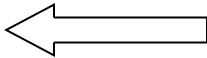


TEEN EXTREME!

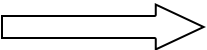
Teen Extreme started on June 7th. We have a fantastic group of 8 teens attending. Our theme for the summer is “Never Give Up.” Field trips include Laurel Caverns, The Gateway Clipper and Hershey Park. We will volunteer at the Washington Outreach and will be working on props and decor for VBS. We are having a great time learning how to be resilient all while making new friends.



The Teen Extreme group about to tour Laurel Caverns on a field trip.



Teen Extreme accepted the challenge of using everyday items to cushion an egg dropped from the balcony in the Commons.



The object is to engineer a package that would leave the egg intact. Three eggs survived the fall.



MAYFIELD, KY MISSION TEAM IN ACTION

the mission team for Mayfield, KY:

Ed Moore , Eric Meyers, Renny Domske and Bill Payne



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The Summer Messenger

Newsletter of The Church of the Covenant
July 2022

Dear Congregation of God:

Warm summer greetings! Even as I begin writing this letter I am reminded that this is not only the first day of summer (seems like it’s been summer for weeks now) but it is also the longest day of the year. That is good news for those, like me, who long for the shorter, cooler, and crisp days of autumn. That means tomorrow we are one day closer to that glorious season. Nonetheless, I sincerely love long warm days, a green horizon, blue skies, multicolored flowers, early morning runs (or walks), backyard evenings, picnics with the fam. I love it all. Summer is the time for slowing down, taking trips, seeing family and all the rest.

In fact, surprise, surprise, I have a theology of summer. Actually, it’s more of a theology of winter with a spring/ summer application. I am quite certain that the Garden of Eden did not, could not, experience winter. Can you even imagine a frozen Paradise? And poor Adam and Eve naked and freezing under a bare tree by a frozen pond? I don’t think so! I am fairly certain that Paradise by definition is perpetual spring/ summer (without allergies and biting insects!).

Winter with its barrenness, freezing cold and long, dark nights must be part of the curse on the world Christians call the Fall. And it won’t last forever! Salvation in the Bible includes nature. St. Paul eloquently argues that the whole creation “groans” under the burden of the Fall waiting for its final redemption (Romans 8:21-23). We wait too. Each winter our longing finally turns to spring and the blessings of summer. One day, we will forever be free of winter’s bondage, free children of God, enjoying what Paul calls “the freedom of glory.” Ah! Eternal spring!

I also love summer church. I always have. Summer means a slower pace, lower expectations. Summer church is a time to deepen friendships, meet new people, greet visitors and, in general, enjoy church with fewer obligations.

So, I pray you will enjoy your summer. Be renewed and recharged. Deepen your relationship with God and each other. Sit still often and listen to God, to your loved ones, and to yourself. Take long walks, have long conversations and enjoy summer church. Be relaxed, sing loud, pray hard, give generously, listen well, be friendly, make a new friend, and above all things glorify Him throughout.

Sola Deo Gloria,

Pastor Billy

DEADLINE FOR THE August MESSENGER is July 15



In Memory Of

Marguerite Bellinger

Youth Education -Jack Dagg

Harriett Johnson

Memorial Fund - Mark and Kim O'Donnell

BAPTISM

On June 5, 2022, **Ellianna Kimberly Kurtz**, 10-month-old daughter of Taylor Ellen (Lawson) Kurtz and Zachary Eugene Kurtz. Ellianna is the grand-daughter of Kimberly and Scott Shetter. Her baptism was officiated by Pastor Scott, assisted by Elder Joan McCrory.



THANK YOU

Hands and Hearts would like to thank everyone who made hand-warming muffins for the residents of Southmont. The staff and residents were very appreciative. One resident even requested the pattern! Just another example of the generosity of time and talent by the members of our church family!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2022

To everyone who is a graduate of the class of 2022; wishing you all the best in your next chapter of life, whether you will be starting a job, continuing on to further your education, or any of the many options you are considering. May you find blessings in all your future endeavors along your path!!



