



Newsletter Presbyterian Disciples Church July 2017



Church Chat—Camp, Camps, and Campus--John Swisher, BCC Chaplain

I was recently assigned membership on the Heartland Center's Board, the Heartland Presbytery's camp and conference center board in Parkville, MO (outside KC). Now those of you who know me pretty well, may know as well that camping, and church camping has been a pretty big deal for me, and for quite a while. I started going to this same summer church camp in the summer of 1962 (could that really be 55 years ago?), never missed all the way through high school years, and eventually worked at this same camp the summers of 1969 and 1982 (right out of high school and again one summer while I was in seminary). I also served on the camp board earlier when I was a pastor in St. Joseph for a few years. While on camp staff in 1982, I took my 6 year old daughter hiking up to see the horses at the corral on a day off, and she told me that she really liked that place because God was closer out there. So all in all, that place and I go way back.

So, I thought maybe since we are now right in the middle of summer vacation season, I might take a few moments in this article to talk about camp (as in summer camp), camps (as in prisons, campgrounds, and campsites), and campuses (the geographical sites of institutions). The word camp comes from a Greek word for curved or bent, and has evolved to include a place where you might turn in at the end of a day perhaps, as in a retreat, or roadside stop. Camp and Campus are cognates, that is they derive from the same word, sometimes translated as open field, or yard. I don't know why the prisons (also called camps by the inmates) where I've served both had upper and lower yards, which kind of makes sense at the prison where I work now in Boonville cause the land is rolling and the lower yard is actually lower, but made no sense at WMCC which was all a flat field, no upper or lower to it. I remember being surprised when I started with the DOC when an offender first talked about "being down at another camp before I came here". It took me a little while to figure out that when he said another camp he meant another prison.

But at the prison where I work now, it's not so hard to think of that place as a place to turn in, or a favorable location, like a college campus, lots of trees, stately brick buildings, at least on the outside. I asked some of my chapel workers what their first impressions of BCC were, and fairly enough, they said they thought it looked pretty good. But really, where am I going with this? This is prison, not Princeton. I'm talkin' "State Pen" not Penn State, right? Yes, but perhaps the parallels might be worth mentioning between the two kinds of camps.

Both kinds of camps are meant to be temporary, both meant to be a learning experience, and both designed to help ease an adjustment into adult responsibility, fuller participation in community, and as a transition into professional or vocational confidence. Both kinds of camps are depicted by almost everyone as big trouble, but in fact they can be very helpful. In the words of the old camp song by Allan Sherman, "Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah, Here I am at Camp Grenada. Camp is very entertaining, and they say we'll have some fun if it stops raining" After a long litany of woes, poison ivy, lost campers, bad food, etc., the last verse kind of picks us up, right where camp picks us up. "Wait a minute, it's stopped hailing. Guys are swimming, guys are sailing. Playing baseball, gee that's bettah. Mudda, Faddah kindly disregard this letter"

Chapel Chuckle: A child asked their Mother, "Mom, where did I come from?" Mom said, "Well, you know, Adam and Eve had babies, they had babies, etc. etc., and eventually you were born". Unsure about this answer, the child asked Dad, "Dad, where did I come from?" Dad said, "Well, you know, we were all monkeys, then evolution, and eventually you were born". So the child went back to Mom, complaining, "Mom, you lied to me". Mom replied, "No honey, your dad wasn't lying. He was just talking about his side of the family."



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Community Vacation Bible School is almost here. We are the host church this year and will need all hands on d VBS is planned for Sunday, July 16th to Wednesday, July 19th. The theme this year is Hero Central.

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

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

In an effort to save money on crafts, Community Vacation Bible School is asking for donations of the following items to make our crafts. If you happen to have any of these supplies, please bring them to the church or contact Candy Myers.

