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Meal Club Dates August

Meal Club is a chance to get together and share a meal with others. Enjoy a meal out at Perkins (at your own expense) and the conversation of your friends from Church of the Cross. The meals are currently planned for:

August 11 – 11:30am @ Perkins
August 25 – 6pm @ Perkins



Back to School Prayer

Father, I pray that each child is full of love and compassion for others. That they always seek to put others' first and to forgive, not hate, when someone does them wrong. Teach them to always love and forgive others in the same way you love and forgive them. Amen.



How can we pray for you?

Send your prayer requests the following ways:

- Call or text Pastor Libby at 785-564-1977
- Email Pastor Libby at pastorlibbyoberdorf@gmail.com
- Email the church office at mollie.purcell@coc-salina.org
- Call the church office at 785-825-5170

The next issue of The Message will be out in September. Please have all articles to the church office by August 25.

Would you like to receive The Message by email? Email Mollie at mollie.purcell@coc-salina.org

PRAYER LIST

Joys and Concerns

MEMBERS:

Unnamed Prayer, Steve Cooksey, Bobbie Brockway, Chris Davis, Rhonda Garcia

FAMILY:

FRIENDS:

Unnamed Prayer
Lucas Nutter
Don and Sharon (Judy Beck's parents)

ARMED FORCES:

We pray for those who are serving in the armed forces and for their families.

LOCAL COMMUNITY:

We pray for those who are homeless due to circumstances beyond their control.

OUR WORLD COMMUNITY:

We pray for those who are incarcerated and their families, for peace of God to rule in the hearts of our local and national leaders.

**Names are included on the prayer list for one month. If the prayer request needs to be on the list for multiple months, please contact the church office. To submit a prayer request please fill out a form in the pew at church or call the church office.*

A Word from Pastor Libby



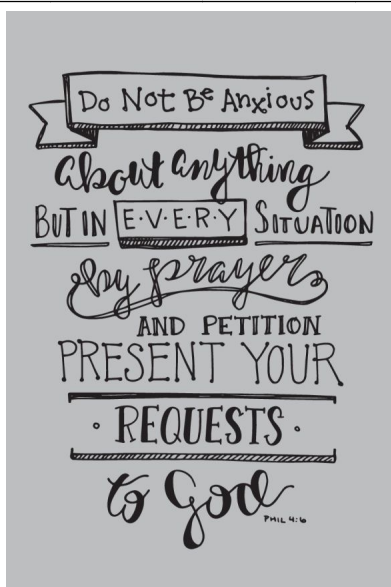
Friends,

Paul writes in Romans 7:15-20 (CEB), "I don't know what I'm doing, because I don't do what I want to do. Instead, I do the thing that I hate. But if I'm doing the thing that I don't want to do, I'm agreeing that the Law is right. But now I'm not the one doing it anymore. Instead, it's sin that lives in me. I know that good doesn't live in me—that is, in my body. The desire to do good is inside of me, but I can't do it. I don't do the good that I want to do, but I do the evil that I don't want to do. But if I do the very thing that I don't want to do, then I'm not the one doing it anymore. Instead, it is sin that lives in me that is doing it." This has led to much contemplation and discernment about the self. Thomas Merton famously wrote about the "True Self" and the "False Self," which has been the basis of much discussion as people in general have affirmed his understanding. His belief is that the "False Self" is the life we live on earth and the "True Self" is who we "really" are as disciples of Christ. I understand his desire to help people understand what it means to be transformed. I have preached on the "True Self."

As I have been preaching on the doubts you have shared, I realize that I have doubts about the way we try to explain transformation and if the language we use is helpful. There are some points it might be helpful, like if a person is just starting some type of recovery and it is seen as moving to wholeness. Though it is not helpful if someone has worked on discernment or has come through trauma and has come to love who they are, then hear from the church that this self I have come to know, and love is a "False Self." It can cause a person to believe they aren't really welcome in the church. It can also cause them to wonder how the person they know themselves to be can be "false." In that sense we are denying their agency.

