



July 2024
 Vol. 24-7 Issued Monthly
 Rev. Heidi Hulme
 Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH

Focus on Faith
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HOPE AT THE BRICK HOUSE BLOCK PARTIES

We will be serving at one of the block parties at the Hope at the Brick House on July 5th. Serving time is 6 p.m.— check out the sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall and help where you are able.

OUR PRESENT HOPE

Christian hope involves more than a sunny, cheerful attitude. It is more than a general kind of optimism. It is more than hope in hope, or faith in faith. Christian hope is tied to the goal of history and the purpose of each person’s existence. It is the unshakeable confidence of the sovereignty of God and God’s eventual triumph over all the forces that stand against truth, righteousness, faithfulness, love and mercy.



And in the great contest between good and evil, Christian hope declares God as winner. ... Christ is the hope not only in the world to come; he is the hope of the world right now. —Oswald Bronson

BIBLE QUIZ

What musical instrument is mentioned in the final poem of Psalms as a means to praise the Lord?

- A. brass
- B. percussion
- C. strings
- D. woodwinds
- E. all of the above



Answer: (See Psalm 150:3-5.)

BIRDIES FOR CHARITY
PLEDGE DEADLINE APPROACHING
 Pledges received through July 5 will be eligible for the bonus guarantee. All the final pledges need to be postmarked by July 5th. The online donation page will be shut down after midnight on July 6th. Pledges should be mailed to: Birdies for Charity, 15623 Coaltown Road, East Moline, IL 61244. **Faith First’s bird #2307**



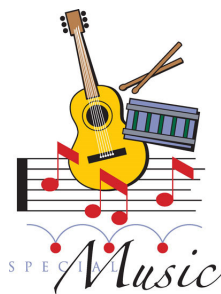
July is the month to collect school supplies for the EICC Student Success Store! Bring paper, pencils, pens, markers and backpacks to the church any time during July. If you want to donate cash, we will do the shopping for you!

We will bless these supplies on Sunday, July 28th and deliver them to the store during August.



PASTOR HEIDI has decided the best way to get her updates is through a CaringBridge page. This is a free website and it will notify you when she posts any updates. She will also keep you updated through her weekly letter — for anyone who doesn't like to be on the computer! You will need to create a profile to login to CaringBridge.

<https://new.caringbridge.org/site/ed675ed6-309d-11ef-97eb-878f36e8bc3f?from=%2Fsearch&fname=Heidi>



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SUSAN SENN have invited us to join them for a special jazz music Sunday, August 11th to listen to the Manny Lopez quartet. The service is at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is invited!

Please note: we will still have our 10 a.m. worship here at Faith First.



“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” - Philippians 4:6-7

Every once in a while, as I write these, what I plan on writing about (prayer) is trumped by what Spirit wants me to write about (gratitude).

These last 2 months have been quite the ride, for all of us. Getting sick and being diagnosed with Neuroendocrine tumors was certainly not on my summer (or any other seasons) bucket list. And this on top of honoring the first anniversary of David's mom's death on June 22. I have walked this walk with many of you over the last 11 years, and I anticipate walking this walk with some of you in the future. But as your pastor who is your spiritual guide, not as the one who is being cared for.

For as many times as I have gone through it with you, though, it is very different going through it yourself. And dare I say, even more difficult when you are a pastor. Pastors aren't supposed to get sick. They are the caregivers. The rocks that hold steady in the storms. But I am ever so gently reminded that, as I write that, God is laughing at me. (I know I have much to learn on this journey, and I plan on learning everything I need.)

It most certainly would be easy enough to sit back and let the sadness of the situation, the frustration, the cries of “This sucks! And “This isn't fair!” to take over. But if you know me at all, that isn't me, and it isn't my nature. Like so many before me, and so, so many after me, I am sick, and life moves forward. I have no intention on sitting around and letting life go on without me.

