THUSE NEWS
July 2021
South Parkersburg UMC
To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known

Pastor Edward Craft
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Parsonage Phone; 304-834-3521
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Website: southparkersburgumc.org

Welcome Pastor Edward Craft

Pastor Edward comes to us from the Greenbrier District of West Virginia but has served the Lord in other locations in WV. He has a Business Degree, a Masters of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary and has certifications as a Church Growth Facilitator, Conflict Management Facilitator and Pre-marriage/Marriage Counselor. His emphasis is preaching and teaching from a biblical perspective and training laity for ministry. His passions for ministry include working with adults and youth, evangelism and outreach. He has started two successful church start-ups including one Hispanic and founded the largest AWANA program in WV.

His wife passed away last year after 34 years of marriage. He has two grown children, a son, Dr. Edward Craft, who is in family practice and a daughter, Sarah, who will be living with him while she does her D.O. rotations with WVU Medicine/Camden Clark and Marietta Memorial Hospital. He is happy that he will be closer to his son and two grandchildren who live in Ohio.

His spare time interests include caring for his two miniature dachshunds, riding his motorcycle, music, learning to cook and learning a foreign language. We will become better acquainted with him over the years but a first start is to join him at the Pastor Chats starting July 25th.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Sunday, July 4th Church Service Starts at 9:45AM

Pastor Jim's Message

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Jennifer and I would like to thank everyone for the wonderful farewell reception at Southwood Park, and for those who came by to wish us well in our transition to my new appointment. Thank you for the cards, gifts, and prayers! As I leave South Parkersburg UMC, I take many great memories of ministry and fellowship with this church family, and will continue to hold you in my prayers as you welcome Rev. Ed Craft into the family. May God pour His blessing upon you, that you may be a blessing to others in Jesus' Name!

God bless!

Pastor Jim

Jennifer's Message

Thank you, for your many expressions of love, friendship, support, and encouragement. I have loved being the pastor's wife and a member of the SPUMC family. I am especially thankful for the precious time spent in ministry with the children and youth. I pray that the "seeds of faith" that were planted will continue to grow - nurtured by your love and witness as Disciples of Jesus Christ. Angel is also very grateful for 8 wonderful years in Parkersburg and will miss everyone, too. Please stop by and visit her (and us!) anytime!

Jennifer

Farewell Gathering & Presentation of Gifts

THANK YOU church family for a really fun afternoon at Southwood Park! Your presence and kind expressions of love and appreciation mean the world to us! We love you!
Pastor Jim and Jennifer.

Gifts included a memory quilt made from church t-shirts, a painting of "The Last Supper", and a picture collage…

Children's Ministry

Children's Church is now being held in the children's wing of the church basement. Children should first attend morning worship service with their parents in the sanctuary. Then after the children's sermonette, they are excused to meet downstairs. Shirley Tice will be in the nursery for ages birth to 3. Children in grades Pre-K to 5th will meet in the primary classroom for Children's Church.

We are fortunate to have several ladies joining the Children's Church Team beginning July 4. Rotations are as follows:

July 4 – Sandy Sinnett & Anna Deem

July 11 – Beth Cox & Sarah Braden

July 18 – Beth Baker & Jill Youell

July 25 – Michaela & Jennifer Hupp

Children and Youth Sunday School classes will begin on August 1 following morning worship services.

The nursery will be open for ages birth to 3 with teacher, Shirley Tice. **We need an assistant for the nursery. Please contact Shirley if you can help.**

Grades Pre-K to 2nd will meet in the primary classroom with teachers Becky Stephens, Michaela Hupp and Anna Deem.

Grades 3rd to 5th will meet in the intermediate classroom with teachers Valma & Mark Adams. **We need an assistant for this class. Please contact Valma if you can help.**

Youth Ministry

Sunday School class for youth, Grades 6th to 12th will meet in the youth room (Upper Room of the CFC) beginning August 1. Teachers for the youth class are yet to be determined. **If you have an interest in teaching the youth class, please contact Brad Lewis**.

Regular Youth meetings are over for the summer. However, several activities are planned to keep the great group of young people we have involved and together.

We had an end-of-the-schoolyear pool party at the home of Tammy and Chuck Lewis in June. The kids had such a great time that they want to have another pool party in July. We were blessed to have Pastor Jim & Jennifer attend. Pastor Jim was able to get away before being tossed into the pool!

