



From the Pastor's Perspective

"The unfolding of your words gives light; even the simple become wise." -Psalm 119:130

In July we start our summer message series, "FAQs: Your Questions Answered with Biblical Facts." Our Sunday messages will address whatever you've been wondering about: those puzzling questions you have about the Bible, or how Christians ought to respond to something, or why God seems to do—or not do—certain things. After all, discipleship is about living our faith out in our daily lives, guided by the Holy Spirit and God's Word. All of us are frequently puzzled, "How do I live as a faithful disciple about this or that?" Therefore, this summer we'll try to address whatever it is you've been puzzled about! The Bible applies to ALL parts of our lives, so there is no issue or topic off limits! Simply email, call, or write to the church office about a topic, question, Bible passage or issue that you would like to hear more about. We'll do our best to preach during the summer on whatever you submit. So far topics include: July 5 (Pastor David preaching): Should the American flag be displayed in worship? July 12 (Cassi preaching): What is Zion? July 19 (Pastor Andrew preaching): Do we really need the Old Testament? July 26 (Pastor David preaching): Why does God allow suffering? Aug. 2 (Pastor David preaching): How did we get our Bible? We need more ideas after this: please submit yours!

July also brings us back into the church sanctuary! (We will continue to offer remote worship as well, but it will be a recording of live Sunday worship and not be available until Sundays at 2 p.m.) We have not worshiped in our building since March. Since then we have offered recorded worship on our church website in March and April, "drive-in" worship in May, and outdoor worship in June.

Monthly Church Events

July 1	6:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal 6:30pm - Youth Group
July 2	12pm - Sarah Circle
July 3	7am - Grow Group Office is closed at noon
July 4	Celebrate July 4th
July 5	10am - Indoor and Online Worship Service
July 6	8am -Morning Men, Prayer Knitters, Comfort Quilters Office is closed after noon
July 8	6:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal
July 9	Pastor David's vacation starts 1pm -UMW
July 10	7am - Grow Group
July 12	10am - Indoor and Online Worship Service - Cassi is giving the message
July 13	8am - Morning Men, Prayer Knitters, Comfort Quilters 8am - Boyscout Camp
July 15	8am - Boyscout Camp 6:30pm -Sanctify Rehearsal 6:30pm -Youth Group
July 17	7am - Grow Group 8am - Boyscout Camp 12pm - Unload Food Truck
July 18	7am - Set Up for CC 8am - Community Care
July 19	10am - Indoor and Online Worship Service -Pastor Andrew is giving the message
July 20	8am - Morning Men, Prayer Knitters, Comfort Quilters 8am - Boyscout Camp

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Pastor's Perspective Cont'd

Some are ready to move indoors, others not. Our reasons for moving indoors are that it is getting warm outside, the weather is unpredictable, our worship leaders are having to lead worship twice during the week (once to record and twice to lead live worship—outdoor worship is not conducive to recording), it is a bit of a hassle to set up and take down outdoors, and other churches have already started indoor worship safely. We realize that some are not able to gather in worship safely just yet. We truly lament our inability to gather together fully, and we commit to continue to offer the best quality remote worship recordings for at least the summer.

We do ask everyone attending to honor safety protocols, such as wearing face masks, avoiding shaking hands or touching others, and practice social distancing. We will use only every other pew, have doors propped open and have stationary offering plates. The nursery and coffee shop will be closed, and we ask users of the bathroom to wash hands thoroughly and use the paper towel to shut off the faucet and open the doors.

We are also reducing our daily video devotionals to twice a week (Mondays and Fridays). Please continue to connect with your “Connection Circles,” especially if folks in your circle cannot attend worship in person.

Even with all these precautions, it will be good to gather as possible. We so appreciate your understanding, patience, and continued generosity during this seemingly endless time of precaution and distancing. God’s people are resilient, for we have a source of strength and endurance that comes from God’s Spirit within. More than this, God’s people “shine” during times of difficulty, and we are a beacon of light and hope to others, bearing witness to our inner hope and peace.

Our theme verse for July is Psalm 119:130, “The unfolding of your words gives light; even the simple become wise.” As we pursue in person worship asking FAQs of faith, may God’s light make us wise!

Keep calm and carry God!
Pastor David

July 21	Pastor David is back 8am - Boyscout Camp
July 22	8am - Boyscout Camp 6:30 - Sanctify Rehearsal
July 23	8am - Boyscout Camp
July 24	7am - Grow Group 8am - Boyscout Camp
July 26	10am - Indoor and Online Worship Service
July 27	8am - Morning Men, Prayer Knitters, Comfort Quilters
July 29	9am - Kids Summer Bash 6:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal 6:30pm - Youth Group
July 31	7am - Grow Group



KID's SUMMER BASH

We are a church that loves God and because we love God, we love people. Our love for people means that we love families, and families of course, include children. Jesus had to remind his disciples in Matthew 18:3 that childlikeness is actually the gold standard for membership in the kingdom of God. When our hearts and minds are attuned to God's call in our lives, inevitably, we will cross paths with kids on purpose.

