

PRESBYTIDINGS

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"Like" us on Facebook for the Latest News: www.facebook.com/fpced

Church website: www.firstpreseldks.org

Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sunday School for all ages 9:30 am

JULY 2018

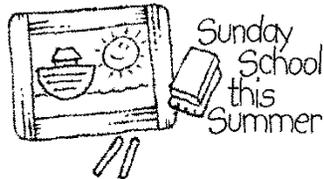


COMMUNITY PIZZA DINNER

The following are signed up for the community pizza dinner on Saturday, July 7: Jan Taylor-Food, Janice Shaffer-Food, Connie Hamlin-Help, Sharon Decker-Food, Kendra Wilkinson-Food, Dorothy Miller, Faye & Riley Walters-Food/Help, Billye Odom-Lasagne. We put left-over desserts from the Craft/Bake Sale in the Deacons' freezer to save for this dinner so you don't need to bring desserts. Please have food at the church by 5:00 and helpers need to arrive by 4:30.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEEDS TEACHERS FOR THE SUMMER

Christian Education Committee is asking for volunteers to teach children's Sunday School over the summer. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.



JULY IS OUR MONTH FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

The month of July is our church's month to provide food for the Salvation Army's food pantry. All food donations are greatly appreciated; however items that are especially needed are box dinners, jello, pudding, single serving cans & meals, spaghetti sauce, pasta, dry milk, cereal, muffin/biscuit mix, tuna, peanut butter, canned meats and crackers. You may place your food donations in one of the baskets and the deacons will be happy to deliver them to

the Salvation Army. Since we are the only church responsible for July, please make an effort to donate!

COME CHEER ON OUR SOFTBALL TEAM!

Games for July are:

Friday, July 6, 8:00 & 9:00 pm

Friday, July 13, 7:30 pm

All games are played at the lake ball diamonds on east 12th Street. A post-season tournament will be played following the regular season schedule; tentative date is Sat, July 14th.



YOUTH MISSION TRIP REPORT JULY 8TH

John Simon and the youth that participated in the Urban Plunge mission trip to Omaha, NE will share their experiences during worship on Sunday, July 8th.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP & PICNIC AT EAST PARK



Mark your calendars for August 5th! Worship & Music and Fellowship Committees are planning to hold our worship service at 10:30 am at the shelter

at East Park followed by an all church picnic. Fellowship Committee will provide fried chicken (donations accepted to help cover cost), drinks and table service. The congregation is asked to bring side dishes and/or desserts. You are welcome to bring lawn chairs, too!





PASTOR RUTH REFLECTS

Love God; Nurture People;
Make Disciples

Last month we learned that “A disciple is one who knows Christ, is growing in Christ, serving Christ, and sharing Christ.” (p. 25, Developing an Intentional Discipleship System: A Guide for Congregations by Junius B. Dotson, Discipleship Ministries, 2017) In Paul’s letter to the Philippians, we read, “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:4-8)

Of course, we don’t know each person’s story, but as I read eye-witness accounts from those who have visited the detention centers where asylum seekers and other migrants are being held, I can’t help but hear these words of Paul echo in my mind. I did not always have that reaction, but after years of studying the life of Jesus of Nazareth and asking to be remade in his image, I find my thinking has been transformed in ways I did not expect. We often pause in wonder, especially at Christmas time, to reflect on what Jesus gave up in order to live among us and show us the way to the kingdom of God. When I read these words, I realize that Jesus would be right there, in the cages with these people who are being vilified by our own government.

He himself said as much in the story of separating the sheep from the goats, which is actually a story of separating the **nations** rather than individuals. “Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick

and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’” (Matthew 25:41-45) These policies make me very fearful for the fate of our nation, especially after Attorney General Jeff Sessions used Holy Scripture to defend his actions.

When I see pictures of the rosaries that have been confiscated at the border, I realize that many of these people are my own brothers and sisters in Christ. I remember Jesus’s prayer recorded in John, Chapter 17, that we might all be one. “I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” (John 17:20-21)

I am proud to be a part of both the United Methodist Church and the Presbyterian Church USA. True to the gospel, these churches call us beyond fear to compassion and brotherhood. Currently, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working with the Presbyteries in the states along the border to provide financial assistance to support humanitarian efforts. Our primary concerns are 1) to help the parents find their children and to get the parents reunified, which often means also advocating for the parents’ release and 2) providing legal rights information and assistance to asylum seekers to be able to make their asylum claim. If you wish to help, please donate to PDA’s US Refugee Emergencies Account; you can do this by writing a check to First Presbyterian Church and designating the PDA Refugee Emergencies Account. We’ll make sure your donation gets to the right place.

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

Date	Attendance	Offerings
June 3	81	\$4,694.11
June 10	48	\$2,371.00
June 17	76	\$1,660.30
June 24	57	\$4,444.57



YOUTH NEWS

We are officially into the summer, and there are quite a few things going on in the youth ministry, though obviously less than what we see during the school year. First, Morgan Sirmans and Rachel Evans are going to summer camp at Westminster Woods! I'm happy for them. This is the really big camp and event to be a part of if you are in the youth group. Westminster Woods puts a lot into making sure their camp is fun, and best of all, students learn about God. I'm really surprised we have not seen more students going to camp. We had three to four students who could essentially go for free because they have earned enough scholarship points to pay for camp. We have talked about the camp; Westminster Woods has come to youth group and talked about their camp themselves; we've shown promotional videos; we've heard from students that go to the camp regularly and really enjoy it; and still students are not that in to going. Perhaps we will see more students taking that first big step and attending camp in the upcoming year.

