



First Church of God
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Pastor Paul J Rutledge

**JULY 2024
NEWSLETTER**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ Pastor Paul's Meditation
- ◆ Yacht Club
- ◆ Safety for those working with youth
- ◆ Overtime meeting
- ◆ VBS decorating date
- ◆ VBS meeting
- ◆ Women's Breakfast Club
- ◆ Camp Otyokwah
- ◆ Prayer & Fasting
- ◆ Save the Date
- ◆ LifeWise
- ◆ July Calendar

Pastor's Meditation July 2024.

A happy July to you. Independence Day will be celebrated soon. The great experiment of freedom has been going on now for 248 years. I pray our country has 248 more.

For this month's meditation, I go back to 2019, and my trip to Bangladesh. Traveling to Bangladesh and having the opportunity to see the country, meet other Christians and to have some firsthand experience of what God is doing there was an amazing experience.

We stayed at a Catholic retreat center, and in the library/bookstore they had a book that was in English about William Carey. I noticed this because there were hardly any English books to be found in a country where the native language is Bengali. I had no idea who William Carey was, and also didn't know what he had to do, if anything, with the country of Bangladesh. What I learned about William Carey is God loves to use people the world might overlook.

William Carey (1761–1834) was an English Christian missionary, He was also a translator, social reformer and cultural anthropologist. Carey founded Serampore College and Serampore University, the first degree-awarding university in the country of India.

He joined the Baptist missionaries in the Danish colony of Frederiksnagore in Serampore in 1793. One of his first contributions was to start schools for impoverished children where they were taught reading, writing, accounting and Christianity. He opened the first theological university in Serampore offering divinity degrees.

William Carey is known as the "father of modern missions." His essay, *"An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens,"* led to the founding of the Baptist Missionary Society.

Carey is loved by Christians in Bangladesh because he translated the Bible into Bengali, along with Punjabi, Oriya, Assamese, Marathi, Hindi and Sanskrit. William Carey expanded and changed missions the world over and put God's word into the hands of millions.

William Carey was raised in a tiny village in England and had little formal education. He had limited success in his chosen trade as a shoemaker and lived in poverty for many years. Carey was miserable, but God gave him a passion for sharing the good news and called him to be a missionary. Carey learned Greek, Hebrew, and Latin and eventually translated the New Testament into the Bengali language. He was the first person to do this. Carey is regarded as a "father of modern missions," but in a letter to his nephew he offered this humble assessment of his abilities: "I can plod. I can persevere."

(continued on page 2)

If you have an item to put in the newsletter, please submit it to Susie Hoffman by the 3rd. Sunday of the month. Susie's email address is fcogrisingsun@gmail.com

(continued from page 1)

When God calls us to a task, God will give us strength to accomplish it, regardless of our limitations. In Judges 6:12, the angel of the Lord appears to Gideon and says, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior." The angel then tells him to rescue Israel from the Midianites. Gideon, who hadn't earned the title of "mighty warrior," humbly responded, "How can I save Israel? I am the least in my family" (6:15).

Gideon was humble and obedient, and God used Gideon to set His people free. As we humbly walk with Jesus and rely on His strength, He will empower us to accomplish what's only possible through Him. We need to tenaciously follow and be obedient. Just like William Carey, we can all plod. As we do, we will persevere.

Yacht Club

The work day was a HUGE success!

There was a great turn out of guys even though it was a SUPER hot day. The playground restoration was nearly 100% complete and will be ready for VBS. This was really the main goal, and it was accomplished. A big THANKS to Jeff Adams for heading up this effort making sure all the necessary materials and supplies were acquired and prepping everything to make the job as quick and easy as possible.

Additional support was added to some of the kitchen cupboards that needed it and more preparation for additional Security camera was completed

Thanks to everyone that gave up their time to get these things done and improve the church overall!

The Men's Group weekend Retreat is Aug. 16-17-18.

There is still plenty of time to sign up on the clipboard if you would like to go. This is a great time with great Fellowship, fun, and food. The cost is \$64 for the weekend. Decisions about menu and activities will be made at the July men's breakfast on Saturday, July 27th at 8:30 at Tim James house.

Safety Committee

The annual Christian Education Staff Safety Training will be held on Sunday August 25th.

Anyone, that helps in any capacity with any Christian Education or Youth programs of any kind should or may even have a chance at helping with any of these programs should attend this training.

It will be held during the Sunday School hour in the gym on that Sunday, in conjunction with the Ladies breakfast club Pay to eat breakfast.

Good food and important/necessary training, that is a win win!!

OVERTIME

There will be a QUICK meeting for all those that have been involved in and/or all those that may want to be involved in the OVERTIME program.

This will be held on Sunday, July 28, in the gym toward the end of Sunday School hour. 9:20-9:40am

Decisions will be made as to the future of this program. Will it continue, and in what form if it does.

