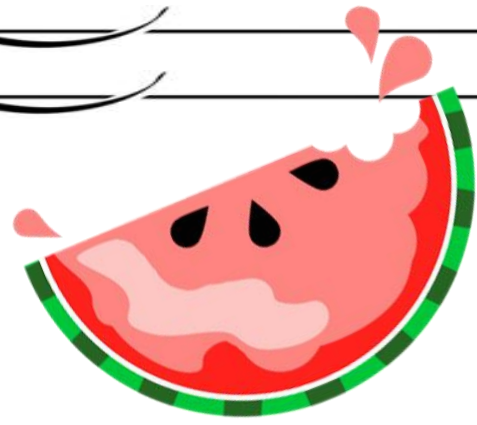


Jarrett's Jottings



Dear Friends,

If you were in worship on July 19th—live or on Facebook—you heard me talk about the necessity of praying for the church. As I have contemplated that more, and prayed for the church myself, I thought it would be appropriate to share again some concrete ways we can be praying for the church every day. By no means is this list exhaustive, but it is an earnest call for prayer for the church.

1. Pray for worship to be an encounter with God.

I fully believe that God is yearning to meet with us and embrace us. The question for us is this: Are we willing and desiring to encounter God? It sounds simple enough, but an encounter with God is a radical and holy thing. There are times when we want “worship” to be a feel-good start to the week—we want to show up, sing (or hear) familiar songs, have a prayer, hear an uplifting sermon, and go home. There are times when that is exactly what happens, and we meet with God in wonderful ways. However, an encounter with God can also take us away from what WE would like...and bring us into the realm where God wants us. Simply put...an encounter with God is a holy moment where the veil between heaven and earth is ripped away and we see God face-to-face. Worship is about an encounter with God. I encourage us to pray that each time we gather for worship we might encounter God—in all God’s glory, majesty, and grandeur. I promise, when we encounter our Holy God...we will not be the same!

2. Pray that, through the church, others would know Jesus.

Our mission/purpose at First UMC is simply “to connect people with Jesus Christ”. That is the sole purpose for our church—for the Church—to exist. If we are not continually pointing beyond ourselves, we are not living out or living up to our purpose and calling. This prayer is a reminder that in all we do, individually as members of the church and corporately as the church, we represent Jesus. I believe we are surrounded by those who are yearning to know of abundant life, joy, hope, peace, unconditional love, and so on. All those things are found only in Jesus Christ. As we pray for those around us to encounter Jesus, we make ourselves available for God to use as the vessel(s) through which God connects to those around us.

3. Pray for the protection of the church.

Spiritual warfare is real. We often don’t like to think about it or talk about it, but it’s real. Scripture makes very clear that the body of Christ will be the target of evil forces. The Evil One despises the church, and all who comprise it. Evil desires to thwart the mission of the church. But, at the name of Jesus, evil must flee. At the name of Jesus, evil cannot stand. I believe it is our job to pray for the church to be protected from all evil—in our worship and in our living. In so doing, we have the freedom to live under the reign of God and to fulfill all that God asks of us!

4. Pray for the unity of the church.

Often, the word unity is misconstrued to mean “of one mind”—everyone believing and thinking in-step with one another. There is a different way of looking at unity, though. This line of thinking sees unity as a centeredness, a foundation. One of the ways evil tries to thwart the church is to create imbalance in the church—to sway the church off its foundation and begin “majoring in the minors”. I am under no illusion that we all do or can think alike. However, we can be so committed to Christ as our foundation that our differences do not separate us. In John 17 we see Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane just before He is arrested. His prayer? For His followers, that they (we!) would be united. Dear ones...if we are to fulfill our mission as the church, we must be and remain united to Christ and one another. Pray it might be so!

5. Pray for the well-being of the church.

In other words, pray for God’s blessing and favor upon the church. Seek, on behalf of the church, all the goodness of God. I believe God will honor and answer this prayer!

Dear ones, now more than ever, the church needs our prayers. We are living in difficult days, and the church has faced innumerable challenges. How wonderful it is, though, that God has invited us to be a part of something much larger than ourselves; that God has invited us to a part of the very Body of Christ in this world. So let us commit ourselves to prayer—for one another and for the church—that the light of Christ might shine and God might be glorified!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jarrett

The Mustard Seed

July/Aug.

