

✠♥✠♥✠♥ *A Word from Pastor Christy* ✠♥✠♥✠♥

Beloved Church Family,

In our country, these past few weeks have been intense to say the least. There have been many things – both small and large – that have raised our collective anxiety regardless of where we fall on the political spectrum. Personally, when my anxious feelings are on the rise, I have several techniques I’ve used over the years to help regulate my racing thoughts. As it turns out, one of the best tools in my “anxiety toolbox” is a spiritual one – and that is prayer.

At times, breath prayers work best (I talked about those a few months ago). Other times, it helps most to journal my prayers, as this helps me organize swirling or racing thoughts. And, in times when neither of those tools seem to work well, I read this well-loved prayer (printed to the right) to restore a sense of balance and control in my life.

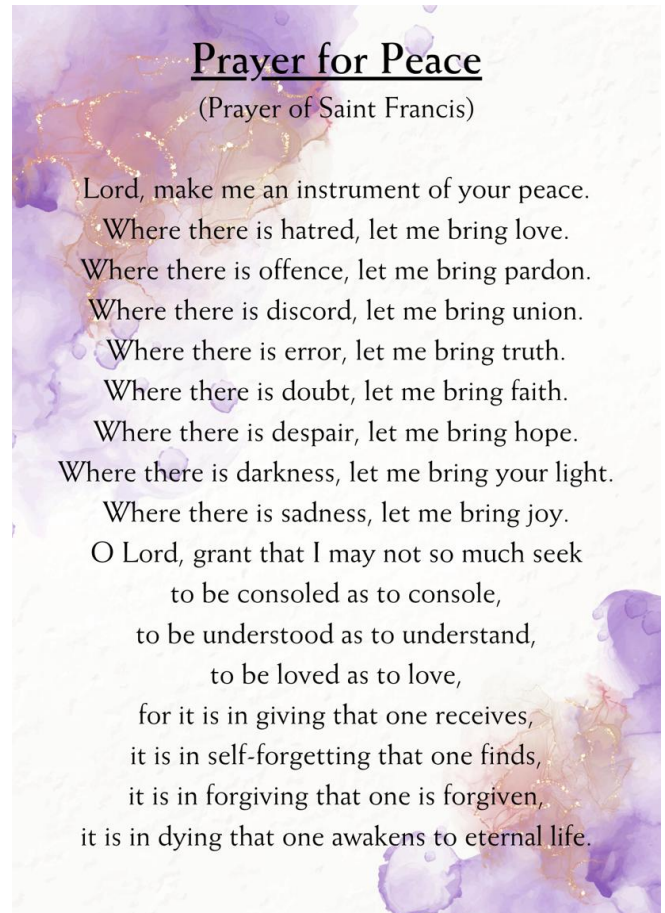
The “Prayer for Peace”, which is widely known as the “Prayer of Saint Francis”, has been a source of peace and hope for Christians all over the world. In a time where so many things are out of our control, it is a prayer that brings into focus what we CAN do when the threat of fear, violence, and grief take hold of our thoughts, emotions, and spirit.

This prayer has often been attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi, an Italian mystic who lived from 1181-1226. St. Francis is undoubtedly looked to as a man of peace; however, this prayer has never been found in any of his writings. Instead, the earliest known instance of it was in the December 1912 publication of the French, Catholic magazine called “La Clochette”, which means “The Little Bell”. Originally named, “Beautiful Prayer to Say During Mass”, it was printed without attribution to any author. However, it could have been penned by Father Esther Bouquerei, who founded the group that ran La Clochette.

Regardless of its author, this simple, yet deeply moving prayer has been used throughout the last century to help people of many faiths, ethnicities, and nationalities find peace in the midst of difficult circumstances. It has been made into songs, read during worship, printed in publications, shared across social media platforms, and whispered in bedtime prayers. It has helped God’s people endure in impossible circumstances, and it has inspired people just like you and me to continue the work for justice and peace even when all seemed lost.

In these uncertain and anxious times, my hope is that this prayer might keep our hearts and minds focused on what is possible when we lean on God and work to spread the peace we wish to see in the world. I invite you to hang it somewhere where you will see it during your daily routine. If your social media feed or the 24-hour news cycle get overwhelming, read this prayer and remember that peace is possible. If you get into heated disagreements with friends or family, read this prayer and remember to breathe. If you begin to feel powerless, read this prayer and remember that you can make a difference in the world. What you say and do matters, no matter how small or insignificant it might seem.

