



Faith United Methodist Church
432 59th Street
Downers Grove, IL 60516



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

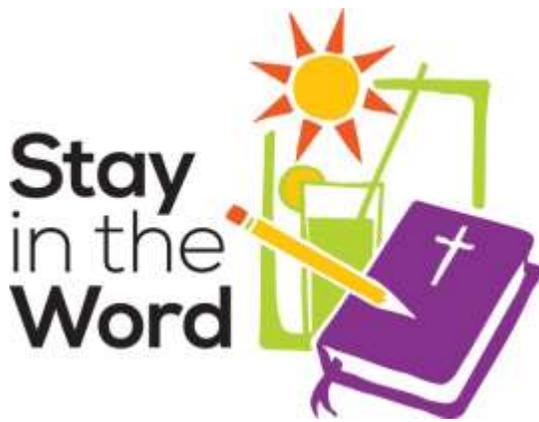
July 17-21, 2017

9am – Noon

**See registration form
included in this issue.**

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9 AM	Sunday School for All Ages
10 AM	Worship Service
10 AM	Children's Church
11 AM	Fellowship



Stay
in the
Word

JULY/AUGUST ECHOES OF FAITH

Faith United Methodist Church

432 59th St., Downers Grove, IL 60516

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Volume MMXVII, Issue No. 7/8 – 2017

Holy Leisure in Christ

Beginning with schools' summer vacation, it is a time to consider our exodus to the campground and cottage for several days or weeks. It seems appropriate to reflect on the biblical understanding of leisure. We work as hard at playing, relaxing or seeking spiritual nourishment as we do at our labors, because we view it all as part of the same acquiring exercise. We are consumers of experience as well as goods. This is why so many people return home exhausted after a long weekend or vacation.

Certainly, as Christians we have the tension of trying to navigate our way in a fast paced, changing world and at the same time striving to be faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ. Like circus jugglers, we try to balance our careers, our volunteer or ministry commitments, our family commitments, our vacations, our own need for time alone, and our relationship with God. We struggle with unemployment, with sickness and the limitations of old age.

The most rigorous ascetics of all, the early Desert monks, considered this problem as well it seems. 'Was all of life to be penance?' 'Was all of life designed to exhaust the body in order to save the soul?' 'Was all of life meant to be spent pouring ourselves out?' In response to these questions they told the story of St. Anthony, the founder of monasticism.

One day a hunter in the desert saw St. Anthony enjoying himself with his brothers and he was shocked. What kind of spiritual guide is this? But the old monk said to him, "Put an arrow in your bow and shoot it." So the hunter did. Then the old man said, "Now shoot another." And the hunter did. Then St. Anthony said, "Shoot your bow again, keep shooting, keep shooting, keep shooting." The hunter finally said, "But if I bend my bow so much I will break it." Then St. Anthony said to him, "It is just the same with the work of God. If we stretch ourselves beyond measure, we will break. Sometimes it is necessary to meet other needs."

Holy leisure then is an essential part of the Christian life. It is not laziness and it is not selfishness. It has something to do with the depth and quality of our lives. Now Jesus invites all who are listening to "*come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest*" (Matthew 11:28). But rest, holy leisure is one of the most difficult spiritual elements to achieve. We are trained to be doers and makers, not dreamers and seers. Yet Sabbath or holy leisure is profoundly counter-cultural concept. Sabbath

demands that we stop this foolishness of throwing ourselves away in the endless quest for experience. God not only lures us to the Sabbath, but commands that every seventh day we stop and give up being a consumer.

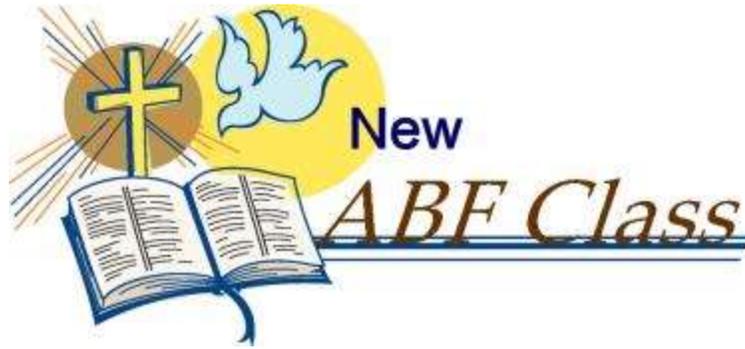
As Christians we are not immune from pain, fear, failure, disappointment and rejection. And yet into the midst of the pressures and burdens comes again and again and again this invitation from Christ: *“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest from your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light”* (Matthew 11:29-30).

