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

Do Not Delay Dated Material



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St. John's Evangelical Church Newsletter

July 2023

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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)

JULY 2023

The Pastor's <u>Page</u>

E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

Since my diagnosis in February, I have been obsessed with death and dying. Discovering that you have stage three cancer tends to do that to a fellow. As a pastor, I have wrestled with my faith and what it has to say about these topics. Through sacrifice—through death—we are made one with God. It is by Christ's atoning sacrifice on the Cross that we are reconciled to the Father.

In this month, we as a nation recall the sacrifice of so many others on our behalves that we may live free in this generation. In these days, we see quite readily how many exercise their freedom in radical ways and in ways that are quite unbiblical. Biblical freedom is temperate, and it is never exercised simply because it may. Instead, true freedom is exercised in the interest of others. After, Jesus, who was truly free to do as He wished used that freedom in the interest of others. As **Philippians** tells us, He

"...emptied Himself by taking the form of a servant..." (v 7), and "...He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (v 8).

You can discover more about Christ's nature and humility if you dig into

the Christ Hymn in **Philippians 2** or discover the Songs of the Suffering Servant in **Isaiah**. Such studies will take you to many other scriptures that will remind you that our faith is built on suffering and sacrifice not for its own sake but for the sake of others. Christ suffered and died that sinners may be freed from the grasp of death. Again, in July and as a nation, we remember that many in our history have been called upon to suffer and die that we may live free and prosperous in these days.

While we may never be called upon to shed our blood or sacrifice our lives for others, we are still called by God to sacrifice our wills and temper the use of our personal freedom so that others may prosper and be lifted up. As your pastor, I want to thank all who give of themselves in ministry and service to build up others in our church and

through her ministries, especially those who focus on our core ministries of 1) blessing the children and families who are involved in our Wednesday ministry to children and youth, and 2) supporting individuals and their families as people walk the long road of recovery from addiction.

You, my brothers and sisters, have sacrificed your time, your talents, and treasures to ensure that the ministry of this church continues to impact others and to do so without counting the cost. In this my season of suffering, you have taken on increased roles as you have supported me and my family in addition to everything else you have done.

I want you to know my gratitude personally for what you have done for me and my family. I also want to call upon

you to continue to labor on behalf of my wife as she has shouldered a great burden during this time in caring for me (an obstinate patient), navigated the minefields of insurance and healthcare systems, and mothered our children while working two jobs.

On top of all this, she is a pastor's wife, which in and of its self is not an easy role. I know many of you carry

burdens that are unique to you. I almost feel guilty about asking this of you, but I have learned in my time of illness that there are seasons in which we should ask others to care for us and pray for us as we do (and have done) for them. So please indulge me and make a sacrifice for my wife.

I cannot do much for her in this season. I have referred to my surgery as my Cross. In saying this, I understand what Jesus was doing when He asked John to care for His mother Mary (**John 19:26-27**). Hopefully, it is only for a little while, but whatever may come of me, I call upon you to care for my family and support them as your own

you to care for as you have.



THE PASTOR'S PAGE

I ask this particularly for my wife. LifeWay Research has identified eight ways that can contribute to the wellbeing of a pastor's spouse. [The full list may be found on pages 4 and 5 of the newsletter along with a link to the online version.] In this season, you have done what is needed and more to make us feel loved and supported by the congregation. As we have poured much of our lives into this congregation over the past eight years, you have continued to pour much into our lives.

I have felt the power of your prayers, and my family has as well. I want to encourage you to continue to do what you are doing. Many pastors and their families do not receive such support from their congregations, so I don't want to take for granted what I witness here. Also, I want you to find ways you may continue to make your love known to my family, especially when I am unable to support and care for them as I would like.

In the LifeWay article, I was surprised to discover that only 10% of pastors' spouses say they can count on friends in their church "a great deal" when under stress. Please, continue to be a friend to Kathy and support her. Let her know that she is appreciated for herself and not just as my wife or secretary of the church. Also, support her as she balances family obligations, especially in finding time to be there for our children.

