



The MESSENGER

Faith, Fellowship, & Flip Flops

Sunday, July 23, 11:30 AM,
Major Hall

Chicken salad sandwiches
& chips provided

Please bring a side dish to share
Bingo (with prizes!),
volleyball, children's games

(activities also 10:00-11:30 AM)



We are collecting donations of "white elephant" prizes (funny or not) for Bingo at our *Faith, Fellowship, & Flip Flops* event. Please leave donations in the tub provided at the Information Center.

Everyone will receive a ticket at our *Faith, Fellowship, & Flip Flops* event for a chance to win this popcorn machine door prize!!



This Bingo prize includes a free lunch with the Office Staff!!



➤ Summer Bible Study



Brown Bag Bible Bunch is reading through the short Letters of Paul this summer beginning with the books of Ephesians and Philippians. Come join us on Wednesdays at noon in the Conference Room. Jim Warren leads the study. (We will not meet July 12, 26; and August 2.

➤ Gifts for Another Table

Thank you to those who bring non-perishable food items to church each month. We need more to participate in this program. Suggested items for Home Sweet Home Ministries during July are: boxed rice dinners, pasta & sauce, potato dinners & sauce, Hamburger Helper, instant mashed potatoes, and canned vegetables & fruit.

- Pete Whitmer and Jim & Nancy Guither

➤ Disciples Women's Ministries News

The 2017-18 year will start in September. We are beginning to plan our study, projects, and special events now. Come to our Thursday, July 6, meeting at 1:00 PM to brainstorm and help make plans. Mary Helen Haskell will continue our study of "Women of the Bible" with a program entitled "Who am I?" - Marcia Christensen

Witness of the Faithful

Attendance: 6/25: 156, 35 7/2: 147, 28
Offering: \$26,515.67

Prayer Concerns

Treatment: Dave Eyman, Sharon Warren

Aftercare: Mickey Armstrong, David Bradbury, Bob Corbett, Lori Craig, Doug DeFilippo, Mike Frizzell, Martha Hunter, Forrest Kaufman, Connie Lindenbaum, Connie Rapp, Mary Smart, Marilyn Thompson, Becky White

Hospice: Darlene Bethel, Roger Harweger, Virginia Warren

Assisted Living: Alma Samuels (Taylors' home)

Nursing Homes: Dave Eyman, Merle Murray, Virginia Warren (Heritage, Blm.); Sonna West (Heritage, El Paso); Harold Goyen (Heritage, Normal); Corena Meyer (Liberty, Clinton); Dave Dungan, Marlyn Mahannah, Lois Murray, Barbara Thatcher (Martin Health); Eugene Hunter (McLean Co.); Roberta Blomgren (Sugar Creek)

Military: Chris Kavanaugh (Marines, CA); Harley Scott (Phillis niece/Navy, VA)

➤ Block Party



Saturday, August 12

9:00-12:00

Church Parking Lot

See page 3

A long obedience in the same direction...

Rights and Obligations



This week we're celebrating Independence Day and the birthday of our nation. A recent column by Neil Kentsch, pastor of Centennial Christian Church in Bloomington, in that church's newsletter highlighted the place of rights and obligations in America. Neil writes some very thoughtful and insightful columns.

"We live in a nation founded on the idea of rights," Neil begins. He goes on to mention the Declaration of Independence's "unalienable Rights" to "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" and the Constitution's "Bill of Rights," which granted the people of the United States extraordinary rights unheard of in other countries at the time.

Our nation has endeavored to defend the rights of those who live here. Free speech is one example of that. Almost all speech, no matter how reprehensible it may be, is protected by law. We can say almost anything we want. We are no doubt a stronger country because we value free speech.

However, along with rights come obligations. Although we may be able to say whatever we want, we have an obligation to consider how that speech may affect others. If our speech is offensive and hurtful, even if it is legal, we need to think through whether it's necessary for us to say it. We have the right to say almost anything, but we also have an obligation to ponder how that speech will be received. Sometimes, out of caring for others, it may be best *not* to say what we're thinking, or to find a better way to say it.

