



# Uniondale United Methodist Church Messenger

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## *July*

### *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

1<sup>st</sup> – Gary Cook  
5<sup>th</sup> – Harper Kahne  
6<sup>th</sup> – Sue Chaney  
6<sup>th</sup> – Barry Jamison  
9<sup>th</sup> – Margaret Hassler  
11<sup>th</sup> – Laura Elzey  
12<sup>th</sup> – Sharon Espich  
17<sup>th</sup> – Scott & Deanna Elzey  
20<sup>th</sup> – Hudson Kahn  
29<sup>th</sup> – Cindy McAfee  
30<sup>th</sup> – Mary Etta Blessing  
30<sup>th</sup> – Betty Cary

## Upcoming July and August Events

Sunday, July 6 – Communion  
Saturday, July 12 – Church Family Retreat at Quabache State Park  
Sunday, July 20 – Church at Elzey's pond  
Sunday, August 3 – Communion

## Weekly Stewardship Prayers

July 6 – That we learn to put others' needs before our own and help our neighbor "carry his cross".

July 13 – That we put God first in everything and not let earthly possessions become gods to us.

July 20 – That we help our church create a welcoming attitude where people feel included and not excluded.

July 27 – That we take time in silence, every day, to ask God what he wants us to do.

August 3 – That as we struggle to live a faith-filled life, we recognize we are not alone. Jesus is there to help lighten the load.

## Enjoying the Seasons of Parenting

A Devotion by Tracie Miles

***"For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NLT)***

"Are they going to laugh all night long?" my husband jokingly asked. "I don't know," I said, chuckling at his question. "But I hope so. It's a sound that makes my heart happy."

My teenage daughter had invited her entire cheerleading squad to sleep over at our house after a basketball game. When they arrived, the house immediately filled with laughter and conversations as they gobbled up pizza and chocolate chip cookies. Later that night, sleep seemed to escape me. Not because of the cheerful noise billowing down the stairs from a house full of girls, but because I wondered how many more laughter-filled sleepovers I might have the blessing of hosting. Knowing my children are growing up quickly, I couldn't help but face the reality I was entering a new season of life.

I began to ponder all I would miss with two daughters living away at college this fall, instead of just one. Although my son still has a few years left at home, I had to face the reality that this season of my parenting was coming to a close. And my heart felt heavy. I remember feeling these same emotions when my babies outgrew their cribs and moved to big-kid beds. When my daughters tucked away baby dolls and hair bows and focused on nail polish and fashion. When my son grew too old for his teddy bear. When they left elementary school behind and entered the scary world of middle school. When they stopped riding their bikes and instead, got behind the wheel of a car.

As I lay in the dark pondering this changing season of my life, a warm tear trickled down my face. Yet I felt God's sweet comfort and His reminder that although life is ever-changing, He is constant. I started to pray and sensed God was showing me the importance of treasuring the current season of parenting, rather than mourning the ones already passed, because every moment with our children is a blessing.

The idea of seasons of life is found in the book of Ecclesiastes, authored by King Solomon. After becoming king of Israel following his father King David's death, God appeared to Solomon in a dream and offered him anything he wanted. Instead of asking for riches or victories, Solomon asked God for wisdom and received the blessing of understanding life (1 Kings 3:5, 10-13).

Although Solomon doesn't directly speak about parenting in Ecclesiastes, his wise advice certainly applies to this subject. Today's key verse reminds us life is a progression of seasons, with everything happening in God's timing and under His control: "For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Then Ecclesiastes 3:2-8 highlights many of life's experiences that we find in the seasons of parenting, such as times to plant and uproot. Times to cry, laugh, grieve and dance. Times to embrace and turn away. Times to search and quit searching. Times to tear and to mend. Times to speak and to keep quiet. Times to keep and to let go.

We find pieces of our parenting experiences scattered between the lines of this passage. As we accept there will be different seasons of parenting, we allow God to whisper specific encouragement to our hearts, fill our spirits with perseverance and understanding, and pierce our minds with the spiritual wisdom needed not only to make it through the seasons, but to appreciate them as gifts from God.

No matter which season we find ourselves in, let's treasure it and bask in the blessings it brings. Embracing each season as it comes brings peace because we know we are right where God wants us to be and that He is preparing us for the season to come.

My house may not always be filled with laughter in the middle of the night, but if I trust God is with me, I will always have joy in my heart.

***Lord, thank You for the privilege of being a parent, grandparent or caregiver to the little ones You've entrusted into my care. Help me enjoy every day of every season and lean on You when my heart aches for seasons gone by. In Jesus' Name, Amen.***

# Uniondale UMC Retreat 2014

Oubache State Park

Saturday, July 12

10:00 a.m.

