

The Leaven

September 2020



SOULE SEARCHING

I have been walking several miles a day for six years. Once in a while I run but, mostly I walk. When I walk in my neighborhood I walk by a home that posts a joke for the day on a sign in the front yard. They are usually corny, but even so, most of the time they put a smile on my face. This is one of the jokes: A man named his dog "Five Miles." When asked why he chose that name, he replied, "Now I can truthfully tell my friends I walk Five Miles every day!"

Since the pandemic has restricted many of my activities I try to walk five miles every day. I do it for several reasons: I need the exercise, I love being outdoors, it clears my mind and it helps me stay connected to God.

Sometimes I walk from my office at Fourth and Walnut down along the river. I can go to either North or South Esplanade and enjoy the beauty of the view, the trees, the water, the birds, and the sky. I can wander through the River Landing and Downtown Leavenworth and see lots of people and activity, all the while keeping my heart rate pumping as I go up and down the hills.

My walking anchors me in this season of change. There has been no summer vacation this year, no trips to Kaufman Stadium for an evening of fun. Sunday mornings no longer have normal rituals. Too many meetings are now done via Zoom. Schools have all kinds of new rules. Walking reminds me of the many things that still maintain the rhythms of life.

When I walk the birds still sing even if we can't sing together in worship. Rabbits run and play and dodge me if I get too close. The wind blows rustling the leaves. These leaves will become the yellows and reds of Fall.

These walks remind me to look up. "I lift my eyes to the hill. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord who made the heavens and earth!" Psalm 121:1-2

Some days I easily look up. As I walk, the power lines remind me of the immense power of God. In an empty water bottle or aluminum can I hear the words, "Come to me and never be thirsty." I encounter a beautiful garden and I "Consider the lilies of the field, they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these." Matthew 6:28-29.

Honestly, other days everything looks just like what it is...trash, trees, muddy water. But I am very seldom sorry I took the time to walk. I have cleared my mind and usually have talked with God along the way.

A colleague of mine shared this story from one of her walks. "I came upon a piece of paper. I almost didn't pick it up but decided otherwise. I bent down and picked it up. Unfolding it I knew I had someone's grocery list. It was written on a piece of notebook paper with a Bible verse printed on the bottom. I read the list and the verse and smiled. The verse was Psalm 63:8 "My soul clings to you your right hand upholds me".

The grocery list read: tomatoes, bread, toilet paper, cereal, candy. Then on the top of the other side of the page: lottery ticket.

The combination of faith in God and a wild hope in long odds seemed a divine message in that moment.

May God keep all of us walking forward, full of wild hope for our future and in our ever-present and merciful God

Blessings,
Tim

"FEARSOME FOURSOME" TO THE RESCUE



When members of the Men's Discussion Group learned one day last month that congregant Al Pursell needed some assistance with a little yard work, they were quick to respond.

Within 48 hours Jim Mathison, Howard Kirk, Carl Johnson and Dick Gibson were at Al's residence to trim a bush at the south end of the sun porch that was overgrown, this being the (Al is pictured here on his front porch with Howard, left, Carl, second

from the left, Jim, center, and Dick, right. Photo by Mary Gilkey)

project that had been mentioned in an email I had sent to Jim and Howard as well as Claude Wiedower following a Sunday afternoon visit to see Al at his lovely "Pineapple Place". But as we all know, one job often leads to another as work needing to be done quickly reveals itself, and that was the case at Al's. The bush got some much-needed attention, yes, but Jim, Howard, Carl and Dick ended up spending a couple of hours at Al's in generally tidying up the property. I will let Jim finish the story. " A couple of folks got on the roof and cleaned out the gutters. We picked up a good bit of trash and dead limbs, and Carl hauled a pickup load to the dump," he reported to me in a follow-up email that covered the rest of the work these four men did before and during the noon hour to help Al out.

"They did a heckuva job," Al, ever so grateful for the assistance, told me recently.

by Rick Nichols



MEET OUR NEW WEEKEND CUSTODIAN

Wes Watkins began working for the church Sunday, August 16 and is taking the place of Jim Garrett, our longtime weekend custodian, who recently decided to step away from the position. Originally from Minnesota, Wes moved to Leavenworth County with his family in 1989 and subsequently attended Pleasant Ridge High School near Easton. Watkinses living in the Easton area are probably related to him, he says.

