

July 2023

We had great success this year with our Crayon Initiative. This was in large part because Joe Hoseck, Sarah Bishoop – the secretary, and I all reached out to schools personally. (I'm not saying this for accolades or bragging.) Joe went to a dozen schools and asked them if they would put donation boxes in their hallways. Sarah and I called folks and talked to them; I stopped at my boys' schools. As a result, we collected over 300 pounds of crayons. This was 3x what we collected the year prior.

We know from personal and professional experiences that talking with a person face-to-face can be one of the most effective ways to: solicit help, get donations, and change opinions. But we also know that emails and text messages and flyers are: more convenient, less expensive, and less invasive. I think it's very often this third reason – less invasive – that keep us in patterns of passive communication.

We are polite people. We don't want to be pushy. We don't want to intrude on people's time or opinions. We don't want to come across as rude or condescending or self-righteous about whatever cause we are promoting.

I wonder today about how this relates to faith. We want to invite people into our experiences of faith and faith community. We are proud of our religious beliefs. We think it would be good for other people if they, too, could have a religious community (this part is where we can get a bit judgy). We want to share about Jesus.

But we are a polite people. We don't want to over-step our boundaries. We don't want to push people away from our friendship or work relationship if we come on too strong. We don't want to come across as "better-than" or judgmental because someone else isn't going to church or doesn't have a faith community. So we do what polite people do: we do invite-lite.

We ask people in the least invasive ways possible to join us: emails, text messages, post-cards, flyers. And we occasionally get a response. We may even draw someone in, if they don't have anything better to do, if they see value in what we are offering, or if the invite-lite hits them on just the right day and time.

I wonder how it would be different if we made more effort to ask in person, to offer supplies and tools and resources that may be needed. For crayons, the difference was asking in person, and following up by taking the supplies – boxes, posters, and flyers – in person, and then collecting them in person. We did these things in year one, but we only reached out in person to six churches and one organization. Others got email communication – from multiple sources but none of them in person.

Going in person to 3x the schools and organizations meant responses from 3x the participation. Not every school participated, but most did. It was a lot of work – more than 3x the work – but the payoff was significant.

So how do we translate this to how we invite people into participation on faith?

In Matthew 22, there is the story of the king who threw a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to invite a bunch of people. They didn't attend. He invited them again, and still they didn't attend.

Finally, the king invites anyone who would listen – people from the streets both good and bad – in order to fill his banquet hall.

There are many morals to this particular parable, but principal among them is this: keep inviting. Invite with a loud voice. Invite everyone. Not to "church" but to faith. Invite them to a feast that they can enjoy - one that leads to more fulfillment in life. If you are at the level of "invite-lite", that's okay. But consider whether you are ready to make a face-to-face invitation to someone in your life. We are stronger together in the community of faith we find in Jesus Christ.

Happy Summer.
Pastor Jessica




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SHARING OUR SUNRISE JOYS AND CONCERNS**"This is the day that the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it"****Psalm 118:24****"Meditate on the wonders God has made" Psalm 145:5**

It is early in the day on the day that the Lord has made that I sit gazing from the deck at the beauty of Georgetown Lake. The lake is mirror-like, with nary a ripple, bright blue with reflections of the surrounding mountains, the sun glinting off the snowy peaks. The silence of the dawn is only broken by the morning sounds of the birds and the bluebirds playing happily on a nearby tree. I couldn't help but reflect on the above verses from Psalms and the wonder of the world God has given us. With the other 18 members of my family still fast asleep, the serenity and beauty of the place was a reminder of God's grace, power, and wonder. I remembered how Bill would always marvel at the beauty of nature and family and how full it made his heart. And my heart became full too, rejoicing in the wonders of God's earth.

