

Participating

We had a great week last week at Vacation Bible School. Over 50 kids and 40 volunteers were here to experience the radical and amazing love of God. We sang, did crafts, ate snacks, played games, heard Bible stories, learned about science and had a great time in the presence of God. I want to thank everyone who played a role in helping VBS be a great success.

In my 14 years of ministry, I have led just about every area of VBS (except music for some reason). I've been the storyteller, science teacher, game guru, craft helper, chef, tech support, photographer, and kid coraller. This year, I was given a new task – I was the DJ for the music class. This provided me the opportunity to sit in the back of the Sanctuary and watch as the kids sang and danced. As I watched, there was one common theme I noticed– the kids who participated had a great time, but those who didn't were bored and disengaged.

In the music class in VBS, the kids learn both songs and dances. The youngest kids seem to have a lot of fun as they dance along, jump, and sing. But the older the kids gets, especially the boys, the less they participate in this activity. Several times during the week, I observed the boys just sitting in the pews with grumpy looks on their faces as they were told to get up and dance. I don't know if they thought they were too old or too cool to sing and dance, but they seemed to think it wasn't okay for them to participate.

One of the groups asked me to join them, thinking I would hate the idea. I jumped right in and danced along (luckily no one recorded this, as I know I made quite the fool of myself) and had so much fun. I made up most of the moves, got most of the words wrong and was exhausted by the end of the song (this was a better workout than anything else I've tried in a long time), but man, was it fun.

Afterwards, I looked at the kids sitting in the pews, refusing to participate. Their grumpy faces looked at me almost jealously, as if they envied my participation in the singing and dancing. Even though they still thought it beneath them, they could tell that I had fun, and they knew they had missed out. After all, who doesn't like having fun?

The other night Sara took Garrett (our 12-year-old) to his first rock concert. One of the things she told me about the concert was that most of the people in their section of the Sprint Center sat through most of the music. She said that she encouraged Garrett to stand and sing and dance as much as he wanted (there was only 1 row of people behind them and he's pretty easy to see around, so it wouldn't cause much distraction to anyone). He stood almost the entire time, sang his heart out and danced to the music all night long. This was the best part of the experience, getting to participate in the concert, not just passively listening and watching.

While we were talking about this, it reminded me of the difference between passively watching something and actively participating in it. Just like those boys in music and those others in their seats at the concert, we often feel compelled to sit back and watch others do something rather than participate. But I've found time and again that when I participate in it, the whole experience is different and more enjoyable.

So, what are the areas in your life where you fully participate versus watch from the sidelines? Our lives, including our faith and worship, are meant to be something we fully participate in. Are there areas where you need to get up and start participating more fully? I encourage you this week to consider the areas in your life where you are a participant and the areas that you just passively watch. Then, find a way to move one item from the passive column to the active column.

It is indeed an honor to be your pastor be actively participating in ministry alongside you to an amazing God!

Blessings,
Chris



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 Worship Team 7:00	24 Church Council 7:00	25 Tarsney 12 Yoga 6:15	26	27	28
29 Services 8 & 10 am Potluck 9:00	30	31				



What a great time we had at the Rolling Rampage River!!

We had 49 rafters register.

Along the river, children discovered that life with God is an adventure full of wonder and surprise, and that they can trust God to be with them through anything. The rafters traveled from dinner to Assembly, story time, craft, recreation, science and music to help kids know that God is always with them as they ride the rapids of amazing grace!

The rafters also supported our Tarsney Picnic mission by collecting 179 canned goods and \$215.29. WAY TO GO RAFTERS!! For all their efforts they earned ice cream sundaes and water fun with the Lotawana Fire Dept.

I want to thank all the volunteers for giving their time, effort and talents. We had over 41 volunteers including many youth... WOW...not only the week of VBS but also helping with decorating, setting up, family night and tear down. You are all truly a blessing!!

A big hand & special thank you to Patty Ford and Susie Minzes. They both are so creative and worked tirelessly on decorating and creating a fun environment for the kids. Last a huge THANK YOU to Denise Kimbrough for being my right hand all week and keeping us on track.

Sophie Reed

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.
(Isaiah 43:2)

Steve Bee
Jeremy Brooks
Keith Brunsmann
Les Case
Donna Casey
Ron Clarke
Charlene Davis
Patricia Dwyer
Bill Green
Deb Hamerly
Michael Hatfield
Warren Hassler
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

Missions

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.

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



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!

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.

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.