And I know that at the end of a long day it is so much easier to slump in front of the television than it is to accept Christ’s invitation to enter into the quiet. But the fact is that it is our souls, not our bodies that are tired. And the yoke is not one that Jesus imposes. In fact, it is one that is tailored to our own particular circumstances. It is an opportunity to learn from him, to release our grip from life and surrender to a power greater than ourselves. It is an opportunity to embrace the gentleness, the littleness and humble spirit of Christ. For Christ understands that the burdens which weigh most heavily upon us are not so much the physical burdens but the spiritual and emotional ones: The burdens of the soul. It is not so much the financial struggles to acquire more things, but the worry about tomorrow. It is not so much the failure as the fear of rejection and loneliness that comes. It is the burdens of our souls that wear us out.

We have recently enjoyed several worship services with special occasions such as Mother’s Day, Pentecost, Graduation, Father’s Day, and Youth Camp. It is good to be with the Lord at worship. Worship is the most important moment in our life. It is a time to glorify God. It is a time to be empowered by God and one another among our congregation. It is a time of fellowship with sisters and brothers in Christ. It is a time of holy leisure that our minds, bodies, and spirits which are exhausted can be renewed by the Spirit. Summer is not a time of making slow or taking a break in our spiritual growth and our soul exercise. Even though we plan to have a time for our physical relaxation (family vacation or camp), we need to keep focusing on holy leisure, centering to Christ, worshiping God with our fellow Christians, and disciplining our spirituality. Therefore, let us come to church and worship together. Let us pack the pews.

When we are yoked to Christ, we are able to bear even what seem to be the impossible burdens because we don’t have to bear them alone. In him we can find rest. Rest from the consumption of experiences, rest from the fears which challenge our dreams, rest from the anger and wounds of the past that won’t heal. For in Christ we find what holy leisure truly means.

Your brother in Christ,
Charles Yoon



**What: New 6-week Adult Bible Fellowship Class led by Mike Abron
“God’s Heart, Strategy, and Design for Reaching the Unreached”**

Where: Library

When: Sundays, July 9 through August 13 @ 9 am

Unfortunately, a large amount of Christ followers throughout the world are just weekly churchgoers attending a social event, but are not actually experiencing being church in the world by allowing God to demonstrate his kingdom, power, and glory, through them by his Spirit.

God made very clear in his word that every one of us will stand before his presence and give an account for the deeds done in the body (2 Corinthians 5:10), and for how we have used what he has given us in this life, no matter how small we may think it is (St. Mathew 25:14-30). With that in mind, this class was designed not only with the purpose to assist the Christ follower with the ability to identify what God has specifically called them to do, but also where God has called them to do it, and how to see the task through to completion. We will be using Jesus, his life, and ministry as our chief example to understand God’s heart, strategy, and his design for extending his kingdom to the unreached of this world using every believer through the local church, and in the spheres of marketplace (Business, Government, Education etc....).

Topics:

1. What is the difference between going to church and being the church?
2. How to live life as Christ?
3. How do I allow the power of God to be manifested through me?
4. How can I strategically reach into a dark world in partnership with the local church and my sphere of influence?
5. How do I overcome all obstacles of diversity?
6. How do I stay faithful to the task God has called me to even when challenges come?



Vacation Bible School

Faith United Methodist Church

432 59th St., Downers Grove

July 17-21, 2017

9 am to 12 pm

**Donations would be greatly appreciated!
Please place the items in the VBS collection container.**

VBS Items Needed:

Toilet paper/Paper towel tubes
Poly-fill stuffing
Tape
Plates
Cups – 6 oz.
Napkins
Black plastic tablecloths
Mini marshmallows
M&Ms
Raisins
Goldfish
Pretzel fish
Dried cranberries

Cheerios – any flavor, no nuts
Chex cereal
Pretzel sticks - thin
Ritz crackers
Cheeze-it crackers
Raisin bread
Mini bagels
Rice Krispie treats
White frosting
Canned cheese
Cream cheese – soft tubs
Lemonade mix
Apple juice

FRIDAY LUNCH

Hot dogs
Buns
Condiments
Chips
Cookies

**(Perishable food items
can be purchased
week of VBS)**

Craft items:

8 pie plates
10 ping pong balls
1,000 drinking straws
Glycerin
100 ft. roll plastic tablecloth (1 red, 1 yellow, 1 blue)

Volunteers are needed to make the decorations ahead of time and then to help decorate the church the day before VBS. Pizza will be served to volunteers.



Phil's Friends is a non for profit 501 © (3) organization that supports those affected by cancer through the gift of hope and prayer.

