

THE LAMPLIGHTER

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR GREG

Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest. How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? Proverbs 6:6–9

Summer has arrived, and ants are busy about their work everywhere. As Proverbs 6 says, they are busy preparing their food in summer, gathering it up during a time of harvest. They are making preparations for winter. They know that the opportunity for profitable labor is limited, and so they are industrious, while they have the opportunity to be so.

I wonder—do we have that same sort of urgency about our own lives? It's easy to get into a rut—to enjoy the comforts of life, and spend our time consuming things, rather than producing them. In all sorts of ways, we have seasons of opportunity, and then they're gone. One is in college only for a few years—what sort of choices will you make, and how will that affect the rest of your life? When you get a job, will you save for retirement? Will you start right away and let time and compound interest work to give you choices later on—or will you spend everything, and find yourself forced to continue working late in life when you would rather not?

Once when I lived in Germany, I discovered that the trains are very punctual. They arrive right on the minute, the doors open, and thirty seconds later they close, and the train is gone. That moment when the train is stopped and the doors are open is an opportunity. You can step on, or you can hesitate. That

one moment can make a huge difference in what happens during the whole rest of your day.

Time and God's providence are key. In God's economy, there's no such thing as an insignificant moment. Therefore, "take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5). In God's kingdom, things grow and develop—and where they grow and develop often depends on our actions right now. Mark 4:26–29: "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

Likewise, Ephesians 5:16 says, "make the best use of the time, for the days are evil." Revelation 20 says that God will judge us based on how we used the time given to us. What did you do with each day the Lord gave you? Did you multiply your talents for the Master, or did you bury them? Did you improve things, or did you just let the curse that lies heavy on all creation have its destructive way? Proverbs 24:30-34 shows what happens when we just let things go: "I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense, and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground

was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction. A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.”

During this season of summer, as we see the ants working so industriously all around us, let us take heed, and remember to spur ourselves to a similar level of industry. Working hard is practical wisdom, in that it provides supplies for ourselves in future times when we cannot work, and it provides a buffer against disorder, decay, loss, and suffering. And this is a spiritual principle, as well as a material principle. As Jesus said in John 9:4, “We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.”

Our lives are short, and death and judgment follow. So how are you spending your time? Are you working hard and making practical provisions for this life? More importantly, are you working hard in the matters of the Lord’s business, and making a difference for eternity? Will the Master call you a sheep or a goat? Are you living selfishly, or selflessly? Have you multiplied your talents, or have you buried them in the ground?

Now is our opportunity to undertake spiritually significant work that will bear fruit for eternity. Do not be lulled into complacency by warm summer breezes. Learn what is God’s will, and be busy about the Master’s business. Soon enough, these lives will be over, and we will have to answer for our hours and days. Trust in the Lord, and press into the work the Lord has placed before you. Bring zeal to the worship of God, and diligence with intensity to the tasks God has placed in front of you. Take your weekly Sabbath rest, and work diligently during the other six days in the ways that will glorify God. 2 Peter 3:14, “Therefore, beloved..., be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.”

The ants are a people not strong, yet they provide their food in the summer.

Proverbs 30:25

PRAYER REQUESTS



Please be in prayer for Galina, a missionary to the village of Viprova in Moldova. Galina has been diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer. Galina is so grateful for all the prayers from our congregation for her, her husband and their ministry. She continues treatments and would appreciate continued prayers.

Please pray also for their Sunday Bible school ministry to the children of Viprova as currently there are very few believers in this village and no church.



Please be in prayer for Grecia. He is now 14 years old and struggling with teen and family issues. He has been carrying the load for his family since his father's death and needs prayers for strength and wisdom.

