

AUGUST 2026

THE LIGHT

**Monthly Newsletter of
St. John United Church of Christ
Strasburg, Ohio**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK **By Jason Rissler**

ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 AM
ONSITE AND ONLINE
FACEBOOK
YOUTUBE
@STJOHNSTRASBURG

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10:45 AM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY
9:00 AM - 5:00PM



**Pastor Jason sends greetings from Arizona.
His family is visiting their oldest son, Evan who is living in Phoenix.**



Council Notes

Pastor's Report - Pastor Jason continues to make many home, nursing home and hospital visits, as well as holding services at Hennis and Park Village nursing centers. He officiated at two funerals and a wedding. He has been coordinating the prayer team for "The One," a one-day family worship and fellowship event on August 8. Outdoor Worship Service and picnic is planned for August 2.

BOCE - Working on Sunday School classes which will begin on September 13. Rally Sunday will be September 6. A new Fall 9-week Bible Study will begin September 17. The Men's monthly Bible Study will continue. A new GriefShare session will begin August 28.

Congregational Care - Discussed needs of members.

Fellowship - Working on picnic. Scouts will be cooking burgers and hot dogs for the picnic.

Finance - Monthly reports were reviewed and approved. The theme for this year's stewardship campaign will be "We Are The Church."

Missions/Outreach - Plans are being made for the Summer Fest Pie Booth.

Music and Worship - No meeting.

Property - A fallen tree will be removed. Window protection will be completed in August. Work on new parking lot will begin soon. A/C/heater unit in pastor's office is being replaced.

Sanctuary - No meeting

Sound and Electronics - Nothing to report.

Old Business - A "Clean-Out Sale" is planned for August 7th, 8th and following worship on August 9th. Proceeds will go for kitchen/social hall renovation. Pastor will be on vacation July 20-July 31. Outdoor worship will be August 2 at 10:00 AM at the Strasburg Park Scout Pavillion.

New Business - Council discussed and tabled a bid to replace sanctuary lights with LED bulbs. They reviewed bids from Synergy Sign for new digital signs and to repair and refurbish our present signs. Motion passed to repair existing signs. The Stewardship campaign will be from 9/13 through 10/4)

Next Council Meeting - August 20, 2026, 6:00 pm.

****We communicate regularly through e-mail and text messages. If you are not receiving these and would like to, please let the church office know.**

Work started on repairing windows July 28. They found significant damage on the north side.



Did you know that we have an online giving option? To give online, go to stjohnstrasburg.org or use the QR code. Thanks for your generosity!



August 2026

Men's Monthly Breakfast - August 14, 8:00 am

The group will meet at the church with a breakfast served. The group will begin a new study looking at the book of James. If you haven't yet joined, this is a great time!



Senior Luncheons and Speaker Series

Senior luncheons and the Speaker Series will resume on September 10. Ventriloquist, Ross Brown will be the luncheon entertainment for September and you can start calling in your reservations now. The September Speaker Series Speaker will change your thinking and your quality of life for the better. Sherry Hosner will share her experience of up to five seizures a day from a brain tumor and her husband's disability and recovery from MS through lifestyle changes. She has many suggestions that you may want to adopt.

Nursery Attendants

Aug 2 - Heather and Hannah Rissler
 Aug 9 - Kelly Henry and Deb Tucker
 Aug 16 - Linda Beck and Denise Borter
 Aug 23 - Olivia Bell and Susan Murphy
 Aug 30 - Heather and Hannah Rissler



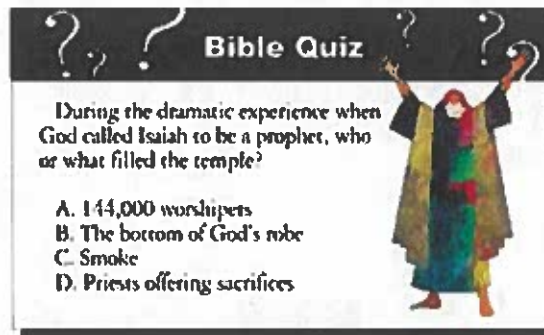
Strasburg American Legion Chicken BBQ

The Strasburg American Legion will have their chicken BBQ from 10:00 AM to noon in Malcuit's Parking lot on August 9 and September 13.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