I think Paul comes closer to understanding how to live our faith and be faithful with what he writes in Romans 12:1-2 (The Message) "So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you." The challenge here is that we must normalize change for ourselves and our communities because God works to bring change that is seen in transformation. Not denying ourselves, but to focus on living fully with God. I wonder if we shouldn't cast aside the "False Self" language and focus on more encouraging and positive language. What if we described our earthly, human self as the "True Self" and our transformed Godly eternal selves as "Our Holy Self." This would honor the understanding of self as humans and at the same time leave room for transformation to grow into our eternal life that has already begun and that continues through salvation and resurrection. Then new people to the church would be welcomed with honor for who they are, yet to also bring them on the journey of transformation with the rest of the community.

+ Love Pastor Libby



Laundry Room and Playground

Angel Child Care has been enjoying having laundry onsite for a while now, and the playground is almost finished! There are many people to thank for these great additions to our space. You will find a list of the grants we received to the right of this. Without those community opportunities we would not have been able to complete these projects. Please take a moment to check out these new areas. Take a moment to pray for the children and families that will benefit from the playground area and to give thanks for the organizations that made this project a success.

If you have any questions about the spaces please see Pat Mills.



Thank you!

- EARL BANE FOUNDATION
- DANE G HANSON FOUNDATION
- SALINA REGIONAL FOUNDATION - CHIP GRANT
- GREATER SALINA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION - YW LEGACY FUND
- GREATER SALINA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION - KS HEALTH GRANT
- LANCASTER CONSTRUCTION
- CHILD CARE AWARE
- COC MEMORIAL FUND
- CHURCH OF THE CROSS MEMBERS

Backpack Giveaway

The 3rd Annual Backpack Giveaway was a success! This year 360 bags of supplies were able to be prepared! There are so many people to thank for doing the work that goes into making this successful! This program would not be what it is without the leadership of Robin Cates. Robin, Julie, and Mollie get together in early July to figure out how many supplies are needed to fill the backpacks and what the cost is projected to be. Then they order the supplies needed and work with Wal-Mart to get the rest of the supplies. This year Wal-Mart took the list of things we needed and prepared a pallet of our order and made checkout a breeze.

This year Robin wrote letters to local businesses to ask for financial support so we could meet the greater need. We would like to thank the many individuals from all over that donated to this event. Many thanks to those in our congregation who donated funds, time as a volunteer, and prayers. A special thanks to TLC for packing the school supplies. Please see the photos at the end of this newsletter from the event and the packing of supplies.

We received donations from the following local businesses:

Salina Regional Health Foundation
On the Pot
Bennington State Bank
Great Plains Manufacturing
First Bank Kansas
Salina Downtown
Nex-Tech

Supplies by the Numbers



VANCO Giving Online

VANCO makes giving to the church easy! Through your support and contributions, we can share the message of our faith to not only our congregation and the community, but to help support and create ministry that shares our love with everyone.

There are two ways to use VANCO for e-giving:

- Download the mobile app: Download Vanco Mobile either through the Apple Store or Google Play. Search Church of the Cross and find the one that is in Salina, KS and give.
- Visit www.coc-salina.org and easily enter your donation through our website.

If you have questions or need help, call the church (785-825-5170) and talk to either Mollie or Pat.



Blessing Box

The blessing box located in the shelter house south of the church is very frequently used. In the back of the narthex is a white cabinet for donations for the blessing box. When out shopping if each family picked up one or two items to go into the box it would help make sure people in our community do not go hungry. Donations can be left on the welcome center or put in the cabinet.



Suggestions of items for the blessing box are:

- Canned or bag tuna
- Vienna sausages
- Canned fruit
- Peanut butter
- Canned vegetables
- Crackers
- Grab and go snacks
- Macaroni and cheese.



Grab N Go

Thank you to everyone who helped with Grab N Go this summer. August 4th is the last one for this year. Most weeks they were able to serve 500 – 600 children. This program is important to our community and what an honor to have Church of the Cross be the distribution site.