We have witnessed a positive impact on our individual family by being a part of the St. John's family. Again, that has been amplified this year in numerous ways as you have expressed to care for our family through your gifts, your time, and your personal support. I ask for you to help my wife to continue to cultivate her personal spiritual walk with God. Pray with her, encourage her to continue to be refreshed in the Women's Bible Study, or to seek time alone with God.

I ask all this as her husband and your pastor. I ask this as a way for all of us to recognize how our sacrifices for those around us help to honor the great sacrifices that have been made for us in the past. As you continue to do these good works for those close to you, consider how you can continue to increase your reach for those who may not have an advocate for them as my wife has for me and we all have in Christ.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL

CHURCH:

MAKING AND MATURING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

I am a blessed man in so many ways, and I know that. I am blessed to have been in a free land and to have known a loving God since my youth. That loving God has called me into His service and brought me to you, a church that has loved and supported me as I have pastored you. God has also given me a loving wife and a wonderful family. Now, all those blessings are intermingled. As I have received greatly, I have tried to give back greatly and teach others to do the same. I have now been on the receiving side from many to who I have given a great deal of my life, and I am thankful.

I appreciate your indulgence as you give to my family and especially my wife. We look forward to serving you in the years ahead and continuing to build on the foundation of Christ, the foundation of the saints who have gone before us, and the foundation of these blessed days. We do this as a way of honoring Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross, those who have sacrificed themselves for our freedom, and you who have sacrificed parts of yourselves and your lives that we may be comforted and supported in our time of need.

While I have been obsessed with death and dying since I discovered my illness, that fixation has brought me back time and again to life and living. I have so much to live for in this world, so I am in no hurry to enter into the eternal life that I have in Christ. I am assured of that life to come, but I have much to do here to help repay the debt of gratitude for what I have received. Thankfully, it is a debt that I repay not as an obligation but in freedom—freedom in Christ, freedom in my native land, and freedom to love my family of faith.

May we live free as Christ would have us to do. May we live free indeed!

In Christ's freeing name,

Pastor Randall

Preaching Series

This is a season for growing. That is what the summer is. We see that in the fields around our towns. We see that in our yards and our gardens. We see that in the children in our families, our church, and our community.



I pray that we see that in our church as we pause from all our activities to nurture growth and bow before the Lord our God. This is a season to allow the Son to shine in and to have faith that it is the Spirit who will grant the increase for our labors.

This is a season for us to learn from the Word to learn from one another. I have been enriched to hear from others what God has been speaking into their lives in this season.

I look forward to returning to the pulpit. Whenever that is and in whatever capacity that is, I will come to celebrate what God has done in my life and continues to do in my life. I will come to celebrate the life

we share together in this church. I will come to encourage you as you have encouraged me.

May we grow together in this season in the light of the glorious love of Christ.

02 July

Special guest preacher,

Teresa Broseke Pastor hopes to lead Communion Service

09 July

Scripture I Thessalonians 2:17-3:5

Luke 10:38-42

Message Glad to Be Home

16 July

Scripture II Samuel 6:1-15

Luke 7:21-23

Message Mortify Our Pride

23 July

Scripture II Samuel 6:16-

Mark 6:21-29

Message I Just Wanna Dance

30 July

Scripture Genesis 50:22-26

Mark 15:42-47

Message This Bag of Bones

See also **Hebrews 11:22**;

Exodus 13:19;

Joshua 24:32;

Matthew 28:10;

John 19:6



8 Factors That Help Pastors' Spouses Thrive Jun 17, 2020



Photo by KAL VISUALS on Unsplash

Lifeway Research asked pastors' spouses about daily happiness and long-term thriving to determine how they're faring in their situation.

By Aaron Earls

How can pastors and their congregations best encourage and support pastors' spouses?

After asking questions of pastors' spouses related to daily happiness and more long-term thriving, Lifeway Research developed a well-being score to determine how pastors' spouses were faring in their current situation.

These eight factors contributed the most potential benefits to the well-being of a pastor's spouse, according to the <u>Lifeway Research study</u>.

1. Sense a personal call to ministry

Eight in 10 pastors' spouses say they "sense a personal call to ministry" along with their spouse, with 25% saying they share the same calling as their spouse and 56% saying they feel called to serve in different ways.

Work with pastors' spouses to encourage and develop the ministry calling they may feel.

