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What Do We Do at Church This Time of Year?



For some seasons of the church year, we have a pretty good idea of what's coming up, as we have some traditional activities we have done for years then. In late November, for example, we know that our traditional Advent and Christmas activities are taking place soon; in late winter, we know that Lent and Holy Week approach. But what about this time of year at church? What happens in the summertime?

Here are some things coming up this summer; some of them are discussed in more detail on other pages of this newsletter:

- Ⓢ Since Easter came so late in the calendar year this year, Pentecost Sunday is part of our June worship instead of May: June 9.
- Ⓢ Vacation Bible School is part of “what happens in the summer” for many churches, including ours. Our cooperative VBS is planned with four other churches, and circulates between three locations. This year it will be at First United Methodist Church (2020 will be our turn again), and we are going back to a five-evening model, July 14-19. PLEASE see the attached page on what volunteers are needed, and consider how you might be able to help.
- Ⓢ Worship attendance tends to fall off in the summer. This is due in part to increased traveling, but some people choose to take extra “Sundays off” even when they’re home. I’m not sure why we so easily assume this will happen. The fourth commandment does not say “Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy – except in the summer when you only have to remember it half the time.” (Exodus 20:8) Please come and worship when you can.
- Ⓢ We have flowers this time of year! Thank you to all who helped plant them at Spring Fling. Now we ask you to consider taking a week-long turn watering them (if it ever stops raining), using a new simplified watering technique Tom Hebermehl would like to show you.
- Ⓢ In conjunction with Pentecost, we collect one of the Presbyterian Church USA’s four special offerings, the “Pentecost Offering.” The main collection date is Pentecost Sunday June 9, but you may contribute any time.
- Ⓢ Two of our annual summertime activities take place at Twin Lakes Park: our All-Church Outing there is scheduled for June 30; and we have our annual chance to support the campaign against cancer at August 3’s Relay for Life. Our church will have a walking team again, and details will be out soon.
- Ⓢ Also, tentatively scheduled to begin August 3: If the plans work out, mission workers Andrew and Pascale Jones will be in the country and in town here August 3 to 5, including our August 4 worship service, sharing with us an update on their important work.
So while some of our “school year” activities like Puppet Teams and Monday evening “Exploring Our Faith” discussion group take a summer break, there is still plenty going on at your church “this time of year”!

“FARM FRESH FAITH”



FUMC, Otterbein, Vermilion, New Providence and Paris Presbyterian will hold a Community VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - JULY 14-19 at First United Methodist Church. Children Pre-K through 6th grade are welcome.

With the help of Faithful the horse, Blessed the chicken, Patience the pig, Hopeful the sheep, and Promise the cow, students will learn that God is always faithful.

Our theme verse is *“Thy faithfulness reaches to the clouds.”* Psalm 36:5.

Farm Fresh Faith uses the life of Joseph as an example for students. Although his journey was full of ups and downs, highs and lows, he remained faithful, trusting God through it all. As God was faithful to Joseph, he is the same for us in our lives, and worthy of our trust.

Dinner is from 5:15 – 5:40 Sunday to Thursday, and VBS from 5:45 – 8:00 p.m. Closing program/ farm fair--when the children’s families and congregations of all participating churches and community guests will enjoy attending—takes place from 6-7 p.m., Friday 7/19

Please consider the volunteer opportunities listed below, then sign your name by the activities you are willing to help with:

1. Paris Presbyterian Church is asked to provide:

20-minute lesson (presented twice) Tuesday 7-16 _____

20-minute lesson (presented twice) Thursday 7-18 _____

Fish sticks/mac & cheese dinner Tuesday 7-16 _____

Walking tacos dinner Thursday 7-18 _____

2. Other opportunities include:

Accompanying the Grade 1-3 class through its activities on some or all evenings

Accompanying the Grade 4-6 class through its activities on some or all evenings

Helping with music _____ *Two leaders signed up* _____

Helping with crafts _____ *Two leaders signed up* _____

Helping with games _____

Please let us know how you would like to help. We’ll keep you posted as slots are filled. Questions? See Beth Ruff or Rodger Allen.

THE CHRISTIAN CALENDAR

The seven-week season of Easter runs through June 8. On June 9 this day will mark our return to the season of “ordinary time”:

June 9 – Pentecost. According to Acts 2, it was fifty days after Good Friday (or June 9 this year)



that God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower the witnesses to Jesus' resurrection. This same Spirit is offered to all his disciples, giving us visions of hope, freeing us to serve our neighbors, setting us to love one another. Therefore, on the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit, which enables us to observe and proclaim all that God has done and is doing for us, and all people. The first Pentecost is sometimes called “the birthday of the Christian Church.” Some people celebrate by wearing red, symbolizing the tongues of fire mentioned in Acts 2. We will also celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on June 9.

June 16 – The Sunday after Pentecost each year is Trinity Sunday. It is an annual reminder of the threefold nature of our God, so that we will not neglect any of the three persons—Father, Son, or Holy Spirit—or focus on one to the exclusion of others.

