



Lisbon United Methodist Church

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Pastor Joshua Swaim

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday School 8:30 am
(September-May)

Worship 9:45 am

From the Pastor's Desk

15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of] your evil behavior. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— 23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Colossians 1: 15-23

As a nation, we will celebrate our liberty and freedom again this July. We remember the revolution and battle that took place so that the people of our land could be freed from the tyranny of unjust foreign rule and thought. We are so thankful to God for providing a way for people to seek their liberty. We remember and are so grateful for the men and women who gave their lives for freedom's cause.

As I remember the American revolution, I recall that the most liberating act of all time was when Jesus Christ lived, died, and was resurrected for you and I! This is the good news! Jesus Christ has freed us from the

bondage of sin and death. He has done everything needed to make us new! This has made possible the ability for us to live in the liberty of His love and grace! Believe this gospel of Jesus Christ and celebrate your true freedom today!

Happy 4th of July!

God Bless you,

Pastor Josh

Small Group Studies

These studies are open to ALL. Come join one or more to hear the word of God and build a lasting relationship with Him and fellow Christians.

Men's Breakfast @ VJ Reinken 108 Grant Ave Lisbon

This group meets for a devotional reading from My Utmost for His Highest, prayer, breakfast, and Christian Fellowship.

Sisters in Christian Study (SCS)-The SCS group is currently reading Max Lucado's book Be Anxious About Nothing. Our next meeting will be July 19 at 7:00pm in the Church Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome to attend.

Women in Christ (WIC)-The WIC group's current study is in Galatians. The July meeting will be held on July 1 at 1:30. All women are welcome to attend.

Community Services

Southeast Linn Community Center will be hosting a free backpack distribution with school supplies on August 3. They are seeking donations for backpacks and school supplies. We will be hosting a supply drive at Lisbon UMC. All donations may be placed in the bin in the overflow room by July 17, and we will deliver the donations to SELCC. If you have any questions, please ask Alex Bock or Abby Bock.

TOP 10 NEEDED SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Folder with pockets; Glue sticks; Spiral Notebooks (wide ruled); Red pens; Highlighters (multi color, individual); Composition notebooks (wide ruled); Pink erasers; Dry erase markers (black); Sharpies (black); Kleenex

Looking for a way to get involved?

Vacation Bible School is happening July 31-August 4 from 6-8pm. Volunteers are needed before and during this week. There is a sign-up sheet in the Overflow Room, or you may contact the church office for more information.

Scholarships:

The Mary Kettering Endowment Scholarship is accepting applications for students that have completed at least one year of college. Applications are available in the church office or by emailing a request to lisbonumc@netins.net. All applications must be returned to the church office no later than July 15, 2022.

Dates to Remember:

- Every Wednesday Men's Breakfast @ VJ Reinken 108 Grant Ave Lisbon
- **July 1**-WIC-1:30pm at the Church
- **July 17**- Final day for school supply collection
- **July 19**-SCS-7pm at the Church
- **July 31-August 4**-Vacation Bible School (VBS) This year's exciting journey is "A Jewish Marketplace (6-8pm)

Prayers

Please keep the following in your prayers

Betty Stoneking's family; Ben Jamison; Nancy Rottman; Priscilla Burnett; John Heims; Tim Miller's family; the Kamerling family; Marilyn Pleasant; Kurt Headington; Dale Johnson; Kathy Jamison's sister, Vionne; Jim Farmer; Ryan Stoneking; Emma Bock and Kendra Schmidt during their mission work.

Thank you, Jesus, for the answers to our prayers! We praise and thank You for new life, healing of the injured and sick, providing our daily needs! We lift up prayers for our family members who are sick, hospitalized, injured, and those who are in need. We ask for Your Presence in our community and in our world. Amen

Member's Musings

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ. For those of you who took the time to come to our town hall meeting on June 26th, thank you. This issue on human sexuality has come to the forefront of our congregation. I personally have not witnessed discrimination in my near 20 years in this Lisbon United Methodist Church family toward any particular lifestyle. However, this has been an ongoing debate for the last 50 years in the "Larger, Global United Methodist Church" and some of our leadership and delegates have chosen to take a liberal approach to the Word of God and to blatantly go outside of the vows they took to serve in the United Methodist Church.

