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After the Bicentennial

By Pastor Kent Berghuis

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It’s been a wonderful month of celebration at our church! The dedication of our historical marker was graciously covered on local television and newspaper, with many in the community remarking how they saw us and appreciated our work. Our youth and children led a service in which we heard about gathering materials for a time capsule. We’ve had our Founders Day celebration service, with visitors from near and far. Former Pastor Jacque Franklin reminded us of our connections through the years, and government and denominational representatives helped us see that we fit into a larger picture, too. Our choir and musical guest lifted our spirits as usual. Our luncheon came off with great fellowship and willing service by many. We owe a big “thank you” to our Heritage Committee and all who have helped make so many things happen!

I’m thinking back to 1976, when the United States celebrated its bicentennial. I was in grade school, and it seemed like such a big deal! Everything was themed patriotic, and the celebration stretched for months. I remember a field trip to see the “Freedom Train,” and watching a big parade and fireworks display.

Then just four short years later in 1980 my hometown, Wellsburg, Iowa, celebrated its centennial. Folks dressed in period costume for “Wellsburg Daze,” and in the months leading up to it men were encouraged to grow beards. In fact, clean-shaven faces were subject to a local fine, and “shaving permits” were sold as fundraisers! My class at school built a model replica of the early town from old photographs we could find. It was all great fun and a memorable community event.

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Bicentennial Celebration
 1824 - 2024

(continued)

One point of reflection is that while each of these events is unique, there is also an overarching pattern. We like to remember milestones and celebrate meaningful anniversaries. On the one hand, something like this only happens once. On the other hand, we manage to have birthdays every year, too. The car's odometer might turn 100,000 once, but these days, if you're like me, you hope it will keep on driving to 200,000.

What I'm getting at is that the observance is important and captures our attention—yet the reality of living keeps moving along. The special days are nice, and highlight key themes of our stories. But the real work of our story keeps moving ahead week by week, year by year. When we were kids we looked forward to our birthdays and imagined what it would be like to be the next age. But as adults, most of us have the experience of the day after a birthday thinking that we aren't much different than we were the day before.

Our bicentennial celebration can last all year, with special emphases still to come, like our VBS, our Homecoming service, and the restart of DABA Annual Gathering in the fall. But what will we be like as a church after our bicentennial? It isn't too many years ago that we celebrated 100 years in our building. And as I read our history books, I note the significant celebrations at our centennial, and then again at our sesquicentennial of 150 years (that's a word I first learned when reading our church's history book!).

Perhaps some of us will be around when we open that time capsule in 50 years. I'm guessing it will be folks younger than myself. In fact, it will require that an entire generation of our congregation will pass leadership to another generation. Some of them might be young people growing up here now. But probably most will need to be people who join us along the way, finding that our story and ministry somehow resonate with them. Either way it will be the Spirit of God who leads and guides them here.

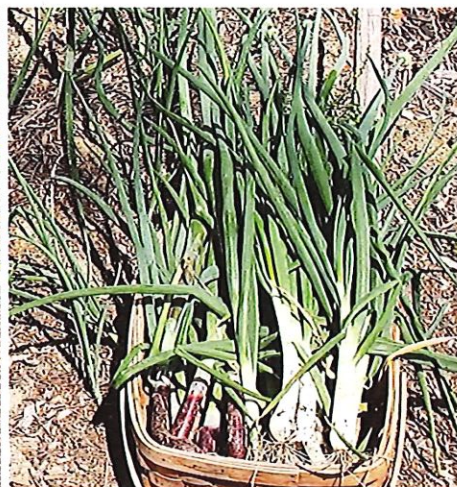
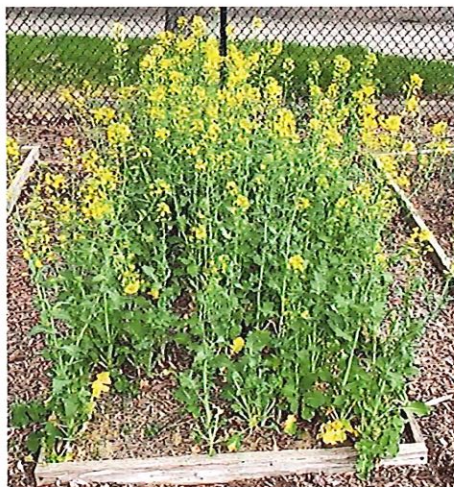
So let's be conscious of our need to pass along our ministry to others—to children and youth, to new people who visit and join. Folks who may seem like strangers to us today may well be our spiritual descendants tomorrow. They may even take our church in directions we can't expect. But if we can let the Spirit that brought us to this moment be the same Spirit who leads us into the future, we can trust that the work of God through this congregation will continue. May we be steadfast and joyful Christians together for another 200 years, with those who came before as well as all those who will come after us!



