

July & August Summer Edition

The Buckingham Gram

Buckingham Presbyterian



July & August 2022

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Pastor's Notes – SUMMER EDITION 2022
Suggestions for Your Summer Reading List

Greetings, Friends! As I write this, I can feel the humidity in the air and I am fully aware that summer is here! I love summer, always have – for fun in the sun, morning walks, and evening cook outs – and of course, finding time for great summer reading.

If you've been joining us for Sunday worship or Thursday studies, you know the required summer reading for all of us this summer is the Book of Acts. I've invited us to get in on the Action of Luke's sequel to his Gospel account and enjoy it as an amazing, exciting and awesome adventure. We are discovering, too, how the adventure continues to speak to us today as the church continues to grow, stumble, connect, fail and succeed and serve - as we forever learn to be the hands and feet of our Savior.

So, I encourage you to keep up with your reading of Acts – but if you need a break, I thought I'd suggest 10 other “good reads” for your summer reading pleasure. Check out the list on page 2 and if you cannot find one you like, just ask and I'll try to help you track it down. (I may even have a copy you may borrow!)

If you have other suggestions for summer reading – let me know. I'll post this list on the bulletin board where you may feel free to add to it.

Happy Reading – and have a Happier Summer!
Pastor Mark



When we first began the Acts Summer/Fall series I posed some questions for you to prayerfully answer. I would like to encourage you to continue considering these questions as we walk through Acts.

I would also love to hear your answers, if you have not yet submitted them. You may email me at pastorpedmonte@gmail.com or text 610-428-3135. Try not to answer these based on your experience of the past—but with gratitude in the moment and with hope for the future.

- 1) What is the purpose of the “Church?”
- 2) “How is the Church meaningful in your life?”
- 3) How does Buckingham ascent to new heights for Jesus Christ?
- 4) How do we—with faith, hope and courage— invite others to join in the active work of the Holy Spirit?



PASTOR MARK'S

Summer Reading

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **What We Talk About When We Talk About God**, Rob Bell, 2013. Rob Bell is known for his sometimes controversial and always engaging take on theology and spirituality. His latest book helps diffuse the tension between the faith-minded and the science-minded. A good read; poetic and challenging. (For another great Bell book, consider: Everything is Spiritual.)
2. N.T. Wright's **Everyone New Testament Commentary Series**, N.T. Write, 2003-2004. Write's popular commentary series is called "Everyone" for a reason – it's written in a way that everyone can understand, breaking out the Scriptures and providing good, thought-provoking and faith-enhancing discussion. It makes for a terrific devotional too.
3. **The Shack**, Wm. Paul Young, 2007. Considered by many to be one of the most powerful evangelical writings of the 21st Century, The Shack takes the reader on journey of faith, forgiveness, reconciliation and redemption. This was one of those books I'd heard about for several years, but never found the time or interest to read it until it literally jumped off the shelf at me. It makes a powerful impact and really does change one's perspective on many things.
4. **The Armchair Theologians Series** – Do have an interest in theology but find reading Calvin's Institutes a tad cumbersome? Um, yeah, me too. But this series actually makes theology fun – with humor, insight, and graphics that helps one make sense out of complicated and heavy-duty material. Start with John Calvin or Martin Luther or Augustine. There are 13 in total, and more on the way, I think.
5. **Proof of Heaven**, Eben Alexander, M.D., 2012. By far the best and most compelling/convincing book I've read on "near death experiences" – written out of the experience of a neuroscientist who, up until his own NDE, was a non-believer in the afterlife and convinced that all things we all in one's head.
6. **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**, CS Lewis. Alright, it's a classic – but I find myself drawn back to this story over and over. Whether you read it as a kid, or never at all – it's a wonderful tale of mystery and mysticism and faith grounded in "the Lion." While you're at it, read the whole Narnia series. (Some are better than others; my other favorites are: Prince Caspian, Voyage of the Dawn Treader, and The Magician's Nephew.)
7. **One Thousand Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are**, Ann Voskamp - Aimee read this one and was captivated by its mystical, lyrical take on faith and gratitude. I paged through it and found it intriguing as well. It is definitely not for everyone's tastes – but it is a powerful book that draws its readers closer to the love and majesty of our Creator.
8. **The Solace of Leaving Early**, Haven Kimmel – Another of Aimee's recent favorites, Kimmel uses small-town life as a springboard to explore the loftiest of ideas. The book is "at once a romance and a haunting meditation on grief and faith" and "a joyous story about finding one's better self through accepting the shortcomings of others.
9. **The Road**, Cormack McCarthy – This is one of my favorite books. It is a gripping story, told in a very minimalistic style, of a father and son's quest for survival after an earth-shattering event. It can be quite rough and some of the subject matter (e.g. cannibalism) may not for a sweet summer reading make for everyone – but at its heart is a deep theology and faith in humanity and in the "Fire" that cannot be extinguished – even by the darkest of darkness.
10. **A Prayer for Owen Meany**, John Irving – The opening line reads: "I am doomed to remember a boy with a wrecked voice—not because of his voice, or because he was the smallest person I ever knew, or even because he was the instrument of my mother's death, but because he is the reason I believe in God; I am a Christian because of Owen Meany." Need I say more to intrigue you?

