



# 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.

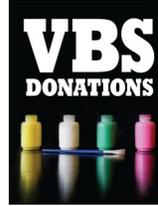
Listed below are the days that each church will provide dinner during VBS.

- 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.

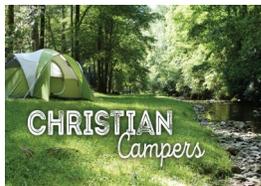
Community Fair  
08-20-2017 to 08-26-2017  
Location: Downtown Lexington

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](http://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



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

1 Thessalonians 12, NIV

**JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

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



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

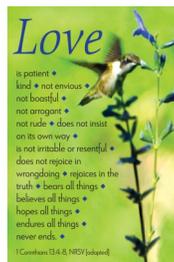
Please Keep These Individuals in Your Prayers:  
Mary Williams, Anne Brubeck, Betty Swisher,  
Linda & John Larry Marchetti, Lela Bryant, Doris  
Bradley, Maria Lappert, Kathy & Larry Neil, Rob-  
ert Smith, Steve Sellers, Chris & Stephanie Chris-  
tenson, Jake Means, Frayetta Street, Roy Mar-  
chetti, 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.

Please Pray for The Families of Those that Have Passed:

Richard Nevels, Robert Gant, James Ad-  
kison, Mona Potter, Helen Martin, Helen  
Hansen, Barbara Butler, Helen Barker,  
Jared Schroeder, WC Hoepfner, James  
Howard, Pat Fisher, Robert 'Joe' Butler

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.



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.

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. 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 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 Cancer 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 Fellowship Hall. Wednesday, August 23rd, the Youth and their parents will be hosting our annual Pie and Ice Cream Social. We hope that the congregation 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.



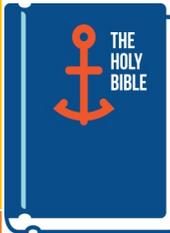
To keep connected with the Northwest Area Disciples of Christ, please contact Rev. Bill Rose-Heim at br\_h@nwareacc.org or (816) 632-2237.



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](http://www.lexingtonmo.com)  
[www.historiclexington.com](http://www.historiclexington.com)  
[www.visitlexingtonmo.com](http://www.visitlexingtonmo.com)  
[www.lafayettecountymo.com](http://www.lafayettecountymo.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



### 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

### 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



### +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.

### 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*



### 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."

### 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

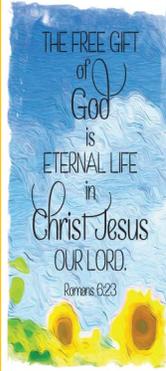
Either we trust in God, and in that case we neither trust in ourselves, nor in our fellowmen, nor in circumstances, nor in anything besides; or we do trust in one or more of these, and in that case do not trust in God.  
—George Müller

### 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."



"WHOEVER WELCOMES YOU  
WELCOMES ME,  
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."

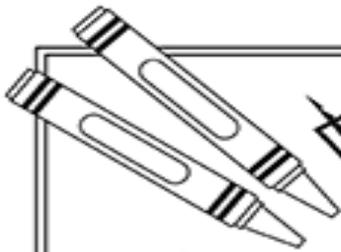
Rutherford implores: "I wish that your soul might be satisfied with [Christ]. This clay idol, the world, would seem to you not worth a fig; time will eat you out of possession of it. When the eye-strings break, and the breath groweth cold and the imprisoned soul looketh out of the windows of the clay 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  
SAAKFBEUGPWEP S  
NNMWXEVRR AARMJ  
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



# PUZZLE

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

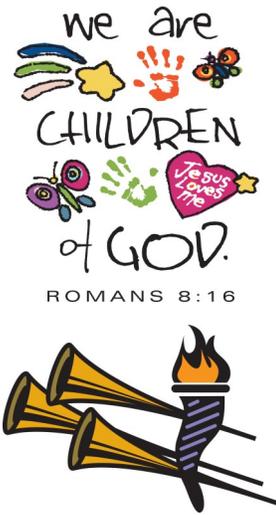
5-letter words: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Words with 6 or more letters: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Answers include: in, is, hi, he, hip, end, sip, dip, rip, nip, pic, sir, hid, ship, send, ride, dine, find, fine, drip, shed, dish, fish, and, npc, hide, fried, pride, stren, fresh, ferns, friend, fishes, diners, nused, shine, finish, shanter, 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!

### 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?

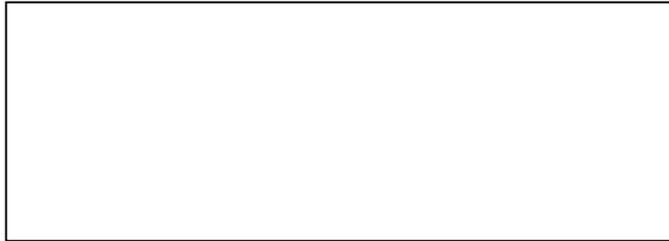
- A. Threshing wheat
- B. Harvesting grapes
- C. Keeping sheep
- D. Making a sacrifice to the Lord

Answer: See Judges 6:11



# July 2017

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