

*St. John's Evangelical Church
211 E. Carrol Street
Kenton, Ohio 43326
(Non Profit Organization)*

**Do Not Delay
Dated Material**



St. John's Evangelical Church Newsletter

June 2021

211 E. Carrol Street
Kenton, OH 43326
Church Phone: 419-673-7278
Pastor Randall cell: 724-290-3651

Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester, Senior Pastor
Website: www.stjohnskenton.org
Email: stjohnskenton@gmail.com



Join Us for VBS June 7-10 from 5-7:15 pm K- 5th Grade

This summer we will build on the love of Jesus. So, grab your hard hat and tool belt! As kids explore a world of concrete and cranes, rivets and rebar, bulldozers and backhoes, they will discover that skyscrapers aren't the only things that need a rock-solid foundation. During VBS, kids will learn to build their faith on Jesus as they uncover the truth that He who began a good work will be faithful to carry it on to completion.

If you plan to attend or volunteer, please Pre-Register online by June 4th at <https://kideventpro.lifeway.com/myEvent/?id=57752> Reservations are very helpful for preparation purposes. Hope to see you all there!!!

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH

211 East Carrol Street
Kenton, OH 43326

REV. DR. RANDALL J. FORESTER, PASTOR & TEACHER

Phone: 419-673-7278 (o)

Phone: 724-290-3651 (c)

JUNE 2021

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

"Everybody's talking and no one says a word," began John Lennon's song *Nobody Told Me* from the mid-70s. At the end of the previous decade, the movie **Midnight Cowboy** featured the song *Everybody's Talkin'* with the lines,
Everybody's talkin' at me
I don't hear a word they're sayin'
Only the echoes of my mind.

Both songs captured the notion that we live in an age of endless noise and self-promotion that has only been exasperated by the rise of the Internet, social media, and all its related technologies.

Poor Solomon could never have imagined this when he wrote in **Ecclesiasts 12:12**: "My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh." After a while, all those words and voices become nothing more than noise. The more people talk, the less they add to the conversation, especially when they speak from their human nature.

And that's the folly that the Bible speaks of throughout its pages. "Knowing better" than God has done nothing but gotten humanity in trouble since our days in the Garden of Eden. And yet, that's what the majority of people traffic in when they discuss the Bible. It's all about opinions overlaid on scripture or special verses cherry-picked out of context to defend one's point.

I think we have a beautiful form of church governance. We are congregationally governed, which means the ultimate power and the last word rests in the hands of the gathered members of the church. However, to be truly effective, the gathered members have to be the priesthood of all believers (**Revelation 1:6; 5:10; 20:6; I Peter 2:9**) fully committed to serving God and worshipping Him in

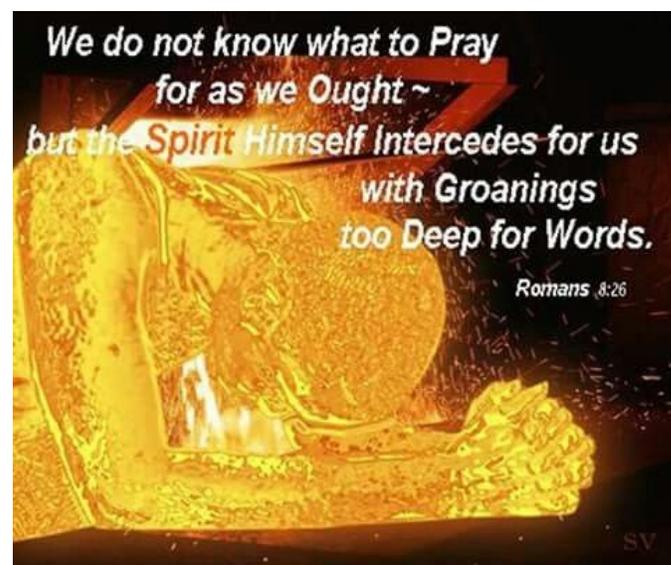
Spirit and Truth (**John 4:23-24**).

