



The Messenger

BE JOYFUL IN HOPE, PATIENT IN AFFLICTION,
FAITHFUL IN PRAYER. ROMANS 12:12

(JUNE 2021)

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* ARTICLES NEED TO
BE SUBMITTED TO
PETE BY THE LAST
SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
- FOR THE NEXT
MONTH'S
PUBLICATION.

Carl's Comments - Reverend Carl Thompson

As we begin the month of June, I am grateful that we are moving into a new normal for our country and our congregation. On the first Sunday in June, we will have fully implemented our plans to conduct services as they were before the changes we had to make because of the pandemic. For the fully vaccinated there will no longer be a requirement for masks and social distancing. We request that all attendees that are not fully vaccinated continue to mask and social distance. As a church, we are on an honor system and hope that people would respect this request. Of course, if you are fully vaccinated but not yet ready to stop wearing a mask and social distancing, don't stop, there are plenty of seats where you can maintain distancing. Do what you are comfortable doing.



We are now singing responses and hymns again. The choir takes a summer break so Monte will be providing us with either a recorded or live choral call to worship and anthem. Several of our choir members have moved away or told Monte and me that they are no longer able physically to sing in the choir. That means that each of you have a couple months to practice your singing, so you can join the choir in the fall. Monte will need all the singers he can get as he rebuilds the choir. This is a great opportunity to use your voice to make a joyful noise for the Glory of God. Monte will make it sound beautiful.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Calendar of Events

In-Person Worship, Yoga, and Men's Prayer Breakfasts are back to normal.

Sunday Worship and Communion at 10:00

Communion is on the First Sunday/month

Men's Prayer Breakfast Tuesdays @ 8 am

Chair Yoga Tuesdays and Thursdays

June 20th - Father's Day and Start of Summer

June 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

Carl continued:

The church has gone through an interesting 14 months or so with the pandemic. I appreciate your support whether you worshiped with us in the building or, because of health concerns, through our internet service. It reminded me again that the church is not a building, it is the people that make a church. Thanks for your loyalty and commitment. Unless things get worse again, I will no longer be sending out an electronic worship service.

We have several opportunities for study over the summer. Pete will continue to lead the men's weekly prayer group/Bible study every Tuesday. The study starts at 8 but come earlier for breakfast. Pat Rehm will



Amy Carlson Recording Dad – Carl

be teaching a class starting in July. You can read about that further in this newsletter.

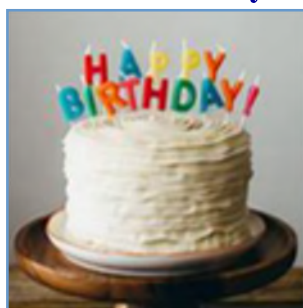
I hope you all have an opportunity to spend time with family and friends this summer. I know a lot of you have not been able to do that for over a year. I learned from my brother's quick death not to put off anything if you possibly can, because you don't know what tomorrow might bring.

Have a great summer and God bless you. *Carl*

Common Lectionary Readings (Carl will change topics at times due to quests - especially in the Summer)

	Second Sunday after Pentecost - June 6	Third Sunday after Pentecost - June 13	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost - June 20	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost - June 27
1st Reading	1 Sam 8:4-11,16-20	1 Sam 15:34-16:13	1 Sam 17:32-49	2 Sam 1:1, 17-27
Psalm	Psalm 138	Psalm 20	Psalm 9:9-20	Psalm 130
2nd Reading	2 Cor 4:13-5:1	2 Cor 5:5-10,14-17	2 Cor 6:1-13	2 Cor 8:7-15
Gospel	Mark 3:20-35	Mark 4:26-34	Mark 4:35-41	Mark 5:21-43

June Birthdays



- Letta Meinen 2
- Betty Morgan 3
- Sharon Michael 9
- Julie Goggans 11
- Bill Pinkston 22
- Ralph Castor 23
- Monte Shuck 24
- Amy Carlson 25
- Shirley Pinkston 27

About our Members (and Prayer Requests)

Julie Goggans needs our prayers. She has been admitted to the BS&W Hospital. She is having additional tests done but the results are not yet known. Please keep Julie, Jack, Joan, Chine, and all the family in your prayers.

