



# For His Glory

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | TROY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
JULY 2022

## From Pastor David

When ShaShawna and I were planning our sermons for the summer we spoke seriously about preaching from 1 John instead of James during July. The series over 1 John just wasn't coming together, whereas the James sermon series just seemed to write itself! Since it felt like the Holy Spirit was trying to say something there, we went with James. Ultimately, James won out because he writes in a more structured and thematic way, which allowed us to craft a sermon series that builds on one theme - Christian Perfection - from week to week. So allow me to plug our sermon series "Chasing Perfection" briefly! In July we'll read the entirety of the Epistle of James together (so if you want to get a head start and let the Spirit begin opening the scriptures to you before Sunday, we invite you to read a chapter of James each week along with us). We'll build an understanding each week of how living as Christians should lead us to chase perfection as we grow closer and closer with Jesus. We hope you'll join us each week in July as we strive to be perfected in love!

Now, back to 1 John. Each week there are things I would love to preach about that get left on the proverbial "cutting room floor" because they just don't fit with what I'm preaching. I've had one of these "cutting room" moments where I want to share (to continue the movie analogy) the "preacher's cut" of where I was originally thinking of taking our sermon series for July. One of the reasons I considered 1 John to preach on in July is the way John talks about love in his epistles. I think it's a timely discussion for the state that our world is in today.

*God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. - 1 John 4:16a-20*

I get a sense that our world is very fearful right now. Fear is the feed that the 24/7 news cycle feasts upon in order to sustain itself and its need for perceived relevancy. Fear is the rallying cry of politicians who portend calamitous futures for our nation if the wrong people get elected. Fear is the spiritual witness of pastors who preach Christ's call to excise sin without offering His presence first to widows, orphans, aliens, lost, lonely, hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, incarcerated, oppressed strangers. Fear swirls all around us, grasping us many times unaware of its distorting power to warp our worldview. It sows distrust and hatred, the need to arise in triumphant conquest over that which - or whom - our fear is directed. Fear can choke the voices of reason and embolden the voices of hate.



Fear exiles love, understanding, kindness, gentleness, meekness, and self control. John tells us in his epistle that in many ways fear is the reason for the existence of hate. If we listen to the cacophony of voices around us and allow their message to root in our hearts, it is easy to fall prey to fear.

Jesus offers a different way. A way paved by the all-consuming presence of love lived and shown perfectly to us in Jesus Christ. It is easy to be fearful in our world. The reasons are legion: inflation, spikes of gun violence, growing political discord, impending elections, the continued specter of the post-COVID world, a world changing more quickly than we expected or wanted, our denomination's uncertain future...the list goes on and on. Yet, in the midst of the chaos and the calls to fear, Jesus calls us to Love. We must remember that a biblical love is not driven by feelings. Remember Paul's call to love in 1 Corinthians 13, ***"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."*** Everything about love revolves around what we do and how we relate to others.

This is the mindset that John calls us to in his first epistle. In a world that is rife with fear and all the ways fear manifests itself, we as followers of Christ are called to a different way. To not only love, but to allow Christ's love to drive out the fear that infests our lives and infests our world. What would our lives look like if we allowed our entire world view to be centered upon love? What would our world look like if Christ's church refused to be fearful but chose to boldly love instead? What would our world look like if we demanded our leaders and pundits to set aside the rhetoric of fear which breeds distrust and hate to pick up speaking truth in love instead?



Mark your calendars for July 27, the Revelation Jr High Youth Choir from Custer Road United Methodist Church in Plano will be here to share their musical gifts through a program of scripture and song. It will be a wonderful night of fellowship and entertainment! We'll begin at 6:15 pm with a hotdog supper for the community and the musical program will begin at 7:00 pm.



### Monthly Mission: July

Our Monthly Mission focus in June will be praying for the adults and youth as they go to Antlers, Oklahoma for mission trip.

Also, it's time to plan for the start of school in August by supporting the community Backpack Buddy program. Backpacks and school supplies are purchased for children who may not have the appropriate supplies if it weren't for this program. There are fewer children (37) this year, but as everything else, costs have gone up. The cost of one filled backpack will be \$67.88. Your donation of any amount will be appreciated. Please make checks payable to Troy UMC with "Backpack Buddies" in the memo line. Thanks for your generosity!!



# Vacation Bible School

July 31<sup>st</sup> – August 4<sup>th</sup>



**Come join us for a fun-filled week at Vacation Bible School with activities, games, music and learning about Jesus!**

VBS is for ages 3 years - 5th grade. We need volunteers to help in all areas!

