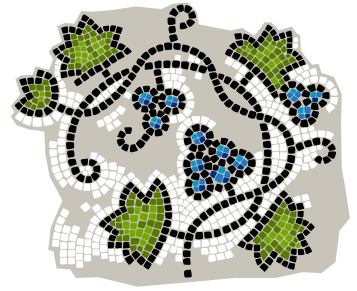


# GraceVine



**July-August 2021 VOL. XLII No. 7-8**

*A note from your New Editor:*

*Happy summer wherever you may be! First, a Big Thank You to Gail Bucher for the outstanding job she has done as the GraceVine Editor. Those are some big shoes to fill! We thank Gail and Stan for all they did for our church and community. They will be sorely missed. BPC wishes them all the best in Arizona and understand the need to be closer to family.*

*During our transition period of finding a new pastor, we will have a Pastor's Corner. I sought permission from our former Pastor, Rev. Jim Gordon, of Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Missouri, to share his thoughts and he is honored to do so. I hope you will enjoy him as we have these many years.*

*If you don't know, I am undergoing chemotherapy and it has been a challenging few months. For those who have been praying for me, thank you. I welcome all prayers, they are what keep me going. We just learned after several scans, the chemo and God are at work and things are going extremely well. We recently watched the movie, "The Secret." If you haven't read the book or seen the movie the message is very inspiring and certainly gives you food for thought on your outlook for each day.*

*LeeAnn*



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**Phone: 239-694-2444**

**10:00 Worship Service**

**11:00 Fellowship**

*Sharing God's Love through Fellowship, Ministry and Worship*

Newsletter deadline is the 20th of every month. Items may be sent to Editor,  
**LeeAnn Burt: [leeinkc@hotmail.com](mailto:leeinkc@hotmail.com)** or deposited in the GraceVine mail slot in the office.

## Pastor's Corner

For some reason I have been really anxious this week about the end of the pandemic. I have wanted some assurance of when it will all be over. But in my uncertainty I have found some comfort in this short meditation by Buddhist nun and teacher, Pema Chodron, as she reflects on The Middle Way:

As human beings, not only do we seek resolution, but we also feel that we deserve resolution. However, not only do we not deserve resolution, we suffer from resolution; we deserve something better than that. We deserve our birthright, which is the middle way, an open state of mind that can relax with paradox and ambiguity. To the degree that we've been avoiding uncertainty we're naturally going to have withdrawal symptoms — withdrawal from always thinking that there's a problem and that someone, somewhere, needs to fix it.

“The middle way is wide open, but it's tough going, because it goes against the grain of an ancient neurotic pattern that we all share. When we feel lonely, when we feel hopeless, what we want to do is move to the right or the left. We don't want to sit and feel what we feel. We don't want to go through the detox. Yet the middle way encourages us to do just that. It encourages us to awaken the bravery that exists in everyone without exception, including you and me.”

Silent, centering prayer — just sitting with our breath and a word (Jesus, Yahweh, Maranatha) or a Biblical phrase, “provides a way for us to train in the middle way — in staying right on the spot. We are encouraged not to judge whatever arises in our mind. In fact, we are encouraged not to even grasp whatever arises in our mind. What we usually call good or bad we simply acknowledge as thinking, without all the usual drama that goes along with right and wrong. We are instructed to let the thoughts come and go as if touching a bubble with a feather.”

Try just sitting with the words of the Psalm, “Be still and know that I am God.” Just watch what thoughts come into your mind. Let them rise and disappear like the tiny bubbles from a pot of water about to boil. Rest in God.

Reverend Jim Gordon  
Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church  
Kansas City, Missouri

Subscribe to the Buckingham Presbyterian Church of Fort Myers YouTube Page which livestreams Sunday Worship::

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCE\\_FSoWbzh2LHpIT\\_DDVRTw/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCE_FSoWbzh2LHpIT_DDVRTw/videos)

## Christian Education News

**In May, we concluded our 2020-2021 Adult Sunday School Bible study. Like many things our congregation had to learn to do differently, our class of 13 members, led by Vicki McWhorter, studied together thru emailing of weekly lessons that followed the lectionary. In September, we look forward to our Bible Study resuming face to face each Sunday morning. Contact Vicki McWhorter or the church office for more information or if you have questions.**

Search for our  
new Pastor  
Military Overseas  
& Home  
All 1st Responders  
All Educators  
Church & Officers  
Dawn Hart Branch  
Paul Carlisle  
Matthew Estrada  
Leslie Fox  
Cliff Gridley  
Mark Harris  
Larry Ickes  
Vicky McGee  
Cody Smith (Grandson of  
Sue Barshinger)  
David Smith  
Doris Whitaker



