Especially now, what with the limits on our freedoms imposed by the pandemic, and the desire for more perfect freedom expressed in the protests and reforms around the country, I am so grateful to be reminded of our freedom in Jesus Christ, and the incredible blessing that comes from using that freedom to grow in righteousness and serve each other in love.

In God’s amazing grace,

Pastor Dawn

Worship by the Dashboard Lights, at the Kitchen Table, on the Front Porch, Anywhere and Everywhere!

If we have learned nothing else in this long time apart, it is that worship of God can happen anywhere, and **should** happen everywhere. We continue to be inspired by the ways people all over the world have worshiped God when they couldn’t gather openly in churches: groups of enslaved people who snuck out in the night, into hidden places to hear scripture and pray and even sing if it was safe; the earliest churches who called themselves “followers of the way,” who met in small groups in homes to share meals and pray and hear the stories of Jesus; people today around the world who hide Bibles and read them with their families in whispers. And then there are gatherings of Christians today who order worship around dinner tables instead of in a church building...and Christians who gather to pray in shady places outdoors, to soak up the beauty of God’s creation...and people who hold worship services in movie theaters, in coffee shops, in homes, in old warehouses where believers renovate and repair the building while Jesus repairs and renews their souls. Nothing but nothing prevents the people of God from worshiping in the name of Jesus Christ!



This Sunday, we will gather in worship as we always do, at 9:00am for drive-in church. We will sing and pray and talk about our freedom in Christ, and share a service of Holy Communion together. **In your car or at home, prepare your own bread and cup**, and we will bless them together as simple food and drink becomes the miraculous grace of God.

And guess what!! Thanks to some good friends of the church, we think we have solved our technology issues! We made a couple of fascinating discoveries:

1.) Zoom and Facebook Live can't work on the same computer at the same time. Darn it.

And 2.) Internet signals work much better when they are not surrounded by water heaters, transformers, swamp coolers, and whatnot.

So! For you who prefer to join us by Facebook Live, it should work! Pastor Dawn did a lot of testing on Sunday afternoon and Monday, and it all went swimmingly. Keep us in prayer, thanking God for experts who know how to do this stuff, thanking God for a patient and kind church family, and praying that – no matter where or when or how we gather – the Holy Spirit move powerfully within us. Miracles of grace are everywhere! ❤️

News and Fun Stuff

In-Person Worship Coming Soon!

Your church council met this past Sunday after worship and talked in detail about the things our State and our Conference need us to do in order to re-launch in-person worship. Your trustees are hard at work forming a cleaning and sanitizing team, your worship and family ministries teams are putting things in place to serve our little ones and their parents during worship since we can't have nursery care just yet, Levites and other angels are doing little painting, cleaning, organizing, and repair projects around the church as we get ready. **Now all we need is YOU!** Volunteers from church will be calling you soon to hear your thoughts and perspectives about worship, whether you feel ready to return or not, and whether you might like to volunteer by helping to wipe down the church after worship, greet folks, be worship leaders, etc. With your help, we hope to have everything in place to open the second Sunday in July. Keep us in prayer!

Independence Day Parade on Saturday!



Join us to celebrate life and love and courage and freedom and community and especially our faith in God! Ride or walk alongside the float to pass out candy and toss little foam airplanes into the crowd, and spread the love and grace of God with smiles and laughter. If you'd like to do that, wear your Epworth tshirt if you can, bring your friendly smile (and sunscreen, and an umbrella if you need some shade, and water to drink) and meet us at church at 8:00am. The parade starts promptly at 9:00!

July Birthdays!

Jim Wieboldt, 7/1
Mike Berney, 7/1
♥ Debi Kissick, 7/1
Dustin Stritenberger, 7/2
Hayden Brown, 7/5
Barbara Evans, 7/8
Jackie Warburton, 7/8
♥ Darline Hughes, 7/9
Grant Mills, 7/9
Shirley McDonald, 7/12
Ariel Endacott, 7/13
Faye Tewell, 7/13
Darrell Dugan, 7/16
Aaron Fraker, 7/16
Shayda Loffhouse, 7/16
Dan Wolf, 7/16
♥ Kathy Albiston, 7/20
Jaime Lawrence, 7/23
Jerry Noonkester, 7/23
Laura Ivey, 7/24
Bill Hughes, 7/27
Wilma Myers, 7/31
Marlene Pierce, 7/31

♥ *Our beloved Debi Kissick, Darline Hughes, and Kathy Albiston were such incredibly important members of our church family. Prayers for their families and friends, who love and miss them still.*

And thank you for your donations of candy! We could definitely use more, and there is still plenty of time. Call Pastor Dawn on her cell phone at 671-5553, and she will make sure someone is here at the church for you to drop it by.

“Dad, How Do I...?”

Here’s something to restore your faith in humanity, and put a smile on your face. :-) You can find the full story on The Good News Network at goodnewsnetwork.org.

A Bellevue, Washington man who knows what it’s like to grow up without a father has been doing his part to make a difference in the lives of kids today who are in the same boat. Back in April, as the quarantine was just beginning, Rob Kenney started his own YouTube channel called “Dad, How Do I?” to teach youth the valuable lessons a good parent is meant to teach. He says he wanted to step in to fill the void whenever a kid needs to learn how to do something—like change a car’s oil, put up a shelf, use a stud-finder, and even iron a shirt or shave your face. Launched only two months ago, his DIY channel already has more than two million subscribers.

“I didn’t start this to make money,” Rob told his viewers. “I started simply enough and thought I was going to help a few people . . . 30 or 40 subscribers . . . it’s turned into way more than that. And please don’t think I am only aiming this at young men. It’s for young women, anybody who feels that they need to learn something or be empowered to learn something.”

Many viewers have been touched by the kind and heartfelt words Rob shares in his videos. Such simple words, like ‘I love you’ and ‘I’m proud of you’ that so many children don’t get to hear from a parent can have a profound impact, even into adulthood. He starts each video with an enthusiastic ‘Hey kids!’—but Keiha Danaher commented that she was a 33 year-old woman, and she answered back with a sobbing “Hi dad.”

Rob’s challenging childhood story makes him a role model of resilience for the kids who watch his channel. By the age of 14, his parents had divorced and decided they were done with parenting. He had to move in with his older brother and learn the tough lessons of adolescence without parents in his life. But that did not deter him from marrying, having a son and daughter, and being a devoted father to his children.

Impressive as his car maintenance skills may be, his dedication to showing kids some encouragement these days means far, far more. ♥