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—JULY 25-29



Christian Education is hard at work planning for our Food Truck Vacation Bible School being held July 25-29. Help and supplies are still needed. Please check our supply wish list and if you are able to make a donation, please do so by July 17th. If you would like to volunteer please let Victoria know at 443-880-1105.

Outdoor Worship Service/VBS Kick of Event—July 24th at 4pm.

Come enjoy the Food Truck Party decorations and get a glimpse of what our children will be learning for the week. Fellowship provided by Congregational Life will follow the service. Please join us for an awesome night of fun and fellowship. **Note: There will be NO MORNING SERVICES on this day.**



Worcester Youth and Family Summer Youth Camps will again be held in Taylor Hall this summer. Come say “hi” on Tuesdays and Wednesdays beginning July 5 and lasting until mid August. Last year we supplied the camps with lots of tasty homemade cookies and goodies. We would like to bless them again this year. If you are baker and can provide goodies for the campers, please bring baked goods labeled “CAMPERs” and leave in the kitchen anytime in July or August.

VBS SUPPLY LIST:

- * Paper Towel Tubes
- * Decorative Patterned Paper
- * Plain/Patterned Contact Paper
- * Cardstock
- * Large Boxes (fridge sized)
- * Tire Pool Floats
- * Colorful Pennants or Banners
- * Colorful Rectangle Table Clothes
- * 4 Large Baskets
- * 4 Aprons
- * 8 Oven Mitts
- * 4 Dish Towels
- * 4 2-Liter Bottles
- * Masking Tape
- * 32 Coffee Cans
- * 4 Skeins of White Yarn
- * 36 Red Craft Poms
- * 4 Spaghetti Spoons
- * 12 6in Paper Plates
- * 48 Empty Plastic Water Bottles
- * 4 Chef Hats
- * 4 Large Storage Containers
- * 4 Aquarium Nets.

Please contact Victoria if you have any of these items you can donate for VBS



AUGUST 6th 10am-3pm

Once again Buckingham Presbyterian will be participating in a variety of ways. If you are interested in helping with any of the following activities during the peach festival please let us know.

PEACH PIE SALES:

The Deacons will be selling whole pies as well as peach pie slices. This year they will be selling them both at the church and on the lawn at Taylor Museum. The Deacons will need help packaging pie slices, as well as selling them on the day of the Peach Festival. Please contact Bob Arthur or the church office to volunteer.

PARKING:

The Deacons will also be providing Event Parking during the Peach Festival. We'd love your help.

VENDOR ART & CRAFT SHOW:

This year, Buckingham will be hosting a juried Art and Craft show on the lawn in front of the church to raise funds for their community outreach projects. We are looking for unique & quality handmade items by local artists. Applications for a space are due by July 20th with a jury fee of \$10. 10x10 spaces will be \$40 upon acceptance. (Mass produced products will not be approved).

Please contact the church office or chris.s.rush@comcast.net for an application or for more information.



- July 2 - Susan Cropper
- July 7 - Kandis Kulyk
Kathleen Pruitt
- July 17 - Carol Neal
- July 19 - Brenda Burbage
- July 21 - Rosalee Campion
- July 24 - Laura Amrhein
- July 25 - Viola Keesling
- July 26 - John Fisher
- July 29 - Peggy Jones
Patricia Rouch

- August 3 - Achsah Jarman
- August 5 - Grayson David
- August 10 - David Kohler
- August 13 - Dorothy Warren
CeCe O'Malley
- August 18 - Patricia Arthur
- August 27 - Karla Davis
Dana Tull



- July 22 - William & Rosealee Campion
- July 24 - Jeremy and Lindsay Ashton



- August 23 - Fred and Carol Neal

Special Dates that we know about will be posted monthly. Please make sure to let the office know about your special day so that we can celebrate with you!



BACKPACK PROGRAM



Some of the many kids that helped pack bags each week!



