Happy Valentine’s Day!
Wednesday, February 14th

Independence Day
Sunday
July 4

VBS
July 12 –
July 15

Quarterly Business Meeting
Sunday
July 18
A Note from Pastor Seth

Another summer is upon us and it is another opportunity to make the best use of our time during this season. As you well know, we treasure the summers in the north. Only four months ago we endured two straight weeks of below zero temperatures and now what a blessing it is to be able to spend time outside. But we can waste the summer if we are not careful. God desires for us to make the best use of our time always, including the bright and warm days of summer (Ephesians 5:16). How does God want us to spend this time? In this article I am going to discuss three ways: enjoying his creation, Christian fellowship, and evangelism.

During every season we see the beauty of God’s creation, but in my estimation, summer presents opportunities to enjoy his creation more than any other time. The Bible says that God’s “invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made” (Romans 1:20). Everything in creation points to him somehow. I love the hymn, “This Is My Father’s World.” In it there is a line that says, “In the rustling grass I hear him pass. He speaks to me everywhere.” Indeed, God speaks to us everywhere. When you hear the birds chirping in the morning, God speaks. When you hear the coyotes yip and howl, God speaks. When you hear the sound of the soothing lake, God speaks. When you hear the wind howling, God speaks. When you see the sun rise and set, God speaks. When you see a deer prance through the field, God speaks. When you see the greenness of the grass and the blueness of the water, God speaks. When you see the sparkling water from the sun, God speaks. When you see the rapid current of the river, God speaks. When you see the power of a thunder and lightning, God speaks. When you see the stars at night, God speaks. Summer is the best time to experience God in creation because of the warm temperatures and the abundance of sunlight. As you spend frequent time outside be vigilant to experience God’s goodness, majesty, and beauty in his creation. To be outside without thinking of him is to squander our summer.

Summer also presents a wonderful opportunity to spend time with other believers. The Bible tells us not to neglect to meet together but always to look for opportunities to encourage one another (Hebrews 10:24-25). It is a given that we are to do this on Sunday mornings and through Bible studies, but we should also seek fellowship at informal times. Summer, more than any other time in the year, presents us with an opportunity to be active and one way we should aim to be active is spending time with other believers to encourage one another. During these times it is okay to talk about lots of topics, but do not miss the opportunity to have rich conversations about God and what he is doing in our lives. This is a great season to show hospitality to one another (Romans 12:13). It is a wonderful season for barbecues and lemonade on the deck. To go on walks and bike rides to say hello to your church family. Get to know someone you do not know that well. The summer will go by fast so do not miss this chance for deeper fellowship with fellow believers. Yes, you can do it anytime, but summer especially presents a wonderful opportunity.

Finally, summer is a great time to get to know your neighbors, especially ones who do not have a relationship with Christ. The opportunity has already been put before us with the anniversary celebration at the end of June. I trust that many of you invited your neighbors to the event. At the event, one of the big goals was not only celebrating 140 years of God’s grace, but also to give a gospel invitation to all unbelievers present. We want to see our community come to faith in Christ. But even after the anniversary, the summer presents a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors and invest in them for eternity’s sake. If we show the love of Christ to our unbelieving community and share that Jesus died and rose again so that they may live forever with him (John 3:16), then we are making a good use of our time this summer. As you think about how to spend your time remember to enjoy God’s creation, fellowship with your church family at informal gatherings, and sharing the good news of Christ with our community.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Seth
Miron Family: Ireland

Summer is upon us and it could not be coming at a better time here in Ireland. Our severe restrictions have FINALLY begun to slowly ease over the last two months, which makes the warming weather and summer activity all the more exciting to partake in. And by warmer weather, I mean like, we almost hit 70 degrees the other day! So yeah, not quite the blistering heat you State-side people have had.

The last 7 weeks have seen big changes for us in restrictions: Churches have opened back up to meet in-person, our restrictions on visiting other people (even outdoors) were finally lifted, and now just 2 weeks ago we have finally been allowed to have another family over to our house! It has been HALF OF A YEAR since we’ve been allowed to do that! We can also travel throughout Ireland now and outdoor dining is opened back up. Indoor dining is hopeful to open in July, along with being able to have up to 3 families in your home.

