

Lexington *Presbyterian*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JUNE/JULY 2022 | VOLUME 20

Summertime & the Living is Easy

“Summertime and the Living is Easy” was a song that was written most notably by George Gershwin. It’s been sung by Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong and Chaka Chan. Guinness World Records says it’s been recorded over 67,000 times. That may be enough to call the song a classic. At the very least it would be a great addition to a summer play list.

Even though the song has garnered quite a bit of attention, for some, the lyrics might be questionable. Is the living easy in the summer time? It’s certainly not for those who have to mow, tend a garden, keep up with landscaping, run kids to camp, get a Fourth of July Party together, or squeeze in a family vacation before everyone needs to go back to school shopping. Not to mention the work load for farmers or folks in the trades during the summer. For some, summertime is one of the busiest seasons. Because it can be so busy, the living may not be easy in the summer but missing the blessings and the gifts that come with this season can be.

Every season has its challenges and opportunities, and each one seems to go by fast. An old preacher named A.W. Tozer said, “Summer is the period of full power when life

mutiples, and, it’s hard to believe that it can ever end.” With the long days and the heat it can seem like summer will never end, but it always does. A good question to ask in this season is, “What do I want this summer to be like?” Or, “how can this season be one where I grow with God?” That’s not necessarily a challenge to go out and do more. Most of you who receive this newsletter are already busy. The point is to think about how to have a good story about this season when it comes to an end. That’s always a good question to keep in mind.

As we move through this summer, it might be helpful to think about the kinds of things you’re looking forward to? What brings you joy in this season. How can it be more of a blessing to you and others? God is the ultimate source of every good and perfect gift according to James 1:17. He wants us to enjoy this season, because He created it, and He’s in it, just like He’s in every season. Whether this summer is easy or not, find a way to make it a good one. It’s just a season, make the most of it, and look for God’s gifts and opportunities along the way, whether they be for work, rest, or service. Have a truly blessed summer!

Happy Birthday!

Happy June & July birthdays to our family and friends or happy belated birthday! We hope and pray that each of you have a blessed day celebrating and thanking God for another year to serve and enjoy Him. If we missed your birthday let Aaron know. And don’t forget about the birthday offering basket at church which supports two children overseas: Melvin in Honduras and Shravani in India. Thanks, and have a truly happy birthday!

June & July Birthdays

- June 7th Evan Conder
- June 14th Ray Young
- June 15th Joe McMillen
- June 18th Sadie Flucke
- June 21st Hannah Conder
- June 22nd Daniel Flucke
- June 22nd Kayte Martin
- June 24th Sonya Johnson
- June 27th Alexis Keller
- June 29th John Cole
- June 30th Allison Walker
- July 7th Stephanie Richey
- July 8th Michelle Flucke
- July 15th Connor Caudill
- July 18th Charlie Tidwell
- July 21st Loretta London
- July 28th Pauline Kleopfer
- July 31st Jeff Conder

New Seasons

*Remembering how God orders our steps
and leads us as His people.*

Every season of life has its blessings and its challenges. One of the challenges can be the simple fact that seasons are temporary. By definition, seasons are a period of time, not a permanent state. When things are tough, it's helpful to remember that it's just a season. When things are good, we don't want to think about it coming to an end, but that's what seasons do, they end and new ones begin.

In light of that, here are two things that might be helpful to remember. Remember that God is in every season, good or bad. He promises in scripture to never leave us or forsake us.

Second, remember that God orders our steps. Psalm 37:23 in the KJV says, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord." Proverbs 16:9 says, "The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps." All that to say, God is not only with us in each season, **He is also directing us and guiding our steps so that we can fulfill that plan that He has for us.** That's helpful to keep in mind as we go through the different seasons of life. God has a plan. He is very strategic and intentional. He leads us through life and each season brings new opportunities to learn, grow, and live out the plans and the purposes that He has for us.

At Lexington Presbyterian, we are at the beginning of a new season. We've been moving towards this for some time now. It started, all the way back in 2018, (hard to remember life before Covid), when we celebrated our church bicentennial. That was a great Sunday remembering our history and how God has ordered our steps as a church through so many different seasons. There was also a sense that as we moved into our third century we were moving into a new season as a church.

Another major piece of this transition was Covid. Our lives and our rhythms around the church were disrupted. While we can debate the politics behind it, China's role in it, and what the appropriate responses should have

been, one thing is for sure, God was present in those 2 years. Some of us might have been absent from in person worship, but God was not absent from us. God was at work and one of the things that He was doing, was preparing us for a change.

