

“WE’RE HERE!”

Words are inadequate to express our thankfulness for arriving (finally!) to Lake Lotawana and to serve as your pastor! The journey from Virginia to here was not easy or routine because of having to bring our two cats—Fergus and Finbar—and drive two vehicles loaded with all the things we wanted immediately or that the movers would not take. This made food and bathroom breaks on the 1,100 mile journey more difficult given the heat of summer and having to leave the A/C on in one of the cars for the cats. That meant Jennifer and I had to take turns on the bathroom breaks, and that only one of us could go in to get some food—then eat that food outside of our cars if the heat and weather permitted, or get back into our cars and not eat together. Oh, then there was getting our two finicky felines out and then back in the car twice on our overnight stays, along with our luggage. Anyhow, it’s all “water under the bridge” now, and, as my title states, “We’re here!”

Jennifer and I want to thank any and all who pitched in to get the parsonage ready. I know there was a lot to do, a lot of heat to endure, and not much time to do it, but it looks fantastic! Our household goods are due to arrive this Thursday if all goes according to plan, and we are eager to receive our things and make the house you have provided our home.

Yesterday, I mentioned a naval acronym in my sermon to those present in worship, but I’ll repeat it for those of you who could not attend. The acronym is B-L-U-F, and it means “bottom line up front.” It is used in informal naval memos to state the purpose of the memo at the very beginning, as if to say, “Here’s what this is all about, and then continue to read to get the details.” With that in mind, I shared my BLUF yesterday to both services because I think it is important for you to know what I’m all about from the very beginning, and then get the details as time goes along. My BLUF is this: **In order to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world** (our current mission statement), **each of us needs to BE a disciple of Jesus Christ**. There are numerous responsibilities and conditions that come with allowing the gospel of Christ to affect, and perhaps change, our lives. All of my sermons, articles, comments in meetings, studies that I lead, or discussions I have in the coming weeks and months all point to enabling you to be better disciples for Jesus Christ. That is fundamental; it is the very foundation upon which all that we do as a congregation sits. By our personal willingness to acknowledge and address our own spirituality (the topic of next Sunday’s sermon) and our actions and behavior as disciples of Christ (Christian ethics, in other words), we become genuine in our collective discipleship as a congregation. When we are genuine in our discipleship, and communicate it to the community around us by every means possible, then our evangelism and missional outreach are effective. But those last two things—congregational evangelism and missions—do not happen without the previous three steps of personal spirituality, ethics, and discipleship.

I earn to meet and get to know each of you individually and personally in the weeks and months to come! Until then...

Blessings to you and yours!

Pastor Tom



ATTENTION PARENTS

Cokesbury offers a virtual Sunday school and more. Check out [cokesburykids.com](https://www.cokesburykids.com) under free resources. Scroll down to virtual Sunday school or try this link.

<https://www.cokesburykids.com/free-resources/church-at-home/virtual-sunday-school>

I am excited to announce we collected 681 diapers for the Hillcrest Apartments pantry. The Hillcrest staff was very excited to receive the much needed donations for their families in need. Life has handed a lot of people in our community hard times and we as a church can always lend a hand to help others in need and this month we did a GREAT JOB of showing how much we really care.

Thank you to all the donated!

dis·ci·ple·ship

*n. to turn all people into
fully devoted, mature
followers of Christ*



Thank You Stu May and all the wonderful volunteers that worked so hard to help prepare our church parsonage for Pastor Tom and Jennifer. It looks amazing and we pray they get their personal items soon and can start enjoying the beautiful lake life. Please welcome them with open arms and hearts to our church family.



On Going: Les Case, Wade Davis, Roger Grable, Richard Fuerst, Winnie Fuerst, Harvey Geary, Michael Hatfield, Mike McMillin, Steve Raymond, Nancy Rowe, Don & Phronsie Wood

Missions: Hillcrest Transitional Housing, Harvester's Food Bank, Lazarus Ministries, Tarsney Lake Families, Congregation de Mellier, Heart and Soul Children's Learning Center

Please contact the office to update or add prayer requests

July 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28 Services 8:00 & 10:00	29	30 Missions Meeting 7:00	1	2	3	4
5 Services 8:00 & 10:00	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Services 8:00 & 10:00	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Services 8:00 & 10:00	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Services 8:00 & 10:00	27	28	29	30	31	