



July 2013

The MESSENGER

July 2013

A Newsletter for the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Park Falls, WI

279 North First Avenue, P.O. Box 258, Park Falls, WI 54552
Worship: 8:45 AM

Telephone: (715) 762-3220
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From the pastor's pen... **Who Can Choose?**

It's not the first time we stopped at the sister's house. Some of our wives get really provoked about it because we're not supposed to be there when Lazarus isn't. All the same, that's the way Jesus is. He is just so determined. He wants to share the Good News. Martha and Mary want to hear it. So there we were.

Little by little all twelve of us are getting used to the way Jesus works. We're much more ready to go anywhere now, to be attentive to the folks who are public sinners, and even to touch sick people. I'll be honest. That one was really hard at first, touching sick people. The only way I could get around it was to look them in the eye. I just stare at them, imagine them healthy, and do what the Lord said. And it works! So anyway, we were not surprised when he wanted to visit again. After all, it's not often we get to enjoy a meal in peace. Most of the time there's someone who is watching us, just waiting for Jesus to say the wrong word. Then they pounce on him and it's another aggravating dispute. We thought this would be gentle.

However, this time Mary wouldn't go in to the kitchen and wait until after we ate supper. She sat right at Jesus' feet while he talked. We were squirming. Judas was getting really huffy, but then he always complains about everything. No matter how many of us gave her the eye, she stayed. And Jesus just kept on teaching in his own quiet way.

Meanwhile, there was a storm brewing in the kitchen. We could all hear things getting thrown around. Something broke. There was plenty of muttering. Finally Martha blew in, and I wanted to fall into a hole and pull it in after me. Bad enough we had one unmarried woman sitting among us at Jesus' feet, now in comes another, actually making demands on us men. What's the world coming to? It wasn't like this when I was young. We're all wondering when Lazarus is going to teach his sisters to be proper women.

So Martha stands there, just as bold as brass, and starts reading Jesus the riot act. Mary is sort of embarrassed, but not much. And Jesus just lets the storm blow over him, like he does out on the Sea of Galilee. Then, while she's still fussing and fuming, he takes the wind out of her sails.

The problem is, we're still wondering what's going

on in his mind. He told Mary she had the better part. How can that be? Jesus keeps beating it into our heads that if we're going to follow him we have to keep, like he says, 'hand to the plow.' Get to work. Go share the Good News. Heal the sick. Set sinners free. Then he sits there and tells Mary that it's the better choice to sit and listen. Well sure, we have to take some time to learn the new way, but only to spread it. How can one choice be better than the other? If all we did was to just go off into the wilderness to pray like Jesus sometimes take us, the world would never be saved. How stupid would that be?

So as we go from town to town, there's lots of times when several of us will hang back and try to figure this one out. Jesus walks ahead and the local folks are thick around him. We follow behind and try to figure out what he said to Martha. It sure would be easier to just sit around and listen. Talk about a no-brainer. Yet what help would that be? Nobody else would even know that they could be healed, never mind saved. Fat lot of good that does. All the same, everyone can't be like Simon, who's as fiery a Zealot as there ever was. He's always ready to get out there and whip the world into shape. Sometimes too ready. You could roast meat on his speeches. Still, you tell me, when did he learn that? Didn't he get started by sitting there to learn?

I don't think Jesus really answered Martha. All he did was get her puzzled enough so she quit spouting off.

And he sure got all of us wondering. How can anyone choose?

*Blessings,
Pastor Jim*

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*Teach me to do your will, for
you are my God; may your good
Spirit lead me on level ground.*

Psalm 143:10

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July Ministries

USHERS

- July 7 Jill and Dick Franck
- July 14 Fox Family
- July 21 Paul and Teresa Norlander
- July 28 Jill and Dick Franck

If you cannot usher on your assigned Sunday, please call Jim Ferkovich at 715-762-2385.

SCRIPTURE READERS

- July 7 Alice Megna
- July 14 Mike Megna
- July 21 Mary Ruth Rodel
- July 28 Arlene Morrison

OFFERING COUNTERS

- July 7 Kurt and DiAnn Brown
- July 14 Renee Donner and Alice Megna
- July 21 Arlene Morrison & Lois Gwinn
- July 28 Jana Ferkovich & Heidi Peterson

COMMUNION SERVERS

- July: Fox Family
- August: Rodel Family

If you are on any of these lists and cannot make it on your assigned day, please call someone else to change dates. Thank you for volunteering!

