

THE HERALD

Listening to God's Heart from the heart of the city.

Finding the Middle Ground

To say that we're living in a polarizing time is an understatement of mega proportions. Whether we like to admit it or not, we are divided in several different ways, we are prone to face off rather than to face forward in unity. We have witnessed protests that protest the protest and group against group all with no real logical conclusion to reach. Each person comes to an individual equation with what one believes. These beliefs are often very rigid in our individual understanding that we are leaving no room for a slightly different interpretation.

Most of us have participated in a tug-a-war competition at one point or another in our lives, so let's focus on that image for a moment. Being a person of larger stature, not just adorably chunky, but physically strong, I was always placed at the very tail end of the rope to serve in the anchor-type position. Now when we all look to the anchor in a tug-a-war, we place our trust in the person's ability to sink down in the dirt and become an unmovable object, standing firm, and not giving into to the tugging force.

As the anchor I always felt that it was my job not to jerk the rope but to pull on it slow and steady until the other side, our opponents, relent and start to shift as they held tight. I would really love to say that every time I anchored, my team rose to the challenge and won the struggle. Well, that would be a lie – okay, I will settle for we won most of the time. Wait a minute that too would be a lie. Let's just settle on we won sometimes.



But when we look at a tug-of-war as a life event, did anyone really win. Perhaps in the grand scheme of things one side prevailed and their position was held. But all wins are temporary folks. Sometime, someday, somewhere, someone is going to come along with a stronger anchor and a different position to reach their objective. A position gained is also a position that is lost.

Throughout history struggles, battles, and wars have been fought, won and lost by all sides. My proposal is not to hold fast to one position or another, but offer an opportunity to listen and learn. When we truly listen to one's true voice we can not only hear but better understand a person's viewpoints and often understand their actions in one way or another. When we form preconceived notions, we miss out on the opportunity to learn something new. I personally feel that as our nation struggles with so many issues we move past the polarizing stance of politics and embrace each other as Americans. As our denomination draws lines in the sand and each side shouts to have their voices heard; let's realize that somewhere in the battle a human is suffering from a decision. As we pass judgments on the people we are blessed to inhabit this planet with, we are silencing the children of the creator - our brothers and sisters in Christ.

May we search for the word of God and apply those words to our lives,

- Pastor Terry

NOW

Our Back to School Shopping Day is August 5th, beginning at 8:00 am - 3:00 pm. If you would like to volunteer please use the link here:

<https://forms.gle/skYYpB42J4bQvLmJA>

NOW Weekend Meal Bagging will start back on Thursday, August 24th at 4:00 pm. We hope to see you there!

Movie Night

Movie night will be Friday, August 25th at 6:00 pm! Popcorn and drinks will be provided! Come wearing your comfy clothes, bring your blankets, your favorite chair and anything you need to make this movie night great for you!

Join us for a fun and easy night!

August Hint: "On a quest, the right way isn't always the easy one"

See you at the movies,
Kirbie & Wryn

Happy Hour

On Sunday, August 20th at 1:00 pm, Happy Hour Gardening Group will be hosting a salsa making class taught by Stephanie Townsend! We will meet in Asbury Hall and Stephanie will share her knowledge with a very lucky class using vegetables from the NOW Community Garden! We ask that you sign up so that we will have enough stations set up and supplies! There will be a sign up at the welcome center. We hope to see you there and in the garden!

Church Chums

With the start of the school year brings the start of this year's Church Chums! In this program a student, Preschool-8th grade, will be paired with a secret adult Church Chum. The Church Chum responsibility is to shower their student with cards and small gifts periodically throughout the school year, all while keeping their identity a secret. Then in May there will be a Church Chum reveal party! If you would like to participate there will be a sign-up for the adults and questionnaires for the students at the welcome center. The deadline to get signed up is the Sunday before Labor Day, and assignments will be given to the Church Chums the Sunday after. If you have any questions about this program, please contact Jennifer Boatman at 618-843-0908. Let's nurture the future of our Church with some love and fun!



Ice Cream Social

The Nurture Committee will be hosting a FREE Ice Cream Social on August 30th at 5:30 pm! There will be Ice cream sundaes, cookies and hot dogs. Please plan to attend, and we encourage everyone to bring a friend with them! More information on how to sign up and help will come later!

Second Wednesday Dinner

Proverbs & Power Tools will be hosting the Second Wednesday Dinner on August 9th at 5:30 pm. It will be a free will donation to raise money for supplies for the group.

Menu will be smoked pork boy sandwiches with sides and desserts.