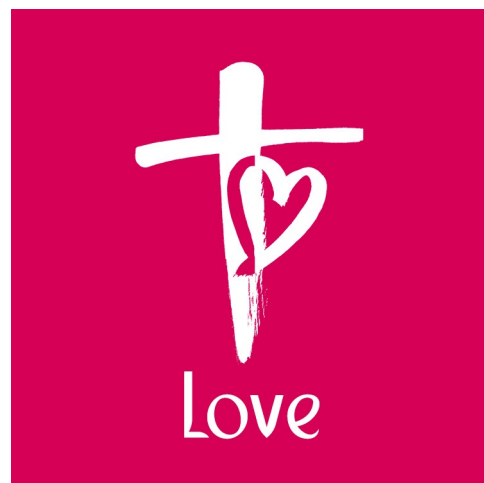
For many of us, this Coronavirus pandemic has turned life upside down. Those families with school-age children have especially felt the impact. The last two months of school were essentially spent at home and now, as parents continue to hold down jobs, kids while away their time stuck at home. No sports, no trips, no friends...no fun. Tensions can run high, even in the most tolerant and loving of homes.

As a church, we would like to do something about this situation. We want to use our role (and our physical property) to help out and provide a much-needed break to stressed families. We will be hosting "**Kid's Summer Bash**" from 9:00 - noon on Wednesday mornings.

This will include play time outdoors, with water games, some music and a lesson! We will have the chance to share the love of Jesus while leading the kids in a fun time away from home. Precautions will be taken as kids will spend their time in groups so as to keep some distancing. The "Kid's Summer Bash" will run each Wednesday starting July 29th and ending with our "End of Summer Bash" on Aug. 26 th !

Join us this summer as we put our hands to the plow and expend ourselves for the families in our community! We need leaders to show God's love, crack a smile and commit to making disciples even in the youngest among us.

For the King,
Pastor Andrew



Change in Online Worship

This week, as we move to worshipping indoors, we know not everyone is ready to meet indoors, and that's OK. We are still preparing for both in-person and online worship, although, we are changing how we do online worship. Worship will be recorded during the 10 am service. After service the video will be edited and posted. The goal is to have online worship available by 2 pm on Sundays. This will allow you to still worship on Sundays, just after 2pm.

Everyone will receive an email with the links to the service just like we have been doing, but now on Sundays. The video will also be available on our church's Facebook page.

Check out the church's website for worship services [here](#) or keep watching [here](#) for the most recent.



Sign-up for the Summer Mission Trip

We are putting on our own LOCAL mission week Aug. 10 -15th. We are planning to help those in our congregation and community to assist wherever needs may be. We will start the week at 7 pm Monday night, get organized here at church then headed out after breakfast Tuesday morning.

How can you be a part of this?

1. We want this to be inter-generational. Sign up to stay at church and be a part of the working crew. Adults you can sign up and go home at night if that is more comfortable. Please sign up by Aug 1st.
2. We will need some on site volunteers to help with meals. This will include breakfast Tuesday - Saturday, bag lunches and dinners Tuesday - Friday.
3. Come join our mid-week waterpark event. Thursday afternoon, we will be taking a break and heading to a local waterpark for some team-building and fun, all are welcome.
4. Continue to donate to our mission fund. These funds will continue to help cover costs for the week. Our goal is to reserve the majority of funds received for next year's mission trip.
5. PRAY! Please cover us in prayer for those who are working and for those we are being the hands and feet of Jesus too.

Now you maybe asking who will we be serving? That is another area where we need your help. If you or someone you know needs help around the house this summer. We are looking to do yard work, cleaning, painting or any other job that needs being done. Let me know soon so we can figure out logistics and supplies needed.

Let Cassi know if you would like to be apart of this amazing week.

Youth Group

This summer we are going to meet like we have in the past, every other week on Wednesdays for a devotion and games. Our next one is TONIGHT!! Teens come from 6:30 - 8:30pm for a night of egg games. Where tennis shoes, a towel and plan to get messy. We will continue to meet July 15th and July 29th. In August we will have our mission trip and then the End of Summer Bash to round out our together time. At the beginning of fall, we will have a family night to talk through what the next year will look like.

Cassi B

Director of Youth Ministries

Scheduling Changes:

- July 5th - First inside worship service! We will have no handshake greeters welcoming you at the door. Every other pew will be roped off to allow for social distanced seating. There will be no coffee shop at this time. The use of face masks are up to the individual.
- July 10th -24th - Pastor David will be on vacation and not in the office. Please direct any pastoral needs to Pastor Andrew.
- Ireland Travel Seminar (July 9-23) has been moved to next year.
- Summer Mission Trip (August 10-15) is modified, see article for more info.
- Kids Summer Bash (Wednesdays July 29- Aug 19, 9 am - Noon) See article for more info.
- Aug. 26th - END OF SUMMER BASH!! We will have a BBQ, games and fellowship from 5pm to 8pm Be sure to invite your neighbors for this big evening of fun!



July Birthdays

May your special day be blessed and filled with joy!
If your birthday isn't listed, please call the office and let us know so we can add you to the list!

Madelyn Leonard 7/2
Judy McKee 7/2
Velma Brinker 7/4
Carol Humphrey 7/5
April Yetter 7/16
David Ash 7/17
Loren Foster 7/19
Carol Pope 7/24
Teresa Werner 7/29



Velma Brinker turns **100** this Saturday, July 4th!

They are having an "open house" on the front lawn of Birchwood from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Saturday. She's not allowed outside so she will be seated inside at the front lobby window with a cell phone for people to come wish her a Happy Birthday. Join Pastor David there to bring birthday blessings from our church at 1:30 pm.