Floral Foam
 Green Tissue Paper or plastic Easter Grass
 Superfine Sand Paper
 Jumbo Craft Sticks
 Foam Brushes
 Fabric Squares or Felt
 Buttons or Eyes
 Red Cardstock & Construction Paper
 Kids Scissors
 Markers/Crayons
 ModPodge,
 Stickers-VBS or Hero
 Yarn
 Pom Poms
 Markers/Crayons
 White Paper Bags
 Vegetable Brushes
 Fabric or Puff Paint
 Old Adult Tshirts to Make Superhero Capes
 Index Cards with pictures of Food on Them

Even if you can't volunteer at VBS you can always come and help decorate on Saturday, July 15th at 9:30pm. Thank you in advance for helping!!



Upcoming Community Events

Lexington Fireworks Display
 07-03-2017
 At Dusk

Porches & Peaches
 07-22-2017
 Location: Historic Lexington

MR340 Canoe Race
 08-08-2017 to 08-11-2017
 Location: Missouri River
 Race begins in Kansas City and ends in St. Charles. Racers arrive at River Front Park in Lexington on Tuesday.

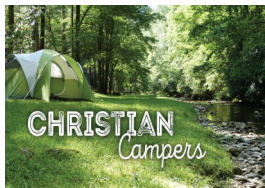
Community Fair
 08-20-2017 to 08-26-2017
 Location: Downtown Lexington

Total Solar Eclipse
 08-21-2017
 1:08pm

The Lexington Community will have a Fireworks Display on Monday July 3rd beginning at dusk around 8:30 or 9:00pm at the Lions Club Park.

The Higginsville Community will have their Fireworks Display on Tuesday, July 4th in Fairground Park. A family-oriented evening in the park with food, games, decorated bike and trike parade, Washer contest, live music and fireworks. Activities will begin at 5:00 p.m. with featured live entertainment on stage at 6:30p.m. The fireworks display will begin at dusk.

It is still time to go to Church Camp. The available camps can be found online at www.heartlandcenter.org. Please see the office if you are wanting to go to camp this year or want information about volunteering.



Board will meet after worship on Sunday, July 9th.



The Lexington United Methodist Church will be selling Fireworks as a fundraiser for their church. All proceeds go to support LUMC missions, like Baby Grace Diapers/Wipes Distribution and support for the community. This will be held inside the Family Life Center of the church so go shop in the air condition. They are also offering Military, Fire and Police Discounts with ID. Go shop and support these worthy causes.

Lectionary Readings for July

02 — Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42
 09 — Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17; Romans 7:15-25; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
 16 — Genesis 25:19-34 Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
 23 — Genesis 28:10-19; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
 30 — Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 128; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52



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

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.*

1 Thessalonians 12, NIV



Our Servicemen

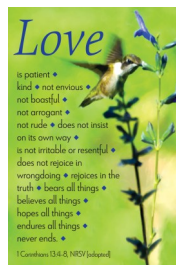
Bobby Maze, Bo Maze, Derek Morgan,
Eric Morgan, MJ Myers, Mark Bru-
beck, Ryland Sims, Johnathan Lefholz,
Brittany & Jimmy Register, Shily Peck

Please Keep These Individuals in Your Prayers:

Mary Williams, Anne Brubeck, Betty Swisher,
Linda & John Larry Marchetti, Lela Bryant, Doris
Bradley, Maria Lappert, Kathy & Larry Neil, Rob-
ert Smith, Steve Sellers, Chris & Stephanie Chris-
tenson, Jake Means, Frayetta Street, Roy Mar-
chetti, Greg Major, Bill & LaVeda Cross, Bonny
Bunner, Lois Coulter, Kendra Redden, Janice
Mayfield, Matthew Neil, Tim Crosson, Lisa
Vance, Phillip Ralston, David Starke, James Huff-
man, Dorothy Lynn, Jan Wright, Bev Waddell,
Millie Nordsieck, Gloria Hutton, Disaster Victims,
& Future of our church and town

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.

The Ministerial Alliance is joining together to
provide school supplies for area children this
year. Supplies will be given away to families at
the National Night Out on Tuesday, August 1,
downtown Lexington. We are collecting school
supplies towards this effort. Basic supplies (#2
pencils, notebooks, crayons, etc.) may be
brought to the church; or if you'd like to give a
cash donation your check should be made out to
Lexington Ministerial Alliance marked "School
Supplies" and they will purchase needed items.



