



June/July Newsletter 2023

Pastor's Office Hours

Beginning Wednesday, July 12th, Pastor Tarrah will begin keeping regular office days/hours at Holy Ghost Darmstadt from 9am-3pm. Drop in to visit, chat, and perhaps have a cup of coffee. If you would like to meet with Pastor Tarrah outside of this day and times, please don't hesitate to reach out! Visits and appointments can be arranged to come to you as well.

Church Phone: 618-475-2958

Church E-mail: holyghost@wisperhome.com

WISE Congregations

On Sunday, May 21st, a congregational meeting was held to vote on becoming WISE congregations. The vote passed unanimously and have begin looking forward to the best practices as Welcoming Inclusive Supportive and Engaged congregations for those with Mental Illnesses. Preliminary programming will include: Suicide First Aid Training, Grief Support, and Mental Illness education workshops. Stay tuned for these events to be scheduled later this summer and into the fall.

If you are interested in being a part of our WISE Mental Health committee, please let Pastor Tarrah or another committee member know so we can include you in our monthly meetings. The full adopted WISE proclamation is listed on the churches website.

WWW.COUNTRYCHURCHES.ORG

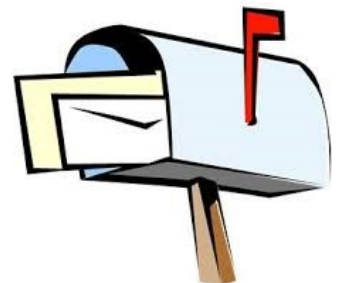
Pastor's Vacation

Pastor Tarrah and her family will be going on vacation June 9th – June 16th. **June 11th will be a visiting Sunday** and all are encouraged to visit a church of their choice while she is away. In the event of pastoral emergencies, please reach out to Rev. Bob Koch from St. John's UCC, New Athens, while she is away. Pastor Tarrah extends this courtesy to their congregation as well when he is vacationing. Thank you for supporting our pastor and her family!



Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

In an effort to keep the rising costs of paper, ink, envelopes and stamps down for our churches, we are going to be moving to a NEW publication schedule for our newsletter. Beginning in June, we will begin publishing the newsletter every other month. If there are any events, announcements, newsworthy articles, etc., they will be printed in Sunday's regular bulletin between newsletter printings. A monthly calendar will be made available at the beginning of each month as well.

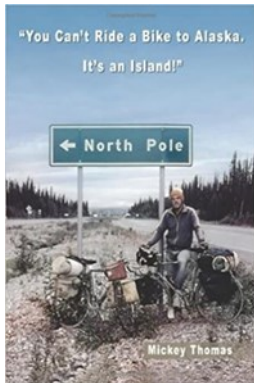


Book Club News

Our Book Club just finished reading “Hello Beautiful” which was Oprah’s 100th Book Club selection announced last month. The story was an homage to the classic “Little Women” and it did NOT disappoint. At our next book club meeting (**June 21st at 6pm at Holy Ghost**), we will spend some time watching the interview that Oprah held with the author of “Hello Beautiful,” Ann Napolitano.

We are reading two books for our next gathering. Check out more about them below. ALL are welcome to join us at anytime. If you aren’t a reader, we try to choose selections that are available via audio books as well. Reading the books in their entirety aren’t a requirement to attend either. There is plenty of conversation to keep everyone engaged whether you’ve read the book or not!

Join us 😊

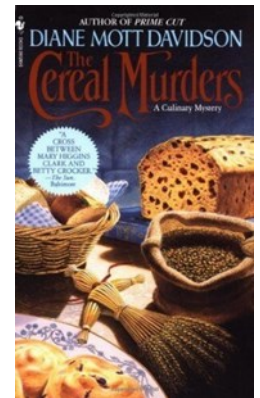


“You Can’t Ride a Bike to Alaska. It’s an Island!” by Mickey Thomas
“You’ll never make it!” With encouragement like that, author Mickey Thomas, in a fit of youthful testosterone, and meticulous inattention to detail, decided to embark on a once-in-a-lifetime 3,400 mile bicycle ride from Montana to Alaska.

