



Spirit *connection*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DEWEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | AUGUST 2018

One Big Love, Adventure & Fun-Filled Week!

VBS is a true adventure for everyone—kids and volunteers alike! We'd like to send out a big THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who made VBS possible this year!

We tried to get a list of everyone who volunteered time during VBS. A listing of those of you we could catch:

Abby Passapera, Alexis Truitt, Anthony Cruz, Bijou Smith, Brook Smith, Cadence Barber, Cala Lynch, Canaan Roark, Cassie Hayes, Cheryl Johnson, Dan Gunter, Darlys Linkliter, Ellen Ikenberry, Gavin Lynch, Gayle Miller, George McAfee, Gerry Becker, Glenda Kahre, Ginger Lowery, Hayden Billingsley, Heather Thomison, Heidi Smith, Jan Hillman, Jena Barber, Jessica Barr, Jinx Barber, Kali Sutterfield,

Kali Adams, Kathrine Morgano, Kathy Davis, Kimberley Dame, Lynette Gunter, Makayla dame, Malia Wilson, Marilyn McAfee, Matt McAfee, Pat Cleveland, Patti Bogle, Peggy Roark, Sam Thomas, Sara Paulson, Sherry Lowery, Sue Thurman, Susan Simmons, Ted Bogle, Virginia Chew, Yasmin Majors.

Plus those who baked cookies, provided snack food, prayed, and put up with us during the week(s) of VBS!

Special thanks to the families and kids who participated and allowed us to share Jesus with you.

BRAND NEW BABY SPACE!

We've had volunteers toiling day and night to prepare the newly-designed nursery, and we think you're going to LOVE it! Please don't miss the unveiling. Sunday, Aug. 19, after worship.

Even if you don't have a little one in the nursery, please come for a reception and grand opening event. If you're so excited about the new nursery that you'd like to volunteer in it, please plan to attend a training at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, August 21.

Church Events

- Aug. 8
9 am DMA Meeting
@ First Church of God
- Aug. 12
10 am Moses: The Legacy
- Aug. 19
11 am Nursery Grand
Opening Reception
- Aug. 21
6:30 pm Nursery Training
- Aug. 26
5 pm Trivia Night
- Sept. 5 - Oct. 10
6 pm Dinner Church Training
- Sept. 15
Dewey Ministerial Association
Faith Dinner
- Sept. 16
UMW Sunday
- Sept. 19
6 pm United Methodist Men
- Oct. 7-13
Family Promise

WEEKLY EVENTS

- Sundays
9 am Sunday School
10 am Worship
6 pm *Chick-Lits* (beginning 8/12)
- Wednesdays
5 pm One:10 Youth
6 pm Choir Practice

FEAR AND FOCUS

A Message from Bishop Jimmy Nunn

The letter of instruction ending with four ominous words: “Watch out for rattlesnakes.” As I finished packing for the mission work trip, those words jumped out at me again.

I have never liked snakes, especially rattlesnakes. My last encounter with a rattler had been almost a decade prior to this trip.

I was a director at a church camp for elementary children. I happened upon a camper who had discovered and was approaching a rattlesnake. I quickly got the child away from the snake, sent someone to get help, and established a safe perimeter.

Before help could arrive, about eighty campers encircled the area. One of the campers threw a dirt clod in the direction of the rattler.

It exploded on the wall of the building and showered the snake. The rattlesnake darted straight toward me! It stopped and rattled in panic mode, still ready to strike.

“Who threw that clod of dirt?” I shouted to the group. No one admitted to the toss. Thankfully, camp personnel came to the rescue about that time.

My assignment on this mission trip was to clear a half acre lot of weeds to prepare for future construction. As I worked, I keep a sharp eye on the ground around me. I wanted to be sure I saw any rattler before it could see me.

On the second day of the trip, it happened. I felt a sharp stinging pain. I had been bit! My first thought was, “It is a rattlesnake!”

When I mentally isolated the location of my pain, I realized it was my elbow that hurt. I recall thinking “How can a rattlesnake jump four feet to bite me there?”

As it turned out, I had been bit, but not by a snake.

As I lifted my eyes to look in front of me, I realized I had just attacked a huge wasp nest built in the top of the weed I was clearing, and around it was a whole swarm of wasps. The next day fire ants stung my leg.

Not once during the trip did I encounter a snake of any kind. All that misplaced worry and fear. The misplaced worry and fear that had focused only on rattlesnakes had blinded me to other threats of the work.

Worry and fear are siblings. They are thoughts and attitudes that undermine peace and contentment of the soul.

Worry and fear are products of an imagination that projects harmful outcomes. They champion loss, embarrassment, and harm.

In his letter to the Church at Philippi, Paul combats worry and fear with focus. He writes, “From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise” (Philippians 4:8).

What we think about shapes how we live our own lives, how we interact with our families, communities, churches, and the world. What are you thinking about?

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.

Matthew 18:1-5



Welcome!

A note from Pastor Jinx Barber

My faith has been shaped by many influences, some have been positive and some have been negative. At one point in my life I am sure I made the statement, “If I ever walk back into church, it will be struck by lightning.”

I wasn’t a bad person; I just didn’t think that God loved me. I had equated bad things in my life to God’s punishment or God’s will. These themes stuck with me until I finally began to, not only read the bible, but also begin to look deeper at the history, language and social context.

This theological journey has changed my life and my understanding of God completely and helped me to not only unravel some of the unhealthy embedded theologies, but helped me to formulate my own theology and to healthily discern my theology, my understanding of theodicy and my calling.

Because of my childhood, I never had an issue with belief in God, but the theology I grew up around and was taught, as a young adult was exclusionary. It wasn’t until I came back to church later, after starting a family, that I realized God didn’t work like I had thought. I saw that Paul had once lived a life much worse than I ever had, he had Christians killed.

Yet he lived into a calling that was much different, a call that spanned five countries including Asia to tell people about Jesus. I have never had a Damascus experience, but I have had several Emmaus experiences (not to be confused by the Walk to Emmaus program).

The more I searched, the more I found that God was a

god of steadfast love. I found that God loved me just the way I was, but loved me too much to let me stay the as person I was. I found that the Old Testament didn’t showcase an angry God, but a God that loved the Israelite people and no matter how many times they turned away, God longed for their return. This matched up perfectly with God as Jesus describes in the parable of the prodigal son and helped me to see many of the stories in the Old Testament in a different light.

I want people to come to know the God that I know. The God that is with us always, through the toughest parts of our lives and wants to help us to make sense of the tough questions that life often puts before us. The God that offers grace at every turn, the God that can redeem a broken past and make it useful for a better future. The God that wants us to recognize the brokenness of the world and do something about it, to redeem the world for God’s sake and to realize the potential of all of creation.

I believe that many people are seeking to know God better, just as I was. The way I came back to church was because someone invited me. Although to hear Jena tell it she had to drag me back to church... Okay, she did, but the point is someone cared enough about me to invite me to church. Who is in your life that is important enough to invite to church? Who do you know that is seeking God? Who will you bring to church next Sunday?

Rev. Jinx M. Barber, M. Div, GDBL
Pastor

Welcome New Members



Welcome New Members Glenda & Wayne Kahre, by transfer from another United Methodist Church; and Chad Roark & Kristine Dixon by profession of faith, Tabitha Lynn Roark by baptism and profession of faith; and Henry Francis Roark by infant baptism. We're so glad to have you as part of our church family!

CAN'T MISS! TRIVIA NIGHT
Sunday, August 26 Bring your friends!

Cards & Letters

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