Wes, who is a big wrestling fan, has a brother, and his parents used to own a video rental store in downtown Leavenworth.

Welcome to the team at First Presbyterian Church, Wes! We're glad you're here!

WITH ONE HEART, CHURCHES FORGE AHEAD ON JOINT PARKING LOT PROJECT



First Presbyterian Church member Bill Geiger, the owner of Geiger Ready Mix, looks on as the concrete crew smooths out some fresh concrete. Photo by Grant Zschoche (pronounced "Chuckie")

A project that has been on the drawing board for a while began in earnest last month when large machines started removing dirt from the spacious lot directly south of our church to create additional parking stalls for both our church and our same-block neighbors, the First United Methodist Church.

By September 1, concrete had been poured just to the south of the "alley" that extends from Fourth Street to Fifth Street to provide angled parking for 17 more vehicles belonging to members and friends of our church or visitors. Then in early September, on the opposite side of the lot, more concrete was poured to form 16 new angled stalls for use by members and friends of the Methodist church or visitors.

The project was spearheaded by Bill Geiger, a longtime member of our church and the owner of Geiger Ready Mix. The two churches divided the cost of the Geiger concrete on the basis of how much each of them was going to need for the work that was to be done within the lot, which is owned by the Methodist church, and Julius Kaaz Construction Co., furnished the required manpower.

This two-panel sign facing Fourth Street informs motorists that our church and the Methodist church teamed up to pull off the parking lot project and that the necessary labor and materials were supplied by Geiger Ready Mix and Julius Kaaz Construction Co.



Photo by Rick Nichols

It is reported that the Methodist church has plans to develop the lot, once the site of a large two-story school, as a venue for special outdoor events such as the United As One event scheduled for mid-September, so the additional parking stalls will definitely come in handy in the future.

In the meantime, efforts to get the City of Leavenworth to improve the condition of the "alley" continue, as it is used regularly by both our church and those who live in the former Carnegie Library immediately to our west. Moreover, according to another longtime member of our church, Carol Beall, the "alley" is not an alley at all but rather the western section of Market Street and, as such, needs to be maintained at a level equal to the attention other streets in Leavenworth receive from the city.

EAT DESSERT FIRST!

It wouldn't be end of summer without the ICE CREAM SOCIAL sponsored by the Deacons! So let's EAT DESSERT FIRST! Directly after Church Service on September 13th the Deacons will provide Ice Cream for everyone. Please bring a lawn chair and prepare to social distance on the front lawn. It will be shady and we will provide awnings where the sun shines. You may also sit on the front steps. Unfortunately there will be no music this year, just a time to visit with each other outdoors. Please bring your masks.

PWC

The Ladies Circles have begun! The Bible Study this year is

"Into the Light, Finding Hope thru Prayers of Lament"

Circle 3 meets at the Church on the Second Tuesday at 10:00am, Marti Auchard (913-522-3263) is the leader. (In September we will meet on the First Tuesday)

Circle 4 meets at the Church on the Fourth Monday at 10:00am. Pam Crume is the Leader.(913-651-2208).

Circle 5 meets on the Second Tuesday at 6:30pm. A lite dinner is served, Meeting place to be determined each month. Cindy Scircle is Leader, Chris Aus is contact person (913-915-7574). Books are available for \$10. If you are interested in joining a Circle please contact the Circle Leader or Ginnie Strand, 651-0511.

THANK OFFERING.

Presbyterian Women will be collecting the Thank Offering on Oct 18th. Since 1888, Presbyterian women have expressed their deep sense of gratitude for God's blessings in their lives by giving back to people in their communities and around the world. We help fund programs that provide education, relief from disasters, safe housing, cooking instruction, training for justice and advocacy

work and so much more. The 2020 Thank Offering will fund 13 projects in the United States and two International projects.

"GIVE PEACE A CHANCE!"

The third of the four annual offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is the Peace & Global Witness Offering, which is to be received on Sunday, October 4 this year. With that in mind, we will be promoting this offering from the pulpit on Sunday, September 13, Sunday, September 27 and again the day of the offering, telling through real life stories how the money that is raised in Presbyterian churches across the country has been used in the past to help facilitate reconciliation between individuals, families and communities, replacing hate, fear, anxiety and conflict with love, courage, confidence and harmony in the name of Jesus.

