

MESSENGER June11, 2021

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord!

For a change this week, I am writing not to provide updates or to inform you of upcoming events, but rather simply to express thanks to God for this day and this season.

At various times in my life, my favorite season of the year has been different. I am always grateful and ready for the change of seasons when they come, whether it is winter to spring, spring to summer, summer to fall or fall to winter. Winter has never quite made it to the top of my favorite season list, although I do love Christmas and snow (to a point!) and cozying up to a warm fire. For most of my life I have said that fall is my favorite season. Who doesn't love crisp, clear days and the beautiful colors of autumn? In more recent years, spring became my favorite. That might have something to do with moving to the south, where we usually have a "real spring" with many days of pleasant weather while the gorgeous azaleas and dogwoods bloom and the world bursts forth with new life.

But at this point in my life, summer has become my favorite season, and in particular right now. Yes, I know that summer doesn't officially begin until June 20th. That's the longest day of the year and the astronomical first day of summer. However, the meteorological first day of summer was June 1st, and I am going by that!

Why is right now my favorite season? Well, let me begin with this morning, when it was already getting light out before 5:30! Kim and I took our dog Pete for a walk just after six, when it was still cool enough for him, but warm enough for us that we wore only the very lightest clothing and were completely comfortable! I got a run in before 8; then I did a tiny bit of yard work just for fun. I am thankful for the fact that the lawn always looks its best at this time of year. We may end up on the beach later today, or if not, tomorrow, knowing that the water temperature is nearly perfect at this time of year. Tonight, the sun will not set until 8:52, which makes this day the 18th longest day of the year (in terms of daylight hours).

That last fact may be the biggest reason why this time of year is my favorite: light! The Bible is full of references to light, from the very beginning when God said, "Let there be light," to the very last chapter of the book of Revelation with the promise that in the end of this life, "night will be no more," and we will have no need for a lamp or the sun, "for the Lord God will be (our) light." In the Gospels, John tells us that Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness. Jesus tells us that he is the light of the world, and that as his followers, we are the light of the world. In Romans 13:12, Paul admonishes Christians

to “cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.” And in Ephesians 5:8 we are called to “walk as children of light.”

I could go on, but suffice it to say that as Christians, we should love light! So enjoy and celebrate these longest days of the year. By the end of this month the days will be growing shorter again, but one day we will be in the presence of the everlasting light forever. May these days serve to remind us of that very great and precious promise.

Wishing you peace, summer blessings, and abundant light.

Pastor David

Week of 6-14 Scripture Readings

Centering Prayer: *Lord, help me become for you what only you can see in me.*

Psalm of the week Psalm 16

M Matthew 6:25-33

T Colossians 3:23-24

W 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

T Psalm 138:8

F Isaiah 40:28-31

S Jeremiah 18:1-7

Key Scripture: *1 Samuel 16:6b- For the lord see not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AC WINDOW UNITS- The Thrift store has some window units available that will cool 1000 sq. ft. If you are interested in purchasing one of these units for \$25 please contact Jean Hawley at 330-0760, Beth Walker at 252 213-2240, or Gloria at 704 804-4909 and they will meet you at the warehouse to get the units.

May 2021 Finance Report and Year to Date Totals

May Contributions:	\$39,976.00
Year to Date Contributions:	\$169,997.52
Year to Date Budget:	\$175,883.40

A FOCUS FOR 2021...PRAYER

No Christian is greater than his prayer life.

One person willing to humble himself and pray can leave a legacy of faith and hope, giving courage to future generations.



Members: Jonathan Adams, Scott Adams, Nancy Buckman, Harriet Byrd, Connie Carroll, Dawn Ellis, Diane Geary, Gail and Mike Kaufmann, Delores Miner, Jenny Mizzell, Brenda Munjas, and John Wilson.

Military: Joe Fraley, Sg. Joey Horne, John Modlin, Branden Mooney, Tyler Ray, Anthony Ripley, David Ritz and Alex Harris.

Friends: **Elizabeth Blair**, Del Brouwer, Vicky Burge, Candie, Kathy Carlston, Cheryl, Chris Carroll, Carole and Blaine, **Children**, David, Wes Dunbar, Mary Pharr Erickson, cancer and husband Jae, Beverly Foley, Jan Foster, J.W. Gibson, Kelly and Amy Glass, Grayson-Cancer, Tara Hall, Grandmother Sue Heavner, Jewel's grandmother, Janine and Rudy, Donna Johnson, Kathy-Liver Cancer, Tammy and Nick Kefallinos-covid, Kelly, Janet Durman Kokran, Craig Jenkins, **Paulette Kisner**, Lisa, A.J. Long, Logan, Loren, Tim McCart, Ed Minnich, Rick Nauss, Ruth, Brenda Munjas' mother, Ruth Nordquist, Chuck Osburn, **Parents**, Dot Phillips, Penny, Susan Penny, Jimmy Platts, Virginia Platts, Judy Pratt, Sharon Ray, Todd Rice, Tania Roth, Katrina Seferyn, Skip and Marcia, Roxanne Smith, Stanley and Ruby, Maria Sutton, Sister Monique Schwartz, **Teachers**, Terry, Theresa, Christopher Thomas, and Bill Zell.

And all unnamed persons needing God's peace, comfort and healing.

IF YOU HAVE REQUESTED PRAYERS FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE NAMED AND THEY ARE HEALED OR RECOVERED AND CAN COME OFF THE LIST PLEASE LET JUDY KNOW.



13 Nathan Scott Smith-Lopez
17 Spencer Henry
Courtney Kane
18 Lydia Blackburn
Paula Hopper
20 Kelly Wills
21 Nancy McCurtin

25 Tony Merlino
Alan Sasser
26 Lisa Byrd
27 Cameron Kane
30 Sydney Burgess
Donna Fisher