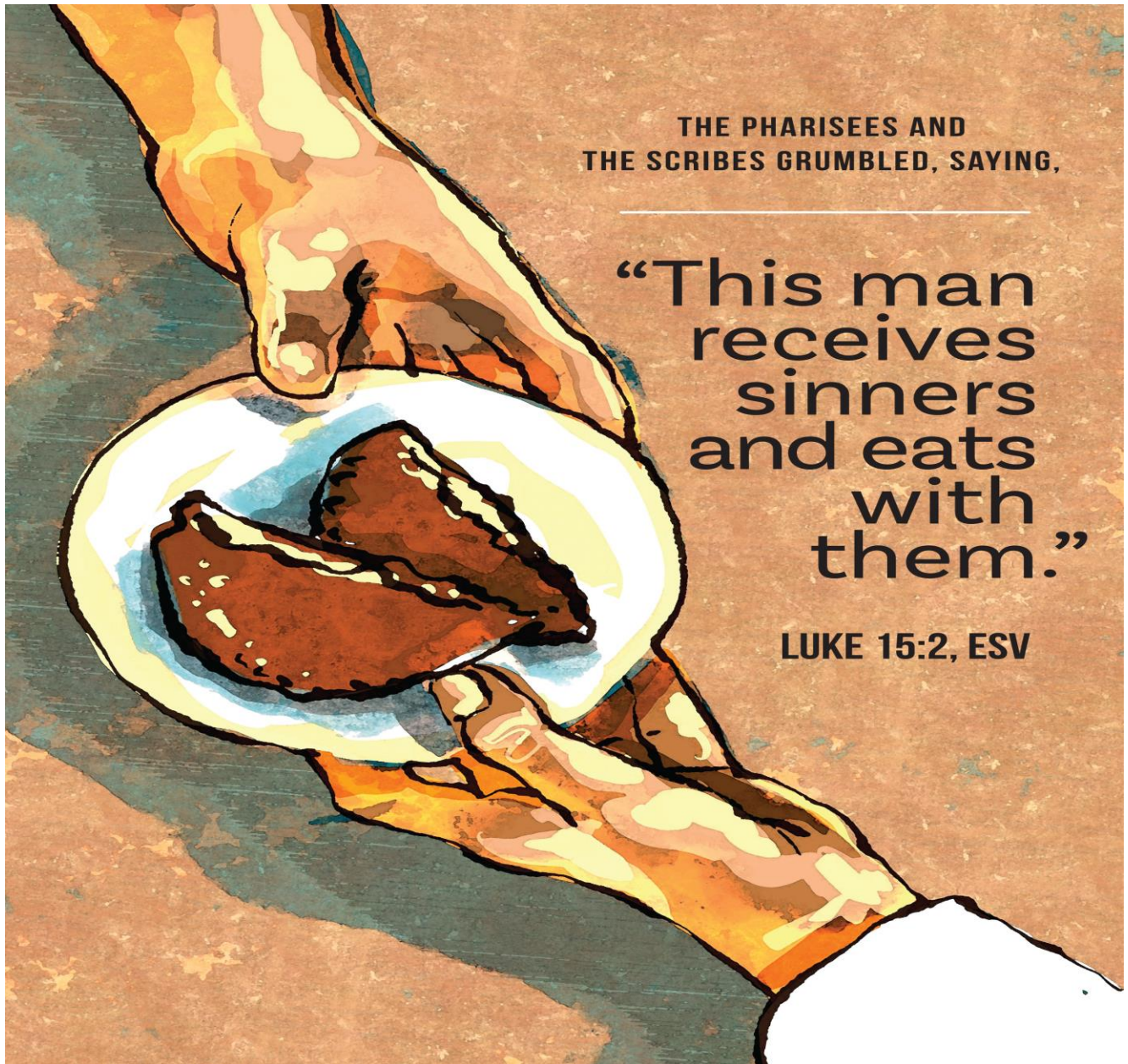


The Word



THE PHARISEES AND
THE SCRIBES GRUMBLED, SAYING,

“This man
receives
sinners
and eats
with
them.”

LUKE 15:2, ESV

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Ministers Musings



I sat on the Square at the end of August on a perfectly beautiful late summer day and watched. I watched the kids run and laugh and play. I watched the dogs walk and sniff and enjoy attention. I watched vendors arrange their cucumbers and their signs offering frozen pork chops, clearly proud of the love and work they had put into growing their wares. I watched shoppers talk about tomatoes and the weather, and meet friends and talk about their lives and joys. Birds sang, the church bell struck, the sun shone, and it was all glorious. It was gift, pure gift from God. My mama taught me as a child to say thank you for gifts, so I said thanks. Thank you to God for such a day, thank you for the almost palpable contentment among the gathered crowd, thank you for the

opportunity to be part of that morning, thank you for all the lives that I only caught a glimpse of, each of which is full and important, each of which is filled with hope and fear and struggles and successes.