Mystery Island VBS -- July 18-22

We greatly appreciate any help/donations that you can offer to make our Mystery Island adventure a success! Snack/Craft/Science Donations: Please see the 2 display boards in the Commons for needed supplies, and instructions on how to return items. If you prefer to view the list and drop-off instructions by email, please contact Amy Dille. Volunteers: We are looking for a few more enthusiastic classroom helpers to assist our teachers in setting up their stations each day! If you love crafts and/or fun science activities, jump on board! Contact Amy Dille at 724-678-4456 or churchofcov.vbs@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you!

July - August 2022 Tuesday Speaker Series

July 26 - August 23

Dr. Jim Platt

Synopsis: *The Bible tells me so... "A Time to Laugh"!* - History. Archaeology. Theology. Laws. When we think of the nature and content of Scripture, I would wager that one of the prior four words, or another akin to them would jump into the forefront of your mind much faster than "humor"... if it crosses your mind at all! We don't think of the Bible as a rip-roaring, side-splitting work, but contemplate that for a moment. Even under your own roof, there may be some who find something funny and others that would fail to see the humor in it! Just ask my wife! Compare the sorts of humor we find here in the U.S. with the kind of humor of the British. Some Americans might acquire a taste for it, but others likely never will. Why? Humor is culturally rooted! Humor is nuanced! In fact, humor demands some sense of the environment from which it springs. Ever tell what you thought was a 'knee-slapper' only to have to explain it to an individual to whom you were telling it? That is us; reading the Bible much as we might with British humor or humor from any other part of the world! Likewise, one needs to listen hard enough to begin gaining that acquired appreciation's for why the ancients found something funny...and indeed they did! Too often we believers are seen as the judgmental, demanding rule-following, dour, and "keep a stiff upper lip" crowd! Should we also see ourselves as people that need to "lighten up" (never compromising God's standards) and laugh a little? Might there really be something to the age-old adage: "laughter is the best medicine"? Look at God's response to the ego-driven people and rulers that vainly and, frankly, idiotically think that they can hatch and carry out a plot against God and His anointed (Psalm 2): He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.

Indeed, as the writer of Ecclesiastes affirms: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" and among those "matters" is that "time to laugh"! Join us as we look at Scripture through the long-neglected lens of—humor!

THE FRIENDSHIP PADS ARE BACK!

Our Membership and Fellowship Committee have returned the Friendship Pads, which you may remember filling out prior to the pandemic shut-down. Filling it out might seem unnecessary, but it is important for keeping track of attendance, and to assess the impact of COVID-19 on church attendance.

Tucked inside the red (for the 9:00 service) or blue (for 8:00 and 11:00 service) cover are cards of three different heights; a Connect Card (Blue), a Prayer Request Card (Purple) and a "Get Involved" card (Green). Please take a moment to check out what information you can put in each type of card. There is a basket at the Welcome Center where you can leave any cards after the service, or you can place them in the offering plate.

Thank you! From the Membership and Fellowship Committee

PARISH NURSE CORNER

There are several personal assistive devices available in the Parish Nurse office looking for a new home. Items include: new in box bathtub grab bar, new standard rolling walker with seat (never used, still in plastic), 2 bariatric rolling walkers, standard walker, bariatric wheelchair, transport chair, shower chair, table for hospital bed and canes. No more donations can be accepted until these items are placed with people in need of them. Please contact me at 724-263-7911 or stop by Room 302 on Sunday mornings to arrange pick-up.

Good Health to all!-Linda Grimm, RN



PITTSBURGH PRAYS

HEINZ FIELD | SUNDAY, JULY 10TH 2-4 PM

(DOORS OPEN AT 1 PM)

To gather and pray. To see our city reconciled and united in Christ. To give thanks for answering prayers in trying times. To strengthen our relationships with one another as members of the body of Christ.

For information or free registration visit

<https://pittsburghprays.com/>

NOTICE FOR THOSE WHO LOVE BOOKS

There's no summer vacation for the Carnahan Library.

It's open for your visit 6 days a week: M – F 9:00 – 3:00 & Sundays 8:30 – 12:30 Plan to stop by to select books for your summer reading. There are best sellers (both fiction and non-fiction), books by well known authors such as C. S. Lewis, Henri Nouwen, John Ortberg, David Baldacci, John Grisham, Karen Kingsbury, Kristin Hannah and David McCullough.

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE'S READING TASTES & INTERESTS.