



CHRIST CHURCH

A GLOBAL METHODIST COMMUNITY

Matt's Meanderings

Blessed

"Blessed are poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those persecuted for righteousness, the insulted and persecuted."

Matthew 5:3-11 (NET)

Summer is upon us! As June rolls in, the possibilities of summer abound... travel, vacations, family time, cookouts, camping, fishing, etc. Some will be preparing their recent graduates to enter a new chapter of their lives. Others may simply have a chance to slow down. It is, indeed, a season of change and possibilities. During this glorious summer that is upon us, I want to ask, "Are you blessed?"

Continue to ask yourself this question, knowing that the true meaning regards your proximity to the Lord. Are you close to the Lord? Do you sense and hear him? As we continue to consider the Sermon on the Mount this summer, does God feel close or far away? If he feels far away, it seems reasonable to remind us that God is not the one who has moved.

The distractions of summer are many and, if we're not careful, can call us away from this blessedness. I know, personally, that summer can be a busy time, especially June. We have VBS (May 31-June 3), Annual Conference (June 7-9), Youth Mission Trip (June 14-19), etc....the list can go on and on. Now, none of these things I've listed should be distractions or things that move us away from God, but when we prioritize them over our own devotional time with God, that is exactly what they become.

My prayer is that we serve during VBS out of the abundant joy and love we have received from God through time spent with him. It should not be a substitute for these things. The same is true for Annual Conference for me and others. It's one of the few times a year I get to worship with my fellow clergy of the MidSouth Annual Conference. Please pray that I use this as a time to listen to the Lord. I know the youth mission trip will be exhausting, great but exhausting. Youth and leaders, make sure you serve out of the abundant reserve from time spent with God and not in place of time spent with God.

I pray that this summer is a blessing! Of course, by that I mean that I hope each of us draws nearer to the Lord and does not use any of these wonderful opportunities as substitutes for time spent with God. Let us hold one another accountable to being blessed and being blessings!

God bless!



Matt



2026

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Angie

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



VBS Update

By the time this newsletter reaches you, Vacation Bible School at Christ Church will be just around the corner — or already underway! We kick off on May 31st for four days of fun, faith, and friendship as we explore the story of those who were created and chosen by Jesus — and that includes each one of us.

Growing up in a small farming community, our little country church didn't have a yearly VBS. But I was fortunate to be taken to surrounding churches that did — and those mornings are still vivid in my memory. No matter the church, no matter the time of day, there were always two sandwich cookies and a cup of Kool-Aid waiting for us at snack time. More importantly, I still remember the songs we sang, the faces of the volunteers, and the lessons that stayed with me long after summer ended. VBS was truly the highlight of our summers.

That memory is the heartbeat behind my prayer for this week. Forty-plus years from now, I hope the children of Christ Church — and every child who walks through our doors — will remember our smiling faces, the songs we sang together, and the joy they felt. More than anything, I pray they carry with them the seed that was planted: that there is a God who loves them deeply.

Thank you for your continued support of Children's Ministry. This church pours so much love into sharing the kindness of Jesus with our children, and it does not go unnoticed. Please keep us in your prayers this week — VBS is a joyful, beautiful, and wonderfully exhausting adventure! But knowing we are making an impact that children will carry for a lifetime? That is priceless.





YOUTH MINISTRY

Sent Out to Connect and Serve



Michael

May was quite a month. We celebrated with our seniors who graduated. We kicked off our summer rhythms with the Senior High Retreat in Gatlinburg from **May 27th–30th**. It was a beautiful time of rest, laughter, and planning for the future. I am so thankful for the ways our older students leaned into their faith and bonded together in God's creation.

Right on the heels of the retreat, our youth jumped straight into serving the youngest members of our church family at Vacation Bible School from **May 31st–June 3rd**. I am always so deeply proud of how our students show up for VBS week. Watching them love on the kids in our community is a beautiful, living example of what it means to embody our faith and connect people to God. Thank you to every student who gave their time and energy to make VBS a success!

The Big Event: 2026 Youth Mission Trip Our biggest focus for the month of June is our upcoming Youth Mission Trip. From **Sunday, June 14th to Friday, June 19th**, we will be heading back over to Gatlinburg, TN, to partner with Team Effort. This trip is a cornerstone of our year, where our students have the unique opportunity to step outside their comfort zones, serve communities in need, and grow closer to Christ through shared labor and worship.

Because we will be packing up and heading out that morning, please note that there will be **NO Sunday Night Gathering on Sunday, June 14th**.

An undertaking like a mission trip requires a village, and I am incredibly grateful for the leaders who are stepping up to go with us. A huge thank you to Lindsey Withers and Ray Rowland for serving as our adult chaperones on this trip. I want to ask this entire congregation to take seriously your covenant to support our students and leaders. Please surround our youth, Lindsey, Ray, and the communities we will be serving in prayer all week long. Pray for safe travel, open hearts, and that our students would see God working in and through them.

