



The Good Tidings

Arena Congregational Church

July 2017

CELEBRATING OUR PAST-EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

Affiliated with the Wisconsin Congregational Association

Thoughts from there and there...Land of Promise, Pastor Shultz

They stood at the place disappointed, discouraged and defeated. It was their own fault. They had refused to believe that what had been promised could be accomplished with the help of the god who had led them to this place.



From where they stood they could see the land, the Promised Land; the land promised to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, and their descendants. It was a country that was described as "flowing with milk and honey." This was the fulfillment of a dream that would soon turn into the people's worst nightmare.

Spies had been sent out to investigate the land and to gather intelligence and to bring back some representative produce and products. The spies had been gone for forty days. There were many excited people who eagerly awaited their report. What a report it was!

The majority of the spies could only see the negative. It was a good land, productive and fruitful, but the people in the land were strong. The towns were large and well fortified. There was a race of giants who invoked great fear.

One voice was heard encouraging immediate possession. The majority said it was impossible. The negative information became known then the people raised a loud cry of dismay and complaint. The intensity of their disappointment was readily observed in complaints and condemnation of their leadership.

No matter how loud was the voice of one who expressed encouragement. The people would not listen. They believed the negative majority. The whole assembly questioned the leadership and the purpose that had brought them to this place. In a short time they decided to appoint another captain and return to the slavery from which they had been rescued.

So often we stand at the place of promise. We seek information and understanding, and that is as it should be. Too often we, in all our humanness, defeat the power of divine intention and purpose. Too often we remain as

we are disappointed, discouraged, and defeated. God would not have it so.

If our founding mothers and fathers had possessed the same attitude as did Israel at Kadesh-barnea, this land would not have been settled, the Revolution would not have taken place, we would still be under the yoke of English rule and authority.

The founders did not listen to the voices of the majority, neither should we, that is and unless, those voices herald the will and purposes of our founding generation.

We live in a land of promise. The promise is found in our founding documents, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. The first amendment prohibits Congress from making any law respecting an establishment of religion, impeding the free exercise of religion, abridging the freedom of speech, infringing on the freedom of the press, interfering with the right to peaceably assemble or prohibiting the petitioning for a governmental redress of grievances. We are in serious danger of a serious reduction or loss of these Constitutional privileges.

It is only that we use our right to vote and to petition that we can maintain the purpose for which this country was established. We celebrate the Fourth of July for a very decided reason. Let us remember and support this vital reason this year and always.

Sermons for July

July 2, Communion Sunday, Independence Sunday:

SERMON



SCHEDULE

Lesson: Romans 6:12-23, Sermon Title: Freedom Now!

The Fourth of July is our declaration of freedom from foreign oppression. God also has a freedom day. The question could be asked, "Which day is more important?"

July 9: Lesson: Romans 7:15-25a, Sermon Title:

Resolving Inner Conflict

Taking responsibility means that I do what I want to do and I do not do what I do not want to do.

Sometimes there is considerable conflict that needs to be resolved.

July 16: Lesson: Romans 8:1-11, Sermon Title: Walking the Right Path

Walking is good for you, especially if you are able to hear the birds and admire the flowers. There is a walk that does not go in circles, but leads to a specific goal.

July 23, Summer Salad Lunch, Parent's Day: Lesson: Romans 8:12-25, Sermon Title: Waiting with Patience

We have a brilliant future that cannot be fully known or described. It is the reality seen in the promise. So we wait with patience for the fulfillment of the promise.

July 30: Lesson: Romans 8:26-39, Sermon Title God's Gorilla Glue

Perhaps you have seen the commercials for Gorilla Glue. It appears to fix everything. God also has a glue that fixes what Gorilla Glue cannot.

August 6, Friendship Day: Lesson: Romans 9:1-8, Sermon Title: Divine Genealogy

At Ancestry.com you can spend the money and get an analysis of your DNA to discover your ethnic ancestry. Romans nine provides us with an understanding of genealogy that will fill you with great joy.

July 4, Independence Day

July 10-16, Camps for grades 4-12 will be held at Mt. Morris Camp and Conference Center Sponsored by the Wisconsin Congregational Association

July 23, (S), Summer Salad Lunch, Parent's Day

August 6, (S), Friendship Day

A Promise and A Prayer

A Promise

On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul, (Psalm 138:3 NRSV).

A Thought

"..though you can not believe, yet do not be dismayed...sink into or at least desire the hidden measure of life, which is not in that which distresses, disturbs, or fills you with thoughts, fears, troubles, anguish, darkness, terror, and the like, no, no! but in that which leads to the patience, to the stillness, to the hope, to the waiting, to the silence before the (God the) Father. I Pennington, adapted.

A Prayer

God, there is so much which distresses, disturbs, and causes anxiety, help me to see beyond it to the peace and contentment that you can help me develop. That is what I need more than anything else. I give you thanks for helping me. Amen.



