

## Freedom

*“I am free to do anything,” you say – but not everything is beneficial. “I am free to do anything” – but not everything is constructive. No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. 1 Corinthians 10:23-24*

In just a couple of days we will gather with friends and family, neighbors and strangers, and collectively celebrate our nation’s freedom. Our celebrations will be varied – some will gather around a BBQ grill, others around a camp site, others still on their deck or the deck of their boat. Some will celebrate with a variety of adult beverages, others with explosives, others still with patriotic music and red, white and blue clothing. No matter the manner in which we celebrate, we all are celebrating the same thing – freedom.

But, freedom can be a double-edged sword. We know this all too well. One of the things we, as Americans, celebrate nearly unanimously is our freedom of speech. Yet there are times when this right is abused by some— people and organizations using the Constitution’s freedom of speech to spread hate and discord rather than hope and unity. Freedoms can both be used for good and abused for evil purposes.

In his letter to the church at Corinth, Paul addressed the abuse of freedom. The new followers of Christ in Corinth were facing some pretty big challenges. One challenge was Christians flaunting their freedom from the Jewish law. The book of Leviticus lists over 600 laws Jews were supposed to adhere to. But, Paul wrote that Christ’s death and resurrection established a new law, and that Christians “a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.” (Galatians 2:16) However, while the Corinthian believers were freed by the blood of Christ from the 600 plus Levitical laws, the manner in which they expressed this freedom was causing damage to the name of Christ. In response, Paul encouraged these followers to consider the effects the exercise of their freedom might have on the faith development of others. Would their practice of freedom be beneficial and constructive to the name and witness of Jesus, or would it be exercising freedom for the sake of exercising freedom – just because we can?

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, understood this struggle as well. His number one rule in following Christ was to “Do No Harm.” In the exercise of our freedoms, be it our freedoms as believers or as citizens of a particular nation, we need to consider if we will do good or cause harm. If exercising our freedoms will cause harm, we must consider expressing that freedom in a different way.

Paul instructs us that: *“...whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God – even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved. Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1).*

My encouragement to you this week, as we celebrate our freedoms, is to remember the true source of those freedoms and to seek to celebrate in way that honors the message of Christ.

It is an honor to be your pastor and to be in ministry alongside you to an amazing God as we celebrate our freedom and “Do No Harm.”

Blessings,

Chris



# July 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Be an Angel 10	4 <b>Happy 4th</b> <b>Be safe!</b>	5	6
7 <b>Services</b> 8 & 10:00 am <b>Women's Group</b> 5:30-7 pm	8	9 Association Meeting 7:30	10 Tarsney Lunch 12 Yoga - 6:15 pm	11 Men's Small Group 7	12	13 <b>VBS</b>
14 <b>Services</b> 8 & 10:00 am <b>Women's Group</b> 5:30-7 pm <b>VBS &amp; BBQ</b>	15	16 Missions Team Meeting 7pm	17 Be an Angel 10 Tarsney Lunch 12 Yoga 6:15	18	19	20
21 <b>Services</b> <b>Women's Group</b> 5:30-7 pm	22	23 Church Council Meeting 7pm	24 Tarsney Lunch 12 Yoga - 6:15 pm	25 Men's Small Group 7	26	27
28 <b>Services</b> 8 & 10:00 am <b>Women's Group</b> 5:30-7 pm	29	30	31 End of Summer Tarsney Lunch 12 Yoga 6:15			

Lake Lotawana  
Community UMC

IT'S  
UBS  
TIME!

July 13 & 14



[www.llcumc.org](http://www.llcumc.org)

# POWER of PRAYER

Alex  
Les Case  
Sandy Case  
Donna Casey  
Dorothy Conn  
Dionte  
Janet Ford  
Winnie Fuerst  
John Hatfield

Michael Hatfield  
Chuck Holland  
Karin (Spreitzer)  
Kathleen  
Al Krashow  
Don McGowan  
Don Raymond  
Steve Raymond  
Randy Robinson  
Rosemary Robinson  
Nancy Rowe  
Ginger Scott  
Joseph Scott  
Cole Von Ohlen

Congregation  
de Mellier  
Heart and Soul  
Children's  
Learning Center  
All Ministries  
of the Church





### VBS Invite Competition

Hey Kids, do you like McDonald's? We're giving away \$5.00 McDonald's gift cards for VBS!! What's the catch? You need to bring **3 friends** with you to VBS. That's it. Come to VBS, bring **3 friends**, and you get a \$5.00 McDonald's gift card! Of course, you also get to have an amazing fun-filled day with your friends on a trip to *Mars and Beyond* where you'll learn about space, play space games, conduct science experiments, eat rocket dogs, and learn about the out of this world love of God!! So, make sure to join us for VBS July 13 and 14! And, bring some friends.



### All-Church BBQ and VBS Celebration July 14

Mark your calendars for our all-church BBQ Sunday, July 14, at 11:30 A.M. Bring a side or dessert (or both!) to share and come celebrate VBS! Pulled pork, ribs, and drinks are provided. There will be also be a water slide and yard games. If it rains, we'll move the celebration inside. Come join with your church family as we fellowship and celebrate the work God is doing in our community!!

### ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!***

***VBS coming July 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>***

We are trying a new format this year with One Day VBS - Sat. July 13<sup>th</sup>. **Helpers needed!!**

We will have a closing ceremony on July 14<sup>th</sup> followed with a family and congregation picnic.

Notify Sophie @ [lakeratskier@gmail.com](mailto:lakeratskier@gmail.com) if you can help.



*It's that time of year  
Back to School  
Supplies for our kids  
at Tarsney Lake.*

*We will be collecting money donations every Sunday during the month of July. Our final picnic is July 31st and we will be giving the gift cards out that day.*

*Please contact Tonia with further questions*



### **Please Donate to an Hillcrest Auction Basket**

The Hillcrest Transitional Housing program offers homeless families, individuals, and youth rent-free temporary housing and a disciplined educational program designed to move these residents to self-sufficiency. LLCUMC is honored to be sponsoring one of the apartments at their Lee's Summit facility. Hillcrest's largest fundraising event, their annual Gala, is in August. As sponsors, we have been asked to donate a couple of themed-baskets to help make their Gala auction a success. *With your help of cash donations, our LLCUMC Hillcrest team will prepare two family-oriented gift card baskets for the auction. Please donate by July 28 and write "Hillcrest baskets" on your check or envelope.*

# **Evening Small Groups @ LLCUMC**

**For Women**

**IT'S NOT  
SUPPOSED TO BE  
THIS WAY**

WOMEN'S DVD BIBLE  
STUDY BY LYSA  
TERKEURST

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN GOD'S  
TIMING SEEMS QUESTIONABLE, HIS  
LACK OF INTERVENTION HURTFUL,  
AND HIS PROMISES DOUBTFUL?

6 WEEKS, BEGINNING JULY 7  
5:30-7:00 P.M.  
LLCUMC SANCTUARY

Contact Sara at [sstephenson.snyder@gmail.com](mailto:sstephenson.snyder@gmail.com)

**For Men**

**First and third Thursdays  
@ 7:00 P.M.**

Come and Experience the Living Word

**Bible  
Study**

Contact Pastor Chris at [chrissnyder@gmail.com](mailto:chrissnyder@gmail.com)

**For Couples**

On hiatus for the summer; will resume meeting this fall

Contact Wayne at [w.rogers63@yahoo.com](mailto:w.rogers63@yahoo.com)

Small Groups provide the opportunity to connect with others  
in a casual study/discussion environment as you strive  
to deepen and enrich your walk with God

**We Invite You to Attend!**