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CHANCEL CHOIR UPDATES

Our choir is on hiatus for the summer months. Please keep your vocal chords in practice and plan to sing with us or just come to services and let us share our voices with you.



If you would like to join the choir, contact Mark Donner at 715-762-2808.

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There are still a number of cookbooks for sale. A great gift for anyone anytime! The cost is \$10.00 each and they are

available in the narthex, First National Bank, The Gift Corner and Novel Idea Bookshop!



July Meetings

- * 7/10 Trustees, 7:00 pm
- * 7/24 Diaconate, 6:30 pm

(Attention Board Members: If your meeting will not be on the "normal" scheduled date you are responsible for getting me the correct date. Thank you.)

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HELP FEED THE PIG!



A huge thank you to all who have donated to the Youth Programs by "Feeding The Pig"!

As we work to increase our numbers of kids in the Sunday School and Confirmation programs we count on this money for sending confirmation kids to the Moon Beach Retreat, purchasing student bibles for confirmands and gifts for our graduates and for those who are baptized.

We also use this money for Sunday School curriculum and supplies and also for the VBS program. These things are so necessary in attracting young families to join us.

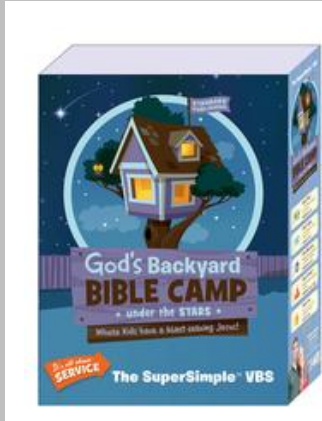
Thank you for your continued generosity!

This year's VBS program is called
God's Backyard
"Family" Bible Camp

Aug. 12-15 ~ 5:30 to 8 pm

Kids will discover how much fun service can be and they will be challenged to serve their families, friends, neighbors communities, and Jesus. At Backyard Bible Club, kids will commit to serving!

Family is welcome to hang out and help with the activities or just watch or join us by the campfire for some great songs, new ones we will learn and old favorites you know.



If you are willing to help us out during VBS please let Beth Graceffa or Heidi Peterson know.

WHAT WE NEED...

MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY -

5:30: Kitchen help to prepare, serve and clean up the meal. We will be having Spaghetti on Monday and Tacos on Wednesday. All food will be provided for the meal.

6:50-7:10: Bible Study Leader. All materials will be provided.

7:10: People to provide, prepare, serve and clean up the snack.

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY--

6:30-6:50: One or two people to lead the craft. All materials will be provided.

7:10-7:30: One or two people to lead games, your choice. We have a list of options if you need them.

If you could help with any of these days and times please contact Beth or Heidi or leave a message in the church office by calling 715-762-3220 or emailing parkfallsucc@pctcnet.net

DIACONATE REPORT...

The Diaconate Board will be securing pulpit supply following Pastor Jim's last service at the end of July. Services from July 21 through September 8 have been set and we are working on completing the list to cover the periods of September 15 through October 27.

Pulpit Supply so far:

July 21 - Mary Jo Laabs

July 28 - Pastor Jim's final service

August 4 - Diaconate-officiated service

August 11 - Mary Jo Laabs

August 18 - Henry and Janet Boynton

August 25 - Henry and Janet Boynton

September 1 - Henry and Janet Boynton

September 8 - Henry and Janet Boynton

We have also begun working with the Search Committee as well on perhaps locating a new interim pastor while search for a permanent pastor continues.

Coffee Sundays continue. If you can host please sign the sheet in the narthex. We would especially like volunteers to do July 21 and August 18 as we welcome returning friends Mary Jo Laabs and Henry and Janet Boynton on those days.

****NOTICE: The next diaconate meeting will be on Wednesday, July 24 at 6:30 pm.**

*--Submitted by
Jim Ferkovich*

Chair of the Diaconate Board

A little bible fun!

How well do you know your bible?

1. What is the last event recorded in Genesis?
a) Joseph's death b) Abraham's death
c) Sarah's death d) Rebekah's death
2. How long was Lazarus in the tomb before Jesus arrived on the site in Bethany?
3. In Ecclesiastes 12:13, what does the bible say is the whole duty of man?

