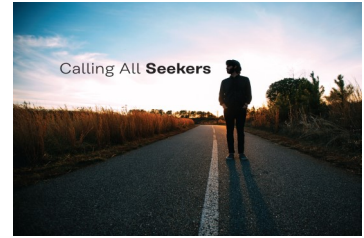




Newsletter Presbyterian Disciples Church



Church Chat—"Families Are What We Make of Them"--John Swisher, Stated Supply Pastor

I went to a recent church conference in a KC-area church on "Faith Formation and Families", in which I was very strongly affected positively. So I thought I'd try to share some of the things I learned.

The keynoter was a guy from the PC (USA) named Rodger Nishioka and he began by asking all of us to name some different kinds of families. He asked, "Are two adults, a man and a woman in a first marriage, with 2.4 children, a dog and half a cat a family?" I thought when he asked us, "It depends on which half of the cat you're talking about". But of course, I had to say that they were a family. For they were the all-American "average" TV family of the 50's and 60's, of course they are a family. Then he asked about single parent families, blended families (step-families), children being raised by grandparents, widows and widowers living singly after the death of a marriage partner, and all kinds of other family groups, as in examples of recent TV series, "Full House", "Fresh Prince of Bel Air", "Modern Family", etc.

So is every kind of living group a family? How about the young adults living together on "Friends" or the extra-terrestrials posing as a human family in "3rd Rock from the Sun", or the Coneheads on SNL? How about our PDC "family"? How about all our brothers and sisters in faith and in other faiths?

Well, most all of us at the conference had to allow that while not everybody living together constitutes a family, the shape of the modern family (not the show, just the modern family) can assume many proportions. The main point of the conference was to remind all of us attending, presumably good church going folks, that even going to church every Sunday doesn't add up to a lot of time for us to be formed into faithful disciples or whatever your name for church goers is. It was to remind us that what we are exposed to at home in our families is far more influential and much more compelling than any sermon, or Sunday School lesson, or Bible study, etc. The big influence on teens who are still active in faith we found out, was first and foremost the family and the family's connection to faith. That included faith at home but also branched out to faith at church, in other organizations in community, whether in human service, or community betterment, or just looking out for the least of our neighbors.

So, perhaps you might be asking, where do we draw the line? What is and what is not a family? I don't know but I did catch a reference to an interesting article originally featured in the Good Housekeeping December 21 issue, as reported in the Christian Century magazine, 2/1/17 issue. It states, "Self-marriage is a small but growing international trend. A travel agency in Japan is offering two-day self-marriage events in Kyoto. A website called I Married Me offers a \$50 self-marriage package that includes a 'sterling silver ring, ceremony instructions, vows, and 24 'affirmation cards' to remind you of your vows over time.' The trend is a response to the decline of traditional marriage and a protest against the stigma associated with being single." I don't know if this makes us single people families now, or only if we marry ourselves. I don't know if it qualifies anyone for a tax break. And I don't know if I decide to marry myself and then grow disappointed if I could get a divorce and how that would work. But I can tell anyone who wants to marry themselves, I can do it for you for \$49, OK?

Chapel Chuckle: A man's wife was in labor with their first child when all of a sudden she began shouting, "Shouldn't, couldn't, wouldn't, can't, didn't!" He asked the nurse what was wrong. She said, "She's having contractions." Take care and blessings on your way!



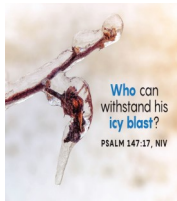
John Swisher
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On Sunday, January 29th John Morgan drove a bus to the Crown Center Ice Terrace with 14 children and 15 adults from our church. Almost everyone had a lot of fun and for most it was the first time ever ice skating. Please pray for Kendra Redden as she broke her ankle and did some ligament damage during this trip.

A Huge Thank You to everyone who supported and helped us with this fun experience for the youth of our church. Pictured below are the children that skated with us.

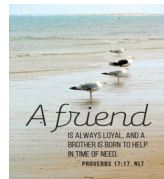
Aiden Bayne, Zade Myers, Madison Mar-kley, Audrey Bayne, Remington Hager, Bro-dy Neece, Ainsley Hamacher, Camden Goodloe, Zenden Myers Nolen Wrisinger, Gabrial Moore, Miranda Braden, Taylon Morgan, Ardyn Hamacher



Lafayette County Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser breakfast Saturday, February 11th from 7-10am. at \$5.00 per person held at Trinity United Church of Christ.