Care Package Items Needed

Please note: Because cancer patients have compromised immune systems, all items need to be new and unused.

Our most urgent needs are:

- Knitted/crocheted hats for women (for a pattern go to www.headhuggers.org/patterns)
- Individually wrapped adult toothbrushes
- Solid colored baseball hats for men (MUST be new and unused).
- Blankets for women and men:
 - Fleece tied throw blankets (no bigger than 40"x50" including the fringe)
 - Rolled throw blankets
- Gift cards from JoAnn Fabrice (\$5.00 and up)

We also have needs for:

- Christian CDs
- Travel size unscented lip balm
- Playing cards
- Crayons and colored pencils
- Electric pencil sharpeners
- NIV Adventure Bible or New Testament for children
- NIV Bibles for teens
- Puzzle books for adults or teens*
- Shipping carts for mail room (call to discuss)
- Thick, fuzzy socks for women*

* Items can be found at Dollar Stores, such as Dollar Tree

Items can be brought to the church office.

Thank you for your generous donations and thank you for bringing hope!

From our missionary in India,

Friends,

I'd like to share a story of how God is working through Hope for Today's VBS ministry to share the love of Jesus with the people of South Asia, and **how easy it is for you to help!**

Last year, a friend invited Chendu to VBS. Even though his father was angry with his mother for allowing him to attend, Chendu shared everything he learned with her. One thing he told his mother, who had a deep desire to have another child, is that God listens when people pray.

She decided to go to church and ask a pastor to pray over her and soon discovered she was pregnant. Because Chendu attended VBS, not only is he now a big brother – *his entire family believes in Jesus...even his father!*

How you can help:

Last year, 15,000 children like Chendu attended our VBS. Over the week of VBS children receive snacks, thrive in a nurturing environment and hear the gospel truth, many hearing the name of Jesus for the very first time.

Would you consider helping to send 20,000 children to VBS? A gift of \$5 will send one child to VBS. A gift of \$1,000 sponsors an entire VBS site!

Your support of Hope for Today's VBS ministry has the power to change the trajectory of a child's life. Together we are sharing the love of Jesus Christ in South Asia!

Thank you for being part of the Hope Team,

Peter & Esther Pereira



Peter Pereira
India

God Bless Our Graduates!

Kindergarten & Pre-School

Danel Corre

(Son of Emer & Eliza Corre)

Highpoint Friendship Center (Pre-School)

Krystina Corre

(Daughter of Emer & Eliza Corre)

Richard School District (Kindergarten)

6th Grade Promotion

Audrey Lin

(Daughter of Winston & Winlynn Lin)

El Sierra Elementary School

Audrey will attend O'Neill Middle School

8th Grade Promotion

Alex Alagano

(Daughter of Ignacio & Elsie Alagano)

John F. Kennedy Middle School

Alex will attend Plainfield East High School.

Danielle Paige Espino

(Granddaughter of Roy & Lydia Espino)

Kaneland Middle School, Sugar Grove

Emma Ferrin

(Granddaughter of Mel & Nancy Gehrs)

Freemont Middle School

Emma will attend Mundelein High School.

Anastasia Faye Lipasek

(Granddaughter of Bill Wagner)

Westmont Grammar School

Anastasia will attend Westmont High School

Trent Mansfield

(Grandson of Mel & Nancy Gehrs)

Timber Ridge Middle School

Trent will attend Plainfield Central High School.

Ryan Papacek

(Grandson of Mel & Nancy Gehrs)

Timber Ridge Middle School

Ryan will attend Plainfield Central High School

High School Graduates

Klaire Carlquist

(Granddaughter of Wally & Carol Carlquist)

Downers Grove South High School

Klaire will attend the University of Kansas with a full 4-year Evans scholarship studying marine biology.

Michael Ji

(Son of Hank & Jenny Ji)

Neuqua Valley High School

Michael will attend Northwestern majoring in Computer Science.

Katherine Elizabeth Stapleton

Downers Grove South High School

Katherine will attend the University of Illinois to study computer engineering.

Matthew Tapia

(Son of Priscilla Alcantara)

Downers Grove North High School

Matthew will attend the College of DuPage. He will work part-time and get ready for college.

Adeline Celeste Wagner

(Granddaughter of Bill Wagner)

Westmont High School

(4-years with 4.0 Grade Average)

Adeline will attend Columbia College in Chicago majoring in Video Art.

Elyssa Wold

(Granddaughter of Jon & Kim Wilcox)

Downers Grove South High School

Elyssa will attend the College of DuPage.

