



Newsletter Presbyterian Disciples Church June 2017



Church Chat—Excerpt from Website of The Pluralism Project--Pastor John Swisher

In my recent “Religion and Corrections” class at the prison where I work, I got some helpful feedback (see Church Chuckle below) about religion, spirituality, and related topics. So, I thought I would search for something I might share with you all about this in my newsletter article. In particular, I thought I might try to share something we all have in common, i.e. stuff we have in common with members of many different religious traditions, because we live in a pluralistic world. So what is pluralism? Basically, pluralism includes all who struggle to go beyond the following:

recognition of simple diversity among different religions/beliefs,
following basic practices of religious tolerance (and toleration), and
the criticism leveled at those who are involved with other religions as being “wishy-washy” or practicing relativism (watering down of religious beliefs in order to “get along” with others).

Here is what I found on the website <http://pluralism.org/what-is-pluralism/>, a two decades old research and study mission through Harvard University.

“What is Pluralism?”

The plurality of religious traditions and cultures has come to characterize every part of the world today. But what is pluralism? Here are four points to begin our thinking:

First, pluralism is not diversity alone, but the energetic engagement with diversity. Diversity can and has meant the creation of religious ghettos with little traffic between or among them. Today, religious diversity is a given, but pluralism is not a given; it is an achievement. Mere diversity without real encounter and relationship will yield increasing tensions in our societies.

Second, pluralism is not just tolerance, but the active seeking of understanding across lines of difference. Tolerance is a necessary public virtue, but it does not require Christians and Muslims, Hindus, Jews, and ardent secularists to know anything about one another. Tolerance is too thin a foundation for a world of religious difference and proximity. It does nothing to remove our ignorance of one another, and leaves in place the stereotype, the half-truth, the fears that underlie old patterns of division and violence. In the world in which we live today, our ignorance of one another will be increasingly costly.

Third, pluralism is not relativism, but the encounter of commitments. The new paradigm of pluralism does not require us to leave our identities and our commitments behind, for pluralism is the encounter of commitments. It means holding our deepest differences, even our religious differences, not in isolation, but in relationship to one another.

Fourth, pluralism is based on dialogue. The language of pluralism is that of dialogue and encounter, give and take, criticism and self-criticism. Dialogue means both speaking and listening, and that process reveals both common understandings and real differences. Dialogue does not mean everyone at the “table” will agree with one another.

Pluralism involves the commitment to being at the table — with one’s commitments.

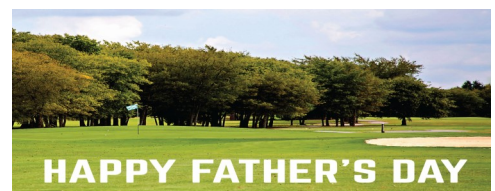
—Diana L. Eck, 2006”

The recent bombing in Manchester has provoked a lot of talk, and a lot of silly or unhelpful talk, I might add. But the best thing I've heard so far was from a guy, I didn't get what his name or nationality was, but he wasn't a native of Manchester (btw, they're called Mancunians). Anyway, the guy just kept saying he didn't know how we could do it, but we have to stop blowing each other up, we have to stop attempts like this one to terrorize each other, we have to put an end to all the violence. He didn't say how. I don't know if we know how. But the pluralism project's agenda seems to come as close as anything I've heard. Blessings to all for Memorial Day and beyond.

Chapel Chuckle: (Thanks to one of the participants in my recent Religion and Corrections class) I asked the class, “What's the difference between religion and spirituality?” One of the class members spoke right up saying, “Religious people go to church on Sundays and think about fishing. Spiritual people go fishing on Sundays, and think about God!!”



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2017 Community Vacation Bible School is almost here and the theme this year is Hero Central. **Trinity United Church of Christ** will be the host church this year and will be held **Sunday, July 16th to Wednesday, July 19th from 6:00-8:30pm**. Supper begins promptly at 6:00! Learning begins at 6:30.

We invite folks from all the churches in our community who wish to participate in this year's VBS to our team meeting: Monday, June 5th at 6:00 p.m. in the Educational Building at Trinity United Church of Christ.

WE NEED:

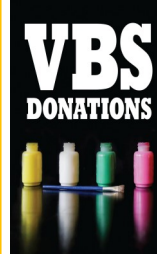
Used t-shirts! Men's small, medium, and large. The shirts can have graphics on the front, but please make sure there are no designs on the back. The shirts will be decorated and used as capes. *Drop them off at your church and have a representative bring them to the meeting on June 5th.

