

THE MESSENGER

A Pastor's Ponderings

At the end of May, I was blessed to have the opportunity to take a vacation out West. My wife, father-in-law and I, along with a tour group, visited some of the most beautiful places in our nation. From caves, to canyons, and hoodoos, I relished the opportunity to experience some of the greatest wonders of God's creation.

In our digital world, it is so easy to lose our sense of connection with the earth. We are prone to think about ourselves as a brain that just so happens to have a body, or in a religious context as a soul imprisoned by a body. And while some of what Paul writes has led many Christians to accept a stark dualistic view of the spiritual and the physical, I would warn us about taking this idea too far. Renowned Reformed theologian Shirley Guthrie reminds us that while there is a difference between the body and the spirit, that we are not just a soul in a body, but that we are fundamentally embodied-souls.

This is to say that our bodies are indeed a part of God's good creation and though they can certainly be a source of sin, we still need to respect and care for the bodies we have been given as a part of who we are.

Being in God's extraordinary creation, helped me remember that I am of the dust of the earth just as my

forefather Adam was formed from the earth (adamah in Hebrew). I was so glad that my vacation helped me to remember that as one made from the earth, it is necessary for me to connect with the earth on a regular basis.

And I think we would all benefit from spending more time in the dirt. I hope that as you enjoy your summer, you remember to take care of your body. I hope you go out and touch some dirt. For we are both adamah and ruah (Hebrew for spirit). In caring for our body we care for our spirit and in taking care of our spirit we take care of our bodies for we are embodied souls.

As I stood at the edge of the Grand Canyon, I recovered an important perspective I had lost. I was reminded how tiny I am and how insignificant so many of my troubles and worries are. At the same time, I was reminded that I am also a carefully and beautifully made creation of God's own hand. That I too have been tenderly crafted, molded and sculpted. I pray that even if you do not have the privilege of traveling this summer, that you too remember that you (all of you, which includes your body) are wonderfully made!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Christopher J. McCloskey



Photo Credit: Mike DeMasi



Al & Sue Fedak's Thank You Celebration



Photo Credit: Walter Clark



Save the Date!

Ice Cream on the Plaza is coming August 4th after the 10:00am service. Please watch for upcoming announcements.

Outdoor Worship: Beginning on July 7th at the 8:00 AM Worship Service will be outside. The 10:00 AM Service will continue to worship in the Sanctuary. Make sure to dress accordingly and join us!



Outdoor Worship Service

July Financial Update

As of 6/25/24				
	Annual Budget	YTD Budget	Total to Date	Over/Under
Congregational Giving	\$ 227,000	\$ 113,500.00	\$ 130,256.00	Over 15%
Other income	\$ 202,240	\$ 179,779.00	\$ 121,427.00	Under 32%
Income draw from Fenimore for HVAC		\$ 250,000.00	\$250,000.00	
Total Income	\$429,240.00	\$293,279.00	\$251,683.00	Under 14%
Total Expenses	\$ 583,358.00	\$ 293,279.00	\$202,228.00	Under 31%
HVAC Project		\$300,000	\$285,550.00	Under 3%



Fresh Table Community Pop-up Pantry

There is really good news in Scotia-Glenville! On the third Wednesday of each month there will be a FREE distribution of fresh produce, meat, and dairy products. Although normally scheduled for the parking lot of the First National Bank of Scotia, from 6:00-7:30 pm, make sure to check Freshtable.org for location changes. No identification is needed - just show up and get what you need! It is called the Fresh Table Community Pop-up Pantry. Please let your neighbors that need this fresh food know about this service. The dates are the following: July 17. This is sponsored by the Regional Food Bank and volunteers in our community.

June Garage Sale

Many thanks to those who helped with the June Garage Sale. We earned approximately \$4,000!

Community Lunch Update by Mark Holley

As we celebrate Katherine Makrin's graduation from High School, we are also celebrating the community meal's six years of making meals for our community.

Katherine and her family were instrumental in keeping the meal going through Covid. They helped distribute bags of groceries and supplies when others couldn't help. I don't know what I would have done if they were not there. Katherine is a wonderful example of God's grace and love. We are blessed to have her be a part of our church. She gives us hope for the future of our country. She has had wonderful parents that have guided her through her formative years and a loving brother who is as special.