9 - Bonnie Wood
 10 - Kay Huff
 14 - Art Lampe
 14 - Brenda Bayer
 16 - Fred Sherer
 21 - Barb Limbacher
 21 - Marty Holter



Answer: B and C (See Isaiah 6:1-8)

ACOLYTES

Aug 2 - No Acolyte
 Aug 9 - Gavin McPherson
 Aug 16 - Ty Palmer
 Aug 23 - Landon Dayton
 Aug 30 - Nora Sexton

LAY LEADERS

Aug 2 - Kathy Osler
 Aug 9 - Jeanette King
 Aug 16 - Evelyn Smith
 Aug 23 - Art Lampe
 Aug 30 - Cole Hutchison

SPECIAL MUSIC

Aug 2 - Diann Sherrets, Lynda Beckley, Brenda Rieger, Marla Alexander and Trish Ady
 Aug 9 - Laura Smith
 Aug 16 - Vickki Hinebaugh and Elaine Scatizzi
 Aug 23 - Twila Lampe
 Aug 30 - Ladies Ensemble

GREETERS

Beth Buehler
 Deb Scherer

USHERS

Rich Longfellow
 Beth Buehler
 Fred Scherer
 Deb Scherer

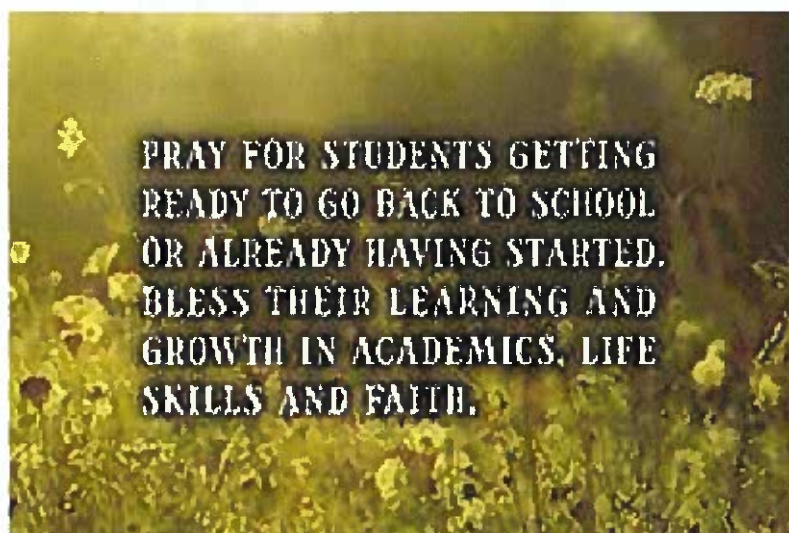
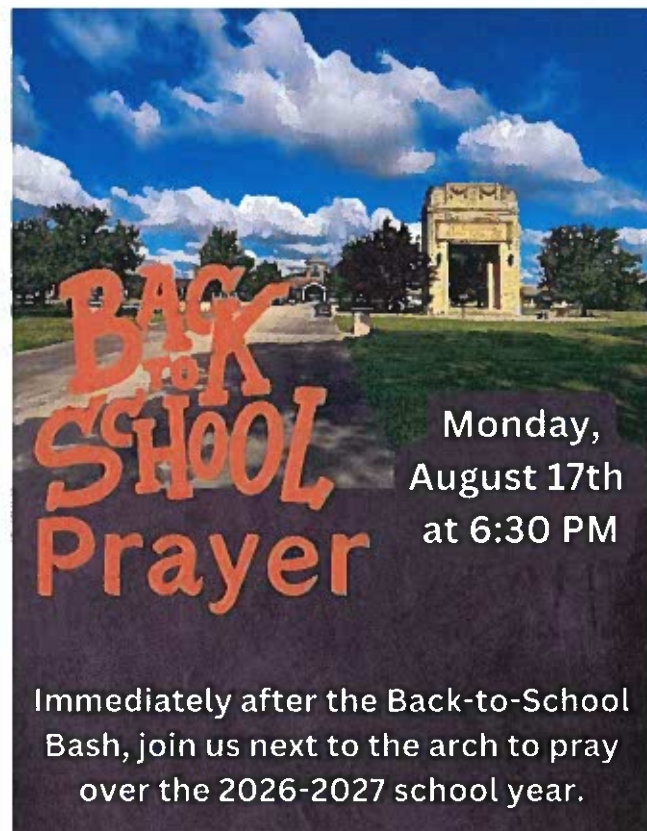




