



Monthly Newsletter of Canaan United Methodist Church

September, 2023

## From Pastor Jay...

Dear Canaan Church Family,

As summer comes to a close, school has started back and we head into Fall, I have a deep sense of hopefulness about Canaan Church. It is true that we have faced several significant obstacles in the past twelve months. Reflecting back on the last year, I remember a quote from Mother Teresa. Years ago, in the early 1990's, then Senator Mark Hatfield from Oregon, visited Mother Teresa in Calcutta, India. Hatfield, seeing the overwhelming poverty just outside her doors, said to her, "Mother, there is a sea of poverty outside your doors; you can't possibly succeed in helping all the people in Calcutta". Mother Teresa looked at him and said, "My dear Senator, God did not call me to be successful. He called me to be faithful".

God calls us to be faithful. My feelings of hope stem from the faithfulness I've found here at Canaan. As we go into this Fall season, I want us to explore, and continue to explore, recognize and discover what it means for all of us to be faithful to who God has called us to be here in this place in this time.

In September we'll begin a new sermon series on Paul's letter to the Philippians. I want to come back to the themes of community, unity and fellowship, all of which are central to the church at Philippi. In September, we'll look at each of the four chapters in Philippians. What that means is: YOU CAN BEGIN READING PHILIPPIANS! The schedule for this series is: 9/3-Phil. 1; 9/10-Phil.2 (communion); 9/17-Phil. 3; and 9/24-Phil. 4.

**NEW MEMBERS LUNCH on September 24<sup>th</sup>.** As I mentioned back in the summer, part of my hopefulness for Canaan, is we want to offer an opportunity for the growing number of those who have been attending Canaan but are not yet members. After worship on September 24<sup>th</sup>, we'd like to host a luncheon for anyone who wishes to explore becoming a church member at Canaan or would like to know more about our church. We'll have lunch after worship and then for about an hour discuss church membership with an opportunity for questions. If you would like to attend this luncheon, please call the church office or email Marcy at: [church.secretary@canaanumc.com](mailto:church.secretary@canaanumc.com)

In October, we'll begin a sermon series on church membership and what it means to be a part of the Body of Christ in our time, as we take a look at our Baptismal Vows. Each week, beginning Oct. 8, we'll look at the Church from the perspective of our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. The last week of our series will culminate in our celebration of ALL SAINTS on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>.

Going forward, here's what I've come to understand: Evangelism and Discipleship have become essentially the same thing in our post-Christian America. What we invite others into is a community of Christ. A community of Christ followers. We invite others into a community where we reach up in worship to God and we reach out into a broken, hurting, isolated and fragmented world with the love of Christ. We invite others into the cross-shaped Body of Christ. None of us have it totally figured out. But we all are seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus and we all are seeking meaningful, trusting, committed and life-giving relationships with each other. Our task, I've come to believe, is we invite others to come into and be a part of a healthy non-toxic church. A place where we seek to know Jesus, to love Jesus, and to serve Jesus side by side. Right now, at this time, we have this at Canaan. It's embodied faithfulness.

In Christ's love, Jay

## September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
USHERS: Terry Lockamy, Gary Smith, Ben Hemrick, Joel Beeson, Keith Smith, Claude Honeycutt					1	2 Youth Retreat to Atlantic Beach
RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE ITEMS: 13 Gallon Trash Bags, Paper Towels						
3 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	4 Youth Return From Retreat	5	6 1 pm Circle of Christian Service 6:30 pm Men's Prayer Group	7	8	9
10 <b>COMMUNION</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 5 pm Choir Practice	11	12	13 6:30 pm Wednesday Night Fellowship & Meal 6:30 pm Men's Prayer Group	14	15	16
17 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 5 pm Choir Practice	18	19	20 6:30 pm Men's Prayer Group	21 6:30 pm Circle of Friends	22	23
24 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am NEW MEMBER LUNCHEON 5 pm Choir Practice	25	26	27 6:30 pm Men's Prayer Group	28 5:30 pm The Lord's Table	29	30 3pm SWEET DREAMS BED BUILDING



- 1 - David Mendenhall  
Martin McMillan
- 2 - Randy Long  
Nylah Edmonds
- 3 - Jane Ashby
- 4 - Hal Byrd  
Tamera Holcomb
- 7 - Mike Barneycastle
- 11 - Bryan Fowler  
Luke Motsinger
- 12 - Gail Swaim
- 13 - James Berrier  
Micki Cox
- 16 - Clifton Berrier
- 18 - Richard Berrier  
Rob Whitlow  
Ellie K. Smith
- 19 - Bernie Mabe  
Caitlyn Carden
- 21 - Marcy Maners  
Haven Hedrick
- 22 - Payton McMillan
- 23 - Tripp Honeycutt  
LuAnn Thomas
- 24 - Nancy Worley
- 25 - Miles Pillen
- 26 - Brooke Oast  
Judy Hemrick
- 30 - Lisa Maxwell

### BUDGET THROUGH AUGUST 31

#### GENERAL BUDGET:

Rec'd: \$241,705

Needed: \$276,885

**-\$ 35,180**

#### BUILDING FUND:

Total Pledged: \$129,595

Total Rec'd: \$ 69,800

Thank you for your faithful giving!

### NEW MEMBER LUNCHEON

Sunday, September 24  
Following Worship

Please call or email the church office if you would like to attend this luncheon and are interested in joining our church.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

11:45 AM – 4:00 PM



### CIRCLE OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Meeting: Wed., Sept. 6, 1 pm  
Hostesses: Judy Hemrick,  
Marty Bodenheimer

### CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Meeting: Thurs., Sept. 21, 6:30 pm

### "SWEET DREAMS" BED BUILDING

Join us to build more beds on  
Saturday, Sept. 30 at 3 pm



### Wednesday, Sept. 13, 6:30 pm

Please join us for fellowship, a meal  
and Bible Study



Please come & join the choir Sunday afternoons at 5 pm as we begin practicing the Christmas Cantata, "Christmas Presence" by Marty Parks!