*Names will remain on the  
prayer list for one month,  
unless requested for longer.  
Please call the church  
office 239-694-2444 if you  
wish to add or delete a  
name.*



*On my bad days, I seek you,  
on my good days, I thank you,  
on my great days, I praise you,  
but everyday I need you.*

*Thank you God for  
always being here for me.*

*Amen*

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

07-5 ALEXIS BROWN  
07-6 SARAH RICCIO  
07-20 PHYLLIS LARRANAGA  
07-21 DAVID FARMER  
07-31 JUSTIN ANKNEY  
07-31 SUSIE GREEN

### JULY ANNIVERSARIES

07-8 JOHN & HARRIET BRANDT  
07-27 DAVID & PAT FARMER

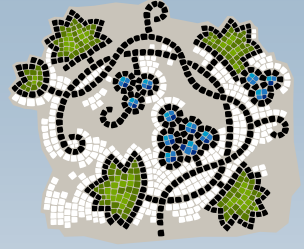
### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

08-1 NICHOLAS MOYE—CUDNEY  
08-11 KYLE NOLEN  
08-17 BILL FOGNINI  
08-17 BETTY ICKES  
08-20 JOAN LEIGHTON  
08-22 ANNELIESE HIGGINBOTHAM  
08-23 RED ROBERTS  
08-24 PHILIP MOODY  
08-25 PAUL TOMLIN  
08-26 SCOTT EDMONDS  
08-28 KURT WAGNER  
08-31 BETTY CARLISLE

### AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

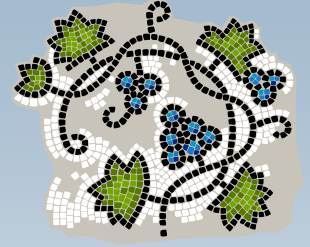
08-2 STAN & GAIL BUCHER  
08-7 LARRY & BETTY ICKES  
08-10 PAUL & PATTIE TOMLIN  
08-24 LEONARD & SUE BARSHINGER

# July 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00 Labor & Landscapers <b>9:00 Stitch 'N Stuff</b>	2	3
4 10:00 Sanctuary Worship 4th of July	5	6	7	8 9:00 Labor & Landscapers <b>9:00 Stitch 'N Stuff</b>	9	10
11 10:00 Sanctuary Worship	12	13	14	15 9:00 Labor & Landscapers <b>9:00 Stitch 'N Stuff</b>	16	17
18 10:00 Sanctuary Worship	19	20	21	22 9:00 Labor & Landscapers <b>9:00 Stitch 'N Stuff</b>	23	24
25 10:00 Sanctuary Worship	26	27	28	29 9:00 Labor & Landscapers <b>9:00 Stitch 'N Stuff</b>	30	31

# August 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 Sanctuary Worship	2	3	4	5 9:00 Labor & Landscapers <b>9:00 Stitch 'N Stuff</b>	6	7
8 10:00 Sanctuary Worship	9	10	11	12 9:00 Labor & Landscapers <b>9:00 Stitch 'N Stuff</b>	13	14
15 10:00 Sanctuary Worship	16	17	18	19 9:00 Labor & Landscapers <b>9:00 Stitch 'N Stuff</b>	20	21
22 10:00 Sanctuary Worship	23	24	25	26 9:00 Labor & Landscapers <b>9:00 Stitch 'N Stuff</b>	27	28
29 10:00 Sanctuary Worship	30	31				



## THANK YOU

### **Buckingham Presbyterian Church and Friends**

I would like to thank all of our members and their friends for your participation in the Bob Evans Fund Raiser for May. I hope all of you enjoyed not having to cook and had a great meal. We look forward to seeing you for our next Bob Evans day in October.

What a great response we had for our Cornell Chicken BBQ. For those who participated we hope you enjoyed something different. For those who were not to be able to attend you missed out on a great BBQ chicken dinner.

I personally want to say a huge THANK YOU to all who came out on a Saturday to work and make this such a success. All I can say is how fortunate we are to have such giving members of their time and talent.

I also want to thank Cal Brown for offering to take over the Fund Raising Committee so I can chair the Worship Committee, I know he will do a great job.

Thank you everyone for supporting the Church and the work of the Lord.