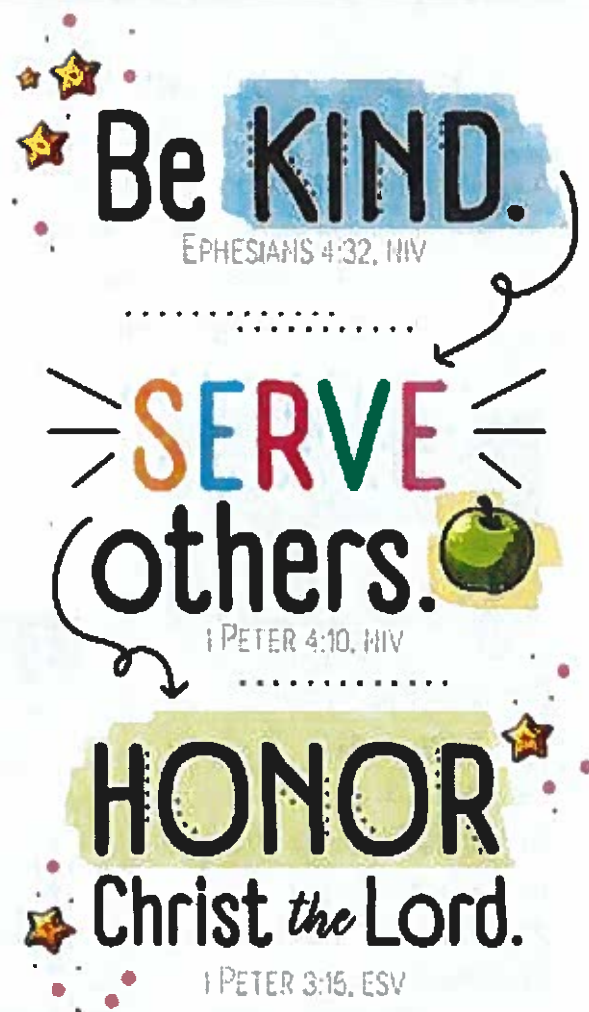
**Strasburg-Franklin Local Schools
Annual Back to School Bash!**

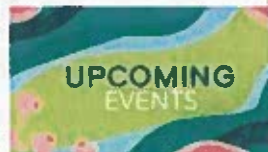
This year's event will be held at the school on Monday, August 17 from 4:30-6:30pm. St. John United Church of Christ will be there for the Tiger Paw Pack program. All Preschool through 12th grade students and their families are invited.

There will be a Back to School Prayer by the arch at 6:30pm.



Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."