Our first service project was to help move a member of our church to a new apartment. Several youth members helped move furniture and lots of boxes that were packed by the UMW. It was hard work, but they completed the task successfully!

We are planning a trip to Kings Island on August 10 and a Whiffle Ball Tournament on August 14. More details will be forthcoming.

Brad Lewis, youth coordinator, created a group on "Band," a communication app., to keep youth and their parents informed about upcoming events. Any youth or youth parents that are not a part of this app yet, please let Brad know so he can send you an invite.

SPUMC Youth Activities

A swim party at the home of Tammy & Chuck Lewis

These members of our Youth group help to move one of our church members into a new apartment

It is Vacation Bible School Time!!!

Join us for Vacation Bible School - "America: Blessed and Strong" beginning with a Kick-Off on Sunday, July 18 at 6 pm for fellowship, food, fun and registration! Monday, July 19 through Wednesday, July 21 from 6 to 8 pm each evening will be Bible School with a lesson, music, crafts and more!

Ages 2 to Adult!!!... Volunteers always welcome and appreciated!

Any questions please contact Anna Deem, Jill Youell, Michaela Hupp or Shirley Tice

We hope to see you there!!!

VBS Registration Forms will be available upstairs at the entrance to the Sanctuary & in the basement of the church.

(VBS Registration Form on next page as well)

SPUMC 2021 VBS Registration Form

GROUP:_____

SOUTH PARKERSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
2021 REGISTRATION FORM
"America: Blessed and Strong" – Kick Off Sunday July 18-VBS July 19-21

NAME OF CHILD: _____AGE: _____

SCHOOL GRADE JUST COMPLETED: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____

TELEPHONE #: ( ) _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN NAME: _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____
TELEPHONE #: ( ) _____

X - ANY ALLERGIES OR MEDICAL CONDITIONS: [ ] YES [ ] NO
PLEASE LIST WHAT THEY ARE: _____

_____

_____

I HEREBY [ ] ALLOW [ ] DO NOT ALLOW 0
SOUTH PARKERSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TO USE PICTURES OF MY CHILD, _____, ON THEIR WEBSITE/FACE BOOK PAGE FOR INFORMATIONAL OR PROMOTIONAL PURPOSES.

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN: _____
PRINT NAME

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN: _____
SIGNATURE

DO YOU ATTEND CHURCH ELSEWHERE? [ ] YES [ ] NO

----------Tear Off Reminder ----------

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!
South Parkersburg United Methodist Church
1813 Rayon Drive, Parkersburg, WV 304-428-1195
"America: Blessed and Strong"
Bible School Kick Off – Fun, Food, Registration Sunday, July 18 at 6pm
Bible School-Monday, July 19, Tuesday, July 20, & Wednesday July 21 6 to 8 PM

SAVE-A-SMILE
VBS MISSION PROJECT
Vacation Bible School – July 18-21

JD and Rhonda Reed, Bolivia Missionaries, are requesting dental items for Dental Clinics in Bolivia. Items from the United States are better quality and good products are hard to find in Bolivia.

VBS students and staff are asked to bring TOOTHBRUSHES and TRAVEL SIZE TOOTHPASTE (No regular size tubes) for their VBS offerings each evening. If anyone would like to contribute to this mission project, please give items to Children's Coordinators, Michaela Hupp or Anna Deem.

College Student Outreach Update

College students (or their parents) need to share addresses for the Fall Semester with the church and the Christian Education Team.

Please email the church at spumc1813@gmail.com
or Melissa Kuhl at makuhl@cascable.net
You can also call the church office. OR you can fill out the information below and place it in the offering plate on Sunday!