Help them discover areas of service within the church both related to and independent of their spouse.

2. Able to count on friends within the church

Only 10% of pastors' spouses say they can count on friends in their church "a great deal" when they are under stress.

Around 1 in 5 (21%) say they can count on church friends "very much." More say they can do so "a moderate amount" (28%) or "slightly" (27%).

More than 1 in 10 (13%) say they can't count on friends in their church at all.

Congregants should work to be a friend, not to gain influence or inside information, but as a way to love the pastor's spouse.

Pastors should encourage their spouse to find friends within the church and afford them the opportunity to build those relationships.

3. See their spouse as a good fit for their church

More than 9 in 10 pastors' spouses (93%) say their spouse is a good fit for their current church, including 54% who strongly agree.

Church members should strive to make the pastor and their family feel welcome and loved, even during times of disagreement.

4. Feel their spouse is satisfied in the marriage

The vast majority of pastors' spouses (95%) say their spouse is satisfied as a spouse, with 39% saying extremely satisfied, 41% saying very satisfied, and 14% saying somewhat satisfied.

The perception of their spouse's satisfaction in their marriage contributed to the overall wellbeing of a pastor's spouse, even more so than their own personal satisfaction.

Churches should think about the marital health of the pastor and their spouse when developing responsibilities and ministerial duties. Allow them time to be together and grow their relationship.

Pastors should prioritize a healthy marriage and take steps to ensure their spouse feels good about the relationship.

5. Give enough time to their children

Among the pastors' spouses with kids, 67% say they are satisfied with the amount of time they are able to give their children.

Those who are satisfied in this area are more likely to indicate positive overall well-being.

As churches ask their pastor's spouse to be involved in church activities, if they are a parent, make sure time is left for them to devote adequate time to their kids.

Pastors should work to protect family time both for themselves and their spouse.

6. Believe the ministry has had a positive impact on their family

Nine in 10 pastors' spouses believe that their spouse being in the ministry has positively affected their family, with 22% strongly agreeing.

Pastors and churches can work together to ensure both the pastor's spouse and their children have positive experiences with ministerial work.

7. Spend personal time with God

More than 9 in 10 pastors' spouses (93%) say they have at least had one moment of personal time alone with the Lord involving Bible study and prayer outside of any lesson preparation in the past week, including 23% who say they've had seven or more.

Those that say they've spent that time with God are more likely to have higher well-being scores.

Pastors should encourage their spouses, as they should with everyone else in their church, to have personal devotion time.

Church members should remember that pastors and pastors' spouses need time and space for their own personal spiritual growth.

8. Recognize expectations on their family

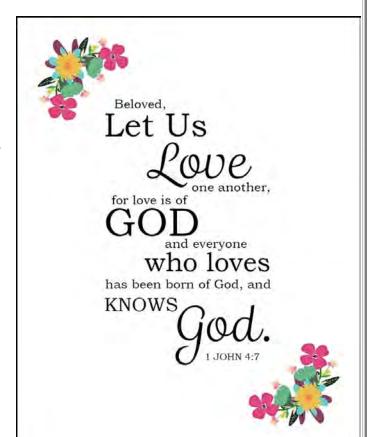
Around 4 in 5 pastors' spouses (79%) say the congregation expects their family to be a model family.

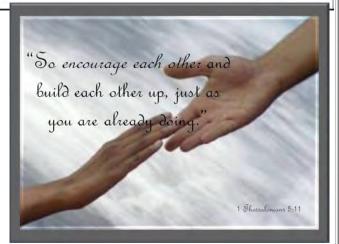
Whether this is entirely fair or not, those pastors' spouses who agree with this sentiment are more likely to report higher well-being scores

Pastors should encourage their spouses to recognize how the ministerial calling impacts their entire family and help them not be surprised by the expectations that exist.

Church members can help encourage their pastor's family to be a positive reflection of biblical teaching, but not hold them to unrealistic expectations of perfection.

This article may be found online at: https://research.lifeway.com/2020/06/17/8-factors-that-help-pastors-spouses-thrive/?mc cid=3227cabb98&mc eid=9cc2561216.