Being congregationally led isn't an exercise in democratic decision making. In reality, it's a monarchy which proclaims Christ as the Head of the whole body (**Ephesians 5:23**). The true member of the Church will have the mind of Christ and will stand in accord with

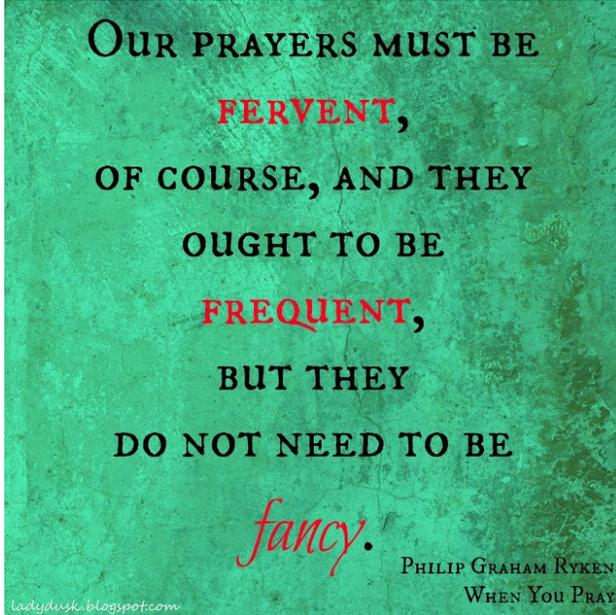
other members (**Philippians 2:2**). Therefore, when the body gathers in its truest form, there is no need for elections and there would be no division or differences of opinions. When we gather, we may begin from different perspectives—with disagreements even—but in the end, the Holy Spirit will bring us into a unity of thought, mind, and action. [A good example of this is found in **Acts 15:1-35**].



To accomplish this, we need to speak less and pray more. As I mentioned last month, that is why this summer, I am calling us to pray on a weekly basis. If you cannot be here, please pray at home. Commit to seeking the Lord and His Word for us. Come without pretense and without an agenda. Learn to pray to the point that your



are exhausted so that the Spirit needs to intercede with groanings too deep for words (see **Romans 8:26-27**).



As Paul wrote in **II Corinthians 12:10**, “For when I am weak, then I am strong.” Our strength and our power comes from God and through the Holy Spirit. It is not from within ourselves. Therefore, we need to pray in such a manner. In prayer, we do not seek to validate ourselves, but to align ourselves with the heart of the Father. To do that, we pray in Christ and led by the Holy Spirit.

Doing so, transforms the nature of our prayers. Instead of delivering petitions to God for ourselves or those closest to us, we learn to pray for others, especially those truly other to ourselves. We discover how to pray for our enemies and those who would persecute us (**Matthew 5:44**). This is the power of prayer as it shapes our hearts to conform to the image of Christ as we are transformed by the renewal of our minds (**Romans 12:1-2**).

Prayer is more about letting go of self it is seeking the fulfillment of our desires and needs. That is why prayer and fasting often go hand-in-hand. Fasting is about letting go of the things of this world, so we can better grasp hold of God and recognize that He is our all-in-all.

I hope and pray that you will be able to join in the times of prayer. I pray that you will come with a humble heart seeking to hear and with a desire only to speak when prompted by the Holy Spirit. I hope you will dedicate yourself to fasting in preparation. My desire is that you give yourself wholly to God, seeking His holiness and

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
CHURCH:
MAKING AND MATURING
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST**

righteousness as it comes to us in Christ. Even if you cannot be here in person, I hope you will pray during those times and in additional times with other members of our local church and the larger Church.

The more we pray, the more we will hear from the Lord. Like the Apostles gathered in Jerusalem on that first Pentecost, the message we receive may come in different languages, but it will be the same message that helps to unify our congregation (**Acts 2**). That unifying message eventually leads to transformed lives to those who hear, which causes actions of true ministry—the mark of true disciples. In turn, the ministry of proclamation and service in Christ lead to growth in the Church and changed lives all around (**Acts 2:42-47**). But it all begins in prayer (**Acts 1:14**).

