

First Christian Church
 (Disciples Of Christ)
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Christian Caller

July 2013

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Christ Walk Women's Shelter is our mission project for 2013

The items needed to help this mission are:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Magazines | Twin Bedding |
| Toilet Paper | Books |
| Dish towels | Kitchen tools |
| Kleenex | Paper Towels |
| Paper Products | |



There is a barrel located in the reception area for any donations you choose to bring.

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Howard & Grace Johnson, David Lewelling, Jim Beamer, August Fleischman, Kitsy Griffith, Earletta Hayden, Irma Gronos, Family of Maxine Gibson, Nate & Jessica Boechler, Marciel Gilmore, Dennis Howell, Marciel Gilmore

Service People: Marine Capt. Pete Brawn, Pvt. Coury Gagne, Capt. Gabriel Manning, Sgt. Scot Noss, Cpt. Tory Petersen, 1 Lt. Kellen Peterson, Lt. Samuel Van Kopp.

Pray for our church, our Pastor, the soup kitchen, Summer Camps, Vacation Bible School, Hand to Hand Farms, Safe & relaxing vacations for all.

If you know of any updates or corrections to this list, please let the office know in writing or by email.

Even though the weather doesn't reflect it, we are now in summer vacation. I know this because there are more kids running around my house during the day than there was just a few weeks ago!

Summer means different things to different people:

If you are retired, it may mean time to have Grandchildren visiting.

If you are a stay at home Mom, it means your life just got busier.

If you are a kid, it means FREEDOM!

But what does God think about summer time? Maybe, God has a few suggestions for us in regards to what we do with our summers. I know one thing that is important to God during the summer – Summer Camps. Kris has been busy trying to raise funds for some of our kids to attend a summer camp. I gave my heart to Jesus at a summer camp in 1972. Wow, a long time ago! So, summer camps are very important.

Another part of summer that I think is important to God is vacations...not that an actual trip to Disney Land is all that important to God, but being rested, refreshed and renewed certainly is. All through scripture we find pearls of wisdom regarding how important it is to be rested:

Psalm 23:2 "He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside still waters"

Matthew 11:28 "Come to Me, all of you who are weary and heavy burdened, and I will you rest"

Job 11:18 "You will live secure and full of hope; God will protect you and give you rest"

Psalm 116:7 "Return to your rest, my soul, for the Lord has been good to you"
 Acts 2:26 "Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope"

We all know from experience that God challenges us, He sometimes redirects us, He calls us to make new choices and change old habits, He asks us to be dedicated, He confronts our sins and He heals our souls. These scriptures and many others like them also show us that God is concerned about our spiritual, mental and physical health. I think that is why He tells us to rest.

So, take a vacation this summer, go somewhere and do nothing, go lay out in the sun, spend time with your family...an in those moments of rest, allow God to recharge your spirit.

Pastor Frank



First Christian Church of Lebanon

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**All Church & Friends Picnic
July 27
11am—4ish**

**at Tom & Linda Boyd's
33812 Bond Road
Lebanon, OR**

Hamburgers, hotdogs & fixings, water, & coffee supplied by Tom & Linda. Please bring a side dish for BBQ, your own soda pop and lawn chairs.

**Activities planned include:
Horseshoe tournament
Bingo with prizes
Board games
Card games
Chess & checkers
Volleyball and lots more!**

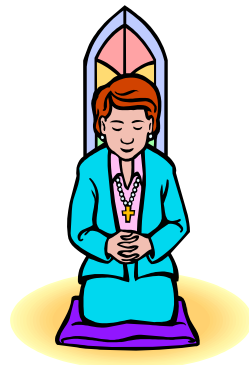


Prayer Opportunities:

We believe in prayer at First Christian Church. There are two prayer groups currently meeting during the week. Please feel free to join them and deepen your spiritual journey. Prayer changes things!

Every Tuesday (except during Martha) at 6:30 pm

Every Wednesday at 1:00 pm (Elders gathering)



The Hidden Blessing of a Soup Kitchen

Lebanon First Christian Church is the third church in the last 15 years that I have served in that has a program providing food to the general public. Most people in the church itself do not fully realize how having such a program within the church building affects who we are and what we represent to the local community.

First, let's think about attendance. Consider our neighbor church across the street. They have their Sunday services and a Wednesday night Bible Study. Those are the only two events each week that would cause anyone to come into their building during the week. On the other hand, we have the Soup Kitchen in our building, which draws approximately 100 hundred people three times a week into our church building.

So, here is the hidden blessing that comes with this Soup Kitchen program: there isn't a Pastor out there that wouldn't give anything to have 100 new people coming to the door of his/her church every week!

But, here is the challenge that comes with the hidden blessing: many (or most) of these people don't understand what we do here on Sunday, they don't relate to our church culture, they don't behave the same way we do, and they really don't understand what we are trying to do for them – yes, the Soup Kitchen is trying to “feed” them, but the church wants to provide a spiritual food for them that they don't quite understand.

The second thing to consider about this hidden blessing then is this: how do we respond to this gift of 100 people visiting our building three times a week? Do we treat them with respect, honor and grace...even though they don't even know what it means to be respectful, honorable or graceful, but with our example they can learn.

I believe that every person who comes to the Soup Kitchen for a meal is just like the Prodigal Son who came home to his Father. That son had squandered everything his father gave him; not only that, but the son had been selfish and had demanded everything he could get his hands on...until he realized how wrong his selfish behavior really was. And that is where we find the hidden blessing.

If 100 people come to the church each week, acting selfish, demanding their own way, using up everything that they can get their hands on and being a “pain in the you know what”, does that mean we stop loving them? The Prodigal Son's father didn't stop loving him and our Father in heaven hasn't stop loving us, even when we

are at our worst. We can and should treat every person that comes for dinner here, just like the Prodigal Son, honored and respected, treasured and, seen with potential instead of judgment in our hearts.

So, how can you help? If just 10% of our Sunday morning members would come to the church on a Soup Kitchen night and meet people, share your lives with people, be an example of love to people, then we would see more of those who come for dinner showing up on Sunday morning. We won't see all of them, there will still be problems each night, we won't cure everyone's addictions or poverty or change all of their bad behaviors, but we will make a difference to some of them – and that is all that God asks of us.

REGIONAL PICNIC 2013

One of our most fun events as a regional church each summer is our annual picnic. July 20 is the date for this year's Regional Picnic. We will gather at Champoeg State Park between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Bring some friends and some food to share. There will be games in the first hour, lunch at noon and worship around 1:00 p.m.

FIND US AT THE OAK GROVE DAY USE AREA # 2 & 3.

If you haven't come before, this is a great chance to meet other Oregon Disciples. If you have come before, think of someone who has not come and invite them to join you. Lawn chairs, canopies, Frisbees and your own table service can all be put to good use. Paper plates and plastic utensils will also be available.

Champoeg State Park is located west of Interstate 5 between Portland and Salem. Fees for entry and parking will be paid on your behalf. Indicate to the ranger at the gate that you are with Oregon Disciples.

So put it on your calendar now and plan to spend a few hours with your Disciple neighbors.



2013 Regional Summer Camps
Find out more today!
www.christianchurchinoregon.org



Acts like you mean it

July 28 – August 2
CYF (completed grades 9-12)
Chi Rho (completed grades 6-8)

August 12 – 16
JR (completed grades 3-5)



And what does the LORD require of you?
to act *justly*
and to love *mercy*
and to walk *humbly*
with your **God.**

YOUTH CORNER

Look for an upcoming fun event in August!

No Sunday Youth Group during the summer!