

FROM THE MODERATOR

Your Council continues its search for an Interim pastor. We have received four profiles as of this writing. At this time we have interviewed three of these people by telephone and we will continue this process. We would like all those who are participating in providing meaningful services at Open Prairie. Our church members have heard inspirational messages from the pulpit.

*From your Moderator,
Bill Ollila*

JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 1	10:30 am	Senior Sunday/SS Teacher Appreciation
June 4	8:00 am	Prayer group @ Autrey's
June 4	6:00 pm	Prairie Circle@
June 5	6:30 pm	Choir @ Webber's
June 5-7		Ill. Conference Annual Mtg.
June 7	10:00 am	Youth Fundraiser, Hornbaker's
June 11	8:00 am	Prayer group @ Autrey's
June 12		Church office closed
June 12	6:30 pm	Choir @ Webber's
June 13	9:00 am	Church office open
June 18	8:00 am	Prayer group @ Autrey's
June 19	6:30 pm	Choir @ Webber's
June 25	8:00 am	Prayer group @ Autrey's
June 26	6:30 pm	Choir @ Webber's
June 27	8:00 am	Church reserved - Hornbaker
June 28	8:00 am	Church reserved - Hornbaker

☺ **HAPPY June BIRTHDAY** ☺

June 2	Tara Jagers
June 5	Jim Jarvis
June 7	Mary Forristall
June 14	Jim Hughes
June 15	Katie Forristall
June 15	Gary Klingel
June 16	Tori Bettasso
June 24	Dee Dennick
June 26	Frank Bouxsein
June 27	Bea Borst

June 29 Tom Beneke

Stewardship and Finance

Thanks to each of you who answered the appeal to financially support our church's *Strengthen the Church* special offering on May 11th. You helped to support programs for youth and young adults, new congregations, renew existing congregations and aid the "God is Still Speaking: ministry and its message of inclusivity.

Thanks also for supporting *Tools and Blankets* on May 18th. A simple truth: Things that we often take for granted...

water...education...tents...garden tools...seeds – can make a world of difference for people devastated by tragedy. Princeton Church Women United sponsors the *Tools and Blankets* program through Church World Service. We can make a difference!
REMINDER: Please continue your financial support during the summer months. You may be on vacation, but Open Prairie's financial commitments are not. Spread the love. God is still speaking.

Patricia Wilson, Chairman

Prairie Circle News

The next Prairie Circle meeting will be held Wednesday, June 4, 6:00 pm at the home of Becky Perkins, 406 N. Euclid Ave.

Please bring a covered dish to share.

Just Checking!

Have you checked out a DVD, book, CD, or a copy of Curran's thesis recently? If you are finished using the item please return it to the church office so that other members may enjoy it. Thanks!

Mission News

Greetings from the Mission Team,

Summer is almost here! Yippee! We received our first Coneflower organic produce on May 22nd.

This year we have eight Open Prairie households participating. The Zehrs said that their CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) business has increased by 50%. Their produce can also be purchased each Tuesday and Saturday. Thanks to everyone who is supporting this wonderful source of organic and locally grown produce.

We hope to have a movie/slow food night at the end of June. We will keep you posted when that will be and what our film selection is.

Thank you everyone who signed up to help us with the Harry Potter festival. We still have a few slots open for the 8 to 9 shift for the night of July 12th. If you are unsure whether you want to get involved ask anyone who has done it in the past and you will hear that it is a lot of fun--a big Open Prairie party. We are at our best when we have a project going. Speaking of parties, we will have our annual chocolate frog night where we wrap and attach the wizard cards to the chocolate frogs. This too, is a wonderful time of fellowship and hilarity. We'll be meeting to do this in early July.

Margaret and Hal Autrey will be in Michigan for the month of June. We would be most grateful if someone would volunteer to take the food to the Food Pantry throughout June. Please talk to Susan or Kelly if you would be willing to take on this mission for a month.

The Food Pantry has asked us to contribute Macaroni and Cheese for the month of June.

Thanks everyone for your support!