Bobbie Dickerson's second great grandson, Roland, died last week. Prayers are needed for Steve & Kellie as they work through their grief and try to get their life back to normal.

Michelle VanWinkle (Rip and Shay's daughter) went to the BS&W ER on May 26 and then was admitted. She is enduring swelling, pain and difficulty standing. The doctors have just diagnosed the problem as an autoimmune issue. She is finally improving and will be released on June 2nd. Also, keep Sydney (granddaughter and caregiver) and the whole VanWinkle family in your prayers.

June Lubowinski now has infusion every 21 days and will not know the status of the cancer until her next brain scan. She asks for prayers during this continuing therapy process.

Monte Shuck's hernia repair was a total success last week. He will see the surgeon again June 8th and expects to be cleared for normal activities. He is thankful for the prayers.

Carol Booher had her pacemaker adjusted and it is working well. The shock worked but her legs still shakes during the night. Son-in-law, Bill Prather, may never be able to go back to work as he still has pain and is very frail. Keep Carol and Bill in your prayers.

Joe Carroll is continuing with swallowing therapy. His other therapies are going well. He still gets very fatigued with exercise but is able to recover. He is doing some walking with a walker and can sit in a wheelchair for a couple of hours. He does not usually need oxygen. The timeframe regarding his returning home is still not determined. Keep praying.

Bob Todd is continuing the every three week immunotherapy injection and doing well. He has also completed cataract surgery on both eyes and is enjoying improved eyesight.

Jeanette West will be having cataract surgery on June 6th and 21st at Baylor Scott & White in Temple as day surgery by Dr. C.G. Eshbaugh. She will be staying with her daughter, Denise Salcedo, during recovery. In her absence, Kathy Duke has agreed to play the organ. Pray for successful surgeries and no complications.

Monthly Liturgist

We need folks to sign up to be liturgist on a monthly basis. As of 5/30, we have volunteers for June, July, August and December. A signup sheet is on the table in the narthex.

Monte Shuck—Worship



Sanctuary Flowers

The Session voted to not start purchasing flowers for the sanctuary at this time. If people would like to donate flowers for a given week, they can purchase flowers directly from a florist of their choice. Please plan to pick up the flowers from the florist, then bring them yourself to the church Sunday morning. There is a signup sheet in the narthex where people can indicate they will be providing flowers for a given week. Please indicate on the sheet if the flowers are for a special occasion or in honor of someone, so Carl can recognize as such during his announcements.



Education Report

A special thank you to Shirley Pinkston for teaching our adult education lessons on Simon Peter, Flawed but Faithful Disciple. It was a great start to getting back to a more normal experience.



We will be looking forward to the fall when our lessons will take us back to the Covenant Bible Series.

We will review: “CREATING which examines how the Covenant community is created and established. LIVING which focuses on how the community lives out their Covenant in faithful love—how it’s applied to actual relationships in everyday life. And then complete the book with TRUSTING which looks at the crises that sometimes call Covenant life into question, and how we are restored to trust in God when troubling things happen.”

I would also like to mention grateful appreciation to Pete Stebbins for his leadership of the Men’s Prayer Breakfast as they continue to grown in their faith.

Thanks to Pat Rehm for once again agreeing to lead the summer Bible study. Check out her article about it in this Messenger.

Evelyn Thompson
Education Committee

Being a long-term liturgist, affords one with opportunities to read certain verses more often.... One of my favorites is this one from Psalms. It has come up several times. It brought back memories of learning the verse when I was a young child, maybe 6 or 7 years old. I cannot remember the exact time or situation it was introduced to me by my father, but it was at a time when I had been less than appropriate in my thoughts and actions about others.



It is not coincidental but more providential, perhaps more a divine intervention I have been the person reading and rereading this verse during this COVID pandemic time. I’ve often had judgmental thoughts about how we are responding and reacting to things during this pandemic. I’ve been disillusioned and disheartened about our concern for each other. I am ashamed of my concern for myself and my family and lack of compassion for the struggle’s others have faced through this difficult situation. I have pointed fingers at others instead of looking at myself. I find myself asking God more often to forgive me.... of my unkind thoughts, my selfish heart.