Saying thanks is one of the most basic of prayers. It acknowledges that the joy and strength and love we encounter each day is part of this wonderful world we receive from God's hand. It doesn't negate that all is not easy or excellent; there are still challenges and disappointments in life, difficulties and tragedies, conflicts and brokenness and experience that break our hearts and hurt us deeply. You needn't give thanks for those things. Perhaps there will be a time when you come through tough times when you'll be able to look back and acknowledge some good that come from the experience, perhaps not. God won't leave us in tough times, we aren't ever forgotten or abandoned. "If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand will guide me and your right hand will hold me fast," says the Psalmist (139:9-10). For that constant and abiding presence, we can give thanks, too. Offering thanks regularly opens our lives to the truth that it's not all up to us, that our lives ultimately rest in God's love, not on our own capabilities or lack thereof.

Pay attention, friends, to the goodness, to the beauty, to the joy and the peace that you witness in your life. Open your eyes to see and to notice the gift of life in all its many glories, even on the way to the uttermost parts of the sea. And say thank you to God for all good gifts. Amen.

What's going on? Quite a lot, actually.

Come back to church, friends. We miss you. The choir will soon be part of worship again, the chancel is widened as the screens have moved up, and your church family longs to see you. Worship is always available on live-stream, but I'm afraid the cookies at coffee hour are only there for those who are physically in the building. And they're good! Hope to see you soon.

Kids' Club starts on September 21st. It's for any and all kids from kindergarten through fifth grade; go ahead and encourage your neighbors and/or grandkids to join us, Wednesdays after school until 4:30. And, we can always use another volunteer or two to help us lead Kids' Club. Talk to me, Pastor Cathy, about how you can help. Thanks.

The Delhi Clergy Association shared backpacks and school supplies with Delaware Academy for kids in need as they start classes this year. At least 25 backpacks as well as notebooks and pencils and crayons, etc., were brought to DA before school started in September. Thank you to everyone, from so many churches, who contributed to the effort.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Cathy

Highlights of August Parish Council

The August meeting of Parish Council opened with prayer and a sharing time.

The Topic of the Month was Playschool. They reported that they deposited their 7th registration deposit and there are two more possibilities. Council discussed the possibility of using money from the campership fund (\$1800) to provide scholarships that would allow families that might need help in order to attend this year. A motion was made and passed to provide one scholarship for 50% of tuition (\$800) with application and decision process to be overseen by Playschool board. Finance will decide on whether the money will come from Kay Tillapaugh Campership or other memorial funds.

Laura Mills also shared the Playschool budget which included donations of \$3500 for the year from private donations. Income from tuition and fundraising is close to covering expenses without donations. Anticipated payroll does not include pay raises for teachers. Playschool is still accepting donations of bottles and cans that can be dropped off directly to the Redemption Center.

Council also heard from Pastor Cathy that there is need to take some of the small jobs/odd jobs off Jeff's plate. Trustees now have the parsonage to take care of and not enough capacity. Council is supportive of the Trustees looking into options to increase capacity to handle small/odd jobs at the church and parsonage, including but not limited to hiring someone as part time handyman.

Treasurer's report was presented and discussed. Two investment draws didn't come through in June due to miscommunications but are now reflected in the July balance sheets. It was suggested that we standardize when draws should happen next year and Laura will come up with set calendar dates to present at the next Finance meeting. This will allow Trustees to approve the draws and have the money transferred in a timely manner.

Pastor Cathy reported for trustees. The screens in sanctuary are to be repositioned and ready to use. Many projects will be completed in August including downstairs bathroom, parsonage driveway, railway near elevator and church parking lot.

Finance Committee will meet on September 12th. Edie reported that we received a donation from the estate of Dottie Cook in the amount of \$5000. This could be a great opportunity for Playschool scholarships and the use of this donation will be discussed at Finance on the 12th. Gideon requested financial statements for giving through June be sent out.

SPR hasn't met since the last PC meeting but will meet on August 22nd.