President's Day is intended to honor all the American presidents, but most significantly George Washington, our 1st President and Abraham Lincoln, our 16th President. Both Washington and Lincoln have birthdays in February and we celebrate those birthdays on Monday, February 20th this year.



Board will meet again on Sunday, February 12th and Sunday, March 12th following worship.



Upcoming Community Events

Slavery in Little Dixie

02-08-2017

Battle of Lexington SHS

7-8:30pm

Breakfast at Trinity UCC

02-11-2016

Location: Trinity UCC Church

Proceeds to benefit Habitat for Humanity.

7-10am

Elks Community Breakfast

02-27-2016

Location: Lexington Elks

7-10 AM

Dinner & Dance

03-05-2016

Location: Lexington Moose Lodge

Dinner 5:30 Dance 7-11pm

St. Patrick's Parade 2017

03-11-2017

Location: Downtown Lexington

2:00 PM

Historical Assn Annual Meeting

04-08-2017

Location: Elks Building

6:30PM Dinner & Speaker

Holy Week Services

04-10-2017 to 04-14-2014

Easter Egg Hunt

04-15-2017

11am, ball fields

Administrative Professionals Day

04-26-2017

Lexington High School Prom

04-29-2017

Warrior Dash

04-29-2017

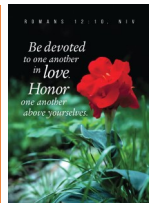
Lectionary Readings for February:

05— Isaiah 58:1-9 Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20

12— Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

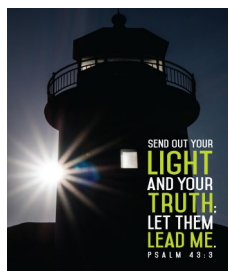
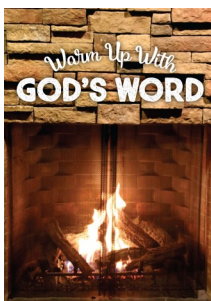
19— Levithan 19:1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119:33-40; 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23; Matthew 5:38-48

26— Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9



FEBRUARY BIRTH-DAYS

- 08 – Drake Oetting
- 09 – Vanessa Summerlin
- 10 – Brenda Meyer
- 15 – Steve Saults
- 17 – Tymme Johnson
- 23 – Charles Rockhold
- 25 – Jack Wrisinger
- 26 – Bo Maze
- 29 – Zenden Myers



We Pray for:

Mary Williams, Anne Brubeck, Betty Swisher, Linda & John Larry Marchetti, Lela Bryant, Doris Bradley, erry Mary Ann Barker, Kathy Neil, Jake Means, Robert Smith, Steve Sellers, Chris & Stephanie Christenson, Gladys Duffett, Roy Marchetti, Bill & LaVeda Cross, Bonny Bunner, Lois Coulter, Kendra Redden, Andy Bryant, Bonny BunnerDisaster Victims, & Future of our church Families of Elizabeth Duncan Lee, Junaita Cole, Phyllis Davis, Kathy Casadorph,

Our Servicemen:

Nathan Wrisinger, Bobby Maze, Brittany Maze, Bo Maze, Derek Morgan, Eric Morgan, MJ Myers, Mark Brubeck, Aaron Bryant, Ryland Sims, Johnathan Lefholz, Jimmy Register

Al-Anon meetings are held at the United Methodist Church every Saturday at 10am .

February 03, 2017—National Wear Red Day - a day when many people wear red to show their support for the awareness of heart disease. It occurs in America on the first Friday in February each year, where people wear red. Designed to warn women of their number one health threat, "The Heart Truth" campaign created and introduced the Red Dress as the national symbol for women and heart disease awareness in 2002 to deliver an urgent wakeup call to American women.

Heart disease is a class of diseases that involve the heart, the blood vessels or both. The causes of heart disease are diverse but atherosclerosis or hypertension are the most common. Additionally, with aging come a number of physiological and morphological changes that alter cardiovascular function and lead to subsequently increased risk of cardiovascular disease, even in healthy asymptomatic individuals.