“Cereal Murders” by Diane Mott Davidson

This is the 3rd book in this series that our book club has enjoyed reading. We’ve also enjoyed creating some of the recipes that are contained in each of her books, and have feasted on them during our meetings.

“Best-selling author Diane Mott Davidson has cooked up yet another tantalizing feast of murder, mystery, and mayhem. Dubbed “Queen of the Culinary Mystery” by her fans, Ms. Davidson adroitly defends her crown with this electable offering of suspense, spiced with a dash of romance and a pinch of humor.



Pastor to General Synod



Pastor Tarrah will be joining the Illinois South Conference delegation as a voting member for this year’s General Synod in Indianapolis, Indiana. The theme of “Making All Things New” based on the words of the prophet Isaiah, are guiding the

discernment of this delegation as well as the direction of our UCC denomination. The dates for General Synod are: June 30th – July 4th. All are welcome to follow the events, voting, and worship services by visiting www.generalsynod.org. You are also able to learn more about the resolutions and proposed bylaw changes on this website as well. Please hold Pastor Tarrah in prayers as she represents our conference and our congregations during this important work of entire church body.

Due to Pastor Tarrah being at General Synod July 2nd will be a visitation Sunday.



PRAYER LIST (long term)

Almira Kinzel, Richard Juenger, Les Erb, Dorothy Herzog, Vicki Black, Larry Wagner, Bradley Funk, and Lucas (3 year old with leukemia in Darmstadt).

PRAYER LIST (short term)

People of Ukraine, Bob Harms, Rick Schaeffer, Matt Reidy (June Pflasterer's Son-in-law), Al & Jeanette Funk, Barb Swedo, and Daryl Bollmeier.

*Please contact Pastor Tarrah, Kim Weekley or Frieda Feig if you wish to add someone or know of any names that could be removed.
Thank You*



Women's Guild News

Women's Guild will be going to the Botanical Gardens in St. Louis on June 7th. Anyone wishing to go along should contact a Guild Member.

"MISSION OF THE MONTH"

A basket is at the back of the church.
This month our mission project is

- June -Dubois Building Fund**
- July -Dubois Scholarship Fund**

*"For it is in giving that we receive."
-St. Francis*

READERS NEEDED!!

Please sign-up to be a reader on Sunday.

**Combined Choir
Summer break**

In the spirit of summer break, our combined choir will also be taking a break from rehearsals during the summer. Rehearsals will begin again on Sunday, September 17th, and will meet each Sunday at 8:30am. Please mark your calendars



Mowing at Holy Ghost

Mowers are still needed for June.



Crochet and Knitting Ministry



Do you like to crochet? How about knitting? If you answered yes to either of those questions, please consider joining Pastor Tarrah on

Wednesday mornings at 9am each week to build our prayer blankets inventory for those that can really use the visual reminder of our support during a time of illness. We will also be working on lap sized blankets for our loved ones in nursing homes and rehab centers. Please bring your own crochet hooks or knitting needles. Pastor will be providing skeins of yarn to work from. Don't know how to crochet or knit? NO problem! Come for the fellowship and maybe learn a stitch or two.

Congratulations!



June Pflasterer has a new great-granddaughter. Her name is Ava Mae she was born on March 9th and weighed 7lbs 10oz and was 21 in long. She is the

Daughter of Chris and Sara Reidy.

June also has a new great-grandson. His name is Calbert Leon he was born on March 15th and weighed 8lbs 3oz and was 19 1/2 in long. He is the son of Mike and Erica Reidy.



Ava and Calbert's Grandparents are Matt and Brenda Reidy.

CHURCH AND AREA HAPPENINGS...

June

- 11** -Visitation Sunday Pastor Tarrah will be on vacation
- 18** -Donuts and coffee hosted by June Vandiver's Family for her 90th Birthday
- 18**-Happy *Father's Day*
- 21** - Book Club at Holy Ghost 6 pm.



July

- 2**- Visitation Sunday, Pastor Tarrah will be at General Synod in Indianapolis, IN
- 4**-Have a Safe 4th of July!!