"The heavens declare the glory of God and the sky above proclaims his handiwork."**Psalm 19:1**

Fast forward three days, my heart still full from an amazing few days with family - delighting in the laughter, fun, good food, the sounds of glee from the lake. Driving home, hard rain fell as we neared Helena - which as a farmer's daughter is nothing I complain about - when a dip in the road appeared, filled with water and in a moment we were hydroplaning as the car careened through the center ditch in the interstate, across the two lanes of traffic, ending upright in the ditch, without contact with another car, only two flat tires and bent rims. Our family is all ok physically, albeit traumatized, thanking God for his benevolent hand holding us fast. Once again, I realized that God's power and love is steadfast in the chaotic, uncertain moments of life as well as the serene, quiet ones. And again I say rejoice in God's goodness.

The last month at Sunrise we have mourned with four families who have lost loved ones. Budd Hovey passed away in New Mexico, leaving wife, Sharon and kids: Chad, Eric and Greg. Budd and Sharon were longtime members of Sunrise, raising their family in the church and being an integral part of our Sunrise family. Budd loved the Bible studies and served as an Elder on more than one occasion. Fond memories shine through the grief. Prayers to Joyce Newman on the loss of her son, Daryl. He, too, was raised at Sunrise, and many of you may remember him. Barb Hickey lost her Mom, Genevieve, this month and her passing has left a hole in their lives even as they celebrate her long and loving life. With Kenn Moss, we mourn the death of his wife Connie. They were members of Sunrise for many years, with Connie serving as a Deacon. She was always there to visit and help those needing comfort. After leaving Sunrise they moved to Polson and were part of the Presbyterian church there. At the time of her passing they were in Idaho. Our prayers go to all of these families as they grieve and find peace as God holds them in his hands.

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Wishes for Mary Kraft as she works through health issues in rehab. She always is ready with a smile and filled with God's joy. We remember others in our congregation who are homebound or in assisted living. Prayers to Pam Chigbrow as she helps move her father to assisted living.

Rejoicing, we celebrate the 90th Birthday of Barb Chigbrow. What an amazing person. And Ruth Hickey has an extra smile as she welcomes her 6th great granddaughter, born to granddaughter Nicole and husband Brad, named Keira Taylor. Grandparents Doug and Tammie are smiling too. Maribeth Doan welcomed a new granddaughter, Alana, who was born mid-June. Eric Chigbrow was blessed to accompany grandson, Jackson, on a school trip to Washington DC. Ember Woods welcomed a large group of her family to worship on the 18th as the bench and planter to the memory of Woody were dedicated. Another planter in memory of Bill Harp was blessed as well. All to enhance the beauty and peace of the columbarium. Tana Harp rejoiced in having her "Australian family" here to visit for the first time in 4 years and have the entire family together. Thanks be to God.

"For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song." Isaiah 55:12

May joy and peace fill your lives this summer. And knowing God's goodness burst into song along with the mountains!



Have you seen this guy?

He's going places this summer!

Take "Flat Jesus" with you on your trips and adventures and share with the congregation via Facebook. You can upload yourself or text or email pictures to the church office or pastor Jessica.

With so many folks traveling during the summer months, this is a way we can stay in contact with one another. Somewhere in the congregation are two Flat Jesus with pink stoles instead of orange - submit a picture of the pink stole Jesus and we will send you a special Sunrise gift.



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FISH Food Bank



May 2023 Year to Date 2023

Families (non-Single)	54	217
Singles	46	212
Adults	146	606
Children	55	228
Meals	3,015	12,510
Pounds of Food	6,313	27,153

Food Suggestions for July

- Peanut Butter, Jelly & Jam
- Cold Cereal
- Instant Oatmeal
- Pancakes & Syrups
- Canned Fruit

A special thank you to our volunteers who helped at the latest FISH event; John DeVoss, Janette Forsyth, Carol Stilli, Karen Sanders, and Ember Woods.

Our next volunteer week is planned for September 4-8.

Our monthly donations from Sunrise in May were: \$159.00

Thank you to all who have contributed their time, food, and money to FISH!

-Maribeth Doan

Don't forget, you can catch all FISH announcements on our website at www.sunrisegreatfalls.net/fish



News from Glacier Camp

The Lord's Day afternoon was sunny, but cool as cars begin filtering their way to the parking lot, unloading campers and gear and parents. This being my fifth Summer season as camp director, I have grown accustomed to the rhythm of this time of year and the beat of camp life which begins with the pilgrimage from the parking lot down to Lake Lodge for check in. The heraldic proclamation comes over the radio with words that we have waited ten months to hear: "Campers and Parents on the way down."