Garden Report – *Summer Planting*

On May 11 we were able to plant the rest of the Love Your Neighbor Garden by adding our summer vegetables and flowers: tomatoes, green beans, squash, cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, green peppers, banana peppers, zucchini and sunflowers. The kale that grew up from last years bed was harvested making a total of 8-10 pounds of kale delivered to the House of Bread this spring. A kale salad is a beautiful plate when adding cucumbers and tomato. The kale was bolting (going to seed) so it has been cut down in hopes of generating another crop this year. Some onions that were left in the ground over the winter have been harvested and given to several church members for enjoyment. New onion sets and potatoes will be ready for harvest around the first week of July. Recent rains will give all of the new planting a boost in their growth.

We plant, God grows!
Farmer/Pastor Dave



Dedication of the Janet Lasley Legacy Garden

Friday, June 28, 2024

1:00 PM

Caesar Creek Nature Center





Happy Pride Month 2024!

June is Pride Month and we join with the Dayton community in celebrating the dignity and worth of our LGBTQ+ folks. We raise a Pride flag, march in Dayton's Pride Parade, and spend time engaging with people during Dayton's PrideFest to show our love and support, and to let LGBTQ+ folks know that God does indeed love them.



Adult Sunday School June 2024

Philippians

Led by Dr. Brad Kallenberg

June 2, 9 & 16 @ 11:30am-12:15pm

1st Floor – Chapel

Philippians is one of the "prison epistles" written by the Apostle Paul to a congregation that he planted in northern Greece during his second missionary journey. The format of this adult Sunday School class will be interactive as we learn (and practice) a variety of ways of listening to Scripture together. Over these three weeks we will seek to get better at "reading in communion" in hopes that we begin to hear what God may be saying to us who gather at Monument and Ludlow this Eastertide, 2024.

Sermon Talkbacks on Break June-Sept 2024

Our monthly sermon talkbacks, which take place on the first Sunday of each month, will be on break until after Homecoming Sunday (September 8). Thank you for sharing your questions, insights, challenges, and affirmations from your hearing of the sermons each month.



BYF Gatherings on Summer Break

Our regular, monthly BYF Gatherings are on break for the summer (Jun-Aug). We look forward to times at summer camps—BYC & Quest—and other possible outings this summer. A special thanks to Michelle Smith for continuing to give her time and care to this ministry.





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024

Church Stories: All Aboard!

July 8-12 @ 9:30am-Noon

Grades PreK-5

This summer we are following up our 2023 theme—*Jesus Stories*—with stories from the Early Church and stories from our own local church. As we celebrate our Bicentennial year, one of the interesting pieces to our history is a connection to the chapel car ministry that took place between 1890 and 1946. And so, we’re integrating stories of this ministry into our VBS curriculum. We’ll have a great time together with games, crafts and music; and in hearing these stories of how people have sought to share the Gospel of God’s love. All aboard!

Our VBS Planning Team has been hard at work. If you are interested in helping out with VBS in some way, please contact Pastor Jason (jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org / 937-631-3579).

CHURCH PICNIC SAVE THE DATE!



Sunday, July 21, 2024
Location will be
announced soon!

April 2024 Financial Report

	Budget	Received	YTD Budget	YTD Received
Loose Offerings	1000.00	212.00	333.34	384.01
Pledges	207794.00	16728.00	69264.67	79486.50
Non-pledged Contributions	55000.00	10236.00	18333.34	23596.00



Kids Sunday School Teachers Needed for Summer

We are seeking volunteers to help with our Kids One-Room Sunday School Class (preK-5) this summer (June 9 thru Sept. 1). There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Note that there are two slots for each Sunday—one for the person who will teach, leading the reading/discussion of scripture; the other for the person who would provide a craft project to help the kids connect with the lesson. Please speak with Pastor Jason or Janet Landis, chair of CE. They will also be on hand to provide resources, supplies, etc., throughout the summer.

Firepit Fellowship

Friday, June 21 @ 6pm



Dorothy Lane American Baptist Church (960 W Dorothy Ln) is inviting us to their "Firepit Fellowship" every 3rd Friday of each month throughout the summer beginning at 6:00pm. The next one will be on June 21st. Hotdogs, snacks, marshmallows and drinks are provided, but you can bring something to share if you wish.

AMERICAN BAPTIST JUNE OFFERING

One Great Hour of Sharing: Share the Light

*"Let me tell you why you are here...You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world...
Keep open house; be generous with your lives." – Matthew 5:13-16, The Message*

When we participate in One Great Hour of Sharing, we become a dazzling prism of light scattering blessing in places that desperately need it. We offer hope to people forced to flee their homes in search of safety and new promise. We support life-giving recovery efforts when disasters devastate communities and lives. We empower partners in their labors to build sustainable futures. We plant seeds of peace where war has multiplied despair and destruction. This is why we are here: to be shining witnesses of uncommon love and enduring hope and to be generous with our lives. The need has never been greater. Special offering envelopes are in the pew racks.



