

Faith's Happenings...

July, 2021

Happy Birthday

Carl Despreaux	4th
Barb Sturrock	6th
Bernita Bulwan	7th
Jean Matz	8th
Margaret Murphy	12th
Jonathan Armen	22nd
Marilyn Reynolds	24th
Debbie Porter	29th
Jack Fitzgerald	30th

Happy Anniversary

Jim & Autumn Hardenstine	1st
Les & Cathie VanAllsburg	8th
Gary & Jennifer Boehler	19th
Harold & Linda Schultz	22nd
Bill & Sara Speth	25th
John & Laura Kohler	28th

If we missed your name/date, we're sorry.
Please notify Barb in the church office
to have your special dates added.

July at a Glance

Mark your calendars now!
Independence Day: July 4
Men of Faith Breakfast: July 6
Fellowship time: July 18



Independence Day
July 4th

**Have a very safe and
happy Fourth of July!**

Stephen Ministry in Our Congregation

Could you benefit from the confidential, one-to-one care and support of a Stephen Minister? Call (941) 681-0297.

Long Term Prayer Update

This prayer list is for those who need continued, long-term prayer. We try to keep the weekly prayer list short, so people named may be moved to the newsletter after a few weeks in the bulletin. If you want to add someone to this list, contact Barbra in the church office (697-3313).

Please keep these folks in your prayers on a regular basis: Ralph Crites, Sarah, Hester and Carter Newton, Joanne Best, Kathy Kanak, Greg Schultz, Scott Schultz, Sandy Honeycutt, Larry Bennett, John Schleede, Barb Neilson, Bob Ash, Jack Myers

Men's Breakfast

Men, we invite you to join us for our monthly breakfast at Stefano's restaurant. We will meet at 7:30 am on Tuesday, July 6th. Please join us!

Ways to Give

(from your Stewardship Committee)

Monetary contributions are the most common means of supporting the work of the church. Gifts by cash or check are received by the congregation, and you, as the donor, receive a statement of contributions for your records.

Electronic Giving

To contribute to support God's work, you may visit our web page <https://alivingfaith.org> and use the "Give" button.

Did You Know?

Did you know the church has a wheelchair and some walkers available if you have a need. Contact Barbra in the church office (697-3313) for details.

Chancel Flowers

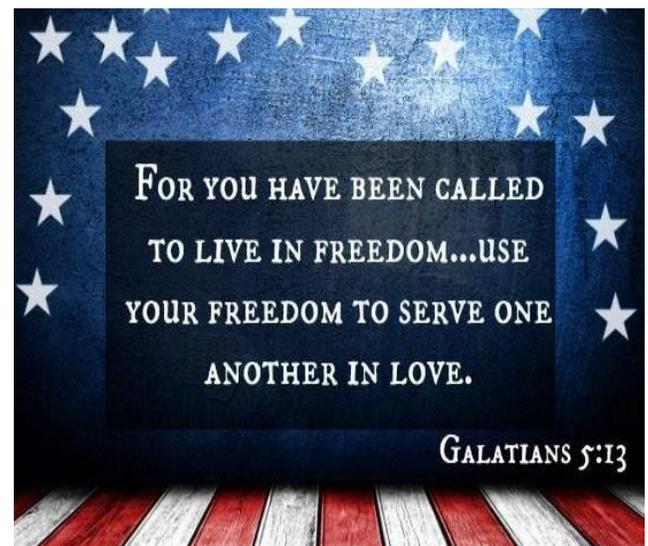
You may sign up on the flower chart in the narthex to sponsor flowers for various occasions or in memory of someone. We ask that you pay for them at the time you sign up. Cost is \$20.00 per arrangement, and you should use the envelopes provided. You may take them home after the last service of the day, or leave them and we will deliver them to someone special.

Are You Ready to Travel Again?

We need 2 voting members (1 man and 1 woman) to represent Faith at the annual Synod Assembly this fall. This year the assembly will be held in Kissimmee, FL, on September 17-19 (Friday through Sunday). If you are interested in volunteering, see Jay Fisher or Pastor Armen, or email the church office (office@alivingfaith.org).

The Eternal Candle

The eternal candle burns continuously in the sanctuary to remind us that Christ is always with us. You may sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex to sponsor a candle on a specific week, in memory or celebration of someone. Cost is \$5.00. Use the same envelope as you would for flowers.





But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1.8 (NIV)

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus sends the disciples out two by two on a mission to bring healing to broken lives. In the opening verses of Acts, the scope of the disciples' mission broadens from Judea to Samaria and the ends of the earth.

Our mission today has not changed: to take what we have received, the healing power of God's presence in our lives, and bring it to the world. The challenge is, how do we do this?

The Kiwanis mission statement is: Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.

The answer to the question of how we do God's work, and make God's presence in our lives real for our world, is as simple as it is complex. We do it like the Kiwanis mission statement; one person and one community at a time. It is only by working together as the body of Christ, in our local community, that we can develop the network to reach out globally. The season of Pentecost puts before us the historic events of the early church's growth, and invites us to reflect on how God's kingdom continues to grow because God is at work in and through us.

This week we will celebrate our nation's founding. As I reflect on the social, racial and gender issues that have been raised over the past year and a half, I wonder if we have lost one of the seminal points of our nation's founding. The final phrase of our "Pledge of Allegiance" is "with liberty and justice for all." Liberty and justice are two founding principles of our nation which undergird our ability to gather and live out our religious faith.

Our first allegiance is to God our creator, Jesus who gave his life for us, and the power of the Holy Spirit for living in faith (and living out our faith). However, as we go about our national day of celebration, I think we do well to give thanks for God's blessings, pray for our nation, and work to see that ALL have the opportunity to experience liberty and justice. We do this as we live out the love and grace of God, which continues to bring healing to broken lives and nations.

Pastor Brian