Rally Sunday - September 6
Sunday School Classes resume Septembere 13
Stewardship Series - September 13, 20, 27
and October 4

Adult Bible Study - class taught by Heather Rissler
beginning September 17 - A Shephard's Look at Psalm 23"

THE ONE

A FREE COMMUNITY NIGHT OF
 WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP



AUGUST 8TH, 2026

TUSCARAWAS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
GATES OPEN 4:00 PM **EVENT STARTS 6:00 PM**



**LIVE
 WORSHIP**



**FOOD
 TRUCKS**



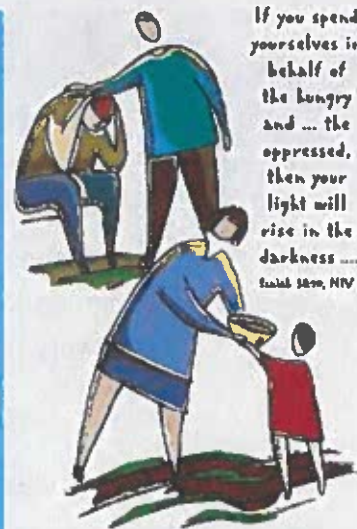
**FAMILY
 GAMES**

ONE BODY. ONE SPIRIT. ONE HOPE. ONE FAITH.

FOLLOW US:



PREORDER MERCH:



If you spend
 yourselves in
 behalf of
 the hungry
 and ... the
 oppressed,
 then your
 light will
 rise in the
 darkness
 Isaiah 58:10, NIV

GROWING IN GOD'S word



Try this craft as a
 reminder that we
 need to continue
 to grow in
 God's Word.

What you need:

- Small terra cotta pot and plate
- Acrylic paints (various colors)
- Paper plate
- Potting soil (enough to fill the pot)
- Small inside plant or packet of seeds
- Newspaper or paper
- Paintbrush
- Cup of water
- Permanent black marker