Like the Pentecost Offering, a portion of the Peace & Global Witness Offering (25 percent) will be retained locally for either the use of our church or to support the work of an organization our church believes in. Pastor Tim has suggested to the committee the possibility of our church partnering with Fort Leavenworth to carry out a worthy project of some sort, and we will be discussing this idea further in the coming weeks. In any event, it is our intention to use the money received on October 4 to assist with a project aimed at reducing discord and division within our society while bringing people together at the same time.

Please prayerfully consider giving generously to the Peace & Global Witness Offering as we get closer to the first Sunday in October. Remember, when we as individuals do what we can to support the work of the church at home and abroad, in the end it adds up to a lot! Also remember, "God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God." (Matthew 5:9 - NLT)

Rick Nichols, moderator, Faithful Discipleship Committee

WE ALL HAVE A STORY

Uncomfortable with the idea of standing up in front of other people and telling them why the church is important to you and why you give of your time, talents and treasure to support the work of the church? No problem. We would be more than happy to make the necessary arrangements to have a video created showing you talking to the camera, the pastor just off to the side, then shown to the congregation during an upcoming service. Or, and this is another option, you could write up what it is you want to say and one of us, the members of the Faithful Discipleship Committee, would be glad to read your Faithful Discipleship story to the congregation.

The ideal "testimony" runs anywhere from 2 to 4 minutes in length, so shoot for 3 minutes and you will be right on target!

Best of all, that 3 minutes will come and go before you know it!

If you wish to volunteer to share your Faithful Discipleship story, feel free to give me a call, 913-440-0513, or send me an email, rickenichols627@comcast.net. I would love to hear from you!

Finally, whether or not you will be giving a "testimony" during the next few months, I want to thank all of you for the way in which you have continued to support the church in recent years, especially over the past few months. Your generosity is much appreciated!

Rick Nichols, moderator, Faithful Discipleship Committee

PWC WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER

PWC will resume in September with Circle 3 on Sept. 1 at 10:00, Circle 5 on Sept. 8 at 6:30 and Circle 4 on Sept. 28 at 10:00. The books may be picked up at the church.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Immediate: Jeanie (Barbara-Sue Rose), Brianna Hoffman (Cindy Scircle), Jeff Dewees (Cindy Scircle), Genie Bowman (Miriam and Jerry), V. Williams (Barbara-Sue Rose), Ron Bacquet (Cindy Scircle), Tony and Betty Livesay (Ginnie), Nancy (Linda Barry), Shelly (Steve and Barbara Finch), Jacob Hayes (Lorna), Karen Waddell (Cindy Scircle), Barbara and Steve Finch, Baby Edith and family (Miriam Bowman), Family of Aunt Bernie (Ginnie Strand)

Ongoing: Joe Hudson, Judy Jahn, Gladys Griffin (Maria Traynham), Barbara-Sue Rose, Maria Gordon (Carolyn Tillotson), Twila Corley, Jayce Ward (Cindy Scircle), Al Pursell, Mary Hickie (Linda Barry), Marilyn Ferbert, Le Thomas, Sandy Bushman (Carolyn Tillotson)

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3-Annette Allen 3-Dale Hurt 5-Chase Allen 5-Drake Allen 5-Shirley Rockwell
8-Claude Wiedower 11-Jerry Traynham 15-Merna Roe 17-Dick Gibson
25-Debbie Soule 30-Carl Johnson 30-Darrell Holland