Higher Education Graduates

McEnroe G. Apostol

(Son of Joyce & Noemi Apostol)

Chamberlain College of Nursing

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Mac plans to review for board exam and work in E.R. or I.C.U.

Higher Education Graduates (continued)

Caroline Bair

(Daughter of Chuck & Rita Bair)

University of Illinois – Champaign/Urbana

Bachelor of Science in Architecture

with a minor in Urban Planning.

Caroline plans to return to University of Illinois
for Master's Degree in Architecture

Austin Carlquist

(Grandson of Wally & Carol Carlquist)

College of DuPage

Associate Degree

Austin will attend Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, AZ.

Austin plans to work in Social Services.

Aaron Corre

Elmhurst College

(Brother of Emer Corre)

Bachelor of Science in Finance

Aaron will be working with Tesla in mid-June 2017.

Chelsea Deneb T. Octava

(Daughter of Willy & Theresa Octava
and sister of Peachy Octava)

College of DuPage

Associate's Degree in Science

Chelsea will transfer to Loyola University, Chicago
majoring in biology with a pre-med track

Lewis Ricci

(Grandson of Janette & Willard Skaer)

Arizona State University

Master of Science in Chemical Engineering

Lewis plans to return to Arizona State University
for Ph.D. program.

Olivia Sheaks

(Granddaughter of Betty Sheaks)

University of Kentucky, School of Nursing

Master's Degree in Nursing



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Emiline Alcantara
Steve Howeler
- 7 Winston Lin
- 9 Douglas Carmichael
Terry Paulhus
- 11 Gail Olson
Janette Skaer
Cindy Ayers
- 13 Rudy Gutierrez
- 14 Rose Alcantara
Jackie Madrid
- 16 Christine Fischer
- 19 Mel Gehrs
- 20 Bonnie Russell
- 23 Judy Fox
- 25 Rosanne Paulhus
- 26 Rupert Mayuga
- 27 Ali Exconde
- 28 Vic Fischer
Alex Alagano
- 31 Jon Wilcox

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Ed DeLongo
- 9 Naty Alcantara
- 10 Paul Pagulayan
- 12 Esmeraldo Cordova
- 13 Bruce Denby
- 15 Diana Smith
Charlotte Sirovy
- 16 Marlys Aspel
- 17 Karen Dubinoff
- 20 Ruth Wolfe
- 22 Hazel Cramer
- 24 Kristine Scherbring
- 28 Pam Bielak
- 30 Renato Francisco
- 31 Harold Whitt
Cely Chavez



Seniors - 55 and over
Summer is here!
We will be cooling off on:

July 13th at

Papa Passero's (buffet style)

6326 Cass Ave., Westmont
&

August 10th at

Blueberry Hill Pancake House

7340 Rt. 83, Darien

Remember!

If you are planning on going, see Bonnie Gentile at church the Sunday before or call 630-969-3419 before noon on Wednesday.

Have a great summer!

**The Downers Grove FISH
Pantry helps families in need.
The following items are always
appreciated:**



- Toilet paper
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Large canned meats (stews, chili, etc.)
- Bars of soap
- Pudding and Jello
- Canned fruit
- Vegetable Soup
- Cereals
- Financial donations

Please bring your donations to Faith Church and place them in the FISH Barrel located in the narthex.

Please note: We are no longer accepting donations of furniture, clothing, and household items.

Everyone is invited



Sunday, Sept. 10th
at Faith Church

★Food

★Praise Band

★Games & Prizes

for Children & Adults

★Wear picnic clothes to church or your favorite sports team jersey.

★Hamburgers & Hot dogs will be furnished. Please bring a salad or dessert to share and a lawn chair.

FROM YOUR FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

We all can agree that our congregation enjoys the fellowship we share every Sunday after worship. Fellowship servers are needed as indicated on every Sunday's program/bulletin, Friday E-Blast and Echoes. Sad to say, there are not a lot of servers signing up for fellowship, and the Fellowship Committee steps in to provide the refreshments and serve on the Sundays when there are no volunteers.

The Fellowship Committee therefore is making a plea to the congregation for a one-time voluntary donation to purchase refreshments needed for the remaining Sundays in 2017 when no one signs up for fellowship. A special envelope will be provided on July 23rd and 30th for this one-time donation and placed in the offering plate during worship.

The Fellowship Committee appreciates your generosity.

From our friends...