Message & kids time at 10:30 a.m.

Lunch to follow - church will provide meat, bottled water &

table service; please bring a dish to share



Activities available after lunch:

- Canoe, kayak & paddle boat
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Swimming at the pool
- Climbing the firetower

Come join us for a great day of fun & fellowship!!!

\*\* \$5 per car entry fee into the park

### Our Steak Dinners

An event we held several times – our baked steak dinners. They were held on a Sunday and we sold tickets for it. We found that an added bonus was an outreach to the community, for people seemed to enjoy coming, eating and then staying at the table to visit with their friends and neighbors.

This poem describes the day. The names mentioned are Barbara Cook, Ruby Jackson and Claude Koons – but it took everyone working together to be able to do it.

#### Our Steak Dinners

Ticket sales are starting  
Excitement's in the air  
Our annual steak dinner  
Has become quite an affair!

Barbara and her helpers  
Decide what each should do.  
We all accept our duties  
And faithfully follow thru.

Now Claude will get the groceries  
Ruby will order meat  
For to get this all together  
Is really quite a feat!

Activity begins on Friday  
The meat's prepared to bake  
Then first thing Saturday morning  
We make the dining room look great.

Salads cut up, potatoes fixed  
It's quite a busy day  
The shelves are up and ready  
For desserts coming their way

Sunday, things are in a frenzy  
We all are in our place  
For many hands are needed  
To accept our guests with grace.

But now it all is over  
Dishes washed and put away.  
The food is gone – our bodies tired,  
But it was a real great day!

So we say a heartfelt thanks  
To Barbara and her crew –  
Also to all the many men  
Who cheerfully pitched in too!

Yes, our hearts are full of gratitude  
This church family can't be beat  
To worship, work and play together  
Creates a fellowship quite neat!

**March Budget Summary**

	March Actual	March Budget	March Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	3,435.00	4,197.33	(762.33)	13,140.59	12,591.99	548.60
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES *	5,345.83	4,197.36	(1,148.47)	13,349.21	12,592.08	(757.13)
	* \$1,349.50 for insurance paid from Building Fund.					
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	(1,910.83)	(0.03)		(208.62)	(0.09)	

Hello to all!

Every year our country celebrates the fourth of July by proudly displaying our beloved banner of red, white and blue, also known as “Old Glory.” But there is an even more popular name associated with this patriotic pennant, one that many affectionately know as "the Stars and Stripes!" Americans of all ages look to our flag with a deep sense of pride, while at the same time, oohing and ahhing as she majestically unfurls against the fountains of fireworks and booming explosions of sparkling color ... a dazzling sight to behold! But did you also know that there is another set of stars and stripes that constitute our yearly celebration of independence? They are found within the pages of Holy Scripture, and were spoken of some 2,000 years ago, long before our nation even existed. We begin with the stars. Matthew 2:2 says, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

The birth of Jesus was the promise of a Savior, One who would save His people from their sins. He faithfully walked the Via Delarosa (the path of suffering), so that you and I might know what true liberty really is. After His death, Isaiah foretold of another star described as the -- Day Star -- which would arise within the very hearts of all who would enter into this glorious realm of salvation. That “Day Star” is the manifested presence of Jesus Christ in the life of every believer. Let us consider now, the stripes. 1 Peter 2:24 says, "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed."(NKJV) By the very stripes (wounds and scourging) that Jesus took upon Himself, you and I have been made completely whole. What a glorious truth this present-tense reality holds. “For by His stripes we are healed," (not were healed, not will be healed) ... but are healed!

He paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we could now, today, (this 4th of July) live in complete liberty from everything that would try to hold us captive and bound. That is, anything that would try to keep us from the glorious liberty that Christ has already purchased for us! So you see, we not only celebrate our nation’s independence from a monarchy of oppressive rule, but we commemorate our sacred stars and stripes as the divine representations of our future hope as a nation. As our grand old flag, sown together with the beautiful symbols of the “Stars and Stripes” proudly waves across our shores, she will always, graciously, humble herself and give honor where honor is due. She will give honor to the one who died, in order that we as a nation might live. Philippians 2:10 proclaims, "For every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!" Until we are all set free within this sweet land of liberty, we will rejoice in our salvation, and in the name of our God we will fly our banner, high and lifted up ... for all the world to see! "Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth." (Psalm 60:4, NKJV)

So let us celebrate independence from sin as we celebrate the independence of our country from Great Britain. God frees us from our sin. Let us give thanks.

