

They make it look so easy

Last week I had the pleasure of attending the PGA Championship golf tournament in St. Louis. While I am not a real frequent golfer, I enjoy playing and seeing the guys play who are really good at it.

I was amazed as we sat at the first tee watching the players begin their round. They all took out their drivers (the biggest club in the bag), took a few nice easy practice swings, and then stepped up to the ball and took another nice, easy swing. They didn't come out of their shoes as they swung. They didn't try to kill it. They didn't try to hit it with all they had (okay, they probably did, but it was different). They took a very smooth, controlled swing and the results were amazing. As they made their approach shots to the greens, they again took nice and easy swings. Even the most difficult of shots look easy! Over and over, I either said or heard others say, "they make it look so easy."

After spending time at the first tee, we walked over to the practice green where the golfers practiced their putts. When I go to a golf course and warm up on the putting green, I typically spend about 5 minutes attempting a few putts and walk away in hopes that I do better on the actual course. The professionals, on the other hand, spent 45 minutes or more working on this one aspect of their game. As I was watching this process, it dawned on me how much work these pros put into this game. They work hard, day in and day out, because this is their job. Just as you and I spend time working on different aspects of our job performance, these guys do it too --only on the golf course. It is all that work they put in on the practice greens, at the driving range before and after their rounds, in between tournaments and on off days that makes it look like it is so easy.

Have you ever seen someone who makes their Christian walk look easy? I've been fortunate enough over the years to have known several spiritual mentors - people who exemplify how it is we are to live the life of a disciple. These are the folks who talk about their daily scripture reading not as a way to brag, but to share the insight they gained. These are the people who don't just tell you they are going to pray for you, but they actually stop everything and right then and there say a prayer with you. These are the folks who show the compassion of Christ in all they say and do, again, not because they are trying to impress anyone, but because it is what wells up in their heart. Watching these mentors of mine, I've always had the thought that they make it look so easy. If my life were as easy as theirs, I could be as faithful as them too. If they had to deal with what I deal with, if they had been through what I've been through, if they were as busy as I am ...

But the reality is, they make it look easy because they work at it, just like those PGA golfers. These folks spent hours, days, months, years developing these skills and figuring out what works best for them. It may look natural now, but it wasn't always that way. These spiritual mentors have made their faith walk look easy only after years of daily practice and faithful work. It didn't come easy for them and won't come easy for us. The important thing to remember is that we need to keep at it. We may never measure up to others, but God doesn't measure that way. We are called to practice our faith in ways that are best for us. That is the only way it will ever feel natural and look easy.

Thank you for the honor of being your pastor and being in ministry to God and others as we seek to humbly and faithfully participate in his amazing work.

Blessings,
Chris



August 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 <i>Be An Angel 10</i> <i>Tarsney Lunch</i> 12:00	2 <i>Social</i> <i>Service 12:50</i>	3	4
5 <i>Services</i> <i>8 & 10</i>	6	7	8 <i>Tarsney</i> <i>Lunch 12:00</i> <i>Yoga 6:15</i>	9	10	11
12 <i>Sevices</i> <i>8 & 10</i> <i>Tarsney Picnic</i> 5:00	13	14 <i>Association</i> <i>Meeting 7:30</i> <i>Prayer Walk</i> <i>Mason 7:00</i>	15 <i>Be An</i> <i>Angel 10:00</i> <i>Yoga 6:15</i>	16 <i>China</i> <i>Painting 9:00</i>	17	18
19 <i>Services</i> <i>8 & 10</i>	20	21	22 <i>Yoga 6:15</i>	23	24 <i>Rock</i> <i>The Lake 6:30</i>	25
26 <i>Services</i> <i>8 & 10</i>	27	28	29 <i>Yoga 6:15</i>	30	31	

Steve Bee
Jeremy Brooks
Keith Brunsmann
Les Case
Donna Casey
Ron Clarke
Charlene Davis
Ronnie Goode
Bill Green
Michael Hatfield
Warren Hassler
Edie & Gary Ken
Morgan (Hatfield)
Fred McKinzie
Selah Okucolglu
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