Lexington Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry is ask-
ing 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. Leta Grom is in
charge of the Food Pantry and Ann Coen is in
charge of the Commodities program. Please contact
Leta Grom for additional information. Thank you in
advance for giving your time to provide this special
ministry to the people of Lexington.



Congratulations to Zach Os-
man and Mazie Holt who will
unite in marriage, Saturday,
July 1, 2017. Zach is the son
of Julie and Randy Osman and
the brother of Derek Osman.

Congratulations to Mark
Huffman and Corie Wil-
son who will unite in mar-
riage, Saturday, July 8,
2017 her at the church.

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



Lexington Community Fair will be held Sunday,
August 20th to Saturday, August 26th. Monday
will be the Solar Eclipse, so make plans to view
this once in a lifetime phenomenon. Tuesday,
August 22nd the cheerleaders will be hosting
their annual cheerleaders luncheon in our Fellow-
ship Hall. Wednesday, August 23rd, the Youth
and their parents will be hosting our annual Pie
and Ice Cream Social. We hope that the congre-
gation will help us by donating lots of homemade
pies to help out with the social. Look for the
schedule of events in the Augsut newsletter.
There will be lots of fun things going on that
week, so come out and enjoy our community.



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

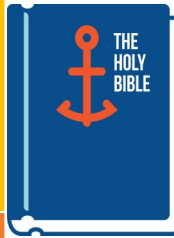
To keep up to date on current events and to see
what visitors are seeing when they check out our
town on the internet, go to the following websites:

www.lexingtonmo.com
www.historiclexington.com
www.visitlexingtonmo.com
www.lafayettecountymmo.com

Stay Anchored

Hold fast to the Bible as the [main] anchor of your liberties; write its precepts on your hearts and practice them in your lives. To the influence of this book we are indebted for all the progress made in true civilization, and to this we must look as our guide in the future.

—Ulysses S. Grant



Independence Day Lessons for Church Life

- Return to the basics — On July 4 we commemorate the origins of our country. In terms of faith, we also periodically need to hear again the foundational stories of Creation, the Israelites and, of course, Jesus.
- Honor the gift of freedom — “For freedom Christ has set us free ... do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1, ESV). We strive as citizens to preserve and live out our national freedom. Likewise, as citizens of God’s kingdom we live gladly in the freedom of salvation and share that gift with others.
- Enjoy community — July 4 is known for picnics, parades and other community gatherings. Similarly, the church is nourished by coming together for worship, meals and other special events.
- Be light in the darkness — As fireworks brighten the sky with light and color, the church is called to display the Gospel’s unique light in a dark world. Our word dynamite and the Greek word for power — as in, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you” (Acts 1:8) — share a root. Through God’s power in us, we share Jesus — dynamically! — with others.

—Heidi Mann

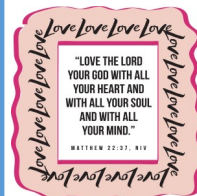


Stop Look and Listen

Literature, painting, music — the most basic lesson that all art teaches us is to stop, look and listen to life on this planet, including our own lives, as a vastly richer, deeper, more mysterious business than most of the time it ever occurs to us to suspect as we bumble along from day to day on automatic pilot. ...

When Jesus [says] that the greatest command of all is to love God and to love our neighbor, he too is asking us to pay attention. If we are to love God, we must first stop, look and listen for him in what is happening around us and inside us. If we are to love our neighbors, before doing anything else we must see our neighbors. With our imagination as well as our eyes, that is to say like artists, we must see not just their faces but the life behind and within their faces. Here it is love that is the frame we see them in.

—Frederick Buechner, *Whistling in the Dark*



Our Good God

For the love of God is broader than the measure of man’s mind; and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind. If our love were but more faithful, we should take him at his word; and our life would be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

—Frederick W. Faber

One or the Other

Either we trust in God, and in that case we neither trust in ourselves, nor in our fellow-men, nor in circumstances, nor in anything besides; or we do trust in one or more of these, and in that case do not trust in God.

—George Müller

Be Christ’s

English pastor J. Sidlow Baxter often passed a retired pastor on a lane near his home. Baxter once asked the man, “How are you keeping?”

The man responded, “I’m not keeping, I’m kept.”

