

“News From Home”
Perry Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
302 East Salling Street, PO Box 479
Perry, MO 63462

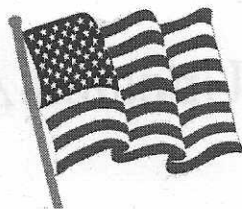


July / August 2023

A Fourth of July Prayer

We thank you for this nation. We thank you for the freedom we enjoy daily. May we never take for granted the liberties that we have been given. May we remain humble and conscious of the blessings we enjoy because of the sacrifices made by countless men and women. We thank you for the abundance we enjoy. May we be sensitive to those around us who are in need and may our hearts be quick to help when we have the means to do so. We pray for our leaders. For those placed in authority over us. Father, we ask that you guide every decision they make. May they lead us with wisdom, humility and grace. Father, bless our nation with Your peace. May Your love flow thru each and every one of us and may we never forget to give you thanks, always. May you receive the glory, honor and praise.

In Jesus Name we pray,
Amen



A Back to School Blessing

For all the children returning to school, send Your Holy Spirit as their guide and protector. Keep them free from danger and unnecessary harm. Put our sons and daughters in the right place at the right time to receive Your grace. Let them learn and grow strong. May the presence of Your Spirit fill their hearts. Help us to mature as parents and caregivers. Bless each family oh Lord. We entrust our children to you Lord. Since the beginning, they are yours to keep.

In Jesus Name,
Amen

The Pastor Stole Our Spoon!!

A pastor had dinner at the home of a couple in his church. After he left, the wife said to the husband, "I think he stole our spoon!" This bothered her for an entire year.

A year later, the couple had their pastor over for dinner again. Unable to resist, the wife asked, "Did you steel our spoon last year?" The pastor replied, "No. I put it inside your Bible!"

Looking Back – From the 1994 Fall Edition of The Christian Banner, by Dr. Dale Jorgenson, Pastor

Anyone who has lived on a farm or in a farming community has become familiar with a figure of speech once utilized by Jesus in conversation with some Pharisees who championed in a very legalistic view of peoples' relationship with God. Sitting around the dining table, in the presence of a man who was quite ill, Jesus posed the question, "Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath or not?" Faced with the dilemma of either denying a basic humanitarian need, or else turning against the rigidity of their religious professions, Luke reports that the Pharisees "were silent." Then Jesus asked the famous question which has become on by-word in modern English expression: "Which of you, having an ass or an ox that has fallen into a well, will not immediately pull him out on a sabbath day?" (Luke 14:1-6)

Modern Christians have managed to make maximum use of this concept so that a wide variety of things which deflect us from taking time to serve the Lord have been shoved behind the unfortunate ox! Many things which make my service to God inconvenient on a given day (usually Sunday, with us) become the "ox in the ditch". A man for whom I worked at Northeast Missouri State University years ago, once when I explained that the emergency demanded that I carry out a procedure to which he was opposed, exclaimed, "I think you have pushed the ox in the ditch!"

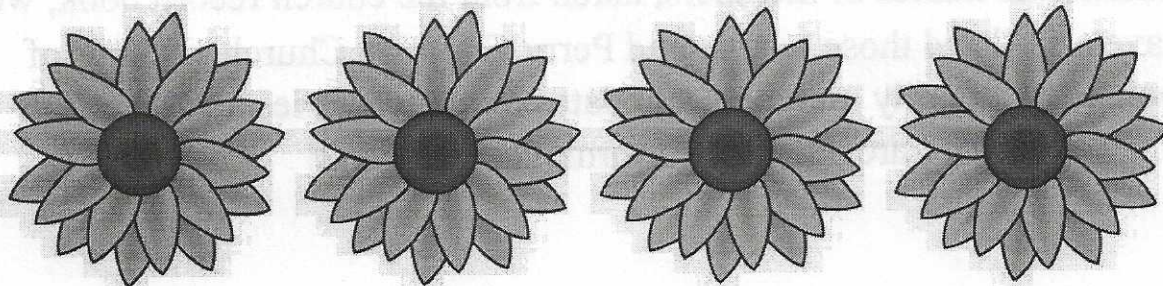
He may have been right. We probably use the concept more for our momentary convenience than for the relief of a real emergency. On some days, perhaps it is the Lord's Church which is pushed in the ditch, rather than the occasion I use for my excuse!