Ministry Team:

Pastor ~ Jarrett Wells

Office Manager ~

Maria Hymes

Pianist/Organist ~

Jill Roegge

Choral Director ~

Tim Bartholomew

Financial Secretary ~

Lynne O'Hara

Treasurer ~

Susan Treadway

Youth Director ~

Andrea Wells

Custodian ~

Tonya White

Sunday Services:

Worship Service ~

9:00 a.m.

Sunday School ~

10:30 a.m.

Phone ~ 217-323-1257

E-mail ~

beardsumc@sbcglobal.net

Website ~

beardstownfumc.com

"Like" us on Facebook ~

Beardstown First UMC

July Birthdays

- 2 Bert Lerch
- 3 Frank "Sniggs" Stailey
- 5 Phillip Baer
Taylor Ann Robertson
- 7 Donna Rohn
Jenna Vermillion
Waneta Black
- 8 Shirlee Clark
Dan Rohn
Rashana Wells
Kevin Dalpiaz
- 9 Bob Kloker
Trenton Patterson
- 10 Kathleen Quigley
Leah Reither Mathis
Joseph Blakeman
Vicky Lamb
- 11 Presley Hurst
- 13 Sue Rohn
Mary Deaton
Isaiah Watkins
- 14 Chris Allen
- 16 Alex DeSollar
Peggy Ruiz
- 17 Deanna Lynn Clark
- 18 Brooke Luna
Patsy Barnhart
- 20 Jessica Trone
Jennifer Jansen
- 23 Joe Hamlin
Nathaniel Absher
- 24 Sarah Cordell Prott
- 25 Jamie Flood
- 27 Maricela Rodriguez
- 28 Kelsie Herter
- 29 Bree McClenning
Kelly Robeson
- 30 Cindy Elliott
Corey Bell

Anniversaries

- 8 John & Kathleen Quigley
- 13 Bob & Kathy Schoolcraft
- 19 Darrell & Tanya Logan
- 25 Bill & Carol Robeson
- 28 Jeff & Connie Starkey

August Birthdays

- 1 Jill Trone
- 2 Brandy French
- 4 Christopher Baer
- 5 Trish Sager
Missy Szarmach
- 6 Randi Kirchner
Joe Vermillion
- 8 Chuck Elliott
Dusty Rohn Mueller
- 9 Rob Hymes
- 11 Rory Cowen
Hank Park
- 12 Amy Durham Hance
Paul Davidsmeyer
- 13 Carol Jeffers
Susan Thompson
- 17 Bill Farmer
- 18 Mark Brown
- 20 Michael Davis
- 21 Tim Bartholomew
Dustin Looker
Alec Alden Taylor
Jacob Elam
- 22 Colleen Korsmeyer
Bradie Michael Lashbrook
- 24 Rose Ann Flood
Vicki Taylor
- 28 Daniel Herter
Brenda Antrim
- 30 Jessica Osmer Dour

Anniversaries

- 1 Hank & Ann Park
- 6 Dean & Val Bushey
- 7 David & Linda Humphrey
- 10 Bob & Paula Kloker
- 14 Richard & Rose Black
- 17 Jim & Marilyn Ritter
- 19 Larry & Miriam Kight
Dan & Jody Cowen
- 26 Mark & Penny Mulconrey



Christian Love In Action

Currently C.L.I.A. is in need of: *Cereal, Instant Potatoes, Canned Fruit & Crackers*. You can bring your donated items to the church again. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CLIA hours are: Tuesdays from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Thank you for donations. If you would like to contribute but don't have time / remember to shop, you can give money to Lynne O'Hara and she will pick up the items.

Cass County Food Pantry

The Cass County Food Pantry is another place that helps Cass County residents in need of food. To help with their mission, they are asking churches for donations for the month of **JULY & AUGUST**: *Ketchup, Mustard, Mayonnaise, Pickles, Salad Dressing, Cereal, Apple Sauce, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Tuna, Chicken, Hamburger Helper*.

They are always in need of: *Peanut Butter, Jelly, Macaroni & Cheese, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Cereal, or Non-Perishable Food Items*. They have a walk in cooler or freezer to hold perishable items, and are able to take fresh produce items.

