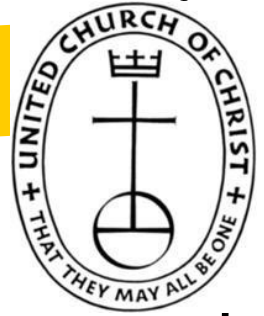


July/August
2016



The Tidings

Ministerial Moments

"A hermit said, 'Satan has three powers that lead us into all sins:
Forgetfulness,
Negligence,
Selfish desire.

If forgetfulness comes, the result is negligence, and negligence is the source of selfish desire. Selfish desire will be our downfall. A serious mind will not be forgetful, and negligence will not become a problem. With Christ's help, selfish desire will not rule us." (*from A Little Daily Wisdom: from the Early Church. Paraclete Press.*)

Last night, in preparation for writing these moments, I listened to the cast recording of the Broadway musical "Hamilton". While I am not great fan of hip-hop music, I have been intrigued by this musical. In fairness to the composer, there is more than one style of music here. In some ways, it reminds me of the many styles of music incorporated by Andrew Lloyd Weber in Jesus Christ Superstar. King George III even takes on the comical relief of Herod in the musical, though the similarity ends there. For those of us who have a problem following the rapid dialogue of rap and hip-hop, a full libretto is included with the recording.

The story is one of Alexander Hamilton who landed on our shores from Jamaica in New York City on the brink of the Revolutionary War in 1776. Most of the story of the birth of our nation is told through the stories of Hamilton and Burr, two figures we often ignore in American History classes.

Burr is cautious and Hamilton has a fiery temperament. Both men are brilliant. Hamilton has gifts both in math and writing which is why he becomes Washington's right hand man, writing letters to the Continental Congress for funds. Later, he writes many articles to convince the colonies to pass the Constitution.

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July Birthdays

Ruby Lehman	1
Kenny Bollmeier	5
Fred Lewis	11
Dale Reese	12
Nathan Goodman	13
David Dressel	13
Skyler Goodman	15
Larry Matzenbacher	18
Peggy Dierks	23
John Barrett	23
Nolan Cathcart	24
Janet Fauth	25
Craig Rahlfs	28



August Anniversaries

Larry & Kathy Matzenbacher	1
Tim & Melissa Curry	5
David & Pete Dressel	15
John & Alice Childers	16
Ron & Gail Geisel	22
John & Janet Fauth	30

July Anniversaries

Mike & Debra Raban	11
Jay & Leslie Lehman	16
Leroy & Marlene Karsten	31

August Birthdays

Dixie Ferrell	1
Martin Galle	3
Carol Mercer	4
Alan Oyler	4
John Childers	5
Neal Galle	8
Tari Carpenter	9
Ann Peters	10
Gene Bollmeier	14
Lorrie Lehman	14
Nancy Barbee	14
Grant Duffie	14
Irene Triefenbach	15
Isabella Schmidt	20
Sheryl Jones	20
Dave Barbee	23
Tyler Jones	25
Ty Duffie	26
Victoria Galle	27
Debra Raban	28
Jean Riess	29
Andrew Stuart	30
Gina White	31
Warren Trotter	31

THANKS and Other Things !!!

Many thanks to all who made our 125th Anniversary and confirmation a success. I know a lot of different people worked on it and there were times that those in charge of certain things changed with the days, so I won't attempt to name names. I do know the Evangelical Daughters made the ornaments with our church's picture on them. If you did not take one home with you after the dinner, they will be available for sale at the fall Wurstmarkt. Also, Lori Selman did a beautiful job on our bulletins, including many pictures of the church.

I got so excited to see Mabel and Irving there and wanting to make sure we sang him the "Birthday Song", that I completely forgot the prelude, something for which Nancy may never forgive me.

We had 63 in attendance. Rev. Johnson took pictures of our church before the service and posted them on Facebook, giving us a very nice "Shout-Out". She was impressed with the choir and told me she had never sung the "Birthday Song" in the new century hymnal before.

In other thanks, I want to thank Bobbi and Tom Duffie for replacing the flag. Duane Waeltz has also replaced the backyard spigot which has been leaking for some time. John Barrett helped Ron get the banners on our car and then he and Riley went with Ron in the parade to toss ice pops to the crowd. Boy, have Riley's years in baseball given him an arm! I watched him take aim and throw and he nearly always got that ice pop where he was aiming. Also in the parade was our other confirmand, Davey Schneidewind. Davey plays trumpet and was marching with the school band. The week after confirmation, Davey was put into service as an usher. It was nice seeing his dad and grandfather training him.

