



Newsletter Presbyterian Disciples Church July 2016



Church Chat—"What? The Mutt Strut with Tut"--John Swisher, BCC Chaplain

My abilities at rap are rather limited, as you can guess from the title above, but I did want to give a "proud loud shout out about" our prison's Puppies for Parole event last month, the Mutt Strut. I mentioned some of this in my sermon 2 weeks ago. Anyway, I got to take one of the dogs, "Tut", aka "King Tut", a striking Husky-German Shepherd mix (we think) who was all white except for his toenails and blue eyes.

I was very hopeful when I found out which dog I was taking, that it was him, because the way I had it figured, he'd be a very likely candidate for adoption, and not coincidentally, probably a big draw for everybody there, and I was not wrong. Everybody was happy to see him except for a few of the many other dogs, large and small, who were crowded together for the events they were being judged on. That's what I wanted to talk about mainly, how well behaved he was, even when other dogs seemed to want to "start something", which actually happened a lot less than I thought it would, given the large number of "strange" dogs in the same area.

Now, it helped that I had dog treats from the institution, and dog treats from the event, who could say no, right? And they weren't bad, either. I even gave some to the dog. Actually, whenever he got barked at or growled at, I asked him to sit, and gave him a dog treat when he did, and that seemed to do the trick every time.

That's what I wanted to mention briefly, more briefly than I mentioned it in Sunday's sermon, since I preached at the two little churches I serve in Lafayette County about our mutt Tut. The scripture was from Galatians 5:22-3, "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." I told everybody at church just like I'm telling you in this article, I can never follow all nine gifts or "fruits" of the Spirit very well. Heck, I usually can't even remember all of them, and that as they get closer to the end (numbers 8 & 9, underlined above), I have a harder time doing so, especially self-control. But I told everybody the dog reminds me I can do it, 'cause if he can do it (be gentle and have self-control) with all the instincts a dog has to protect territory, hunt and chase down game, and protect its pack working against it in moments of high stress (like when another dog is in its face, barking, and growling), then I can do it too.

Anyway, everybody loved Tut, but he's not getting adopted. I was told afterwards when I asked about possible adoptees, that he was going to graduate to the service dog program we are starting and that he would be trained to be an assistance dog for one our veterans returning home with special needs, so I thought "Wow, Tut, you've gone on to greatness, in large part because of your gentleness and self-control!!!"

And, I was so glad when I got the email at work Friday morning thanking me for helping with the Mutt Strut the night before. Not because I was seeking recognition so much, but because I had awakened on Friday morning smelling like a dog, with dog-breath, and broken fragments of dog treats in the pockets of my pants, and thought, "Oh God, not another night of debauchery. I can't remember where I was last night." Now I figure I'm just getting old and forgetful. And it's such a relief not to have been in the low dives I've been known to frequent, at least not so much nowadays.

Chapel Chuckle: So there were two all white dogs named "In" and "Out" who lived near the North Pole with their Master, in an igloo made of ice and snow. One day "In" whined at the door and asked to be let out. The Master let "In" out. Not long after-wards, "Out" whined at the door to be let out with "In". "Out" was let out to be with "In", and remarkably, "Out" found "In" immediately. Both "In" and "Out" were all white, the snow and ice was all white, and yet, there was no delay, "Out" found "In" right away. How did "Out" do it? Answer backwards: (!!tcnitsn!)



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Community Vacation Bible School is almost here. VBS is planned for Sunday, July 17th to Wednesday, July 20th with the United Methodist Church as the Host Church this year. The theme this year is Surf Shack.

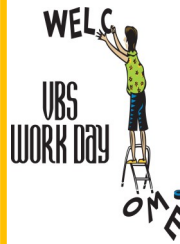
Even if you can't volunteer at VBS you can always come and help decorate on **Saturday, July 16th at 12:30pm.**

Each year we try to buy t-shirts for all the children that attend VBS. Our church will participate in the fundraising attempts by doing a **special offering on July 3rd** to help in the purchasing of t-shirts for the children. Please participate in this special offering so that each child is able to receive a shirt. There will also be a Bake Sale on Sunday, July 3rd from 5-7pm during the fireworks sale at the United Methodist Church.