Thus, where I find myself today. I haven't been able to take our somewhat unruly dog out by myself until the last few days, and it has been so hot, I don't like doing it any more than David or the boys. But today was different. It was warm, but not unbearably hot, and the breeze was enough to keep the gnats at bay. The kind of day that Nala, and I, love. So she laid on the ground in the shade, while I sat on the front step, for 45 minutes. I found myself noticing every detail of the day—the beautiful light blue of the sky, the puffy clouds floating overhead shape-shifting as they moved, hearing the rustle of the leaves of the trees, feeling the

sun and wind on my face, smelling the air which was unusually unscented, and smiling and waving at everyone who passed by. With everything I noticed, I let the feeling of deep peace about the chaos in my life permeate my body, all the way to my soul. The deeper the peace felt, the more overwhelming the feeling of gratitude for all of it became. I am blessed, and I am so thankful for all that I am blessed with.

Every day brings new information, and more opportunities to express my gratitude to God for what I am given. Conversations with people I don't expect to hear from, just to check on me. Surprise visits from friends I haven't seen in 20 years. The amazing Care Team I have stumbled upon. Being surrounded by family. Not having horrible symptoms that I really could be experiencing.

And then there is you. My faith family. The loving, caring, supportive folks who pray for me and my family every day. Who bring food, and ask the questions, and express their fears, as well as their hopes. A church body who is allowing their pastor to work as she can, take the time to heal when she needs, and intentionally chooses to walk this journey with me. Words just do not express how grateful to you I am. The tears of gratitude continue to be shed each day.

And here's the big thing: every time I offer God thanks and praise, the more peace I feel. I have zero clue what the future will be like, but I had zero clue about that before these NETs decided to rear their ugly heads. The truth is, none of us knows what the future will bring. And that is why I am not letting life move forward without me. It is why I choose to be grateful for each and every thing I am given, for each and every moment I am allowed to be here on this earth, to be wife and mother, daughter and sister, friend and pastor.

Thank you for who you are, and for how you shine God's light and love into this crazy, chaotic, and very beautiful world!

God is good—all the time! All the time—God is good!

Always Peace, Pastor Heidi





Board Notes

Board Meeting—June 9

1. Property - The red maple at the parsonage needs trimming. Doug will check to see if this is something he can take care of.
2. Property - the cement work should begin on July 8.
3. Workdays were established to get things ready for the July 20 Sale.
4. General Fund—the operating account is at a negative balance through May 31st. \$(6,165.48).
5. Next meeting - July 14th at 11:30 a.m.

Hope at the Brick House

We will not be serving meals at the after school program during the summer.

Share-A-Meal

We are scheduled to serve Tuesday, July 30 5:15 p.m.



Women's Group
No meeting in July
Next meeting—August 1st

Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.

August Newsletter article deadline is July 21.

August Newsletter will be mailed by July 31.



- 1 Jan Hannel
Lindsay Ozmon
Jessica Daily
- 2 Jan Johnson
- 4 Judy Cummings
- 6 Maureen Miller
- 7 AJ Skinner
- 9 Cathy Koehler-Wright
- 10 Henry Pepper
- 14 Karen Risler
- 18 Vicki Ertel
- 21 Lincoln Wakeland
- 22 David Hulme
Harriet Meyer
- 29 Bonnie Rae
- 30 James Sullivan
- 31 Shylynn Fox

Treasurer's Report May 2024

PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	MAY	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 7,058.00	\$ 6,659.82	\$ 33,557.22
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 505.00	\$ 2,540.00
OCWM	\$ 165.00	\$ 220.00	\$ 925.00
DOCM	\$ 410.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 2,050.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 380.00	\$ 440.00	\$ 2,446.25
Total Giving	\$ 8,013.00	\$ 7,854.82	\$ 41,518.47

GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 7,058.00	\$ 7,164.82	\$ 35,653.21
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 235.63	\$ 2,004.75
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,621.18
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 7,058.00	\$ 7,400.45	\$ 48,279.14