- 5**-*Women's Guild* at Trinity **12:30 pm**
- 30** -5th Sunday offering for Ministerial Alliance.



Our confirmation class is taking a break for the summer before diving back into our learning this fall. There will be a mandatory meeting for confirmands, parents and faith partners on Sunday, August 6th immediately following worship. Schedules for the entire year will be distributed at that time, as well as some new incentives rolled out to encourage opportunities for more engaging gatherings. If you are interested in offering additional guidance and encouragement to our confirmands, please let Pastor Tarrah know.



June V's Birthday Celebration

Come one, come all to celebrate June's 90th birthday! On Sunday, June 18th, June's family will be hosting a time of refreshments and celebration immediately following worship! Hope to see everyone there!!

June 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Go Bare-foot Day	2 National Donut Day	3 World Bicycle Day
	4 Trinity 9 am	5	6 Drive-In Movie Day	7	8 World Oceans Day	9 Movie Night
	10 Iced Tea Day	11 Visitation Sunday	12 Peanut Butter Cookie Day	13	14 	15 National Fudge Day
	16 Father's Day Holy Ghost 9 am	17	18 American Eagle Day	19 Book Club 6 pm Holy Ghost	20 World Rain Forest Day	21 Eat at a Food Truck Day
	22 Holy Ghost 9 am	23	24 National PTSD Awareness Day	25	26	27
	28	29	30			

Sound System Volunteers

Thank you to everyone that has signed up to assist in operating our sound system during worship services! There will be a training at Trinity Biddleborn on Sunday, July 9th immediately following worship, and another at Holy Ghost Darmstadt on Sunday, July 16th immediately following worship. If anyone else is interested in signing up to operate these systems, please let Pastor Tarrah know.



July 2023

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Intl. Joke Day
2 Visitation Sunday	3	4 happy 4 th JULY!	5 Women's Guild at Trinity 12:30 pm	6 National Fried Chicken Day	7 Chocolate Day	8 Nat'l. Blueberry Day
9 Trinity 9 am	10	11 Cheer up the Lonely Day	12 Pecan Pie Day	13 Nat'l. French Fries Day	14 Nat'l Macaroni & Cheese Day	15 Nat'l Give Something Away Day
16 Holy Ghost 9 am	17	18	19 Nat'l. Daiquiri Day	20 Ice Cream Soda Day	21 Junk Food Day	22 Hammock Day
23 Holy Ghost 9 am	24	25 Nat'l. Chili Dog Day	26	27 Nat'l. Love is Kind Day	28 Nat'l. Water Park Day	29 Nat'l. Lasagna Day
30 Holy Ghost 9 am	31 Nat'l. Watermelon Day					

VBS at Friedens Marissa

Friedens UCC in Marissa will be hosting VBS July 17th-24th . 9am-11am. As a part of the Marissa Ministerial Alliance, we are encouraged to volunteer and offer financial support if able. Please reach out to Pastor Brett at 618-295-2004 if you are interested and available.





College Graduates:
Connor Diecker

Kaylee Funk from Kennesaw State University in Georgia. She earned a degree in Chemistry. She will be

attending Common Wealth University in Richmond VA to pursue her PH-D and Master's degree in biology and engineering. She is the Granddaughter of Al and Jeanette Funk.

Erin Klasing from Milliken University in Decatur, IL She graduated with an Actuary Science and Finance Degree. She is the Granddaughter of Daryl and Verleen Bollmeier.

Junior High School Graduates:

Jared Bollmeier graduated from Okawville Junior High

Michael Triefenbach was promoted from Marissa Jr./Sr. High School

Erin Weekley was promoted from Marissa Jr./Sr. High School



Anniversary celebration

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 15th for three HUGE milestone celebrations! We will be celebrating 185 years of ministry at Holy Ghost, Darmstadt; 145 years of ministry at Trinity, Biddleborn; 70 years of ministry worshipping and serving together! If you are interested in being a part of the planning, please contact Pastor Tarrah.



