



## *The JULY Leaven 2023*

Dear Friends,

There's a great line in Psalm 139 – it's verse 18b “I come to the end – I am still with you.” The Psalmist is reflecting on his life with God and that even at the end, the Psalmist is still with God – and God with the Psalmist.

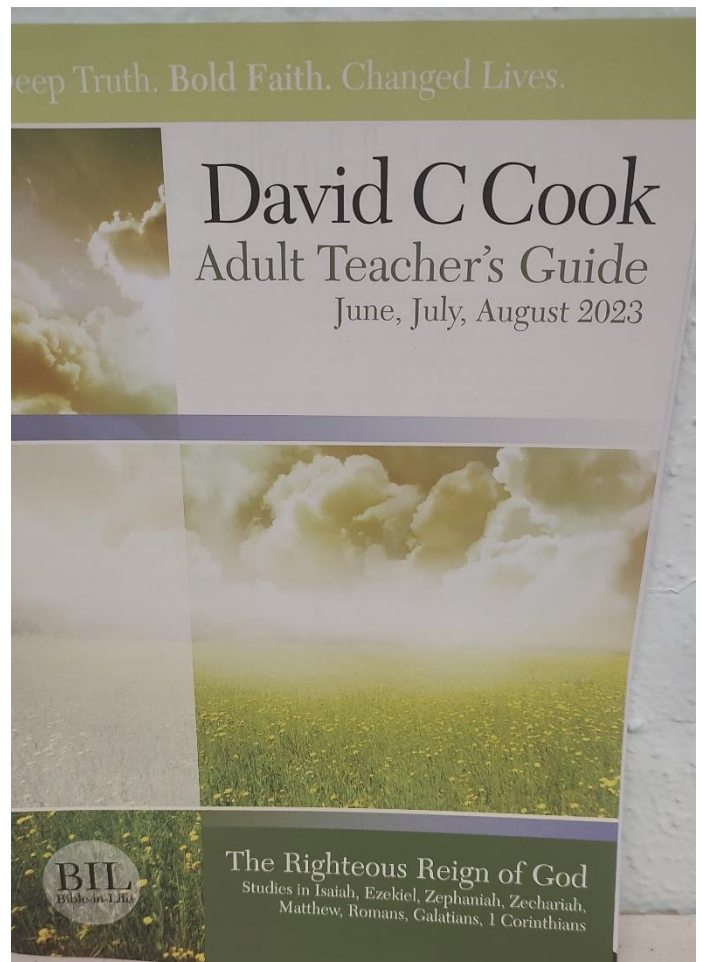
We are now at the end of a journey. And it has been a lovely, blessed journey for me. I thank you so very much for the honor and privilege – and blessing - of serving with you in ministry. You are still with God,

God is still with you, and God is still with me – and so we travel on.

You are in good hands. Your Session and Deacons are both wonderful groups who work hard in mission and ministry. The PNC is led by the Holy Spirit with prayers of trust that God is leading your next pastor to you. In the meantime (and at press time) the Session is in the final stages of approving a “bridge pastor” to begin work with you on July 18. A bridge pastor does exactly what the name implies – this person pastors during the gap between an interim leaving and the permanent pastor arriving, or between a permanent pastor leaving and an interim arriving. This bridge pastor will work ¼ time and will do the basic pastoral ministry – preaching, moderating session, emergency pastoral care. You will be in good hands – and God will bring to completion a good work in you. Peace – Krista

### **ADULT STUDY STARTING SUNDAY, JULY 2**

There will continue to be an Adult Study at 9:00am on Sunday morning beginning July 2. This Adult Study will be a group gathering with David C. Cook curriculum. The theme is “The Righteous Reign of God.” Study books are available.



# July 16<sup>th</sup>-Krista's Last Day

Come join us on July 16 as we say goodbye to Krista and hello to the high school students from Omihachiman, Japan. There will be a potluck supper after worship.

June 16– Potluck

**Guests from Japan This is Krista's last day**

**A-C-** Dessert    **D-M-** Main Dish

**N-Z** – Salads, Sides, and/or Bread

## UPDATE FROM YOUR PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

As we have reported previously, the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) submitted the Church's Ministry Information Form (MIF) to the Presbyterian Church Leadership Connection (CLC) earlier this year. The MIF is the "resume" and information report for our church. The CLC is the system that facilitates electronic matching between the MIF and the Pastor Information Forms (PIFs). PIFs are resumes of searching pastors. (So many abbreviations!!) Since that time, we have been working to generate matches through the CLC, connecting with various related organizations (seminaries, etc.) and reviewing any PIFs we receive.