Heart disease is the leading cause of deaths worldwide, though since the 1970s, cardiovascular mortality rates have declined in many high-income countries. At the same time, cardiovascular deaths and disease have increased at a fast rate in low- and middle-income countries. Although heart disease usually affects older adults, the antecedents of cardiovascular disease begin in early life. There is therefore increased emphasis on preventing atherosclerosis by modifying risk factors, such as healthy eating, exercise, and avoidance of smoking tobacco. (With material from: Wikipedia)

Sunday, February 5th we will celebrate "Souper Bowl of Sharing" by bringing in food for the food pantry which is located in our church. We will also have a Soup and Sandwich Fellowship Meal following worship. Bring Soups and/or sandwiches to share with your church family.

We will be participating in our monthly loose change offering which will go to the Food Pantry on Sunday, February 5th. Thank you in advance for your donations and dedication this mission.

It 's that time of year again to start planning for Church Camp. The available camps can be found online at www.heartlandcenter.org. Please see the office if you have any questions or what information about volunteering.

To keep connected with the Northwest Area Disciples of Christ, please contact Rev. Bill Rose-Heim at br_h@nwareacc.org or (816) 632-2237.

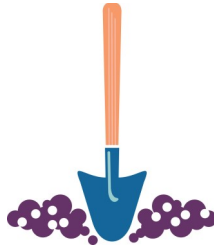
To keep up to date on current events and to see what visitors are seeing when they check out our town on the internet, go to the following websites: www.lexingtonmo.com www.historiclexington.com www.visitlexingtonmo.com www.lafayettecountymo.com

Start Digging

Scripture promises that God has a plan for our lives but also reveals that he wants us to play an active role in that plan. In 2 Kings 3, three kings band together to defeat Moab but end up in an 80-mile desert. Amid this dire situation, God commands the people, "Make this valley full of ditches" (verse 16, KJV) and promises to fill them with water — even though it won't rain.

Before the people's need was supplied, they had to trust God and act. The next morning, water filled every ditch they had dug. Plus, they were victorious in battle.

The takeaway? God will bring the blessing, but we may have to dig first!



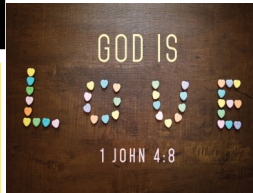
The Need for Charity

The ancient English word for selfless, agape-type love is charity, points out John Ortberg in *Love Beyond Reason* (Zondervan). It means expressing love in the form of pure gift, though it now has condescending connotations. "No one wants to be a 'charity case,'" Ortberg writes. "But in the final run, the ultimate love comes to us as a gift."

Agape love is necessary in human relationships too, writes C.S. Lewis, because "only the lovable can be naturally loved." He notes, "All who have good parents, wives, husbands or children may be sure that at some times they are receiving charity, are not loved because they are lovable but because Love Himself is in those who love them."

Extravagant Love

The love St. Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13 is "no mild, tepid thing," writes Mark Buchanan in *Your Church Is Too Safe* (Zondervan). "It is no flight of fancy, no frisson of giddiness, no mere ruffle of sensation. This love is neither nice nor prissy nor fragile nor coy. This love is fierce and wild and dangerous and unbreakable. It is sublime and subversive. It is indefatigable and undefeatable. It is nothing less than the love God has for you, to bind you and to loose you, to take you captive and then set you free. This love is extravagant."

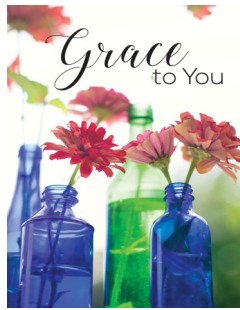


The Cost of Hiding Our Light

A Los Angeles restaurant owner recently discovered that a neon light had been covered — without being disconnected first — during a construction project 77 years prior. The calculated electricity cost to run the hidden light all that time was \$17,000!

People don't intentionally hide light; that would be counterproductive, not to mention wasteful. Yet when we shrink back from sharing Jesus' good news, we do indeed hide "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14) that is in us. When we're too modest to use God-given talents such as singing, playing piano or reading to bring others joy, we hide our light. When we put our own wants ahead of meeting someone else's needs through giving and serving, we hide the light of God's love. And at what cost?

"Let your light shine before others," Jesus says, "that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (verse 16).



Character Doesn't Save

A tombstone in an old London churchyard reveals the deceased knew that only Jesus saves:
If friendship, kindness, truth, goodwill and love
Could prove a passport to the realms above,
The soul that tenanted this mouldering frame
To God's right hand might justly lay a claim.
But her own works she scorned as worthless dust:
Her Savior's merits were her only trust.