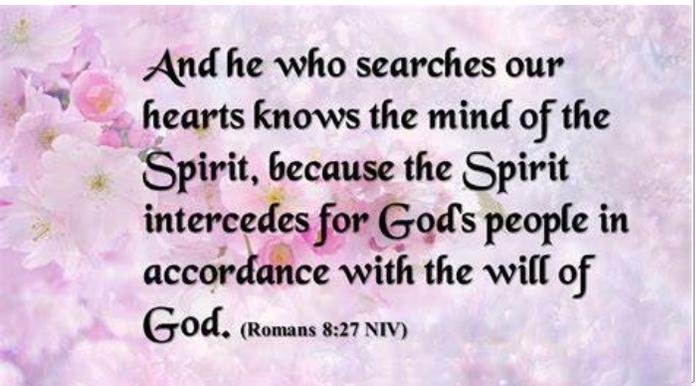
This is a time to heed the prophet Joel's cry:

- Consecrate a fast;
- call a solemn assembly.
- Gather the elders
- and all the inhabitants of the land
- to the house of the Lord your God,
- and cry out to the Lord.

Joel 1:14

These are the days to gather and pray and cry out to the Lord.

With love and faith and service,



Preaching Series

June begins with the end of the spring series through the prophets. We will end with **The Forgettable Message**, so we can begin with messages inspired by questions, insights, and comments from members of our church.



At the conclusion of the summer series, there will be a sermon series on the characteristics of a healthy and vibrant church according to the Bible, which will lead us into our times of remembering the saints who have gone to be with the Lord, stewardship, and thanksgiving. The calendar year will end with the start of a new church year, which begins 28 November with the first Sunday of Advent. Advent and Christmas will carry to the end of 2021.

Please pray over these scriptures and topics as God speaks into the church here at St. John's by His Word and by the Holy Spirit.

06 June	Scripture	Psalm 79 Isaiah 6:8-13
	Sermon	The Forgettable Message
13 June	Scripture	Sunday after VBS Philippians 1:1-11 Matthew 7:24-29
	Sermon	Concrete and Cranes
20 June		Father's Day Pastor Vacation
27 June	Scripture	Zechariah 12:10 Romans 8:18-30 John 14:16
	Sermon	Grace and Mercy and Weeping
04 July	Scripture	Exodus 18:1-27 Galatians 6:1-2
	Sermon	Serving Together
11 July	Scripture	II Kings 4:42-44 John 6:1-15
	Sermon	The Leftovers
18 July	Scripture	57th Psalm Isaiah 38:1-8
	Sermon	The Diagnosis
25 July		Pastor's Continuing Education
01 August	Scripture	Numbers 23:18-24 Titus 1:5-16
	Sermon	Above Reproach

Upcoming Events

Prayer & Song Nights

Please join us for casual nights of prayer & song in the sanctuary at 7 pm each night:

Thursday, June 3 (Hymns with Linda Zeigler)

Friday, June 11 (Praise team)

Wednesday, June 23 (Hymns with Hope Cauley)

Wednesday, June 30 (Hymns with Hope Cauley)

Wednesday, July 7 (Hymns with Linda Zeigler)

Wednesday, July 14 (Praise team)

Wednesday, July 28 (Hymns with Linda Zeigler)

Wednesday, August 4 (Praise team)

Wednesday, August 18 (Hymns with Linda Zeigler)

Prayer, Song & Dinner: On Sunday, August 29 at 4 pm, we will have a Prayer & Hymn Night (Hymns with Cinda Shea) & a Carry In dinner after at 5 pm in the fellowship hall.

Gus Forester's Graduation Party

You are all invited to celebrate Gus's graduation on June 5 from 1-5 pm in the church bus barn.



St. John's Family Fishing Derby

St. John's will hold a Fishing Derby on Saturday, July 10 from 10 am—2 pm at Boy Scout Lake in Kenton. Lunch will be provided! Prizes for 1st catch, biggest and smallest. All are welcome! Please plan to join us for a fun time!

Rooster Shirts—Last Chance

The next run of rooster shirts will be ordered soon. These will be long sleeved t-shirts. You may choose black, navy, purple, or maroon. The ink color will be metallic silver and there will be a small rooster logo on one of the sleeves. Cost: \$15 for adult S-XL; \$17 XXL; \$18 XXXL; \$19 XXXXL.

Orders need to be made with payment by June 6th.