Summer Music

If you would like to provide special music for Sunday service while choir is on break, please check the sign-up sheet and pick a date (or two)! The sheet is located on the hallway bulletin board. Thank you for sharing your talent with us!

NEWS FROM EL SALVADOR

MILK FOR THE FAMILY

Goat Project Summary



Ahuachapan (2015 - 2023)
Monte El Padre (2017-2023)

The goat project began in March/April of 2015 with five families that up to today are actively working with their goats. These are the families: Luis Antonio Aguilar, Josué Mendoza, Julio Quevedo, and Tomás Reyes, all residents of Hacienda Atehucia in the state of Ahuachapán, and Ana Rosa Campos of Chancuyo, Ahuachapán.

Two years later in 2017 the goat project began in Monte El Padre, Texistepeque with five families participating. These families also continue the project on their own. These families are: José Mancía, Rafael Salguero, Yolanda Montes, Reina Calderón, and Armando Sandoval.

In both places, the project began with one goat per family.

During this period, the families of the beginning group in each place have helped other families by giving them a baby goat.

The project has helped improve the nutrition of the children and adults via the goats milk. In some cases, the families have also been able to learn a little bit of money by selling milk to their neighbors in the community and also by selling the male goats. They have also used some of the male goats for meat.

During the training and preparation for the project, 4 males and 10 females were chosen for reproduction because they were best quality and of the best breeds for producing milk.

The earnings from the goat project have given the families a little more money to pay for school supplies and uniforms and in some cases they've done small improvements to their homes.

We have to also say that during the period of the execution of the project, there have been difficulties due to the extensive periods of drought that frequently affect our region and therefore there was a lack of pasture for the goats for four to five consecutive months. At least 7 baby goats died during this period. In addition, several pregnancies were not successful and there were cases of infertility.

In general, we can say that in Ahuachapán during the period of 2015 to 2023 there were 15 families participating and 70 baby goats were born. In Monte El Padre, Texistepeque, 11 families participated and 35 babies were born between 2017 and 2023.

Finally, in name of all the families that participated, we express to all our profound gratitude for your solidarity and the permanent support during these years and we promise to continue with this project. Thanks to God for leading you in your hearts to support us during this period of the project.

Thanks to the First Baptist church of Dayton, OH
Thanks to Diane Ashman
Thanks to Nancy Kerr
Thanks to Jason Alspaugh

~~Luis Otoniel Pleités Morán, Agriculture Technician

Here are some photographs from the families that have had the most success.

Between 2017 and 2023, Yolanda Montes and her husband Ernesto Ascencio delivered 7 goats in Monte El Padre. They have their own male goat. (See the white goat in the picture.)



Ana R Campos and her daughter in Chancuyo, Ahuachapán delivered 13 goats (both male and female).



Reina Calderón and her son in Monte el Padre. Between 2017 and 2023 she delivered 9 goats.



Josué Mendoza in Hacienda Atehuecia, Ahuachapán delivered 16 goats from 2015 to 2023 (both male and female).



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June Celebrants

- 3 Emily (Wolfe) Crowley
- 7 Colin Brown
- 10 Sarah Burtenshaw
- 11 Abigail Owens, Melody Pugh
- 12 Johnny Davis
- 15 Aimee (Petry) Leach, Shawn Petry
- 16 Greg Craig, Margie Earnest
- 17 Riley Baldwin, Jaimee Ryan
- 18 Michael Wadham
- 20 Todd Mikesell
- 21 Linda Ginter-Brown, Susan Harker
- 23 Brad Pipenger
- 25 Parker McWain
- 27 Mary Anne Chadbourne
- 28 Gina Greenwood



For Our Cards & Prayers



- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Glen Babb | Shirley Nash |
| Clara Black | Mary Ann Paloncy |
| Gerald Busch | Susan Parent |
| Don Brown | Judy Smith |
| Linda Ginter Brown | Roger Stephens |
| June Collier | Anita Suro |
| Lavanda Ferguson | Thomson Family |
| Bill Harrell | Anne Veghte |
| Ray Landis | Harold West |
| Gene Lee | Dorothy Williams |
| Merkle Family | Sharon Wingham |

Military Duty:

Sebastian Ewald, Sunny Ewald, Brittany Kalbfleisch, Will Radachi, Andy Wilson

Our Condolences

We extend our prayers to Greg Merkle and his sisters on the loss of their father, Arthur Merkle, on May 19, 2024. Visitation was held on May 31st at Kindred Funeral Home in Englewood.

We extend our prayers to Linda Thomson and family on the loss of Pete Thomson on May 25, 2024. Service to be held Saturday, June 8, 11am at First Baptist Church with visitation at 10am, and a reception after the service.



Yudi celebrated her birthday at The Olive Garden with First Baptist friends!



Thank You!

From Don and Linda Ginter Brown

A big thank you to our First Baptist family for all of the calls, cards, food deliveries, and prayers offered during our recent "medical episodes." They were deeply appreciated.