Pastor Expense	\$ 7,261.00	\$ 6,356.55	\$ 34,240.96
Employee Expense	\$ 1,335.00	\$ 1,170.30	\$ 5,930.98
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 447.00	\$ 84.92	\$ 886.78
Office Expense	\$ 599.00	\$ 467.08	\$ 2,831.08
Property Expense	\$ 2,057.00	\$ 1,878.00	\$ 10,534.82
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 11,699.00	\$ 9,956.85	\$ 54,424.62

Net General Fund **\$ (4,641.00)** **\$ (2,556.40)** **\$ (6,145.48)**

Submitted by Martha Watters



PLANS ARE UNDERWAY for a Church Tag Sale to be held Saturday, July 20th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

We are going through items from both churches to tag for sale. We worked several days in June and have two dates scheduled in July. July 10 and 17th at 9:00 a.m.

Please help if you are able. Many hands make light work!



a worship series about getting animated and embracing change

who had to be suspicious of difference in order to survive. But this part of our psyche can cause us, and others, no end of frustration and fear. And it can keep our communities stuck in a way that prevents us from our joy and our passion for ministry.

This worship series doesn't start by assuming that we are "ready" for a change. Only in the fourth week of this series do we take the first step. We spend the first three weeks of this four-week series steeping ourselves in the idea that change is what we are made for...that we are actually made and equipped by a Creator that knew we would need to be partners and agents of change throughout history. We must be called to change. We must spend time discerning and deepening our understanding of the call that is luring us until we are ready to let go of "what was" in favor of the new creation.

"CHANGE IS GOOD, YOU GO FIRST!" I love this saying — I used to have a T-shirt that said this. It is so true. We know deep down that life is impossible without change—that change is inevitable. We have inherited this natural tendency to feel apprehension about change from our ancestors

Our Faith First Family

- Don Walton
- Jim Perreault
- Sid and Ardella Boots
- Linda Cox
- Jeff McWilliams
- Blake Padavich
- Karen Risler
- Deb Lobdell
- Rev. Barb Koenig
- Pastor Heidi

Our Homebound

- Millie Allison
- Darlene Carlin
- Paul Dammeier
- Connie Disney
- Nancy Giles
- Dennis Jacobson
- Jan Johnson
- Hazel Jones
- Virginia Lemons
- Harriet Meye
- Colleen Skinner
- Harry Stroupe

Our Family and Friends

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Allison Byers | Morgan Frazer |
| Roger Laster | Alberto |
| Terry Showens | Fran Frutiger |
| Judy Cummings | Harrison Schmitt |
| Taryn Menning | Melissa Haynes |



Our World

Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe



PLEASE PRAY FOR KARSTEN HULME as he prepares to travel to Kenya Africa through Fishers of Men Ministries and West High School Engineering and Robotics. They will leave July 27 and return on August 14. They will be fixing one water filtration system, and installing another, do some construction on a couple of schools, but most importantly, they will work to build relationships with those who live in the villages.

When he returns, we will have a potluck and invite the team members to come and share their experiences and photos! Watch for further details.



You're invited! For food, fun and conversation!
 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Two dates left for this summer.
 July 18 - Sunderbruch Park - 4675 Telegraph Rd
 August 8 - Cork Hill Park - 1100 N Farnam St

July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	2 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	3		5 Hope at the Brick House Block Party 6:00 p.m.	6
7 Summer Hours Worship Service 10:00 a.m.	8 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	9 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	10 Workday 9:00 a.m.	11	12	
14 Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting 11:30 a.m.	15 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.		17 Workday 9:00 a.m.	18 Basket Class 5:30 p.m.	19	20 Church Tag Sale 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
21 Worship Service 10:00 a.m. <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	22 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	23 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	24		26	27
28 Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Bless Backpacks!	29 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	30 Share-A-Meal 5:15 p.m.	31 <i>Mail Newsletter</i>			