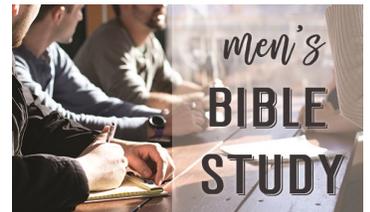


Bible Study Wednesday Nights

A Bible Study led by Jerry Pfister meets Wednesday Nights at 6:30 pm in the chapel. All are welcome to attend!

Community Men's Bible Study

A Community Men's Bible Study meets Saturday mornings at 7:30 am at Our Place Family Restaurant.



Community Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study is now meeting on Sunday morning at 9 am in fellowship hall. All are welcome! We have plenty of room to spread out and you do not have to prepare ahead of time. The scriptures come from The Jesus Map, which contains 52 key events in the life and path of Jesus.



Mission of the Month— Gideons



The Gideons International
Spreading the
Good News

Gideons International distribute Bibles and New Testaments around the world. Having God's Word can and does lead people to faith in Christ, and those new Christians then grow by studying their Scriptures and even use them to share their faith with others.

For this reason, they focus on distributing complete Bibles, New Testaments, or portions thereof. These copies of God's Word are printed in more than 90 languages and are either given directly to certain individuals or placed in selected public locations where large numbers of people, who may be searching for answers, will have the ability to encounter the Word of God.

St. John's Care Team



We have a group of people that make calls to members to try to keep in touch with each other and to just check in. If you would like to participate in any way, please let the church office know or contact Carol Wilcox. If you are not receiving a call and would like one periodically or know of someone who would, please let us know.

Confirmation Class Interest

Anyone interested in participating in a confirmation class in the fall please contact the church office or Michele Sherman.

LORD,
Thank you for giving us the privilege
of calling you FATHER.
Thank you for loving us more
than any earthly father
ever loved his children.
Thank you for making sure we
stay on the right path.

Prayer from the NIV[®]
Encountering The Spirit Bible

facebook.com/nivbible

Friday With Friends

Friday With Friends is a wonderful group of widows, widowers, and single seniors who meet twice a month for a special time of food, fellowship, and fun. We meet the first and third Fridays of every month. Please join us if you are a widow, widower, or single senior adult. This is not exclusive to St. John's, so pass the word along to someone that you know who could be blessed by this special group. For more information, contact Ethel Koch at 419-674-6344.

Forthcoming outings will be as follows:

If out of town, meet at St. John's, corner of Wayne St. and E. Carrol St. to carpool. They leave sharply at 10:45. Still eating at 11:30 am.

- June 4 Cranberry's—Huntsville (Lake)
- June 18 Acheson's—Lakeview
- July 2 Homecoming—Bellefontaine
- July 16 Tilton Hilton—Lakeview
- August 6 Viva Maria—Ada
- August 20 Coonies—LaRue



Birthday Blessings (over 80 yrs. Young)

Happy Birthday!! Please contact the church office if a name was omitted from the list. Thank you so much.

June—None on file.

If you are 80 or more years young and would like to be included in the newsletter in the month of your birthday, please contact the church office. Thank you!

website: stjohnskenton.org
Facebook: St Johns Kenton, Ohio
Youtube: St. John's Evangelical Church







Hey dads, step-dads, grandpas, brothers, and dad-figures. Happy Father's Day! Thank you for all you do to love, guide, and father the teenagers in your life. You're incredible.

Here are a few things coming up in our ministry . . .

VBS Volunteers needed June 7-10th, 5pm-7:15pm. If your Youth or their friends would like to volunteer, please make sure you sign- up on the Kids Event Pro website. They will be meeting June 2nd, 3rd and 4th at Noon in the Youth Room. They will be learning music and skits and lunch will be provided.

Tip of the Month

What does God have to say about justice? We're glad you asked, because many teenagers are asking this question! Here are a few ideas to help them find the answer: 1) Point out injustices in the news or your community. 2) Ask for their perspective. 3) Point out wrongs that are being made right. 4) Do something together to make the world more just.