"Re-Opening" Update

As of this writing, we are four weeks in to resumption of in-person worship. From my perspective, things have gone well! Thank you for all you have done to ease back in to in-person worship. I share the sentiment that things are not exactly as we would like, but I am grateful for all the ways we have worked together to ensure we can continue in-person worship.

I have gotten several questions about resuming Sunday School and bible studies. As of right now, the target date for resuming Sunday School is September 13th. I understand this is not what many would like, but the most recent guidance given calls for minimizing our time together. I know we are anxious; I know we want to resume things. I promise...we will resume at some point. Until then, let us continue to lift our prayers for an end to this pandemic. If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact me!

~ Pastor Jarrett



Everything Has Its Time

To everything there is a season,

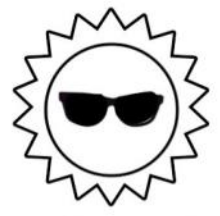
A time for every purpose under heaven:

A time to be born, And a time to die;
A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted;
A time to kill, And a time to heal;
A time to break down, And a time to build up;
A time to weep, And a time to laugh;
A time to mourn, And a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones;
A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to gain, And a time to lose;
A time to keep, And a time to throw away;
A time to tear, And a time to sew;
A time to keep silence, And a time to speak;
A time to love, And a time to hate;
A time of war, And a time of peace.

~ Ecclesiastes 3:1-8



SUMMER



WORD SEARCH

A R E F J E T R I S U M M E R M I S
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P E T F U N O I W O S R K T B H S M
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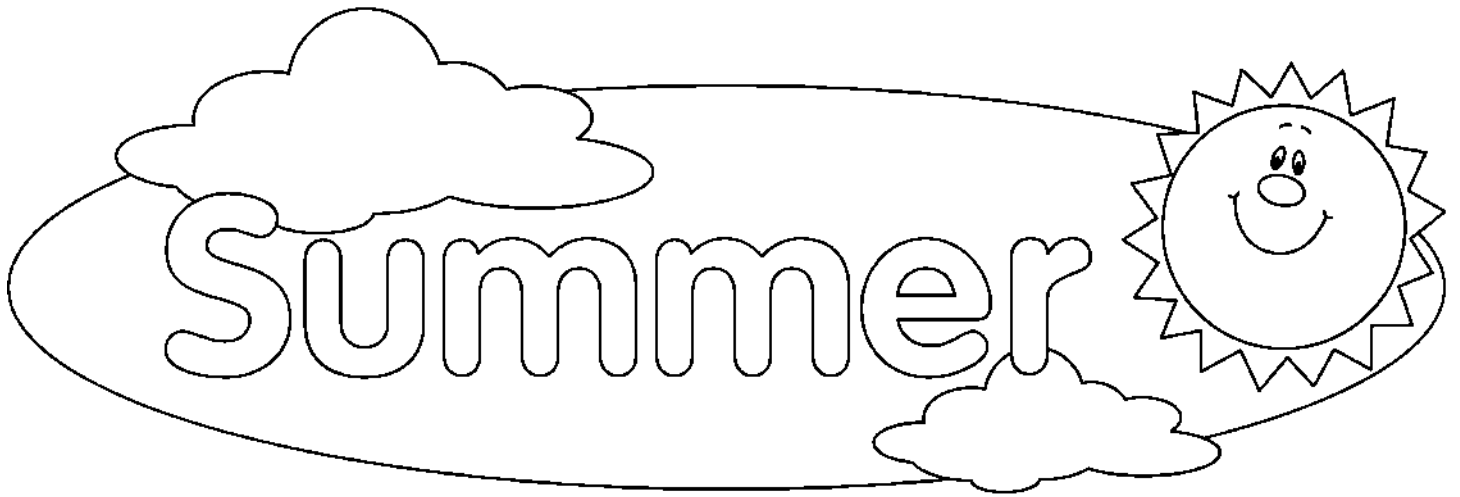
summer
pool
swimming
camping

fun
sun
grass
outside

hot
sprinkler
picnic
road trip

shorts
vacation
watermelon
play

fruit
hiking
popsicle
lemonade



*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
~ Psalm 23:4*

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