Summer Sunday Rhythms Aside from our mission trip week, we want to keep our community connected throughout the summer. We will still gather for Sunday Night Gatherings (SNG) from **5:30 pm to 7:00 pm** on the following dates:

Sunday, June 7th
Sunday, June 28th

Please note that we will have **NO SNG** on **Sunday, June 21st** so that our students and leaders can celebrate Father's Day with their families.

I am incredibly excited for everything God is going to do in the lives of our students this month as we are sent out to connect and serve. Thank you for your continued prayers and partnership with all your students!



CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

We have now arrived in the season of Pentecost - this marks the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Christian church. In Acts 2, we see this event detailed: "When the day of Pentecost had arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like that of a violent rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were staying. They saw tongues like flames of fire that separated and rested on each one of them. Then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were Jews staying in Jerusalem, devout people from every nation under heaven. When this sound occurred, a crowd came together and was confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language."



I love the imagery of fire in this passage, mostly because we know that God is represented by fire, and we've seen it before: in the burning bush, in the column of fire that led the Israelites in the wilderness, in the cloud/fire that rests over the tabernacle, and in the eyes of Jesus Christ in the Book of Revelation. I'm sure if you've ever sat by a fireplace, or enjoyed the warmth of a campfire, or even studied the flame of a candle, you have found yourself caught up in the beauty of the flames. The notion of God's presence as fire lends itself well to getting caught up in his presence.



Nick

And that is exactly what the early church experienced - flames from Heaven descending upon them, a mighty rushing wind, and people began speaking in tongues. How incredible this moment must have been; both confusing and wonderful. Fire also means heat - and while we don't know whether the apostles felt physical warmth on their bodies, I would venture to guess that they felt the warmth of the Spirit as it filled their lives.

As we enter the month of June, I encourage you to remember God when you see flames and feel their heat - when you're grilling out in your backyard, or sitting around a campfire, or even watching fireworks in the coming months. The beauty of fire is the beauty of God. The warmth of fire is the warmth of the Holy Spirit in your life. May we continue to worship God in the mesmerizing, dazzling, and awe-inspiring dance of the flames.



In Christian Sympathy

Our Deepest Condolences are given to:

**Cathy Rogers and the Bolton family in the passing of, Carrie Bolton
Dennis and Yetta Meador in the passing of his sister-in-law, Glenda Deweese**



SATURDAY MEALS

Christ Church's last workday for Saturday MEALS was May 16, but our participation was a bit different this time. We did not have to supply any inside workers because individuals from the American Cancer Society volunteered to take on those responsibilities.

However, our church still collected donated goods from Panera and provided all the delivery teams, so we would like to extend a big "thank you" to all of you who served. More than 260 people received meals!

We also want to express our appreciation to Bruce Allen and Pam Coe who gave their time and energy to serve on Memorial Day Weekend!

Looking ahead at the holidays, we, like every church involved with MEALS, will need to cover one delivery route for the 4th of July weekend. We continue to seek new volunteers and last-minute replacements, so if you are interested or would like additional information, please call or text Sean Kinder at 270-996-0890. We hope you will join us as we help those who are in need, serving the Lord as we serve others.

Thank you very much,
Sean & Val Kinder



YOUNG AT HEART MINISTRY

Join us Friday, June 19 5:00pm in the FLC at church for a movie and Pizza. Pizza and drinks will be provided. If you would like to bring cookies or dessert feel free to do so but don't feel obligated. There will be a sign up sheet on the rolling board so we know how much pizza we will need. The movie (as of now) is "I Can Only Imagine 2". We look forward to seeing you all there. As always if you have any questions please feel free to reach out 270-202-5634.



Save the date! August 12th at 9:45am we will meet at Jackson's Orchard for a Peach tour. The cost is \$20 per person and includes lunch and you need to be able to climb the 3 steps to get on the hayride wagon. I will have lunch forms and collect the money closer to the date!

A flyer for "ADULT SUMMER TOURS" with a dark blue background and yellow text. It lists two tours: "THE APPLE TOUR" for \$15 per person and "THE PEACH TOUR" for \$20 per person. Both include box lunches, strolls through the garden, market browsing, and dessert. The peach tour also includes a hayride. Contact information is provided at the bottom.

