LIBERTY LANTERN

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WELCOME, PASTOR CHAN

July 1st marked a 'change' for each of us individually and for all of us, as the whole body of Liberty UMC. And change, generally, comes with somewhat mixed feelings.

We have had the opportunity to meet our new pastor, Rev. Chan H. Kim, his lovely wife and his son. We've heard three sermons and enjoyed fellowship together.

While 'page 1, column 1' is generally reserved for "From the Pastor's Desk" a slight departure from that seemed appropriate so we could let a couple of our own share their voices about our new pastor and their perspective.

"About Pastor Chan, me and my mom both agree that we like how he remembers people's names and brings his personal stories into sermons so we can get to know him. I also like the sermon on the screen because sometimes I miss what people say, so now I won't miss anything, and it can be super helpful for people who have a hard time hearing everything." Ashley B.

And from Annette B. – "I am certain God loves Liberty UMC very much to have placed Pastor Chan with our church family. He is such a blessing. 'Right out of the box' we are witnessing one of his spiritual gifts as we listen to his sermons. What a teacher!

A standard question used to assess whether you just heard a good sermon, did the preacher preach Jesus? We've had 3 sermons to date, and my answer is Yes, Yes and Yes.

I was pleasantly surprised when Pastor Chan asked the congregation to read on the screen, along with him, the Bible verses during the sermon. In decades of church attendance, I have never had a pastor invite congregants to join in choral responding. What a powerful way to wake us from our 'slumber' and focus our attention on the central message from His holy word!

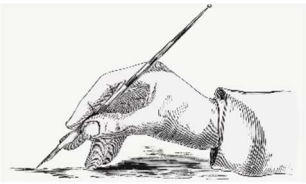
And Pastor Chan, thank you for the humor you bring to your messages. Thank you for the vulnerable sharing of your life stories which encourage and teach us."

And from my own perspective, being able to read the sermons has been a blessing that reconnects me to the worship service. It can be a challenge to get the complete message on the nursery monitor. And with the weekly sermons now posted on the webpage anyone who missed the service can stay connected to us all through the worship message.

As we all, together, find our way we can acknowledge change is part of life. Change is, sometimes, bittersweet. But change can also bring the next opportunity, our next adventure, a sunrise after a stormy night … if we engage wholeheartedly the path change lays before us.

- Rachael S.

> ***"Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what's going to happen next."***
>
> ***Glida Radner (1949-1989)***
> ***American comedian/actress***



From the Pastor's Desk returns August 22nd!

It's *Still* Summer!

We can all be thankful as we close the calendar on July, but summer lingers longer in the Valley of the Sun.

During August we still have the following groups and activities taking a 'break':

- Choir practice
- Liberty United Women in Faith
- United Methodist Men
- Bodacious Women
- Adult Sunday Study

Check out the Liberty UMC website **Calendar** for any updates on each group/event!

And, despite the heat - and humidity - thank you (again) to our own Vern R. for getting the new window A/C installed in the nursery! Our 'smallest' are glad to be back in our own little corner of the world!

Buckeye Hydration Project

Dear Liberty United Methodist Friends,

Thanks to your generosity, 1,300 bottles of Arrowhead water were delivered to Buckeye Human Services the week of July 9-14!

Wasn't the July 5th Ice Cream / Hot Dog Social fun? Thanks to Joanna B for the colorful, patriotic decorations and to Michele J., Paula J., Annette B., and Yoshiko F. for serving and clearing.

The generous donations from the social event provided the means to support the Buckeye Hydration Project, a much-needed resource for the vulnerable of our community. – Linda H. / LWIF Missions

Cross Cultural Training …

Thank you to DSW Superintendent, Rev. Javier Olivares for leading the recent Cross Cultural Appointment Training. Pastor Chan and 12 members of the congregation participated.

An interesting point in the training we can all adopt? The respectful communication guidelines:

R – take **responsibility** for what you say and feel without blaming others
E – Listen with an **empathetic** heart
S – Be **sensitive** to differences in communication styles
P – **Ponder** what you hear and feel before you speak
E - **Examine** your own assumptions and perceptions
C – Keep **confidentiality**
T – **Trust** ambiguity because we are not here to debate who is right or wrong

Heartfelt Thanks

Marla and I want to thank you all for your love and support the last two-plus years. You welcomed us with open arms and open hearts. We love the special gifts you gave us as we left, they are all displayed in our home. Your generous monetary gift is helpful this summer and is greatly appreciated. Thank you so much.

You are all special to us, and we will fondly remember you the rest of our lives. We pray and hope the very best for you I the future. You are wonderful, strong people and you have a great church thanks to your work and dedication. Even though we are apart, we feel close to all of you.

God's blessings to all of you, in Christ's Love – Pastor Bob and Marla