A sobering concept from Christ which might be considered along with our fallen oxen is one in the latter from Jesus to the church at Laodicea. "I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot!" (Rev. 3:15)

When the landscape gets littered with too many of our oxen struggling to get out of their ditches, all of us might do well to consider our "emergencies" in the light of Jesus' note about lukewarm Christians. An honest reassessment will tell us whether the problem we face is really the awkward oxen (which we can't always control) or our lukewarm spiritual comment (which we can).

Here's to steaming hot coffee and more graceful cows!

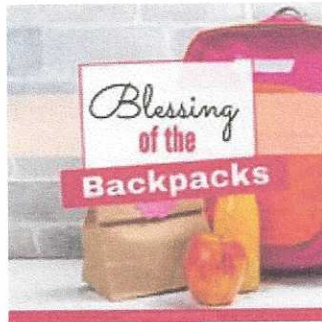
Pastor Dale





Arlen Notes

Memorial Day, Father's Day, and the Fourth Of July have passed. My wife always said that summer was half over on July 4th, and it was time to start thinking about school again. The month of August is almost here, and summer is almost a thing of the past. With the hot weather, I am tempted to ask everyone "Shall We Gather at the River" to cool off or should we stand "Under His Wings" so we could enjoy the shade? I am hoping that we will get a thunderstorm soon so I can say thank God I have "A Shelter in the Time of Storm" and be able to stay inside "'Til the Storm Passes By."



The stores are already putting out their school supplies, and school will be starting before we know it. On August 20, during the church service, there will be the Blessing of the Backpacks ceremony. Blessing of the Backpacks is a special blessing typically done right before school starts. Kids bring their backpacks and school supplies to church and during the service Eric Holmes will ask the kids to come forward with their backpacks and he will give a special blessing over them. During this time, he will also bless all the people who participate in education: students, teachers, aides, administrators, secretaries, cooks, custodians, bus drivers, to name a few. What a wonderful way to start the school year.



I recently read the following article and I thought it was worth passing on to you, especially with the weather that we have experienced the past several days. It definitely reminds me of the words to one of my favorite songs, "His Eye is on the Sparrow." "I sing because I am Happy, and I sing because I am free. His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me!"

Singing in the Rain

Today, like most days here lately, it is rainy, dreary and of the dismal sort. It is the kind of cold, wet rain that settles down in your bones which you can. seem to warm up from. It makes you want to crawl back under the covers and wait for a better day.

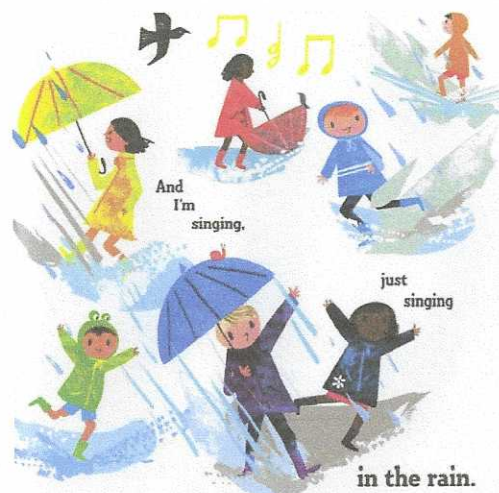
But real life answers a call each and every day that must be answered, compelling us to rise and get going no matter what the weather is outside. Answering that call this morning, I drove across the highway to take my daughter to her college campus. On the way home I saw something that put a smile on my face. A man was walking in the rain with a bright orange raincoat. He was literally bouncing along with happiness in his steps. His mouth was moving which to me he appeared to be singing. It was as if he was dictating his day as if he was telling the rain he was not going to let the dreariness get him down.

Oh, how true does that ring out in life? How much dreary situations have kept us from enjoying the day; from enjoying each and every moment God gives us above ground? Unfortunately, as life goes on, we find that every day is not peaches and cream. Times of trouble and hardship can arouse the rainy-day blues in anybody.

Psalm 137:4 asks, "How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?" How many times have we felt it hard to work up the happiness inside when going through difficult times? But Psalm 43:5 declares, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God."

In other words, Sing in the Rain! I feel like getting on board with the attitude of the guy in the orange raincoat. There you can catch me Singing in the Rain today.

God Bless!