Listed below are the days that each church will provide dinner during VBS.

- Sunday-Trinity United Church of Christ**
- Monday-Christ Episcopal Church**
- Tuesday-Lexington United Methodist Church**
- Wednesday-Presbyterian Disciples Church**

Contact Candy Myers with any questions at 660-232-0303 or presdisciples@embarqmail.com.



Upcoming Community Events

Booster Club Golf Tournament
07-10-2015

Location: Shirkey Golf Club
100% of the funds raised support the Minutemen Athletic Booster Club.
2015 Golf Tournament Flier.rtf

Sidewalk Sale
07-11-2015

Location: Downtown Lexington

Second Annual Civil War Ball
07-11-2015

Wentworth Military Academy
5:30 Cocktails 6:30 Dinner
Civil War Ball2 (2).pdf

Dinner & Dance
07-11-2015

Location: Lexington Moose Lodge
Dinner 5:30 Dance 7-11pm

VFW Breakfast
07-18-2015

Location: Lexington VFW

Dinner & Dance
08-06-2016

Location: Lexington Moose Lodge
Dinner 5:30 Dance 7-11pm

Blazin' the Trail
08-06-2016

Breakfast at Trinity UCC Church
08-13-2016

Location: Trinity UCC Church
Proceeds to benefit Cancer Assistance Relief (C.A.R.) 7-10am

Lexington Community Fair 2016
08-14-2016 to 08-20-2016

Location: Lexington

VFW Breakfast
08-20-2016

Location: Lexington VFW



The Lexington Community will have a Fireworks Display on Sunday, July 3rd beginning at dusk around 8:45pm at the Lions Club Park.

Please remember to sign up for Worship duties for the month of July and August.

It takes everyone working together to make service run smoothly. We hope that in between vacations and weekends away, you join us at worship and share your talents with your church and church family.



Board will meet after worship on Sunday, July 10th.

Lectionary Readings for July

- 03 — 2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; Galatians 6:7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
- 10 — Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
- 17 — Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42
- 24 — Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85; ; Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 11:1-13
- 31 — Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9,43; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21



A Big Thank You to Pastor John, Sherry and Bobby Braden and all the parents that let their children go with us to Church Camp for the day. It was hot, but we had a fun time worshipping and fellowshiping together. We will be planning further activities in the next few months so watch your newsletters, emails and bulletins for further details.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 05 -- Sherry Braden
- 08 – Anne Brubeck
- 10 – Anastasia Brock
- 16 – Candy Myers
- 17 – MJ Myers
- 21 – Abdolhamid Ghazaei
- 22 – Frayetta Street
- 27 – Bill LaHue
- 30 – Karen Ensor
- 31 – Jim Nevels



Our Servicemen:
 Bobby Maze, Bo Maze, Derek Morgan, Eric Morgan, MJ Myers, Mark Brubeck, Aaron Bryant, Ryland Sims, Johnathan Lefholz, Brittany and Jimmy Register, Shily Peck

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 05 – Steve & Liz Waddell
- 23 – Kenny & Jonna Spencer



We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.

Please Keep These Individuals in Your Prayers:
 Mary Williams, Doris Bradley, Anne Brubeck, Linda & John Marchetti, Rick Failing, Bob Smith, Chris & Stephanie Christenson, Rou Marchetti, Becky Clariday, Bill & LaVeda Cross, Greg Major, Bonny Bunner, LaVonne Hulver, Lela Bryant, Lois Coulter, McGregor Family, Wilma Cox,

The Lexington United Methodist Church will be selling Fireworks as a fundraiser for their church. This will be held inside the Family Life Center of the church so go shop in the air condition.

