

July 2016

What's Happening

Events

July 4 Independence Day

July 16 Serve City
Christmas in July

Chosen servers

July 3 Courtney/Otto

July 17 Schumm

July 31 Jorgensen

July 2016 Minister's column by Rev. Craig Pinley



The Fourth of July brings up a lot of memories for me. When I was 10, I got to pitch in the annual Fourth of July Little League game played that year in Alsip, IL. We got a dog on a Fourth of July when I was 12, a great way in my mind to celebrate the Bicentennial. A few years back, I spoke at the Paxton Fourth of July worship service they had at historic Pells Park. But in recent years, I wanted to know more about the actual signing of the Declaration of Independence that makes the Fourth of July special in this country. Archival information from one of our signers, former President Thomas Jefferson (www.monticello.org) gave me a lot of food for thought.

Jefferson was the principal writer of the Declaration of Independence, one of five assigned to put the document together. A few months earlier, he might've considered the document unnecessary, as the colonists of America and the mother country, Great Britain, has a conciliatory relationship that gave the colonies decent trading leverages and protection. Then Great Britain fell upon harder economic times and they began taxing the colonists in ways that seemed unreasonable to those in America, and on June 7, 1766, a leader from the Virginia colony, Richard Henry Lee, convinced a prominent group of others that a declaration of independence was needed.

So here's Jefferson, tapped to be the guy that would write one of the most influential documents the colonies would ever write, and it had to be written quickly as the colonists were feeling the pressure of the British army sent to enforce the new taxes. The Declaration of Independence was formally adopted (though not signed by all 56 signers until a month later) as British fleets were on the coast of New York.

And once adopted, the document was printed post haste so the general public knew what was being decided; of course, we know that within months there would be a full-scale battle going on and our freedom today is largely due to the blood and sweat of so many back in the late-1700s that helped solidify our nation.

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Among the freedoms touted in the Declaration of Independence is the freedom of religion. Ironically, Jefferson wasn't considered the most religious person among colonial leadership, although he probably more religious than people gave him credit for. But while other teachings around religion weren't always taken kindly by Jefferson, he had this to say about the teachings of Jesus:

"My opinion is that if nothing had ever been added to what flowed purely from his lips, the whole world would at this day have been Christian."

Back in the day there was this fad where lots of folks were wearing wrist bands with W.W.J.D. (What would Jesus do?) on them and I suppose that there were many cynics that didn't think people wouldn't really aspire to that end and follow through in emulating Christ. Still, I wonder if perhaps (like Jefferson) we're all in need of taking a more poignant look at the teachings of Jesus to try and make our best effort to live more like him?

IN CHRIST,

Pastor Craig

PS—Thanks to Carol Moore, Carrie Defevers, Judy Endres, Brent Clark and Lisa Mannix, Karen Wittmer, Don Miller, Joy Vantrease, Tonya Larson (and her grandkids), Charlotte Burkhart, Heather Iglesias (and her kids), Sue Parks, Mary Sue Peters, Mary Van Lieu, Elijah Balsbaugh, Debbie Khulenberg, Mary Pinley, Tom, Marjorie, and Seth Mobley, Mike and Diane McIntire, Duane and Claudia Cantrell, Sam and Lori Lohrer, Bill and Sherry Phillips, Ron and Gloria Spurlock, Chuck and Carol Genenbacher, Gary and Carolyn Maschmeyer, Larry and Charlotte Kachner, Al and Karen Schumm, Jon and Tari Lawson, and Richard and Joan Riley, who either gave a lot of sweat equity during our sale, lugged furniture and other stuff to church, or who gave us large donations of stuff or finances for our Redeemer Yard Sale June 10-11. We earned well over \$2,000 to help our children's and youth ministries and it couldn't have been done without you all.



WELCOME CENTER

"Help With the Welcome Center"

We are looking for volunteers to assist with the Welcome Center after the Heritage and Praise service. This would entail being at the Welcome Center after church lets out to provide pre-packaged bags for any visitors and answer any of their questions. The time commitment would be approximately 15 minutes after the respective church services.

We would like to get a number of volunteers to work in a rotational basis similar to the rotation we use for ushers. At this time we have 8 volunteers, but would like to have 12 to 14.

If you are interested, please contact Kyle Schuppe at 513-863-8068 or send me an e-mail at kyleschuppe@gmail.com.



President of the Congregation

On June 12th after our morning service we held a Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary to elect Dan Wittmer as our next Vice President and David Henry as the Treasurer. Please join me in welcoming these two men to the Consistory board and I look forward to working with them both. Dan will become your next President at the October 2017 Annual Congregational meeting as I had agreed to stay on an additional year to provide continuity with our new pastor while we searched for a replacement VP. David is filling out the current treasurer's term which expires in October and this position will need to be voted on again at that time.



