



August 2017
Newsletter



Sexual Orientation and the Bible

Peter is sitting on a roof, waiting for lunch. He has a vision of pork chops smoking on the grill and shrimp boiling on the stove. His stomach rumbles, and he hears the voice of the Spirit, "Get up and eat, Peter."

"No! I've never eaten anything unclean. I won't break God's laws," he says. After all, it's pretty clear in the scriptures. Eating like that is ***an abomination***. (Leviticus 11)

Three times Peter has that vision, and he doesn't know what to make of it.

Change scenes. Hours later, the Spirit has Peter walking into a Gentile home, a taboo for him. He's not to step foot in the house of an uncircumcised household, even if that person does "love God." It is not appropriate. The unclean spirit in the air just might rub off on him. But then he says the most surprising thing. "I now see that God does not want me to call any person profane or unclean." (Acts 10:28)

See what just happened?! Peter makes a leap. He connects the dots. First he has a fuzzy vision around food and dietary laws. Then he experiences something in relationship with this Gentile person. And slowly, he realizes the gospel connection with people. It's about people! Real people.

And so begins the messy, controversial, heated, debated, scripture searching, prayerful questioning, forward and backward movement toward including Gentiles into the life of the Church.

The same thing is happening today, only this time the questions are around people of various sexual orientations and gender identities. I believe that these are parallel movements of the Spirit, movements that require honest and open discernment.

Central to that discernment process is a deeper look at the scriptures. We need to ask questions such as:

- How has the church traditionally connected the dots around same sex relationships?
- What scriptures are being debated today and why?
- Why are some (even conservative) biblical scholars changing their minds?
- What does the Bible actually say and not say?

Here's the thing: I love the Bible. I love how it keeps challenging me to think new thoughts, to see the world with new eyes, and to encounter God in the messy questions of our lives. During my sabbatical in July, I've spent more time studying, reading and exploring how different people are answering these questions, all to prepare for our August Bible study.

I hope you'll join me each Sunday of August when we will dig deep into this together. Each week I'll be leading a Bible study around these texts and questions during Sunday School. While I know that not everyone will come to the same conclusions as I have, I do hope you'll come, "open in heart and mind" as our mission statement says, ready to explore deeply the meaning of our scriptures.

In holy curiosity,
~ Pastor Chris

August Birthdays

- 1 Terri Bapst
- 3 Baye Brent
- 7 Steve Lorberg
- 9 Nina Roberts
- 11 Bryant Thompson
- 11 Dan Meckfessel
- 11 David Murphy
- 11 Dylan Williams
- 14 Pat Burris
- 16 Vi Miller
- 18 Pat Bushman
- 18 Sarah-Kate Sullivan
- 19 Jerry Brown
- 20 Sharon Wear
- 21 Scott Cazadd
- 24 Earl Williams
- 25 Toni Hayes
- 25 Norm Tooley
- 27 Jessi Fillingham
- 27 Dylan McDonough
- 28 Callum Dollar
- 31 Dave Leighton



THE
COVERING HOUSE
SAFETY. DIGNITY. FREEDOM

RACE for REFUGE 5/10 K Event

Saturday, September 2

This popular 5/10 K run/walk generates funding for The Covering House, which provides refuge and restoration to girls who have experienced sexual exploitation or trafficking. This race is for all ages, families and friends, with more than 330 participants last year.

Join Pastor Chris for our fourth year in supporting the Covering House as we continue our fight against human trafficking. Let Chris know if you'd like to participate on the Dayspring Team.

- When:** Saturday, September 2. Race begins at: 8:00 a.m.
- Where:** Tower Grove Park, St Louis, Sons of Rest Pavilion
- Cost:** Registration: \$35 - by August 25th
Late Registration \$40 - after August 25th

Register Online: www.RaceForRefuge.org

Our Averages in July:

Sunday Worship 65
Sunday School 27



Dayspring Baptist Church

Generation
to generation

New Building Dedication Sunday, October 1

Mark your calendars now for the dedication of our new building addition on Sunday, October 1. We are planning some special events in conjunction with the dedication, so stayed tuned for more details.

