



THE PARISH VISITOR JULY 2023

From the desk of Pastor John

John Omerod,
Pastor



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In the Declaration of Independence, these words still grip us as a nation: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” What a grand notion, an idea with words that were passionately debated with good intent. The Rev. Jennifer Gingras, pastor of Monroe UCC in Monroe, Connecticut, has shared these words with readers: (Emphases are hers.)

“Elite men, power brokers of a new nation, dared to not only challenge the most powerful empire in the world (England), but did so with lofty ideals that included the revolutionary thought that we are all created with innate equality and God-given rights.”

“We know that in the weeks, months, years and decades since, that these words have inspired men and women to seek and honor life in this nation; a search that has come at great cost and through many obstacles, since freedom is as valuable to the hearts of men and women and is craved as deeply as food and water... and we haven’t always gotten it right.”

“I appreciate one of the opening numbers of the Broadway Musical Hamilton, when Big sister Angelica Schuyler raps:

I’ve been reading Common Sense by Thomas Paine

So men say that I’m intense or I’m insane

You want a revolution? I want a revelation. So listen to my declaration:

‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.’

And when I meet Thomas Jefferson, I’ll compel him to include women in the sequel.”

“Author Lin-Manuel Miranda meant to poke a little fun at the thought (lest we forget) that the founding fathers did not really have women (or, for that matter, Native Americans and Black slaves) in mind when it came to their vision of equality.

It was not easy back then to pursue these values, and it’s not really easy now. And yet, this central, genuine belief in equality was instituted by our founders, and it has been carried by so many Americans ever since... even though....”

“We’ve had a long hard hike up a huge mountain to get to women’s suffrage and equality. We’ve had a long hard hike out of the desert of slavery and the drowning sea of Jim Crow laws. We’ve had a long hard hike out of the wilderness trail of tears, boarding schools, and genocide of Native Americans.”

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“This journey has, in fact, haunted us, motivated and moved us for 245 years. We have not finally accepted the “othering” of another as natural law. What we HAVE accepted is the self-evident truth that all are created equal and entitled to rights that cannot be taken away, which I believe that is a gift from God.”

“We know that the notion of equality runs deep in the Bible, too. In the very first chapter we are told that ALL people are made in God’s image. Paul puts it like this in his letter to the Galatians when he beautifully wrote, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.””

These words are embodied in a hymn we sing: “*In Christ There Is No East or West.*” May we hold this hymn close to us on July 4th. Better yet, sing it out!

CHANGE-UP SUNDAY OFFERINGS

As we have done in the past, we will continue to collect the Change-Up Sunday offerings during the summer months. As always, your small change can make a huge difference!! Here are the upcoming collection dates!

July 2nd

October 1st

August 6th

November 5th

September 3rd

December 3rd



UPCOMING PIZZA NIGHTS

July 7th And August 4th

Our next Pizza Night with LifeSpring Women's Shelter will be next Friday, July 7th at 6:00 p.m. We can always use volunteers to help provide drinks, desserts and/or salads. We meet at LifeSpring at about 5:50p.m. It is located at 517 College Avenue in Aurora. If you plan to attend or provide any of the items requested, please contact Melissa Peters (630-918-8784). Thank you!





Annual Church Picnic Sunday, August 20th Plowman's Park

Mark your calendars for this annual event!

We are now collecting items for our picnic raffle.

More information on all of the picnic events will be provided in the weekly bulletin and in the August newsletter.

Items are being collected now for the Raffle Table at the Picnic!



Why do we do a raffle at the Picnic?

Because it is the easiest way to earn money while keeping costs down; that's why we ask for prizes by way of donation.

Gifts such as: gift certificates, gourmet dinners, electronics, travel packages, sport team items, etc...are always favorites.

Are you crafty? Please consider donating handmade items for the raffle. Everyone enjoys the variety donated of these items.

Perhaps you have "like new" items that others would enjoy. Do you have extra scrapbook supplies that you could donate? What about 'How-To' books, DVDs, CDs, or a good novel that you no longer need, but someone else might enjoy?

***PLEASE BRING YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CHURCH
ON SUNDAY OR DURING OFFICE HOURS.***

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP COLLECTION FOR LIFESPRING WOMEN'S SHELTER

The Women's Fellowship is collecting paper products and feminine hygiene products for the Lifespring Women's Shelter during the month of July.

Items needed are: paper towels, facial tissue, toilet tissue (only the Scott 1-ply brand), boxes of sanitary napkins and tampons (both in assorted sizes). We appreciate any help that you may be able to provide.

THANK YOU!



FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

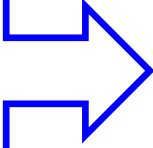
Please remember, when donating food items to the bins in the Fellowship Hall, please check the expiration dates before putting them in the bin. The food pantry cannot distribute items that have already expired. Thank you for your understanding and your ongoing support of those in need.

Volunteers for July

July 2nd
10:15 am

**Sacrament of
Communion**

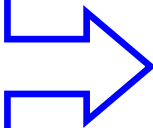
Change Up Sundaes



Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
Liturgist: Jim Ashby
Coffee: Worship Ministry
Communion Servers: Operations, Nurture, Teaching and Learning

Lock-up: Treasurer

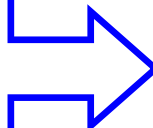
July 9th
10:15 am



Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
Liturgist: Jim Ashby
Coffee: Larry and Mary Dalton

Lock-up: Operations

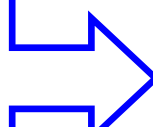
July 16th
10:15 am



Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
Liturgist: Jim Ashby
Coffee: Mary Welton and Melissa Peters

Lock-up: Outreach

July 23rd
10:15 am

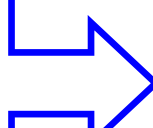


Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
Liturgist: Jim Ashby
Coffee: Volunteers are needed

Lock-up: Nurture

July 30th
10:15 am

**Nick Ashby
Memorial
Collection for Eden
Seminary**



Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
Liturgist: Jim Ashby
Coffee: Volunteers are needed

Lock-up: Teaching and Learning



July 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
<p>2</p> <p>Worship Service 10:15am</p> <p>Communion Change Up Sundae</p>	3	<p>4</p> <p>Office Closed 4th of July</p> 	5	<p>6</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>Pizza Night at LifeSpring in Aurora at 6pm</p>	8
<p>9</p> <p>Worship Service 10:15am</p>	10	<p>11</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	12	<p>13</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	14	15
<p>16</p> <p>Worship Service 10:15am</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Executive Council Meeting 6:30pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	19	<p>20</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	21	22
<p>23</p> <p>Worship Service 10:15am</p>	24	<p>25</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	26	<p>27</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	28	29
<p>30</p> <p>Worship Service 10:15am</p> <p>Nick Ashby Memorial Collection</p>	31					



Food Collection

You Can Make A Difference!

The Hinckley Area Food Pantry (HAFP) appreciates everything that the community has done in support of their efforts each and every day.

If you would like to contribute to the Pantry, they always appreciate your donation of shelf stable items or you can make a cash contribution that will allow them to purchase even more food! Their address is:

Hinckley Area Food Pantry
PO Box 463
Hinckley, IL 60520

They will also send a tax donation letter to you at the end of the year for monetary gifts. Thank you!

ENGLISH
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"SHARING GOD'S LOVE AND PEACE"
2023 VISION STATEMENT

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