



Looking for God at Work in Your World

By Pastor Debbie

There's more conversation going on in our culture about spirituality than ever before. Not so much about church, but certainly a lot about spirituality. Do we have something to contribute to that conversation? Do we even know where to begin? To follow the way of Jesus is to be looking ahead where God is already at work in the world around us. That's a good place to begin.

The challenge of trying to looking ahead and following Jesus is that we expect to see sign posts and arrows as to where to go and how to follow, but they just aren't there. Rather, what we get are murky signs that say "go here and see what's going on" and "look and listen and dream." Being a part of the conversation and discerning where God is already at work in the world means we need to be on the move – looking, seeing, meeting new people, and bringing back what we learn. On Sunday, June 26, I challenged you to share with me and each other what you are seeing and who you are meeting and what you are learning about where God may already be on the move in the places where you live, work, and play. Not specific ideas for programs or ministries, but where you saw God at work during your week and what that means to you.

I gave you a few examples from one of my weeks: people sharing their experiences with church (good and bad), their gratefulness for social programs and for one another's stories of hope, their interest in spirituality (but maybe not church), their willingness to go into the hard places to bring ministries of love, compassion, and justice. What are your experiences in your daily life where you live, work, and play? Are you listening, observing, and open to these kinds of conversations? God is on the move! God is already at work bringing hope and healing to all of creation. Following Jesus into the world means going where he went, hearing stories of the lost and lonely, becoming a conversation partner, and helping others find God (regardless of their religious preference).

So, keep a journal or just some notes, then share with us in worship during the prayers of the people some of the conversations of God at work in your world that you heard, observed, or participated in, and what these conversations meant to you. Who knows where we may be led next.

IN THIS ISSUE

General Assembly
Letter, Page 2

Rock and Roll Ice
Cream Social, Book
Club, Per Capita,
Page 3

What's New in
Worship? Page 4

Calendar of Events,
Music Schedule,
Learning New Hymns,
Page 5

Fourth of July Trivia,
Page 6

Prayer List, Birthdays,
Anniversaries,
In Service Schedule,
Page 7



Brothers and sisters in Christ, there is a new season in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), as witnessed by the actions of the 222nd General Assembly (2016). The body of 594 commissioners who gathered June 18-25 in Portland, Oregon, elected Co-Moderators Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston, and J. Herbert Nelson as the Stated Clerk. Both were historic, and both signal a new way forward for our church.

The business decisions made by the body also were transformative for the 1,572,660 members and 9,642 churches of the PC(USA). The work wasn't easy, and involved careful deliberations. Collectively, the body acted on nearly 100 overtures by discerning the will of Christ.

Among other things, we now have a new addition to our Book of Confessions – the Confession of Belhar. It is the first of our confessions that comes from the global south. And, the PC(USA) has a new Directory for Worship; and Child/Youth/Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy and Procedures. God is truly guiding us to be more faithful and just to all of God's creations.

Much discussion has been taking place around the identity and purpose of the denomination, and this week the assembly voted to create a 12-member Way Forward Commission "to study and identify a vision for the structure and function of the General Assembly agencies of the PC(USA)," and a

15-member 2020 Vision Team to "develop a guiding statement for the denomination and make a plan for its implementation."

To quote Stated Clerk-elect J. Herbert Nelson, "We are not dead ... we are alive, we are reforming and we are transforming this world, one person at a time."

Looking outward, the assembly voted to engage in selective, phased divestment from fossil-fuel companies through the PC(USA)'s Mission Responsibility Through Investment committee, and re-affirmed a two-state solution for Israel-Palestine.

Please know this is only a snapshot of the actions taken, and just a glimpse at where God is leading this denomination. Complete business actions can be viewed at www.pc-biz.org.

We are, brothers and sisters, in a new season. It's exciting, but also a little scary. Yet in the midst of it all, take comfort that God is still guiding and controlling all – and we need not fear. God is calling us to hope, and to God be the glory!

*Written by,
The Reverend Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of
the General Assembly; The Reverend Denise
Anderson and the Reverend Jan Edmiston, Co-
Moderators of the 222nd General Assembly
(2016); Ruling Elder Tony De La Rosa, Interim
Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission
Agency*



Rock N' Roll Ice Cream Social Sunday, July 10, 1:30 pm Fellowship Hall

We'll be making (and eating!) ice cream using metal coffee cans, duct tape, and ice, then rolling, rolling, rolling, and rolling them until we get yummy ice cream. This is a great event to invite a friend (the more the merrier), kids, grandparents, and anyone who likes ice cream (and who doesn't!). No special skills are needed. There will be a contest, too, for more competitive folk.