In All His Glory

On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, many Christian churches celebrate the Transfiguration of Our Lord. After telling his shocked, uncomprehending disciples that he would die and rise again, Jesus took Peter, James and John up a mountain. Suddenly Jesus appeared to be glowing! "He was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light" (Matthew 17:2, ESV).

Moses and Elijah appeared, and a voice said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (verse 5). Jesus' disciples fell to the ground, overcome by fear. But Jesus touched them, told them not to be afraid and led them down the mountain.

The disciples witnessed firsthand the glory and Godhood of Jesus, who would soon die for the sins of the world and rise again to give us life.



You Are Cherished

We must understand that God does not "love" us without liking us — through gritted teeth — as "Christian" love is sometimes thought to do. Rather, out of the eternal freshness of his perpetually self-renewed being, the heavenly Father cherishes the earth and each human being upon it. The fondness, the endearment, the unstintingly affectionate regard of God toward all his creatures is the natural outflow of what he is to the core — which we vainly try to capture with our tired but indispensable old word "love."

—Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*

+Christian Symbol+ Aureole

From the Latin for "gold," an aureole is a golden image symbolizing divinity and supreme power. It's used sometimes in medieval art to surround Mary and the Christ Child, or Jesus alone. The elongated or almond-shaped form of an aureole is called a mandorla.



The Gift That Gives

Love ever gives,
forgives, outlives
and ever stands
with open hands.
And while it lives, it gives.
For this is love's prerogative —
to give, and give, and give.
—John Oxenham

God's Conversation Hearts

Those familiar conversation hearts that show up every February can be more than just trite romantic or friendly sayings. Use them to remind you — or to teach a child — of the greatest love of all: God's love for us, which empowers our love for others. For example:

- TRUE LOVE: What love is truer than giving up one's only Son so people might have everlasting life? (John 3:16).
- MINE: Jesus knows us intimately, as a shepherd knows his sheep. No one can snatch us from him (John 10:27-29).
 - FOREVER: God loves us with an "everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3).
 - LOVE ME: The greatest commandment is to love God with our whole being (Luke 10:27).
- TRUST ME: "Let not your hearts be troubled." We can count on Jesus, now and for eternal life (John 14:1-3).
 - SWEET TALK: God's words are sweeter than honey (Psalm 119:103).
 - BE GOOD: We show our love for Christ by keeping his commands (John 14:15).
 - CALL ME: God longs to be in fellowship with us. We can talk to him anytime in prayer (Jeremiah 33:3).
- FRIENDS: The greatest love involves laying down your life for your friends (John 15:13) — precisely what Jesus did.
 - #1: "We love because [God] first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

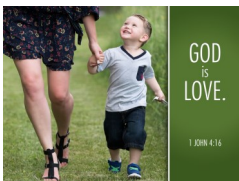
Take Care

In Jimmy Fallon's first monologue as host of NBC's *The Tonight Show*, he expressed thanks to all past hosts. On an occasion when he might have said, "And now this stage is mine!" or "I'm delighted to be counted among such greats," instead he stated with deep humility, "I just want to do the best I can and take care of this show for a while."

Take care of. That's language not of ownership but of stewardship. That's the language of Genesis 2:15 (NIV) — "The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

What have we been called to "take care of for a little while"? The earth, surely.

Perhaps a congregation, a business, a neighbor in need, a volunteer or an employee. A child, who may need less care — or different forms of it — as time goes on. We don't own these people and things. God invites us to be stewards of them, to care for them, to use wisely and value these precious gifts ... and someday, to pass them on to others.



Giving Credit Where Due?

Running late for a meeting, a man circled the block, looking for a place to park. Desperately, he raised his eyes toward heaven and prayed, "Lord, if you'll find me a parking spot, I promise I'll start going to church again."

Just then, a car pulled out of a space right in front of the man. "Never mind," he said to God. "I found one!"

Puzzle!

Use the clues to discover these four-letter answers. When read from top to bottom, the first letters reveal a phrase related to the children of Israel's wilderness experience.