Pastor Troy and Mindy Drayer

## **The Birth of American Independence**

When the initial battles in the Revolutionary War broke out in April 1775, few colonists desired complete independence from Great Britain, and those who did were considered radical. By the middle of the following year, however, many more colonists had come to favor independence, thanks to growing hostility against Britain and the spread of revolutionary sentiments such as those expressed in Thomas Paine's bestselling pamphlet "Common Sense," published in early 1776. On June 7, when the Continental Congress met at the Pennsylvania State House (later Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, the Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion calling for the colonies' independence. Amid heated debate, Congress postponed the vote on Lee's resolution, but appointed a five-man committee—including Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania and Robert R. Livingston of New York—to draft a formal statement justifying the break with Great Britain.

### ***Did You Know?***

***John Adams believed that July 2nd was the correct date on which to celebrate the birth of American independence, and would reportedly turn down invitations to appear at July 4th events in protest. Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826--the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.***

On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of Lee's resolution for independence in a near-unanimous vote (the New York delegation abstained, but later voted affirmatively). On that day, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail that July 2 "will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival" and that the celebration should include "Pomp and Parade...Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other." On July 4th, the Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, which had been written largely by Jefferson. Though the vote for actual independence took place on July 2nd, from then on the 4th became the day that was celebrated as the birth of American independence.

## **Early Fourth of July Celebrations**

In the pre-Revolutionary years, colonists had held annual celebrations of the king's birthday, which traditionally included the ringing of bells, bonfires, processions and speechmaking. By contrast, during the summer of 1776 some colonists celebrated the birth of independence by holding mock funerals for King George III, as a way of symbolizing the end of the monarchy's hold on America and the triumph of liberty. Festivities including concerts, bonfires, parades and the firing of cannons and muskets usually accompanied the first public readings of the Declaration of Independence, beginning immediately after its adoption. Philadelphia held the first annual commemoration of independence on July 4, 1777, while Congress was still occupied with the ongoing war. George Washington issued double rations of rum to all his soldiers to mark the anniversary of independence in 1778, and in 1781, several months before the key American victory at Yorktown, Massachusetts became the first state to make July 4th an official state holiday.

After the Revolutionary War, Americans continued to commemorate Independence Day every year, in celebrations that allowed the new nation's emerging political leaders to address citizens and create a feeling of unity. By the last decade of the 18th century, the two major political parties—Federalists and Democratic-Republicans—that had arisen began holding separate Independence Day celebrations in many large cities.

## **July 4th Becomes a National Holiday**

The tradition of patriotic celebration became even more widespread after the War of 1812, in which the United States again faced Great Britain. In 1870, the U.S. Congress made July 4th a federal holiday; in 1941, the provision was expanded to grant a paid holiday to all federal employees. Over the years, the political importance of the holiday would decline, but Independence Day remained an important national holiday and a symbol of patriotism.

Falling in mid-summer, the Fourth of July has since the late 19th century become a major focus of leisure activities and a common occasion for family get-togethers, often involving fireworks and outdoor barbecues. The most common symbol of the holiday is the American flag, and a common musical accompaniment is "The Star-Spangled Banner," the national anthem of the United States.

## **On the Humorous Side.....**

### *~TWO LITTLE BOYS*

A couple had two little boys, ages 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous. The two were always getting into trouble and their parents could be assured that if any mischief occurred in their town their two young sons were in some way involved.

The parents were at their wits end as to what to do about their sons' behavior. The mother had heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children in the past, so she asked her husband if he thought they should send the boys to speak with the clergyman.

The husband said, 'We might as well. We need to do something before I really lose my temper!' The clergyman agreed to speak with the boys, but asked to see them individually. The 8 year old went to meet with him first. The clergyman sat the boy down and asked him sternly, 'Where is God?'

The boy made no response, so the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, 'Where is God?' Again the boy made no attempt to answer. So the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face, 'WHERE IS GOD?'

At that the boy bolted from the room and ran directly home, slamming himself in the closet. His older brother followed him into the closet and asked what had happened. The younger brother replied, 'We are in BIG trouble this time. God is missing and they think we did it.'

### *~SMARTEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD*

A doctor, a lawyer, a little boy and a priest were out for a Sunday afternoon flight on a small private plane. Suddenly, the plane developed engine trouble. In spite of the best efforts of the pilot, the plane started to go down. Finally, the pilot grabbed a parachute, yelled to the passengers that they had better jump, and then he bailed out.

Unfortunately, there were only three parachutes remaining. The doctor grabbed one and said "I'm a doctor, I save lives, so I must live," and jumped out.

The lawyer then said, "I'm a lawyer and lawyers are the smartest people in the world. I deserve to live." He also grabbed a parachute and jumped.

The priest looked at the little boy and said, "My son, I've lived a long and full life. You are young and have your whole life ahead of you. Take the last parachute and live in peace."

The little boy handed the parachute back to the priest and said, "Not to worry, Father. The 'smartest man in the world' just took off with my back pack."

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