A second big item coming up for the youth ministry is our Urban Plunge mission trip. Urban Plunge is the name Christ for the City International uses for mission trips in big cities around the U.S. Last year, students went to Kansas City where they worked with several Christian ministries. We learned a lot and had a lot of fun. This year, we will be heading to Omaha, Nebraska. At the present time, we are preparing for the trip every Saturday for a half hour. We want to be ready to hit the road come June 28th. I am looking forward to the experience. This will be my fourth official mission trip.

Finally, the youth ministry decided to do a summer lock-in! We are going to send out invitations to every single student we have seen since I was hired and find out if they would like to come and have some fun at the church. I am hoping that this event will work for many students and remind them we are here, and the school year is just around the corner. Reaching the community around us is Christianity 101, and I hope everyone will join with me in attempting to

build the church and reach the community of El Dorado!
-John Simon

TUGGS LOGBOOK June 3, 2018

TUGGS met on June 3, 2018 at North Main Park for a picnic of chicken strips and sides with Watch 1 in charge. There were 20 people in attendance.



Nita Whiteman due to the absence of Dorothy Miller, Skipper, shared the birthdays and anniversaries for May and June.

Martin Goedecke led the devotions from "Hooks for Life". He told us that people attending fish tournaments have many chances to practice their listening skills. Jesus taught in parables so that those listening could understand what he meant, but some did not understand. We should listen to God by reading the word daily. Then God will speak to us. We can also listen with prayers, and He will answer if we listen.

TUGGS will meet at 6:00 on August 26 at North Park for an ice cream social with Watch 2 (Hubbell, Walters, Shoemaker Fulmer) with Ralph and Lois Fairman as chairpersons.



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Madelyn Stackley, Linda Nielsen, Isabella Powers
- 8 - Dick Kaufmann
- 15 –Devin Miller
- 22 - Ann Sweny
- 26 –Pam Bryson
- 31 –Gary Chrispens

ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 – Gary & Carla Chrispens

VISITORS

- June 3: No visitors listed.
- June 10: Gladys Mort
- June 17: Gladys Mort
- June 24: Rachael & Fabricio Lacerda





CONTEMPORARY AND CHORAL MUSIC COORDINATOR

Personnel Committee has begun the search again for a Contemporary/Choral Music Coordinator with the hopes of having someone onboard by September.

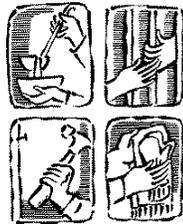
The successful candidate will have knowledge of both traditional hymns and anthems, and of contemporary praise and worship music, and be willing to explore with the pastor how to use music to convey God’s message in worship for that day.

This is a part-time position requiring approximately 8-10 hours per week for planning, rehearsals, and worship each week. A full job description is available on our church website or contact the church office. *Salary is commensurate with the responsibility, time required and specialized skills associated with this position.*

Please help spread the word and help us find the person that God is calling for us!

BUTLER MISSION WEEK

Butler Mission Week (July 15-20) is a weeklong effort by churches, in partnership with each other, to serve El Dorado and the surrounding area. Our aim is to love the people and organizations that make up our wonderful community and celebrate the amazing work that is being done. On Friday, July 20th, BMW will end with a neighborhood block party which will be held on the lawn of Susan B Allen Memorial Hospital. Families are invited to come and enjoy free food, music, games and more! The goal of this week is to go out and love on our community and provide services to those in need!



Local Mission Volunteers

Schedule:

Sunday, July 15: BMW kick-off at Hope Covenant Church (Time TBD)

Monday, July 16-Friday July 20: Perform Community Service Work & Intentional Acts of Kindness

Friday July 20, 5-8:00 pm: Community Block Party. Bring a lawn chair and a friend!

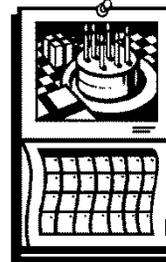
To register for Butler Mission Week: Text ‘BMW18’ to 316-202-9577.



CRAFT/BAKE SALE SUCCESS

Many thanks to everyone who donated baked goods and craft items and/or helped with the craft/bake sale on June 9th! We raised over \$1,000 for the church with a portion of it going towards repairing the church van and the rest going towards the general fund.

JULY ACTIVITIES



Sun, July 1, 9:30 am-Sunday School, Youth Stampede & Choir Practice, 10:30 am-Worship

Wed, July 4: Church office closed.

Thurs, July 5, 5:30 pm-Weight Watchers

Sat, July 7, 5:30 pm-Community

Pizza Dinner

Sun, July 8, 9:30 am-Sunday School, Choir Practice, & Youth Stampede, 10:30 am-Worship

Tues, July 10, 4:30 pm-Finance Committee

Wed, July 11, 6:30 pm-Trustees

Thurs, July 12, 5:30 pm-Weight Watchers

Sun, July 15, 9:30 am-Sunday School, Choir practice & Youth Stampede, 10:30 am-Worship, 12:00 pm-Worship & Music

Thurs, July 19, 5:30 pm-Weight Watchers, 6:30 pm-Session

Sun, July 22, 9:30 am-Sunday School, Choir practice & Youth Stampede, 10:30 am-Worship, 12:00 pm-Deacons’ meeting

Mon, July 23, 4:30 pm-Evangelism/Member Care

Thurs, July 26, 5:30 pm-Weight Watchers

Sun, July 29, 9:30 am-Sunday School, Choir Practice, & Youth Stampede, 10:30 am-Worship