



From Pastor David

"He replied, "Look! I see four men, unbound, walking around inside the fire, and they aren't hurt! And the fourth one looks like one of the gods." -Daniel 3:25

This Sunday is the 4th of July, and we are celebrating our country's 245th Independence Day! We celebrate with fire: grilling hamburgers, bonfires and lighting of fire works. As you enjoy the fires and watch the fireworks, remember on that our God is a strange fire!

Strange Fire: God Is an All-Consuming Fire! After Easter we engaged God as an all-consuming fire who brings power, life, light, and renewal to God's people and creation.

The Fire Within: The Holy Spirit Burns Within. At Pentecost we celebrated how God gives His Holy Spirit to live within each follower of Jesus. It is in the Holy Spirit that our God is ever close to us, is the presence of God dwelling within us, illuminating us, empowering us, making us able to live as God intends and radiating out through us as a witness of God's light to others. Each week we've been discovering another part of what it means to have the Holy Spirit burning within us.

Living in the Fire: Dare to Be a Daniel. Later this month we start the third part of our *Strange Fire* summer series. We are taking a closer look back at the book of Daniel to see how Daniel and his three friends, who had God's Spirit resting on them, lived faithfully as God's people in a culture and context that was hostile and difficult. Like these saints of old, we, too, live in the daily fire of trial and temptation. Hopefully we will not be thrown into the fire (the fiery furnace!) literally, but we do live each day of our lives being exposed to the fires of life. Because of the Holy Spirit burning within us, we can do right no matter what we face!

In the story of the fiery furnace, the onlookers see a mysterious fourth figure in the fire (Daniel 3:25). We know that was God's very presence with them. God is always with you when you are in the fire. He may not deliver you from the fire, but He will carry you through it.

As part of this series, we will be reading through the first six chapters of the book of Daniel in the worship service each

Monthly Church Events

July 1	10:30 am - Book Club 12:00 pm - Sarah Circle
July 2	8:00 am - Grow Group
July 3	9:00 am - UM Men Meeting
July 4	Independence Day Holy Communion 10:00 am - In-person and online Worship Service
July 5	OFFICE CLOSED 8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters
July 6	6:30 pm - Grow Group
July 7	2:00pm - Mission Day - Solid Grounds 7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal
July 9	8:00 am - Grow Group
July 11	10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service - Cassi preaching 11:30am - Grow Group
July 12	8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters
July 13	6:30 pm - Grow Group
July 14	10am - Birchwood -Everyone Welome 11am - Romeos& Juliets 6:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal
July 16	8:00am - Grow Group 2:00pm - Mission Day - Unload Food Truck

Pastor David Cont.

week. It may get a bit long, but this will be a way for us to hear the story of Daniel as a way of framing our own lives.

When I was a child, I learned “The Daniel Song.” It went like this: “Dare to be a Daniel. Dare to stand alone. Dare to have a purpose firm. Dare to make it known.” Daniel and his three friends dared to stand out as different, following a different way of life. They dared to stand up for their God, even though no one else did, and even though it was great (and grave) risk. They dared to pursue holiness despite the risk, and because they dared to stand in this time of testing and honor God, God continued to use them as amazing witnesses for His kingdom. Others then saw how God worked in their lives and were encouraged in their faithfulness, especially in the most difficult situations. Just as fireworks show a display for others to see, so we are to be God’s fireworks: to let the Holy Spirit spark and shine out through all we do so others can see God in and through us.

You and I today can look at Daniel and be emboldened in our faithfulness. The burning Holy Spirit within us calls us to faithfulness in our lives, no matter what fire we face. Living differently is risky. But faithfulness in little things makes us able to be faithful in harder things coming. And God can use our faithfulness now to entrust us with greater responsibilities for His Kingdom.

So, church, “Dare to be a Daniel. Dare to stand alone. Dare to have a purpose firm. Dare to make it known.”

Pastor David

P.S. When you watch fireworks this weekend, for sure think about God as the Holy Spirit burning within you, making you a visible witnesses to others. But also pray for our country and ask God to bless us and bind us together in love and grace.

