



Dayspring Baptist Church

May 2017
Newsletter



Our Beautiful, Diverse, and Discerning Church

by Pastor Chris Fillingham

As you have heard, Dayspring is beginning a conversation about how we as a church relate to and welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The key word here is **conversation**. For a long time this has been one of those topics we just didn't talk about because we simply weren't ready. That time has come to an end. We're now beginning the risky and honest steps of talking more openly about these questions.

In part, we're doing this now because our world is changing. Our society has changed. The laws around marriage have changed. Our relationships are changing. Many of us are realizing that we have friends, neighbors, children, siblings, and other family members who identify as part of this community. So we find ourselves asking new questions. This topic is moving from the realm of ideas and theories to the realm of real people and relationships. As a result, many people in our congregation are asking new questions or shifting their thinking in various ways.

In our congregation people are asking a variety of very different questions such as:

- Is my church a **safe place** to invite my loved one who doesn't fit into traditional categories of gender and sexuality?
- I am torn. **I have such conflicting thoughts** about this.
- How can people read **the scriptures** and still think differently than me about this?
- What might happen if my church takes a stand on this one way or another? **Will I still fit here** or will my church leave me behind?

These questions are just the tip of the iceberg really. Amidst all the questions and changes around us, here's what we know: **The one thing that has not changed is the gospel, and all of us want to be faithful to the gospel of Jesus.**

We also know that in our church there is a spectrum of different opinions. One of the beautiful legacies of Dayspring is our ability to think differently and disagree without being divisive. And so, the Resource Group is committed to honoring that legacy as we enter this conversation. We also aren't in a hurry here. **This is going to be a long conversation**, one that is likely to ebb and flow over the course of many months, or even years.

Here are some of the initial plans that are coming into place as we begin.

- May Sermon Series: "Being the Church": We're following the lectionary through stories in Acts and Galatians to remind ourselves of some fundamental things that define the life of the church from the beginning. These will be things we want to keep in mind along the way.
- June Sermon Series: "The Inspired Text": We're going to explore the overarching complexities of the bible, exploring healthy and unhealthy principles of interpreting scripture, and reminding us of its importance in our life together.
- The Gay Christian: In order to root our conversation in real people and not abstract ideas, we are making plans to bring in a guest speaker who can share with us their experience of being both gay and a Christian. The hope is to simply hear and receive their story with possible debriefing at a later time.
- August Sunday School/Bible Study: Together we will look at how the key passages of the bible related to sexual orientation have been interpreted by different perspectives.

As I said above, this is just the beginning. I know that this can be a scary endeavor for us as a church. But as your pastor, I want you to know how excited I am to be plowing this ground with you. This is when being the church is the most fun! Together we're digging deep into our faith and our relationship with Christ in order to really live out our mission statement: ***"As followers of Jesus Christ, open in heart and mind, we are seeking God, practicing peace, creating community."***

With deep hope,
~ Pastor Chris

May Birthdays

3 Holly Lehmann
 7 Virgil Chirnside
 7 Jakob Robinson
 7 Madeline Sullivan
 9 Shirley Crenshaw
 12 William Hussung
 13 Taylor Williams
 15 Shirleen Brown
 18 Kim Rokyta Norris
 19 Will Allgood
 19 Dan Coombes
 24 Lee Presson
 28 Noelle Fillingham
 31 Chuck Hussung
 31 Jacquelyn Brown

“Courageous Conversations”

Saturday, May 6,
 Noon-2:00 p.m.
 Third Baptist Church

(lunch provided)

Special guests are Edem and Pam Dzunus, directors of Baobap people (www.baobabpeople.org). Their mission is to assist groups with tools to foster dialogue and bridge cultural divides. Edem and Pam will offer church leaders creative options to build bridges to our diverse city.

Noon: Pizza and drinks
 12:20 or so—Presentation by the Dzunus
 followed by small group and large group discussions

Parking is available on the Washington Avenue side of the church. It's safe and secure, right next to the building. Watch for greeters and signage.