May we, as a church family, and as the body of Christ, remind ourselves of this peace as often as possible, so that we can, in turn, share its light with others wherever we go.



With Love and Hope, Pastor Christy Smith

St. John Prayer List

Chris Bates	Tish Bates	Lois & Stan Clark	Greg Erdmann
Cathy Haller	Denise Hamilton	Pauline Kraemer	Mary Lou Lurtz
Marian Nelson	Lonna Patton	Billie Rinderer	Orville Rinderer
Rogers Family	Connie Zimmers		

Ken Erdmann	(Greg Erdmann's brother)
Ken Fritz	(Cathy Haller's brother)
Richard Haller	(Cathy Haller's brother-in-law)
Angie Jones	(Pehg Zeller's friend)
Kurt Joseph	(Pastor Christy's friend)
Logan Miller	(Ron & Kimberly Tremmel's son)
Wendy Patterson	(Pastor Christy's cousin)
Tammy Press	(Marian Funk's niece)
Gary & Carol Weshinsky	(Laura Wesselmann's father & mother)



Pastor Christy is usually in the office Tuesday - Friday from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM but will make appointments if needed. Contact her by calling her cell phone at 618-973-3040. Beverly Adams, office administrator, will usually be in the office 9 AM to 3 PM, Monday through Friday, but her schedule may vary. Contact her at stjohntrenton@gmail.com or call 224-9828.

AUGUST Birthdays



Tim Fisher August 4	Cora Eckert August 15
Brian Kunz August 4	Martin Graul August 16
Karen Koch August 7	Myla Wernle August 17
Clayton Holloway August 10	Darla Bair August 22
Ray Feldmann August 13	Jill Rogers August 22
Michael Kunz August 13	Steve Feldmann August 24
Emma Haller August 14	Cathy Haller August 30
Rylee Toennies August 30	

AUGUST Anniversaries



Brian & Lynn Kunz Aug. 5	Ken & Donna Graul Aug. 8
Bonnie & Jim Arentsen Aug. 6	Lesley & Bill Koentz Aug. 13
Darrell & Darla Bair Aug. 6	Teresa & Jeff Von Bokel Aug. 26
Pehg & John Zeller Aug. 28	



**AUGUST COUNCIL
MEMBER ON DUTY**



Hank Henderson

Virtual Worship Services

Virtual services continue for those wishing to attend. We want to make worship as convenient as possible for our members and the community. Please see our website or our Facebook page for the Zoom link.

- To call in with phone audio only, call
- **1-312-626-6799** and then the meeting ID:
- **8436488110** followed by the pound sign.
- Password, if needed, will be: **62293**

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- *To Lonna Patton and Rev. Kniepkamp for leading worship services while Pastor Christy was on vacation*
 - *To those who have supplied not only good food but good fellowship during coffee hour*
 - *To all the sorters and organizers of the rummage sale for your dedication*



BOOK CLUB



The Book Club will be meeting August 7th at 1:00 PM to discuss their newest pick, "Under the Whispering Door" by T.J. Klune which is available for check out in the church library.

Book synopsis: When the frankly awful Wallace dies unexpectedly, he comes to the attention of Hugo, a teashop owner who ferries the dead to the other side of life. Wallace is a difficult case, but gentle Hugo gives Wallace a chance to come to grips with his predicament, opening up his eyes to love, beauty, and the absurdities that make every moment special.

Trivia Corner

Below are more questions about the life of Jesus.



(From WhatChristiansWantToKnow.com)

1. What was Jesus doing when the disciples were scared during a storm on the sea?
2. How long had Lazarus been dead when Jesus brought him back to life?
3. What was the reaction of the people after Jesus cast the legion of demons into the swine?
4. Jesus said, "Get behind me Satan" to which disciple?
5. Who anointed Jesus' feet with an expensive perfume and then dried his feet with her hair?
6. How many people did Jesus raise from the dead?
7. How many loaves of bread and fish did Jesus use to feed the 5000 in John 6?
8. Which disciple first refused to allow Jesus to wash his feet?
9. In whose new tomb was Jesus buried?
10. What was Jesus' final command to the disciples before ascending to Heaven?"