August at Dayspring

31-4	Mon.-Fri.	West Virginia Mission Trip.
9	Wed.	Lectionary lunch, Anniversary Hall, noon.
12	Sat.	Memorial Service for Leslie Munger, 2 p.m.
15	Tues.	Leadership Team, 7 p.m.
20	Sun.	All-Church lunch, noon. Quarterly business meeting after lunch. Back-to-School Splash, Youth & Manna, 5-7.

Meeting Every Week

Sundays	9:30 10:45 Noon	Sunday School Worship Service Coffee & Conversation
Wednesdays	10:30	Intercessory Prayer Ministry

August Sunday School Series

Sexual Orientation and the Bible: Pastor Chris will be leading an all adult/youth bible study for the first four Sundays of August. We will explore the biblical texts that are generally discussed as different groups of people try to understand what the bible does and doesn't say about sexual orientation. Join us Aug 6, 13, 20, 27.

Lectionary Potluck Lunch Wednesday, August 9

This month our Wednesday potluck lunch is on August 9. Notice this date change due to parking lot construction during the first week of the month. Lunch is at noon—bring a dish to share.

Family Float Trip!!

There is nothing quite like a float trip on a beautiful Ozark stream in September! Mark your calendars now for our first Dayspring Family Float Trip on **Saturday, September 9**. We will have more information for you, so stay tuned!



Building Project Update

The site work for our expansion project is now underway! After asbestos was found seemingly everywhere in the Delmar House, we had to endure a rather lengthy removal process and state-mandated waiting period before demolition. This set us back nearly a month but the house has now been torn down and work on the grounds is proceeding.

Our construction company has worked hard to ensure our access to the church offices and sanctuary as much as possible. They have now torn out and are reshaping the asphalt drives and entrance in front of church as well as some of the concrete walkways. This work should be complete by the end of the first week in August.

If you have any questions about accessibility please call the church office for updated information.

Ministry Teams

Trisha Crow, moderator

This month, the sign ups for the ministry teams are going up. This is the major way that we as the church commit to serving one another and our community. There are lots of opportunities. So be thinking about how you want to serve Dayspring in the coming year. Prayerfully consider your talents and also whether you are willing to try a new challenge. Then sign up in the narthex before or after church during August.



Summer Youth & Manna Fun!

The Manna kids, Youth, and their families enjoyed a picnic and games at Drace Park on July 30.

Don't forget to put our August "Back to School Splash" on your calendar: August 20, 5-7 p.m.



Upcoming Events

- Memorial Service for Leslie Munger, Saturday, August 12, 2 p.m., Dayspring.
- Area V American Baptist Women Rally, September 23, at Dayspring.

News about Mission: Possible

Due to the activities associated with our upcoming building dedication, we are postponing our **Mission: Possible** event until later in the year.

Mission and Outreach

West Virginia Mission Trip

Please pray for our group who will be traveling to West Virginia the first week of August to take part in our annual multi-generation mission trip: Terry Minchow-Proffitt and Marsha & Chuck Hussung. Our June Mission offering raised \$1000 to be used for building supplies. Our church mission budget has added another \$1000.

Mission Offering

The August Mission Offering is designated to support our sponsorship of the Race for Refuge by **The Covering House**, providing a place of refuge and restoration for girls who have experienced sexual trafficking or exploitation. Please make your check out to Dayspring Baptist, designated for "Covering House."

Circle of Concern

Critical Food needs (no glass, please; place in the bins in the narthex): canned chicken, canned pasta, canned pasta sauce.

Notes from International Fellowship

By Nina Roberts
International Food Pantry Coordinator
Representative for Dayspring—International Ministry Board

Mira and Sasha, directors of the International Fellowship Ministry, are presently in Serbia visiting family. Their mothers live near each other now, so visiting both families is easier. They will return to their ministry in mid August.