If you are interested in helping with this year's Community VBS, please attend the meeting. You don't have to be a teacher to help! We need storytellers, people to walk with the children to and from the various stations, as well as folks to help with registration, recreation, and crafts.

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

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

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



Upcoming Community Events

Lexington City Wide Garage Sale
06-03-2017

The LEX and the City Wide Garage Sale
06-03-2017

Location: The LEX
Want to Sell, but you don't have a garage or just want to bargain hunt.
8am-2pm

Roaring Twenties Party
06-10-2017
Location: The Lex
Benefits Lexington Historical Assn.

Relay for Life of Lafayette and Ray County
06-10-2017

Location: Richmond High School
6:00pm to 12:00am Benefits American Cancer Society

Big BAM - Bike Across Missouri
06-12-2017 to 06-13-2017
Lexington host site day is Monday

Habitat for Humanity Cannonball Run
06-17-2017
Location: Downtown Lexington
Race starts at 7:30 in front of Courthouse

Father's Day
06-18-2017
Porches & Peaches
07-22-2017

Location: Historic Lexington

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..



The 16th Annual Cannonball Run, a major fundraiser for Lafayette County Habitat For Humanity, takes place on Saturday, June 17th at 7:30 a.m. This is a fun event for walkers and runners. Come to the Lafayette County Courthouse on Saturday morning, register, and support Habitat in their mission to provide decent, affordable housing to residents of Lafayette County.



On Friday, June 16th, the Lexington Fair Board will host the Late Night Pool Party Under the Stars at the Lexington Public Pool from 8:30pm to midnight. Cost is \$5.00 per person and fathers get in free if accompanying their child. There will be food, music, swimming, and prizes.



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

Lectionary Readings for June

- 04 — Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34; 1 Corinthians 12:3-13; John 20:19-23
- 11 — Genesis 1:1—2:4; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20
- 18 — Genesis 18:1-15; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35—10:8
- 25 — Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Romans 6:1-11; Matthew 10:24-39



Board will meet after worship on Sunday, June 11th.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 04 – Judi Nicholas
- 06 – Diane Dunford
- 07 – Nekie Kramer
- 08 – Meg Wrisinger
- 09 – Debbie Saults
- 14 – Daylea Shaner
- 17 – Skyler Wrisinger, Georgie Lynn
- 24 — John Larry Marchetti
- 27 — Matthew Neil



Please be in prayer for the family of Ellen Loraine “Rainey” Rockhold. She is the wife of Charles Rockhold, longtime church member and the mother of Jane Ward, Chuck Rockhold and Sandra Kay Rockhold. Visitation will be held Sunday, May 28th from noon to 1 and the funeral will begin at 1pm at the Walker Nadler Fuller Funeral Home.

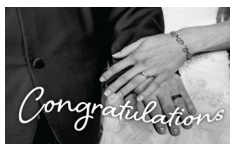
JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 07-Jim & Sue Ahrens
- 17-David & Angie Chapman, Bruce & Gail Copenhaver
- 23-Kyle & Jill Oetting
- 25-Bobby & Shelley Maze
- 26-Scott & Gail Shovald
- John & Evelyn Morgan



We Pray for:
Mary Williams, Anne Brubeck, Betty Swisher, Linda & John Larry Marchetti, Lela Bryant, Doris Bradley, Maria Lappert, Kathy & Larry Neil, Robert Smith, Steve Sellers, Chris & Stephanie Christenson, Jake Means, Frayetta Street, Roy Marchetti, Greg Major, Bill & LaVeda Cross, Bonny Bunner, Lois Coulter, Kendra Redden, Janice Mayfield, Matthew Neil, Tim Crosson, Lisa Vance, Phillip Ralston, David Starke, James Huffman, Dorothy Lynn, Jan Wright, Disaster Victims, & Future of our church and town
Families of Richard Nevels, Robert Gant, James Adkison, Mona Potter, Helen Martin, Helen Hansen, Barbara Butler

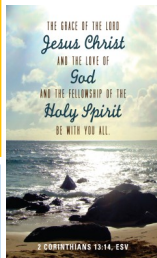
Anastasia Brock and Nick Burt will unite in marriage on Sunday, June 4th at 1:300pm at our church. Anastasia is the granddaughter of our late beloved member Patricia Cox. Congratulations to the Happy Couple and their children, Landon, Chloe, Adalynne, Nevaeh, Nico and Ami.



