

Communiqué

Thoughts from Pastor David

There's an old story that preachers love to tell. It's the one about a Children's Minister who was offering a children's sermon during a worship service. The minister asks, "What's gray, with a fluffy tail, eats nuts, and likes to climb trees?" A little boy raises his hand. "I know I'm in church, so the answer is 'Jesus,' but it sure sounds like a squirrel to me!" Yes, it seems as if in church, the safe answer is always, "Jesus!"

While this little story makes me chuckle each time I hear it, I am continually amazed, though, that as I read through the New Testament, rarely do I see Jesus providing such definitive answers to questions, even when the questions are about Him. In fact, throughout Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, when Jesus is teaching, He is prone to ask questions, rather than give answers. In the New Testament, Jesus asks 307 questions. Yet, people ask him 183 questions, of which He only answers...3! Let that sink in for a moment. Jesus asks 307 questions. 183 questions are asked of Him. And of those 183 questions, He only answers 3 of them. What does this mean for you and me today as followers of Christ?



I think it can mean a lot of things. One response that I am considering is that questions were central Jesus' life and what it means to follow Him. You and I live in a culture today in which we long for definitive and decisive responses. We expect a clear "yes" or "no." Black or white. And in some churches, there is an urging for people to articulate an exact, clear-cut, and rigid pronouncement of who Jesus is, what it means to follow Him, and how we are changed because of Him. It's as if people are memorizing the answers to a test, without allowing the material to seep into their being.

Yet, Jesus the teacher and rabbi, shows us how wondering and considering possibilities helps us draw more closely to God and models for us that it's not always about the particular answer. In fact, I think Jesus loved questions and used questions as a central teaching tool because our responses to His questions and our questions back to Him are a window into where we are in our journey of following Him along the way. This life of faith in Him is a journey, for once we think we have found the door of an answer, there is a deeper question waiting for us on the other side. And it just might be that the answers He provides to us are not offered in verbal response, but in modeled action, which causes us to ask more questions.

In the sermons for the month of August, we will wonder alongside each other at some of these teachings and questions of Jesus. We will allow the questions to marinate in our soul. We will ask some questions back to Jesus. And we will allow the Spirit to guide our continual becoming as committed followers of Jesus.

August Sermon Texts and Titles

- August 4: Luke 12:13-21, "Economics 101"
- August 11: Luke 12:35-38, "A Surprise Party"
- August 18: Luke 12:49-56, "The Cost of Going to Church"
- August 25: Luke 13:10-17, "Standing Tall"

My prayer is that as you follow Jesus, you give yourself permission to ask Him questions. And then ask the question behind that question. And then the question behind that one. For you see, I'm convinced that an engaged disciple is not focused on the answers to a test, but follows and models her life after the ultimate teacher. Let's wonder, and ponder, and follow together.

As a fellowship of Christ's followers, our mission is to journey through life with the inclusive Christ and embrace all with God's transforming love.

Volume 22, Issue 8
August 2019

Save the Dates:

- ⇒ Saturday, August 17, Service Saturday. More information TBA
- ⇒ Sunday, August 11, 9 am: Bring your backpack full of supplies for Center Elementary to Worship with you and place it at the altar for our Blessing of the Backpacks.
- ⇒ Thursday, August 15, 10:45 am—1:15 pm, Anchors Senior Adult Luncheon
- ⇒ Sunday, August 25, 10:15—11:15am, book discussion with Keith Herron, author of *Living A Narrative Life*

Make sure you sign up for August's



August 17, Location and Time TBA. Find info on the Information Station in the Galleria.

Service Saturday takes place on the third Saturday of every month at various mission partners in Kansas City, including but not limited to Harvesters, Hillcrest Thrift Store, and Community Assistance Council. The organization and number of spots available will be communicated prior to the Service Saturday.

Clipping is Caring

When donating to the Food Pantry or doing your personal shopping, please consider purchasing "Best Choice" products, found at Price Chopper or Apple Market. These labels help support our partnership with Hillcrest Transitional Housing.



Best Choice labels can be placed in the baskets located in the Narthex and Galleria.