On **Sunday, July 3rd from 5-7pm** they will also host a **Bake Sale to benefit Vacation Bible School**. Please go and support both these worthy causes. The money from the bake sale will help to buy t-shirts for all the kids at VBS.



Please Pray for The Families of Those that Have Passed:
 Blanche Jenkins, Edith Coates, Robert Warner, Bonnie Larkin, Linda DeMint, Larry Wilton, Sr., Larry "Champ" Reed

The Lexington Ministerial Alliance and The Lexington Food Pantry will host the National Night Out Event on Tuesday, August 2nd from 6-8pm on the City Lot at 12th and Main Street. National Night out is a nationwide event that takes place the first Tuesday of August.

The focus is on neighborhood watch, meeting and knowing our neighbors as well as our emergency personnel. Mayor Jerry Brown and City Administrator Mark Rounds have committed their support. During the event you will be able to interact and view lots of emergency vehicles and meet with local emergency personnel. Food and drinks will be available along with activities. Look forward to seeing everyone there.



Start planning for the Lexington Community Fair which will start on Sunday, August 14 and run until August 20th. Further information will be in next month's newsletter.

It doesn't seem possible but school will be starting again in little over a month. Open house for all schools will be held on Tuesday, August 16th. Visit www.lexington.k12.mo.us for further details about open house and school supply lists.



The Lexington United Methodist Church hosts the Fierce Warriors Cancer Support Group on July 9th at 6pm.



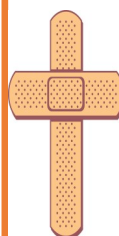
Celebrate Blazin the Trail on August 6th in Dover and along 24 Highway. Watch the local newspapers and websites for additional information.



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.



Lexington Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry is asking for volunteers to help with the Commodities and Food Pantry programs. They are asking each church in the community to provide volunteers to help out for one month out of the year. Jan Wright is in charge of the Food Pantry and Ann Coen is in charge of the Commodities program. Please call Jan Wright at 259-9148 for additional information. Thank you in advance for giving your time to provide this special ministry to the people of Lexington.



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

Freedom Under God

Our status of dominion [over creation] derives from God's delegated authority. We do not exist as autonomous persons at liberty to do as we please. Our privilege of dominion does not mean freedom from God; it means freedom under God.

Our commission to be subrulers under God carries with it enormous responsibilities. ... He intends for us to rise above the rest of the created order and to participate rationally and responsibly in his divine purposes.

—Kenneth Cain Kinghorn, *Christ Can Make You Fully Human*



Citizens of Heaven

Keep yourself as a pilgrim and a stranger here in this world, as one to whom the world's business counts but little. Keep your heart free, and always lift it up to God.

—Thomas à Kempis

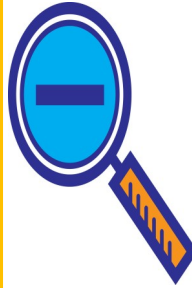
Zoom Out

On a computer screen, images can be magnified to show tiny details and make text easier to read. In the process, however, the "big picture" is lost. After checking various aspects of a project closely, it's a good idea to "zoom out" again to be sure everything still looks as it should.

Likewise, it's easy to fixate on the tiny details of our lives (especially flaws in ourselves and others). We tend to enlarge our problems far beyond their actual size and totally miss problems taking a toll elsewhere. We may also forget the beautiful "big picture" of God's care encompassing us.

After tending to life's details, it's important to take a broader view to see whether our up-close perceptions hold true when we gaze on the work as a whole.

"Help us 'zoom out,' oh God," prays Joshua DuBois in *The President's Devotional* (HarperOne). "Widen our perspective and extend our horizon, so that we can more fully know your purpose this day, and every day."