Thank you
Rhonda

Pray for our at home members

Harry & Ina Aceberg
Margaret Farrar
Lois Freeman
Geneva Gsell
Marie Hoscheid
Carol Jacobs
Vernette Jensen
Dick Neill
Ellie Swartout
Ivy Talbert

PRAYER REQUESTS

Expecting Parents:
Jeff & Lisa Dellitt

Diane Anderson
Bonnie Cashen
Amy Earnest
Keith Erickson
Jamie Frits
Maharah Jones
George McDermott
Lou Peterson
Kathy Shetler
John Vana

Pastor Greg & family
Pastor Ben & family
Tori Burdick

Matt & Sydney Hampson
Session

Board of Trustees
Deacons
Staff



OUT OF THE OFFICE

STAFF VACATION
Tori– July 2nd-6th
Ben- July 16th-20th
Anna– July 23rd-August 3rd

BRIDAL BLESSING LUNCHEON for Brooke Conn, Nic Mizeur’s Fiancée, on Saturday, August 4th from 12pm-2pm in our church’s fellowship hall. Please come and get to know Brooke because she would like to get to know you. No presents please because they have a small car and small apartment. If you’d like to bring a card with a written blessing, they would enjoy that.

Save the Date!
August 18

Volunteer & Teacher Training

WHEN:
 Sunday, August 26
 11:45am-2:00pm

WHERE:
 Bailey Retreat



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Linda Williams
- 2 Hannah Fowler
- 8 Ruth Neagle
Janet Whitman
Amy Curtiss
George McDermott
- 9 Ron Barman
- 10 Peter Adams
- 11 Carol Swenson
Lavern Balk
- 12 Joan Wierenga
Kathy Earnest
- 13 Ben Ruyack
- 17 Naomi Lawrence
- 18 Jo Ann Cahill
- 19 Ruth Anderson
- 20 Maharah Jones
- 21 Louann Peterson
Nan Ryan
Ethan Ferguson
Benjamin Pothoven
- 24 Michael Weger
- 25 Sandy Balk
- 26 Dale Holmes
- 27 Megan Balk
- 28 Jim Taylor
Joe Wadsworth
- 29 Alice Dailing
Donna Sivertsen
- 30 Dick Neill
- 31 Gene Erickson
Sue Tunberg
Doug Correll

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ellie Swartout
Missie Westerfield
- 2 Vicki Furr
- 3 Rodney Lindquist
Lisa Dellitt
Janna Swords
- 4 Dwight Sivertsen
- 5 Keith Erickson
Paul Hagerty
- 7 Keith Asmus
Chris Mitchell
Lilah Swords
- 9 Roland Pulley
- 11 Abby Vander Meersch
- 12 Ilene Correll
Terry Lawrence
- 13 Jennifer Vander Meersch
Michael Flaughter
- 15 Willard Bost
Joyce Swords
- 16 Porter Wadsworth
- 17 Adam Jones
- 21 Addisen Kuffler
Elijah Swords
- 24 Asher Jones
- 26 Bonnie Cashen
Dan Swords
- 28 Joe Adams
- 29 Nathan Pothoven
Paige Lehmann
- 30 Marie Hoscheid
Jan Riccio
- 31 Roger Clawson

Thank You

Dear First United Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much! This Baby Bottles season has been a soul winning and life changing time this year. Your support of Pregnancy Resources has changed lives forever! We know baby bottles will trickle in but here is your congregation's total so far this year \$345.00.

In the passing weeks, a new dad visited a local church with his dad coach for the first time ... EVER! This man had no knowledge of who Jesus was until he began coming to Pregnancy Resources to help his family and pregnant wife. What a blessing for Pregnancy Resources' to open the door for him to learn more. Please continue to pray for him and his family to find Jesus. And as I am writing to you another gave their life to Jesus this morning as well as a mom choosing LIFE while carrying twins!

So many lives are changed both now and for eternity because YOU'RE, our faithful friends! Thank you for your gifts.

Blessings,
Liz, Pregnancy Resources

Dear Church,

Although we have been gone for 4+ years FUPC continues to love us and is there for us— how blessed we are. With Bobbie's unexpected hospitalization in Houston and the resultant surgery the prayers lifted in our behalf undergirded us then, and now, as we faced challenges far from home. We thank Dr. Graybill for his call and prayerful care. We also thank especially the Bereans and Bobbie's "lunch bunch" (and Deb Flaughter for coordination email updates).

We're now home. She is getting better. The tense hospital moments are past. The present love of God continues to be poured out through FUPC and the future is secure as the Lord provides and protects and sends loving servants like those as FUPC.