Kathie Saum  
Fundraising Committee Chairman

### **STITCH 'N STUFF**

Don't forget to do good and to share what you have with those in need, Hebrews 13:16. The secret of success is to find a need and fill it. Sigmund Freud said the will to pleasure or sensuality is the primary stimulus of the human life. Sensuality is a profound need and, according to Mr. Freud, the ultimate need. I believe that what Mr. Freud said can be applied to our Stitch 'N Stuff circle. We found a need back in 2002 which is when we started Hope Hospice. The need has snowballed to the point we are contributing to six



different groups each year. We are doing a good job of getting things made. It is what we know will make a person feel better — a pillow, a walker bag or perhaps a prayer shawl. These are just a couple of items we make to help those in need. We would like more of you to visit us on Thursday mornings in Clayton Hall from 9:00 til 11:00 am to see our work. If you have any questions call Betty Carlisle at 239-728-1101.

**The Fellowship Committee invites you to join us for after service fellowship over light refreshments (coffee, juice & finger foods.)**



July 4th commemorates the day in 1776 that our nation declared itself to be an independent nation, and no longer a colony of England. On that date, a number of our leading citizens signed what is known as the Declaration of Independence, stating our determination to become a free country.

Our independence did not come easily, only after several difficult years of war would it finally be won. Nor were our first years as a nation free from problems and controversies (and that is still true). But our forefathers were determined to establish a free and democratic system of government, and the Declaration of Independence (together with our Constitution and the Bill of Rights) became the foundation for this. They have stood the test of time, and on July 4th we give thanks for the wisdom and faith and courage of those leaders.

Although it is not a religious holiday like Christmas or Easter, for many Americans July 4th is a time to reflect on God's goodness to us as a nation. Molded into the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia (which proclaimed our independence) are these words from the Bible: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" (Leviticus 25:10, KJV). Our legal system reflects our Judeo-Christian roots.

### **Nursery**

Along with our church doors opening for worship each Sunday, our nursery is also open. Ashley has returned to us fully COVID-19 vaccinated and joyfully looks forward to taking care of our youth during worship. Our nursery is open from 9:00 am - 11:00 am and provides care for children ages infant through kindergarten.





### The Secret

One day, one friend asked another, “How is it that you are always so happy? You have so much energy, and you never seem to get down.”

With her eyes smiling, she said, “I know the Secret!” “What secret is that?” To which she replied, “I’ll tell you all about it, but you have to promise to share the Secret with others.”

The Secret is this: I have learned there is little I can do in my life that will make me truly happy. I must depend on God to make me happy and to meet my needs. When a need arises in my life, I have to trust God to supply according to HIS riches. I have learned most of the time I don’t need half of what I think I do. He has never let me down. Since I learned that ‘Secret,’ I am happy.”



The Mission Committee is pleased to announce that because of your previous generous donations, most all of the needs for Tice Elementary have been met for school supplies and underwear for the coming school year.



The questioner’s first thought was “That’s too simple!” But upon reflecting over her own life she recalled how she thought a bigger house would make her happy, but it didn’t! She thought a better paying job would make her happy, but it hadn’t. When did she realize her greatest happiness? Sitting on the floor with her grandchildren, playing games, eating pizza or reading a story, a simple gift from God.

Now you know it too! We can’t depend on people to make us happy. Only GOD in his infinite wisdom can do that. TRUST HIM! And now I pass the secret on to you! So once you get it what will you do?



### A note from your Session:

A Session Committee has been formed for our interim pastor search and candidates are being reviewed.

The Mission Study committee consists of session and church members and will be determining our church’s future missions focus.

Stay tuned ...

Why go to Church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!  
 Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!  
 Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!  
 IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL, YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL !

B. I. B. L. E. simply means: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth



God grant that not only the love of liberty, but a thorough knowledge of the rights of man may pervade all nations of the earth, so that a philosopher may set his foot anywhere on its surface, and say, "This is my country."

Benjamin Franklin

### Church Office

To meet the needs of our new normal and demands while seeking a new pastor, our church has new office hours. Denise will be in the office each day from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm with a 30 minute lunch break from 1:00-1:30 pm.





## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Hope you are having a great day because we have good news for you. Buckingham Presbyterian Church is fully open and going strong. **All we need now is to fill the pews with YOU!**

It has been a long time since we have all been able to attend Church and hear the Choir but they are there and we are all enjoying their music. Speaking of music, we are also singing hymns at each service and it is a wonderful feeling.

We are in need of Lay Readers and Greeters so you may receive a call to volunteer for one of these positions. If you would like to put your name on the list to volunteer give me a call at 419-423-3517 and I will add you to the list.

I am also looking for volunteers to help with communion now and in the future.

A huge Thank You goes out to Bob Peterman, John Jones, Rodney Burt, Candace Sundby, the Choir, Grace Shuga and the Session for working so hard to make this happen. We will still be on Zoom and YouTube but it would be wonderful to see you in person.

Hope to see you in church!

Kathie Saum  
Worship Committee Head