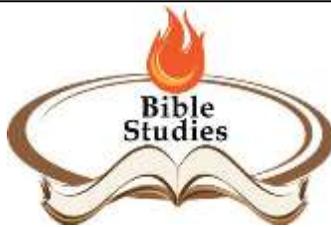
Thank you to Pat and Don Hayward for your Greeting Card Ministry, as well as for your supportive and encouraging emails and texts. You have touched so many lives with your Christian love. May the Lord continue to bless, guide, protect and sustain you.

From Amy & Rupert Mayuga

To Faith Church friends,
By participating in our Coins for CareNet program, your church is having a great impact! The baby bottles distributed at your church raised \$536.72. We at CareNet are so grateful that you have chosen to partner with us in this way! CareNet relies on church support, and Faith United Methodist Church is truly an example of Christ's love in action.

All CareNet services are offered free of charge. Your support will allow CareNet to continue providing women in need with pregnancy tests, counseling, ultrasounds, and material goods such as diapers, as well as provide opportunities for emotional and spiritual healing after a previous abortion. In 2017 we have seen a record number of women at our four local centers. Because of your support, lives are being saved and transformed every day. Thank you!

Gina Sullivan
CareNet Special Events Manager



Men - Tuesdays from 6-7AM at Omega Restaurant on Ogden Ave. Study of "Hebrews" led by Bill Miller.

Men - Saturdays from 7-8AM in the Fireside Room. A study of the "Gospel of John" led by Bill Miller. Breakfast \$2 each.

Women - Wednesdays from 10-11 am in the church library. A study of "Twelve Women of the Bible" led by Pastor Charles.

May 2017 Financial Report

May general giving was \$3455 per week. YTD general giving is on par with last year for the general fund (\$79,000 each year) with lower giving for building (\$6800 vs. \$9300) and facility rents are down \$3000 (\$8286 vs. \$11,307). We are giving slightly over \$3500 per week to the general fund which is below the budgeted \$4100.

Expense control is saving us as almost all categories are below budget. Expenses are below last year as well due largely to lower salaries (pastor and combination of children's ministry and youth).

Available cash is \$22,000.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Denby

Prison Ministry

Cort Wilson is collecting 2017 calendars for prison ministry.

Maximum size is 8x10. Collection box is located on the narthex shelf outside Fellowship Hall.



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Lee-Ann Pickett (See 1Thessalonians 4:16) 02-28-2001
READY OR NOT, HERE I COME



Vacation Bible School 2017

July 17-21, 9:00am-12:00 Noon

Ages: Age 4 thru entering 6th Grade

Cost: \$10

Make check payable to Faith UMC
Financial assistance available if needed

PARENT INFO:

Parent Name: _____

Address: _____

City & State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Phone 2 _____ Email _____

Emergency contact Name and phone number: _____

People allowed to pick up your children & phone number: _____

CHILDREN INFO:

First & Last Name _____ Age ____ Date of Birth _____

Grade in coming year ____ Allergies/Medical Conditions _____

First & Last Name _____ Age ____ Date of Birth _____

Grade in coming year ____ Allergies/Medical Conditions _____

First & Last Name _____ Age ____ Date of Birth _____

Grade in coming year ____ Allergies/Medical Conditions _____

First & Last Name _____ Age ____ Date of Birth _____

Grade in coming year ____ Allergies/Medical Conditions _____

CONTINUED ON BACK

To register, please return this completed form:
to the church office in person or mail to
(Faith United Methodist Church, 432 59th St., Downers Grove, IL 60516)
For any questions, please call the church office at 630-968-0442

T-shirts are included:

- Child XS (2-4)
- Child S (6-8)
- Child M (10-12)
- Child L (14-16)
- Child XL (16-18)
- Adult S
- Adult M
- Adult L
- Adult XL
- Adult XXL



● Child's name: _____ T-shirt size _____

Do you agree to allow photos of your child to be used in church presentation or church promotional materials? Yes NO

Is there a special friend you child would like to be with? Friend's name: _____

● Child's name: _____ T-shirt size _____

Do you agree to allow photos of your child to be used in church presentation or church promotional materials? Yes NO

Is there a special friend you child would like to be with? Friend's name: _____

● Child's name: _____ T-shirt size _____

Do you agree to allow photos of your child to be used in church presentation or church promotional materials? Yes NO

Is there a special friend you child would like to be with? Friend's name: _____

● Adult's name: _____ T-shirt size _____

Mission and Vision Trip to South Korea



Everyone is invited Summer 2019

Faith Church students and young adults are planning to visit South Korea in the summer of 2019. Young adults, 7th graders and up as of 2019 (now 5th graders) and the entire congregation are invited to go on this trip. We want to know how many people will join this trip. If you or your children are interested, please contact Pastor Charles or the church office for more information.