For the past two months Brooklyn Matlock, student from William Jewel College, has been an intern with the Ministry. The main addition to the summer program has been a children's ministry on Monday and Wednesday afternoons with games, crafts, songs, Bible lessons, and prayers. Brooklyn was the planner, leader/teacher and helped with transportation. Mira prepared and served lunch. Brooklyn accompanied Mira when she was called to hospitals to translate for non-English-speaking Bosnians to assist them to get through their hospital experience. Mira and Brooklyn also went to Bosnian homes to sort through stacks of mail and help the clients get rid of the junk mail—they were leery of throwing any mail away as it might be important.

Tutoring will begin in the fall with more staff needed as they regroup for another year. Mira will resume baking classes in late August in the recently improved kitchen. Sewing classes are taking a break until the fall.

Mira sent out a list of items needed for their 15 international students. No backpacks are needed this year, but she is asking for school supplies and uniforms. I have volunteered Dayspring to participate in this project as we did last year and will ask the congregation for their help.

Dayspring continues to support this ministry in many ways—financial assistance for their trip to Serbia, along with other churches. We also made a contribution for Mira's medical bills as well as regular quarterly contributions to the Ministry. Dayspring also continues to send a team of workers to the Food Pantry every eight weeks.

Sign-ups will be coming soon for our church family to sign up for the various committees. International Food Pantry will be on that list. We had a dedicated and faithful team this past year with a full team each time we were scheduled to serve. Many thanks for their important service. It is my hope that many will return to serve the coming 2017-2018 season. The next scheduled date for our service at the Food Pantry in Saturday, September 9.

Unpacking White Cross

By Katherine Niles

Missionary, Democratic Republic of Congo

Katherine and Wayne Niles are missionaries through American Baptist International Ministries and are currently serving in Democratic Republic of Congo. Our White Cross group here at Dayspring has sent thousands of pounds of much-needed medical supplies over the years to International Ministries. Katherine's recent newsletter contained the following description of their receipt of White Cross supplies from the U.S. You may learn more their work at <https://www.internationalministries.org/teams/84-niles>.

Not long ago we received the 2017 "White Cross" shipment. There were loads of rolled bandages, gloves, suture, gauze, uniforms, and infant blankets. Someone had fun selecting those flannel prints! Stars, trains, teddy bears, clowns, and bugs adorned blankets carefully hemmed and folded for infants in our 11 hospitals. How grateful we are in Congo for White Cross! The arrival of the container is a much anticipated event, and if it's a 40-foot container (this one was!), we mobilize all the willing workers on the Baptist compound.



Wayne made dozens of trips in his pickup truck moving boxes from the container in the road to the storerooms in the compound. Half the container is composed of reasonably sized boxes of sutures, uniforms, gauze compresses and gloves.

The REST is 131 boxes of rolled bandages each weighing 260 pounds. It takes four men and brute force to unload them from the container, load on the pickup, and then unload into a store room. That's 34,000 pounds total! Every time I go on supervision visits to the Baptist hospitals in Vanga, Sala, Kikongo, Boko, Moanza, Kipata, Nselo, Sona Bata, Nsonga Mpangu, Mulolo, or Bandunduville, I visit the store room where

White Cross supplies are stored. Usually the shelves are mostly empty, and the staff plead for more supplies. They will soon all be full!

Why is there so much meaning for us in sutures, gloves, and rolled bandages?

Packed into those boxes is the fragrance of the prayers that follow this shipment and

the distinct reminder to our doctors, nurses, and patients, that they are being remembered. For servants of

God working in far flung and difficult corners of God's Congo world, that's feeling money cannot buy. All of us say THANK YOU for the gift of White Cross.



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Do you have juicy news for the
Newsletter?

Send an email to the church
office or to Marsha Hussung
(hussungs@gmail.com)

Your Church Staff:

Chris Fillingham, Senior Pastor
Marsha Hussung, Music Minister
Lyndsay Williams, Youth Minister
Stephanie Allee, Accompanist
Hannah Allee, Manna Director
Valerie Strate, Administrative Assistant
Brenda Hamm, Nursery Director
Katie Schultz, Nursery Assistant

Your Leadership Team:

Trisha Crow (Worship liaison)
President/Moderator
Joan Barth (Hospitality liaison)
Jr Stover (Missions liaison)
Kate Hanch (Spiritual Formation liaison)
John Boley (Stewardship liaison)

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