College Student Outreach Information

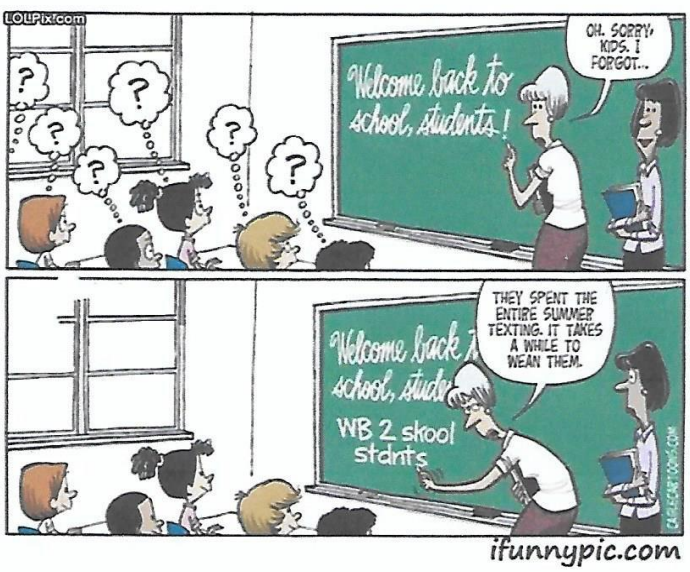
*Name:*_____

*College Address:*_____

_____

_____

*Email Address:*_____

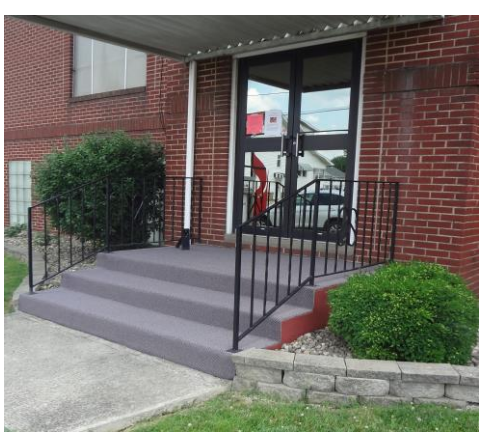


Melissa

Parsonage Work Day

Cleaning the Parsonage upstairs and down, and inside and out. Volunteers preparing the home for our new Pastor, Edward Craft…

Trustee's Project Completed



Old

New

The project to replace the carpeting on the steps of both entrances in the front of the church was approved in 2019. However, the Covid crisis delayed the installation. The new carpeting is now installed

Staff-Parish Relations Committee

NAME BADGES - Pastor Edward has many names to remember so let's help him by wearing our name badges the first few months. The Staff Parish Relations Committee is going to gather all the name tags we can find and put them on tables in the basement gathering room on July 4th and July 11th. Please enter the church at the back door or go to the basement to find your name tag. If you do not have one, we will make a temporary one for you right away and then print one for the following Sunday. Thank you for helping out.

PASTOR CHATS - Beginning July 25th and for as many Sundays as needed, the Staff Parish Relations Committee is excited to host informal "Chats with Pastor Edward Craft." Immediately following morning worship services, we will meet in the CFC meeting room. Sign up forms will be passed around the first three Sundays of July to choose what date you want to join the chats. You can get a head start by sending a text or calling Valma Adams at 304-210-8031 or emailing valmasue@gmail.com with your choice for the first four Sundays – July 25, August 1, August 8, August 15. These chats will help our new pastor get to meet us and for us to become better acquainted with one another. Pastor Edward wants to get to know us as soon as possible and we feel this is the best way to start off his ministry with us. Each group will be limited to twelve people with two SPRC members hosting and providing snacks and drinks each week.

SPRC

Backpack Blessings

Dear Church Family,

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped with the Backpack Blessings Ministry. We ended the year with a Total of 97 Lunch Sacks! We were told by several School Employees that the Children really looked forward to receiving these lunches. Some Children depend on these lunches to have something to eat. **IN JULY, THE SILVER PLATE/2ND MILE GIVING IS FOR BACKPACK BLESSINGS… PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING TO THIS CRITICAL MINISTRY IN OUR COMMUNITY…**

Going forward, I would like to have 24 volunteers. This will give us 4 teams. In this way a team would only have to pack 1 time each month, and it only takes about 45 minutes. Everything will be set up to pack on Tuesdays. Also, this would mean a team would only have to deliver the Lunch Sacks to the schools on Wednesday, once a month. This only takes about 30 minutes.

Please let me know if you are interested in helping no later Than the end of July. Our 1st pack will be on Tuesday, August 31, 2021. You can contact the Church office or Me, Dale McMahan, @ 304-210-2200 with any questions. Thank You and God Bless!!!

Dale McMahan

United Methodist Men
Weeds – B – Gone !!!