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



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.



Memorial Day service Monday, May 29th at 10:30 a.m. at the Lafayette County Veterans Memorial uptown.

Harvesters Food Drop will be held at 9am on Monday June 12th. Volunteers are still needed to help distribute food to families in need.



A Huge Thank You to the Presbyterian Disciples Board and all the church volunteers that help to keep the church running and functioning on a daily basis. It takes all of us to make our church beautiful and successful!!

Baby Grace Diaper Distribution will be held at 8:30am on Saturday, June 24th at the Lexington United Methodist Church.



The Lexington United Methodist Church hosts the Fierce Warriors Cancer Support Group on June 15th at 7pm.

Pastor John is looking at starting a Confirmation Class in the fall. He will be wanting to meet with the parents during the summer to talk about the class. Please let the office know if you are interested in your child being in the Confirmation class so we can keep you updated about the meeting and class times.

Lexington Wind Symphony will have a Flag Day Concert on Sunday, June 11th at 3pm at the Lexington United Methodist Church.



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.

Discovery Room Preschool is still enrolling for the fall school year. There are only a few spots left open. Contact Candy Myers at 660-232-0303 or presdisciples@embarqmail.com.



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

You'll Never Miss It

Frustrated that income never covered expenses, a long-time church treasurer resigned. Another member, who owned the town's grain elevator, volunteered to take over with one stipulation: He wouldn't submit a report for the first year.

The puzzled board members agreed because they knew he was an honest man. After all, they trusted him to process their grain.

By year's end, the new treasurer gave a glowing report. The church's building debt had been erased. Staff salaries had increased 15 percent. And the budget showed a healthy balance.

When the shocked but delighted congregation asked for an explanation, the treasurer said, "Most of you bring your grain to my elevator. When I paid you, I simply withheld 10 percent on your behalf and gave it to the church in your name. You never missed it!"

Imagine what we could do for God if we willingly returned the first tenth of his gifts back to him.



Strength For Life's Bites

The day was fresh, and I jumped into my work with an attitude of praise. Then those bothersome mosquito bites started itching again. I rubbed lotion on them and tried to cope with the pain and distraction.

Most days are like that. We intend to honor God in all things, but irritating itches or overwhelming problems develop. Worry leads our minds away from God's love and promises.

We can't avoid life's little — or big — "bites." Yet we look to Jesus as our salve and salvation. He covers us and empowers us for each day's tasks. As Isaiah 40:29 (NIV) says, "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak."

—MaryAnn Sundby

Spiritual Submarines

Author Steve Farrar encourages Christian fathers to be spiritual submarines under the surface of their children's lives. "Through your prayers you have the ability to affect situations where you are not physically present," he writes in Standing Tall. "You may be undetected, but that does not mean that you are ineffective."

A man who puts on the armor of God and goes to war on his knees for his children is a force to be reckoned with, Farrar adds. "When it comes to battle ... understand that you have been given awesomely powerful weapons."

Live It Out

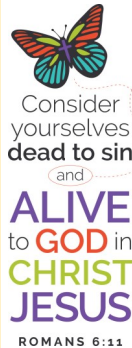
The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door and deny him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable. —Brennan Manning, The Ragamuffin Gospel



Measuring Up

While hanging out with her father in his workshop, a preschooler tried to imitate him by using a tape measure. When she couldn't quite reach the distance she wanted to measure between herself and an object, she moved the object closer to her!

No matter how much we try to finagle God's rules, his standard of holiness won't be moved. As sinful beings, we can't reach that standard on our own. We're stuck without Jesus' grace. Thank God that he helps us measure up!



A Hymn's Long Journey

The beloved hymn "How Great Thou Art" came together across many years and miles. In 1885, when Swedish preacher Carl Boberg wrote a poem titled "O, Great God," he probably never dreamed he'd hear it performed years later to an old Swedish tune. Or that a Russian version would impact Stuart Hine, an English missionary to Poland, several decades later. Hine penned his own English version, resulting in the now-familiar lyrics.

From "the rolling thunder" echoing off the Carpathian Mountains, to the "woods and forest glades" of Romania, to powerful conversions to Christianity, Hine was inspired to craft each verse. Sometimes the Holy Spirit takes time to complete a work, and that journey is as important as the destination.