July Birthdays

2 Greyson Rothwell
6 James Utterback
7 Jim Bair
10 Willene Asbury
13 Josh Caldwell
14 Shari Bell
16 Kathy Laird
17 Greg Harrison
20 Franklin Hurd
21 LuAnne Hetrick
27 Beth Asbury
30 Zabette Elam
31 Lan Blanchard

July Anniversaries

6 Mark & Amy Hodges
22 Craig & Barb Cunningham
27 Austin & Sarah Simmons

August Birthdays

2 Paula Roland
10 Alvin Seelow
Lois Swon
11 Jon LaManes
14 Josh Birkhead

Thresa Hurd
16 Bonnie Berry
Sarah Simmons
21 Jean Schutte
22 Dan Reed
26 Cyndy Coleman
27 Nolan Byrne
28 Alex Rothwell
29 Melburn Fisher
31 Rachel LaManes

August Anniversaries

3 Rob & Danette Henderson
4 Jacob & Bre Asbury
7 Bruce & Cyndy Coleman
8 Jay & Beth Asbury
25 Dan & Cheryl Reed

July Speakers

July 2 Leanne Reed
July 9 Eric Holmes
July 16 Leanne Reed
July 23 Eric Holmes
July 30 Eric Holmes

August Speakers

August 1 Leanne Reed
August 13 Eric Holmes
August 20 Leanne Reed
August 27 Eric Holmes

July Diaconate

Elders: Greg Harrison & Arlen Provancha Deacons: Laura Cowan, Alisha Eisele, Jon LaManes & Dustin Wasson Teen Associate: Tanner Eisele

August Diaconate

Elders: Joyce Coleman & Glenna Johnson Deacons: Chris Johnson, David Lewellen, Carol Norman & Melanie Utterback Teen Associate: Tristan Johnson

**Perry Christian Church Board
July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024**

Board Chairman	Nancy Seelow	254-3344
Vice-Chairman	Tom Hurley	406-4670
Board Secretary	Carol Norman (2023-2026)	565-2288
Trustee (3)	Term (3 years)	Phone Number
David Lewellen	July 2021 - June 2024	248-6458
Tom Hurley	July 2022 - June 2025	406-4670
Jim Bair	July 2023 - June 2026	845-787-7190
Elder (6)	Term (3 years)	Phone Number
Joyce Coleman	July 2021 - June 2024	565-2174
Greg Harrison	July 2021 - June 2024	565-2648
Jim Gay	July 2022 - June 2025	565-2677
Glenna Johnson	July 2022 - June 2025	473-7269
Arlen Provancha	July 2022 - June 2025	565-3407
Nancy Seelow	July 2023 - June 2026	254-3344
Diaconate (12)	Term (3 years)	Phone Number
Alisha Eisele	July 2021 - June 2024	473-2387
Jon LaManes	July 2021 - June 2024	473-2132
Rachel LaManes	July 2021 - June 2024	473-2132
Wyatt Lewellen	July 2021 - June 2024	565-0101
Melanie Utterback	July 2021 - June 2024	473-1993
Renea Brown	July 2022 - June 2025	473-8533
Laura Cowan	July 2022 - June 2025	210-3428
Chris Johnson	July 2022 - June 2025	822-4351
David Lewellen	July 2023 - June 2026	248-6458
Carol Norman	July 2023 - June 2026	565-2288
Dustin Wasson	July 2023 - June 2026	305-3158
Teen Associate	Term (1 year)	Phone Number
Trenton Brown	July 2023 - June 2024	473-8533
Alyia Cowan	July 2023 - June 2024	210-3428
Marley Cowan	July 2023 - June 2024	210-3428
Tanner Eisele	July 2023 - June 2024	473-2387
Chloe Foster	July 2023 - June 2024	406-8289
Tristan Johnson	July 2023 - June 2024	822-4351
Clerk-Historian (1)	Term (3 years)	Phone Number
Jeanie Gay	July 2023 - June 2026	565-2677
Treasurer (1)	Term (3 years)	Phone Number
Alisha Eisele	July 2023 - June 2026	473-2387
Assistant Treasurer (1)	Term (3 years)	Phone Number
Renea Brown	July 2023 - June 2026	473-8533
Laura Cowan	July 2023 - June 2026	210-3428
Honorary Deacons/Deaconesses	Honorary Elder	Honorary Trustee
Ronnie Cragen	Shirley Levings	
Eunice Fisher		
Melburn Fisher		
Connie Murray		
Minister		
Church	P.O. Box 479 Perry, MO 63462	565-2799