There is, of course, an expected level of nervousness -- for the campers, but also for some of the parents who drop them off. But the warmth of the greeting by the staff and counselors thaws that chill quickly. And before long, the kids are happily exploring the cabin that will be their new home for the next six days. After that, there are get-acquainted games on the Lake Lodge Lawn, a quick briefing on the rules, and (who doesn't like this??) a good game of duck, duck, goose. Enough energy is expended to build up an appetite for dinner.

Activities continue after dinner including learning about cleaning up after a meal (life skills that involve taking responsibility for chores is taught as part of camp) followed by more games and a snack. Then it is off to campfire and worship at the close of day. The text for that service was from Genesis 12 and the call of Abram: "Go from your country and your kindred and your kindred's house to the land that I will show



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you.” Then, it is off to bed because the morning comes before you know it. “And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.”

The fun continues as the week goes on -- but attempting to include all the fun things that happen in the course of six days at camp would be futile. To borrow from the conclusion of John’s gospel, “if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.”

Our inaugural week of camp for 2023 got off to a strong start -- with 23 campers ranging in age from first and second graders to high school students. Kids from near and far gathered to share in meals, work on crafts, learn songs, play games, worship, and study about the Bible and its promise that with God all things are possible. Typical of camp’s first week, the weather proved unpredictable and a little chilly (in the photo you can almost see our junior campers shiver as they celebrate passing their swim test).



Our morning worship and campfires were blessed with Pastor Brianne from Hamilton -- who took a week away from her ministry to serve as our chaplain. She shared with us during Bible Study and worship and even taught us a new camp song for the end of the day. I was blessed to attend several campfire worship services where the Word was proclaimed by two of our counselors -- Aaron and Sophie. Aaron reflected on God’s call to Abram and how God calls us away from comfortable and familiar places to opportunities that are new and different, exciting and fulfilling. Sophie reflected on the challenge of weakness and how God can use our weaknesses and transform them into strengths.

It was great to have Sunrise connections for our first week of camp. For the second year in a row, Pastor Jessica’s son Sebastian participated in mini-camp. Also participating in mini-camp was Braden Kalanick, who came to Glacier Camp all the way from Colorado. (Braden didn’t seem overly impressed when his mother explained that I was the pastor who officiated at their wedding, but that’s all right because he was excited about camp.) We look forward to seeing Braden’s grandparents -- Bob and Nancy Maynard -- when they come to camp for the TIM Talks.

There was another Sunrise connection this first week of camp, when Ryan and Jasmine Schlimgen and their kids paid us a visit. Ryan was a counselor at camp twenty years ago and is one of more than half a dozen camp counselors who have gone on to serve the kingdom of God in the ordained ministry. There were only two things I didn’t like about Ryan and Jasmine’s visit -- it was too brief and Ryan didn’t bring his mom Kathy along with the rest of the family.

Sunrise has had a long mission partnership with Sunrise Presbyterian Church. We are truly grateful for all you do in support of our ministry. Come see when you are on this side of the mountains!

~ Rev. Tim Lanham, Director

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July Calendar of Events:		
July 2	9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Fellowship
July 4		Office Closed
July 9	9:30 am	Worship, Communion, Guest Speaker Greg Grosenick – Family Promise
	10:45 am	Fellowship
July 10	6:00 pm	No Faith & Life Meeting; meet again August 7
July 11 & 12		Office Closed; Pastor Jessica gone July 10-14
July 16	9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Fellowship
July 17		Newsletter Deadline
July 19	6:00 pm	Mission & memorials
July 23	9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Fellowship
July 25	5:30 pm	Session
July 26		Newsletter Assembly
July 30	9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Fellowship
Deacons on call for July: Janette Forsyth & Ruth Hickey		

Pill Bottle Reuse Program

Many thanks to those of you who have brought in your empty pill bottles for reuse! We are still collecting so continue to remove those labels and make your deposits in the incoming collection bin located at the end of the hall near the upstairs restroom.