ADULT SUMMER TOURS

MINIMUM OF 10 PEOPLE PER GROUP
ORDER FORMS WILL BE SENT UPON BOOKING FOR LUNCHESES
GROUP LEADER(S) & BUS DRIVERS FREE OF CHARGE

THE APPLE TOUR

- BOX LUNCHESES (SANDWICH, CHIPS, DRINK)
- STROLL THROUGH OUR PERENNIAL GARDEN
- BROWSE THE MARKET
- ENJOY A DESSERT

\$15 PER PERSON

THE PEACH TOUR

- BEHIND THE SCENES LOOK AT THE ORCHARD DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS. APPROX. 30 MINUTE GUIDED HAYRIDE THAT GIVES INSIGHT INTO HOW THE ORCHARD OPERATES. (GUESTS MUST BE ABLE TO CLIMB 3 STEPS ON AND OFF WAGON.)
- BOX LUNCHESES (SANDWICH, CHIPS, DRINK)
- STROLL THROUGH OUR PERENNIAL GARDEN
- BROWSE THE MARKET
- ENJOY A DESSERT

\$20 PER PERSON

Contact us to book at 270-781-5303, only available on Wednesdays in July & August

FAITH FOOD PANTRY

Since we received so much food from the Stamp Out Hunger food drive, the only item we are in need of for the month of June is canned fruit.

Peaches, Pineapple, Pears, Fruit Cocktail, Mandarin Oranges, Applesauce

Thank you for supporting our Food Pantry at Faith!





Sami Says



Sami

Welcome to summer! I hope that you have plans to enjoy some rest and recreation! I can't help but feel a bit of giddiness when I think about summer. It is that same hopeful longing I get on a winter day when there's the possibility of snow. Hear the good news: it is more than okay to intentionally rest and restore through some good old fashioned recreation. In fact, it is entirely sanctioned by God! He told us to honor the Sabbath and keep it Holy. He commanded His people to have three major celebrations every year—the Passover, the Feasts of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles! They were to remember His faithfulness by celebrating together and feasting!

Because I am writing this in May, I just led baby chapel for our preschool. The story today was "Jesus Blesses the Little Children." I told those sweet babies that Jesus loves them, that He welcomes them, and that He tells the rest of us grown ups that we must become like them when we come to God.

Here's the thing: It is really hard to have a childlike spirit when I am surrounded by grown up responsibilities. Sometimes life feels overwhelming. And there are moments when I tell God to wait, I'll get back to Him when I clear off my very important, grown-up desk. I cringe reading that last sentence, knowing it is true, but also sensing Jesus standing by waiting patiently, arms crossed, shaking His head. Oh sure, I don't want to be the reason he shakes His head. But here I am, and there He stands.

Goodness, gracious. I think we need some summer. I think it would do us some good to step away from grown up responsibilities and come to the presence of God the way my chapel babies do—full of joy and expectation. They know that chapel is the place they can sing and be silly and experience grace. They know they will be welcomed with open arms and a tender hand will lead them right where they need to be should they get sidetracked (it happens often, ha ha!). And with happy hearts they are glad to leave their coloring behind so they can hold hands and walk together to the Sanctuary.

Maybe the biggest thing sidetracking most of us grown ups the belief that everything rests upon our shoulders and that if we don't clean off our desks correctly the whole world will fall to pieces. The only problem with that is that we don't have that kind of power, and just the time our tasks seem manageable, something else . . . lands on our desk.

Friends, give yourself permission to rest and renew and enjoy some recreation this summer. But I want to challenge you to invite Jesus into it. Let Him have the burdens you are carrying, and ask Him to carry you for a while. Ask Him to bless you like He blesses small ones. Be willing to be small and joyful for a minute. You will be glad you did.



June Birthdays

6/2	Marcus Brand	6/21	Josephine Foley
6/2	Aubree Janes	6/21	Lincoln Foley
6/3	Ethan Berry	6/22	Matt Seel
6/6	Madison Sowell	6/27	Taylor Creager
6/11	Daniel Wilhelm	6/28	Michael Cassady
6/12	Jeanie Orr	6/28	Juanita Cox
6/12	Richard Orr	6/29	Glenda Johnson



Stewardship and Attendance



Budget for the Year \$718,035.81
 Needed Per Week \$13,808.38

Building Fund Received in May: \$36,948.00 (as of 5/26)

Stewardship:

May 3	\$17,012.33
May 10	\$16,701.00
May 17	\$10,138.00
May 24	TBD
May 31	TBD

Attendance:

May 3	210
May 10	216
May 17	203
May 24	191

Sunday Worship Times



Traditional Service 8:45 am
 Sanctuary

Sunday School 10:00 am

Contemporary Service 11:00am
 Family Life Center

Watch Online

<https://www.christchurchbg.org/online/>

Past Services

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCA_hizimRxR-kTXwdpEMk0w?

Rev. Dr. Matt Seel.....Lead Pastor
 Rev. Michael Romans Associate Pastor
 Rev. Sami Wilson.....Pastor of Congregational Care
 Angie Gordon..... Children’s Minister
 Abby Seel Asst. Children’s Min. & Learning Tree Dir.
 Lee Young.....Traditional Worship Leader
 Nick Winquist..... Contemporary Worship Leader
 Emily Romans..... Administrative Assistant & Treasurer
 Jeanie Orr Organist
 April Taylor Nursery Supervisor
 Tiffany Baker.....Custodian



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