First United Methodist Church

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Office Hours Mon-Thurs 8am- 1pm
Fri 9 am - Noon

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June 2021

First United Methodist Church

Our Mission:
Make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.
(Matthew 28:1-20)

Our Vision:
To know God, to love God,
and to serve God and our neighbor.
(Luke 10:27)

Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors

Sign up to be a Lector, Greeter
Help with Facebook
on Sunday mornings.
Sheet may be found on the table
in the Fellowship Area.

Sunday Worship Time
9:30am - Sanctuary

Sunday School
8:30 am—Adult Sunday School

Weekly Bible Studies:

Tuesday
6:30am - Son-Rise Group by Fireplace
10 am - Romans Bible Study

Wednesday
7 am - Men's Breakfast & Bible Study - Grandma Jo's

Thursday
6:30 pm - Romans Bible Study

Sidney First United Methodist Church

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS JUNE 2021

We're headin' into summer – a time when we're all out and about and spendin' time with family and friends and meetin' all manner of new friends! It's a great time of the year, and many people will be traveling, vacationing, and spending time away from home.

That got me to thinkin' about all the opportunities you and I will have for reachin' out to people, both new and old acquaintances, and how we as Christians both CAN and SHOULD talk to them about our faith!

Philip Brooks, a well-known preacher, once said this, "There are two things to be wary of in life: a timid surgeon and a timid preacher. Neither of them will do you much good on life's journey."

I know from my own experiences in life there were 2 times I COULD have shared my faith… 2 times I SHOULD have spoken the truth of Jesus instead of staying silent… 2 times when love and honesty COULD have made all the difference… But I was afraid – I was a "timid preacher" when I should have been bold in telling them the life-giving truth of Jesus instead of backing away from them.

There's nothin' in this life more important than sharing our saving knowledge of Jesus with other people and inviting them to share it too. But if you're anything like me, sometimes you just back away from the confrontation – sometimes you stay silent in the face of opportunity – sometimes you shy away from being as bold as you could be – sometimes you are simply afraid to say what's really on your heart…

But people's eternal souls hang in the balance. The stakes are incredibly high, and we simply do not have the time to be timid in our witnessing! We cannot waste any opportunity that presents itself to reach out to those we know are faltering and about to fall…

I'm reminded of a song by Casting Crowns, "Here I Go Again."
"Father, hear my prayer, I need the perfect words,
"Words that he will hear and know they are straight from You.
"I don't know what to say; I only know it hurts to see my only friend slowly fade away.
"So maybe this time I'll speak the words of life with Your fire in my eyes!
"But that old familiar fear is tearing at my words; what am I so afraid of?
"Cuz here I go again, talkin' 'bout the rain, and mullin' over things that won't live past today
"And as I dance around the truth, time is not his friend,
"This might be my last chance to tell him that You love him – but here I go again…
"Lord, You love him so, You gave Your only Son, if he will just believe, he will never die!
"But how then will he know what he has never heard, Lord, what he has never seen mirrored in my life
"This might be my last chance to tell him that You love him…
"You love him! What am I so afraid of?
"How then will he know what he has never heard…?"

Somethin' for you to think about this summer… I'd be willing to bet, right now, as you're reading this letter, someone's name came to mind… THAT someone is the one who needs to hear… And even though you may be terrified of the prospect, it may be that THAT someone needs to hear what only you can say…

Summer is busy – summer is exciting – summer is full of comin' and goin' and playin'! But even so, there are still "down" times when just the two of you are watchin' the sun rise over your early morning coffee, or you're all gathered around the picnic table for lunch, or you're sittin' by the last dyin' embers of the bonfire – these are the times God sets aside for good, wholesome, heart-felt conversations!

And you don't have to go to preachin' at people – just tell 'em what you believe. Tell 'em what God has done for you lately. Tell 'em God loves them!

The conversation could start as simply as, "Wow, would you look at the sunrise God painted for us this morning!" Or maybe, "I sure am thankful for all the great picnic foods God gave us this weekend." Or possibly, "You know, just sittin' here by the fire reminds me of…"

It's easy. You don't have to spend hours tryin' to think up what to say – just talk to 'em!
Have a great summer! God loves you and I love you too. Be safe, be joyful, but most of all, be bold!