In Christ,
Wayne and Bobbie Furr

Thank you to the following for all the support for the youth mission trip with turning in recycle cans: Randy Michels, Swansons, Swen-sons, Wedras, Whitmans, Engelbrechts, Eric, Launa, and Anna. Keep it up we always have next year. ☺

Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers and flowers while I was in the hospital. I am hoping to be back in church soon.

Amy Earnest



Stephen Ministry Connection

ASK, SEEK, KNOCK

(Ask people, Seek people, Knock on the heart's door with love)

This was the way Jesus called his disciples and involved people in kingdom ministry.

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." -Matthew 7:7-8

When Jesus asked people to follow Him, some turned sadly away, and others willingly left their fishing nets, routines, and daily work to join Him. We may not realize how many people are willing to follow Jesus into ministry. We just have to be willing to ask them.

Please consider using the gifts God has given you to make a difference in the lives of others by serving Christ as a Stephen Minister. Stephen Minister Training starts September 5th.

STEPHEN MINISTRY IS CHRIST CARING FOR PEOPLE THROUGH PEOPLE.

Is God calling you to be a Stephen Minister?

Talk to one of the Stephen Leaders:

**Pastor Greg, Ruth Neagle,
Launa Engelbrecht, Jim Boland.**

*Stephen Ministry, a ministry of Congregational Care.
Stuart Neagle, Elder.*

FUPC's Stephen Ministers:

Ruth Anderson
Jane Anne Buller
Deb Egger
Jim Egger
Gene Erickson
Keith Erickson
Jeff Havenner
Lisa Mizeur
Joan Olson
Julie Quandt
Kathy Shetler
Sue Tunberg
Art Wedra

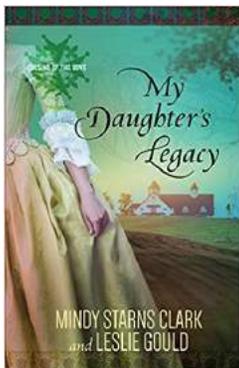
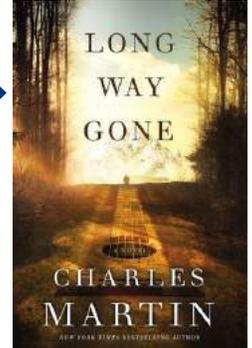
Stephen Ministry Training at FUPC will start Wednesday, September 5th, noon - 2:30pm. If this time is not convenient for you, we will make other arrangements. Anyone who is interested in becoming a Stephen Minister may contact one of the Stephen Ministry Leaders.



Library Lines

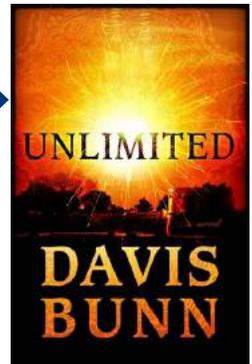
The following books were added to the library in June:

Long Way Gone by Charles Martin. The book jacket states: “A radical retelling of the prodigal son story, Long Way Gone takes us from tent revivals to the Ryman Auditorium to the tender relationship between a broken man and the father who never stopped loving him”. Cooper O’Connor becomes the main draw for his father’s tent revivals because of his guitar and piano playing abilities as well as his songwriting. He yearns to show his talent to a bigger audience and so steals his father’s car, money, and guitar and runs away to Nashville. It’s a very moving story and gives insight to what happens behind the scenes in the country music world.



▶ My Daughter’s Legacy by Mindy Starns Clark and Leslie Gould. This book tells the story of two women, one a descendant of the other. Therese Jennings grew up on a plantation during the Civil War but detests the practice of slavery. She flees to Richmond, Virginia, where she works as a governess by day and tends the wounded soldiers at night. Nicole Talbot returns to present day Virginia for a family reunion on this same plantation property. A tragedy occurred on this property when she was a child but the circumstances surrounding it are unclear. Nicole fears she has discovered something that will tarnish her family’s legacy.