PASTOR AND SECRETARY OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Pastor Jim Imse
Office Hours: Every Friday; other times by appt.
Phone: 715-462-9984
Email: jimse@centurytel.net

Secretary: Heidi Peterson
Phone: 715-762-3220
Email: parkfallsucc@pctcnet.net

WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

Have you been online recently and viewed our website? There are many resources available both there and on the bulletin board outside the secretary's office. You can find the communion duties, usher duties, past newsletters, camp scholarship forms, electronic giving authorization forms and much more. Do you have a conversation you want to start about the bible, about the times, about positive things? Visit our Facebook page and let's talk it up!

FINANCIAL MANAGER POSITION

The Church is in need of a Financial Manager. This position includes duties such as verifying checking accounts, emailing hours to accountant for payroll, entering deposits and continually paying any bills using church software program, keeping track of bills to be paid for trustees report, reconciling all church bank accounts and other duties. Heidi Peterson has agreed to temporarily take over these duties until a Financial Manager has been hired.

Peterson has agreed to temporarily take over these duties until a Financial Manager has been hired.

If you are interested in this position please contact any trustee or leave a message in the church office by calling 715-762-3220 or emailing

parkfallsucc@pctcnet.net

~~SHRINK-A-BILL~~

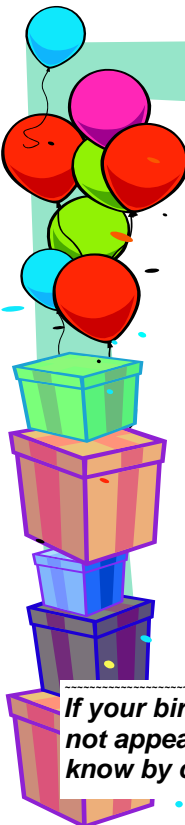
Can you help? Copies of current bills are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex of the Park Falls church. If you are able to pay all or a portion of a bill, please put your check and the bill in the collection plate or a notation on the check as to which bill you want the payment applied. All donations go a long way towards helping us meet our budget. *Thank you for your generosity!!*

JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

7/4	Marissa Richey	7/16	Lauri Marsh
7/4	Jill Franck	7/21	Dorothy Pritzl
7/5	Tony Graceffa	7/24	James Becker
7/6	Florine Dryer	7/25	Doug Marsh
7/7	Barb Tollers	7/27	Caitlin Schmitt
7/8	Pat Ross	7/29	Laurel Poff
7/11	Ty Greenwood		
7/11	Dan Schmitt		
7/13	Taylor Hilgart		
7/14	Michael Schultz		
7/14	Joyce Young		
7/15	Eve Fischer		
7/15	Wyatt Graceffa		
7/15	Greg Damrow		

ANNIVERSARIES

7/2	Doug & Lauri Marsh
7/17	Bill & Terry Little
7/27	James & Debra Becker



If your birthday or a family member's birthday has not appeared in the monthly birthday lists, let us know by calling or emailing the church office.



Bring the world into your home by hosting an AFS foreign exchange student. For information on how you can host or volunteer with AFS, please call Mary Kusiak, 715-693-6639 or visit website

www.afsusa.org

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				+ Area Clergy Meeting, 11:30 am, Apple Basket, downtown Park Falls		+ Lord's Cupboard, 10-12
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
+ Worship with communion, 8:45 am.			+ Lord's Cupboard, 10-12 + Trustees Meeting, 7 pm			+ Lord's Cupboard, 10-12
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
+ Worship, 8:45 am			+ Lord's Cupboard, 10-12			+ Lord's Cupboard, 10-12
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
+Worship, 8:45 am			+ Lord's Cupboard, 10-12 *Diaconate, 6:30 pm			+ Lord's Cupboard, 10-12
28	29	30				
+ Worship, 8:45 am		+ Peace-full Gathering Free Meal, 5:30 pm, Peace Lutheran Church basemant				

Answers to A Little Bible Fun:
 1: a (Genesis 50:26)
 2. Four days (John 11:17)
 3. Fear God and keep His commandments

Come worship with us!

8:45 am, Sunday Worship

With communion service on the first Sunday of each month.

Sunday School for ages 3 through Grade 6 takes place September thru May after worship from 9:45-10:30 am. All are welcome.



No matter where you are
on your life's journey,
you are welcome here!