Give by simply shopping at Dillons

Do you buy groceries at Dillons? Do you shop on Amazon? If you answered yes to one of those questions you can give simply by shopping! Dillons: Visit www.dillons.com and go to community rewards. COC's organization number is: X1722

AUGUST AT COC

Wednesday, August 2

6:00 PM Guitar Class – Webster Room
7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Thursday, August 3

10:00 AM TLC – Webster Room

Friday, August 4

2:00 PM Grab N Go – North Lot

Sunday, August 6

9:00 AM In-Person and Online Worship
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School – Webster East Classroom

Monday, August 7

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl – Courtyard Room
7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Tuesday, August 8

1:30PM UMW – Webster East Classroom

Wednesday, August 9

6:00 PM Guitar Class – Webster Room
7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Thursday, August 10

10:00 AM TLC – Webster Room

Friday, August 11

11:30 AM Meal Club - Perkins

Saturday, August 12

10:00 AM Fire Safety With SFD – Webster Room

Sunday, August 13

9:00 AM In-Person and Online Worship
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School – Webster East Classroom

Monday, August 14

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl – Courtyard Room
7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Tuesday, August 15

6:30 PM Scouts

Wednesday, August 16

6:00 PM Guitar Class – Webster Room
7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Thursday, August 17

10:00 AM TLC – Webster Room

Sunday, August 20

9:00 AM In-Person and Online Worship
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School – Webster East Classroom
2:00 PM Prayer Walk –Parking Log

Monday, August 21

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl – Courtyard Room
7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Tuesday, August 22

6:30 PM Scouts

Wednesday, August 23

6:00 PM Guitar Class – Webster Room
7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Thursday, August 24

10:00 AM TLC – Webster Room

Friday, August 25

6:00 PM Meal Club - Perkins

Saturday, August 26

2:00 PM Reserved – Webster Room

Sunday, August 27

9:00 AM In-Person and Online Worship
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School – Webster East Classroom

Monday, August 28

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl – Courtyard Room
7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Tuesday, August 29

1:30PM UMW – Webster East Classroom

Wednesday, August 30

6:00 PM Guitar Class – Webster Room
7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Thursday, August 31

10:00 AM TLC – Webster Room

August Birthdays

8/20 – Dave Mills
8/24 – Dodie Franklin
8/28 – Jean McDaniel

General Fund Update as of July 2023

	Revenue	Expenses	Net Profit/Loss
Current Month	\$46,096	\$21,106	\$24,990
YTD2023 Actual	\$172,433	\$138,942	\$33,491
YTD2023 Budget	\$107,100	\$138,629	(\$31,529)
YTD2022 Actual	\$96,585	\$121,026	(\$24,441)

Garden Workday

September 9, 2023 - 9AM

Church of the Cross
1600 Rush St. Salina, KS 67401

Join us as we tend to the garden plots at COC. All are welcome!



Playground Photos

The kiddos were so excited to get to play on the new playground! They all gave rave reviews about having a new area to play in.



Discover U

Discover U has amazing events coming up!



Date:
Each Wednesday in
August at 6PM

Location:
Webster Room

Cost: Free

Join us for weekly lessons in the month of August with Bill Burrows! We will be learning guitar basics and working on chords. You will need to bring a guitar and a willingness to learn.

Fire Safety with Salina Fire Department

AUGUST 12, 2023
10AM - 11AM



Date:
August 12, 2023 10AM

Location:
Webster Room

Cost: Free

Come meet Fire Office Daily with the Salina Fire Department! Enjoy a presentation and interactive learning experience about basic home fire safety.

Coming in September:

OCCK Travel Training – September 16

Coming in October:

Annual Trunk or Treat and
Chicken Noodle Dinner – October 29

Do you have a talent or passion you want to share with the community?

Email Tara Baxter at tara.baxter@coc-salina.org to get signed up to teach a class!

Stay up to date by visiting:
www.coc-salina.org/discover-u

Where have you seen God?

Share your photos of where you have seen God. To submit your photos please email them to Mollie at Mollie.purcell@coc-salina.org.



A HUGE thank you to TLC for putting together the bags of supplies for the Backpack Giveaway! They made a difference in the lives of many children!



The Community Garden continues to produce fresh produce for the Blessing Box. It is such a blessing to be able to do this!





United Methodist
Church of the Cross
1600 Rush St.
Salina, KS 67401

Church office hours:
Monday – Friday 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Church of the Cross

In-Person and Online Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM

Church Staff

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Dave Musil, Custodian