And now that we have, to a certain degree, moved out of the pandemic we have started to move into a new season. On June 26th, we celebrated Lincoln Taylor as he transitions to a new role in our church following many years of service as both elder and trustee. On June 5th we elected two new elders for the first time in 8 years (Cory Walker may need to fact check that!).

Donna Sipe is one of those new elders. She started attending our church on March 4th, 2012. It's an easy date to remember for some because it was the Sunday after the tornados went through Henryville. She has been a faithful member and attender for this last decade, and she has been a leader, in more ways than she realizes. She will be a helpful and energetic addition to the board.

Bryan Wallace is our other new elder. Bryan and Brandi Wallace have been attending for several years now and they too have been a wonderful addition. Brandi helps with the kids program and Bryan has been an incredible help with technology. God's timing of bringing them our way when He did is another example of God ordering our steps. When the Wallace's started attending we had no idea how important technology would be to the life of our church, but what a blessing his help has been throughout the pandemic. Donna and Bryan will make a great addition to the leadership team at our church as we discern exactly where God is leading us and what this new season in our long history will look like.

One of the things that we are already thinking about is improving

our ability to use technology to better connect with others. With that, we are looking at putting in a sound booth to contain all of the equipment that we have added over the last couple of years. We are also looking at updating parts of our sound system that were installed when our new building was completed in 1997. And we are also looking at making some improvements to how we stream our church service.

But this new season will be more than just upgrading technology. There will be other changes to come for sure, that's the nature of a new season. When you think about it, some things have to change because the world has changed during these last couple of years. If our church is going to continue to point people to the grace, the truth, and the love of God we are going to have to think about how to best do that in this changing culture. Everyone is moving into a new season, and we want to think about how to

with others the good news of a God who is the same yesterday, today, and forever more.

That's another comforting thing to remember in the midst of all that's changing. How we do some things at church might change, but while the methods change, the message never does. The mission of our church to **Love God, Love One-Another, and Love the Lost to Christ** remains. How we do that in a new season isn't clear yet, but we know that God is with us. He is ordering each one of our steps. He always has, and He always will. So, as we move into a new season as a church, be in prayer, be open to the Holy Spirit's leading, and be flexible. Know God is ordering our steps, and while every step isn't easy, each one helps us fulfill the plans that God has for us, and his plans are always good, (Jeremiah 29:11). Because of Jesus, the future is always good and filled with hope. With Him, the best is always yet to come!

Church Signs

With the recalls, hopefully choosy moms aren't choosing JIF! But peanut butter aside, there's nothing we can choose that's better than Jesus. In our walk with Jesus we sometimes underestimate the importance of the word, choose. The complex issues around salvation aside, does Jesus choose us or do we choose Him, this word is important. Obeying God involves choosing to trust Him and choosing His will over our own. Choice also plays an important role in relationships. Choosing to spend time with Jesus, through prayer, study, worship, and gathering with other believers impacts the kind of relationship we have with Him. Daily choosing Him over our own wants, desires and will is the best choice we can make. And the good news is, with Jesus, there never are recalls. So be choosy, and choose Jesus.



Pastor's Pen

Giving Honor to Whom Honor is Due

That phrase comes out of Romans 13:7 and it's in reference to paying taxes and how we should view those who are in positions of authority. That can be a hard pill to swallow depending on your views of those who are in office. I am going to stretch this verse possibly beyond the message that Paul intended when he wrote Romans 13:7, but I am also going to steer away from politics, (you can breathe a sigh of relief!)

I think this phrase, "Give honor to those whom honor is due," is a helpful way to think about people in your life who have worked hard, served, loved, and led faithfully. And in the case of Lexington Presbyterian, Lincoln Taylor has done that. It was a privilege to honor his many years of service to Christ at our church. God used Lincoln more than I'm sure he realizes. Our church has been blessed by him in so many ways.

It's important for us to create a culture of honor, gratitude and praise as a church. Recognizing those who faithfully serve Christ is a way of not just honoring the individual, it's a way of honoring God. True servants are used by God, and they are gifted, empowered and called by God to do His work as His hands and feet in this world. Showing those people honor, and taking opportunities to express our gratitude not only blesses the person, it blesses our Lord.

Showing appreciation is also encouraging, which can in turn be motivating. When someone notices your work and expresses their appreciation of it, it encourages you and inspires you to keep going, and to keep it up.