Resource of the Month

There really are so many ways teenagers can fight for justice in their everyday lives, like this simple idea from World Relief — give up your special day (like a birthday) to raise awareness and funds for a cause you believe in. <https://worldrelief.org/donate-your-day/>

Question on the Month

We consider our volunteer leaders to be the best link we have between our church and your family. So, here's a question: **How often did you hear from your teenager's leader this school year?** Email us to reply @ michelesjyouth@gmail.com



KIDS CORNER

Sunday School with Miss Hope and Miss Natasha will be taking the months of June and July off, classes will resume in the fall.

Nursery is open to families as a self-serve, we just ask you respect others if using the space with you. There will be disinfectant spray and every pre-caution will be taken to keep families safe.

What's happening this month...

VBS is scheduled for June 7th-10th, 5pm-7:15pm. So, grab your hard hat and tool belt, as kids will learn to build their faith on Jesus as they uncover the truth that He who began a good work will be faithful to carry it on to completion. If your child plans to attend, please Pre-register online by June 4th at <https://kideventpro.ilfeway.com/myevent/?id=57752>

Reservations are very helpful for preparation purposes. Hope to see you all there!

Tip of the Month

“The way Paul poured into Timothy is the model for how we as Ministry leaders should pour into the young adults in our churches.” – Jay Strother

Who is your Timothy? Discipleship= relationship. [#D6EveryDay](https://twitter.com/D6EveryDay)



June has arrived and graduation parties are being held around the County for graduates. But what was it like before education was raised to include all children before high school was required? Who had parties? Short answer, the churches were having them. Why aside from fellowship? Money. They were the fundraisers of the mid 1800s, specifically targeting debts incurred by the Church. Let's look at the process for St. John's which is reported in the Council records:

“Sunday, 14 Jan 1866

After the Sunday sermon, the president called the congregation to order for the election of a party committee. The male committee would be the members of the church council as well as 6 other male members of the congregation: Heinrich Loeffert, Peter Foeyler, Wilhelm Linke, Martin Preis, Erhardt Blum and John Alt. The female committee would consist of Mrs. Blum, Mrs. Preis, Mrs. Blum, Lehene Schreiber, Soph. Peltz, Mrs. Sheiner, Li Treger, Liese Frei, M. Frei, R. Frei, Kaliemi Fink, M. Beik, Mrs. Eifert. It is up to them to decide when the party should be held. Since there was not further business, the meeting was adjourned until 16 Jan 7pm. Attested Konrad Zulauf – Secretary

The committee gathered on 16th Jan at 7 pm.

It was decided that the party should be held at shrovetide in Kraules Hall. There should be a late dinner, which should be brought together by the congregation members. It was decided that an entrance fee should be charged, \$1.50 for a couple, \$1.00 for a single person and for children under the age of 12 \$0.25. It was also decided that the 16 people of choir should receive free entrance tickets. It was suggested that the girls would have permission to collect some money during the party through some kind of measures and that the said money would be donated to the church. This suggestion was granted. It was decided, **that the opening of the party should be at 7 pm, the beginning should be at 8pm and supper at 11pm.** The meeting was adjourned until 23 Jan at 7pm. Attested Konrad Zulauf.

23 Jan 7 pm

It was decided in the meeting that no spirits should be served at the event and that it was also not allowed for any person to bring their own. It was decided that August Treger would be the one receiving the money at the door, Konrad Zulauf would be there as Secretary and Ehrhart. Blum should be at the door to keep the order. Ulrich Gerlach, Peter Vogler and Sigmund Kreinbihl accepted. The meeting was adjourned until the 6th Feb at 7pm. Attested Konrad Zulauf – Secretary.

Sunday, 18 Feb

The financial report was read to the congregation. It was declared as correct and included the income and expenses of the party, which was held on 13 Feb. Konrad Zulauf

The party which the church council held at shrovetide 1866 had the following income and expenses:

Income:

Money collected by entrance fee by A. Zugschwert und K. Zulauf \$233.20

August Treger and others \$4.00

Madame Stahl gave \$4.25

John Blum \$0.50

Madame E. Blum \$3.12

From the auction \$21.48

H. Loeffert \$13.05

K. Koehler \$16.40

U. Gerlach \$3.43

Given by others 1.60

Overall sum of income \$300.53

Given by others 1.60

Overall sum of income \$300.53

Expenses of the party:
Rent for the hall \$10.00
For rum [?] \$3.00
For an ad \$5.00
Lehene Schreiber for work \$5.00
To John Alt \$1.10
For [illegible] \$1.50
To K Kaufman \$5.00
Sum of all expenses \$30.60