Thanksgiving Dinner provided to families in need

Thank you to everyone who helped support the Ocean City Elementary backpack program for 2021/2022 school year! We were able to provide food for 34 kids each weekend. This is the largest number of kids we have provided to yet. We also were able to provide Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter dinners for the families needing the extra help! Pictured is a Thanksgiving dinner including a whole turkey (provided by members of our congregation), milk, eggs, bread, dinner rolls, veggies, mashed potatoes, mac and cheese, a box of food (provided by Bikers without Borders) and a box of fresh veggies (provided by Stevenson United Methodist).



Extra large bags delivered for the last week of school to help through the summer.

We are looking for those able to help sponsor kids for the 2022/2023 school year. \$15 feeds a child for a weekend, \$60 for a month and \$350 every weekend for a year! 40% of the funding comes from members of our church and 60% comes from local businesses and residents who want to help our cause! What an amazing church and community we have! We wouldn't be able to help these children and families without everyone's help and support! If you are interested in getting involved there are many ways including: financial support, packing bags (be on the lookout for packing times), as well as food *needs during the holidays!*

For more information contact Wendy or Lindsay.

MISSIONS

THANK YOU everyone for **generously** donating to our **One Great Hour of Sharing** mission to support Ukraine. With your help, we were able to raise approximately \$3,000!

We were also happy to assist the **Grace Center** by collecting loose change in baby bottles and we participated in the **"Hats Without Hate"** project with Worcester Youth and Family Services.

Through our financial assistance, several of our "Backpack" kids at Ocean City Elementary School were given the amazing opportunity to attend an educational field trip with their class to the Washington D.C. National Zoo in June. In addition, our Mission Book "Fair-ies" assisted OCES students who were unable to afford books at the Book Fair to shop for and purchase books.

The washer and dryer that was installed at the Ocean City Baptist Church is successfully being utilized by families and individuals in transition and we continue to work with the **Beyond Your Walls** mobile shower unit that offers showers to those in need, as well as clean clothes, and lunch each Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church in Ocean City. A sign-up sheet is available for anyone who would like to participate in this incredible mission!

Finally, as we roll into July and August, we look forward to the "Feed Your Neighbors" Mission, supporting **Vacation Bible School** with their Food Truck Party theme.



MONTHLY MEETINGS

Session: Next meeting—Tuesday, July 12th

Deacons: Last Tuesday of every month 6:30pm (next meeting July 26)

Trustees: Last Wednesday, every *other* month 6:30pm (next meeting August 31st)



July



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1 Pastor's Hrs. 10am-12pm	2
3 9am Contemporary 10:15-10:45— Friendship Time 11am Traditional Celebration of Lord's Supper - both services	4 	5 Men's Breakfast 8:30am Rayne's Reef	6	7 Choir 7:30	8	9
10 9am Contemporary 10:15-10:45— Friendship Time 11am Traditional	11 Share & Care 6:30pm	12 Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm Session Meeting 6pm	13 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm	14 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	15 Pastor's Hrs. 10am-12pm	16
17 9am Contemporary 10:15-10:45— Friendship Time 11am Traditional	18 Share & Care 6:30pm	19 Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm	20 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm	21 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	22 Pastor's Hrs. 10am-12pm	23
24 NO MORNING SERVICES 4PM Outdoor Worship Service/ VBS KICK-OFF	25 Share & Care 6:30pm Vacation Bible School 6-8pm	26 Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm Deacon's Meeting 6:30pm Vacation Bible School 6-8pm	27 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm Vacation Bible School 6-8pm	28 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm Vacation Bible School 6-8pm	29 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm Vacation Bible School 6-8pm	30



August



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

31	1	2 Men's Breakfast 8:30am Rayne's Reef Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm Session Meeting 6pm	3 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm	4 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	5 Pastor's Hrs. 10am-12pm	6 PEACH FESTIVAL 
7 9am Contemporary 10:15-10:45— Friendship Time 11am Traditional Celebration of Lord's Supper - both services	8 Share & Care 6:30pm	9 Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm	10 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm	11 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	12 Pastor's Hrs. 10am-12pm	13
14 9am Contemporary 10:15-10:45— Friendship Time 11am Traditional	15 Share & Care 6:30pm	16 Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm	17 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm	18 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	19 Pastor's Hrs. 10am-12pm	20
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28 9am Contemporary 10:15-10:45— Friendship Time 11am Traditional	29 Share & Care 6:30pm	30 Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm Deacon's Meeting 6:30pm	31 Trustee's Meeting 6:30pm			