When it was noticed that our two CFC fenced-lawn garden boxes, installed a few years ago by our Troop #17 Scouts, were growing some very healthy weeds, action was taken! One of our UMMen "rescued" some tomato plants that had been rejected in a spring plant sale. Another member of our UMMen meticulously removed all the weeds (with the help of his trusty assistant), being careful to retain the soil that was growing such healthy weeds. The attempt was made to give those dry, little yellowed tomato plants a new lease on life. We will water, remove any additional weeds that sprout, fertilize, and wait for the anticipated harvest to be brought forth by God's abundant summer sunshine!

The United Methodist Men's group invites all men of our church to come out to the CFC on our regular meeting night, the second Tuesday of the month, July 13th, at 6:30 p.m. We have not been able to have a regular meeting schedule in 2021 to date but hope to finish the year strong!

Join us for an hour of good Christian fellowship with your fellow men in the SPUMC church family, and as a bonus, get to chat with our new Pastor Edward Craft !

Submitted by Brent Wilhelm, UMM President

United Methodist Women

We've had a very busy year thus far. It is time to settle down and get acquainted. We will meet Tuesday July 13th at 6:30pm. I am asking you bring an "item" to put into a salad. I will provide 2 or 3 types of lettuce. What you bring to place in the salad is what we will eat. I will furnish 2 or 3 salad dressings. There will be water and tea to drink.

The women and a few men and youth have been busy this month. We helped our sister in Christ to move to a better location. When everyone pitched in, it got done quickly, efficiently, and safely. Thanks to all who helped.

You are encouraged to come July 13th and if you are interested but need a lift, just give me a call and I will see about getting you there. We'd love to have you and hear your ideas going forward to the end of the year. See you there!

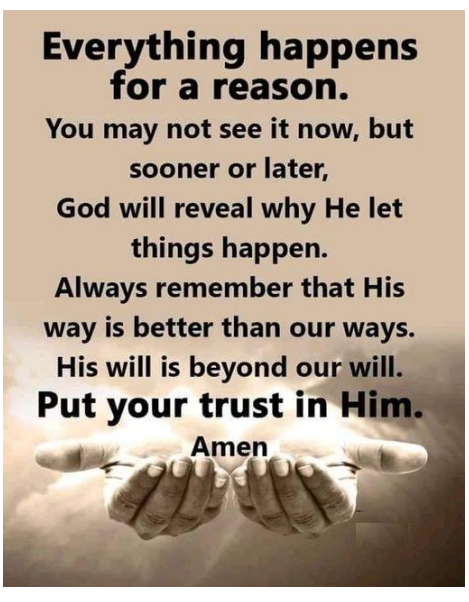
In His Service

Sandy Sinnett

Lay Leadership Committee
(Formerly Known as Nominating Committee)

If anyone holding an elected office this year but is not planning to continue to serve in that position in 2022, please notify Peggy Davis (740-423-9175) as soon as possible so the committee can identify candidates to fill those roles in the church. Thank You!

Peggy Davis



Stewardship Committee Report

Stewardship Alert ...

- **The May Silver Plate offering for helping send our own SPUMC children and youth to summer camps was $504.00**. THANK YOU !!
- **June** offering total to **Latrobe Street Mission** is pending.

July Silver Plate Second Mile Giving is designated to the Backpack Ministry. On August 31 this ministry begins packing and delivering again. The goal is to have four packing/delivering teams. Please see separate Thuse News Article from Dale and Carol McMahan with details. Thanks for your support.