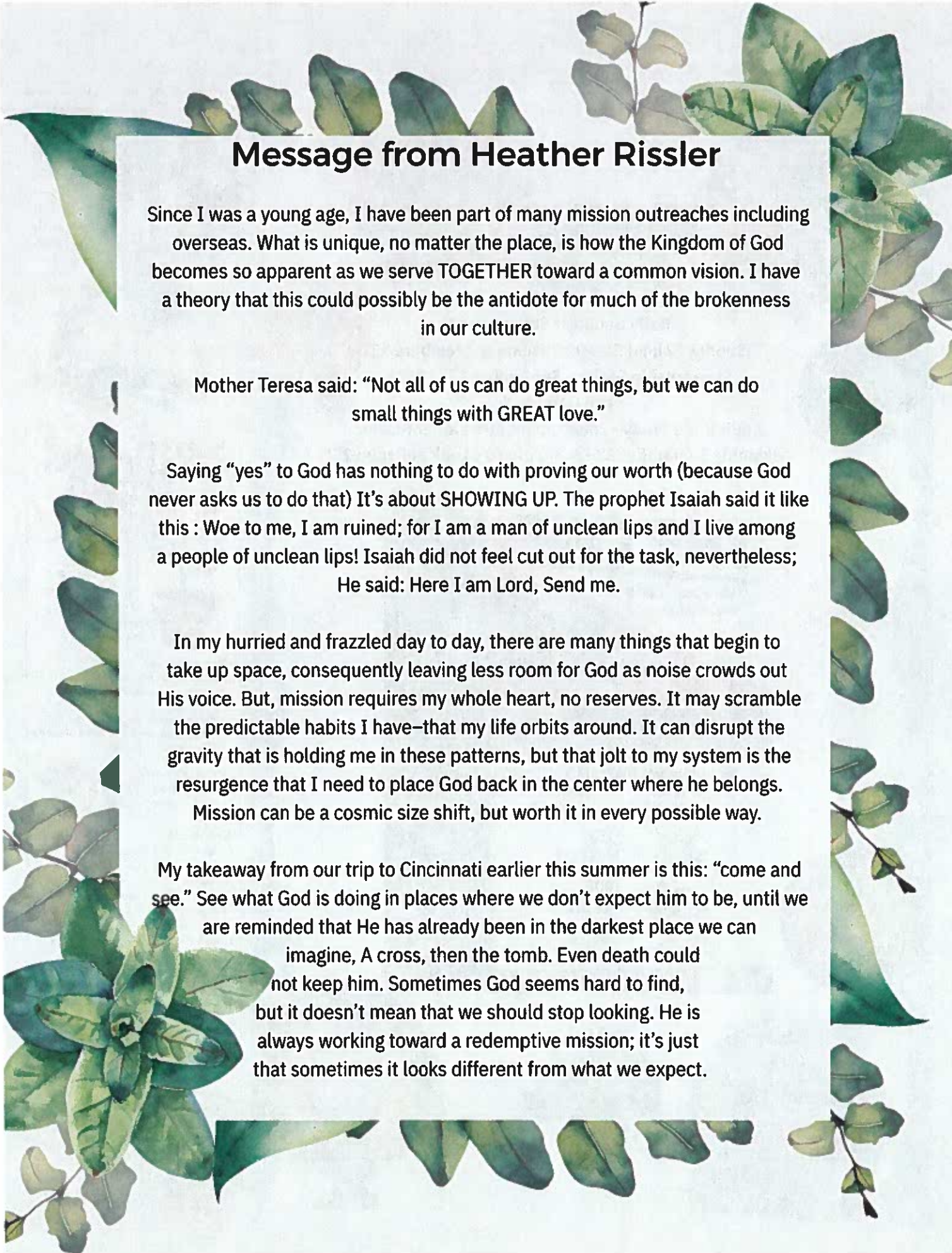


What you do:

1. Spread some newspaper out on a table for your working area.
2. Squeeze the paint colors that you wish to use onto your paper plate.
3. Paint designs on the pot and plate.
4. When the pot is dry, take the black marker and on the top part of the pot write: Growing in God's Word.
5. Pour a small amount of potting soil into the bottom of the pot. With adults help, place your plant into the pot and surround your plant with the rest of the soil. If planting seeds, follow the packet instructions.
6. Water your plant so the soil is moist. Check your plant everyday and keep the soil moist.
7. Enjoy watching your plant grow, and remember that you too, need care as you grow in God's Word.

2 Peter 3:18 NIV

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.



Message from Heather Rissler

Since I was a young age, I have been part of many mission outreaches including overseas. What is unique, no matter the place, is how the Kingdom of God becomes so apparent as we serve TOGETHER toward a common vision. I have a theory that this could possibly be the antidote for much of the brokenness in our culture.

Mother Teresa said: "Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with GREAT love."

Saying "yes" to God has nothing to do with proving our worth (because God never asks us to do that) It's about SHOWING UP. The prophet Isaiah said it like this : Woe to me, I am ruined; for I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips! Isaiah did not feel cut out for the task, nevertheless; He said: Here I am Lord, Send me.

In my hurried and frazzled day to day, there are many things that begin to take up space, consequently leaving less room for God as noise crowds out His voice. But, mission requires my whole heart, no reserves. It may scramble the predictable habits I have—that my life orbits around. It can disrupt the gravity that is holding me in these patterns, but that jolt to my system is the resurgence that I need to place God back in the center where he belongs.

Mission can be a cosmic size shift, but worth it in every possible way.