Answers are on page 5

Choir News

Choir will begin rehearsals on August 14th at 5 pm in the sanctuary. We are a small but mighty group and would love to have anyone else join us who would like to make a joyful noise.



FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST



The Fellowship Breakfast is the first Tuesday of the month at 8:00 AM at Good Ol' Days in New Baden.

Breakfast dates: Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5 & Dec. 3. Come join us for an enjoyable breakfast with others. It's a time for great conversation, food and fellowship. Everyone is welcome!

♥♥♥♥ Women's J.O.Y. Fellowship ♥♥♥♥

Things will be taken to Kindercottage on August 7, the day before the Rummage Sale so the last day for donations will be August 6. Any school supplies your child or grandchild needs to begin the year is needed at Kindercottage. The vestibule doors will be open every week day now through August 6. School supplies can be left and they are kept separate from rummage items.



The number of Brown Bag Lunches in July fluctuated quite a bit but we managed to go with the flow to ensure everyone got a sandwich, drink, fruit, dessert and a little trinket showing Jesus' love to the children. We believe we have enough of everything on hand except bread, to finish out the next two weeks before school begins. We were able to share cheese with the Methodist Church so their volunteers could avoid opening a new container of cheese. Thanks to all volunteers for their help this past month.

IMPORTANT RUMMAGE SALE DATES

- August 1, 2, 5 & 6 – Vestibule will be open 9 AM to 3 PM.
- Tuesday, August 6 – Last day for donations
- August 5, 6 & 7 – Help is needed to sort and price @ 10:00 AM
- Thursday, August 8 – Open from 5 PM – 8 PM (Full price)
- Friday, August 9 – Open from 8 AM – 1 PM (Full price) and 2 PM – 6 PM (Half price)
- Monday, August 10 – Open from 9 AM – 1 PM (\$4 Brown Bag Sale)

Help is needed for the four shifts of the Rummage sale on August 8, 9, and 10. Several people who routinely help at the rummage sale are not able to work this year. Cashiers, floaters, upstairs managers, elevette operators, and clean up volunteers are needed desperately. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex or you can call the office to sign up. Leave a message if there is no answer.



BLESSING OF BACKPACKS



August is a busy time for children and young adults alike. On **Sunday, August 11**, we are inviting students and teachers to bring their backpacks, schoolbags and/or briefcases to worship that day for a "Blessing of the Backpacks". We want them to know that, as a community of faith, we will support them in their efforts to learn and grow in their academics as well as on their spiritual journey. Please join us on August 11 for worship and for a blessing of the backpacks!

Planning Meeting

There will be a Wurstmarkt planning meeting after church service on Sunday, August 18th. Please attend if you can!



Rainbow Preschool News

Rainbow Preschool is finishing up summer vacation and will start the 2024/2025 school year on Monday, August 12. In preparation for that and to give students a good start to the year, we will have an open house on Friday, August 9 from 6:00 to 7:00 PM.

We are still enrolling students in our Monday/Wednesday/Friday program for children ages 4-5 and our Tuesday/Thursday program for children ages 3-4. If you know anyone that would be interested, please have them contact me via email at rainbowpreschooltrentonil@gmail.com, Rainbow Preschool Facebook page or by calling the office at 618-224-9828. Our returning students and new students will receive an email in August regarding open house dates and information regarding the 2024-2025 school year.

Everyone please have a safe and healthy summer! We will see everyone on Monday August 12th and Tuesday August 13th.



Trivia Corner Answers

1. Sleeping. Mark 4: 35-41
2. Four days. John 11:39
3. They were angry and wanted Him to leave their city. Matthew 8:28-34
4. Peter. Matthew 16:23, Mark 8:33
5. Mary, the sister of Martha. John 12:3
6. Three. The widow's son: Luke 7:11-17; Lazarus: John 11:43-44; Jairus' daughter: Matthew 9:18-26, Mark 5:21-43, Luke 8:40-56
7. Five loaves of bread and two fish. John 6:1-13
8. Peter. John 13:4-9
9. Joseph of Arimathaea. Matthew 27:57-60
10. Go into the world, preach the Gospel, baptize believers and teach them. Matthew 28:19-20 Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8



TrentonFest 2024

Friday, August 16 & Saturday, August 17
at Trenton Community Park

Live Music, Food, Carnival Rides, Firefighter Challenge, Glow Fun Run

👉 Parade will be Saturday, 8/17 at 4:30 PM 👉