Submitted by: *Kay Wilhelm*

Finance Committee Report

The financial performance of the church continues to improve…

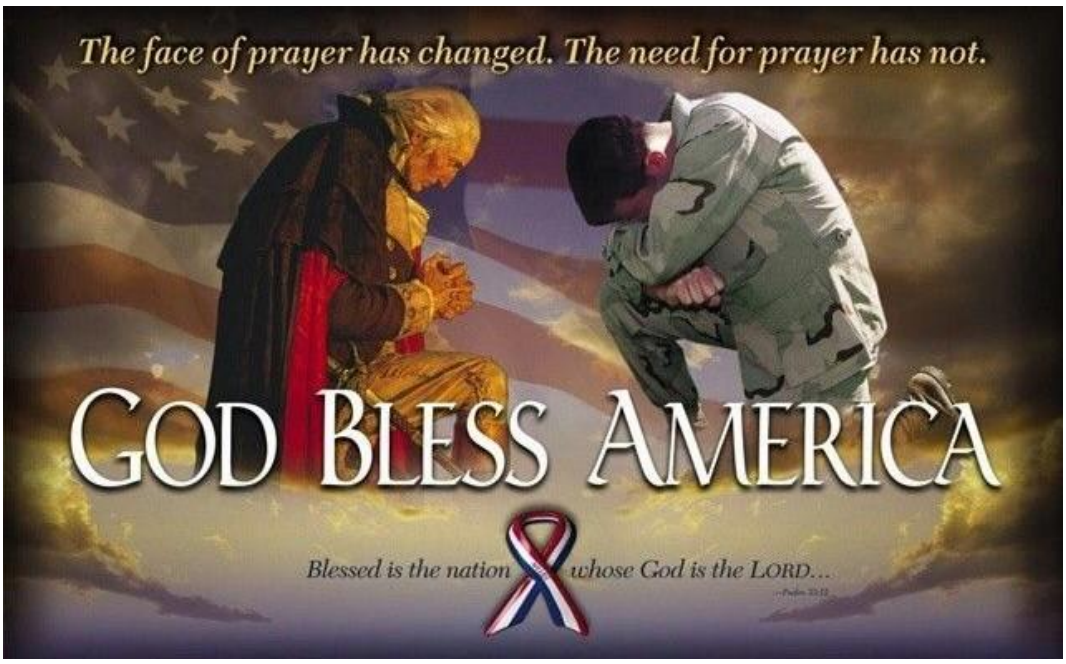
- For the first time this year we reported a year-to-date surplus of operating revenue exceeding operating expenses by approximately $2,200 at the end of May…

  - ($11,200) deficit at the end of February…
  - ($6,900) deficit at the end of March…
  - ($1,900) deficit at the end of April…
  - **$2,200** Surplus at the end of May…

- It should be noted that in April and May we did not pay our monthly Apportionments to Conference. Those payments were deferred to the 2nd half of this year when our Clergy Support expenses will decline to a point where those payments can be made.

- Although the financial picture is looking better for the church now, we still expect a fairly "bumpy ride" with our financial performance for the balance of the year. The Finance Committee is meeting every month to review our financial position and to make the necessary adjustments to balance our operating expenses with the tithing/offerings that we are receiving from our church family.

Larry Sexauer – Finance Committee Chairperson



On April 30, 1789, after having worshiped at St. Paul's Chapel, George Washington addressed both Houses of Congress at Federal Hall in the capital then—New York City. Below is an excerpt from his address:

"It is proper and necessary to recognize God's favor upon the people of the United States. No nation has seen the providential Hand of God upon them, more than the independent United States. Let us never forget that the propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order, which God Himself has ordained".

Prayer for Independence Day

God, source of all freedom, this day is bright with the memory of those who declared that life and liberty are your gift to every human being. Help us to continue the good work begun long ago. Make our vision clear and our will strong: that only in human solidarity will we find liberty, and justice only in the honor that belongs to every life on earth. Turn our hearts toward the family of nations: to understand the ways of others, to offer friendship, and to find safety only in the common good of all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it… It flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it…

- Unknown

The Power of the Cross
Where True Freedom is Found

In all the talk about freedom in our nation today, defending rights and our point of view, through all of the top headline news stories, and across years of history remembering brave men and women who fought hard for the liberties we hold dear, this powerful Truth still rises above all.

Only in One can true freedom be found.

Only in One can we be made new.

Only in One can we find lasting peace and hope.

Only in One – Jesus Christ. For he is the One who sets us free.

Without the pain and reality of the cross, without the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf, without the power of the Resurrection and his final victory over sin and death, we would still be bound. We would still live defeated. We would still be groping in darkness. In all of history, there is not one more redeeming, liberating, or costly sacrifice, than the cross of Christ.

To some in this world, the cross doesn't make sense. It is foolishness to their minds. They don't understand it. They won't accept it. They live blinded to its power and grace. To others the cross of Christ brings an offense. They are offended by its sacrifice. They are offended by the Truth that Jesus paved the only way for us to be saved. They hide under the false belief that there must still be another way to come to God. To many people the cross of Christ stirs up hatred. There is an intense attack on those who call themselves Christ followers, on those who will not bow their knee to another god. We see it throughout history, stories of many courageous believers who have suffered violent persecution and death at the hands of those trying to destroy the knowledge of Christ and annihilate Christianity. We see it even today, as ISIS names their target in the midst of their evil war, as the People of the Cross.

