

Newsletter for August 2021

Dear Church Family and Friends,

Q. On the first day of school, what did the teacher say her three favorite words were?

A: June, July & August.

Q. Is today really August? Or are Julying to me?

Q: Don't June know it's August?

A: I can't December.

Wow! Don't those jokes make you miss the Holy Humor that Milo and Mason Kroll used to bless us with during the pandemic filming for Sundays? We still get some unforeseen Holy Humor during worship like we did the first Sunday in July when we had Communion. The servers are to wear gloves to keep things sanitary. Judy Erickson made the mistake of using hand sanitizer first and her glove got stuck to her fingers in all the wrong order. She never did get that glove on right. Even when she tried blowing it up. All this was going on while I had started the communion liturgy. It was all I could do not to burst out in laughter. Somehow, communion got served and we learned a valuable lesson. No hand sanitizer before putting on gloves!!!!!! Unless you want more Holy Humor.

Something inspiring that I just read was on page 33 of the July 23rd Hometown Focus. It was an article by church member Carol Umhauer as she told the story of getting two cochlear implants that have changed her hearing and her life. One of the things she said was they can't turn them fully on right at first. They have to increase the volume gradually because it takes time and dedication for the brain to learn to hear again. If the implants were turned fully on right at first, it would be too much for the brain to process. So gradually, Carol returns to Mayo Clinic to have her implants turned up as her brain has time to process things. It was fascinating to read about her journey.

What she said also made me think of our own lives of faith. Faith is usually a gradual process and we increase in faith over a period of time. It is as if God gives us just enough for our hearts and brains to process. When we are ready, God gives us a bump in understanding, just when we need it most. When it comes to realizing our blessings, or seeing the miracles around us, God does not dump the whole load on us at once.....even if we think we are ready and need it all right now. He goes on our faith journey with us and helps us along the way until we are ready to see, know and understand. God is so good. God's grace is amazing!

Blessings to you from your pastor,

Rev. Kate Stangl

P.S. I will be taking some vacation time **August 12 through September 1**. Below is who will be preaching during my absence.

Sunday, August 15 – Frank Davis

Sunday, August 22 – Bill Ewens

Sunday, August 29 – hymn sing, special readings

Happy August Birthdays

1 – Keith Maki 16 – Kathy Jacklen
4 – Alyssa Erickson 17 – Frank Del Greco
4 – Kyle McKenna 19 – Sharon Rowbottom
5 – Tom Schmucker 22 – Nancy Engel
7 – Judy Erickson 22 – Donald Walker
9 – Jackie Anderson 31 – Kylie Hadrava

Session Highlights

- Craig Mason and Dawn Trexel will form an Earth Care Team and submit an application for us to become certified by PCUSA as a certified Earth Care Congregation.
- An annual donation was made to Congregations Caring for the Earth.
- Pastor Kate's contract ends this November. She plans to stay through the holidays and is considering staying beyond that as well.
- Session did not meet in July but will meet again on August 16.

In Memory

Sympathies to Jack McKillop on the passing of his companion, Peggy Dodge, on June 13 in Houston, TX.

Worship Leaders

We are needing worship leaders for fall. Please contact the office if you are willing to sign up for a Sunday.

Little Free Pantry

Since there is a lot of demand for food from our Little Free Pantry, we are always welcoming more donations. The Deacons would like to encourage everyone to bring a food item to put in the pantry when they come to church on Sundays.

Direct Deposit Contributions

If you would like to start making monthly contributions by direct deposit from your bank account, contact Dawn in the office for a form that you will need to fill out.

Stewardship. Community. Hope.

Experience the story of community leaders in rural America who are tackling the most pressing issue of our time and giving new life to their towns.

Join a screening and discussion of:



Tuesday, August 10
Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Hosted by Hope Community Presbyterian Church
Fifth Avenue, Virginia, MN
Fellowship Hall

Sponsored by:

Iron Range Congregations Caring for the Earth
And Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light

Where can East & West, Republicans & Democrats, find the common ground needed to address climate change? How can industry and environmentalists work hand in hand? And how can local economies find opportunity in a lower emissions future?

OTHER SIDE OF THE HILL explores the impacts of a changing climate in rural Eastern Oregon - as seen through the eyes of local leaders on the ground. From innovative timber operations to large scale solar, our film amplifies the voices of rural communities often left unheard, and shines a light on stories of progress and hope. In a time of perceived cultural divide between rural and urban, left and right, young and old, we discover common ground in an urgency to address a changing landscape.

HOPE COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
& YOUTH NEWS



AUGUST 2021

**Children's
Sunday School**

Children's Sunday School is scheduled to begin September 12. This year we will continue to look at some of the best-loved Bible stories, including the Moses and the Burning Bush, the Joshua and the Walls of Jericho, and Jesus turning Water to Wine to name a few. Each lesson will take two weeks to complete. This will give us time with each story to play with it more and not rush through. As in previous years, we will be starting in church and leaving for Sunday School after the Time with Young Disciples. We are always looking for volunteers to help make Sunday School possible for Hope's Kids, so let us know if you'd like to help out leading a lesson or two this year.

The first lesson will be on Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden, but more on that in next month's newsletter!

Birthday Corner

Kylie Hadrava - August 31



Fall BBQ

There will be no Fall Back to Church/
Sunday School BBQ this year



Sunday School Scramble

How many of these classic Sunday School songs can you figure out?

HTSI ILTLE GHLTI FO MNEI

OAJCB'S RDLDAE

JSSEU VOSEL EM

CEPAE LIKE A VREIR

IVGE ME IOL NI MY PMLA

I'EV TGO HET YJO OYJ JYO OWND NI YM ATREH

ERHFAT HRAAAMB

Confirmation Class



We will be starting a Confirmation class this fall. Anyone who would like to join in should contact Kate or call the church 741-7336



Christian Education Calendar

A Memory Verse for each week in August - look them up



Sunday Aug. 1	Sunday Aug. 8	Sunday Aug. 15	Sunday Aug. 22	Sunday Aug. 29	Sunday Sept. 5
Genesis 1:1	Isaiah 43:5	2 Corinthians 5:7	1 Thessalonians 5:16	1 Corinthians 10:31	Matthew 22:39