• • • • •

1. Camping shelter _____
2. To track wild game _____
3. Home to Adam and Eve _____
4. Middle Eastern tree _____
5. A form of precipitation _____
6. To follow commands _____
7. Martha's sister _____
8. A false god _____
9. Israel's first king _____
10. Valley in 1 Samuel 17 _____
11. Unable to hear _____
12. Smaller than an ocean or sea _____
13. Jezebel's husband _____
14. Mount climbed by Moses _____
15. Morning's light _____

Answers: 1. tent 2. hunt 3. Eden, 4. palm, 5. rain, 6. obey, 7. Mary, 8. idol, 9. Saul, 10. Elah, 11. deaf, 12. lake, 13. Ahab, 14. Nebo, 15. dawn; The promised land

PUZZLE

Love your neighbor as yourself

Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to live out God's love.
How does Jesus say we should treat other people?

Directions: Find a hidden word in each sentence. For example, "the" is hidden here: (12) "It's Harry's hat he stole." The (12) means the hidden word starts on the 12th letter (ignore punctuation). Use the answers to complete Matthew 19:19, NIV.

- (1) You really like ice cream! _____
- (16) Carly has a really fat hermit crab. _____
- (21) My favorite animals are moth, ermine and eels. _____
- (4) "Hello, Vera!" called Joseph. _____
- (11) When horses neigh, boredom reigns. _____
- (17) Their daughter, Kara, sat patiently. _____
- (6) "That's yours, elf!" the fairy yelled. _____



♥ "Honor _____ and _____
_____, and _____ your _____"

Matthew 19:19, NIV

Answer: "Honor your father and mother and love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 19:19, NIV

Heart FRUIT SALAD

Make this cute, healthy snack for your loved ones on Valentine's Day.

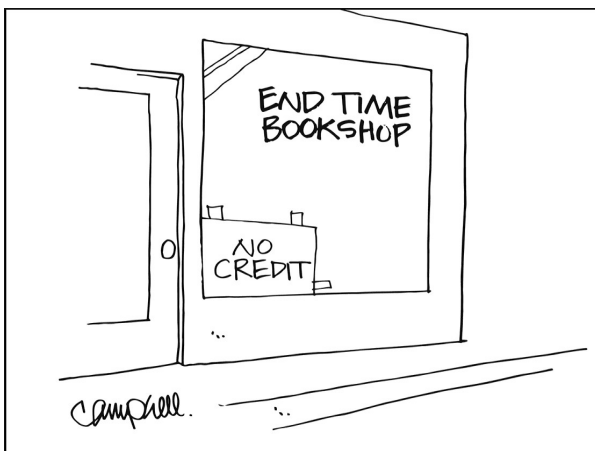


What you need:

- Adult help
- Washed fruit (watermelon, cantaloupe, strawberries, grapes)
- Knife and cutting board
- Small heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bowl and spoon
- Mint leaves (optional)

What you do:

1. Slice the watermelon and use the cookie cutter to make heart shapes.
2. Slice the cantaloupe and cut chunks into heart shapes.
3. Remove strawberry stems and cut berries in half. Cut a small V atop each half to form a heart.
4. Cut grapes in half.
5. Place fruit in bowl and stir.
6. Wash and cut the mint. Sprinkle strips on the salad. Enjoy!



Bible Quiz

What unique characteristic of the judge Ehud enabled him to outsmart King Eglon of Moab, who had been oppressing ancient Israel?

- A. He was left-handed.
- B. He was blind.
- C. He was very fat.
- D. He was exceedingly strong.

Answer: See Judges 3:12-26



FEBRUARY 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2	3 9-11 Food Pantry	4
5 Souper Bowl of Caring Fellowship Meal	6	7	8	9	10 9-11 Food Pantry	11 7-10 Trinity UCC Breakfast
12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 830-1130 60+ Commodities	16	17 1-3 Food Pantry	18
19	20 Presidents Day	21	22 9 FP Home Delivery	23 830-1130 Commodities	24 9-11 Food Pantry	25
26 Transfiguration of the Lord	27	28				



Presbyterian Disciples Church
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660-259-2102
presdisciples@embarqmail.com
Rev. John Swisher

Worship Service 10:45am - 12:00pm
Childrens Church 11:00am-12:00pm
All Are Welcome



Minister- Rev. John Swisher
Organist- Matthew Neil
Secretary- Candy Myers/Matthew Neil
Treasurer- John Morgan
Custodian- MJ Myers
Children's Church- Brittney Bayne