Peace,
Kelly and Susan

FOOD PANTRY FOR JUNE: Macaroni and Cheese



Christian Education

Sunday School Schedule:

June 1: OYSS: Becky and Wendy

YYSS: Kathy and Wendy

June 8: OYSS: Becky

YYSS: Nikki and Dawn

June 15: OYSS: Nikki

YYSS: Dawn

June 22: Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Sunday.

No Sunday School.

June 29: OYSS: Becky

YYSS: Wendy

June 7th Hornbaker Cookout Fundraiser for Senior High Youth Mission Trip. The Senior High are so very close to reaching their fundraising goal. Thank you to everyone who has participated in all of their fundraising efforts. Youth need to be there from 10 - 2. We start serving by 11. Be sure to come out and do your shopping at Hornbaker Gardens as well as enjoy a yummy pork chop sandwich or brat cooked by our senior high youth!

Senior Highers watch your mail and text messages for a date for the final planning meeting for the trip.

Help wanted: The Christian Education Team would like to hire someone or a couple of people to work in rotation to serve as the Nursery Attendant. This person would be responsible for the safety and all around good time of all children up to age four during each Sunday Worship time. This is a paid position. Minimum age for the person holding this position is 14 years of age. Please fill out an application and return it to the church office as soon as possible. We would like to have this position filled no later than mid-July.

Happy Summer!

Wendy

Just a reminder. We are continuing to recycle ink jet cartridges. All proceeds are used to help fund the younger youth going to camp.

Church Council News

The next Church Council Meeting will be Tuesday, June 24th, 7:00 pm.

Health Ministries

Spirituality and Health

I decided to write this article somewhat based on my recent experience with a major illness. I had the opportunity to once again examine my own spirituality and spiritual disciplines.

First, before I continue any further I think it would be helpful to be reminded of one of the definitions of spirituality. Spirituality is the way in which you find meaning, hope, purpose, comfort and inner peace in your life. Many people find spirituality through religion, others through music, art, or a connection with nature, and still others find it in their values and principles

Second, I would like to talk briefly about spiritual distress. Spiritual distress and spiritual crisis occur when we are unable to find sources of meaning, hope, love, peace, comfort, or strength, or when conflict occurs between your beliefs and what is happening in your life. This type of distress can sometimes have detrimental effects on your physical and mental well being. Illness can often trigger spiritual distress in both the person experiencing the illness as well as family members and close friends.

No one really knows for sure how spirituality is related to health. It does seem however that the body, mind and spirit are connected. The health of any one of these seems to affect the health of the others.

Some research has shown that things such as positive beliefs, meditation, prayer and other spiritual disciplines can contribute to healing and a sense of well being. Improving your spiritual health may not cure an illness, but it may help you feel better, prevent some health problems and help you cope with illness, stress and even death.

So as we continue through spring and into summer I would ask each of you to take a moment and examine your own spirituality and spiritual disciplines. You might start by asking yourself the following questions.

1. What brings me hope, strength, comfort, meaning, peace, love and connection in my life?
2. What do I hold onto during difficult times?
3. What keeps me going?
4. What is my own personal spirituality and practice?

5. What source is most helpful to me? (Prayer, meditation, reading scripture, attending worship, listening to music, communing with nature etc.)

Once you have answered these questions, I would encourage you to make a commitment to yourself to practice one type of spiritual practice or discipline each day.

Peace, Mimi

News From Curran

Dear Ami and OPUCC,

Thanks for sending the newsletter. It is good to get news of you and to see that OPUCC is landing on its feet (of course). I pray that a wonderful Interim is just around the corner. Who ever comes to serve "this little church that could" will be blessed beyond measure!

Katie and I continue to adjust to new calls and new invitations. We love our home, but can't help wondering what is in bloom at 308 Park Ave West. We love being near family, but miss our OPUCC family more than we ever imagined possible. We love having friends and mountains nearby, but still it will take time to belong in California again.

I have a picture of Palm Sunday at OPUCC in my new office and when people ask- *who is that?* I tell them- *that is my beloved Open Prairie, they are my secret strength and the people to whom I compare all others.*

Be well and be good to each other.

Respectfully,

Curran

Rev. Dr. Curran R. Reichert

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