Pastor Cathy reported that attendance during June averaged around 46 with July numbers being around 35. She has been doing Pastor with Coffee on Wednesdays during the Farmer's Market as well as being on the Square two different Fridays (Fair on the Square) giving out cookies and collecting donations for UMCOR and Feed Buffalo. She has added two new lay readers to the list. In August guest preachers will be Toni Vessey and Fred Onasch. Dottie Cook's memorial service was in July and also graveside service for Susan Ackerly's mom. Thursday morning lectionary has been going well. Someone has mentioned to her that they would like to resume a playgroup that used to meet in our space. We discussed this possibility and suggested that they fill out a building use form.

Cathy Johnson reported that they reception for Dottie Cook went well with approximately 38 people attending the service. Fellowship budget will not cover the whole reception and will ask that the remainder be taken from the donation that Dottie's estate made to the church.

Carol reported that there will be a meeting on August 24th to discuss United Ministry's food ministry and where we see ourselves going in the next year. We continue to try to reach as many people as possible through our many programs. If anyone knows of seniors that would benefit from food delivery, please let Edie Campbell know.

The request for use of the building by the family of Ann Peet was approved for August 21st.

We also discussed the defibrillator training offered by the company who services ours and it was decided we needed to investigate what our current contract covers.

Pastor Cathy reported that 4 bins of health kits were delivered to conference at the end of June. We also discussed the possibility of resuming movie nights at UM in future. Cathy reminded us that the Delhi Clergy Association is collecting for school supplies to go into backpacks and our contributions may be left at church.

Our meeting was closed in prayer.

Any questions about anything that goes on at our council meetings please feel free to contact me at any time.

Carol Greene

Women's Open Circle

The Women's Open Circle will meet on Thursday, September 8th at noon in the Harder Room.

Bring your own lunch, dessert and beverages will be provided. Bring any ideas for this new year.

Don't forget the Birthday Box in the Harder Room!

Kids' Club

at

The United Ministry of Delhi

Kindergarten through 5th grade

All kids welcome

(The school bus can drop them at the church;
we will meet them there at the bus)

Wednesdays after school until 4:30

Starting September 21, 2022

Bible stories and crafts, snacks and singing

Questions? Call 607-746-2191

Music Notes

Chancel Choir will begin rehearsing on Wednesday, September 7th, 7:30 pm in the Music Room

We would love to welcome new members. There are definite perks in being a choir member: a "family" to be part of, a deeper understanding of many of the scriptures we hear and lessons given on Sunday, a spiritual break in the middle of the week and a true sense of enhancing the worship in a very special way. If you have some conflicts it is not a huge problem to miss a Sunday, we all have a life and I don't want you to feel restricted by choir. Please come and try it out. It is a special time to get away from the outside forces that are around us, renew our spirit and make music.



Play School News – September 2022

What a busy summer we have had! Play School was promoted at the Fair on the Square with two different events in July. The first event was the Scholastic Book Giveaway with an obstacle course for the kids and then Play School hosted their first Silent Auction. There were several baskets and items up for bid. Basket/item went to the person with the top bid. At the Book Giveaway event there were 70 books given away and \$125 donated towards new books and at the Silent Auction we raised \$409 to be used towards the Play School Program. Thank you to everyone that helped out at these events, tried out the obstacle course, donated items or baskets and bid on them! We appreciate you all!! Also in July, we remembered Dottie Cook at her Memorial Service and all her great work and dedication to the startup of the Play School Program. A true inspiration!!



Play School is proud to announce that we have been approved to continue the program and will be open for the 2022-23 School Year. Currently we have 8 students registered for the new school year. On Friday, September 9th we will have Play School Orientation and on Monday, September 12th is the First Day of School. Again this year we will collect donations of school supplies for this year's class. If anyone would like to donate some supplies, there is a School Supply list located on the bulletin board and a box outside Pastor Cathy's office by the church mailboxes.

This year we plan to work on the alphabet/ letters of the week, numbers and counting, colors, shapes, the calendar, weather, seasons, holidays, social interaction, gross and fine motor skills, projects, painting, stories, songs and music, to name a few. We will reach out to the community and families and bring them into the classroom to share their knowledge and talents with the children. Celebrate holidays and include special events. We will also do a few field trips. So many fun things are planned to make this year special for the kids and their families! If anyone in the congregation would like to share something with the class, please let me know at playschool.umod@gmail.com and we can set up a date and time.

If you know of someone interested in the Play School Program for their child or a friend, Please pass along my contact information. Pam Savage (607)746-6869 (home), find us on Facebook at Play School of Delhi, email us at playschool.umod@gmail.com or contact through our webpage at <http://playschoolumod.wixsite.com/home> ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!!

Looking forward to a great year and growing strong together!!