See Lisa Browning for more details.

To register your child for VBS and/or to sign up to volunteer please visit

<https://vbspro.events/p/events/troyunitedmethodist>

OK

**Mission Trip  
2022**

We have 15 youth and 6 adults and one toddler traveling to Antlers, Oklahoma July 10-15th. Enrollment has ended. No supplies are needed currently but donations are always appreciated. Please keep these youth and adults in your prayers as they prepare for this trip to be the hands and feet of Christ.



## Stephen Ministry:

I was asked to preach at Grace United Methodist church in Copperas Cove in June which was an honor for me to be asked and to be able to practice my preaching skills as I continue to work my way through the ordination process. I decided to preach on Isaiah 43:18-20, which says; Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people.

As I was preparing for the sermon, it was shortly after the Uvalde school shooting. I had just heard about the devastating brain cancer diagnosis of the 25-year-old child of a dear friend and sister in Christ. As I was studying, I found myself emotionally relating to the people of Israel who received God's message from Isaiah right after Jerusalem fell to Babylon and took people into exile right after they finished destroying Israel's temple. I could imagine Israel sitting in piles of rubble, listening to God's message of hope for them. I don't know about you, but there have been moments in my life that all I could see was rubble, and lately, it seems like we keep getting hit left and right by some disaster or tragedy in our country or community, and it is hard not to see the rubble stack up. Now some of us can pick ourselves up from these rubble moments, see the new thing God promised, and move forward with life. If you are that person, that is wonderful, but I want to acknowledge that not everyone can do that. Sometimes the rubble is so deep and so overwhelming that we can't see anything but the wreckage created by the loss of a loved one, the difficult medical diagnosis, the job loss, the breakup of our relationships, the \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank with whatever is adding to the wreckage.)

If that is you feeling overwhelmed by rubble moments, that is okay. Sometimes, we all need help to see that God is still with us and that he is doing something new even amongst the hurt or pain. This is help that Stephen Ministers can provide. They can sit with you amongst the rubble until you are ready to get up and sort through the wreckage; they can help point you back to the God who never leaves your side. They can listen to the lament, the anger, or any other emotion you might be having. Stephen Ministers at Troy United Methodist Church are ready and willing to help; you just have to be willing to reach out and accept that support.

If you are interested in having a Stephen Minister, please email me at [shashawna@troymethodist.org](mailto:shashawna@troymethodist.org), call or text me at 254-541-5530, and I will be happy to meet with you to discuss how we can help.

ShaShawna

Stephen Leader and Associate Pastor for Spiritual Formation



# SUMMER WORSHIP Services

## SUNDAYS, 10 AM

**During the month of July (5 Sundays) we will have ONE WORSHIP SERVICE only at 10:00.**

**LYFE Groups will meet at 9:00.**

**Most weeks the music will be blended---some contemporary and some traditional.**

**We hope to see everyone there!!**

It's time to plan for the start of school in August by supporting the community Backpack Buddy program. Backpacks and school supplies are purchased for children who may not have the appropriate supplies if it weren't for this program. There are fewer children (37) this year, but as everything else, costs have gone up. The cost of one filled backpack will be \$67.88. Your donation of any amount will be appreciated.. Please make checks payable to Troy UMC with "Backpack Buddies" in the memo line. Thanks for your generosity!!





# JULY

## Birthdays

- 4 Cathy Olveda
- 5 Meg Brauer, Avery Willis
- 6 Jennie Ross
- 9 Camren Cavanaugh, Mason Cavanaugh
- 10 Jessica Cook, Gage Letbetter
- 13 Blake White
- 14 Cooper Valle
- 16 Gracee Mosley
- 19 Josiah Ray
- 23 Tyler Coufal
- 25 Destany Oliver
- 28 Tyler Lynch
- 29 Carley Hobbs, Presley Hobbs
- 30 Jerry Long, Michelle Blackler
- 31 Lynda Maedgen

## Anniversaries

- 2 Mike & Melissa O'Donnell
- 13 James & Christie Richter  
Robert & Megan Havens
- 14 Ronnie & Andi Gilliland
- 16 Glenn & Shannon Willis
- 17 Kirby & ShaShawna Bush
- 24 Larry & Sarah Stewart
- 27 Ronnie & Christina Porter
- 29 Jason & Misty Lambert



## HONORARIUM

Katherine Maedgen made a donation to the Youth Mission Trip Fund in honor of all of our graduated seniors.

## MEMORIALS

~ *In memory of Jeff Sims* by Karen Machalek