We need donations to make this happen:

1 lb metal coffee cans

3lb metal or hard plastic coffee cans

Duct tape

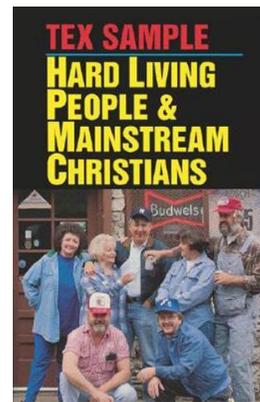
Consider donating coffee to the church and we can use the can to make ice cream.

What a deal!

**Come enjoy good fellowship
and good ice cream!**



Our next book club gathering will discuss "Hard Living People and Mainstream Christianity" by Tex Sample. An extra book is available (contact Pastor Debbie). **We will meet on July 16, 10am, in the Fellowship Hall.**



Per Capita

Please use the special offering envelopes in the pews, labeled PER CAPITA, and include a

check or cash for **\$29.84**

per official church

member in your

household. Friends of the

church may also

contribute, as we all are blessed to benefit from

the work of our denomination. The more

donations we receive to help pay our per

capita, the more money we free up in our

budget for the ministry and mission of West

Side.





Getting to Know One Another

On June 26 in worship we crossed the “great divide” – the aisle – and took a moment to get to know someone on the other side of the sanctuary. This is just one way we are taking time in worship to get to know one another better.

Nametags are coming! Small churches are often mistaken in thinking that everyone knows everyone else’s name, and that we do not need to be intentional on helping people feel they belong because we are “family.” However, this is just not true. So, we will be making opportunities for learning names and faces, helping new folks find a home here at West Side, and truly becoming a people of hospitality. Nametags will be one way to begin this process. We will have these available sometime in July during worship. We will also find a way to keep them handy for each Sunday.

The **Photo Directory** is also in progress, but we are still missing a lot of pictures of regular attendees. So, Bruce Liddel, our volunteer photographer, will be set up on **Sunday, July 10**, before and after worship, and during the Ice Cream social in the afternoon, to capture more lovely West Side faces. Please remember that the purpose of the directory is to help newcomers know who you are, and vice versa.

You can also be intentional about **crossing the aisle** on Sunday morning – before worship begins, during the passing of the peace, and following worship. Take a moment to meet someone new or get to know someone better.

Bulletin Artwork

Are you a budding photographer, artist, quilter, or just plain creative? If so, Pastor Debbie would like to feature your artwork on a bulletin cover during Ordinary Time (now until mid-November). Possible themes: God in

nature, Christian symbols (cross, fish, communion, etc), photos of stained glass windows, a favorite scripture, and more.

Adults, youth, and

children are invited to participate. Artwork will be photographed for the cover, but can also be displayed in worship. Talk with Pastor Debbie if you would like to participate. One submission per person to start.

What’s New in Worship?





{ **CALENDAR** }
OF EVENTS

July 3, Sunday, Worship
Communion

July 4, Independence Day
Office Closed

July 10, Sunday, Worship
Ice Cream Social, 1:30pm,
Fellowship Hall

July 13, Wednesday
Girl's Night Out, Noon, Hyvee 23rd

July 14, Thursday
LINK

July 16, Saturday
West Side Book Group, 10am,
Fellowship Hall

July 17, Sunday, Worship
Commission youth for Triennium
Session Meeting

July 18, Monday
Men's Lunch, Big Biscuit, Noon

July 20, Wednesday
Women's Circles, 9:30am

July 24, Sunday, Worship

July 31, Sunday, Worship

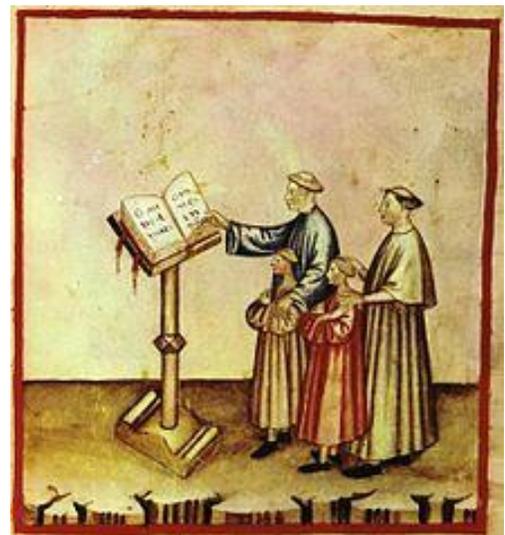
Music Schedule

Our choir and bell choir
are on break until late August.