Surplus of the party \$269.93
Attested Konrad Zulauf, Secretary

8 March 1866

Gottlieb Gutersmuth received back the money \$322.50 for the two loans plus interest.
S. K. Zulauf “

I realize I have written previously about this particular party, but in closer examination, three items struck me as unusual. First, the supper was not to be served until 11 PM. (Would such a schedule exist today except for New Years Eve?). Second, rum is clearly listed as an expense and would in those days equate to 2 bottles, despite the agreement that no alcohol was permitted. (conjecture: either as payment to the custodian of the rented hall, or did the men’s party committee decide to celebrate their success?). Third, the party provided the majority of the loan pay off.

Peace and blessings,

Jerry Pfister, Historian



**Be a Fisher of Men—
Invite a Friend!**

ST. JOHN'S FAMILY



LUNCH PROVIDED 😊

PRIZES FOR 1ST CATCH, BIGGEST & SMALLEST



St. John's Evangelical Church
Church Council Agenda
Thursday, April 8, 2021
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER - Terry Hord, President

OPENING PRAYER - Pastor Randall

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT - Pastor Randall

OFFICER'S REPORT

Secretary's Report - Heather Erwin

- March 11 minutes – Motion to accept minutes and seconded, council vote, motion carried.

REPORTS

1) Finance - Jerry Pfister & Kay Rush

- Discussion of posting no trespassing signs that say except for Church activities
- Heather will contact Scioto Signs about a no trespassing sign that say no climbing, no loitering
- Covering the outside outlets and the light pole.
- No will for Buerger money for mission trip

2) Christian Education—Michele Sherman

- Youth and Wednesday Night will end on April 28th.

3) Women's Ministry - Kay Rush

- No banquets or food activities
- Social: Motion approved & seconded: Set for July 15, 2021: 4-6 take out (Chicken and Noodles, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Cookies, water)

4) Worship, Arts & Music

- James will continue once a month

5) Personnel Committee - Jerry Pfister

- New family minister job description

6) Pastoral Relations - Carol Wilcox

- Next meeting: April 11, 2021

7) Trustees

- Church Bell Tower discussion about the church bell and the safety of the bell.
- And then the roof under the bell will be fixed. \$2,875 to durlast the roof and to fix the roof.

Audio Visual: Jerry Pfister

- 79 hours for 15 events (3 people)

Van: Anna LaWarrre

- Mark brought the designs to look at. Motion made & seconded that we go ahead with the red curved design.

Farm: Greg Martin

- Steven McCoy will finish the painting and spraying the outside. (\$15000) (Includes this extra \$2000 stain the stone around 2 large windows and 4 windows on the east and west side of the church.) For an extra \$10,000 to mist the entire outside. Motion made & seconded to approve.
- Steve McCoy outside arched windows on west and east sides with epoxy paint: \$3000. To be taken from budget. Motion made and seconded to approve.

8) Missions, Evangelism - Heather Erwin/ Mark Sherman

- Heather and committee finalized the service day on April 25th.

9) Pastor's Report - Pastor Randall

- Forester's vacation dates
June 14-20, August 9-15, November 22-28 and December 27- January 2. Continued Education: July 19-25

OLD BUSINESS:

- Safety of Church/Alice Program - tabled
- Church Rental agreements- tabled
- Church inventory – tabled. As soon as school is out.