▶ Unlimited by Davis Bunn. Simon Orwell gets a phone call from a former professor who claims to have discovered a device that would create unlimited energy. When Simon reaches the foreign location of the professor, he finds that the professor has been killed. Simon must seek refuge from a powerful drug cartel. The book cover states: “Now he must take refuge in the only place that will help him, a local orphanage. There, Simon meets Harold Finch, the orphanage proprietor who walked away from a lucrative career with NASA and consulting Fortune 500 companies to serve a higher cause. With Harold’s help, Simon sets out on quest to uncover who killed the professor and why. In due time, he will discover secrets to both the world-changing device and his own unlimited potential.



Please remember to fill out the check-out card and place it in the file box when checking out a book. Several books have been returned recently but no card was found in the file.

The library will hold a used book sale August 5 and 12. There is a box for donations on the table in the library. Please, no text or reference books, magazines over two years old, and no fiction or non-fiction with a copyright before 2008.



Women's Ministry

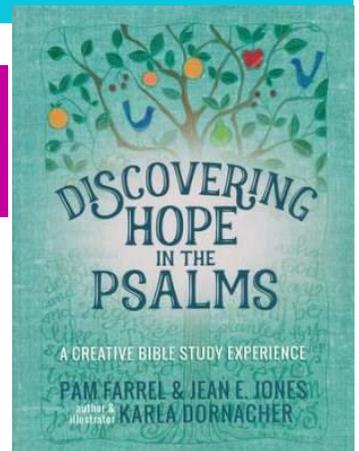


On Summer Break July & August

WOW - Women of the Word

**WOW Summer Bible Study
Finding Hope in the Psalms
Starts June 5 - Aug 7 eight sessions
(no study June 26 week of VBS)**

**WOW- Women of the Word Bible Study
Tuesdays from 9:30-11:00 AM
This Bible Study is for women of all ages!**



WOW stands for Women of the Word...this includes women of all ages! This past school year we studied 1st & 2nd Thessalonians and 1st & 2nd Timothy. We studied each Chapter verse by verse including applications. We used a weekly group e-mail to keep lines of communication open. Loving, caring childcare was provided! Thank you to our amazing childcare providers!

Where did the year go? So many great scriptures, so many discussions about His Word! We praise and thank God for all He did during this past year in WOW- He alone gets the glory! We finished up the morning with a Pizza Party with treats! Thank you to all! It was a special morning!

Please let Cheryl Lehmann or Vicki Pothoven know if you would like a book.

The Summer Study will include Guest Discussion Leaders. We are shaking things up this summer, please join us! Women of all ages are welcome! Childcare provided.

These psalms will show you how to...

- recall the Lord's care when you find you're in need
- rejoice in God's mercy when sin knocks you down
- rest in God's goodness when life seems unfair
- request help with hope when dark troubles abound
- respond with thanksgiving for all answered prayers

This Isn't Your Average Bible Study

Explore God's Word on a deeper level and engage with his truth in fresh ways! This study on select psalms of hope invites you beneath the surface to discover the incredible design and purpose of this inspired Hebrew poetry.

Perfect for group discussion or personal reflection, Discovering Hope in the Psalms offers valuable teachings, motivating devotions, and a multitude of creative options for interacting with the ten psalms covered—including beautiful art-work to color.





Catalyst

the WORKDAY

building relationships ■ rebuilding saint louis

July 21-28

MISSION TEAM

Students:

Joe Adams
 Kristen Brahm
 Lauren Brahm
 Hailey Neels
 Ethan Vander Meersch
 Emma Williams
 Grant Williams

Leaders:

Matt Hampson
 Hanna Dodd
 Sydney Hampson
 Eric Vander Meersch

PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR THE MISSION TEAM AS WE PREPARE FOR ST. LOUIS

NOTES OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR ST LOUIS MISSION TEAM:

This year we will be taking notes from you with us instead of mailing them. They will be handed out at the end of each day. It is always a huge encouragement to know that the church family is praying for us and cares enough to write a note. Anyone interested in sending the mission team participants notes of encouragement, please turn them into the office or Matt Hampson's mailbox in the conference room before July 15th.