We also celebrated a memorial for David Alexander, who is a reminder of why we have the meal. He was a good man who had many challenges in his life, lived his life his way and was called home to live in God's house in March. I will always carry his memory for the rest of my life.

Backpack Program



We have exciting news to share! First the disappointing news: Sycamore Collaborative (formerly SICM) will NOT be providing free lunch in Collins Park this summer. Now to the GREAT news: Our Church will be providing free lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning Tuesday, July 2nd (no lunch on July 4th) from 12:00-1:00. While it is primarily aimed at children, anyone is welcome. Because this is a new program, not all details are confirmed, but we will need volunteers on Tuesdays. We are

partnering with the volunteer group that hosts the Fresh Table Pop-Up program on the third Wednesday of the month, organized by Justin Cook, a Scotia Village trustee. His group of volunteers will be responsible for Thursdays. In addition to the lunches, we will also provide a bag of nonperishable food for the kids to take home, through the Regional Food Bank's Summer Backpack program. Funds will be provided through our Dutch Fair and the Backpack accounts. Please talk to Linda Lewis or Laura Bull with questions and/or to volunteer. As we have often said, "It takes a village" and now we actually have the village of Scotia working with us!

Mission of the Month: Joan Nicole Prince House

The Joan Nicole Prince home provides a safe, comfortable and caring residence for people who have the fewest options and least amount of support during their final days. Over the course of one year, 15 to 20 people are expected to pass through its doors. Volunteers and staff provide care 24 hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week serving as "family" for residents of the home, which is located at 22 Glenview Drive in Scotia. The Joan Nicole Prince home works in collaboration with the Community Hospice to provide medical care for each individual. The love that fills this home is amazing and the love that has surrounded the home through the generosity of the community is awe-inspiring. Please consider supporting July's Mission of the Month.



As this article is being written, we are in the middle of our first heat wave of the summer. With hot weather like this, our thoughts turn to how to cool off quickly and for many that means swimming. Here are some safety measures to keep you and your loved ones safer as you enjoy water sports:

- **Choose bright colors for swimwear.** Neon pink and neon orange offer the most visibility in light-bottomed pools. For lakes and dark-bottom pools, neon green, neon orange and neon yellow are the most visible.
- **Make sure children are familiar with the water.** By age 1, children can begin water safety training to get them used to the water and to build a foundation for water skills.
- **Start swim lessons at an appropriate age.** By age 4, most children are ready for swimming lessons.
- **If appropriate and permitted, use Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices** on children anytime they're participating in open water recreational activities. Be sure the devices are sized and properly fastened correctly.
- **Teach children that lifeguards are there to help.** It is important they follow their instructions. Remain vigilant even if a lifeguard is on duty and swim in their vicinity.
- **Consider learning CPR.** In an emergency, every second counts.
- **Never let children swim unattended.** If you're swimming with young children or weak swimmers, stay in the water with them and always offer "touch supervision."
- **Designate a "water watcher" for older children.** This person shouldn't be using a phone, reading, or doing anything but observing the water **constantly**.
- **Be aware of depth changes where weaker swimmers may get into trouble.** Small children may wander into deeper water following a sibling or friend.
- **Talk to your child about the importance of staying out of the water unless an adult is there to supervise.** Drowning happens even when children are not expected to be near water, such as when they gain unsupervised access to pools, or even get into retention ponds or culverts. If you have a pool at home, do not leave toys floating in the water or near the edge of the pool. Ensure the gates are always locked.

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Summer Bingo - Want to have some fun while building your faith this summer? Let's play some BINGO! The object is to see if your household can get a BINGO before the summer ends. Want a bigger challenge? Can you fill the whole card? Follow the directions in each box to X that box out. The card and links are also posted on the FRCS website. If you get a BINGO let Miss Diana know and your name will go into a drawing for a special prize in September.