Peace,
Pastor Corey

SOUND

June 6	Loren Hoekema
June 13	Brian Slagle
June 20	Allen Aurich
June 27	Bill Napier

MUSIC

June 6	Marva Schiessler & Valerie Hoekema
June 13	Valerie Hoekema
June 20	Marva Schiessler
June 27	Carolyn Hays & Nan McMillen

USHERS

June 6	JS Elwell, Kevin Sittner, Ron Jessen, Brian Sprenger
June 13	James Harmon, Seth Wecker, Allen Aurich, Gene Russel, Greg Sprenger
June 20	Loren Hoekema, Kord McMillen, Mike Mitchell, Drew Glover
June 27	Lanny Schiessler, John Eastman, Brian Slagle, Jacob Frerichs

POWER POINT

June 6	Kord McMillen
June 13	Wanda Talich
June 20	Kristin Simmons
June 27	Kevin Sittner

KIDZ TIME

June 6
June 13
June 20
June 27

LECTOR

June 6
June 13
June 20
June 27

ACOLYTES

June 6
June 13
June 20
June 27

GREETERS

June 6
June 13
June 20
June 27

Thank you

FUMC,

Thank you so much for the graduation ceremony during church and for the cake
after! Thank you for letting me host my party in the basement and for selecting

Hospitality Sunday Morning

Please sign up to help provide treats for

PRAYER FOCUS ~ Finance
Evie Flessner, Ron Jessen, Lori Fritz, Jim Jones, Sachin Kshirsagar, Lorraine Laffler, Scott Lawson, Mike Mitchell, Tom Millman

Remembering in Prayer:
Jalen Dart, Julie Visser Lichty
Ross & Bonnie Thompson

CHURCHES PRAYING FOR CHURCHES -
Lakeside – Gideon Achi
Imperial – Deb Copple
Big Springs – Jacob Keega
Culbertson – Alisa Parde

June 2021

Tuesday
Sonrise Bible Study @ 6:30 am
Romans Bible Study @ 10 am –Last one is June 8 until September
NOW - June 1 @ 5:30 pm
FINANCE - June 15 @ 6 pm

Wednesday
Men's Breakfast & Book Study @ 7 am (Grandma Jo's)
June 9 - Trustees @ 6:30 pm

GRACE GARDENS RUMMAGE SALE
SETUP on JUNE 7, 8 AND 9

RUMMAGE SALE ON:
June 10 - 4 pm - 8 pm
June 11 - 9 am—7 pm
June 12 - 8 am - 3 pm

Bring your donations to the Fellowship Hall Stage

The Problem Solver

An episode of Grantchester on PBS showed two Vicar's talking to each other and one of them said, "GOD can't solve all our problems." The other answered, "I know." This statement bothered me… because **my** GOD is a problem solver. Let me expound….

- Psalm 88:2-3 (NLT) – "Now hear my prayer; listen to my cry. For my life is full of troubles, and death draws near."

  Acts 7:9c–10 (NKJV) – "But GOD was with him and delivered him out of all his troubles, and gave him favor and wisdom…. "

- I like the way The Message states this, "…sent Joseph off… as a slave. GOD was right there with him, though – HE not only rescued him from all his troubles but brought him to the attention of Pharoah."

- Job 6:18-19 (NKJV) – "HE shall deliver you in six troubles. Yes, in seven no evil shall touch you."

We shouldn't expect GOD to just step in and take over all our troubles just because we messed up, again! After all, we do have free will and our will can certainly get out of hand. We need to start each day with GOD at our side and not try to accomplish anything (not even the slightest task) in our own strength. I remember a conversation with a group of friends where one woman stated she even asked HIM what to wear as she had already put on and taken off several outfits that morning. Who would have thought?

I lost a rather pricey earring one time. After scouring my house and calling the friend, whose car I rode in, nothing was found. I contacted the hostess where I had been and she couldn't find it either, but she did offer a prayer that went something like this: "LORD," she said, "we've lost an earring. We realize it's just a little thing, but we really liked and it wasn't cheap. We ask YOU to show us where this earring might be. Thank YOU for taking care of us even in the small things." About two days later I found the earring right where I had already looked several times. GOD is good, and HE solved a problem.

- Prov. 3:6 (NLT) – "Seek HIS will in all you do, and HE will show you which path to take."

- Prov. 16:3 (NLT) – "Commit your actions to the LORD, and your plans will succeed."

- GOD isn't required to get us out of problems we have created for ourselves, but HE will if we ask with a pure heart and right motive. We may be required to follow some instructions before HE works in our favor. (Read Joshua 3:7 thru 4:14.) Joshua 3:13 states, "And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap." We may first have to step out in faith, but In every difficult circumstance GOD's outstretched arm fights for us. (see Exodus 14:15-16).

Have you ever heard or said, "GOD helps those who help themselves"? Frances J. Roberts says, *"GOD does not help those who help themselves. He champions those who cannot help themselves and those who are wise enough not to try. He asks for our submission not cooperation. In other words – draw upon HIS strength for every step – rough or smooth. The most incidental occurrences of the most ordinary day (GOD) delights to choose and use to reveal to thee HIS earnestness in helping."*

Prayer: Thank You, Lord Jesus, for Your strength in every step we take, smooth or rough, and Your willingness to solve our problems. Amen

……Rilla Draper