At the Center of It All

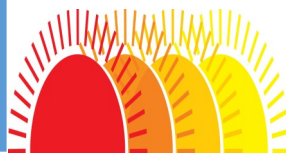
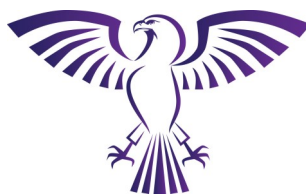
Psalm 118:8, the verse that falls in the middle of the Protestant Bible, reads, "It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in humans" (NIV).

The center of God's Word reminds us to make God the center of our lives! No other person or possession can fulfill or save us. Only God is a safe, certain refuge, and we grow closer to him by grounding ourselves in his Word and his will.

+Christian Symbol+

Eagle

Eagles came to symbolize the Resurrection thanks to ancient legends that they renewed their youth, plumage or eyesight by flying near the sun, then diving into water. The eagle's upward movement made it a symbol of Jesus' ascension. John the Evangelist is represented by an eagle, for his "soaring" description of Christ's divinity. God's care is likened to an eagle in Bible verses such as Exodus 19:4: "I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you myself" (ESV).



Anticipation

It is not hard for the Lord to turn night into day. He that sends the clouds can as easily clear the skies. Let us be of good cheer. It is better farther on. Let us sing Hallelujah by anticipation.

—Charles H. Spurgeon



Help Needed

When I've taken sacred vows — confirmation, marriage, ordination or as part of a congregation committing to support the just-baptized or new teachers — I've felt genuine gratitude for words such as these in the ceremony: "May God, who gives you the will to make these promises, also give you the power to perform them." I'm relieved God doesn't leave me on my own to fulfill what is easier said than done.

Adults who guide youngsters can follow God's lead by committing to this kind of help. For example, my young son often declares, "I promise!" about a requested behavior. He means it, but when distractions arise or energy sags, when he's hungry or tired or frustrated, when the task feels overwhelming ... he needs help obeying or delivering on his promise. As a parent, I can say, "Let's do it together," or "How about setting the timer and doing the job in 10 minutes?" or "Afterward, we can play."

God doesn't leave us to rely on our own power. Likewise, adults can pledge inwardly to children: "May I, who have motivated you to promise this, also help you perform it."

—Heidi Mann

Earthy Prayers

In English translation, the Psalms often sound smooth and polished, sonorous with Elizabethan rhythms and diction. As literature, they are beyond compare. But as prayer, as the utterances of men and women passionate for God in moments of anger and praise and lament, these translations miss something. ... As prayers they are not quite right.

The Psalms in Hebrew are earthy and rough. They are not genteel. They are not the prayers of nice people, couched in cultured language. ... Only as we develop raw honesty and detailed thoroughness in our praying do we become whole, truly human in Jesus Christ, who also prayed the Psalms.

—Eugene H. Peterson's introduction to Psalms, *In The Message*

"Prayer at Sunrise"

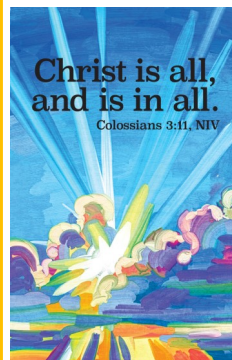
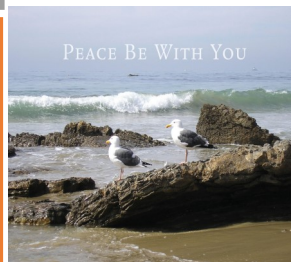
O greater Maker of this thy great sun,
Give me the strength this one day's race to run,
Fill me with light, fill me with sun-like strength,
Fill me with joy to rob the day its length.
Light from within, light that will outward shine,
Strength to make strong some weaker heart than mine,
Joy to make glad each soul that feels its touch;
Great Father of the sun, I ask this much.

