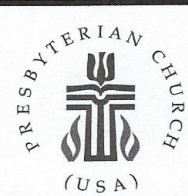


Maysville Presbyterian Church Newsletter

September 2021



Calendar:

September 5-Communion Sunday 11:15 a.m.
September 12-Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Worship &
Two-Cents-A-Meal offering
September 19-Sunday School 10:00 a.m.,
Worship 11:15 a.m.
September 26- Sunday School 10:00 a.m.,
Worship 11:15 a.m.,
4th Sunday Lunch-tentative
at this time, to be decided later in
September

Communion:

September: David Spears and Margaret Thomas

Bulletins:

September: Margaret Thomas

Ushers:

September: Tom and Marianne Dennison

Sunday School Leader:

September: Margaret Thomas

Sanctuary Flowers:

September: Margaret Thomas

Happy Birthday:

September 12-Phil Bailey
September 15-Bernie Monroe Jamerson
September 15-Eric Jamerson
September 15-Margaret Anne Martin
September 17-Joshua Saxon
September 19-Anne Snoddy Hairfield
September 27-Tana Knott
September 30-Jim Stuart

Happy Anniversary:

September 1-Brahama and Kathleen Rosenberg
September 8-Jim and Nancy Stuart

Sunday School News:

Opening exercises will resume September 12th. We will meet in the church sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. for a time of sharing followed by our Sunday School classes. The adult class is reading "The Road Back to You" by Iam Cron and Suzanne Stabile. Please join us.

Session Notes:

Because the COVID 19 virus and its subsequent variants continue to cause public health and safety concerns, Maysville will not have a **Homecoming** celebration in 2021.

Brandon Seiler updated the Session on his **Eagle Project**. Finished building 3 picnic tables and pressure and washing existing table. He is ready to start phase 2 of project. He will be building a platform to place the picnic tables on.

The digital updated **2021 Church Directory** was sent out last week. Please contact Vicki Williams if you did not receive and want a copy or need a hard copy.

A **Preservation Committee** was created.

Tom Dennison {chair}, Margaret Thomas, Frank Knott, Spencer Adams and Paul Louis agreed to serve on the committee in order to discuss the long-term preservation of the church building.

Thanks to Calvin and Melissa Wallace for the donation of their **playground equipment**. We are grateful for the volunteers who moved it and reconstructed it on church property. Spencer Adams is leading the effort to improve the playground area.

Approval was made for the power washing of the Church and Manse.

During the Presbytery meeting August 14, 2021, the first reading of the **Cedepca Relationship Covent** (in Guatemala) was presented by Irene Ellis Leach.

Food Pantry

We thank you for your perpetual and generous food donations. Meals are being distributed to and appreciated by up to 10 families each week. In order to treat the clients we serve with not only our compassion and largess, but also with dignity (which can be hard to maintain when dependent on charity) we have asked what other food products they wish were available at the pantry. Responses included: frozen individual meals (non-spicy Banquet, Lean Cuisine, etc.), ready-made frozen pizzas (cheese and pepperoni are the children's delight), hamburger (for stews, casseroles, hamburger helper, etc.), hamburger patties, hot dogs and pork chops or ham (for special occasions). Please consider every so often including such foods as your food donation.

Pastor's Ponderings

"Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kin-dom prepared for you from the foundation of the world..." Matthew 25:34^β RSV

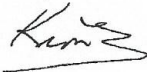
Thus begins Jesus' teaching about when we give others food and drink, welcome strangers, clothe the needy, visit the sick and imprisoned, we are, in God's eyes, doing these things to and for Jesus himself. In one clear form this teaching is a call to community service, to care for those around us — regardless of who they are.

Jonathan Haidt, former professor at UVA, now at New York University, cites in his book, *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion*, that over human history there have been two primary ways in answering the question of how to balance the needs of individuals and groups. Most "ancient" societies chose a *sociocentric* way, "placing the needs of groups and institutions first, and subordinating the needs of individuals. In contrast, the *individualistic* answer places individuals at the center and makes society a servant of the individual." Dr. Haidt points out that the individualistic response came to the forefront with the Enlightenment period in Europe and drives our Western societies today.

Jesus' teachings, I believe, are both sociocentric and individualistic, in that He calls us to work for and in and to be a community that holds the group's needs as paramount while caring for the individual. That's a *both/and* response; one that doesn't come easy. It is a constant balancing act, for we humans have a tendency to choose one over the other. Too often in seeking a smooth path we become tribal — only caring for our own families and friends who think like us, who act like us, who dress like us, who agree with us. And, in doing so, we don't see the needs of other groups and individuals as meriting attention. According to *Matthew*, Jesus might say we are then like those at His left — subject to being cast out of God's Kin-dom — no longer a part of the promise of eternal life.

That's not a pleasant prospect, but if we take Scripture seriously, we should consider ways to be intentional and thereby better at balancing both the cares of others who are not in our "tribe" as well as those who are. Sometimes hard sayings get us pondering, eh?

Peace,



Maysville Presbyterian Church
P. O. Box 221
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Address Corrections Requested