Showing honor and appreciation to one another also helps us function better as a team, or more accurately, as a family, the family of God. Hebrews 10:24 says we are to spur one another on towards love and good deeds. A powerful way to spur one another on to do the good work that Christ has called us to is by expressing gratitude and recognizing faithfulness. We work better with those who are encouraging, appreciative, kind, and helpful. We work more enthusiastically with people like that and they help motivate us to do our best. We are a better team and a stronger family when we honor and appreciate one another.

As Lincoln transitions from his role as an elder on the board and the building trustee, it's appropriate that we give honor to whom honor is due. The only problem I have with all of this is, I'd like to throw a party for each of you because in your own ways, all of you do so much for our church. Whether it's praying for one another, or volunteering to help do anything from preparing meals to cleaning. Some of you have helped with mowing, pressure washing, and you've helped Lincoln keep our church looking nice. Some of you help with decorating, or preparing the special services that come up throughout the year. And so many of you faithfully and generously support the church financially. The list is endless. Each of you do so much and even if you don't feel like your contribution is anything to speak of, it all makes a difference and it blesses the Lord. So, while I am especially grateful to Lincoln for all that he's done to bless our church and serve Jesus, I am grateful for each of you. You each help our church in a unique way that Christ has enabled you to, and I am very grateful for all that you do. Each and every one of you are a blessing to me and to our church and I just want you to know that I appreciate you, I am grateful for you, and I am honored to serve Jesus along with you.

Blessings, Aaron



Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

- Pray for Anthony and Sydney Hunger as they begin their new life together as husband & wife.
- Ben and Wanda Smith – Lois Smith's aunt and uncle who are both dealing with lots of health challenges.
- Todd Carr continues to battle gout.
- Betty Tidwell's Sister Dora Hawkins
- Pray for two excitedly expecting families - Justin and Amelia McMillen and Eric and Valerie Stuber.
- Pray Ashley Johnson who is dealing with some challenges with her health.
- Pray for Tim Soloe who had a massive seizure and is who is dealing with some of the side affects of that.
- Pray for all of those battling addiction

Pray for those who are in a season of loss

- Steve Smith, Angie Hinchman's dad
- The Middleton Family
- Pastor Dave Huey of Austin Christian who lost a daughter-in-law and grandson. Be in prayer for his son and granddaughter who suffered terrible injuries.

Pray for those Battling Cancer

- Catherine Taylor
- John Harlow
- Rich Hinchman's sister Paula and sister-in-law Beth
- Bella a student over at Lexington Elementary
- Ken Medley
- Keith Thompson
- Missy (Melissa)

**Pray for the people of Ukraine and for peace.
Pray for our nation: for the violence & the economy.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Connect Group** will be on a summer break this July. We will start back in August and we hope you will consider joining us in person or even via zoom.



- **Morning Goodies.** Thanks to Donna, Betty Tidwell, Angie Hinchman, and our biscuits and gravy deliverer, Charlie! We appreciate you all making Sunday mornings even better by making some great food that gives us a chance to sit down and visit. If anyone would like to help bring a little something, let Aaron know or sign up on the sheet at church. And come to worship early for a good late breakfast!



- Thanks again to everyone who helped make Lincoln's celebration really special. Thanks for bringing a dish to share. Thanks to those who helped set everything up, clean, and for making it an all around great day. It was really nice to be able to sit down and share a meal together as a church family. Thanks for everything!
- **Praying on the 15th.** Each month at noon we are joining together to pray as a church. Wherever we are and about whatever God lays on our heart, whether that's for our church, our families, or other concerns that you may have. Praying together helps us not only stay connected, it also strengthens us as a church. On Friday, July 15th, I hope you will join us in prayer!
- **Pastor's Vacation:** The Flucke's will be out of town from July 11th through the 17th. If you have any needs, questions, or concerns, please reach out to your elders (Lisa, Kayte, Cory, Bryan or Donna). They can get a hold of Aaron if there is a need. There will also be a guest speaker at church on July 17th, be praying for a great Sunday!



Messages

Filled UP to Go Out – June 12th and 26th

In June we did a two part series talking about how we need breaks every now and again. With the constant demands and pressures of life, we need moments when we are getting filled up and recharged. Doing this first helps us then go out and handle all the demands of life and it helps us serve in the way that Christ wants us to. Getting filled up with God's power, presence, and grace helps us then go out and live as his faithful servants.

A House Divided - July 3rd and July 10th

This is a short summer series around the 4th of July holiday that recognizes how special our nation is and how God has certainly shed his grace on this country, but there also seems to be a growing divide in our nation. The reasons behind this growing division are complex and they are many. In this series we will try to highlight a couple of the issues that are leading to our divide and we will look at what we can do about it as Christians.



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