PASTOR'S PAGE





Blanchard Place Nursing Home Ministry (First Tuesday)

Our next date will be in August due to the first Tuesday of the month falling on July 4. If you would like to participate, please contact the office or Janet Jones. You can lead parts of the worship service, visit the residents, or come to be supportive of this outreach.

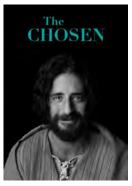
Operation Christmas Child

A decorated box is located in the skylight room to place any items for this year's OCC shoeboxes. See Toni Pfister with any questions.



The Chosen Bible Study

We are gaging interest in starting a Bible Study in the fall on The Chosen Series. We have received permission to view the episodes at church. There are study guides available on Angel Studio's website on each season. We are looking at Saturday mornings from 8:30-10. It takes approx. an hour to



watch an episode and 30 minutes for discussion. If you would be interested in this Bible Study, please contact Anna LaWarre or the church office.



VBS will be August 14-17 from 5-7:30 pm.

Transportation and meal provided. To register, please email Michele at michelesjyouth@gmail.com or call the church office at 419-673-7278. Please pray bout volunteering in some way, even if you are praying for the kids in the program.



Texas Roadhouse Peanut Fundraiser

Hardin County Collective Youth are selling Texas Roadhouse Peanuts. \$5/bag plus a coupon for a free appetizer (with purchase of meal). The proceeds will help with the cost of food each month and activities which include, bowling, movies, swimming, camp etc. Please contact Michele to purchase them.

All Church Social

St. John's Evangelical Church



Fellowship Hall-Air Conditioned 211 East Carrol Street Kenton, OH 43326

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

4:00-7:00 PM



Menu: Sandwiches, Noodles, Salads, Pie, Cakes, Ice Cream and drinks

Free Will Offering



Everyone is invited to fellowship and eat some of the BEST home cooking in Hardin County!

> Carry-Out Available 419-673-7278



Friday With Friends

Friday With Friends is a wonderful group of widows and widowers who meet twice a month for a special time of food, fellowship, and fun. They meet the first and third Fridays of every month. Please join them if you are a widow or widower. 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.

July 7—Luke's (Bluffton)

July 21—Acheson's (Lake)

August 4—Frances Lake (Kenton)

August 18—Tilton Hilton (Indian Lake)

September 1—Western Sizzler (Lima)

September 15—Plaza Inn (Mt. Victory)

Summer Church Office Hours

The church office hours will change in the summer until July 7. The office will be open Monday—Friday from 8:30 am -12:30 pm. Staring July 10, they will return to 8:30-10:30 am & 12:30-2:30 pm due to summer preschool at Simon Kenton. Please call if you have any questions.



Birthday Blessings (over 80 yrs. Young)

July Birthdays on File:

July 2: Jack Draper

805 Vernon Street Kenton, OH 43326

July 12 Carole Spillman

C/o Hardin Hills Health Center

1211 Lima St. Kenton, OH 43326

Mission of the Month— Back to School Bash—School Supplies

The Community Back to School Bash will be August 13 from 4-6 pm. You can donate to the event through the mission of the month or purchase items directly from the list below or order directly through Amazon on the link provided below. Any questions,



please contact Michele Sherman.

School Supplies Needed

- 24 pack crayons (Crayola): \$0.50
- Pack of large markers (Crayola—10 pack): \$0.97
- Pair of scissors (Fiskars): \$1.47
- Glue sticks (small) 2 count: \$0.54
- Pack of 12 wooden pencils (Ticonderoga): \$2.94
- Low odor (broad tip) dry erase markers (black): \$4.88
- Pair of headphones: \$1-\$10
- Large Pencil erasers (3 count): \$1.44
- Package of pencil top erasers (25 count): \$0.47
- Wide ruled spiral notebook: \$0.25
- Highligher (4 count): \$2.77
- Post it notes: \$1.00
- Folder with 3 hole punched: \$0.97
- Wide ruled loose leaf paper (150 sheets): \$0.84
- Composition notebook: \$0.50

Total for school supply pack: \$19.54-\$29.54

Amazon Wishlist Bulk items

- Fiskar Scissors (9)
- Pencils (4)
- Dry Erase markers (3)
- Earbuds (1)
- Lg. Pencil erasers (3)
- Highlighters (12)
- Post-its (4)

Walmart Items

- Crayons (100)
- Makers (100)
- Glue Sticks—2 count (100)
- Pencil top erasers packs of 25 (100)
- Spiral notebooks (100)
- 3 ring binder folders (100)
- Loose leaf paper (wide ruled) (100)
- Composition notebook (100)

*these numbers reflect each church doing 100 kids each. On Amazon list, the total is for all churches, so 500 kids.