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

We will expand the “Father's Day” holiday a little, and also celebrate “Men of the Church Day,” expressing our appreciation for all the gifts that all men bring to the church. The Deacons will provide a gift to all men (18 and older) in attendance. A special Women's Choir will give the men of the choir a “day off” (all women are invited to sing!).



CHURCH FAMILY OF THE WEEK

Our “Church Family of the Week” program gives us a chance to lift up a different family (group or individual) of our congregation each week, include them in our daily prayer for our families and friends, and to send cards or greetings or in some other way to let them know we are glad they are part of our church family. The “Church Family of the Week” is listed in our Sunday bulletins. If you missed one or more of those recent announcements, I'll bet those families wouldn't mind if you prayed for them this week. Those recently listed are:

Al & Juanita Kimball
529 E. Court St., Paris

Evey Ray & family
24 Caldron Lane, Paris



NEWS FROM SESSION

Business at the May meeting of the church Session included:

- ⓐ Receiving a letter of greeting from our liaison member of the Presbytery's Commission of Ministry. It included an explanation of how the Commission can be of assistance to churches. Our current liaison is Rev. Matthew Froeschle, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Mattoon.
- ⓐ A very positive report from a stained glass window consultant, on how well our windows are protected
- ⓐ Approval of two mission disbursements recommended by the Mission Task Force, to the Paris Fire Department and Kemmerer Village
- ⓐ Hearing Membership & Evangelism's plans for three All-Church activities: Spring Fling, June 30 All-Church Outing, Relay for Life
- ⓐ Scheduling our next meeting for the third Tuesday in June, June 18, at 7:00, instead of our usual second Tuesday – due to scheduling conflicts among our Session members

SEND SOME GREETINGS

The Board of Parish Visitors lets us know that the following church members appreciate receiving cards:

Margie Taflinger
Paris Healthcare Center
1011 N. Main St. Room 300
Paris, IL 61944

Betty Dahlin
Life's Journey Sr. Living
705 Kenton St.
Paris, IL. 61944

Ilse Smilie
Brookstone Estates #32
146 Brookstone Lane
Paris, IL 61944

Alice Sprague
305 S. Jefferson
Paris, IL 61944

SANCTUARY CHOIR NEWS

Our men-only
choir on May 12
(Mother's Day)
featured five



singers who provided our special music for the day. The women of the choir will have their chance to outnumber and out-sing (?) them on Father's Day - June 16. Other women of the church are invited to join us as well - we will rehearse at 7 P.M. on June 12.

The final choir rehearsal before summer break will be June 19, and our last Sunday to sing will be June 30.

One final note: please remember that when the prelude begins, talking and visiting should end. This is especially true when we have a guest soloist performing for us. Please give these musicians your attention so that everyone can hear clearly. Thank you! --Susan



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

2	Gareth Blair
4	Scott Blair
5	Tony Grimes, Jr.
7	Susan Farris
9	Sheryl Clark
10	Johnathon Franklin
11	Paul Koehler
13	Tom Ballard
	Debra Jipp
17	Paul Ruff
	Amber Farris
19	Mabel Benson
21	Beth Ruff
	Zach Gough
22	Maurice Johnson III
23	Stephanie Benefiel
24	Krayton Trogdon
25	Steve Benefiel
26	Barbara Bergdolt
28	Jeff Boland



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

15	Tom & Joanna Hebermehl
18	Terry & Barbara Bergdolt
19	Alan & Christie Russell
	Robert & Alice Sprague
23	Steve & Debbie Benefiel
	Tom & Lou Ballard
28	Steve & Jane Blair
30	Brian & Jessica Blair

Please sign up for watering our gorgeous gardens, planters (5), by our front church sign, and under our four large trees—the front two by the parking lot and two near the west side entrance walkway.



Sign-up sheet is in the back of the sanctuary. Please take a week, starting with the week of June 3-9, if you are able, so the work doesn't fall on only a small group of people. *Thank you for your help in keeping our grounds beautiful!*

PENTECOST OFFERING

As described in “The Christian Calendar” article in this newsletter, June 9 is the day of Pentecost, often considered to be the “birthday of the Christian Church” because of Acts 2: 41-42.

June 9 will also be the main collection date for the Pentecost Offering, one of the four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church USA. This offering is divided between programs which help children and youth at risk (poverty, schools, medical concerns) and programs which provide Christian education to children and youth (church camps, regional youth gatherings). Each congregation is to retain 40% of its offering, to go to a local program or project; this year our 40% will go to “Hope and Dreams,” the shelter for homeless youth currently under development.

ATTENTION, LADIES! A bridal shower in honor of Karol Farris will be held in The Assembly Room of our church on Sunday, June 30, at 2 p.m. All ladies from both this church and the New Providence Presbyterian Church are invited to attend. Please join us as we celebrate with Karol. For information about where Karol is registered, check her website in the following wedding announcement or talk to Susan.



