



THE CONNECTION

Orlean United Methodist Church



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Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. James 1:17

Message from the Pastor:

Many say that our world is, frankly, a very fearful place in which to live. Depending on which day's news one might peruse and regardless of the print/electronic/televised form that one may prefer, you might find real life examples of mayhem, murder, crime, tragedy and accident, unforeseen acts of nature such as floods, tornadoes, and hurricanes among others, terrorism, never ending war, sickness, greed, addiction, deception, deceit and duplicity---sometimes at the highest levels of trusted organizations, and the list goes on and on. And by the way, the above state of affairs is certainly not new or unique to our time in history; it has existed since the time of Adam and Eve.

In response, many seem to become virtual prisoners in their own homes; afraid to really venture out into the world any more than absolutely necessary. This retreat or surrender is not only physical, but for some spiritual as well. But there is another, far more effective way of living in this world, and even more pointedly and directly, living as a Christian in a world that seems to be increasingly uninterested in things spiritual and/or religious. Listen to these words from scripture: (and this is but a small sampling)

- *Angel of the Lord to Zechariah: "Do not be afraid Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard....." (Luke 1:11-12)*
- *The Angel Gabriel, sent from God to Mary: "Do not be afraid Mary, for you have found favor with God....." (Luke 1:30-31)*
- *Angel of the Lord to Shepherds in their fields: "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you tidings of great joy for unto you is born this day, which shall be to all people....." (Luke 2:10-11)*
- *Angel of the Lord to Joseph: ".....Do not fear to take Mary as your wife,"(Matthew 1:20-21)*
- *Angel of the Lord to Joseph: ".....Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you"(Matthew 2:13)*
- *Jesus to Simon (Peter): "...Do not be afraid, from now on you will be catching men." (Luke 5:10)*
- *Jesus to Jarius: ".....Do not fear, only believe, and she will be well." (Luke 8:50)*
- *God to Jeremiah: "Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you...." (Jeremiah 1:8)*
- *God to Joshua: "Do not be afraid or dismayed....." (Joshua 10:25)*
- *God to Abram (Abraham): "Fear not Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." (Genesis 15:1)*
- *God to Isaiah: "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God...." (Isaiah 41:10)*
- *God to Isaiah: ".....Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." (Isaiah 43:1)*

- *God to Isaiah: "Fear not, nor be afraid....." (Isaiah 44:8)*
- *The Lord to Paul: "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you..." (Acts 18:9)*
- *God to you.....Do not be afraid!*
- *Jesus to you.....Do not be afraid!*
- *Holy Spirit to you.....Do not be afraid!*

Not a sermon, just a thought.

Think about it my friends.

Pastor Jim

Tip of the Halo to:

- **Trustees** for replacing the runner
- **Karen** and **Mike** for hosting Erin's baby shower and **everyone** who participated
- **everyone** who baked cookies for Kairos
- **everyone** who helped Mason celebrate his 2nd birthday
- **everyone** who donated money and items for Kits for Conference (30 Health Kits and 3 School Kits)
- **everyone** who helped with breakfast on April 13
- **Kenny** and **Scott** for replacing the church steps and the railing
- **Ellie** for sharing her home and delicious food at Ladies Night Out in June
- **everyone** who contributed to the 5th Sunday Potluck in June
- **everyone** who donated Campbell's "Labels for Education" to send to Red Bird Mission
- **Lorraine** for the altar flowers

Birthdays and Special Occasions

Jeff S.	July 7	Joan P.	July 31
Carol P.	July 9	Betty & Bob Tschida (anniv.)	August 1
Sandy S.	July 9	Amelia H.	August 3
Karen S.	July 12	Michael S.	August 10
Bobby M.	July 15	Rusty R.	August 21
Elma C.	July 20	Bob B.	August 27
Connie & Bob Dixon (anniv.)	July 23	Eileen & Jim Leamon (anniv.)	August 31
Jim L.	July 25	Betty T.	August 31
Susan & Bill Chaney (anniv.)	July 26	Zachary H.	Sept. 10
Karen & Michael Sweeney (anniv.)	July 26	Gus & Elma Constantinides (anniv.)	Sept. 14
Steven M.	July 30	Tammy S.	Sept. 15
Lorraine U.	July 30	Bill C.	Sept. 26

Calendar of Events

July 4	Happy Birthday, USA!
July 14	Administrative Council meeting after worship
August 4	backpacks due
September 29	5 th Sunday Potluck after worship
September	Orlean United Methodist Women meet online

Food Pantry

During the second quarter, the Food Pantry was able to help six families (2 families coming more than once) with food, sundry items, and gift cards. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund was able to help one family with their electric bill and another family with diapers and a gas gift card. During the second quarter, the escrip program donated \$17.57 to the Food Pantry fund.

Backpacks

Sign-up begins the first Sunday in July to help FISH provide backpacks and school supplies to the needy students in Fauquier County. The backpacks are due at the church the first Sunday in August as FISH will be distributing them on 10 August.