May at Dayspring

2	Tues.	White Cross, 10 a.m., Anniversary Hall.
3	Wed.	Lectionary Lunch, noon.
6	Sat.	Courageous Conversations, noon at Third Baptist (see more information above).
7	Sun.	Business Meeting following worship. Manna and Youth, 5-7 p.m.
9	Tues.	MOPS, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
16	Tues.	Leadership Team, 6 p.m.
17	Wed.	Lectionary Lunch, noon.
20	Sat.	Men's Breakfast, Dayspring, 7:30 a.m.
21	Sun.	Outdoor Worship at the Labyrinth, 10:45. Box lunch.
22-26	Mon-Fri.	Moving week into new addition!!
26	Fri.	Staff Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
30	Wed.	Probable demolition of Delmar House.

Meeting Every Week

Sundays	9:30 10:15 10:45 Noon	Sunday School Choir rehearsal Worship Service Coffee & Conversation
Wednesdays	10:30 Noon 7:00	Intercessory Prayer Ministry Potluck lunch/Bible study (1st and 3rd Wed. each month) Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary

Potluck Lunch & Bible Study Wednesdays, May 3, 17

Join us for our ongoing Lectionary Lunches, usually held the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month! Lunch is at noon and Bible study from 12:45-1:30. Bring a dish to share.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, May 20

Join the men of Dayspring and Second Baptist on May 20 at Dayspring Baptist, 7:30 a.m., for a hearty breakfast and fellowship.

Business Meeting

Sunday, May 7

Join us for the May business meeting immediately after church on Sunday, May 7, in Anniversary Hall. See the article on page 3 for information.

Looking for More Pictures??

We post a lot of pictures on our Facebook page. Be sure to visit our page regularly to keep up on the latest news and happenings around Dayspring.

Our Average Attendance in April:

Sunday Worship	93
Sunday school	24



Outdoor Worship & Lunch Sunday, May 21

Bring your lawn chairs, dress casually, and worship at the Labyrinth on Sunday morning, May 21, at our usual service time of 10:45.

Dayspring friends John Hussung and Neil Salsich of the Mighty Pines will lead our music. We'll follow up with a picnic box lunch.

From the Crow Family: Thank you for all the support that we have received as we mourn the loss of Terry's father. Our community of faith has surrounded us with kind words, hugs, cards and even a couple of meals in the last couple of weeks. We appreciate all you have done to help ease our loss. Terry, Trisha, Mara and Ben

What a Show!

Our Variety Show was a great success this year. We heard all manner of musical instruments, family stories, and skits by Manna and our Youth.

We also spent a lot of money on desserts. The final tally raised to assist our children and youth with camp was over \$1700! Well done, Dayspring!

Pictures are on our FB page and will also be in the June Newsletter.

West Virginia Family Mission Trip July 31-August 4

Each year members of Dayspring travel to the mountains of West Virginia to participate in a family mission trip. For over thirteen years we have joined together with several other churches from the East—working, worshipping, and developing and sharing friendships together.

Our Dayspring group varies in size each year, from six to 25 people. We've had three-year olds and folks in their 80's. This is a rare opportunity for families to serve together. There is work for any skill level or interest, with a "Music and Arts Camp" for local children and our own.

Families arrive in Philippi/Belington on Monday evening for dinner, introductions, and orientation. Tuesday-Friday are work days at various sites, and Saturday we all head home. Evening meals are a time of wonderful fellowship, sharing stories of the day, and strengthening old and new friendships.

Please talk to Marsha or Chuck Hussung for details. We would love to share with you how meaningful these trips have been for our family over the years.