Of all the things we can be, nothing beats Christ’s

+Christian Symbol+

Sparrow

Birds in general symbolize God’s presence. Sparrows represent God’s concern and care even for those thought insignificant. In Jesus’ words, “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. ... So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows” (Matthew 10:29, 31, NIV).

Why Grandma Gave

One Sunday as she was getting ready for church, a grandmother received a call from her daughter. “Can you watch the kids while we’re out of town next week?” the daughter asked.

Grandma was so thrilled she put an extra \$5 into the offering plate that morning.

The next Sunday, after her three young grandchildren had returned home, she put in an extra \$20.

The Perks of Alone Time

“Only those who learn to live with loneliness can come to know themselves and life,” said poet Carl Sandburg. He described walking in nature, listening to the “sounds of loneliness” and wondering, “Who are you, Sandburg? Where have you been, and where are you going?”

Jesus also valued alone time with God in nature.

He often withdrew to pray after being with crowds of people and his disciples. Spending one-on-one time with God helps us find and focus on his mission for our lives. He also uses it to strengthen us for carrying out his important work.

The Pastor Is In

Every Tuesday morning on New York City’s Upper East Side, Gregory Fryer sits in a Peanuts-style booth offering prayer and a listening ear to passersby. Initially the pastor wanted to draw attention to his church, but instead he ended up noticing all the “hungry hearts” in the neighborhood. Fryer has been pleasantly surprised by all the people who open up to him. “I think they like the idea of a pastor being on the sidewalk,” he says.

Although a sign on the booth reads “Spiritual advice 5¢,” the pastor keeps a plate of nickels handy if people want to put one in his jar. Some people donate much more — and some even pray for Fryer.

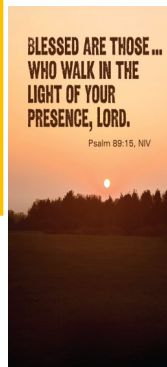
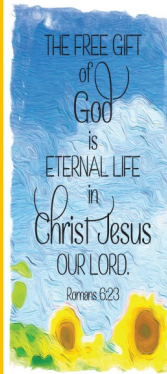
The pastor says he was inspired by Peanuts character Lucy van Pelt, who has the “audacity, the courage to brazenly sit there out in public and offer to deal with important matters.”

A Pilgrim's Progress

In *A Million Steps*, Kurt Koontz describes his month-long pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago ("Way of St. James"), a 490-mile route from southern France through northern Spain. Since the ninth century, millions have undertaken this challenging trek.

As Koontz hiked downhill one morning, he was awed by a gorgeous sunrise. "The path was so steep," he writes, "that I could descend a bit and relive the sunrise over and over. I took a gazillion photos and must have looked back at least 40 times." Yet the experience made Koontz realize that "going forward is difficult when you are always looking backward." We can't dwell on the past so completely that our progress and growth are impeded.

Jesus says, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62, NRSV). As we walk the path of faith, may we give thanks for God's past gifts while focusing on Jesus, who leads us ever forward.



Your Ticket Is Stamped

On a train trip, a pastor struck up a conversation with a seatmate who thought character and good works led to salvation. The pastor wasn't making progress but had a realization when the conductor collected tickets, quickly checking the date before stamping each one.

After the conductor passed by, the pastor told his fellow passenger: "All the conductor looked at was your ticket. He did not inquire about your character. He didn't care who you were — whether you were a good or moral man or a criminal. So it is with salvation. You need only God's 'ticket to heaven' stamped by the blood of Jesus Christ."



AND WHOEVER WELCOMES ME
WELCOMES THE ONE
WHO SENT ME."
MATTHEW 10:40, NRSV



You will go out
IN JOY
and be led forth
IN PEACE.
ISAIAH 55:12, NIV

Choosing Sides

Samuel Rutherford, a 17th-century Scottish theologian who was exiled for his church-reform efforts, valued his faith above all else. "I love Christ's glooms better than the world's worm-eaten joys," he wrote from prison. "My loss is gain; my sadness is joyful; my bonds, liberty; my tears, comfortable. This world is not worth a drink of cold water. ... [Christ] hath made me king over my losses, imprisonment, banishment."