After the Congregational Meeting we moved across the hallway to the Family Life Center where we enjoyed a nice lunch and time socializing. We had a Town Hall Meeting and discussed many items to include the financial position of Redeemer, our future and VBS. Many questions were asked about the physical building and grounds of Redeemer. We talked about 4 groups organized to review the sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, Family Life Center and the children's wing. Outside of those areas I am reviewing the balance of the facilities to work on a list of items needing attention to include roofs, bathrooms, parking lot and the grounds. All of the reports, proposals and dreams will be tabulated and then discussed with Consistory to build a master plan which will then be presented to the congregation so that you are informed of the needs. We must invest in our facilities to enable Redeemer to grow and protect the assets we have been entrusted with.

If you have any questions, concerns, input or compliments please do not hesitate to contact me.

May God bless and keep each of you safe.

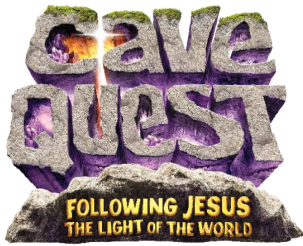
In Christian love,

Sam

Amanda goes to Thailand

Amanda Wittmer, a child of Redeemer and a recent graduate from Ohio University, will be headed to Chiang Mai, Thailand on July 6, serving as a short-term missionary and working for an organization named "Remembering Nhu." This organization focuses its efforts on human trafficking and Amanda hopes to help out by teaching English to people living in that area and then using her gifts in other ways as her ministry evolves. She's scheduled to be in Thailand until next March and Bangkok might be another city where she can help in ministry. We were blessed to hear her testimony at our combined worship service on June 12th.

A graduate of Fairfield High, Amanda graduated from college with an undergraduate degree in Psychology and Gender Studies. Along with her church influences, a Young Life ministry at Ohio U. has been instrumental in her faith development. She is the daughter of Dan and Karen Wittmer.



Help wanted: "Must love God, have a servant's spirit, be ready to learn, and love kids."

Redeemer is gearing up for this year's Vacation Bible School, which is scheduled for July 31st - August 4th, followed by a Fun Night on August 5th, 6:00 to 8:30 pm. Register On-Line @ http://www.redeemer-church.org

Vacation Bible School is our opportunity to be missionaries in our own community, inviting children to our church to learn about Jesus and God's love. Feel free to call or text me at 419-388-5663 with questions or comments

Lorrie Newmister, VBS 2016 Coordinator



REMEMBER OUR SHUT IN'S

Redeemer Church has a number of members who are either confined to their homes or residing in Care Centers. Please remember them with a card or call. Remember, if you send a card please be sure to add "Redeemer Church" after your name!

Norma Gammell

Phone: 419-388-5663, Email: normagammell@redeemerchurch.org

Evelyn Warner

Phone: 419-388-5663, Email: ewarner@redeemerchurch.org

Hester Childs

Phone: 419-388-5663, Email: hesterchild@redeemerchurch.org

Janet Evans

Phone: 419-388-5663, Email: janetevans@redeemerchurch.org

Zelma Miller

Phone: 419-388-5663, Email: zelma@redeemerchurch.org

Birthday list

- July 3 Faye Muddell
July 10 Pam Miller
July 14 Cora Kearns
July 17 Carol Dawson
July 18 Jake Jorgensen
July 19 Karl Oakley
July 25 Carolyn Maschmeyer
July 26 Patti Matheis Grayson Myers
July 29 Mike Khulenberg Jr.



Serving in Worship

Liturgists

- 7/3 Bill Hyatt
7/10 Rose Marie Stiehl
7/17 Stephanie Tillman
7/24 Brent Clark
7/31 Lisa Mannix

Prayer Intercessors

- 7/3 Charlotte Burkhart & Carrie DeFever
7/10 Carol Moore & Joan Riley
7/17 Nancy Henry & Mary Van Lieu
7/24 Lori Lohrer & Lisa Mannix
7/31 Gary & Carolyn Maschmeyer

Ushers

1st Service

- 7/3 Dan & Bev Childs, Jim & Pam Miller
7/10 Carol Moore, Karl Oakley, Faye Muddell, Bill Grubbs
7/17 Ed & Kathy Swope, Nancy Henry, Mary Van Lieu
7/24 Bill & Sherry Phillips, Ron & Gloria Spurlock
7/31 Ron & Mary Sue Peters, Dewayne & Sharon Grammel

2nd Service

- 7/3 Lori Lohrer & Lee Skorupa
7/10 Karen Wittmer & Carol Hahn
7/17 Jon & Tari Lawson
7/24 Karen Wittmer & Carol Hahn
7/31 Teens