I’ve been able to preach over lockdown through video services, but we all know that’s not the same. With church back in-person that means I not only get to preach, but Sarah and I can connect with people as I do. Whenever the day comes, in God’s timing, that we began inviting people to be a part of a church in Oranmore, its crucial those in the Galway Church actually know us! Preaching helps people get to know me, as well as gives me the chance to share my heart and continue to learn how best to shepherd God’s people in this context.

Well, I really didn’t see this coming, but I may have the opportunity to serve as a sports chaplain with one of the professional sports teams in our area. I went through some training for it back in lockdown, and the chaplaincy group I trained with is looking to contact the Connacht Rugby team to set up a meeting with me. It’s one of those interesting things where you wonder what the Lord is up to, because the guy that I’ve been doing the Bible study with actually plays for them. The Connacht team is one of four professional rugby teams in Ireland, and I would have the opportunity to spend time in the club every week and basically just be there as a resource and safe person for players to go to. We will see if it turns into anything, but it would definitely be a unique opportunity, and one I would appreciate your prayers for.

As exciting and hopeful as it is to have things opening, the many months of Winter and Spring lockdown were anything but. The extended months on months of isolation were not good for anyone. Surprising, I know. In many ways it was a season we just had to endure, and trust that God was over that. It’s been comforting to read through the Bible and see just how many times God sovereignly places his people in purposefully difficult places, calling them to endure, to wait on Him, and to trust that He is going to come through on His promises. And the constant human temptation is to give up on waiting on him, and just do things in our own strength. We can think of Abraham and Sarah waiting on the promise of a son, Jacob waiting for Rachel, Joseph waiting for redemption while in prison, Moses and the Israelites waiting in the wilderness for 40 years after being freed from Egypt, David waited some 15 years to be anointed king, or even Jesus perfectly waiting until the fulness of time to begin His ministry. In other words, this is something we should expect God to do, not be surprised by.

The whole world can now say in agreement - we are not made to live in isolation. We were created to live in community, just as our creator is in community. So, may God establish His local, gospel community here, in His timing, and make a people for Himself.

The recipe for the Potato Salad that was served at the Anniversary Celebration, has been a tradition for our church. Thank you to Patsy Anderson, Nancy Hahn, Hansi Stridde, Amber Lindo, Sophie Lindo and Lillie Lindo for spending lots of time in the church kitchen! The recipe can be found in the church cookbook.
Monthly Events

Women’s Bible Study
Saturday, July 3
9:00am

Men’s Breakfast
Saturday, July 10
8:00am

Marriage Bible Study
No meeting in July
Weekly Events

Sunday School
Sunday Mornings
9:00am

Morning Service
Sunday Mornings
10:00am

Fridays
Matson Building
9:30am

Kids Church
Sunday mornings during
Morning Service
Church Announcements

- Thank you to all that were involved with our 140th Anniversary Celebration!
- Marriage Bible Study – no study in July
- The Cleaning Schedule and Mowing Schedule is now posted. Please sign up if you are able to help out.
- We will continue to sell the cookbooks. Please keep them in mind for shower gifts, wedding gifts and as a welcome gift to new neighbors.
- Please encourage the children that you know to attend our VBS in July.
- If you are interested in helping the week of VBS, please talk with Barb Trombley or Hansi Stridde.
- Quarterly Business Meeting on Sunday, July 18 after morning service.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Susan Matson 7/3, Joey Tomlinson 7/8, Derek Jorgenson 7/11, Jaxon Stridde 7/15, Mason Stridde 7/15, Mollie Taylor 7/22, Elijah Tomlinson 7/24, Brooke Talmadge 7/31
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Jeremy & Rachel Hall 7/23, Alvin & Susan Matson 7/24, Gordy & Barb Trombley 7/31
Eureka Baptist Church Vacation Bible School
July 12 – 15, 2021    6:00pm – 7:30pm
Age 4 through 5th grade

Our youth traveled to New Richmond in June and joined up with the youth there for an evening of bbq, games and Bible Study.