Reminder from Stephen Ministry:

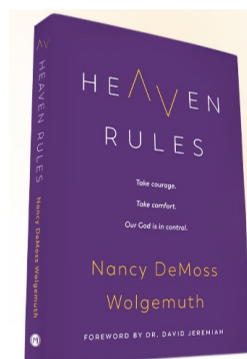
Love one another with mutual affection;
outdo one another in showing honor.

Romans 12:10 NRSV

Christian Book Exchange

The Christian Book Exchange has moved to the alcove next to the elevator.

August's featured book is *Heaven Rules*. According to author Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth, "Heaven rules" means God is sovereign over everything that touches us. . . . He is ruler over every diagnosis and prognosis, over all incomes and outcomes, over the most daunting challenges as well as the most seemingly trivial details of our lives. Though earth's happenings often seem random, meaningless, hopeless, and even cruel, what is happening in the heavenly realm is infused with such wisdom and goodness, with such a plan and a purpose, that if we knew what God was doing, we would worship Him and praise Him for whatever is happening around us, no matter how it looks from our human, earthly perspective. Your heart and spirit will be lifted and encouraged as this book reminds you that "Heaven rules."



August Birthdays

8/4	Mike Parker
8/6	Liz Dhom
8/7	Tyler Carter, Nancy Mattsey
8/8	Brian Wilson, Denny Knight
8/10	Phuong Quick
8/12	Matthew Schmidlin
8/13	Kirbie Ackman
8/15	Janet Clark; Emerson Reinoehl; Gracen Elliott
8/16	Dorothy Youngs
8/19	Paula Summers
8/22	Joyce Owen, Janelle Oxford
8/27	Brent Owen
8/28	Mike Bell
8/29	Antje Pippin
8/30	Justin Aydt, Amy Hartke
8/31	Walker Odom

August Anniversaries

8/2	Chris & Jennifer Emken
8/3	Brandon & Melinda Harmon
8/4	Jim & Suzanna Wallace
8/14	Jason & Amy Hartke
8/15	Brian & Julie Wilson

Prayer Requests

Carol Wolf; Carl Blanton; Michael Brady; Cathy Thomas; Judson Richardson; Julie Zhang; Bill Thompson; Michael Keene; Lisa Schaefer; Nicole Young; Evan Prah; Richard Youngs; Kay Young; Vonnetta Shipman; Thelma Gifford; Jennifer Newlin; Bernie Limper; Melinda Wehrle; Mandy Harris; Cindy Weger; Blain Loll; Miranda Waddell; Ruth Fiscus; Rhea Hayden; Ray & Nelda Dotson; Margaret Beaman; Alexander Forrey; Ninette Faith; Lou Bonnell; Claudette Mejean; Laurie Vaugh; Susan Rodgers; Adrian Hays; Rachel Tracy; Paula Aydt, Connie Calvert; Randy Butcher; Stephen Ministers; Care Receivers; Dorothy Fasig; Doug Finkbiner; Clem Aydt; Annette Leighty; Spencer Meagher; Craig Waggoner; Tom Price; Brenda Graham; KJ Reid, Tricia Anderson; Jon Anderson; Alex Townsend; Brad Harris; Andy Limper; Karen Villalobos; Dason Douglas, Dorris Ballard; Lora Simmons; Mary Etta Whitmer; Joy Anderson; Rhonda Moade; Barbara Bell; Jocelyn Ramsey; Leth and Jeff Stanford; Mary Correll; Becky & Donna Beabout; Beth Rynke; Roger Hamilton; Bennett Smith; Breanna & Melissa Young; Fran Dorn; Lynn Stucker and family, Jimmy Vinson

AUGUST 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:45 am - NOW Summer Lunches 6:00 pm - Unbinding the Gospel	2 10:45 am - NOW Summer Lunches	3 10:45 am - NOW Summer Lunches	4 12:30 pm - NOW Shopping Set Up	5 8:00 am - NOW Shopping Day
6 9:00 am - Worship 10:15 am - Deep Dive	7 4:00 pm - Happy Hour Gardening Club	8	9 5:30 pm - Second Wednesday Dinner 6:30 pm - Stephen Ministry	10	11 9:00 am - NOW Dental Exams	12
13 9:00 am - Worship 10:15 am - Deep Dive	14 9:00 am - Clergy Consultations 5:30 pm - SPRC Meeting	15	16 6:00 pm - Team Meetings 7:00 pm - Church Council	17	18	19
20 9:00 am - Worship 10:15 am - Deep Dive 1:00 pm - Happy Hour Salsa Class	21	22	23 6:30 pm - Stephen Ministry	24 4:00 pm - NOW Bagging 6:00 pm - SPY	25 6:00 pm - Movie Night	26 7:30 am - Proverbs & Power Tools
27 9:00 am - Worship 10:15 am - Deep Dive	28	29	30	31 4:00 pm - NOW Bagging		



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