

Confession of the Pastor's Wife: Dandelion Weeds

*He removes any of my branches that don't produce fruit, and he trims any branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit.
John 15:2 (CEB)*

On a sunny, muggy, Monday morning, I looked out over our front gardens. The flowers were blooming nicely...vibrant purple, orange, white, and green. However, the weeds were growing nicely, too. They tend to do that, especially around our yard, as neither my husband nor I possess much gardening ability. Every so often, we go out and work for a few hours digging up weeds so that the plants have more room to grow and shine. But, inevitably, the weeds return.

As I looked at the weeds eclipsing the flowers, I decided it was time to pull. Most weeds come out with a firm twist and tug around the base of the stalk. But dandelion weeds...they grow deep. Dandelions are the perennial flower of spring and summer. They're pretty and colorful, but they're also invasive and pernicious. They grow over, under, and through other plants that were intentionally placed within a garden bed until they've overtaken the entire garden. In a sense, dandelions are the schoolyard bullies of flower beds.

Dandelion weeds are impossible to pull by hand. Their roots are too deep and too strong. Usually, I have to dig them out, either by hand or with a small trowel. (Okay, I don't have a small trowel because I'm not really a gardener. I just get the big shovel from the garage to dig them out.) They're very resistant to removal, and they always find a way to come back.

As I was hacking away at dandelion weeds, it occurred to me that we all carry dandelions within our being. You know, those anxieties, hurts, insecurities, or even negative patterns of behavior that persist even after we've pruned our hearts and grown as human beings. Our personal dandelion weeds are rooted so deeply within us that sometimes, we don't even remember how they got there. And, removing them requires so much time, strength, and energy we sometimes feel it's easier to just let them be. However, letting our dandelion weeds continue to grow and fester can suffocate the good fruit God is trying to grow in us.

For instance, one of my oldest and most stubborn dandelion weeds is insecurity. I'm constantly battling a litany of negative thoughts and feelings telling me that I'm not good enough. Some days, it's body image. Other days, it's decision-making skills. Still other days it's worry that my own failures as a human being are going to somehow negatively influence my husband and children. These weeds wreck havoc in my life, causing me to feel anxious and depressed, and tempting me to just withdraw from the world around me.

God and I have been working on this particular set of weeds for decades. It's a lot of mental and emotional work. It involves actively searching for the cause of my insecurity when I feel vulnerable, and making a conscious decision to either let the feeling go or do something about it. In other words, I have to actively burn the weed or turn it into something useful. Either option requires effort and a lot of help from God.

I share my own struggle with you not so that you'll sympathize with me, but so that you'll see we all have dandelion weeds that impact how we think and act. We all struggle with things buried deep within our souls. But, continuing to let those things grow is detrimental to the work God has called us to do. We can't do what God calls us to do when we're weighted down with weeds. If our soul is rooted with weeds, there's no room for God's good fruit. And God's fruit is SO good!!

Galatians 5 tells us that the fruit of God's Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Imagine a life where these nine characteristics thrived within us. Imagine what we might do, what we might say, how our relationships might flourish, how much kingdom work might be done. This is what God wants to plant within us, but we have to make room. We have to prune. We have to self-assess. But, we can't do it alone. We must ask for God's guidance and revelation. We need to seek his wisdom and soul-tending expertise. And then, we need to use the tools he gives us to dig out those dandelion weeds so he can plant

the seeds of love,

the seeds of joy,

the seeds of peace,

the seeds of patience,

the seeds of kindness,

the seeds of goodness,

the seeds of faithfulness,

the seeds of gentleness,

the seeds of self-control.



This week, let's commit to doing some soul-pruning. Together, let's ask God to help us identify and begin the process of removing our dandelion weeds. Then, let's ask God to give us his fruit for the glory of his kingdom.

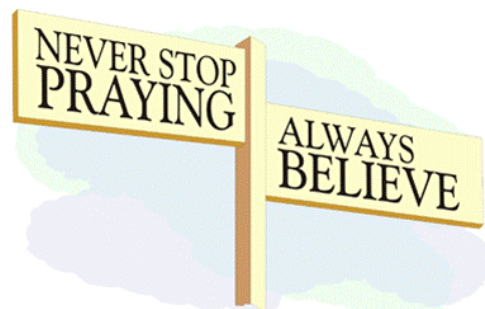
Blessing and Peace,

Sara

July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Services 8 & 10	2	3	4 Happy 4th of July!	5	6	7
8 Services 8 & 10 am VBS 4:30	9 VBS 6-8:30	10 Association Meeting 7:30 VBS 6-8:30	11 Tarsney Lunch 12:00 VBS 6-8:30	12 VBS 6-8:30	13	14
15 Services 8 & 10	16 PPR Meeting 7:00	17 Missions Meeting 7:00	18 Be an Angel 10 Tarsney 12:00 Yoga 6:15	19 China Painting 9:00	20	21
22 Services 8 & 10	23	24 Church Council 7:00	25 Tarsney 12 Yoga 6:15	26	27	28
29 Services 8 & 10 am Potluck 9:00	30	31				