VBS Decorating

Monday July 8th 9am-11am

Tuesday July 9th 5:30-8:30pm

Thursday July 11th 5:30-8:30pm

Saturday July 13th 9:00-11:00 am.

Please let Lou Ann or Justin know if you are interested in helping decorate the rooms for VBS.



VBS meeting during the Sunday School hour on July 14th for all VBS volunteers.

Women's Breakfast Club,

YES!! Continue to collect your beverage can pull tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House! The cardboard collection box that had been placed and used in the lobby previously may be gone, but something will take its place soon!! Thank you!

Women's Breakfast Club dates-

July 20- lunch at The Country Farmhouse in Wayne, 12 noon!

Aug. 17- breakfast and business, 9am, hosted by Jennie Harman in BG!

Aug. 25- Pay-to-Eat Breakfast during the Sunday School hour, proceeds to benefit our women's group and LifeWise Academy/Lakota!

Sept. 28- breakfast, business and Craft Day 9am, church kitchen and lobby!

Nov. 16- Men's Appreciation Dinner, TTBD Join us, Ladies! Great food, great fellowship, lots of God's blessings!! Mark your calendars!

Camp Otyokwah

Kids love to get mail at camp. If you would like to send a card or a letter to them, here is the address:

Camp Otyokwah
(please list the youth's name)
3380 Tugend Rd
Butler OH 44822

Name of camper Date going Grade Group

Karmen Albert, June 30-July 5 7th-9th grade
Brayden Dean, June 30-July 5 7th-9th grade
Allison Harmon, July 7-12 4th-6th grade
Colton Albert, July 7-12 4th-6th grade

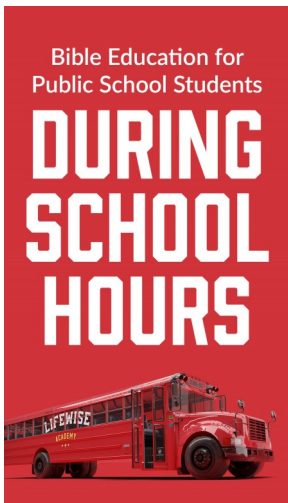
Please pray for the campers, staff and counselors, pray that God will move mightily in the lives of each of these young people and they will encounter the risen Jesus and start a new or deepen the relationship with Him.

Prayer and Fasting

Please fast and pray for Pastor Bill and Judy Reist on July 2, 2024. He is asking that you fast at least one meal that day, for the sake of prayer, but if you are able, please fast the entire day.

SAVE THE DATE... Sunday, September 22,
ONE Service. Sunday School at 9am and Worship at 10am Picnic style lunch following service! More details will be coming!

LIFEWISE



Great News! The Steering Committee for Lifewise Academy has received approval to provide Bible education to our Lakota public school during school hours.

This is a huge answer to prayer, and we can't wait to get started. But we need you and your Church's help.

The Steering Committee is now a "hiring committee", and we need your input in finding the individuals who would be willing to serve as Program director, or Leadership Board members. Your participation is critical, so we are asking each church to provide a contact person for spreading the information and updates quickly. Please contact Jim Dieter at 818-522-7152 or email:jesjdieter@yahoo.com. with your church representative. Once the Director and Board are determined we will begin the process of finding teachers, bus drivers, volunteers and prayer warriors to get the program rolling.


We are now in the process of trust raising. From now until July 26, 2024, we have the opportunity to receive a dollar-for-dollar match from the LifeWise foundation up to \$1500. These funds will help us with necessary staff training and other startup expenses. Will you help us reach that matching gift today? You can make your donation and know that your investment is making it possible for us to reach kids in our community with the gospel this year.

One way to support the cause is by going online to: lifewise.org/lakotaoh, and clicking on the tab "Donate" on this site you can also hit the tab for "Program details", "Get your church involved" and "Stay Connected". You can make a donation by check, writing Lakota Sandusky County on the memo line and mailing it to: Lifewise Lockbox 4327, Columbus, Ohio 43260-4327!

We are excited to see what God will be doing for our community as well as Lakota schools! Thank you!



First Church of God July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat												
	1 8:30-9:30 walking group 6:30 Congregational prayer	2 Prayer & Fasting for Pastor Bill & Judy Reist	3 8:30-9:30 walking group	4	5 8:30-9:30 walking group	6												
7 8:15am Worship 9:30am donuts/coffee 9:45am Sunday school 10:45am Worship 5pm 4-H meeting	8 8:30-9:30 walking group 9-11am VBS decorating 6:30 Council meeting	9 5:30-8:30pm VBS decorating	10 8:30-9:30 walking group 6pm Bible Study	11 9am Bible Study 5:30-8:30pm VBS decorating	12 8:30-9:30 walking group	13 9-11am VBS decorating												
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