



THE HAPPENING

June 2017

What's Happening

Events

- June 14 Flag Day
- June 18 Father's Day
- June 21 First Day of Summer

Chosen servers

- June 4 Moore/DeFevers
- June 16 Lohrer

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June 2017 Minister's column by Rev. Craig Pinley

When I was 13, my parents, my brother and I, and my two step siblings crammed into a two-door Ford LTD and began a trek that spanned well over 3,000 miles over nearly two weeks. You couldn't make up the number of glitches on that trip.



On Day One, we had clothes fall out of the car-top carrier as we hit Davenport, IA. On Day Three, we had a rainstorm that kept us inside all day in Colorado Springs, CO. On Day Five, we were in Laramie, WY, went on a fishing trip and only one person caught a fish in half a day. On Day Seven, we went inner tubing on the Colorado River, except it was drought season, so my brother ended up walking his inner tube eight of the 10 miles we were in the water. My mom was writing a brief journal of the trip and for this particular day, she penned only these words: "Bad scene."

On Day Nine, we got to the apex of the trip, Yellowstone National Park, saw the famous geyser, went to our cabin, and my parents tried to start a fire, except it was drought season, fires were forbidden, and we got reprimanded by the camp ranger. We left Yellowstone the next day, got to Mt. Rushmore (actually, a relatively normal day), and then decided to stay at a hotel in Winona, MN before one long last day of driving. Of course, only OUR family would find the Holiday Inn that had no water in the outdoor pool during drought season. Needless to say, we'll never forget that trip.

But a few weeks later, I'd have a far more life-changing experience at Lake Geneva, WI, choosing to ask Jesus to guide my day-to-day existence one night at a junior high week at Covenant Harbor Bible Camp. And the journey from THAT decision had its own set of twists and turns and a host of memories. So those two stories from July 1977 give me a lot to ponder as I consider what family means to me and what God means to me.

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With our 125th anniversary as a church occurring the weekend of September 23-24, I'd like you to start pondering this question: **"What does Redeemer Church mean to me?"**

Does Redeemer represent a neighborhood, like for some of our longest-running attendees? In conversations with those who grew up near the former building, "the little white church on the hill," the friendships with kids around the church sparked fond memories. For some, I'm sure significant events make the memory list. One parishioner told me he still knew the words from a church event (he recited it to me), which occurred seven decades earlier.

Perhaps the memories come from having been part of a church ministry – choir, a church sports team, a traditional event like Harvest Happening – and the camaraderie associated with that. Or maybe it comes from a favorite pastor: the one who confirmed you, officiated your wedding, sat with you during a family crisis, or encouraged you in some special way.

During the summer months, I'd like to have some of you share your testimony of Redeemer's part of your spiritual journey. I'm hoping to give newcomers a richer flavor or how this church has affected people. I'm also trusting that sharing your stories will inspire you to consider what new memories God might give to you through your renewed ministry. Please contact me at craigpin@yahoo.com in the coming weeks if you'd be willing to share your story.

Speaking of stories and memories, our men are hoping to enjoy time together on Thursday, June 8th, heading to the Cincinnati Reds 12:35 p.m. ballgame with the St. Louis Cardinals. Some I'm sure will want to meet at Great American Ballpark from work, but we'll aim to caravan from church at 10:30 a.m. Another event that should be fun is a collaborative church worship service between us, Covenant Community Church in Fairfield and a Hispanic congregation in Fairfield. We'll worship at 11 a.m. on July 30th, with lunch afterward. We will, however, have a 9:30 a.m. traditional worship service at Redeemer on that day, moving the service time up a bit so I can commute to Harbin Park in time for the combined service.

And put August 1-3 (Tuesday through Thursday) on your calendars, we'll have a "High Seas" Vacation Bible School at church, with a family fun night on Friday, August 4th. If you'd like to help with VBS, please contact Lorrie Newmister. Those wishing to help with the family night, contact Charlotte Burkhart.

At least two other options are also being made available to parishioners. On July 29th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., we have an opportunity to help with a Group Work Camp project in Middletown. There are options for what we can do, but Karen Wittmer is the contact person for this project. Another option being broached is a four-week Bible study or book study. If you think you'd be interested, email me and give me your best time options for when to meet and what you might like to study.

IN CHRIST,

Pastor Craig



The Evangelical Covenant Church

Great Lakes Conference Annual Meeting Report by Pastor Craig

Stephanie Tillman and I were delegates for Redeemer to the Great Lakes Conference annual meeting at First Covenant Church in Grand Rapids, MI the weekend of April 28-29 as representatives from about half of the 91 churches in the conference gathered. As part of that weekend, I participated in our annual ministerium meeting, which is required for pastors in the Evangelical Covenant Church to keep ministerial standing updated.

At our annual meeting, delegates approved the GLC's proposed \$678,000 budget, with hopes that GLC churches would consider giving 3.5% of its annual budget to the conference. For Redeemer, that would entail giving around \$6,000 to the GLC in the coming year.

A total of nine ordination candidates from the GLC were approved to be sent to the denomination's annual meeting in June; one of them is Joe Poppino, pastor of nearby Covenant Community Church. Two pastors in our regional cluster, Ja'mel Armstrong and Matt Ness, were given a Church Leadership award for their efforts to invest in the Portland neighborhood of Louisville, KY through its multi-ethnic congregation, One Church. Another Louisville Covenant pastor, William Mack, represented Grace Community Covenant Church, which was affirmed for membership (pending approval at the denomination's annual meeting) by conference delegates.

The GLC honored retiring pastor Ken Larson for 41 years of service, 26 of those in the GLC. He'd been a pastor at a Covenant church in Marion, OH, but served the last 18 at Faith Covenant Church in Farmington Hills, MI. Larson had also served on numerous denominational and conference boards during his ministry career.

The GLC was also affirmed by representatives from Flint, MI, for providing some \$24,000 in resources and numerous volunteer hours for helping that city deal with high counts of lead in its water system. GLC administrative assistant Jody Eidnes has done much work in helping organize volunteers, provide clean water kits, help provide food and vegetables, and help provide blood tests to some 560 adults and 200 kids during the past year. This was a needed ministry, given that some 11 percent of adults and eight percent of kids had some lead poisoning in their system and 3 to 5 percent needed further medical assistance due to this issue.

Stephanie Tillman served as the secretary for the GLC annual meeting, as she is an executive board member for the conference. Garth McGrath is the GLC superintendent, helping oversee churches in eight states and one Canadian province, along with his staff. He mentioned in his annual report that 16 of the churches have engaged in a Vitality pathway process to help their churches evolve in healthy ways. He also updated delegates about evangelism cohorts that have occurred in the GLC over two years (of which I'm part), with 21 pastors in all participating. The GLC also noted the 752 conversions that have taken place in the past year. A dinner Friday night celebrated some of the positive stories of churches as the GLC gave out awards for Leadership, Vitality, Outreach and Church Planting. To learn more about the GLC, check the conference website at www.greatlakes.cc.

Redeemer 125th Anniversary Weekend of September 23-24



