

**The
Family of God Tree
at Jon & Nancey
West's Farm**



The Youth spending time at the West's Farm July 27th. Thanks Wests for sharing your beautiful place.



Christian Caller

August 2020

Volume 245

Greetings Church Family,

As I write this, we start our first day of "Camp in a Box," where the youth receive their shirt, crafts, nametag and every other essential element of camp, while they meet over Zoom. It's a wonderfully sad metaphor for how many of us have been feeling during this pandemic. The major things of life still continue, the mundane and the miraculous. We've still been going to work, celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, spending our free time, and experiencing the major miracles of life, death, birth, and resurrection. Yet everything feels way different as we do it. Camp will be the same. The gathering, the singing, and the seeing friends will happen, just in a different way than anyone has been used to.

In the same manner, we have been doing church on the grass, and some of the major elements are present; and in the past few weeks we've been able to feel pretty "churchy" about the whole thing. But I know it is still not the same for you. My hope and prayer is that we stay strong, and that we remember the essential treasure of life is not stuff, or our family and friends, socializing, and spending time, although those things are absolutely necessary to living. The treasure of life are the blessings we receive from God, which take place in the miracle and the mundane, in the beauty and the challenges, joy and sorrow. Please, if you are feeling isolated and depressed, reach out to me and to your elder, draw on your community for strength and resilience. We'll find some way to share somewhere!

God Bless,
Zane Ridings

Scriptures & Sermon Titles:

August 2nd: Mathew 14:13-21 "And all were satisfied"
August 9th: Romans 10: 5-15 "No one who believes in him will be put to shame"
August 16th: Matthew 15: 21-28 "We're the dogs"
August 23rd: Exodus 2:1-20 "Drawn from the water"
August 30th: Romans 12:19-21 "Overcome Evil with Good"



Sunday Church Service on the lawn at 11:00 AM. Wear your mask. Bring your chair, & communion and sit 6 ft. from each other.

August Birthdays

Karen Vorderstrasse	10
Coury Gagne	16
Makenna Slavenski	17
Chanda Berryman	27
Myke Eggert	28
Kenny Gilmore	31

Happy Anniversary!

Anita & Bill Daley
August 6

First Christian Church of Lebanon

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Lebanon, OR
97355

Pastor: Zane Ridings - 503-798-7445
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 am-1:30 pm
Church E-Mail: lebanonfcc@comcast.net
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Dear Lebanon Friends in Christ,

May the peace of Christ and the love of God be with you. Having said that I feel like I am stepping on Paul's toes like a child dancing on an adult's feet. Maybe, I am, maybe we all are as we make our Christian journeys through the turmoil around us. Staying centered on Christ is the best way to negotiate today's obstacles. Please be reminded of Paul's words to the Corinthians as he cautioned them to 'be of one mind' and to avoid popular rhetoric and politics that tended to polarize people into divisive camps. And also, remember that in biblical times certain limitations were made on lifestyles to preserve the health of the community of believers.

We begin with good news. While worshipping in masks on the grass, we saw the new gutters and newly painted fascia boards of the church. Thank you Jon for coordinating that project. We lift our praise for the Soup Kitchen as they welcome Christine as supervisor; and also offer our prayers and joy for Pastor Zane and Paul as they make a home together. We thank Kennedy for her wonderful participation at church as she interned. As she will be heading to Fort Worth to begin her college career, we offer our prayers and good wishes on her continued success.

August will be our 5th month living with COVID-19. The expanded executive committee (all church officers and the elder and deacon chairs) will meet outside for the second time this summer. On Thursday at 4 pm, our executive officers will find a shaded spot at Mike and Sheryl's place. If you have concerns, needs, or innovative solutions, please call, text, email, or plan to attend. But do notify the church office or board chairs of your information or attendance. We welcome your input.

At this time, items on the agenda include:

- Congregational worship. Technically, we can have church inside with masks and social distancing. So the question is how to continue safely, whether to worship inside without the usual congregational activities like singing, sharing of communion, or passing the plate as we have in the past. Then there is the issue of sanitation (sanctuary and the bathrooms and all switches and handles) and finding a team or person to perform this task. The addition of online or Zoom Bible study, and creating church neighbor groups and/or Zoom groups are other considerations.
 - Church finances. Many of you have continued to support the church during the last five months. We praise and thank you and God that we are still able to pay bills, maintenance, and salaries. The committee will look into actual income and expenses to determine if we need to make adjustments for the rest of 2020, and will begin forming a committee to create the 2021 budget. Thank you Doris and Donna for your ongoing work to do banking, pay bills, and provide the financial statements.
 - Youth Group. It is a challenge, and a joy. I would think being a youth is especially difficult right now, and having lost the Berryman family the participating youths have declined significantly. We need to discuss the future of youth group. This week, the youth are experiencing 'Camp in a Box' rather than days in a summer youth camp. We send our love and prayers to all youth and particularly the Berryman family. We miss you already.
 - Pastor's annual review will finally take place in the next month. We will address the job description, performance, and current appointment at 3/4th time. Another consideration is his one-bedroom apartment (housing pastor and a fifteen year old) and current church budget constraints.
 - And then, there is the need to create a slate of officers for 2021 if we are to continue as normal, whatever that may be. The terms of board chair and co-chair, clerk, 1 trustee, 2 elders, and 4 deacons will need to be filled as well as some vacancies.
- Any other concerns or input?

Much to be done, many challenges, but God has the answers, and knows who to call. Have you heard him calling in the night? Will you answer with, "Here I am, Lord."

In Christ,
Mike and Sheryl

The youth group had a great time at the Daley's for a summer kickoff party! They ate, played games, visited outside, then had a devotional led by Mark Phillips out on the lawn.



IN OUR PRAYERS:

Jesse LeSeur
Cathy Johnson
Taylar Phillips
Arlene Breckel
Del Eggert
Myke Eggert
Betty Lou Rockwell
Ruth Moss
Millie Patterson

Judy LeSeur
Vila Adkins
Addy Opel
Diana Johnson
James Lenfesty
Clint Evans
Gary Brown
Joe Adkins
Ronita Slayden

Gertrude DeButts
Diana Hoover
Service People:
Sgt. Scot Noss
Cpt. Tory Petersen
1st Lt. Kellen Peterson
Marine Capt. Pete Brawn

Pray for our World, our Church, our Ministers, the Soup Kitchen, and our Regional Ministers.

If you know of any updates or corrections to this list, please let the office know in writing or by email.