Special Days in the Secular and Church Calendar



July 2, (S), Independence Sunday, Communion Sunday

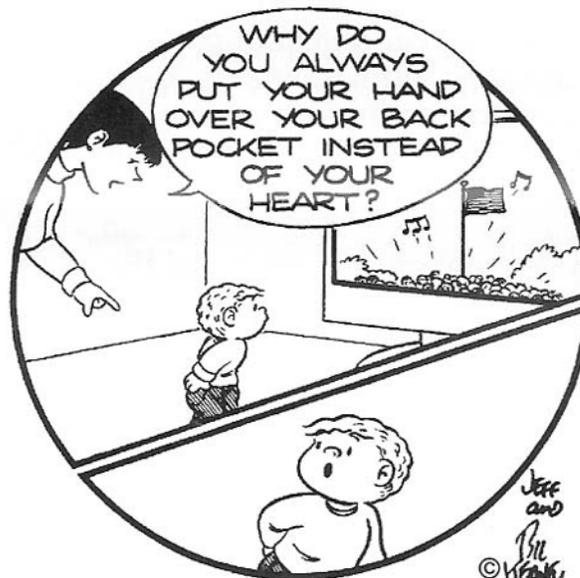
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil & Jeff Keane



"Grandma always pats me there and says, 'Bless your little heart.'"

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

Spotlight on the family

Powerful Family Nights¹



Regular family nights create an informal setting where you can intentionally pass along beliefs and values to your children as well as provide many opportunities for informal reinforcement of those values.

These are two main points of the "Heritage Builders Association" booklet, *A Lasting Impression* (Chariot/Victor Publishing).

Here's how to plan effective family nights.

1. Make it fun. Play and have a ball. Don't worry if you kids don't remember every word you say.
2. Make a memory. Create special slogans or jingles to help the main point stick with kids.
3. God with the flow. Start with a plan, but be willing to grab a teachable moment when an unexpected incident or question pops up/
4. Keep it simple Reinforce your beliefs by reading short Bible passages and leading quick activities that stress your point.
5. Invite participation. Ask questions, give assignments, and involve every family member as much as possible.

¹ Copyright 1998 Children's Ministry magazine, p. 55, Used by permission.

6. Mix it up. Use a variety of books, games, videos, songs, stories, and quick field trips to avoid routine.

7. Do it often. Set aside the same time each week, if possible. Repetition is a friendly teacher.



Officers for 2017 - 2018

Governing Board

President: Jim Favreau, 753.2334

Vice-president: Joanne Brown, 753-2316

Treasurer: Steven Wilkinson, 753.2131

Clerk: Joe Hodgson, 753-2520

Financial Secretary: Ray Johnson, 753-2845

Church Secretary: Steve Wilkinson, 753.2131

Officers

Sunday School Superintendent, Karen Wilkinson, 753-2131

Choir Director, Leslie Shultz, 574-0707

Head Usher Jim Favreau, 753.2334 and Ray Johnson, 753.2845



Meetings

Governing Board: Second Monday 6:30 p.m.

(Continued on [page 4](#))

Recipe of the Month

Streuselkuchen (an easy German coffee cake)

From the recipe files of Helga Shultz

½ butter (I use unsalted)	For the topping
1 cup sugar	1 ¼ cups flour
2 eggs	¾ cup sugar
2 cups flour	¾ cup cold butter
1 ½ teaspoons baking powder	
1 tablespoon grated lemon rind	
½ cup milk	
some peeled sliced apples or other fruit (optional)	

Preheat oven to 350 and grease a 9×13 baking pan

Beat the butter and sugar, add the eggs

Blend the flour, baking powder and lemon peel and add alternately with the milk to the butter mixture, mix well.

Spread batter into prepared pan.

Arrange fruit on top (if using).

Make the streusel by mixing the three ingredients together with a pastry blender (I use my hand) until crumbly. Spread on top of cake and bake for 40 to 45 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean

Makes about 12 to 16 servings. Great with whipped cream.



Men's Breakfast: Third Saturday, 7:30 a.m., at Grandma Mary's. Our next breakfast will be in either September or October. Enjoy your Saturday morning breakfast either the one provided for you, or the one you provide for yourself.



greeters

Greeters

July 2 - Pastor and Helga Shultz

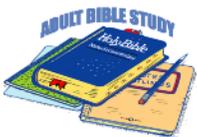
July 9 - Kathy Johnson

July 16 - Jim Favreau Family

July 23 - Joyce Reimann

July 30 - Ray and Colleen and Family

August -6 - Joe and Carol Hodgson



Adult Study Group

Our Adult Study groups are taking a hiatus for the summer. We will resume our meetings in September.

Worship On Compact Disks



The Worship Services are recorded each week on a CD so that you may share in the fellowship and enjoyment of worship. If you would like to listen to a service to share the music, pray the prayers and learn from the sermon call either Steve Wilkinson, 753-2131 or Pastor Shultz, 574-0707 and a CD will be delivered to you. Let us know if you need a CD player.