May 7 Quarterly Business Meeting Agenda: Memorial Window, Building Update, and Nominations *Trisha Crow, moderator*

At the upcoming business meeting on May 7, one of the items on our agenda is to vote on whether to install a stained glass window in the circle-shaped window in the chapel. A few months ago, some members of the congregation suggested that the round window in the new chapel would be a good place for a stained glass window. Some memorial funds were offered, and new memorial funds were given specifically for this project. We've begun talks with a world renown, local glass artist to get a sense of the process and costs. Based on estimates, most of the funding has been committed from memorial funds and gifts, but there may be a shortfall which the Leadership Team has proposed to pay out of previous years' surplus up to \$2,000. The goal, if approved, is to have a beautiful piece of art memorializing loved ones for generations to come.

We will also be getting an update on the new addition, including the timeline for moving into the new space, expected interruptions to parking, and plans for the dedication. The addition is coming in over our expected cost. This will be explained as well.

Finally, we will be nominating two people to serve on the Leadership Team. Kate Hanch served the remainder of a six-month term of a previous Leadership Team member and we are now nominating her for a full two-year term. We are also nominating Joan Barth for our current vacancy.

He Is Risen Indeed!



Palm Sunday



Easter egg hunt



Mission and Outreach

Mission Offering

Our May Mission Offering is designated for The Great Rivers Region support of **One Great Hour of Sharing**, providing disaster response by Christian ministries. Make your check out to Dayspring Baptist, designated for "One Great Hour of Sharing." You may give all month.

Circle of Concern Food Pantry

Please place donations (no glass) in the bins in the narthex; remember that it is easier for volunteers if you bring multiples of one item rather than one of each:

Current Needs: *Canned pasta sauce, canned chicken, tomato products, detergent, dish soap*

Used Clothing Ministry

We collect clothing and small appliances to support the ministries of our sister ABC church, Antioch Baptist. Please leave gently-used items in the bin in the Narthex.

Mission Updates

The Goods:

On April 22, Dayspring was blessed with the visit of the Goods, missionaries through ABC who we as a church will be supporting as they begin work in Hungary. Pastor Jon, Amanda, and children Rachel, Sarah, Elizabeth and Andrew shared their calling and vision for their work. What a beautiful family and testimony to God's work in their lives as well as in the schools and new churches in Hungary. Thanks to all who helped with preparations and making cookies, and to the Homshers for hosting them in their home.

Kihomi and Nzunga:

Our missionaries, Kihomi Ngwemi and Nzunga Mabudigo, have finally returned to Haiti after a prolonged absence while Nzunga had knee surgery. Several updates have been sent out outlining lives that have been changed with their ministry. This is just one example:

Dear Loved Ones,

... When he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked Him... Luke 17: 15-16. (NIV).

Greeting. Let us introduce you to Mrs. Lumenia, mother of four children. The husband left her with small children. We first came in contact with Lumenia in 1999 when she was a maid for a family on our university campus.

One day she was sent to deliver something to Kihomi. As women, they engaged in deep sharing. Lumenia opened her heart and poured all her life struggle. While away from her children, those kids were always sick and this situation pained the poor mother. Kihomi continued to pray and to support Lumenia who finally decided to return to her village. This return was a turning point in Lumenia's life. She started making a garden to feed her children and gave them much needed love. Their health improved. Even though her struggle continues, she is much better off today as she has learned to struggle with her children.

God has blessed her and those children are now becoming responsible persons. One is a nurse, two are teachers, and a fourth one is a third-year agriculture student in a university.

Lumenia remembered all the advices and the support she received from Kihomi. Almost 18 years now, she brought her a home-raised turkey.

Thank you for walking along side in this endeavor of helping the helpless of our society.

Yours in Haiti,
Nzunga & Kihomi

Jesus uses Facebook, too.



“He’s not in there! Oh, wait - he’s changed his status to ‘risen’ ”

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
Open (Hospitality liaison)
John Boley (Stewardship liaison)
Kate Hanch (Spiritual Formation liaison)
Jr Stover (Missions liaison)

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