The Wooden Shoe of Worry

The word sabotage has a fascinating history. Sabot is the French word for a wooden shoe. Sabotage was the act of throwing a shoe into machinery to stop work. Now it means any attempt to hinder production or spoil a product.

Satan tries to cast a wooden shoe into our souls to prevent us from accomplishing God's plan. That shoe is worry, which can crush the spirit, sour our disposition and interfere with Christian service. That's why Jesus instructs: "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself" (Matthew 6:34, NIV). Jesus isn't promoting laziness or indifference; instead, he encourages us to trust our Father, who provides for all our needs.

Be on guard, and don't let worry sabotage your faith



+Christian Symbol+

Bee

The bee symbolizes various traits across cultures and faiths, including community, industry and resurrection. Its sting may represent judgment, while its honey calls to mind the sweetness of divine riches. Multiple times in the Old Testament, the Promised Land is described as "flowing with milk and honey" (e.g., Exodus 3:8), and the Psalms declare God's words "sweeter than honey" (19:10; 119:103).

Doing Faith

Faith is better understood as a verb than as a noun, as a process than as a possession. It is on-again-off-again rather than once-and-for-all. Faith is not being sure where you're going, but going anyway. A journey without maps. [As theologian] Paul Tillich said ... doubt isn't the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith.

—Frederick Buechner

“Summer Flowers”

Behold the flowers of June!
How fair and bright their buds appear,
as, opening to the summer air,
our eyes and hearts they cheer!

Who would have thought there could abound
such beauty and delight
beneath the cold and wintry ground
that hid those flowers from sight?

That power which made and governs all —
the mighty power of God —
alone could life and beauty call
out of the lifeless sod.

And he, who from the winter’s gloom
can summer thus disclose,
shall one day make the desert bloom,
and blossom as the rose.
—Anonymous



Puzzle!

Locate the names of all the Old Testament books, using your Bible’s table of contents for reference. Numbered books, such as 1 Samuel, appear only once — without numbers.

S	E	T	S	A	I	S	E	L	C	E	D	H	T	
O	E	J	D	R	I	N	Y	G	L	E	I	N	A	D
N	J	O	S	E	E	S	T	H	E	R	G	A	I	M
G	E	S	E	E	U	B	A	H	O	S	E	A	D	U
O	R	H	Z	S	L	T	M	I	J	O	N	I	A	H
F	E	U	E	O	E	C	E	U	A	A	E	H	B	A
S	M	A	K	M	V	H	I	R	N	H	S	C	O	N
O	I	C	I	A	I	H	A	N	O	J	I	A	A	R
L	A	M	E	N	T	A	T	I	O	N	S	L	R	U
O	H	H	L	N	I	G	H	B	N	R	O	A	Z	T
M	I	A	Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	H	M	E	H
O	D	C	G	K	U	K	A	B	A	H	C	Y	O	
N	K	I	N	G	S	B	R	E	V	O	R	P	R	T
K	V	M	P	S	A	L	M	S	U	D	O	X	E	U
J	U	D	G	E	S	I	S	A	M	U	E	L	U	Z

The Best Father

Unlike an earthly prince, God didn’t take a high-and-mighty title, notes 17th-century British preacher Thomas Watson. Instead, God calls himself Father to encourage us to pray to him.

But God isn’t just any father. Watson offers these reasons why God is “the best Father”:

- He is the most ancient (Daniel 7:9).
- He is perfect (Matthew 5:48).
- He is the wisest (Romans 16:27).
- He is the most loving (Zephaniah 3:17; 1 John 4:16).
- He has unsearchable riches (Ephesians 3:8).
- He can reform his children (Acts 9:11).
- He never dies (1 Timothy 6:16; Revelation 1:8).

First Holy, Then Happy

Having been married 16 years, I’m aware that marriage isn’t all flowers and sunshine. Oh, I was realistic enough, even early on, to know that miscommunication and disagreements would intrude on romance, fondness and the glad sharing of chores and childcare. Even so, the subtitle of Gary Thomas’ book Sacred Marriage (Zondervan) grabbed my attention: “What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy?”

I pondered that for days, reminding myself I’m to focus on my holiness, not my husband’s. What if marriage is to teach me selflessness rather than to meet all my needs? What if the holiness of love means being patient and kind, not irritable or rude? What if instead of keeping score of kitchen duty I simply did my husband’s (without counting)? What if I offered empathy, not criticism; respect, not resentment? And what if walking in holiness leads to greater happiness?

