

The Sixth Street Messenger

A publication of the Sixth Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

August

www.sixthstreetchristian.org

2018

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August Celebrations:

Birthdays:

3 - Claire Cooper
11 - Gloria Kirkpatrick
20 - Jay Huser
21 - Pat Wisehart
26 - Bill Fredenburg
26 - Miriam Russell
27 - Almeda Smith
30 - Cordell Carnes
30 - Peach Vandergrift

Anniversaries:

12 - Brandon & Melissa Lovett
17 - Kyle & Linda Soultz
26 - Michael & Leah Cooper

**Board Meeting
August 12,
After Worship Service**

*Pastor Michelle's
Bible Study Class
Meets each
Thursday at 9:00 a.m.*

Serving in August:

Minister:

Reverend Michelle Brown

Music Directors:

Susan Smith & John Doty

Organist/Pianist:

John Doty

Choir Director:

Susan Smith

Elders:

Jake & Susan Smith

Worship Leaders:

*5th - Jake Smith
12th - Jon Dietrich
19th - Michael Cooper
26th - Cheryl Tichenor*

Diaconate:

*Teresa Dennis - Jana Lovett
Nancye Scott - Margaret Ann Zivney*

Communion Prep:

Mary Kay Fredenburg

Nursery:

Leah & Michael Cooper

"Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him."

Proverbs 30:5

A message from Reverend Michelle Brown is shown below.

Community Vacation Bible School

Sixth Street is joining Middletown's Community Church, Methodist Church and Church of God to present Vacation Bible School on **Friday, August 3**, 6 to 9 p.m. and **Saturday, August 4**, 9 a.m. to Noon at the Middletown Community Church on Locust Street. Ages 3 to 5th grade are welcome.

Christian Fellowship Craft Meeting

The crafters will meet on **Saturday, August 4** at a time to be announced.

New Bible Study Course

Beginning **Thursday, August 16**, Pastor Michelle will begin a new bible study course, "The Caring Congregation". Contact Michelle to sign up.

"Church Ladies Basement Sale"

The "Church Ladies" wish to thank everyone who donated or participated in the Basement Sale on July 21 and/or July 27.

Family Game Night

Family Game Night will be **Saturday, August 18, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Games, snacks, fun and fellowship for everyone.

Church Board Meeting

The August meeting of the Sixth Street Church Board will be **Sunday, August 12**, about 20 minutes after the Worship Service. Please plan to attend.

"Dining to Donate"

"Dining to Donate" at Applebee's in Anderson is **Wednesday, August 15**. A flier is included in your newsletter; present it to your server when paying your check. Proceeds will go to our fund for a new church organ.

Support the Middletown Food Pantry

Please help our church support the Middletown Food Pantry. Your donations of food, household products and money benefit our neighbors who are in need. Please give generously. (*During the summer months, the Pantry needs cereals of all kinds.*)

"Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has plenty; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some."

--Charles Dickens 1812 - 1870

THE SIXTH STREET MESSENGER

We are Disciples of Christ,

A movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

• Disciples of Christ Statement of Identity



Reverend Michelle Brown's Message for August

Happy August! Or...perhaps I should say, "Happy New Year!" It may not be the start of the calendar year, but on Thursday the academic year begins for the teachers and students in Shenandoah schools. This year, I registered one of my foster daughters for middle school, and that brought to mind all sorts of memories from my own childhood. Middle school – or junior high, as it was called in my day – started in seventh grade for me, and it brought with it all sorts of changes from the elementary school scene. There were different classes, for one thing, and figuring out where all of them were and in what order was a challenge. I still have nightmares about forgetting my schedule or getting lost in the school. Lockers were another hurdle to jump and a major source of anxiety. What if I forgot my combination? What if I couldn't get it open quickly enough so I wouldn't be late to class? What if this, what if that, and what if a bunch of things. Any kind of change is unsettling. Even approaching change – something you know is coming and can't be avoided, like middle school – can make a person apprehensive, even angry, because with that comes the unknown. Jesus himself was an instrument of change. God put him in this world to bring about salvation for everyone – the haves and the have-nots. The gospels are full of stories of Jesus working miracles. Frequently he touched those who were considered unclean – even members outside of his faith – to heal and return to the community. Considering the crowds that followed Jesus, I think it's safe to say that the way of Jesus was welcomed by many. I wonder sometimes about the ones who weren't so sure about Jesus. In the Gospel of John, Jesus gives a radical teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me." Some of the disciples balked. I can imagine them saying, "Um, what's that Jesus?" The Gospel of John goes on to say that these disciples turned from Jesus and no longer followed him. I'm surprised that everyone didn't stand up and walk out. We know now that Jesus was referring to the sacrifice he would make, that to eat and drink of Jesus' flesh and blood was a figurative meal that fueled the spirit and makes believers one with Jesus just as he was one with God. At the time when Jesus spoke, however, I can imagine it was a hard teaching indeed. I wonder if anyone understood it fully, and the community of followers was divided. Some biblical scholars think that the Gospel of John was written by a leader of Jewish Jesus followers who had recently been cut off from the synagogue. The scholars suggest that John's account of Jesus' life had more to do with the current situation of John's community than it did with Jesus' original context. Perhaps this is the case. Perhaps the hard teaching of Jesus and the division of the faithful was a reflection of what was happening in John's situation. Regardless, it shows what can happen when people react differently to matters of faith.

Sixth Street Christian Church: Sunday School — 9:15am Worship Service — 10:30a

AUGUST DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 1st Christian Women's Fellowship meeting – 1:00 p.m.**
- 12th Church Board meeting – Sunday
(Following Coffee Fellowship).**
- 15th "Dining to Donate" at Applebee's in Anderson.**
- 16th New Bible Study course begins at Sixth Street, 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.**
- 18th Family Game Night at Sixth Street – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**