



The Messenger
Nelson Memorial United Methodist Church
407 East Spring Street, Boonville, MO 65233
July 2022



Freedom –

“I am free to do anything,” you say – but not everything is beneficial. “I am free to do anything” – but not everything is constructive. No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. 1 Corinthians 10:23-24.

In just a couple of days we will gather with friends and family, neighbors and strangers, and collectively celebrate our nation’s freedom. Our celebrations will be varied – some will gather around a BBQ grill, others around a camp site, others still on their deck or the deck of their boat. Some will celebrate with a variety of adult beverages, others with explosives, others still with patriotic music and red, white and blue clothing. No matter the manner in which we celebrate, we all are celebrating the same thing – freedom.

But, freedom can be a double-edged sword. We know this all too well. One of the things we, as Americans, celebrate nearly unanimously is our freedom of speech. Yet there are times when this right is abused by some– people and organizations using the Constitution’s freedom of speech to spread hate and discord rather than hope and unity. Freedoms can both be used for good and abused for evil purposes.

In his letter to the church at Corinth, Paul addressed the abuse of freedom. The new followers of Christ in Corinth were facing some pretty big challenges. One challenge was Christians flaunting their freedom from the Jewish law. The book of Leviticus lists over 600 laws Jews were supposed to adhere to. But, Paul wrote that Christ’s death and resurrection established a new law, and that Christians “a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.” (Galatians 2:16) However, while the Corinthian believers were freed by the blood of Christ from the 600 plus Levitical laws, the manner in which they expressed this freedom was causing damage to the name of Christ. In response, Paul encouraged these followers to consider the effects the exercise of their freedom might have on the faith development of others. Would their practice of freedom be beneficial and constructive to the name and witness of Jesus, or would it be exercising freedom for the sake of exercising freedom – just because we can?

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, understood this struggle as well. His number one rule in following Christ was to “Do No Harm.” In the exercise of our freedoms, be it our freedoms as believers or as citizens of a particular nation, we need to consider if we will do good or cause harm. If exercising our freedoms will cause harm, we must consider expressing that freedom in a different way.

Paul instructs us that: “...whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God – even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved. Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1).

My encouragement to you this week, as we celebrate our freedoms, is to remember the true source of those freedoms and to seek to celebrate in way that honors the message of Christ.

Blessings, Chris



Typically, in this space each month a different member of our Church Administrative Board shares a little about their work, their desires, and why they serve. This month, in lieu of that, I thought I'd share a couple of highlights with you from the 2022 Missouri Annual Conference session held in June. Linda Gordon did a wonderful job sharing some of the highlights from our speakers, so I thought I'd mostly stick to some of the business we addressed.

This year we celebrated the return of in-person Annual Conference, and it was nice to be back together with colleagues, friends, mentors, and inspiring leaders. Among the work we undertook was the reduction of the number of districts our Conference is divided into, from nine to five (and yes, there were Dolly Parton references made). We will now be in the North-Central District. Rev. Dr. Mi-Hyeon Lee will continue to serve as our District Superintendent and her office will remain in Columbia. The North Central District consists of over 150 churches (please hold our DS in your prayers as she adjusts to having twice the number of churches under her care).

We also heard updates about the state of the United Methodist Church in Missouri. We voted to approve the closure of 10 churches, the disaffiliation of 11, and celebrated the launch of 4 new churches. We celebrated the retirement of 40 clergy and welcomed in new clergy members into full membership, provisional membership, and celebrated those exploring their call to ministry. Other business included approving a budget for the Annual Conference with an overall 5% reduction, thus not increasing the apportionment expense for local churches.

The theme for the gathering was "Greater Things," referring to Jesus's words in John 14:12 when he says: "Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do *even greater things* than these, because I am going to my Father." Speakers throughout the weekend discussed the idea of us being able to, with the power of the Holy Spirit, do even greater things than what Jesus himself accomplished. While this seems like a strange idea, it is the promise Jesus himself gives us. I came home from Conference excited about the *greater things* we are going to do this year for the Boonville Community and Kingdom of God through the power of the Holy Spirit!

Blessings, Chris

Entering the Church Triumphant



Iris Scott Campbell, entered the Church Triumphant on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at her residence. A memorial service was held on Monday, June 27th at 10:00 am at Nelson Memorial, UMC. Please continue to hold her son Scott and his family in your prayers.

Ice Cream Freeze Off!



