



From Pastor LydiaGrace QE Gray

Dear Church Family,

Did you know there is one very consistent description of God's character throughout scripture? It's this:
"The LORD is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."

We find this description in Exodus, the story of God's chosen people leaving enslavement and receiving the law of God; we find this description repeated throughout the Psalms, the collected songs that God's chosen people used to worship and pray to God; we even find this description in Jonah, the prophet who, ironically, complained to God that God is too forgiving towards the "enemies" of the people of God. I learned in seminary that it is vital to pay attention to what the Bible repeats. After all, back when the scriptures were being written, any time anything was written down, the writers were using rare resources to consciously preserve what they thought was truly important. If they said something several times, consistently, across hundreds of years, we know they were intent on it never being forgotten.

"The LORD is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."

Despite how often the scriptures say it, I think we forget it. Instead, I think we imagine God is unhappy with us, judging us, and making lists of all the times we break God's rules. I've often emphasized that God is not like that: God is Love. But people have frequently pushed back by saying things like: "But, remember, God is also righteous and wrathful."

Y'all, I know God gets angry. But scripture shows us that God only gets angry *because* God is Love. God gets angry when God's children aren't being loving to one another. Recently, I've thought of it like this: God gets angry the way a loving mother gets angry when her toddler hits her infant. God wants injustice to stop because God loves the helpless baby, but God also loves the growing toddler. God's anger is perfect: it's the kind of anger that ends injustice without destroying the one who is just learning. Meanwhile, our anger is imperfect, so, instead of attempting to approximate God's anger, we are called to emulate God's love. That's what Jesus taught us to do.

So, day by day, I pray that we may we become more like the LORD:

"gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."
Amen



SAVE THE DATE! August 20, 2023 Lunch, Learn, Listen

IMPORTANT: Please plan to join our church family after church on Sunday, August 20th

We will have **Lunch** together in the Fellowship Hall
while we **Learn** about future possibilities for our congregation;
then the Elders will **Listen** for input from the congregation during small group discussions.

Note: This is not an official congregational meeting. It is a chance for everyone to have access to the same information and for everyone to feel seen and heard as we shape our future together

Please save the date and expect more details regarding the meal in our August PresbyNews.



News from your Community Food Pantry

Are you a HUNGER HERO?

Your Community Food Pantry continues to serve our hungry neighbors. In May, 440 families received food. Twenty-seven of those families were new to our pantry and 78 of those families came twice.

If you donated to our food pantry on Meijer's Simply Give double match day, thank you so much! Simply Give continues until July 2 with our food pantry receiving the amount of your donation.

Food insecurity is a big issue facing many communities, obviously including ours. So many people struggle to make ends meet, even with food stamps (SNAP). You can be a **HUNGER HERO** by donating money or donating food. Food can just be brought to church with you and placed in the container right across from our church office. The pantry gave away 108 boxes or bags of cereal this week! Cereal (in regular or family-sized boxes or bags, not giant-sized) is always needed!

As we seek to be Jesus's hands here on Earth, please consider adding a donation to your grocery shopping list this week. Become a **HUNGER HERO!**

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday and Anniversary
To all those
Celebration in
July



Operation Christmas Child



Thank you for your continued support of our Samaritan's Purse Operation Child Shoeboxes; below are a few of the "best" gifts kids like to receive. 2023 goal is 105 boxes. Postage is \$10 per box - postage donations welcome.

Toothbrushes

Washcloths

Combs

Hairbrushes

Socks

Sunglasses

Jewelry and watches

Flashlights (with extra batteries)

Soccer ball with pump

Dolls

Stuffed animals

Shoes

Toy cars

Jump ropes

Yo-yos

Toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries)

Pens

Pencils

Pencil sharpeners

Crayons

Markers

Notebooks

Paper

Coloring books

Picture books

Solar calculators

Not allowed:

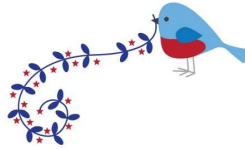
Candy, toothpaste, gum, used or damaged items, scary or war-related items, seeds, food, liquids, lotions, medications, vitamins, breakable items, glass containers, aerosol cans

Here & There

Openings for the Flower Calendar are available. The calendar is posted on the bulletin board in the Parlor hallway. Sign up on your own or call the Church Office, 966.2234, to sign up for the day you want.

Please let us know! If you, or anyone you know, are in the hospital, grieving, or need our prayers, please call the office, 765.966.2234. This church family cares for you and yours!

NEW BOOK in the church library: "Living A Life of Faith and Love" by Natividad Espiritu, Natividad, Pastor's grandmother, donated the book to our library. The book is available for you to check out.



Card Shower

Gene Kinsinger will be celebrating his 90th birthday on July 23. Please help him celebrate with a birthday card. Thanks so much from the Deacons.

Ladies Night Out

Friday, August 18

Barn at the Helm

More information to come in Bulletin & Aug. PresbyNews



ALL NEW "LYNN & FRIENDS"

Sunday, July 23, 3PM

at First United Methodist Church, Connersville

You are invited to be with us for our 30th year hosting this special summer 'Sounds of Faith and Freedom' program!! With easy access and plentiful parking along with our cast being in Connersville, we will be sharing talents of humorist/magician Rusty Ammerman, music from Ann Frost, Kim Giesting and two new guests, along with myself.

We hope to see YOU!!

With His Hope and Joy,

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Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 AM

Cable broadcast on WCTV Channel 21, 8 PM on Sunday

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**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8 AM—4 PM

Friday 8 AM—12 Noon

Closed July 4