We have an obligation to others, an obligation to respect, care for, and even love those around us. When the exercise of our rights causes harm to another, then we need to rethink whether we should exercise that right.

Neil is certainly correct when he suggests, "I think we could do with quite a bit more of this sense of obligation." Instead of demanding our rights and complaining when they're infringed upon, we "would do better if we more often asked ourselves about our obligations toward one another."

He quotes a passage from Paul's letter to the Galatians:

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves of one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. (Gal 5:13-15)

We live in a country whose freedoms are preserved through its resolve to maintain the inviolability of our rights, but we Christians have a prior obligation. Before claiming our inherent rights, we are to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

No one can legislate our obligations to each other. "It is a matter of character, a matter of character as individuals and as a people," Neil writes. We can't be forced to care about others; it's just who we are as Christians.

As we give thanks for this nation in which we live and the unparalleled rights we enjoy as Americans, may we also be thankful for the obligations that bind us together and the love we're able to show to others.

-- Jim Warren

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 9:00-12:00 BLOCK PARTY OPPORTUNITIES

BAKE CAKES OR COOKIES FOR LUNCH OR CAKE WALK



VOLUNTEER TO HELP

DONATE MONEY OR SCHOOL SUPPLIES



SCHOOL SUPPLIES CLIPART

SIGN-UP SHEETS AT INFORMATION CENTER / ENVELOPES AVAILABLE IN PEWS

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bloomington's Oldest Continuing Congregation - Founded 1837

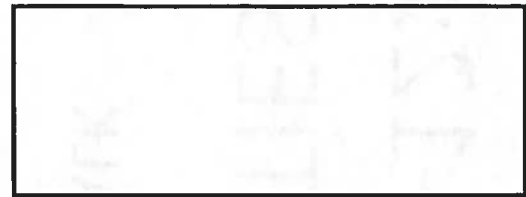


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Bloomington, Illinois 61701

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Serving Sunday, July 9

Acolytes: Evan Nichols, Alexis Nichols
Child Care: Trish Logan, Rich & Karen Crusius
Deacons: 9:00 Justin & Kim Cox
10:15 John & Kathy Dailey
Jr. Deacons: Bryce Reed, Brennon Reed
Driver: Gary Thompson
Elders: Brenda Phillis, David Bradbury
Homebound Elders: Patti & Chip Jamerson
Fellowship Hosts: John & Rita Hensley
Fill Candles: Ryan Newton
Greeters: Shirley Wotherspoon, May Jackson
Information Center Host: Teri Arvik
Scripture: James Nussbaum
Sound Tech: Brian Metz
Time for Children: Patty Thompson
Video Tech: Austin Metz
Pulpit: Holly Irvin - Joshua 1:9 - "Every Road"

Mailed: July 5, 2017

Serving Sunday, July 16

Acolytes: George Davis, Vincent Pozo
Child Care: Trish Logan
Deacons: 9:00 Matt & Amy Nichols
10:15 Ryan Newton, Liberty Nussbaum
Jr. Deacons: Averie Kiesewetter, Sabrina Campos
Driver: Rich Crusius
Elders: Camille & Art Taylor
Homebound Elders: Brenda Phillis, David Bradbury
Fellowship Hosts: Ralph & Linda Lehmann
Fill Candles: Ryan Newton
Greeters: Cindy Rousey, Pete Whitmer
Information Center Host: Mary Helen Haskell
Scripture: Todd Chapman
Sound Techs: Austin Metz, Brian Metz
Time for Children: Matt Chapman
Video Tech: Chip Jamerson
Pulpit: Jim Warren - Ephesians 4:1-6
"You Asked for It Again: Which God?"

God is seen as responsible for some very gruesome actions in the Old Testament. The God of Jesus Christ is merciful and forgiving. How can we reconcile these two very different understandings of God?

Sunday Traditional Worship 9:00 AM
One and All Worship 10:15 AM
Sunday School for Adults 10:15 AM

Senior Pastor

James Warren.....212-6873
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Minister Emeritus

John Trefzger

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M-F 8:00-4:30; Closed Noon-1:00

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