July 17	6:00am - Community Care Set up 8:00am - Community Care
July 18	10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service - Peter Law Preaching 11:30am - Grow Group 6:30pm - Lifeline
July 19	8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters
July 20	10:00am - Rebecca Circle 6:30 pm - Grow Group
July 21	2:00pm - Mission Day - Community Helping Hands 6:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal
July 23	8:00 am - Grow Group
July 25	10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service 11:30am - Grow Group 2:00pm - Theatre Rehearsal
July 26	8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters 9:00am - Theatre Rehearsal
July 27	2:00pm - Theatre Rehearsal 6:30pm - Grow Group
July 28	9:00am - Theatre Rehearsal 2:00pm - Mission Day - Birchwood 6:30pm - Sanctified Rehearsal
July 29	2:00pm - Theatre Rehearsal
July 30	8:00am - Grow Group 9:00 am - Theatre Rehearsal

Preaching schedule:

7/4 - Pastor David
7/11 - Cassi Betker
7/18 - Pastor Peter Law
7/26 - Pastor David

Special Offering Initiatives:

Love Offering (7/11 and 7/18)
Missionaries (7/25 and 8/1, and concert 8/4)



NEW Directory!

We are working on updating the directory. If you have moved or changed phone numbers after 2015 please let the office know by email, phone call or drop a note. We would also like to add email address to the directory this time. Please send an email with the email address you would prefer we use or to opt out of email inclusion. **The deadline is July 4th!!**

Birchwood Worship

Everyone is invited to join Pastor Andrew & Carol Humphrey at Birchwood Care Center for worship on July 14 at 10am.

Grow Groups

Reminder to sign up for Grow Groups. We have four different options: Sundays after service we will be debriefing the service, Tuesdays are a Study on Daniel, Wednesdays are Mission Days and Debrief and Fridays are Comparison Trap by Andy Stanley. Go to our website or lobby table to sign up today!

Worship

This last year has been tough for a myriad of reasons. When challenges come our way, we know that we can rely on God to sustain us and see us through. But being able to say God is with us is easier than actually experiencing that truth. When normal life is upended, we can find ourselves scrambling as we try to maintain some sense of normalcy. In the process, it is easy to lose sight of God, the very one we need to keep in focus. Think of Peter as he follows Jesus out onto the choppy waves. After only a few steps in his focus is shaken and he begins to sink. Maybe you are sinking. Maybe you are staying afloat but just barely. Maybe you have had a wonderful year. Whatever your experience of this pandemic, it does not change our focus. The Westminster Catechism sums up our focus well: "to glorify God and enjoy Him forever."

I want to invite you to do just that! On **July 18 th at 6:30 we are going to gather in the church sanctuary to sing praises, pray joys and laments, fellowship with the Holy Spirit and enjoy the presence of God.** All we need to do is come to him and we will find the sustenance we need. When we reach our hands out to him in prayer and worship, we find that he grabs us and pulls us up to safety. He is our Lifeline and we do well to seek after him!

Kid's Ministry

This August we will begin our Kid's Summer Bash that meets on Wednesday mornings from 9- noon. Kid's Summer Bash is a VBS type of experience where kids will play games, engage with crafts, hear bible stories and learn more about who God is and how he loves them!

The time around the kids will become Truth Sleuths as they investigate and solve three important questions:

- Who is God? (Aug. 4th)
- Why am I here? (Aug. 11th)
- What am I supposed to be doing? (Aug. 18th)

We will then end August with our End of Summer Bash where we will invite the whole community to join us for food, fun and fellowship! Be a part of this important ministry! We need group leaders, game lovers, crafters, and someone to help prepare food.



Wednesday Mission Days

The goal is for people to help every Wednesday or join in when they can. We will be meeting at church at 2pm then heading out to the mission location for the day. Then we will come back to church at 6:30pm for dinner and debrief. This debrief time will walk us through what we did that day and how it matches what God is calling us to do as Christians.

Schedule:

July:

7/7 2-6pm: 2-7pm - Solid Ground (WBL) providing a meal, playing games and socializing

7/16 (note Friday) 2-6pm - Community Care

7/21 2-6pm - Community Helping Hands - Sorting donations

7/28 2-6pm - Birchwood Care Home - Social time and Bingo

August:

8/4 5-8pm (note time change)- Missionaries from Central Asia - Concert, Meal, QA Session

8/11 9am-12pm - Help with KIDS BASH

8/20 (note Friday) 2-6pm - Community Care

8/25 5-7pm - END OF SUMMER BASH!

Red Rock Camp 2021

This summer we sent 35 people to Red Rock Camp. The week was focused on Engaging Communities. Red Rock is a week of rest, renewal and spiritual growth with areas of programming for all ages. Thanks to your generous support we were able to help with over \$2000 worth of scholarships and incentives for the people of Forest Hills!

Picture of FHUMC Youth Group and young adults.



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
Carol Humphrey 7/5
David Ash 7/17
Carol Pope 7/24

Judy McKee 7/2
April Yetter 7/16
Loren Foster 7/19
Teresa Werner 7/29