~ August 2019 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4</p> <p>9a-10a Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10a-10:15a Blood Pressure Check (Narthelex) 10a-10:15a Meet & Greet 10:15a-11:15a Bible Fellowship Groups (Classrooms) 11:30a-12:30p Deacon Class (Conf Room 2) 12p-3:30p ICC Bible Study & Worship</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Deacon on Call: Carole Zahnd 6p-7:30p Social Justice Team Meeting (S201)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10a-11a Staff Meeting (Conf Rm2) 11a-12p Pastoral Staff Meeting (David's Office) 6:30p-9p Play & Play Basketball (Gym) 8:30p-9:30p Young Professionals Online Small Group</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:30p-10p Play & Play Basketball (Gym)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7a-8a Men's Prayer Breakfast (Conf Rm2) 7a-8a Women's Prayer Breakfast (Conf Rm1) 6:30p-8:30p Pickleball (Gym)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Minister on Call: Anna Holladay</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9a-10a Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10a-10:15a Blood Pressure Check (Galleria) 10a-10:15a Meet & Greet 10:15a-11:15a Bible Fellowship Groups (Classrooms) 12p-3:30p ICC Bible Study & Worship 12p-9p ICC Meal (Gym)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Deacon on Call: Phil Daniel</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10a-11a Staff Meeting (Conf Rm2) 11a-12p Pastoral Staff Meeting (David's Office) 6p-7p Mission Council Meeting (Conf Rm 1) 6:30p-9p Play & Play Basketball (Gym) 8:30p-9:30p Young Professionals Online Small Group</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30p-10p Play & Play Basketball (Gym)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7a-8a Men's Prayer Breakfast (Conf Rm2) 7a-8a Women's Prayer Breakfast (Conf Rm1) 10:45a-1:15p Anchors Luncheon (Fellowship Hall) 6:30p-8:30p Pickleball (Gym)</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>HBC Service Saturday Minister on Call: Anna Holladay</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9a-10a Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10a-10:15a Meet & Greet 10:15a-11:15a Bible Fellowship Groups (Classrooms) 11:30a-12:30p Deacons Meeting (Parlor) 12p-3:30p ICC Bible Study & Worship</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Deacon on Call: Shirley Hall Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10a-11a Staff Meeting (Conf Rm2) 11a-12p Pastoral Staff Meeting (David's Office) 6:30p-9p Play & Play Basketball (Gym) 8:30p-9:30p Young Professionals Online Small Group</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:30p-6:15p Dinner (Fellowship Hall) 6:30p-7:30p Business Meeting (Fellowship Hall) 8:30p-10p Play & Play Basketball (Gym)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7a-8a Men's Prayer Breakfast (Conf Rm2) 7a-8a Women's Prayer Breakfast (Conf Rm1) 6:30p-8:30p Pickleball (Gym)</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Minister on Call: David McDaniel</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9a-10a Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10a-10:15a Meet & Greet 10:15a-11:15a Bible Fellowship Groups (Classrooms) 10:30a-11:15a Optional Church-wide BFG with Keith Herron (Fellowship Hall) 11:30a-12:30p Deacon Class (Conf Room 2) 12p-3:30p ICC Bible Study & Worship</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Deacon on Call: Tim Freeman</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10a-11a Staff Meeting (Conf Rm2) 11a-12p Pastoral Staff Meeting (David's Office) 6:30p-9p Play & Play Basketball (Gym) 8:30p-9:30p Young Professionals Online Small Group</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:10p-7:20p Handbell Rehearsal (Handbell Room) 7:30p-8:30p Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 8:30p-10p Play & Play Basketball (Gym)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7a-8a Men's Prayer Breakfast (Conf Rm2) 7a-8a Women's Prayer Breakfast (Conf Rm1) 6:30p-8:30p Pickleball (Gym)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Newsletter Distributed</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Minister on Call: Allen York</p>

Faith Community Health Team

Sunscreen 101



The sun's rays include ultraviolet A (UVA) and ultraviolet B (UVB) rays. Sunscreen Sun Protection Factor (SPF) measures the lotion's ability to block UVB rays only. To make sure your sunscreen blocks UVA rays, as well, look for the words "broad spectrum" on your lotion bottle. Sunscreens with zinc oxide are recommended because they block both UVA and UVB rays. Seek shade where available. Keep in mind the sun's rays are usually strongest between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Learn more about sunscreen and skin care at the American Academy of Dermatology's website, aad.org

Information from: American Academy of Dermatology/Church Health Reader
Lora Lau RN FCN

★ HAPPY ★ BIRTHDAY!

August Birthdays

- 8/03 Lina Smith
- 8/04 Douglas Decker
- 8/11 Audrey During, Wayne Lockyer
- 8/12 Gary Miner
- 8/13 Doug Hayes, Nicky Staats
- 8/14 Shirley Foster
- 8/15 Mike Hayes, Bill Latteman
- 8/16 Phyllis Saulsbury
- 8/18 Todd Skoog, Chris Veit
- 8/19 LaDonna Campbell
- 8/20 Spencer Brown
- 8/21 Betty Stephens
- 8/22 Lori Daniel
- 8/24 Nola Kroner
- 8/25 Herb Carpenter
- 8/26 John Hunter, Cheryl Powell
- 8/27 Brian Farber, Deanna Hendrix,
Cheryl Terry
- 8/28 Claire Miller
- 8/29 Ian Tyson
- 8/30 Keith Dougherty, Mark Trokey
- 8/31 Kayla Lessenden

July 8th-12th

HOLMESWOOD BAPTIST DAY CAMP



From July 8-12, we had a wonderful week of camp right here in our own building! 43 children were led by 4 Heartland staff and 18 Holmeswood volunteers.

Through our camp theme of "Wonder", we learned by asking questions like, "What if we belong to God?", "What if God is bigger?", "What if the Lord keeps promises?", "What if God is more than enough?", and "What if we change the world?" We ate family-style, sang silly songs, learned about CBF missions in rural parts of our country, collected kids' socks and underwear to donate to those in need, went down a giant slip-n-slide, studied the Bible, practiced archery, had a water sponge war, and more! In everything, we grew closer to each other and to God. Be on the lookout to volunteer for this meaningful and fun camp next year as we welcome even more children.

Statistics

June 16	
9:00 a.m. Worship Service	160
Bible Friends/Bible Fellowship	100
Pledge Received	\$5,604

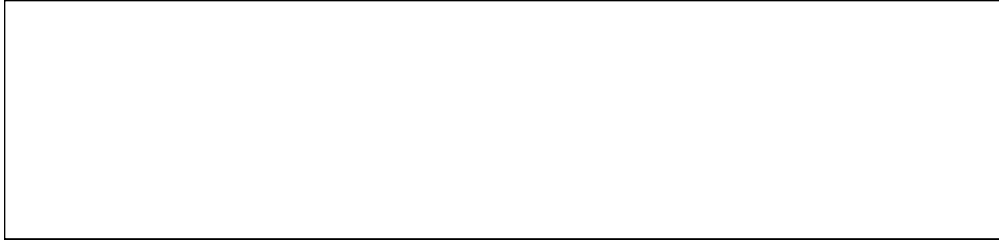
June 23	
9:00 a.m. Worship Service	120
Church-wide BFG	
Pledge Received	\$9,205

June 30	
9:00 a.m. Worship Service	139
Church-wide BFG	
Pledge Received	\$13,658

July 7	
9:00 a.m. Worship Service	146
Church-wide BFG	
Pledge Received	\$10,094

July 14	
9:00 a.m. Worship Service	158
Bible Friends/Bible Fellowship	108
Pledge Received	\$9,083

Community



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

9700 Holmes Road
 Kansas City, MO 64131-3215
 WWW.HOLMESWOOD.ORG

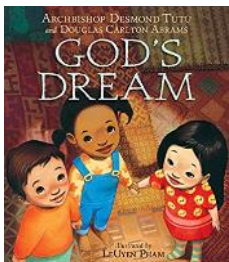
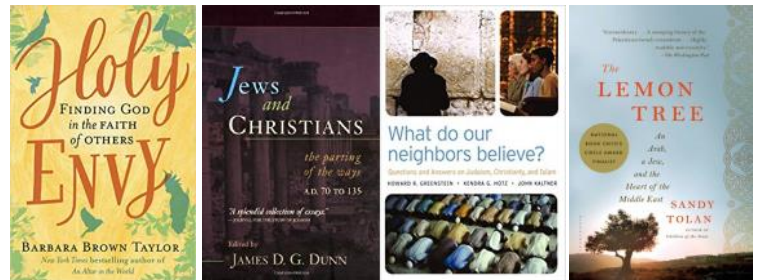


MEDIA LIBRARY NEWS

WORLD RELIGIONS If you attended the Church-wide BFG sessions on the main world religions, you may want to check out and read one of these books from the Church Library:

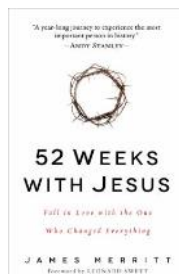


- ⇒ *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor. In this new book, the author shares her experience of teaching world religions and how she found God in other faiths and practices.
- ⇒ *A Christian's Guide to Islam* by Michael McCullar
- ⇒ *Jews and Christians* by James Dunn
- ⇒ *Handbook of Today's Religions* by Josh McDowell
- ⇒ *The Lemon Tree: An Arab, A Jew and the Heart of the Middle East* by Sandy Tolan
- ⇒ *What Do Our Neighbors Believe?* by Howard Greenstein, Kendra Hotz, and John Kaltner

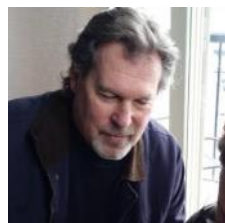


Thanks to Pastor Anna for the gift of *God's Dream* by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams. "There is wisdom to be found in children's books, and this one is no exception. For children and adults alike, this book beautifully portrays the vision of God's dream (or God's kingdom, or God's realm). No matter what language we speak, what color our skin is, or how we talk to God, this book teaches that each of us carries a piece of God's heart within us." -Anna

Thanks to Tanya Salyer for the gift of a new book, *52 Weeks with Jesus*. This book has 52 chapters, one for each week of the year.



Meet The Author!



Keith Herron, author of the new book, *Living A Narrative Life*, will be with us on Sunday, August 25 during an optional BFG time. He will discuss his book and be available to sign books.