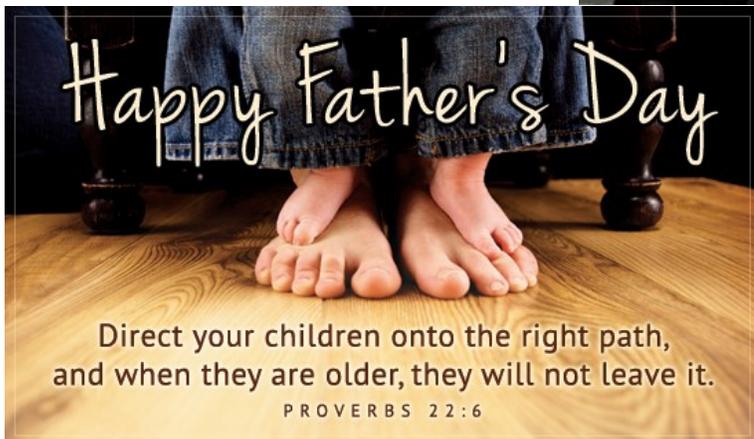
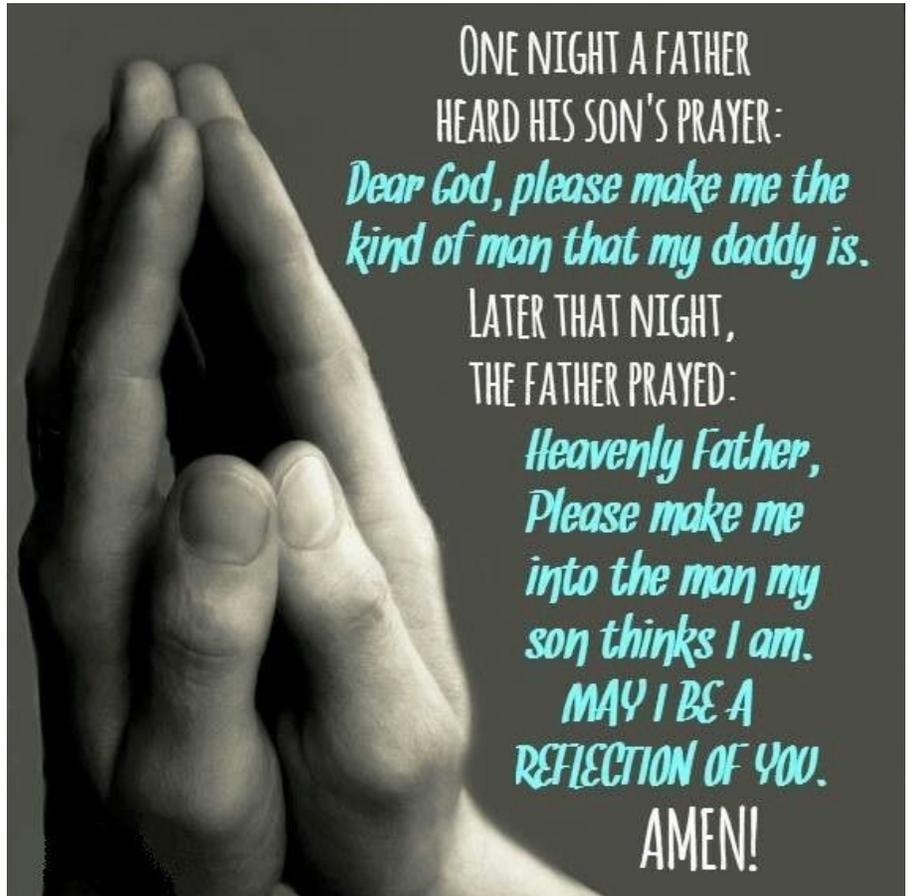
NEW BUSINESS:

- Forester request – Use of bus/van barn for graduation party- June 5. Motion made & seconded to approve.
- Scholarship: Need to be turned in by May 1, 2021
- Nursery- request to reopen – possibly self-serve. The nursery can be opened with self-serve. The nursery can be divided if needed to into 2 sections. The family using the nursery is responsible for cleaning the surfaces and toys used with supplied cleaner.
- Hunting Lease: Limiting section.

Next Meeting: May 13, 2021 7:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT – Motion and seconded to adjourn, Council Vote, motion carried.

LORD'S PRAYER



Church Staff:

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester
Youth Ministry: Michele Sherman
Financial Secretary: Kay Rush
Church Secretary: Kathy Forester
Chancel Choir Director: David Beazley
Organists: Randall S. Rogers, Teresa Broseke and Linda Zeigler
Children's Choirs Director: Hope Cauley
Bell Choir Director: Jane Baker
Technical Support: Richard Katterjohn
Historian: Gerald Pfister
Janitor: Denny Sprang