Wishing you all the best,

Pamela Savage, Play School Director



Food Ministry/Food Pantry Update



Business has been picking up and we are now feeding about 25 families a month. We continue to receive donations not just from the congregation but also other churches and individuals. For whatever reason, grants or food chain supply, Hamden hasn't always had what I have needed. Also we have been providing things such as condiments - what good is peanut butter without jelly, tuna without mayonnaise or hot dogs without ketchup or mustard? I was picking some things up along with the perishables such as milk and bread but then asked Laura and Gary to do a shopping at Aldi's. With John's help we were able to get everything unloaded and put away. My shelves no longer feel so bare. It is really great to have such willing volunteers!

One day a lady was thrilled to find we had some laundry soap as she had been using dish soap to wash her clothes and it didn't work too well. Another time I offered a young girl 2 cans of veggies, she was picking green beans so I asked if she wanted some fresh ones. She opted for fresh until she saw them then commented she thought I had meant frozen she didn't know how to cook these so we explained to her and she decided to try them. One lady told me that after getting a box she discovered she liked string cheese - she had never tried it before.

Carol continues to spear head the boxes to the Senior center and we will be sending some out September 24th. Our connection with Senior Meals seems to be falling apart so we are looking for ways to reach more people. It's really hard to go through agencies due to privacy issues. Wayne Shepard is willing to put a copy of our flyer in the Dispatch and will speak to the dining crew about having them on the tables. If anyone knows someone who could use a box of food please let either myself or Carol Greene know so that we can add them to our list.

Deb continues to deliver boxes, once a month, to the people living at the Buena Vista. Once again she sometimes has to rely on other people who live there letting her know when someone new moves in. Most of them do not have cars and are pretty much restricted to things that can be microwaved and their refrigeration is limited to a dorm size refrigerator.

We will continue to work with Regalia (SUNY campus store). Michele DeFreece has retired but Liz will be working with the new person to help assure the success of this program. Carol gets a list of items that are needed and shops for them 3-4 times

a year. The college also does food drives to stock their pantry at least once a year with any items they can't use being donated to our pantry.

We have also discussed having a food drive during the Harvest Fest and perhaps a canconstruction in the spring. Kathy will be discussing with the clergy association the possibility of doing a meal (maybe once a month) depending on the interest of the other churches and the availability of help

As the summer winds down items I expect to be needing are Chunky soups, beef stew/chicken and dumplings, jelly, hot chocolate, boxes of individual packets of instant oatmeal.

Thank you all for your help and support.

~Edie

Coffee Hour Hosts & Flowers for the Sanctuary



Have you signed up to host Coffee Hour yet? Coffee, tea, lemonade, and paper goods are supplied. Cookies are optional. Sign up on the sheet on the Bulletin Board or call the church office to pick your date.

Coffee Hour

Sept 4 _____

Sept 11 _____

Sept 18 _____

Sept 25 _____



Would you like to commemorate a loved one or special event in your life? Garden and wild flowers are always welcome! If you are uncomfortable creating the arrangement, call the office and we can make the arrangement for you.

Flowers

Sept 4 _____

Sept 11 _____

Sept 18 _____

Sept 25 _____

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board outside the office.

Our Changing Family

Moved

Bob & Barbara Davidson have moved to Indiana to be closer to family. We wish them well in their new home and we will miss their presence in Delhi.

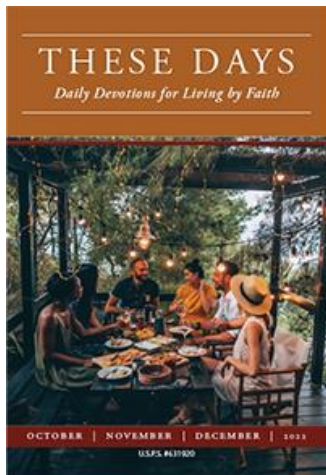
If you'd like to drop a note or mail to: c/o Julie Davidson
3286 N 50 W
Colombia City IN 46725



Sept 4 Cathy Johnson
Sept 11 Ruth Kazmierski
Sept 18 Evelyn Jacksto
Sept 25 Barb Onasch

Bill Cash 9/5
Michele Trelease 9/7
Bob Peet 9/10
Lisa Tessier 9/25
Ruth Kazmierski 9/28
Lisa Heckman 9/29

Daily Devotional Available



There are copies of *These Days* Daily devotional for the fall – October, November, December – are available on the small table outside the Pastor's Office. This devotional is published quarterly and offers a scripture, short reading, and a short prayer daily.

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