July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 5– Pastor Tarrah Vaupel
- 9– Connor Diecker
- 11 –Lauren Triefenbach
- 21 –Shane Weekley
- 22 –Gloria Schifferdecker
- 22 –Carrie Rhodes

Anniversaries

- 11 –Barbara & John Schwartz
- 16 –Kim & Joe Weekley
- 18 –Gloria & Gene Schifferdecker



Pastor Tarrah has been working with Pastor Bob Koch (St. John's, New Athens) and Pastor Brett Palmer (Friedens, Marissa) to develop some new fellowship opportunities for the men of our congregations. If you have any ideas that you would like us to consider, please let Pastor Tarrah know as soon as possible. Stay tuned for more information about the group starting up AFTER the harvest this fall.

Spiritual practice thoughts for summer

1. Get your summer groove on

A spiritual practice doesn't have to be challenging and you don't always have to follow a set pattern or formula. Do you feel like doing some yoga in the park? Reading on the beach? Dancing round your garden to your favorite feel good songs, or simply taking a gentle quiet stroll round a lake? Doing whatever feels nourishing and good for you is also part of your spiritual practice. Awareness here is the key. Do whatever makes you feel good, but simply remember to add some intention around it, to notice what you are doing and why, and then take a few moments to feel gratitude for whatever that was and whatever it brought you. It could be as simple as, today I am choosing to take a long bike ride in the forest, because seeing the sun dapple through the trees, and feeling the breeze on my skin makes me feel free and refreshed, and I notice afterwards how the negative thoughts I had about work that day, have shifted into a fresh energy and some brand new creative thoughts about the best next action to take. Simply by doing this, you will notice so much more of how your summer activities have nourished and enhanced your physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing.

2. Make the most of your motivation

Summer can bring with it a fresh new sense of optimism, positivity, get up and go. So, make the most of it! This is a time to try some new things. Is there a new activity you have been wanting to do, a new health plan, or is there a new more nurturing daily routine you have been meaning to get going with? Do it now! Now is the time to make a start on putting into action all of those things that can improve your life and your wellbeing. Things that you just didn't have the opportunity or energy to start when the nights were long and dark, and the weekends were dull and grey. Don't waste time with judgement as to what you have or haven't yet done, just enjoy the moments you have now and make the most of them. You can also see this as setting yourself up with the best foundation to carry on your new-found hobbies, or spiritual practices when the nights start drawing in again.

3. Be easy breezy with your practices

Summer is all about enjoying yourself, and that goes for your spiritual practice too. But we can still find ourselves getting held-up, or stuck in our thoughts, as normal life does still go on and have a habit of sneaking up and spoiling our sense of inner ease. So it is important to still maintain a regular spiritual practice as it will help you to have something in place to shift back into your summer groove as quickly as possible. But that doesn't mean it has to be a big exercise, or take away from enjoying your summer days. Choose a practice that is easy for you to practice at any time, like gratitude. Let's face it, it's not that difficult at this time of year to find things to be grateful for. Laundry that dries outdoors in a matter of hours and smells fresh for days. Playing in the freshly cut grass in the park with your family. A chirpy smile from someone in the grocery store. The opportunities to feel grateful are so abundant, all you have to do is take a few moments each day to really notice and acknowledge them. A few minutes journaling this in the garden in the evening can be a great way to enjoy this practice, and really turn up the temperature on your awareness and enjoyment of this wonderful time of year.



New Worship Series begins June 4th!



June 4th will kick off our new worship series that will take us on a journey through Matthew's Gospel!

“Embracing the Kingdom” will more deeply explore the words found in Matthew 28:18-20, “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and

of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” The longest season of the liturgical calendar are filled with Sundays called “Ordinary Time.” It begins with Trinity Sunday and ends with the Reign of Christ. We move from concentrating on the event of Christ in the world and shift to the impact of being in Christ in the world. A life in the unity of the Trinity is one of being shaped and sent daily in the image and in the purpose of Holy Love.