Missions



We are supporting the Congregational Mission of Jardin America with a gift of \$40 a month through the mission's program of the National Association of Congregational Christians. We also contribute \$50.00 a month to the Arena Food Pantry, and \$25.00 a month to the Food Pantry at the Spring Green Community Church. Thank you for your support of our local and foreign mission projects.

Something to Think About



The Secret

By Ralph S. Cushman
I met God in the morning
When the day was at its best,
And his presence came like sunrise

Like a glory within my breast.
All day long the presence lingered
All day long He stayed with me;
And we sailed in perfect calmness
O'er a very troubled sea.
Other ships were blown and battered,

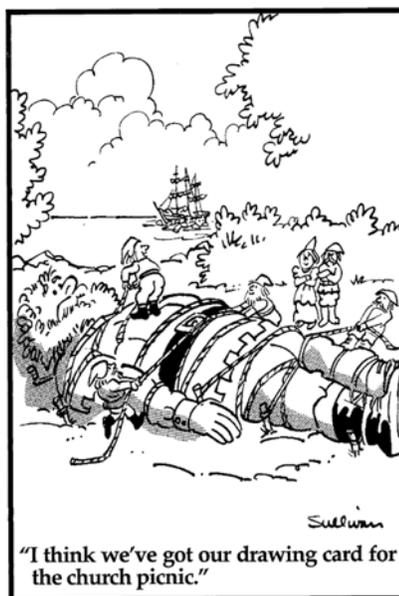
Other ships were sore distressed;
But the winds that seemed to drive them
Brought to us a peace and rest.
Then I thought of other mornings,
With a keen remorse of mind,
When I too, had loosed the moorings,
With His presence left behind.
So I think I know the secret
Learned from many a troubled way;
You must seek God in the morning
If you want Him through the day.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



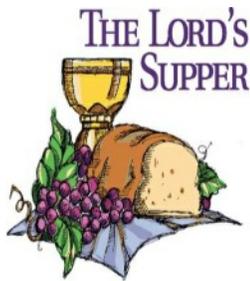
"C'mon, Daddy! It's time to put up the decorations of independence!"

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane



"I think we've got our drawing card for the church picnic."

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
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Communion will be served on Sunday, July 2. If you are not able to be present and would like Communion contact Pastor Shultz 574.0707 and Communion will be brought to you.



After Worship
July 23
On a warm day of Summer we will enjoy a cool salad.

Bring a salad (your choice), your own table service, and a beverage.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO



Wisconsin Congregational Association Youth Camp (grades 4-12) July 9 - 15.

A great time awaits you at the WCA camp held at Mount Morris Camp and Conference Center, Wautoma, WI.

The following are actual signs seen across the good ol' U.S.A.:

At a Santa Fe gas station: We will sell gasoline to anyone in a glass container.

In a New York restaurant: Customers who consider our waitresses uncivil ought to see the manager.

On the wall of a Baltimore estate: Trespassers will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. --Sisters of Mercy

On a long-established New Mexico dry cleaners: 38 years on the same spot.

In a Los Angeles dance hall: Good clean dancing every night but Sunday.

In a Florida maternity ward: No children allowed.

In a New York drugstore: We dispense with accuracy.

In the offices of a loan company: Ask about our plans for owning your home.

In a New York medical building: Mental Health Prevention Center

On a New York convalescent home: For the sick and tired of the Episcopal Church.

On a Maine shop: Our motto is to give our customers the lowest possible prices and workmanship.

At a number of military bases: Restricted to unauthorized personnel.

On a display of "I love you only" Valentine cards: Now available in multi-packs.

In the window of a Kentucky appliance store: Don't kill your wife. Let our washing machine do the dirty work.

In a funeral parlor: Ask about our layaway plan.

In a clothing store: Wonderful bargains for men with 16 and 17 necks.

In a Tacoma, Washington men's clothing store: 15 men's wool suits, \$10. They won't last an hour!

On a shopping mall marquee: Archery Tournament -- Ears pierced

Outside a country shop: We buy junk and sell antiques.

In the window of an Oregon store: Why go elsewhere and be cheated when you can come here?

In a Maine restaurant: Open 7 days a week and weekends.

On a radiator repair garage: Best place to take a leak.

In the vestry of a New England church: Will the last person to leave please see that the perpetual light is extinguished.

On the grounds of a public school: No trespassing without permission.

On a Tennessee highway: When this sign is under water, this road is impassable.

Similarly, in front of a New Hampshire car wash: If you can't read this, it's time to wash your car.

Received from Thomas Ellsworth. The Good Clean Funnies List <gcfl-info@gcfl.net>



Our National Anthem

Francis Scott Key

1.
Oh, say, can you see? By
the dawn's early light
What so proudly we
hailed at the twilight's
last gleaming;
Whose broad stripes and
bright stars, through the
perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we

watched were so gallantly streaming.

And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air.
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still
there:

Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave?
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

2.
On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,

In fully glory reflected now shines in the stream:
'Tis the star-spangled banner! Oh, long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

3.
And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a country should leave us no more?
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps'
pollution!

No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave:
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

4.
Oh, thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n-rescued
land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a
nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust":
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED