

Unity Presbyterian Church ~ 812-299-2206

Yoke Newsletter ~ JULY 2018

Church Calendar:

<http://unitypresbyterian.net/page/calendar>

Prayer Concerns:

<http://unitypresbyterian.net/prayer.php>

The General Assembly Issued Statement

Friends in Christ,

Last week at the meeting of the General Assembly in St. Louis the body voted to approve the following statement regarding the current situation occurring at the border of our nation.

That the 223rd General Assembly of the PC(USA):

- 1. Call upon the federal government to immediately end the newly implemented zero-tolerance policy that is tearing apart families.**
- 2. Call upon the federal government to reunite parents and children that have been separated as soon as possible, under the care of the community, not in family detention ensuring access of attorneys to those in detention.**
- 3. Call upon the federal government to make certain that every parent in custody knows the location of their children and facilitate regular communication between parents and their children until they are reunited.**
- 4. Call upon the federal government to not use possible reunification with children to force immigrant parents into a concession to plead guilty to a crime in exchange for reuniting with their children.**
- 5. Condemns the President's June 20th Executive Order "Affording Congress an Opportunity to Address Family Separation," that further criminalizes migration through the expansion of family detention on military bases and other government property, potentially indefinitely."**
- 6. Call upon synods, presbyteries, and individual churches to understand, condemn, and work against the ideology of white supremacy undergirding these racist immigration policies.**

7. Remind our denomination of the Gospel call to work for just and humane policies for all immigrant communities, grounded in the principles of family unity, human dignity, and rights.

8. Direct the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly to communicate the contents of this overture to the President of the United States, our representatives in Congress, as well as to Jeff Sessions, U.S. Attorney General, and Kirstjen Nielson, U.S. Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

9. Strongly encourage congregations to learn about the impact of these immigration policies on the lives of church members as well as members of our local communities, making use of resources listed below:

- **The Genesis of Exodus film and Story Map resources:**
www.genesisofexodusfilm.com;

- **Family Detention:** www.pcusa.org/familydetention;

- **Sanctuary, A Discernment Guide for Congregations:**
[https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/pc\(usa\)_opw_sanctuary_final_6.21_edit.pdf](https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/pc(usa)_opw_sanctuary_final_6.21_edit.pdf);

- **Resources on Refugees and Asylees** <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/immigration/refugees/>.

This topic is complicated as we balance the need for lawfulness with the calling of our faith to care for the stranger, widow, and children. If you are interested in discussing the complexities of immigration and how we can respond as a church and as Christians please let me know and we will develop a study group to explore this social justice issue.

**May the Peace of Christ be with you,
Rev. Andrew Black**

Worship Schedule

**July 1st — 6th Sunday after Pentecost
Sermon: "What are we Saying?" Rev. Andrew Black
Inspired by Mark 5:21-43
Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

**July 8th — 7th Sunday after Pentecost
Sermon: "Rejected?" Rev. Andrew Black
Inspired by Mark 6:1-13**

**July 15th — 8th Sunday after Pentecost
Sermon: "In the Shadow of Power" Rev. Andrew Black
Inspired by Mark 6:14-29**

**July 22nd — 9th Sunday after Pentecost
Sermon: "No Longer Strangers" By Rev. Andrew Black
Inspired by Ephesians 2:11-22**

**July 29th — 10th Sunday after Pentecost
Green Committee Reduce & Reuse Service**

Growth Giving Challenge for the Potts Food Pantry

Each week I am amazed at the generosity and passion our community has supporting the Food Pantry. Our children are learning a valuable lesson of caring for one another each week, and we are stocking the shelves with our collection. What a blessing! Remember, by just adding a few more items to your weekly shopping list and dropping them off on Sunday morning we can greatly increase the efforts to feed those of our community in need. Keep watching the weekly bulletin insert for suggestions on the items the Food Pantry needs most.

The Food Pantry currently serves 12 families and there is an ever increasing need in our community. The pantry not only needs donations, it needs YOU. There is a great deal of time and effort that goes into operating the food pantry each month. There is food to purchase, stock, pack, and distribute. Our current dedicated group of volunteers is amazing, but they need YOUR help. I hope each of us can spend some time discerning how they might be called to help support the Food Pantry with our time and talents. Please let Pastor Andrew, Dawn Chapman or Jan Buffington know if you are interested in doing more to help us continue to answer Christ's call to care for and love our neighbors. ~ Pastor Andrew

The Bath Family

The Bath Family wants to thank everyone for their prayers and comforting thoughts during these past few weeks. We especially want to thank those individuals who were able to take some time off from busy schedules to attend the service for Vivian Stitt Bath. We only knew her as grandmother and mother-in-law. It was enjoyable to hear tales involving other aspects of her life.

Again sincere thanks.

CAN YOU HELP?

One of our members needs living room furniture. She lives in Dreiser Square. Her living room is small so a small sofa or love seat and an easy chair would help. Call the church office if you have something to donate. 812-299-2206, Thanks

The Jonah Fish fry cleared \$1200, Yea, and a huge thank you to all who volunteered Saturday, June 16 and those who worked several days before to prepare for this event.

A special thanks to Mr. Mrs. Joe Higginbotham for the beautiful refinishing job on the baptismal fount. They donated all the labor and materials to the church. God is good.

PENTECOST OFFERING

This year, Unity has been very generous to the Pentecost Offering. We collected \$798.99, of that, 40% (\$319.20) will go to Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

Morning Glories

Join us on Tuesday, July 10, at the Meadows Café for lunch at 11:00 a.m.(note the change in time). We will share food and fellowship during our summer break. If you are free for lunch that day – join us.

Collecting Greeting Card Fronts According to Heloise, St. Jude's is still accepting greeting card fronts but will soon be unveiling a new version of the program. Remember no Hallmark, American, or Disney fronts. It's another way to recycle!

VIEW FROM THE INSIDE BY CAMILLE CHURCH MOUSE



90 degree temperatures, rain, 90 degree temperatures and more rain! My guess is that SUMMER is here!

Our Fish Fry was a big success with a great crowd and great food. We made about \$1,200.

Vacation Bible School was a wonderful event. There were lots of fun things to do and we enjoyed a delicious lunch.

I hope our garden isn't water-logged. All the rain could be a problem I planted my little plot. I planted cheese curls, corn chips, Oreo cookies, and salsa. I will gladly share my surplus with the food pantry!!!

Take time to enjoy summer and our church property. Read your bulletin and newsletter and join us for fellowship and worship!

God's blessings and joy to everyone! Peace and love!!

Green Corner

Summer is here and I hope you are all enjoying the warm weather. This is a busy time of year with lots to do. We can all still take time to do our part to help the Earth.

It seems like almost everywhere you look there are ideas and tips on how to be green. Being green includes more than just recycling. It also means trying to live in a way where you also reduce and reuse. (Just a hint: one of our worship services in July will emphasize this topic).

In this month's Terre Haute sewer bill there was a list of ways to save water outdoors. For those of you who missed it, here are some of the ideas.

- Don't overwater landscaping.
- Don't water on cool, rainy or windy days.
- Plant drought -tolerant or low water-use plants and grasses.
- Use shrubs and ground cover to reduce the amount of grass.
- Place mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and discourage weeds.
- Set your mower blades one notch higher (longer grass = less evaporation).
- Use a bucket instead of a hose to wash your car.
- Use a broom rather than a hose to clean paved or hard surfaces.

Pick one of these you haven't used and try it!! You will be helping the earth by conserving water and save money at the same time!!

Giving Garden

A big thank you to Dawn and Vern Chapman for all of their work on the church garden. Take a short walk back to the south on the property to see what is going on. Dawn and Vern get the prize for the first produce!! They have had two zucchini already harvested. A percentage of the harvest goes to our food pantry so they can also share in our garden. There are still plots available for anyone who wants to play in the dirt!!

These two pictures are from the garden. First one Luan and JR working in the garden, second one looking down on a Dawn and Vern's zucchini plant.



Bill Brett's passing: Services will be at the First Congregational Church, 630 Ohio St, Terre Haute, IN. July 14. Time will be announced later.

Praise God for the life of a great man! Dr. William J. Brett passed July 1. Bill taught in the Biology Department at Indiana State University for 57 years and was Chair for 15 years. At ISU, he was awarded the Caleb Mills Teaching Award in 1977 and the Inaugural Presidential Medal in 1996. He was a founding member of the Association for College and University Biology Educators (ACUBE) and received their Honorary Life Award in 1995. Bill impacted the lives of tens of thousands of students during his service to ISU

Everyone who knew Bill has fond memories and amusing stories of their interactions with Bill. Services will be announced.