Steve Bee
 Family of
 Sue Blomquist
 Jeremy Brooks
 Keith Brunsmann
 Les Case
 Donna Casey
 Ron Clarke
 Charlene Davis
 Patricia Dwyer
 Bill Green
 Deb Hamerly
 Michael Hatfield
 Edie & Gary Ken
 Morgan (Hatfield)
 Ryan Neighbors
 David Parrish
 Kris Peterson
 Judy Peterson
 Carl Pinkerton
 Steve Raymond
 Rosemary Robinson
 Norma Silvain
 Duane/Peggy Taylor
 David Tackett
 Elaine West
 Mitch Williams
 Joe Virgalla



Families of Tarsney

Lake

Congregation de

Mellier

Heart and Soul

Children's Christian

Learning Center

All Ministries

of the Church

All Are Invited

Forty-nine Rafter's made a big splash at our VBS Kick-off and will spend the week learning how God is always with them as they pass through the waters of life!

Please join us in the Sanctuary this Thursday, July 12th at 8 PM



for our VBS closing session followed by ice cream sundaes.

Be an Angel

Come join this amazing group of women on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month @10am to make needed items for our community.

Everyone welcome to join the fun!



June through August: Enjoy fellowship with our young friends at Tarsney Lakes or help prepare food for the Wednesday lunches. Contact Jerri or sign up on SIGN UP GENIUS

Sunday, July 29 9:00 -10:00: All-Church Fellowship and Missions Brunch. Enjoy a fantastic meal with your church family.

TBD: Join the potluck picnic with Tarsney Lakes residents. Fried chicken will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert and a chair. I will be on the east shore of the Tarsney Lake.

TBD: We will be distributing school supplies to Tarsney Lake kids.

Saturday September 8- Recycling Extravaganza! Help protect our planet by finding a new use for our natural resources. Some items will be reused and others will be recycled.

Email Alice at acfuerst@netscape.net more information

Summer Picnic Program

LLCUMC is again reaching out to the Tarsney Lake area this summer by hosting free picnics at the main lake to the neighborhood families. A Free Mini Market will also be provided for the families to select food items to take home for the remainder of the week.

Please consider how and where you will participate!

1. PRAY: that we will make a positive impact and connect with our neighbors.
2. DONATE: items needed each week for the Picnics and Free Mini Market. All items donated for the Mini Market must be either individual servings or small-sized packaging. Collection baskets are in the Commons.

- Mac & cheese cups
- Spaghetti/ravioli cups
- Fruit/applesauce cups
- Canned sloppy joe/tuna/chicken
- Cheese PB crackers
- Chips/snacks
- PB/Jelly in plastic containers
- Canned Soups

Monetary Contributions Welcomed!

3. VOLUNTEER: many opportunities to help with meals or provide food. Sign-up in the Commons or thru our website: LLCUMC.ORG. Questions? Contact Jerry Metcalfe: 816-449-0651 or 816-774-8279 or jerry152@comcast.net



PICNIC SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 3 Get-acquainted Picnic 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays June 6, 13, 20, 27; July* 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8
Picnic Lunches 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Date to be determined: End-of-summer Picnic and distribution of school supplies 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

** No picnic served on July 4th; special food distribution to families on July 3rd.*



Mark your calendar – 9:00 a.m. Sunday, July 29

Important changes may be occurring in the future for the United Methodist churches. Pastor Chris attended the Missouri Methodist Annual Conference in June and learned some of the details. He will share this information with us at a breakfast in Fellowship Hall (church basement) after the early church service on Sunday, July 29. Everyone is invited to attend and learn. This breakfast is planned between the worship services to make attendance easier for everyone. If you would like to bring food to share, please do so. Suggested foods include breakfast casseroles, fruits, breads, etc.

Charles Kittley

Student Loan Applications

are due in the church office

by Thursday August 2, 2018

Church office hours are Monday– Thursday

7:00 am– 12:00 pm



D	H	O	B	S	H	N	E	P	T	U	N	E	Y
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R	D	E	I	H	C	T	M	N	W	T	N	S	H
F	H	Y	H	O	P	B	E	O	Q	H	I	U	E
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VENUS
EARTH
MARS
CERES
ASTEROIDS
JUPITER
SATURN
NEPTUNE
URANUS
PLUTO
DWARF
PLANET
MOON

Thank you so much for your support for our Tarsney Lake project. We still need volunteers for **fruit and cookies** and for assisting with the **main dish**. We are expanding our menu to serving spaghetti, macaroni, sloppy joes, sliders, and other kid friendly dishes.

For those unable to manage the **SIGN UP GENIUS**

please call or email Jerry Metcalfe

at jerry152@comcast.net or 816 774-8279.