BECAUSE YOU HAVE SHARED IN THEIR
LIVES
WITH YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND LOVE

*Karol June Farris &
Christopher Lawrence Schilling*

REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE
AT THEIR WEDDING

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2019
2:30PM CENTRAL TIME

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PARIS
241 WEST COURT STREET, PARIS, ILLINOIS

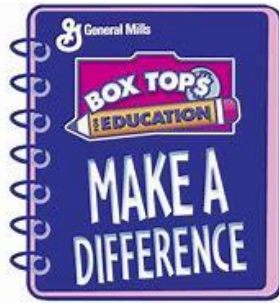
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
O'SHAUGHNESSY HALL
SAINT MARY OF THE WOODS, INDIANA

RSVP by July 19 at
www.theknot.com/us/karolandchris
or call 567-226-1123.
More details can be found on our website.

YOU CAN HELP!

Supporters of Kemmerer Village have been sending them Box Tops for Education for years, and they really add up! Their purchased items include: library books, school decorations, blankets, basketballs, and P.E. equipment.

If you'd like to participate in the blessing of children at Kemmerer, please put box tops in the box on the table outside the Koinonia Kafe. Some examples include: Ziploc, Papermate, Nature Valley, Hefty, Green Giant, Yoplait, Reynolds Wrap, General Mills cereals, and many more. These coupons expire. Be sure to check the dates. **THANK YOU!**

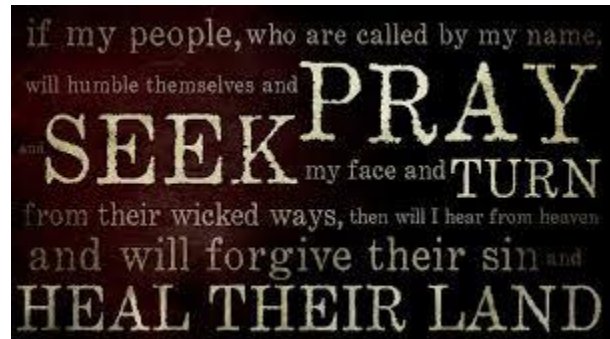


ALL-CHURCH OUTING JUNE 30

Come to Twin Lakes Park Sunday, June 30, if you like to play golf, or if you like to eat, or if you like music; for our next all-church outing you can come for all or some of the following: Our all-church all-ages outing will begin at 4:30 at the miniature golf course; we'll form teams and play for fun. After golf we will have a picnic supper at the tables nearby; you can "bring your own" or visit the concession stand, which offers a variety of sandwiches, snacks, cold drinks, and ice cream treats. And you may want to bring a lawn chair: The Community Band Concert begins at 7 P.M. and lasts until about 8:30. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy each other's company, right here in Paris. If you have any questions, contact a Membership and Evangelism Committee member or the church office.

DID YOU KNOW...

... that at least 130 different people participated in Paris Presbyterian Church worship services or other activities during the month of April?(and that does not include our friends from New Providence at our two joint Holy Week services)



National Day of Prayer

Because the level of animosity between some people of different political opinions is so high right now, the organizers of the May 2, 2019 event chose as the theme this year John 13: 34: "Love one another." A couple excerpts from the page handed out at our local observance:

- ♥ The present anger, division, and broken relationships in America are calling us to pray for and take all necessary actions to remember God's love for us so we will love one another
- ♥ God is the One who can bring unity, harmony, and oneness in America; therefore we look to God in prayer, asking for this love to prevail.
- ♥ Lord, we ask You to move each of us to love one another in the same way you love us.



USA CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Two news stories came out within a few days of each other last month, containing word of a new Gallup poll about our country's decline in church membership. They contained the same numbers, but quoted different people who gave different reasons for the drop. We don't have time or space here to analyze or evaluate those reasons, but can list them, for your consideration:

- ☀ **The percentage of U.S. adults who belong to a church or other religious institution has dropped by twenty percentage points over the past two decades, hitting a low of 50% last year.**
- ☀ **There was a sharp drop in church membership among Catholics as the church was buffeted by sex-abuse scandals.**
- ☀ **Among Hispanic Americans, membership dropped from 68% to 45%, a much bigger decline than for non-Hispanic white and black Americans.**
- ☀ **There was a big discrepancy with regard to political affiliation: membership among Democrats fell from 71% to 48% -- 77% to 69% for Republicans. One analyst: "Increasingly, Americans associate religion with the Republican Party, and if they are not Republicans, they turn away from religion."**
- ☀ **Culturally, we are seeing significant erosion in the trust people have for institutions in general.**
- ☀ **We are also seeing a generational shift as the "joiner" older generation passes away and a generation of non-joiners comes on the scene.**
- ☀ **Religious young adults are delaying marriage, postponing having children, and having fewer children.**
- ☀ **There is diminished social pressure to formally join organizations; more people attend worship at least occasionally but do not officially become a member.**
- ☀ **American life is becoming deinstitutionalized. Americans are less likely to belong to anything.**
- ☀ **Nondenominational Christians are less likely to belong to a church than those tied to a specific denomination.**
- ☀ **Among Americans 65 and older, church membership averages 64%, compared to 41% among those aged 18 to 29.**