

From the Pastor...

Summer 2024 Newsletter

As I am writing this, Memorial Days is just past. A little later in the summer we'll celebrate Juneteenth and Independence Day. And then the summer season closes with Labor Day. All of these are secular holidays, ones without an origin in Christianity. During the Sundays closest to these days, we'll often sing hymns that have connections to patriotism, but we often don't recognize them during our worship services. Why is that?

While Christians are part of particular countries, and we care about the common welfare, our ultimate allegiance should not fall to our country, but to God. This means that there are times that we should be in full support of our country, thankful for what God has done through our very human institutions, working to bring well-being and wholeness to people through the work of the government and our community organizations. It also means that there are times that we have to find ourselves criticizing the actions of the government or stances of significant parts of the population because they are ones that harm people and do not bring the wholeness God desires for all people.

This support and criticism of our country creates a complex position for us as Christians here in the US. We celebrate the way people have put themselves in harm's way giving their lives to protect those in our country, living out Christ's call for self-sacrifice to the fullest degree, but also recognize ways that war becomes an all-too-common tool of foreign policy. We celebrate the freedom that we have, recognizing it as God-given, but also mourn the way that millions had their freedom curtailed by the sin of slavery. We celebrate the

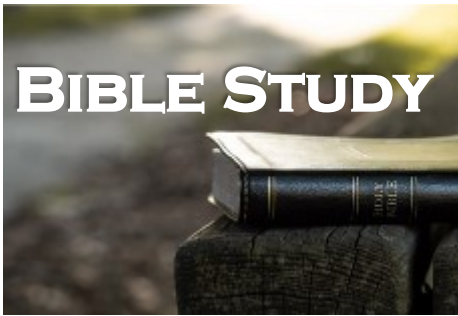


ways that people have worked together for justice, but also live with the reality that justice is not done at all times and places here in our country.

Our worship has to be directed towards God, so we don't fall into idolatry of country. In recognition of this complex situation, we, as a congregation, acknowledge those secular holidays, but don't make them holy-days. We give thanks for the good things that show forth God's actions, and also recognize the hard parts of our common life as a country praying for God to amend those things that do not point towards God's kingdom.

And as Katherine Lee Bate's song so eloquently states: May God thy gold refine / Till all success be nobleness, / And every gain divine!

In Christ, *Will*



Monday Bible Study

Mondays at 9:45 AM

Join us for a discussion about the coming Sunday's lectionary readings either in-person in Fellowship Hall or watch on Channel 966. We meet 3 weeks each month all summer. No bible study June 10, July 1, July 29, Aug 5, and Sept 2.

June 3:	Mark 3:20-5; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	for June 9
June 17:	Mark 4:35-41; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13	for June 23
June 24:	Mark 5:21-43; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15	for June 30
July 8:	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Mark 6:14-29	for July 14
July 15:	2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	for July 21
July 22:	John 6:35, 41-51; 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33	for Aug 11
Aug 12:	John 6:51-58; 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14	for Aug 18
Aug 19:	John 6:56-69; 1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43	for Aug 25
Aug 26:	James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23	for Sept 1



We are a connectional church...connected in faith to God – Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Jesus taught us that prayer connects us to the Divine...and to each other.

Each month we list our faith community. Every family has a date when we ask you to hold them in prayer.

June Prayer Calendar

July Prayer Calendar

August Prayer Calendar

Food For the Journey

Care Teams have started caring for the gardens. Once we get to harvesting, Pastor Kim Trimboli from Forest Park Presbyterian church will be coming and harvesting on her way to Apostle Presbyterian each week, providing the freshest produce for the food pantry.



Blessing of First Fruits - On Sunday, July 14 at 2:30 pm we will host folks from the congregations participating in Food for the Journey. We will come together to bless the first produce from the various gardens that they may be a blessing to those who are receiving them. There will be a short time of dedication and then time to visit with people from other congregations who are also raising produce for those in need.

JUNE/JULY 2024

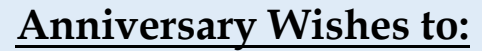


SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 10 AM Worship - with communion  Food Pantry Sunday <small>First Sunday of each month</small>	3 9:45 AM Bible Study—FH	4	5	6	7	8
9 10 AM Worship	10 No Bible Study	11	12	13 6:30 pm Finance	14	15
Will is on vacation this week.						
16 10 AM Worship <div></div>	17 9:45 AM Bible Study—FH	18	19	20	21	22
23 10 AM Worship	24 9:45 AM Bible Study—FH	25	26	27	28	29
30 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Session	1 No Bible Study	2	3	4 Office Closed 	5	6
Will is on vacation this week.						
7 10 AM Worship - with communion  Food Pantry Sunday <small>First Sunday of each month</small>	8 9:45 AM Bible Study—FH	9	10	11	12	13

JULY/AUG 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
14 10 AM Worship Time TBA - Blessing of First Fruits Service	15 9:45 AM Bible Study—FH <div>Lisa is on vacation this week.</div>	16	17	18	19	20
21 10 AM Worship	22 9:45 AM Bible Study—FH	23	24 <div>Will is on vacation July 24 - Aug 7.</div>	25	26	27
28 10 AM Worship	29 No Bible Study	30	31	1 August	2	3
Will is on vacation.						
4 9:15 AM- Deacon Mtg 10 AM Worship - with communion	5 No Bible Study	6	7	8	9	10
<div> <div>Will is on vacation.</div> </div>						
11 10 AM Worship 11:15 AM Session	12 9:45 AM Bible Study—FH	13	14	15	16	17
18 10 AM Worship	19 9:45 AM Bible Study—FH 11 AM - Worship Committee	20	21	22	23	24
25 10 AM Worship 11:15 AM - Coffee Hour hosted by the Deacons	26 9:45 AM Bible Study—FH	27	28	29	30	31





Pentecost Offering - Thank you

This year we are sending \$1,000 split between the Presbyterian church and a local charity for the Pentecost offering. Our gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. Our next Four for Four offering is in October - Peace and Global Witness.



Food Pantry Sunday

June 2 July 7 August 4

Our food pantry collection bin is now inside the church office hallway. You can access it Sunday mornings and office hours.



LIVING HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Office Hours: Mon and Th 8:30-12:30 (remote email rest of the week)

Clerk of Session: Kathryn Fresch

Treasurer: Steve Sinner

Church Musician: Teresa Ledford

2024 Session Members: Karl Bertram, Michael Brady Joe Fresch, Kathryn Fresch, Curtis MacDonald, Mike McBride and Marcia Sinner

2024 Deacons: (A-B) Tom Tennyson (C-F) Ann Tennyson
(L-O) Cherie Andrus (P-R) Karen Stephan

(G-K) Diane DeBoer — Moderator
(S-Z) Mary Dalton and Kathy Mathews