Learning New Hymns

In the Fall, we will begin learning some new, more contemporary hymns to add to our singing and worship repertoire. As an intergenerational congregation, it is important that our worship and music be accessible for everyone, including those who connect spiritually to music of a different style than what many of us grew up with. Pastor Debbie and Lysette, our Director of Choirs, and Mary Alice, our pianist, will work together to help this be an enjoyable, spiritual, and achievable process for everyone.

We will continue to include traditional and well-known hymns, and to bring the sound of the organ back into worship.





Fourth of July Trivia

From somewhat reliable internet sources

Three of the first five presidents died on the Fourth of July: John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe. Adams, the second president, and Jefferson, the third, died on the same day in 1826, the 50th anniversary.

Which president was born on the Fourth of July? Calvin Coolidge, the 30th president, in 1872.

What other countries celebrate the Fourth of July? Denmark, England, Norway, Portugal and Sweden. Denmark Danes and Norwegians celebrate American Independence Day because thousands emigrated to the U.S. in the early 1900s. Other European countries, like England, Portugal and Sweden, hold celebrations near American military bases and or spots frequented by American tourists to boost travel during early July.

How did the Nathan's Fourth of July Hot Dog Contest begin? It apparently started after a disagreement among four immigrants over who was the most patriotic.

John Adams would think the country is celebrating Independence Day on the wrong date: Adams wrote that July 2, the date the Second Continental Congress voted in Philadelphia to declare independence from Britain, not July 4, would be the day patriots celebrated their freedom. "The Second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epoch, in the History of America," Adams wrote on July 3. "It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more."

When did the Fourth of July become a legal federal holiday? 1938

Is there something written on the back of the Declaration of Independence? Yes. It might not be a treasure map as Nicholas Cage's character claims in "National Treasure," but there is apparently a message written upside down at the bottom of the signed document: "Original Declaration of Independence dated 4th July 1776." It's not known who wrote it or when. Since parchment was usually rolled up during the Revolutionary War years, it's thought this memo served as a label.

The modern flag was designed by a high school student as part of a class project. The modern "50 star flag" has an interesting story behind its creation. High school student Robert G. Heft of Lancaster, Ohio was assigned to create a new "national banner" for America that would recognize the statehood of Alaska and Hawaii. Heft simply added two extra stars to the flag to give it an even 50 and stitched his own design. His teacher only gave him a "B-minus" for his effort, so he sent his project to President Dwight D. Eisenhower for consideration and a change of grade. Eisenhower chose his design personally and the new flag was officially adopted in 1960. His teacher then gave him an "A."





Prayer List

Wes & Ruth Buller
Diane McFarland
Lorene Procter
Char & Bob Freitag
Kathy Horton

July Birthdays

4 Justin Narcomey
5 Marci Stanwix
7 Montana Keeton
9 Tiara Barrett
9 Chance Barrett
10 Francene Beall
13 Cathie Rodkey
13 Ann Cook
16 Sarah Narcomey
19 Morgan Beer
23 Cole Narcomey
25 Lance Hertsock
26 Rob Messineo
28 Charles Hagen
28 Sarah Beer
30 Kenneth Wehmeyer
31 Chip Hull

Ordinations

July 2 – Rev. Debbie Garber
Join her at fellowship time before worship
on July 3 for cake to celebrate five years
ordained as Minister of Word and
Sacrament (aka Teaching Elder) in the
Presbyterian Church (USA).



In Service This Month

Date	Liturgist	Acolyte	Minute for Mission	Ushers	Fellowship	Sunday School
7-3-16	Robbie Messineo	Zoë DeBoard	Debbie Liddel	Alecia & BJ Gray, Jan McElwain	Sarah Beer & Anne Emert	Sue Dindinger
7-10-16	Alecia Gray	Ben Gray	Youth	Mary & Gary Freeman, Debbie Liddel	Kathy Hagen Alecia Gray	Barbara Braddy
7-17-16	Ann Cook		Ted Burgess	Lynne, Elizabeth, and Patrick Zollner	Elizabeth Gabel	Pam Mooney
7-24-16	Sue Dindinger	Montana Keeton	Elder	Sarah, Morgan, & Scott Beer	Connie Ducey Ann Cook	Debbie Liddel
7-31-16	Gary Freeman	Sam Emert	Connie Ducey		Bernita Perry Alice Wren	Sue Dindinger

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The West Wind
July 2016
West Side Presbyterian Church
www.westsidelawrence.org