To order bulk items on Amazon (2023 Back to School Bash):

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/ S5MRD6R66NK7?ref_=wl_share

Youth Ministry

Wednesday Youth- We had out last Wednesday night with this group but reminded them about HCC meeting each month. I did have a few that came back and helped with the volunteer dinner. They helped served and with clean up.



HCC- The end of June there is a small group attending the retreat @Cedarville, June 26-30, 2023. Our Church has no Youth attending this camp. Our next get together is in July.

Kids Ministry

Sunday School- Sunday School continues to meet twice a month, sometimes I am covering Nursery as well so we just have the class upstairs in the Nursery. I have been putting in the newsletter the Sundays that we have them.

Wednesday Kids- We ended the year with close to 30 kids some week. (including youth) This means we were making 3 trips for pick up. It was rough at times but we made it work. We will begin back in September after Fair week.

Nursery- We have had a few kiddos attending the nursery and Autum does a fantastic job with them.

Events

VBS- The date is set! August 14th-17th 5-7:30pm.

VBS will take place in the Fellowship Hall, we will decorate the Main entrance and then the Fellowship Hall... But we are going to come up with a different set up, so it differs from Wednesday Nights. This is something that we have talked about but still planning and changing as well.

The VBS curriculum is from Grow. It will be a 4 day, Monday-Thursday.

We will need volunteers! A few of my Wednesday night helpers have volunteered to help this week.

Volunteer Dinner- After our last Wednesday Night I wanted everyone to know how much I appreciate them helping and them giving their time knowing and showing each child that they are loved. I had 101 Smokehouse catered in with pulled pork, mac n cheese, bake beans. They also had salads and peanut butter pie for dessert. We have a great group that helps each year, continue to pray for this group.

Back 2 School Bash- I have been meeting with the area Churches on this year's event. We plan to follow the same plan as last year as we all believed it worked out great. We will have 5 inflatables this year at the event. There is 6 Churches willing to help with the cost of these. Once divided each Church will donate \$175. For the school supplies we are trying to put something together so the list gets out sooner, so more people can help. Last year it was kind of last minute from the whole group, which left all the Church groups purchasing most of the school supplies. This year the plan is to get as much donated as possible.

Churches involved- St. Johns, New Hope, Kenton Christian Missionary Alliance, Kenton First, Abundant Life, Nazarene, Kenton Full Gospel.

The month of June, I will also be working on getting the Church closets organized for the start up in September, and VBS items.

I plan to take July off, like the last few years. I will still attend meetings and answer to calls/texts and etc.



Celebrate Recovery Meal Sign Up

St. John's supplies a meal for Celebrate Recovery twice a month. The meals is the second and Fourth Tuesday of each month for approximately 10-15 people. If you are able to provide food, please sign -up in the back of the sanctuary. Please have the food at the church at 6 pm in the kitchenette across from the chapel. Any questions, please see Anna LaWarre or Jerry Pfister.



July is a great month in the history of St. John's beside having the most occurrences of our beloved Church Social.

It was in July of 1837, that our founding families began the journey from Elm, Hinkelhof, Oberkalbach, and Gundhelm to Bremen. From there they sailed on the bark Hertha for the port of Baltimore.

What do we know about the Hertha?

First, it carried the name of the Nordic goddess of the earth & fertility. The Roman historian Tacitus reported:

"Nothing remarkable occurs in any of these tribes [of northern Germany], except that they unite in the worship of Hertha [Ertha], or Mother Earth. They believe that she interposes in the affairs of men, and visits the different nations in her chariot. On an island of the ocean stands a sacred and unviolated grove, in which is a consecrated chari-



ot, covered with a veil, which the priest alone is permitted to touch. He becomes conscious of the entrance of the goddess into this secret recess; and with profound veneration attends the vehicle, which is drawn by yoked cows.