One of the most recent times as liturgist, I was reading this verse and it was like a “thorn in my flesh” that actually jabbed at me! It was as if God was actually saying to me: “You, Evelyn, I’m talking to you... you need to change the way you are responding to others!” It is your job to love them, love them as you love yourself. Your heart is not in the right place if you are unable to love and have compassion. All I can say after such an experience is, “Thank you, God for your love and forgiveness!” Isn’t grace and forgiveness wonderful?

If my heart is clean, I will have the right spirit within me; or if I have the right spirit within me, my heart will be clean. Either way, with God’s help, it’s what I’m working towards.

Evelyn Thompson

Summer Bible Study to Start July 1st

The 2021 Horizon Bible study, called "What My Grandmothers Taught Me." will begin at the church on Thursday, July 1st, at Noon till 1PM. Anyone is welcome to come earlier, to have lunch after the chair yoga class. Other participants are welcome to read their book at home.



(only mentioned as the "wife of Uriah"). Their Old Testament stories will lead us to **Mary**, the Mother of Jesus, and how those ancestral women played a role in her commitment to Jesus.

The author is Merryl Blair, formerly a senior lecturer in Old Testament at Stirling Theological College, which is part of the University of Divinity in Melbourne Australia. In retirement, she continues to present Bible studies at women's conferences.

There will be nine weekly lessons through Thursday, August 26th. Although the traditional genealogy of the ancestors of Jesus consists of men, Matthew's account in the New Testament includes a few women from the Old Testament. Family "ties" were extremely important in Jesus' lifetime.

These "grandmothers" include **Tamar** (wife of Jacob's son Judah, mother of Booz, and grandmother of Ruth's husband Obed), as well as **Rahab**, **Ruth**, and **Bathsheba**

This study is open to all adults in our congregation, both men and women. Past participants have enjoyed getting better acquainted, as well as gaining insight into how Scripture can relate to the modern world.

Pat Rehm - Study Leader

The Aunts



We just returned from Pennsylvania. We went to pick up my dad. He will be staying with us for about a month. I had not seen him since COVID started. He is 92 years old.

I still have four aunts living, which I think is probably unusual for someone my age. They are all in their early 90's. Three of them still live in their homes, one with family assistance, the others are self-sufficient for the most part. The last lives in an assisted living facility. My dad lives with my brother since my mom passed away.

My priority when I go to Pennsylvania, is always to get together with my aunts. Every time I go there, I think to myself that it might well be the very last time I ever see them, hug them, and tell them how very much they mean to me, and very much I love them.

I was the oldest grandchild. Most of my aunts and uncles still lived at home when I was born. It seems that I was everyone's first child. They took me on dates with them. I guess I was their chaperone. Or maybe it was just because I was so darned cute. (Not bragging, just saying). Most of my uncles were truck drivers back then. Photos of me usually included a semi-truck.

When the uncles went on a "long haul" or worked evening shift at the mines, I was elected to spend the night and keep my aunties company. I loved those overnights.

Sometimes I would stay with my Aunt Dolores. She always had a huge box of TV guides. She also had two large wooden bowls full of mixed nuts, nutcracker included. We both loved to do crossword puzzles. And we would spend every evening doing just that. She did not care how many nuts I ate or how late I stayed up. And she always scrubbed

my back when I took a bath. She had a little stool for me to stand on; and she "allowed" me to do the dishes. That worked out well for both of us until the day that I knocked her new watch off the windowsill and into the dishwasher.

Other times, I would stay with my Aunt Louanna, my mom's sister. Her husband worked in the mines at that time. Auntie and I would spend all evening making cookies, which would later go into my uncle's lunch pail. One of the things that I remember most, is that when he would come home from the mine, early in the morning, we would get out of the bed, and he would get in. For some reason I found that to be extremely amusing.

Currently, my dad, and my aunts, though they are close in age, have various levels of physical and mental capacities. A couple of them are in various stages of dementia, which is heartbreaking for me to see. But my Aunt Virginia still drives herself to church and goes dancing with her boyfriend. She has a computer and is always sending me funny jokes. I love that she is still able to still do those things.

The Bible has a lot to say about aging. Many verses can be found regarding old age. These are a couple of my favorites.

2 Corinthians 4:16: "That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day."

Psalms 73:26: "Ps 73:26 "My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever."

From a Merry Heart (**Linda Lloyd**)