To such a change in perspective, I say, “I do!”
—Heidi Mann



The Holy Space of Love

An ancient story is told of two brothers who shared grain fields and a mill and, at day’s end, equally divided the results of their labor. But the unmarried farmer felt that his brother, with a family to support, should have a greater share. So each night, under cover of darkness, he added some of his grain to his brother’s.

Meanwhile, the married brother was concerned that his single brother would have no children to care for him in his old age. So each night he, too, added to his brother’s granary.

One night, the selfless brothers ran into each other. Grasping what was going on, they laughed and embraced. Rabbinic legend holds that on that spot — where love was freely shared — God decided his Temple should be built. Wherever people act in sacrificial love, the space between them is holy.



PUZZLE

Our heavenly Father

Father's Day is the perfect time to remember God, our heavenly Father. What does the psalmist say about him?

Directions: Complete Psalm 89:26 by placing the correct vowels in the blanks.



"H_ w_ll c_ll _ _t t_ m_,
 'Y_ _ _r_ m_ F_th_r, m_
 G_d, th_ R_ck m_ S_v_r."
 Ps_Im 89:26, N_V

Answer: "He will call out to me, 'You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior.'" Psalm 89:26, NIV



SUMMER BEGINS



Make this heartwarming handprint gift to give your dad or another special man on Father's Day.

What you need:

- Tempura paint (any two colors besides white)
- A paper plate
- Two paintbrushes
- Your dad's hand
- White cardstock
- Paper towels
- A pen



What you do:

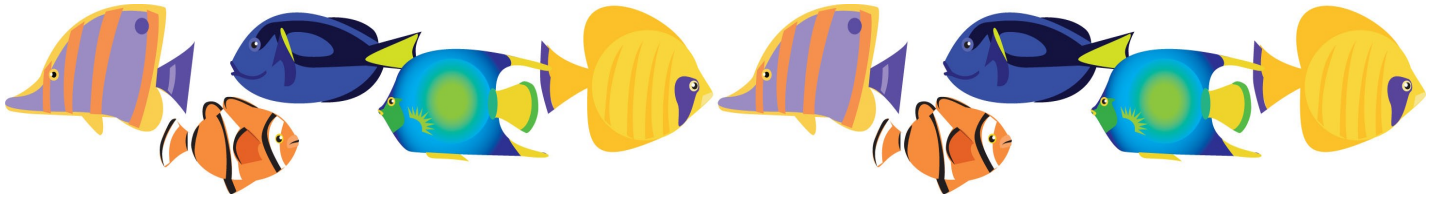
1. Place paint on the paper plate.
2. Paint your dad's palm and the insides of his fingers with one color of paint. Set his hand in the center of the cardstock and press down. Let dry.
3. Paint your palm and fingers with the other color. Place your hand in the center of your dad's. Let dry.
4. Write a loving message to your dad on the blank sections of the cardstock.
5. Give your dad the gift – and a hug!

Bible Quiz

The "Trinitarian formula" occurs only once in the Bible. In which New Testament book do we read "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," and who said these words?

- A. Romans; Paul
- B. 1 Peter; Simon Peter
- C. The Acts of the Apostles; Luke
- D. Matthew; Jesus

Answer: See Matthew 28:19



June 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 9-11 Food Pantry	3 Community Wide Garage Sale 10am AI-Anon Mtg- LUMC
4 Pentecost 1:30pm Brock/Burt Wedding	5 6pm VBS Mtg	6	7	8	9 9-11 Food Pantry	10 10am AI-Anon Mtg- LUMC
11 Trinity Sunday 12 Board Mtg 3pm Wind Sympho- ny Flag Day Concert	12 9am-Harvester Food Drop-LUMC	13	14 Flag Day	15 7pm Fierce Warriors Cancer Support Group-LUMC	16 1-3 Food Pantry	17 10am AI-Anon Mtg- LUMC
18 Father's Day	19	20 First Day of Summer	21 8:30-11:30 60+ Commodities	22 8:30-11:30 Com- modities	23 9-11 Food Pantry	24 8:30am Baby Grace Distribution-LUMC 10am AI-Anon Mtg- LUMC
25	26	27	28	29	30 9-11 Food Pantry	



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-Brittney Bayne