We have received about 40 electronic matches and a few responses directly from candidates. Upon review, the PNC has eliminated many of the responses as it quickly becomes clear the candidate would not fit our congregation. We have responded to many of the candidates and asked the candidate to review our MIF, website, etc. to see if they might be interested in an interview. In most of those cases, we have received no response. Some responded that they are not interested. The PNC has interviewed two candidates. Officially, both of those candidates are still, in fact, candidates. However, one of the two has said he is likely to find a church near his extended family (east coast). The PNC is continuing to evaluate the other candidate.

As expected, and as we were prepared by the Presbytery, there are lots of opportunities for pastors. There are many churches seeking pastors. The PNC continues to seek ways to reach qualified pastors. However, the process has been slow and is essentially a waiting game for the right opportunity. Please be assured we understand the congregation is ready for their next pastor and we are working to fulfill the call.

As a side note: The PNC worked with an external Leavenworth-based business to develop a new website for the church. The new site went "live" in May at our same web address

– [www.fpc-lvks.org](http://www.fpc-lvks.org).

PNC: Carol Beall, Pam Crume, Chris Flynn, Cindy Scircle and Rodney Schwatken

## PWC

"Here comes the Bible study"

It's time for a toast! Presbyterian Women, good news! The 2023–2024 PW/**Horizons** Bible study, **Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus in Luke-Acts** by Olive Mahabir. Please sign up on the bulletin board to order your book.



## **DEPAUL LEAVENWORTH ATTAINABLE HOUSING HOMELESSNESS HAS NO PLACE**

Friday, June 23 at the United Methodist Church had a sleepout starting Friday at 6:00 p.m. to Saturday at 6:00 a.m. Breakfast was served at FPC. Raised \$15, 000, but Carolyn Tillotson and Dody Marsh didn't get much sleep!!



## **CODY CHORALIERS**

Everyone enjoyed hearing Cody Choraliers perform at worship on June 25.



## MISSION NEWS

“The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Community Baby Shower” will be August 5 from 9-11 see more details below. Mission Committee will represent our congregation to distribute your donated diapers. If you haven't donated yet, it's not too late (end of July) smaller diapers would be appreciated. Crafters have donated several baby afghans.

LEAVENWORTH COUNTY BREASTFEEDING  
COALITION PRESENTS:

# ANNUAL COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

AUG 05 2023	ANTHONY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 570 EVERGREEN ST. LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048	FROM 9-11 AM
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ALL EXPECTANT MOTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITY ARE  
WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR A BABY SHOWER.

## Matthew 25

You will be asked if the congregation wants to take the action to become a Matthew 25 congregation at our next congregational meeting later this summer.

The Presbytery meeting had as the key note speaker the author Dr. Andrew Root, followed by Rev Dr. Rodger Nishioka. I felt this was the best definition of Matthew 25 Congregational Revitalization that I have ever seen or read. If you only listen to one - [Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka's Keynote Speech](#) is the one. It was an amazing opportunity to listen to him in person, but the recording is great. He brought the Revitalization of a congregation to life. This is the part of Matthew 25 that I

would suggest we adopt. (copy and paste the following to your search engine [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zs18XEGMC9s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zs18XEGMC9s) )

The first speaker was author of the book “Churches and The Crisis of Decline” [Dr. Andrew Root's Keynote Speech](#). His talk is more theological and deep for me, but it is a gift to hear someone who thinks on that level. (copy and paste the following to your search engine [www.youtube.com/watch?v=UoYoSM9x6q0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UoYoSM9x6q0) )

I hope you take the time to listen to what is said to be the best preacher in the Presbytery. The following are the seven marks that he is referring to in his talk. I think it is easier to have them to refer to in print vs try to read them on his slides. This is a reproduction of the official PCUSA logo and wording.

We propose that there are seven marks to help you determine your current level of vitality — and then various processes for self-assessment, discernment and renewed commitment to the habits that foster an energetic engagement with the Spirit’s work in the world.