—James Weldon Johnson

Destination Devotions

Planning a summer trip? Take along a Scripture passage befitting your vacation to use for devotions and prayer time (all NIV below):

- In the mountains: “The mountains and hills will burst into song before you” (Isaiah 55:12).
- At a lake, perhaps on a fishing trip: “They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will send you out to fish for people’” (Matthew 4:18-19).
- Near an ocean or river: “Let the sea resound ... let the rivers clap their hands” (Psalm 98:7-8).
- In the desert: “They looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud” (Exodus 16:10).
- In the woods: “Blessed is the one ... whose delight is in the law of the LORD That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season” (Psalm 1:1-3).
- In the flatlands: “‘My food,’ said Jesus, ‘is to do the will of him who sent me I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest’” (John 4:34-35).
- On a “staycation” close to home: “Love the LORD your God These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ... Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates” (Deuteronomy 6:5-9).



A Good Place

This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in.
—Theodore Roosevelt

On Fire for God

English preacher W.E. Sangster (1900-1960) served on an interview panel for ministry applicants. When a nervous candidate stepped forward, he admitted he was rather shy and not likely to ever set the River Thames on fire.

“My dear young brother,” Sangster responded, “I am not interested to know if you can set the Thames on fire. What I want to know is this: If I picked you up by the scruff of your neck and dropped you into the Thames, would it sizzle?”

Love’s Freedom

Love is the power to grant freedom without desiring to limit or inhibit its exercise. It is the power to give freedom without any will to take it back. And it is only Omnipotence that can refrain absolutely from trespassing upon freedom. Only God can give and not take back ... [God] suffers within himself the entire consequence of allowing man absolute freedom. That is his love

Thus, the existence of evil and suffering in the world is a proof, not that God is either good but powerless, or all powerful but not good. On the contrary, it is a proof that God is both loving and omnipotent. Only absolute love could grant unhindered freedom, and only omnipotence can endure the operation of that freedom.

—D.R. Davies

The Gift of Grace

Grace is something you can never get but only be given. The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn’t have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don’t be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It’s for you I created the universe. I love you.

There’s only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach and take it is a gift too.
—Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*

Running the Race

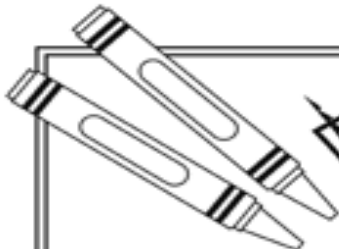
During three Olympic Games, American triathlete Hunter Kemper never placed higher than seventh. But his athletic performance never defined him. “Whether I win a gold medal or not, I get my character as a person from my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,” Kemper said. “That’s who I’ll always be, and therefore I can never be let down. You can never be let down if your faith is in the Lord.”

Kemper, now 40, said, “Trust in the Lord, and he’ll give you the strength to be on top. And if you don’t end up on top, that’s okay too. Ultimately for me, I want to run my race ... and give [God] credit, whether in victory or defeat.”

Be a Lifesaver

About 200 people — including 100 lifeguards — attended a pool party in New Orleans in 1985 to celebrate the first summer in memory that no one had drowned at a city pool. At the end of the festivities, the four on-duty lifeguards began clearing the area and found a fully dressed man in the deep end. Despite efforts to revive him, he died.

Just as swimming with a bunch of lifeguards doesn’t guarantee safety, “swimming” with a sea of churchgoers doesn’t guarantee peace. People in the pews next to you might be struggling to stay above water physically, emotionally, financially or spiritually. Be alert to ways you can serve as a lifeguard. Extend a helping hand, a listening ear and an encouraging reminder of Jesus’ ultimate rescue (see Romans 7:24-25).

