

Fairview United Methodist Church

Newsletter

July 2021

Loving God & Loving Others = worship + missions



Changing Times

One time a mother walked in on her 6 year old son who was sobbing. "What's the matter?" she asked. "I've just figured out how to tie my shoes." "Well, honey, that's wonderful. You're growing up. But why are you crying?" "Because," he said, "now I'll have to do it every day for the rest of my life."

Change is difficult for us all. Everyone will have some rough times ahead, storms that will challenge us, throw us off course and even scare the living daylight out of us. Just like the disciples, God does not promise us a peaceful voyage. God does promise, however, that He will always be present.

God is indeed present in our lives because He cares, and sent His Son to keep us from perishing because of our sins. The story is told of an ancient king who dearly loved his son but wanted him to grow in character by facing up to life's hardships. So he sent him out into life to meet whatever troubles might come his way. The young man thought he was alone and grew with each difficulty he met. He did not know that his father's love had caused the king to send out a group of strong and brave knights to look after his son. Through the dark nights when he could hear the howling of wild beasts, the prince had no idea that the knights were near at hand for his protection. In life we may think we are alone. We need to remember that a loving and caring Heavenly Father is keeping watch over his own. We are never alone. God cares and he is watching over us.

We see change all the time in this life that we live. It is a part of life. Isn't it great to know that God never changes; his love is ours forever.

God Bless

Pastor Joe

Pastor Joe

Welcome Pastor Joe!

We recently found out that Pastor Joe Tomich will be shepherding us for another year. Since COVID-19 prevented us from having a proper welcoming gathering during the summer of 2020, Virginia UMC is planning one this July.

**Welcome Gathering for Pastor Joe & Stacy
Homemade Ice Cream &
other Goodies!
Sunday, July 11; 3:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall, Virginia
UMC**



Prayer Concerns

Morris Bell, Hannah and Eva Blair, Rob Calder, Deandre Gabor, Elaine Harper, Brian Ralston

WHY WE CELEBRATE THE 4TH

But there is a reason why we celebrate on the 4th and we can't forget that! It was the day the colonies declared their independence from England. Freedom was declared in some famous words of the Declaration of Independence, which starts:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

And it was signed first by John Hancock and then by representatives from all the states. We still honor John Hancock by saying, "Put your John Hancock on there," whenever we ask for a signature. If you want to get a blank stare, ask someone for their "Josiah Bartlett." He's the second guy to sign, but nobody remembers him.

This was an exciting day! A day of joy and celebration. But what followed was anything but a simple joy or easy. You see, every Independence Day, my thoughts race ahead to what followed July 4th. Actually they run all the way to December of 1776. They go to this point in history because it's here that that history shows us how brittle and fragile was the hope of independence. George Washington was commanding an army that was disintegrating before his eyes. It looked as if all hope for victory was gone. He had made a military blunder that had lost New York to the British Army. The Congress had fled from Philadelphia because the city was seen as a lost cause. The Continental Army was low on gunpowder, guns, food, and other supplies. The civilians that had celebrated so heartily on July 4, 5, 6th, were now wondering if it would be wisest just to give up at this point. Most of the soldiers would finish their enlistments on December 31, and other didn't wait that long and simply deserted. George Washington's Army was about to be destroyed by British troops and German Mercenaries (Hessians). The future of America was hanging on by a thread.



Which makes the events of Christmas Day 1776 all the more amazing. Washington led his troops across the Delaware River against incredible odds. There was hail and sleet, and ice flows. The operation took hours longer than originally thought. Two of the generals failed to join in the fight because of the bad conditions. But Washington led his troops against all odds on a nine mile march and defeated the better trained and equipped Hessians and turned the war around. An almost impossible mission completed, and a seemingly undefeatable enemy, defeated. The future hung by a thread, but a thread was all it took. This is our history as Americans, and we ought to cherish it, and be grateful for it.

But for as great as this is, we have a richer and more amazing history and heritage as Christians. We have a great gift in the Bible. We can read our past, present, and future in the God-inspired book. We can look at our history as people of faith and we can see how time and time again it looked like our history hung on by a thread, but a thread was more than enough for God to sustain his people. My prayer is that as we take some time to look back this morning, that we would be inspired to trust God, to trust his provision, to trust his grace as we look to the future, and the times when it seems that our future may be vulnerable, or fragile, or in danger.

OUR STAFF AND SERVICES AT A GLANCE

FAIRVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3135 N. Cr 800e
Bath Illinois 62617

10:00 AM Fairview Sunday School
10:50 AM Fairview Worship Service

Pastor: Joe Tomich
Executive Administrative Assistant: Jess Miller

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