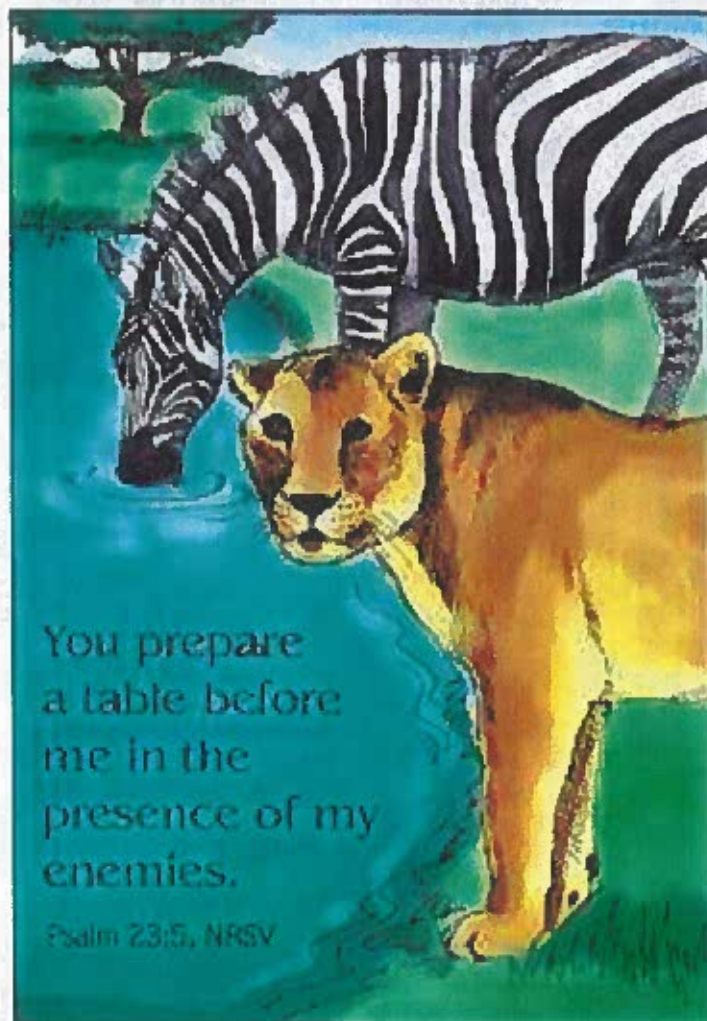
My takeaway from our trip to Cincinnati earlier this summer is this: "come and see." See what God is doing in places where we don't expect him to be, until we are reminded that He has already been in the darkest place we can imagine, A cross, then the tomb. Even death could not keep him. Sometimes God seems hard to find, but it doesn't mean that we should stop looking. He is always working toward a redemptive mission; it's just that sometimes it looks different from what we expect.

summer sermon series



This summer we have the privilege to hear sermons by those who attended the preaching class this spring. Cole Hutchison preached on June 14, and Steve Chaney gave his sermon on July 19. Derek Rissler will preach mid August. We are looking forward to this!

Beginning June 7, Pastor Jason began preaching an 8-week summer sermon series entitled: "Stories of the Stained Glass Windows." We continue to learn as Jason looks at the biblical symbol on each window and talks about what the window symbolizes.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Jason Vacation Take down Tent at Park 9:30am - Worship			7:30am - Business Leader			2pm - Becker Party
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:30am - Worship Church	10am - Senior Luncheon		7:30am - Business Leader 5pm - BOCE	9am - Clean-Out Sale 2:30pm - Action Now 6pm - Music & Worship	9am - Clean-Out Sale	9am - Clean-Out Sale 6pm - The ONE
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:30am - Worship 11am - Clean-Out Sale		9am - Congregational	7:30am - Business Leader 2pm - Park Village Service 5:30pm - Handbell		8am - Men's Breakfast	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30am - Worship	4:30pm - Back to School		7:30am - Business Leader 9:30am - Finance Mtg. 1:30pm - Hennis Service 5:30pm - Handbell	5pm - Missions/Outreach 6pm - Church Council		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:30am - Worship			7:30am - Business Leader 5:30pm - Handbell		1pm - GriefShare	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
9:30am - Worship	3pm - Tiger Paw Packing	6:30pm - Faith and Family	7:30am - Business Leader 5pm - BOCE 5:30pm - Handbell	2:30pm - Action Now 6pm - Music & Worship	1pm - GriefShare	