But they do not know this one Truth – you cannot overcome the Power of the Cross and the Resurrection of Christ. You will never conquer it. You can't hide it away or pretend it doesn't exist. His Power is incapable of being shut away, ignored, forgotten, or destroyed. Ever. For he is the One who reigns supreme. He is the One who holds the final victory. He is the One who conquered sin and death. It holds no sting, no power, over those who are forever changed by his forgiveness and grace.

(continued on next page)

The cross provides a bridge, a way, to God. It gives us an opportunity to have a personal relationship with the very God who made us and loves us more than we could imagine. Without the cross, there is no way to cross over to the other side of relationship with him. Any attempt will fail. He is the Only Way. It provides opportunity for forgiveness of sin. Through the price Jesus paid on Calvary, we have the chance to be forgiven of our own sin. He took our sin and shame upon his very shoulders. He took the blows on our behalf so we wouldn't have to suffer. Such incredible love. Such amazing sacrifice.

It provides freedom to all those who believe. Freedom from the shackles of sin. Freedom from shame. Freedom from fear. Freedom from disgrace. Freedom from worry. Freedom from hopelessness. Freedom from despair. Freedom from addiction. Freedom from guilt. Freedom from darkness and eternal separation from God.

It provides new life. We are not only forgiven, cleansed, and set free, but we have a whole new life and destiny through Christ. We are changed, from the inside. He renews our minds. He changes our hearts and desires. He gives us fresh purpose for every day set before us.

It provides power for us to live today. When Jesus died on the cross, and was buried, it didn't stop there. The final picture of all that the cross provides lies in the powerful Resurrection of our Lord. He won. He didn't stay dead. He could not be closed in a tomb and forgotten through the ages. His power broke through, and that same power is alive within us today. As believers, God gives us the power of the Holy Spirit, living and moving through us each day. Sometimes we forget it's there. Often we don't ask him for a fresh filling of his Spirit breathed into our day. But he's still there, waiting to help us and to live mightily through our lives.

It provides the way to have victory over the enemy. We do not have to fear him or his assaults. As we live aware of his traps, the power of Christ over our lives gives us a covering and protection from his evil schemes. We're not left to fend for ourselves. We do not fight in our own strength. We can stand in the Mighty Name of Jesus Christ, "for in him, we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

Debbie McDaniel

When I Say… "I am a Christian"

When I Say… "I am a Christian"
I'm not shouting, "I'm saved"
I'm whispering, "I get lost!"
"That is why I chose this way."

When I Say… "I am a Christian"
I don't speak of this with pride
I'm confessing that I stumble,
And need someone to be my guide.

When I Say… "I am a Christian"
I'm not trying to be strong,
I'm professing that I'm weak,
And pray for strength to carry on.

When I Say… "I am a Christian"
I'm not bragging of success,
I'm admitting that I've failed,
And cannot ever pay the debt.

When I Say… "I am a Christian"
I'm not claiming to be perfect,
My flaws are way too visible
But God believes I'm worth it.

When I Say… "I am a Christian"
I still feel the sting of pain
I have my share of heartaches
Which is why I seek His name.

When I Say… "I am a Christian"
I do not wish to judge
For I have no authority,
I only know that I am loved!

Carol S. Wimmer

Prayer List

Jeremiah Moyers
Vicky Shuman
Randy Bradley
Scott Gordon
Lianne Showalter - Hernia Operation - Per Terry Jeffreys
Whitney Milhone per Carol McMahan
Theodore Board - Great Grandson of Ralph and Janet McNemar
Sue Buzzard
Dora Jean Gumm
Cathi Daggett - per Dora Jean Gumm
Jeffrey Taylor - Nephew of Mary Knotts
Jackie Bowker - Mother of Ken Pritchard
Austin Braden
Megan Bower - Jan Barnes
Phyllis Walters
Chester Keener
Mary Miller
Phyllis Walters
Jamey Sias - Son in Law of Rick and Cheri Brown
Betty Neal
Carl Turner

Remember the Families of:

Betty Stringer - Aunt of Mike Branch
Pat Parsons - Sister of Rick Deem
Bill Newhouse - Father of Evie Epler
Ann Benson - Aunt of Dale McMahan
Alsie Fields - Mother of Linda Fields

Long-Term Prayer List

With the Church Office being closed for most of the past 12+ months, the LT Prayer List has not been properly updated. That process has now begun but it has not yet been completed. Therefore, the current list has not been copied from the church web site to the THUSE News this month.