Yeah! As I write this, Neal's Heating and Cooling is here working on our A/C. It should be done soon.

Ministerial Moments Continued

As Washington's Secretary of Treasury, he clashes with Jefferson and Madison over the development of a National Bank which they feel will take away too much from the rights of the states.

Jefferson, Madison and Hamilton cut a backroom deal which allows for the formation of a National Bank, in exchange for moving the national capitol south to its present location.

We forget that in the early days of this country, the person with the most votes was President and the person with the second most votes became Vice President. This was difficult enough with Jefferson VP to Adams. When Aaron Burr became Vice President to Jefferson, it was disastrous.

The story ends with the Burr-Hamilton duel and death of Hamilton.

I bring this up because, in spite of the fact that ugly political campaigns have become the norm in recent years, this one is appearing to be the ugliest, most divisive one we have seen. We need to look to ourselves and our own motives involving who we vote for. Are we truly voting for what we believe to be the best for the country or are we voting what we believe is best for us? Many of us, unfortunately, will be voting for person we consider the lesser of two evils because we do not like either candidate. It will not be easy. One of King George's lines from Hamilton is, "Ocean's rise. Empire's fall. Next to Washington they'll all seem small." This Independence Day and throughout the political campaign I ask you to remember to keep this country in your prayers.

Blessings

Pastor Gail

Family Care

Family care is a mission of UCC churches in this area (Hecker, Freeburg, New Athens, Darmstadt, Biddleborn and Marissa) in conjunction with Hoyleton which allows families low cost counseling services. We have arranged a fundraiser at Machete's in New Athens on August 25th. For those of you unfamiliar it is across the street from Citizens Bank on the east side of town. We will get a percentage of the proceeds that evening. I think those of us on the committee will be asked to bus tables, from previous experience in fast food, I can assure you they do NOT want me doing anything else. As you can tell from the name, it is primarily Mexican food, but they do have a few non-Mexican dishes.

JULY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	July 13 to July 19 Nancy Shubert will be covering for Pastor Gail 618-475-2958					
3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Pastoral Relations Mtg 6 pm Council Mtg - 7 pm	13 Pastor Gail starts Vacation (see above) back on July 19th	14	15 Lori out of Office until July 29th	16
17 Visitation Sunday	18 VBS @ Faith Baptist 6-8:30 pm all week	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

August 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Region 8 Meeting @ Biddleborn	2	3	4 Family Care Meeting @ New Athens Machete's 6 pm	5	6
7	8	9 Council Mtg 7:00 pm	10	11 Marissa School's Registration 2 to 7 pm	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 1st Day for Marissa School Pastor Gail out until the 29th	23	24	25 Family Care Fundraiser at Machete's (percentage of sales)	26 Conference at Shrine "When Metal Illness Hits Home"	27
28 Guest Speaker—Nancy Barbee	29	30	31			

Greeter and Ushers for July and August

- 3 Carol Mercer, Curt Werner, John Barrett
- 10 Bobbi Duffie, Jean Riess, Dale Sinn
- July** 17 Bobbi Duffie, Jean Riess, Dale Sinn
- 24 Jay & Leslie Lehman, Dennis & Nicole Sinn, David Barbee
- 31 Mike & Peggy Dierks, Marlene Karsten

-
- 7 Mike & Peggy Dierks, Bobbie Duffie, Tim Campbell
 - 14 Kevin McDonald, Ruby Lehman, David Barbee
 - August** 21 David & Evelyn Schneidewind, David & Mindy Schneidewind & Davey Schneidewind
 - 28 Susan Oyler, Kathleen Robert, Neal Galle, Donna Galle

Congratulations !!!

David X. Schneidewind once more got straight As. Emma Schmierbach made High Honers and Riley Starr got Honors.

Hymns

I got quite a few hymn requests this year. #1 was "In the Bulb There is a Flower" with 5 votes. #2 was "In the Garden" with 4 votes. There are several Hymns with 2 and 3 votes. I will have to get a list to Nancy of those hymns that I can't find in my collection of hymnals. I don't think we have any I don't know. Don't forget, we will have patriotic hymns again on July 3.

TWIGS

It is my understanding that TWIGS needs more volunteers to hand out food. There seems to be a special shortage on Thursdays, perhaps because that is the same day as story time. Carol said they had averaged 70 young people per day so far this year. Last year, after VBS, the average was 30 to 40 people.



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