



**August 2023
Leadership**

Lead Usher
Mike Pyle

Audio/Visual

*David, Lynn
McDonald
& Jill Hauswirth*

Offering Counters

*Sandy Brecht
& Peggy Pyle*

Kingdom Kids

Volunteer Needed

Transportation

Volunteer Needed



**Please be in prayer
for the following:**

General Prayer Requests

Dale Scott

Cancer Treatment

*Chris Atkinson
Matt Thomas*

Health and Healing

*Nick Tate
Jim Greene
Jean McDonald*

Military

*Staff Sergeant Jim Weter
Nathan Harralson*

*You're
Invited!*

August Events

- August 6 Cash For Backpacks
- August 12 Backpack Distribution 9-11 am
- August 13 Leadership Team after Worship
- August 23 MV First Day of School

Upcoming Events

- September 2 Class Reunion
- September 4 Office Closed for Labor Day
- September 30 Emmaus Training

Wednesday Activities

Bible Study at 5 pm

**NOW
OPEN**

10:30 - 4:30

Monday - Thursday

Lynn McDonald

Administrative Assistant

A note from

PASTOR DONNIE

Dear Church Family,

Recently, I've been asked these two questions, "Where in the Bible does it say that homosexuality is a sin?" and "How should the Church respond?" I will attempt to give a succinct, but adequate answer to both questions. Maybe it will be helpful for you even if you haven't considered these questions previously. Contrary to what has been presented in the media and from pro LGBTQ+ advocates, the Bible has a lot to say about the issue in both the Old and New Testaments. "But Jesus never mentioned the subject?" is another common statement heard in present culture. I will start there.

Actually, Jesus did confront the issue of sexual immorality.

"Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning 'God made them male and female.'" And he said, "This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together." Matthew 19:4-6 NLT

Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for having such a low regard for the Biblical ideal of covenantal marriage and clearly affirmed the Biblical vision of marriage as a lifelong union between one man and one woman.

Furthermore, Jesus disapproved of all forms of sexual immorality. 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality (emphasis mine), theft, false testimony, slander. 20 These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them." Matthew 15:19-20 (NLT).

But, some may ask, "Did sexual immorality include all LGBTQ+ sexual expression?" The term in the Greek for "sexual immorality" is "porneia" which directly correlates with the Jewish understanding of God's law in Leviticus concerning sinful sexual conduct. Here's the list:

1. His neighbor's wife (Leviticus 18:21)
2. Another man (Leviticus 18:22)
3. An animal (Leviticus 18:23)
4. His mother-in-law (Leviticus 20:11)
5. His daughter in law (Leviticus 20:12)
6. His sister (Leviticus 20:17)

You may have heard this phrase, "As long as we love each other it is ok" or "Who are you to tell me who to love?" So, if I love anyone on the above list, is it ok to have sexual relations with that person? Even without the Bible, most people would say, "Absolutely not!", yet in the area of homosexuality and other LGBTQ+ activities we have been bombarded by present culture to accept unrestrictive sexual practice in the name of "love".

However, 1 John 2:15-17 says, "Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever." When the object of love is anything other than what is approved by God it is sin.

Other verses:

Leviticus 18:22; Leviticus 20:13; Jude 1:7; Romans 1:26-28 Mark 10: 6-9; 1 Kings 15:12; Romans 1:32; Romans 1:27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:8-11; Hebrews 13:1-5; John 8:7-11; Romans 1:26-28; Jude 1:5-8 Mark 10:6-9; 1 Corinthians 7:2; 1 Corinthians 6:17-20; Romans 1:18-32.

So, how should the Church respond?

The Church is called to stand firm against sin and pursue God with passion (heart, mind and soul). We should welcome all into our worship services since they will hear the gospel there and we should love them, since God commands us to love even our enemies, but we should not allow anyone to disrupt our worship services or cause division and strife within our congregations. We should, absolutely, offer to walk with those who's desire is to flee from sin and pursue righteousness. Not because we have already achieved it, but because there is power in encouragement. This applicable for all who are struggling to overcome any sin.

If you are interested, here are some good books Annette and I recommend:

Holy Sexuality and the Gospel by Christopher Yuan

A Change of Affection by Beckett Cook

Out of a Far Country by Christopher Yuan

Gay Girl, Good God by Jackie Lee Perry

Blessings,
Pastor Donnie

CAPS FOR KIDS

Caps for Kids is a ministry in which we make all cotton surgical caps for kids. They are donated to Mercy Kids in Springfield.

There are jobs for all levels from cutting circles, cut elastic, run the elastic, and sewing the caps.

Caps For Kids will meet on an as needed basis this summer.

Marion Belanger will let you know if Caps will meet.

Women Of The Word!

Women of the Word are starting back in September with the study: "Revelation: extravagant hope" by Margaret Feinberg. Let Lynn McDonald in the office know if you want a book. The cost is \$15.99. Stay tuned for more information.

MVMW!

Mustard Seeds

Planting seeds in faith

The Mustard Seeds are doing a study titled: "Jesus Followers Real-Life Lessons for Igniting Faith in the Next Generation".

By Anne Graham Lotz and Rachel-Ruth Lotz Wright

The Race of Life

Winning a relay race depends not only on the speed of the runners but also on each team member's ability to transfer the baton. If the baton is dropped or even bobbed, precious seconds are wasted, and the race may be lost. If the runner fails to pass the baton, the team is disqualified from the race altogether. You and I are in a race called life. The Baton is Truth that leads to faith in Jesus Christ. Each generation receives the Baton from the previous generation, runs the race to the best of its ability, then is responsible for passing it smoothly and securely to the next generation. Is our generation bobbling, or even dropping, the baton? We seem to be experiencing a bankruptcy of moral and spiritual values that threatens to erode our very existence.

The Mustard Seeds can be found after Sunday morning Worship in Room 103. It's a casual, multigenerational small group. Walk-ins welcome!!

Mt Vernon Methodist Women

TO: ALL LADIES of the CHURCH:

We will take August off for a summer break.
Our next meeting will be
September 12th at 11 am at the Red Barn.
Judy will be the Hostess and give the Devotion.

Happy Summer to all!!!!



Thank you for your generosity with our
“Cash For Backpacks” collections.
Our June “Cash For Backpacks” collection brought in
\$267.92.

Our next Cash for Backpacks collection is
Sunday, August 6th.

You can also bring your donation anytime to the Church
office.

We will continue the Cash for Backpacks collections on the
first Sunday of every month. We need your help to make
this a successful ministry.

Happy
BIRTHDAY

2 Jean Duwe
13 Nicole Morris
23 Lance McKinzie
Emma Morris
26 Opal Mosley
29 Sandy Brecht

HAPPY
Anniversary

7 Steve & Jeannie Jones



**Distribution is Saturday,
August 12th from 9-11 am.**

We will need help getting ready, and for Distribution. We will start assembling the supplies the week before the 12th. If you would like to help contact Jean Duwe at 417-737-1239.

AUGUST 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Cash for Backpacks Baptism at Paris Springs Lilly Belanger	7	8	9 Bible Study at 5 pm	10	11	12 Backpack Distribution 9-11 am
13 Leadership Team after Worship Mustard Seeds after Worship	14	15	16 Bible Study at 5 pm	17	18	19
20 Praise Team 8 am Mustard Seeds after Worship	21	22	23 MV First Day of School Bible Study at 5 pm	24	25	26
27 Praise Team 8 am Mustard Seeds after Worship	28	29	30 Bible Study at 5 pm	31	1	2