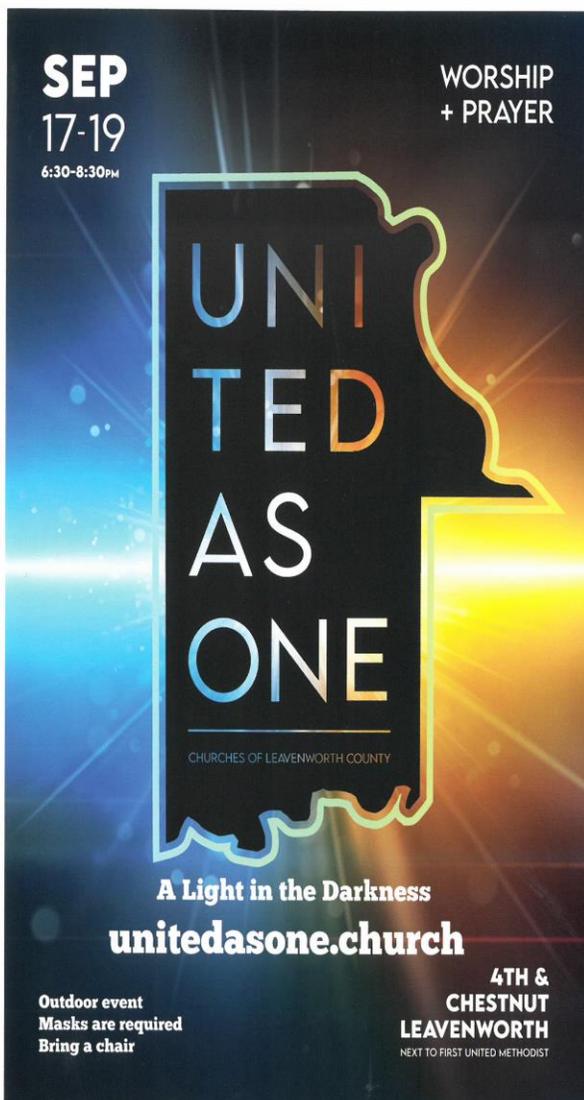
AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

6-Steve and Barbara Finch 8-Dennis Goodwin and Rodney Schwatken
11-Linda and Tom Thompson 21-Ron and Kathy Kenton



OUTDOOR SERVICE SORT OF A "TUNE UP" FOR UNITED AS ONE

The parking lot back of the church provided the setting Sunday, August 30 for our second outdoor worship service of the year and the first since mid-June when one was held at VA Park just ahead of the reopening of the church amid the coronavirus pandemic.



Last month's service, which Pastor Tim dubbed "Worship Lite", attracted 12 members and friends of the church not counting Tim for a time of prayer, the reading of Scripture and the sharing of a message. There was no music, however.

But music certainly will be part of the special outdoor event that will be taking place right next door to us on Thursday, September 17, Friday, September 18 and Saturday, September 19, United As One. Churches from around Leavenworth County representing different denominations and different races will be coming together in the First United Methodist Church's large lot just to our south for three evenings of worship and prayer to lift up Jesus before the community at large as "A Light in the Darkness" during these troubling and turbulent times we are now living in.

Activities each evening will begin at 6:30 and continue until 8:30. Those planning to attend are asked to wear a face mask and encouraged to bring

a lawn chair. Our church's parking and restrooms are to be made available to attendees. Those interested in serving as a building host (we will need two each evening) one or more evenings can sign up for one of the available slots on the sign-up sheet in the narthex or call the church office, 913-682-6891, and let Arlene know.

For more information about United As One, visit www.unitedasone.church.

SEPTEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 8:30 AM Outdoor Worship 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship	31 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Cody Choraliers	1 10:00 AM Circle 3 6:00 PM Deacons Meeting	2 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship	3	4 Church Office Closed	5
6 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship	7  memorial DAY Church Office Closed	8 6:30 PM Circle 5	9 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship	10 6:00 PM <i>Session Meeting</i>	11 Church Office Closed	12
13 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Ice Cream Social after Worship	14 7:00 AM Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Cody Choraliers	15	16 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship	17 6:30-8:30 United as One	18 6:30-8:30 United as One Church Office Closed	19 6:30-8:30 United as One 9:00 a.m. Presbytery via Zoom 10:00 AM League of Women Voters
20 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Christian Ed. Committee Meeting	21 7:00 AM Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Cody Choraliers	22 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Community Meal	23 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship	24	25 Church Office Closed 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Amateur Radio Testing	26
27 Mission Committee Meeting Worship Committee Meeting 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship	28 7:00 AM Men's Morning Discussion Group 10:00 AM Circle 4 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Cody Choraliers	29	30 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship	1	2 Church Office Closed	3