Since the local pharmacies will not accept them, we will continue to send them to Matthew 25: Ministries in Blue Ash, Ohio. There they are utilized and shipped with medical supplies to disaster areas in this country and around the world.

Last year we were able to send nearly twenty pounds from our collections and our shipping costs are being covered by money collected from our aluminum can recycling. Thank you for all your support!



VOLUNTEERS: THANK YOU

311.6 #S OF CRAYONS MAILED

16.4 #S OF CRAYONS "PRISTINE" AND SENT FOR USE AT PEACE PLACE

CRAYON PROJECT: ACCOMPLISHED!

July 2023

July Scripture Reading List: A Tour of the Old Testament	
1	Genesis 1:1-15
2	Exodus 3:13-15
3	Numbers 6:22-27
4	Deuteronomy 5:2-7
5	1 Samuel 2:1-2
6	1 Samuel 2:6-8
7	1 Samuel 2:9-10
8	2 Samuel 2:5-6
9	1 Kings 2:1-3
10	2 Chronicles 2:7-12
11	Nehemiah 1:5-6
12	Nehemiah 1:11
13	Judith 16:1
14	Judith 16:13-15
15	Ruth 1:16
16	Judges 5:1-5
17	Tobit 3:1-3
18	Isaiah 2:2-4
19	Jeremiah 1:4-6
20	Jeremiah 31:8-10
21	Ezekiel 34:14-16
22	Daniel 9:19
23	Joel 2:26-27
24	Amos 5:14-15
25	Job 38:4-8
26	Micah 4:2-4
27	Zechariah 2:10-11
28	Psalms 18:6
29	Proverbs 8:12-14
30	Psalms 11:4-5
31	Isaiah 43:1-4

Online giving is available through our website. Visit our church website at www.sunrisegreatfalls.net. From there, you will see a *donate* button on the top left side of the home page. This donation button will take you to the Presbyterian Foundation platform allowing you to set up a single-time giving or recurring giving. You can pay through your bank account or by debit or credit card.

Mission Giving Online: Select “Local Mission” online to donate to a specific cause. Use the memo line when finalizing your contribution.

Donations

If you've already created a profile, please "Log In" on the right, otherwise continue.

Sunrise Presbyterian Church of Great Falls
General Fund

Local Mission

Total:

Donation Frequency

Donation Start Date

Log In

Office Copy Machine

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the replacement of the church copy machine! With your financial support, we have been able to order a new machine. The total cost of the new machine is \$7,600. As of 6/18, we have collected \$7,191.00. That means we have reached 95% of our goal! If you wish to contribute, you can do so in person or online through the church donation button. Donating online? Put “copy machine” in the memo line of your online contribution.

Help us chose the date for our Tea Party.

Does September 9th or September 10th works best for you? Let us know in the office by phone or email.

406-453-2031

sunrisepresbyteriangf@gmail.com



Reminder: When donating cans to the can shed, please remember to tie the bags they are donated in. Thank you for being committed to the aluminum can recycling project!



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2023 Session Elders

Admin & Personnel: Lianna Gaskins, Scott Shull
Buildings & Grounds: Travis Harp, Lee Hickey
Christian Education: Erica Rusinski
Faith and Life: Eric Chigbrow, Lee Hickey
Mission & Memorials: Norman Anderson, Scott Shull
Nominating:
Outreach & Social Media: Lee Hickey
Stewardship: Eric Chigbrow, Lianna Gaskins, Scott Shull
Worship: Norman Anderson, Travis Harp
Clerk of Session: Millie Sivak

Board of Deacons:

Chair: Ember Woods
Secretary/Treasurer: Janette Forsyth
Beth Hoseck, Dixy Paronto, Ruth Hickey, Bill McCullough, Sandy Lambert, Marilyn Andrews, Pam Chigbrow



«City», «State» «Zip»

«Address»

«First Names» «Last Name»

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