The annual Ice Cream Freeze Off contest will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 4:00 o'clock, on Sunday, July 31st. This year's activity will be no different, with lots of exotic flavored home-made ice cream. All entries (everyone is encouraged to enter) are asked to have their ice cream at the church by 3:45 for judging. Please contact Elvin Farquhar and give him the flavor of your entry. Winners will receive \$25.00 for 1st place, \$15 for 2nd place, and \$10.00 for 3rd place. We hope to see you there!

Homebound and Nursing Home Friends



Please let the homebound and nursing home friends know you're thinking about them with a card. Not just on Christmas or Easter but throughout the year. We know all the recipients will experience a special day blessing them, because of the thoughtfulness of all those who sent them cards. There is an updated list on the table in back of the sanctuary. Thank you for remembering these special members of our church family.



Youth Group News

- Friday, July 1 at 7:00 pm – Youth Group at Midway Golf and Games in Columbia
- Sunday, July 24, at 6:30 pm – Youth Group at the Jackson's home

Vacation Bible School News



It's not too late to let us share our love for the Lord with your kiddos! Through fun activities, engaging lessons, crafts, and God's Word, we'll help kids understand how they can share God's love with the people around them. His love has a strong ripple effect that can change the world. July 6-July 8th, 9:00 am to 11:30 am. There are sign-up sheets located throughout the sanctuary. You can also sign-up on line, too!

Join Us in Missions



As part of the Vacation Bible School experience, our children will be participating in a shoe drive through Soles4Souls. We are inviting the congregation to help us collect gently worn or new shoes to donate. Let's work together to shine our love for Jesus out of the walls of this church and into the lives of those in need. God can turn our blessings into someone else's miracle. There are several collection boxes throughout the sanctuary.



Dear Lord, help me to live my life in a way that glorifies you, Lord. Give me the strength to be a blessing in someone's life today, and grant me the opportunity to lead others into the freedom that can be found in knowing Jesus Christ. In your name, I pray. Amen.

July Birthdays.....

1 Lauren Huff
 2 Gary Francis, Linda Phillips, Bentley Fehling
 3 Haley Homan
 5 Patsy Meyer
 6 Lucy Wooldridge
 7 Karma Haller, Ashley Belstle
 9 Bonnie Riley
 12 Luke Haller, Tom Wood
 13 Melissa Baker, Richard Bell IV, Marilyn Gann
 14 Elena Johnson

16 Norm Richert
 18 Daylynn Baker, Bruce Davis
 19 Greg Gettings, Dorothy Whitten
 20 Cathy Schnell
 21 David Simmons, Kylie McCreery
 22 Jerrod Riley
 23 Bonne Fehling
 24 Heather Neff
 25 Diedra McGruder
 28 Kim Phelps, Aaron VonEngeln
 29 Helen Taylor

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:00 pm – Al Anon Meeting, F.H. 7:00 P.M. Youth Group @ Midway Golf and Games in Columbia	2
3	4 Office Closed (Independence Day Observed)	5 7:00 pm - Congregational Care Team Meeting, Lounge	6 9:00 am – 11:30 am VBS 12:00 Noon - Al Anon Meeting, F.H.	7 9:00 am – 11:30 am VBS	8 9:00 am – 11:30 am VBS 8:00 pm – Al Anon Meeting, F.H.	9 8:30 UMM Meeting
10	11 9:00 am TOPS 8:00 pm – Al Anon Meeting, F.H.	12 6:30 pm NAMI Pastor Chris Continued Education July 12 – July 14	13 10:15 am - Women’s Bible Study 12:00 Noon - Al Anon Meeting, F.H.	14 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm - Baby Grace Size and Sort	15 8:00 pm - Al Anon Meeting, F.H.	16 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, 4-H, F.H.
17	18 9:00 am TOPS 8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, F.H.	19	20 10:15 am - Women’s Bible Study 12:00 Noon - Al Anon Meeting, F.H.	21 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Baby Grace Distribution	22 8:00 pm - Al Anon Meeting, F.H.	23 Pastor Chris on vacation thru July 31st
24 6:30 pm – Youth Group @ the Jackson’s Home	25 9:00 am TOPS 8:00 pm - Al Anon Meeting, F.H.	26	27 12:00 Noon - Al Anon Meeting, F.H.	28	29 8:00 pm - Al Anon Meeting, F.H.	30
31 4:00 pm - Ice Cream Freeze-Off, F.H.						