ENJOY WHAT YOU HAVE RATHER THAN DESIRING WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE. JUST DREAMING ABOUT NICE THINGS IS MEANINGLESS, LIKE CHASING THE WIND. ECCLESIASTES 6:9

GUYS' BIBLE STUDY

Guys Bible study meets every Tuesday. We spend time going through scripture and applying it to our lives. Currently we are working through a book titled "The Seven Checkpoints". It is a book that goes through 7 major principles that teenagers should know as they strive to grow in their faith.

Girls' Bible Study

Girl's Tuesday night Bible study continues through Michael Yaconelli's "Messy Spirituality God's Annoying Love for Imperfect People." We are learning how loved we are, shortcomings and all, by the God who meets us and transforms us in the midst of a messy and unpredictable life. We highly recommend this book as summer reading for believers of all ages.

Rhonda McKinley

SUMMER CATALYST

Catalyst will be meeting through July. We will continue to go over eternal life hacks which is a series that goes through the book of Proverbs. During Catalyst we are going to be playing fun games and enjoy our summer nights. We will then have our lesson time followed by discussion in our small groups. At the end of July some of the high school students will be going to St. Louis for our mission trip. Catalyst will resume on August 22nd with our Fall kickoff!

CATALYST CHORUS TEAM

JULY:

Practice– Wednesday, July 11th @ 8:00pm in the Sanctuary
Sing– Sunday, July 15th @ 9:00am, warm-up in the choir room @ 8:35am

AUGUST:

Practice– Wednesday, August 15th @ 8:00pm in the Sanctuary
Sing– Sunday, August 19th @ 9:00am, warm-up in the choir room @ 8:35am



JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>COMMUNION</p> <p>9:00am Worship 10:15am Sun- day School</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00pm Youth Committee</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:30am Com- munity Break- fast 7:00pm Congre- gational Care</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:30am Men's Bible Study</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:00am Worship 10:15am Sun- day School</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30pm Board of Trustees</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30am WOW 6:00pm Children's Committee 6:00pm Property Maintenance 6:45pm Girls' Bible Study 6:45pm Guys' Bible Study</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1:30pm Out- reach Team 6:30pm Cata- lyst 7:00pm Prayer Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:30am Com- munity Break- fast</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:00pm College and Young Adult event</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:30am Men's Bible Study</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:00am Worship 10:15am Sun- day School</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30am WOW 12:00pm Men's Lunch 6:45pm Girls' Bible Study 6:45pm Guys' Bible Study 7:00pm Session Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30pm Cata- lyst 7:00pm Prayer Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:30am Com- munity Break- fast</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:00pm Photeinos Fel- lowship</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:30am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>Leave @ 1:30pm</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:00am Worship 10:15am Sun- day School</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30am WOW</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:30am Com- munity Break- fast</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:30am Men's Bible Study</p>
CATALYST ST LOUIS MISSION TRIP						
<p>29</p> <p>9:00am Worship 10:15am Sun- day School</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:30am WOW 6:45pm Girls' Bible Study 6:45pm Guys' Bible Study</p>				

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30pm Catalyst 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	2 8:30am Community Breakfast 7:00pm Congregational Care	3	4 7:30am Men's Bible Study
5 COMMUNION 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School	6 7:00pm Youth Committee	7 9:30am WOW 6:00pm Children's Committee 6:45pm Girls' Bible Study 6:45pm Guys'	8 6:30pm Catalyst 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	9 8:30am Community Breakfast	10	11 7:30am Men's Bible Study
12 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School	13 6:30pm Board of Trustees	14 9:30am WOW 6:45pm Girls' Bible Study 6:45pm Guys' Bible Study	15 6:30pm Catalyst 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	16 8:30am Community Breakfast	17 12:00pm Photeinos Fellowship	18 7:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Volunteer Training
19 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School	20	21 9:30am WOW 12:00pm Men's Lunch 6:45pm Girls' Bible Study 6:45pm Guys' Bible Study 7:00pm Session Meeting	22 6:30pm Catalyst 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	23 8:30am Community Breakfast	24	25 7:30am Men's Bible Study
26 9:00am Worship 11:45am All Church Picnic	27	28 9:30am WOW 6:45pm Girls' Bible Study 6:45pm Guys' Bible Study	29 6:30pm Catalyst 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	30 8:30am Community Breakfast	31	