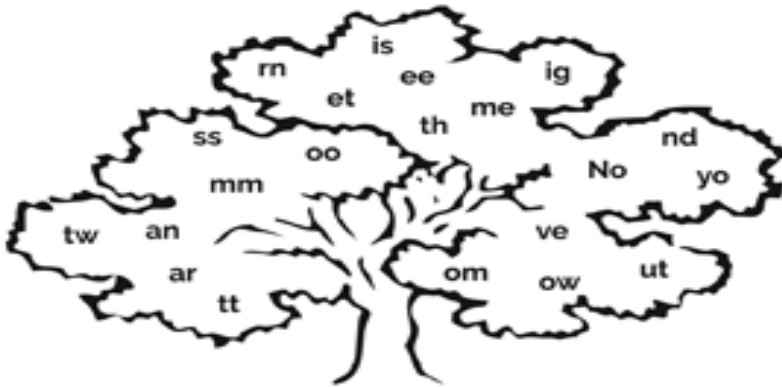


PUZZLE

Signs of summer

Jesus told his disciples that fig trees indicate when summer is approaching.

Directions: Complete the Bible verse below by placing the letter pairs from the tree into the correct blanks.



“ ___ w lea ___ th ___ le ___ on
 fr ___ the f ___ tr ___: As s ___ n
 as its ___ igs g ___ te ___ er ___ d
 its lea ___ s co ___ o ___, ___ u
 kn ___ ___ at su ___ er is ne ___.”
 Ma ___ hew 24:32, NIV

Answer: “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.”
 Matthew 24:32, NIV

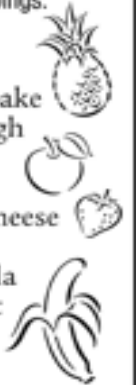
SUMMER FRUIT PIZZA



Celebrate summer with this tasty dessert pizza, using your favorite summer fruits as the toppings.

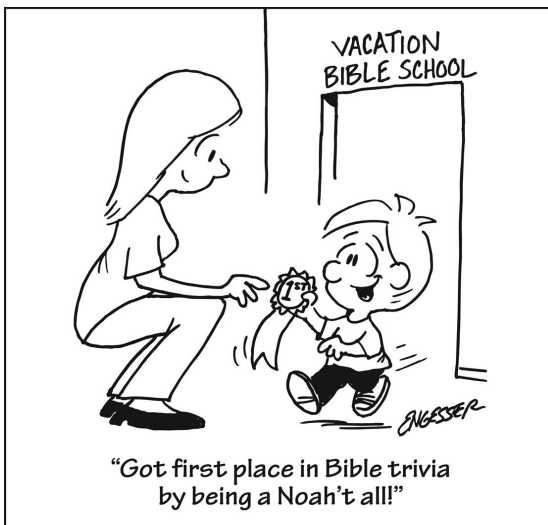
What you need:

- 1 tube slice-and-bake sugar cookie dough
- Knife
- Round pizza pan
- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups sliced fruit
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Cut the dough into slices 1/8-inch thick. Place slices on the pan, overlapping them slightly.
2. Bake at 375 degrees for 12 minutes. Let cool.
3. Combine softened cream cheese, sugar and vanilla, mixing well. Spread this “frosting” over the baked-cookie “crust.”
4. Arrange fruit on top of the pizza.
5. Slice and enjoy!



Bible Quiz

Who said to the prophet Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD”?

- A. Reuben, for selling Joseph into slavery
- B. Jacob, for deceiving Isaac and stealing his brother’s birthright
- C. Rahab, a prostitute
- D. David, considered Israel’s greatest king

Answer: See 2 Samuel 12:13.



July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9-11 Food Pantry	2
3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8 9-11 Food Pantry	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 1-3 Food Pantry	16
17 6-8:30pm Vacation Bible School-UMC	18 6-8:30pm Vacation Bible School-UMC	19 6-8:30pm Vacation Bible School-UMC	20 6-8:30pm Vacation Bible School-UMC PDC Dinner	21 7-9pm VBS Pool Party	22 9-11 Food Pantry	23
24	25	26	27	28 8:30-11:30 Commod- ities	29 9-11 Food Pantry	30
31						



Presbyterian Disciples Church
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660-259-2102
presdisciples@embargmail.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-Candy Myers