B	I	N	G	O
BELIEVE	INTENTIONAL	NO SCREENS	GO SERVE	OFFER
Choose a verse(s) from the Bible for your household to memorize throughout the summer	Guided Meditation: Food Insecurity Watch and Listen to this link: Food insecurity meditation	Go to the link below and play Table Topics without using technology. Table Topics link	Volunteer at the Sycamore collaborative (formerly SICM)	Offer kindness to someone who is having a rough time
Read Psalm 100 then write down 3 things you are thankful for	Guided Meditation: Peacefulness - Watch and Listen to this link: Peacefulness meditation	No Tech Family Scavenger Hunt - Here's a link for ideas. Family Scavenger Hunt	Bring toilet paper(individually wrapped) to FRCS Community Cupboard	Offer your reading skills to a child or an elderly person who is struggling to see(perhaps at a nursing home)
Read Mark 6:30-56 - Show compassion by creating a card and sending it to someone who needs some compassion	Take a 30 minute summer sabbath - here's a link for ideas: Sabbath ideas	Mindful Nature Walk - Click this link to find suggestions: Mindful walk ideas	Donate peanut butter sandwich crackers, snack chips/pretzels or water to Over the Bridge ministry here at church	Offer a meal or snack to someone in the church that you don't know very well and would like to learn more about them
Read John 6:1-21 - This miracle shows God's love; Write down 2 ways you can show God's love	Pray Daily - anytime, anywhere - here is a link with some ways to pray: prayer ideas	On a clear night sit under the stars and marvel at God's universe. Thank God for his creation	Donate food to a food pantry near your house	Offer a homemade treat, card or flower to someone who is in need of encouragement
As a household, choose 1 fruit of the spirit you want to grow in this summer and go head first into it: read books, make a list of ways to practice it, point it out in others!	Begin EVERY day by greeting God and end EVERY day by thanking God	Have a game night with Family, Friends or neighbors; no tech allowed!	Volunteer at the regional food bank	Offer to help someone with free yard work or housework

BECOME A MENTOR

Walking together in one-on-one mentoring relationships



OUR LOCAL SCHOOL WANTS US

All children need healthy, consistent relationships with adults who are committed to helping them grow, develop, and thrive. Our local public elementary school has asked us to come alongside parents, teachers, and others to invest in their students through one-on-one mentoring relationships. To love them as Christ loves us.

Will you serve our neighborhood school by mentoring a student?

KIDS HOPE USA EQUIPS US

Kids Hope USA is a national organization that equips partner churches like ours to send volunteer mentors into the local school. There, each mentor is matched with one student and commits to being another consistent, supportive, encouraging adult in their life.

Just as God shows up in the person of Jesus and loves us unconditionally, mentoring a student one-on-one allows us to share unconditional love with a child in need of support.



HOW IT WORKS

As a Kids Hope USA trained mentor, you'll spend one hour each week during the school day with a student—playing games, coloring, reading books, and talking. While you may complete some basic academic work, the focus of this time together is on building a meaningful relationship. You'll receive training and be matched with a behind-the-scenes prayer partner who will pray for you and your student.



GET INVOLVED

We are committed to serving the students, staff, and families at our partner school. Together, we can make a difference.

Visit kidshopeusa.org/volunteer or contact our church's Kids Hope USA program director for more information and sign up to be a mentor today!



July Anniversaries:

Allison and Michael Atchley 2
 Chris & Amy Grumbling 2
 Randy & Cheryl MacNeil 8
 Bob & Sunny Baldwin 10
 Lou & Stephanie Crisci 11
 Bill & Martha Eberle 11
 Richard & Terri Doyle 20
 David & Lorraine Gonyea 20
 David & Karen Wentworth 25
 David & Joyce Murray 28
 Diury Alvarado & Joe Carosella 29
 Rick & Jessica Crisci 30

July Birthdays:

Don Bekkering 1
 Paul Munson IV 3
 Leo Crisci 5
 Doug Bartling 8
 Jack Arnold 10
 Peter Lewis 11
 Amanda Zenner 14
 Sheryl Pelkey 17
 Lonnie Hojnacki 18
 Jessica Bodden 22
 Emma Willcox 24
 Benjamin Graber 27
 Daniel Hoffman 30

Julie DeBrita 1
 Marcia Davis 4
 Liesl Falcon 6
 Tom Falcon 8
 Mary Jane Crowley 10
 Lou Crisci 13
 Wendy Carpenter 15
 Belle Warfield 17
 Edward Rosenberg II 18
 Keith Makrin 22
 Brian Westervelt 25
 Christina Stryjek 29

Dave Schaefer 2
 Christopher McCloskey 4
 Bill Monaghan 7
 Marty Gilgore 8
 Barbara King 11
 Savannah Willoughby 14
 Tony Crisci 15
 Jill Busman 18
 Bill Faulkner 21
 Jerry Haldeman 23
 Laurel-Le Lipski 26
 Claire Beauchemin 29

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