

THE CALLER

A NEWSLETTER FOR FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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The Reverend Gary Dimovitz, Pastor

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July 1 - August 31, 2024
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PASTORS CORNER

Hello First UMC Family,

So summer is here and holy smokes has it been a hot one so far. As I look out my office window I see an entire neighborhood of brown grass. I was walking down to the sign in the front of the church to post about vacation bible school and the grass was crunching under my feet. Let's pray for some rain so that the thirsty grass can know life again.

As I walked through the thirsty grass, I was reminded of the thirsty rich man in *Luke 16:19-24*. Jesus said, "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

The text indicates that the rich man went to Hell when he died. But Lazarus, the beggar went to Heaven. And what is important to notice is that Lazarus was outside the rich man's gate and yet the rich man did not help. His selfishness and greed earn his reward in Hell. Later the rich man begged to have Lazarus give him a drop of water from his finger. But there was no reprieve from his thirst in hell.

As we look at these texts, we need to be reminded that whether we go to Heaven or Hell is entirely up to Jesus. But even though it is solely Jesus' decision, our actions matter. The rich man made his choices here on earth and he ended up dead and thirsty. And we should not be so foolish as to think that we are exempt from the same fate.

Let the dead, thirsty grass in our neighborhoods serve as a reminder to obey our God. The Lord brings the rain that gives life to the grass. Just as the Lord brings the believer an everlasting well of living water. Follow the Lord because our actions matter...

Sincerely,
Rev. Gary Dimovitz

VBS 2024

This year's theme is Camp Firelight and the memory verse is from Psalm 56:3 "Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you".

Our VBS will be on Friday, July 26th from 6:30-8pm, Saturday, July 27th from 6:30-8pm, Sunday, July 28th during the Sunday service. We will conclude the weekend with a free luncheon following the service on Sunday. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of Fellowship Hall to sign up to bring sides, beverages and desserts to the luncheon. A huge thank you to the Lester Bahrt Food Pantry which will be providing hot dogs and rolls for the luncheon.

On Sunday, July 21st we need volunteers to help us decorate Fellowship Hall after the service for our VBS adventure. If you can spare some time that day, we would really appreciate your help. We will also have a potluck lunch on that day. A sign-up sheet will be in the back of Fellowship Hall for the potluck.

****SPECIAL REQUEST:** We would like to make the Fellowship Hall look like the forest, so if you would be willing to allow us to borrow your Christmas tree for the weekend, please bring it to Fellowship Hall on Sunday, 7/21. Thank you!!**

Please note that if you attended our planning meeting and have agreed to volunteer during VBS, please make sure your child abuse clearances are up to date in the church office.

We are so excited for another summer weekend of VBS and we want to thank each and every one of you who help to make this happen. We could not do it without you!



REFLECTION VERSE

2 Peter 3:7-11

By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. ⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.^[a] ¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives.

JULY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

TO:

1 Jason Lere
3 Maggie Leffler
5 Barbara Swenson
8 Susan Swida
10 Richard Spickler
11 Dawn Miller
12 Ronald Wilhelm
13 Willow Blakley Yeager
16 Avaline Pearl Capelli
18 Betty Oates
19 Joann Williams
20 Cheryl Messer
21 Trevor Schadler
22 Jeanette Vanhandel
23 Rebecca Slack
23 Monica Wilhelm
24 Abigail Allen
25 Leonard Nikoden
26 Elizabeth Leffler

JULY ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRANTS ARE:

5 Jon & Lauren Logan
7 Leo & Karen Herrmann
17 Bill & Joyce Dickinson
25 Ryan & Allison Harrison
28 Alex & Ashley Teate

AUGUST BIRTHDAY

GREETINGS TO:

5 Joan McGhee
6 Joseph Krushnowski
7 Jason Balasco
8 Greyson George Shapiro
8 Michael Cuputo
9 Trisha Gilfoy
10 Giuliana DiCarlantonio
10 Lorraine Ankenbrand
11 Isabella Chesko
27 Karen Herrmann
27 Ashley Teate
31 Joseph Wilhelm

AUGUST ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRANTS ARE:

14 Matthew & Christy Wilhelm
18 Keith & Audrey Cavanagh