### Here are the 7 marks:

1. A commitment to forming disciples over every member’s lifetime. This leads first to personal transformation, as people put on the heart of Christ, and then to social transformation, as people joyfully go forth into the community and tackle the issues facing today’s culture.
2. Embracing the call to evangelism. We show forth the love of Christ by our actions and our lives even more than by our words. Our relationships are genuine and caring. People know we are Christians by our love.
3. An outward focus. Our church is not a place to escape from the world, but rather our gateway to our community where we may be the hands, feet, heart and mouth of Jesus Christ for people who are suffering or marginalized.
4. Empowering every member to discover their individual calling and the gifts God has given them so they can go forth and serve.
5. Spirit-inspired worship that challenges, teaches, transforms, convicts and energizes us so when we are sent out, we have experienced the wonder of God and are changed for the better from when we arrived.
6. Caring relationships modeled on God’s love. We open our doors and hearts to all people, and we build relationships modeled on God’s love, which leads to genuine reconciliation and peace.
7. Congregations with healthy systems. Our mission focuses are clear. There is fiscal responsibility and accountability. We have thoughtful decision-making structures. Our leaders and staff enjoy a sustainable balance of work/rest time.

## PRAYERS

**Immediate:** PNC, Linda Richard (Kristen D.), Sue Moore (Merna), (Jami (Tom & Becky), Scott Williamson (Cindy S.), Herb Montgomery (Strands), Eric Jourdan, Gun Violence in our Country, Michael Brock (Cindy S.), Patricia Sibblee (Cindy S.), Lisa Rees, Dale (Cindy S), Cathy Tillotson, Sam Sanford, People of Turkey, Syria, Ukraine and Iran, Dana Guanciale (Ginnie S.), Elaine Coffman, Brianna Hoffman and Family (Cindy S), Abby (Cindy S.)

**Ongoing:** Rick Nichols, Erika Johnson, Margie Holland, John Clinton (Linda Barry), Jim and Lorna Mathison, Maria Gordon (C. Tillotson), Barbara-Sue Rose, Le Thomas, Mike Graham (Norma Graham), Greta Sharp, John Garner (Carolyn T.)

## JULY FELLOWSHIP TREATS

July 2 – Choir & Bell Choir

July 9– Circle 3

June 16– Potluck – **Guests from Japan This is Krista's last day**

**A-C-** Dessert    **D-M-** Main Dish    **N-Z** – Salads, Sides, and/or Bread

July 23 – Circle 4

July 30 – Circle 5

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

5- Tom Stovall    10-Jim Schroeder    12-Gary Auchard    13-Gail Garrett  
14-Deborah Anderson    16-Ellen Morton    18-Jaylen Kiger    22- Ann Keeling  
27-Anna Hurt    28-Barbara Katzenberger

## JULY ANNIVERSARY

4- Harold & Carla Hathaway    9-Chuck & Annette Allen    12-John & Ginnie Strand  
28-Dale & Anna Hurt    29-Bill & Barbara Katzenberger

July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
<b>2</b> Fellowship Treats- Choir & Bell Choir Mission Committee Meeting 9:00am Adult Study 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am - 11:30am Worship	<b>3</b> 7:00am Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Cody Choraliers	<b>4</b> Happy 4th of July Church Office Closed	<b>5</b> 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship 11:00am Deacons Meeting	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Church Office Closed 1:00pm ESL	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Fellowship Treats- Circle 3 9:00am Adult Study 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am-11:30am Worship Worship Committee Meeting	<b>10</b> 7:00am Men's Morning Discussion Group 5:30 Financial, Admin. & Endowment	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship	<b>13</b> <i>6:00pm                      Session                      Meeting</i>	<b>14</b> Church Office Closed 1:00pm ESL	<b>15</b> 10:00am League of Women Voters
<b>16</b> Fellowship Treats-Pot Luck 9:00am Adult Study 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am - 11:30am Worship	<b>17</b> 7:00am Men's Morning Discussion Group	<b>18</b> 5:00pm - 6:00pm Community Meal	<b>19</b> 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Church Office Closed 1:00pm ESL	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Fellowship Treats- Circle 4 9:00am Adult Study 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am - 11:30am Worship <b>30</b> 9:00am Adult Study 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am - 11:30am Worship Treats-Circle 5	<b>24</b> 7:00am Men's Morning Discussion Group 6:00pm Building and Grounds Committee Meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Church Office Closed 1:00pm ESL	<b>29</b>