Congregation de
Mellier

Heart and Soul
Children's Christian
Learning Center

All Ministries
of the Church



August 19 – September 9: Monetary donations will be collected to purchase supplies for Personal Hygiene Packs to be donated to the annual Missouri Festival of Sharing. Make checks payable to LLCUMC with “Festival of Sharing” in the memo line

Saturday, September 8 9:00 – 12:00: Recycling Extravaganza. Volunteers needed 8:00 – 12:30. See www.llcumc.org for further information

Sunday, September 30 8:45 – 10:00: All-Church Fellowship and Missions Highlights Breakfast. Enjoy a fantastic meal with your church family and learn about Hillcrest Transitional Housing's mission to help homeless family become self-sufficient. Cotton Sivils will be our guest speaker.

Saturday, October 13 9:00 – 1:00: Volunteer at Lazarus Ministries serving food to homeless individuals. Contact Bob Metcalfe.

AUG

LLCUMC Family Night
Live Music/Games/Food
6:30-8:30 P.M.
Church Parking Lot

ROCK THE LAKE

24



**Live Music by Stephen
Rew and Decided**

Calling All Acolytes

Acolyte Training Class

- Sunday, September 9
- 2-4 P.M. Fellowship Hall
- Children Grades 1-6
- Bible Study, Games, Snacks, Fire Safety



Text Sara Snyder at 417-343-1124 to sign up!

Kids in Action

NEW MISSION CLUB

- Students ages 8-13
- Mission Experiences & Bible Study
- 10/12, 10/18, 11/06, 01/02, 01/21, 03/01
- More information to follow; direct questions to Sara Snyder or Sophie Reed





2018 RECYCLING EXTRAVAGANZA

at Lake Lotawana Community
United Methodist Church
Gate 1 & Colbern Road

SAVE

THE

DATE

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8th

9:00 a.m. - Noon

**- Electronics - Clothing -
- Household Goods & MORE -**

CASH FEES: \$20 per TV - \$10 per printer

All other accepted items FREE

See list @ llcumc.org

Recycling Extravaganza Volunteers Needed

Saturday, September 8th, 8:30 – 12:30

This is our seventh year to host the Recycling Extravaganza. The purpose of the event is to do a service for the community and to be good stewards of our planet. Each year we have between 100 and 160 cars bringing us electronics, clothing, and household goods to be reused or recycled. We use several organizations for the recycling, including Surplus Exchange, Hillcrest Thrift Store, KC Books, ACH Foam Technologies, UPS stores, and Merida Foundation.

Twenty volunteers are needed on the day of the event to help take donations out of the cars, organize the donations, collect the cash fee for TVs and printers, or greet/survey the patrons coming to the event. Some people are needed for heavy lifting, but there are also jobs that do not require lifting.

To sign up to volunteer, please sign up on the clipboard in the church lobby, email Alice at acfuerst@netscape.net, or call Alice at 816-229-7441.



Yoga every
Wed. at
6:15

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!



Through **Festival of Sharing**, various Christian denominations and non-profit organizations have joined forces to respond to poverty, hunger and injustice throughout the world by providing funding and resource goods. In 2017, 98 agencies serving 70,000 people were the recipients of the Missouri Sharefest. This year you can participate in two ways:

1. Donate used prescription eyeglasses and reading glasses for the Merida Foundation to distribute to the Mayan community. These will also be collected at our Recycling Event Sept 8th.
2. Make a monetary contribution that will be used to assemble Missouri Personal Hygiene Packs. The estimated value of each pack is \$20 and they will all be distributed throughout Missouri. The kit will include toothpaste, toothbrush, bath soap, lotion, shampoo, washcloth, deodorant, hand towel, comb or brush, and razors. By combining our donations, we will be able to purchase items in bulk and therefore, provide more kits. On your check memo or on your giving envelope, please mark "**Festival Kits**".
September 9th will be the last day we will be collecting funds. Kits will be delivered to our regional Sharefest at St. James UMC in KC later that week.

ONE mission ~
MANY communities