Theologian Rachel Held Evans shares her thoughts about the Kingdom, “The kingdom, Jesus taught, is right here—present yet hidden, immanent yet transcendent. It is at hand—among us and beyond us, now and not-yet. The kingdom of heaven, he said, belongs to the poor, the meek, the peacemakers, the merciful, and those who hunger and thirst for God. It advances not through power and might, but through missions of mercy, kindness, and humility. In this kingdom, many who are last will be first and many who are first will be last. The rich don't usually get it, Jesus said, but children always do. This is a kingdom whose savior arrives not on a warhorse, but a donkey, not through triumph and conquest, but through death and resurrection. This kingdom is the only kingdom that will last.” The following is a rough outline of our worship dates and correlating scriptures. Please understand that these themes and scriptures may change based on current events, church activities, etc.

After Pentecost I Scripture and Themes “Proclaim”

“The richness, beauty and depths of love can only be fully experienced in a climate of complete openness, honesty and vulnerability.”

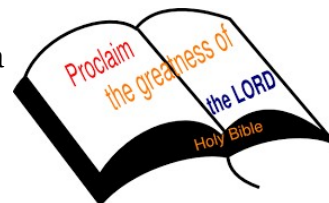
– Anthony Venn Brown

June 4, 2023 (Trinity Sunday): Matthew 28:16-20 | “Authority”

June 11th, 2023: Visitation Sunday, Pastor Tarrah on Vacation

June 18, 2023: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26. 35-10:8 | “Mercy and Kingdom”

June 25, 2023: Matthew 10:24-39 | “Life”



After Pentecost II Scripture and Themes “Welcome”

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.” – Matthew 10:40

July 2, 2023: Visitation Sunday, Pastor Tarrah serving as a delegate at our UCC General Synod

July 9, 2023: Matthew 10:40-42 and 11:16-19, 25-30 |
“The Prophetic and The Weary”

July 16, 2023: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 | “The Word”

July 23, 2023: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 | “The Seed”



After Pentecost III Scripture and Themes “Cast the Net”

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind.” – Matthew 13:47

July 30, 2023: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 | “For Righteousness

August 6, 2023: Matthew 14:13-21 | “For Compassion”

August 13, 2023: Matthew 14:22-33 | “For Faith”

August 20, 2023: Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28 | “For the Heart”

FAITH

(F) FORWARDING

(A) ALL

(I) ISSUES

(T) TO

(H) HEAVEN



After Pentecost IV Scripture and Themes “The Keys”

“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.” – Matthew 16:19a
August 27, 2023: Matthew 16:13-20 | “Identity”
September 3, 2023: Matthew 16:21-28 | “Confrontation”
September 10, 2023: Schlachtfest, prayer service at 8am, Trinity
September 17, 2023: Matthew 18:15-35 | “Accountability and Forgiveness”

After Pentecost V Scripture and Themes “The Vineyard”

“For many are called, but few are chosen.”
– Matthew 22:14

September 24, 2023: Matthew 20:1-16 | “Made Equal”
October 1, 2023: Matthew 21:23-32 | “Going Ahead”
October 8, 2023: Matthew 21:33-46, 22:1-14 |
“Producing Fruit from the Streets”
October 15, 2023: Anniversary Celebration of our congregations!



After Pentecost VI Scripture and Themes “Put to the Test”

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,” – Matthew 25:31-32

October 22, 2023: Matthew 22:15-22 | “Truth”
October 29, 2023: Matthew 22:34-46 | “Love”
November 5, 2023: Matthew 23:1-12 | “Greatness”
November 12, 2023: Matthew 25:1-13 | “Wisdom”
November 19, 2023: Matthew 25:14-30 | “Investment”
November 26, 2023 (Reign of Christ): Matthew 25:31-46 | “Care”



June Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 1 –Rachel Weekley
- 4 - Gina Schifferdecker
- 5– June Vandiver
- 10-Kaitlyn Triefenbach
- 12 –Heather Rhodes
- 16 –Dorothy Herzog
- 18 –Janet Dietrich
- 18 –Amanda Juenger
- 22 –Lyle Jones
- 24 –Larry Kinzel

Anniversaries

- 15 –Kim & Lennie Sinn
- 18 –Cathy & Mike Juenger
- 26 –Virginia & Dale Wojtkowski



BIDDLEBORN NEWS

The Schlachtfest will be September 10th.
11 am - 3 pm
Note time change