As I shared last Sunday, the reason we have been in this Church family for 20 years, is the love we witnessed for each other the first time we attended. We felt welcomed and lifted up from the first day we stepped foot into this Christian community. It has also been a place of great growth through programs offered by the United Methodist Church. Opportunities to participate for many years on the Administrative Council, being part of the District Committee on Ministry and numerous Bible studies with friends and families in our Church. In addition, it was people in this Church family that also invited me to participate in things like The Walk to Emmaus, Chrysalis Flights for young adults and Bible Study Fellowship. All of these experiences have led me to a deeper walk in my relationship with Jesus Christ, my personal Lord and Savior. It is unfortunate, but we are at an impasse within the greater United Methodist Church with respect to Human Sexuality. Our Book of Discipline, which are the rules all our Bishops, Clergy, and we as members of the Church vow to uphold. Our Bishops, cabinet and Clergy took a vow when they were ordained to live by these principles. When we profess to be a member of the United Methodist Church, we vow to live by these rules too. These rules are steeped in the teaching of the Bible. The larger United Methodist Church, which includes delegates from all around the world have remained steadfast in validating the Book of Discipline is in alignment with Christian Teaching. However, there are a group of Bishops, Clergy, leaders, and lay delegates that have chosen to change how we interpret the Word of God. They have chosen to allow the "World Views" to change how the Word of God is interpreted, vs measuring what is going on in the world against the word of God. So, we are at an impasse. We need to choose who we are going to serve. Are we going to serve a World View that allows us to shift with the ever-changing ways of the world, or are we going to

choose to look at how we live our lives, how we worship God, and how we shared God's Word with others, basing our teachings on the Truth of God's Word?

This is a tough discussion at best. We have people that want to be more inclusive of LGBTQ+ lifestyles by allowing our pastors to marry any two consenting adults. And we have people that believe that the LGBTQ+ lifestyle is not in alignment with Christian Teaching. The challenge I see is that we have always been inclusive in our Church Family, but we have people who suggest that if we don't allow people of the same sex to be married then we are not really being inclusive. As we discussed on June 26th in the town hall meeting, we are not the judge, only Jesus Christ is given that authority. I don't believe that we should allow sin to be encouraged at any level within our Church Family. This being said, we believe that God commands us to love everyone as our neighbor. We believe that all people are of great value to God. When we look at sin, one sin is not bigger than another. Sin is sin and we all fall short of perfection. I don't see homosexuality any different than I do cheating on a spouse, coveting my neighbor, or choosing to worship idols ahead of my Lord and Savior. We will all be called to judgement by Jesus Christ when we go to meet him.

Each of us needs to study the information that has been provided on both sides of this issue. Each of us needs to determine how we will live our lives. Each of us needs to choose to live by an ever-changing World View, or will we measure the World View against truth.... the Word of God.

I would ask each of you to take the time to go through these articles, videos, web sites, etc., and make sure you understand each sides position. We will also hold small group meetings on Wed and Thu evenings during the month of July to allow for discussion around this topic. We welcome the discussion so we can all be informed when we make our choice.

In the end, WE will need to make a decision. This is not the Administrative Council making this decision. We will need to come together and chose which path we will take. In my humble opinion, the World View path is wide, and using the Bible as our measurement tool is the narrow path.

I will leave you with this scripture. Matthew 7:13-14 13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Bob Brus
Certified Lay Minister

In Search Of:

Please save your 1-gallon plastic containers from any plants that you are purchasing this spring/summer, as I will be making some Christmas evergreen floral arrangements to sell at our Christmas Treasures for Christ event in December. You may drop them off at the church by the office. Thank you very much! Wendy Johnson-President, United Women in Faith.

Reminder-If you would like a copy of the new Our Daily Bread, Mike and Dawn Morgan will deliver them to your home. Please call the office at 319-455-2000.



***Reminder:** Please have all articles/information for the August newsletter to the church office by July 26.

We will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows, and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:15-16