Rutherford implores: "I wish that your soul might be satisfied with [Christ]. This clay idol, the world, would seem to you not worth a fig; time will eat you out of possession of it. When the eye-strings break, and the breath groweth cold and the imprisoned soul looketh out of the windows of the clay house, ready to leap into eternity, what will you then give for a lamp of oil?"

Puzzle!

Read the Old Testament book of Ruth, which is a great love story. Then search for the words below, which are all from that book.

BAWONN IWSLSZDRV
DEBOTBAOMHXQAIR
XWTQYRLMCXGGVOP
NAAHARVESTEBIZB
POVMLSLADNASDNB
OGVNZERFIRILSBF
NANOMUHVLMMKSEJ
LGOIMDLEOCFGHIJ
CLLLHLYAMBHLOYA
EEHIFSN AETFRBOD
SAAKFBE GUGPWEPS
NNMWXEVRR AARM MJ
EIGDJUDAHJEEWSG
ANXP EMZISTWKVHO
WGLHVIZNUCITVHK

Barley, Bethlehem, Boaz, David, Elimelech, Gleaning, Grain, Harvest, Jesse, Judah, Kilion, Kinsman, Mahlon, Mara, Moab, Naomi, Obed, Orpah, Ruth, Sandals, Threshing, Vinegar, Winnow



Friends in the Lord

Proverbs 27:17 (NIV) says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." It's important to choose friends who help us be more like Jesus. How many words can you make from the word *friendship*?

F R I E N D S H I P

2-letter words: _____

3-letter words: _____

4-letter words: _____

5-letter words: _____

Words with 6 or more letters: _____

Answers include: in, is, hi, he, hip, end, sip, dip, rip, nip, pie, sir, hid, ship, send, ride, dine, find, fine, drip, shed, dish, fish, mud, npe, hide, tried, pride, strewn, fresh, ferns, friend, fishes, diners, nused, shine, finish, shiner, insider, hinders, inspired, refinish, finished

Friendship Snack Mix



Life is more interesting when you have a diverse "mix" of friends. Show your variety of buddies how much they mean to you by making this snack for (or with!) them.

What you need:

- 1 cup fish-shaped crackers
- 1 cup chocolate Chex
- 1 cup mini pretzels
- 1 cup peanut butter crackers
- ½ cup mini M&M's
- Large bowl
- Snack-sized zippered baggies
- Permanent markers
- Foam stickers

What you do:

1. Mix all the food in the bowl.
2. Write a personalized message on each baggie. Decorate with stickers.
3. Measure some snack mix into each baggie. Seal them shut.
4. Share this snack with your friends!



"This isn't the caring way to treat a person who disagrees with you, Pastor Bob."



Bible Quiz

What is Gideon doing when the angel of the Lord appears to him with God's call to lead Israel's fight against the Midianites?

- A. Threshing wheat
- B. Harvesting grapes
- C. Keeping sheep
- D. Making a sacrifice to the Lord

Answer: See Judges 6:11



July 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 9pm Fireworks Display	4 Independence Day	5	6	7 9-11 Food Pantry 6pm Wilson/Huffman Rehearsal	8 4 H Fair Begins 5pm Wilson/Huffman Wedding
9 12pm Board Mtg	10 9am Food Drop-LUMC	11	12	13 4 H Fair Ends	14 9-11 Food Pantry	15
16 6-8:30pm Vacation Bible School-Trinity UCC	17 6-8:30pm Vacation Bible School-Trinity UCC	18 6-8:30pm Vacation Bible School-Trinity UCC	19 8:30-11:30 60+ Commodities 6-8:30pm Vacation Bible School-Trinity UCC-PDC Meal	20 7pm Fierce Warriors Cancer Support Group-LUMC	21 1-3 Food Pantry	22 Porches & Peaches 8:30am Baby Grace Distribution-LUMC
23	24	25	26	27 8:30-11:30 Commodities	28 9-11 Food Pantry	29
30	31					



Presbyterian Disciples Church
914 Franklin Ave., PO Box 28
Lexington, MO 64067
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-Brittney Bayne