July Birthday & Anniversary Dates

BIRTHDAY:

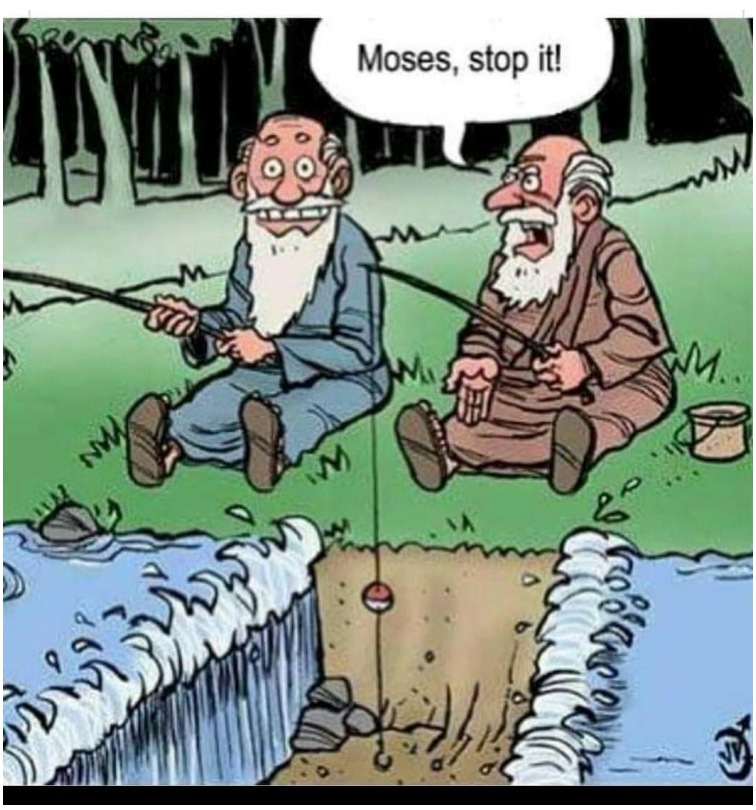
July 1st	Frank Kesterson
July 1st	Brian Pratt
July 4th	**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!!!**
July 5th	Barbara Terrell
July 6th	Lois Goodrich
July 11th	Ashley Dotson
July 17th	Nancy Goodnight
July 18th	Brianna Swiger
July 20th	Ron Liddle
July 20th	Sean Reed
July 21st	Kay Hoffman
July 21st	Nora Metz
July 24th	Mary Ann McCrady
July 24th	Christy Life
July 26th	Noah Powell
July 27th	Jim Whitlatch
July 28th	Elizabeth Bradley
July 29th	Tiffany Powell
July 30th	Lily Anderson

ANNIVERSARY:

July 1st	Frank & Carolyn Kesterson
July 8th	Mel & Cathi Wermter

Bible Quiz

This Month's Bible Quiz is about Places in the Book of ACTS… Answers can be found, or checked, in the scripture noted at the end of each question…
Good Luck!!!

1. In which city were the disciples first called Christians? (Acts 11:26)
2. What was Paul's hometown? (Acts 21:39)
3. To what city did Paul receive a vision of a man saying "Come over and help us"? (Acts 16:9)
4. Where did Paul and Silas convert their jailor? (Acts 16:12-34)
5. Where was Cornelius's home? (Acts 10:1)
6. In which city did Demetrius the silversmith oppose Paul so that the whole city was in uproar? (Acts 19:23-29)
7. In which city did Paul see the people devoted to idols? (Acts 17:15-16)
8. The island from which Barnabas came? (Acts 4:36)
9. Lydia's original home? (Acts 16:13-15)
10. What city in Achaia did Paul make tents with Aquila and Priscilla? (Acts 18:1-3)

Fishing with Moses