At this season all is joy; and every place which the goddess deigns to visit is a scene of festivity. No wars are undertaken; arms are untouched; and every hostile weapon is shut up. At this time, only peace abroad and at home are known.

At length the same priest conducts the goddess, now weary of mortal intercourse, back to her temple. The chariot, with its curtain, and, if we may believe it, the goddess herself, then undergo ablution in a secret lake."

The bark Hertha was captained by a C. Schmidt and ran regularly from Bremen carrying passengers in fabricated 6 x 8 foot "rooms" to Baltimore, Maryland. These "rooms" had no sun light and held 4 to 6 people. This particular trip carried 185 men, women and children of which 34 are thought to be of our founding families. On the return trip of the Hertha to Bremen the vessel featured the elimination of the rooms to accommodate a full load of tobacco.

On arriving in Baltimore, our group headed to Ohio used a very short train ride to Virginia and then traveled by wagon to the Ohio River. There they crossed by ferry and continued to Hardin County. The journey had taken them about three months in total. They were preceded in this journey by one of their own, Conrad Breidenbach, who had come over in 1835 to find an area similar to the farmland they were familiar with in Germany. He had found Hardin County and returned to Germany to lead the settlers back on this difficult trip.

I find it fascinating that a group arriving on a ship named for a pagan goddess became the nucleus of our founding congregation. Today you will see the beautiful stained-glass window inside the overflow area depicting the Hertha. God has always used strange things to achieve his will and we are living proof of His provision for St. John's. May God continue to bless us in our faithful congregation.

Jerry Pfister, Historian

St. John's Evangelical Church Church Council Minutes Thursday, May 11, 2023 6:00 PM

Call to Order - Anna LaWarre, President Opening Prayer—Pastor Randall Leadership Development - Pastor Randall Officer Reports

Secretary's Report - April 13, 2023 were approved

REPORTS

- 1) Treasurer's Report—Kay Rush
- Tracy was able to secure a money market account earning 4.3% for liquid funds to make the final payment on the HVAC project.
- Kay Rush is now providing each council member with a detailed listing of all expenditures during the month so we can see where the money is going by payee. This should help us understand the fluctuations in spending.
- 2) Christian Education—Michele Sherman—written report submitted including upcoming events
- 3) Women's Ministry—Kay Rush
- Kay Rush updated Council on the status of the Buckeye Banquet to be held in June. The menu and head-count still to be determined.
- The Ice Cream Social will be on July 11th.
- Council should be there to help with both events.
- 4) Worship, Arts & Music—LeVern Weaver
- Still being held in the planning stage due to a missing member. Pastor made the comment that nothing drastic is going to change.
- 5) Personnel Committee—Hal Elsasser—nothing to report
- 6) Pastoral Relations Anna LaWarre—will resume in July
- 7) Trustees (Jerry Pfister, LeVern Weaver, Greg Martin)
- HVAC and painting projects should be completed in May.
- A Roof leak caused damage to paster in the old church and has been patched by 5C Roofing.
- Audio Visual: No report this month things as usual.
- Van: No report of any issues
- Farm: Planting has not started as of the meeting but all rents have been received.
- 8) Missions, Evangelism
- The Blessing of the Bikes is on for Sunday the 23rd. The south parking lot will be closed for use only by Bikes. Coffee and donuts will be served and there will be individual Bike blessings by members of CBA along with a St. John's member. Pastor will do the group blessing.
- A discussion was had about the distribution of funds. The Committee will have an open meeting in September to hear all sides. The suggestion was made to reduce the number and increase the amount given out to those entities that spread the Gospel. It was pointed out that per our Bylaws Council has the authority to over rule any recommendation of a committee.
- 9) Pastor's Report Pastor Randall report submitted

Old Business

• Signs have been ordered replacing those with UCC

New Business

- Interest in resuming children's choir
- Replace cross in front yard
- Donation of perennials for the church & a Celebrate Recovery participant will help plant
- Celebrate Recovery participant to fill in for Denny while off. Supervised by Jerry

Next Meeting: June 8 at 6 pm

Adjournment – Motion and seconded to adjourn, Council Vote, motion carried. Lord's Prayer