

(Continued from page 1) Each person is uniquely different in so many various, surprising ways. I could not imagine myself working in an operating room, or driving an 18-wheeler across the country. Some could not imagine preaching each Sunday. Each of us has distinct talents and gifts for Christ’s Church and life. Perhaps this COVID-19 has taught us not to overlook many who transport and deliver us our food. In a similar vein, we may overlook a plumber but when our toilet backs up, he become the Messiah! We all need each other.

In the midst of this COVID-19 outbreak, we need each other even though it is difficult to see each other. We do pray for each other. We do have options to connect with the church through “meet and greets” or Bible Study on ZOOM. We have daily devotions and Sunday Worship, but it is not the same and I realize some are not able to access the electronic-internet.

Nevertheless, once things get more “back to normal” we will continue broadcasting devotions and Sunday worship. When will we be ready to re-gather in our sanctuary? I never thought it would be this long. It is July! I do not know about you, but this is my first experience world-wide pandemic. We are all learning about operating and going-about in the midst of this pandemic. When our COVID-19 numbers begin to decline in this region (Galax and the Twin Counties) we then can begin to plan a return date. I realize everyone may not be comfortable returning (and that is understandable). I personally think late July or early August. I wish I could confidently say, next week or the week after, but I cannot. In the meantime the Holy Spirit still connects us to Christ and each other! May we all listen to the Holy Spirit who leads us in the way of Christ.as to where to eat the next month. Come enjoy a meal and fellowship and have a say to where we will eat in July.

Pastor Mark B. McFadden



Dear Pastor Mark & FMMC family,
Thank you so much for the gift card and kind note! I truly appreciate your generosity in making this decision so special. Your love, prayers, and support throughout the year mean so much to me, and I can't wait to see what lies ahead. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and sincerity.
Love,
Morgan Tompkins

Morgan Tompkins

Dear FMMC,
Thank you so much for the graduation gift. It still feels surreal to finally be finished with high school. I will be attending Virginia Tech. I plan on majoring in Microbiology with a minor in Nanotechnology. I hope to work in Genetics researching degenerative diseases. I'm so thankful to have such great support from the church. Thank You!
Sincerely,
Evan Nuckolls

Evan Nuckolls

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				Elsie Davis	07/31

JULY CALENDAR
JULY ALTAR GUILD WOMEN: Rebecca Cardwell and Geneva Anderson



HAPPY JULY FOURTH



NATIONS FOR WHICH TO PRAY:

July 5—Ethiopia and Eritrea
July 12— Djibouti and Somalia
July 19—Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rwanda
July 26—The Republic of Congo, Gabon, São Tomé and Príncipe

PRAYER LIST:

NEW ADDITIONS: Jim Marshall; Alice Anderson; David Wade; Buster Hoops (Mark’s uncle in hospice care; Steve and Jeanne Franks on the passing of Steve’s mother; Alice Anderson; Susie Blevins, Glenna’s mother, under hospice care.

Maggie Amburn	Susie Floyd	Trish Moore
Audene Bogert	Brenda Gravely	Jane Naylor
Clare Boyer	Ronnie Gravely	Bud Nelson (Cancer)
Skip Boyer	Keith Helton	James Rollins
Tracy Brannock	Angie Hill	Jo Rudy
Gardner Brannon	Tommy&Rhonda Jones	Barbara Sawyers
Christine Briscoe	Keri Grimes Keith	Sadie Schaeffer
Max Brown	Don Knox	Rexene Spraker
Steve Burcham	Penny Kyle	Tim Spraker
Ruth Ann Cox	Rubie Larrowe	Sandy Ward
James Duncan	Pam Leadbetter	Edith Wilson



July 2020

“I am the vine...you are the branches”

VOL. 57 – ISSUE 7

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INVITING—FORMING—SERVING

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

Welcome to the month of July! The big holiday in July is, of course, July 4th! Fries is having fireworks on Friday, July 3rd and Galax on Friday, July 4th. I do love fireworks and it amazes me why they still create wonder and enthrallment. Jojo, the cat that owns me, is fearful of fireworks as are most dogs I suspect. What is wonder and amusement to us is frightful to them. July 4th this year is on a Saturday, so a big 4th of July weekend; except, that this slowdown has changed our celebration of holidays. At least we will still have fireworks!

What is wonder and amusement to us may be frightful to others. I expand that to human to human level. What may cause wonder and amusement for one may be fearful for another. I remember a guy in the Army who thought he was smarter than the rest of us (and he probably was in some ways). On maneuvers he left his weapon (M-16) unsecured. Was it in his Jeep or was it a Humvee? My memory is blurry, but what I do remember that two friends of mine and I decided to hide his M-16 and wait for smarty pants to return.

I do note that leaving your weapon unsecured and having it stolen could land you in a “heap of trouble” in the military. Weapons are accounted for, and if not on maneuvers, they are returned and locked up daily in the armory. Now back to the story: We waited and “smarty pants” returned. We noticed him beginning to look for his weapon. When he realized it was missing then the show began. He was very distraught to say the least. We asked him what was wrong as if we did not know. We finally related that we had taken his weapon but we did not tell him for our amusement and wonder. We told him that we had kept him out of trouble because if someone else would have noticed his unsecured weapon, he would have been in big trouble. One person’s amusement and wonder may be frightful for another. Looking back, I do admit that was not one of my best moments in life.

On another level, someone walking on a tight rope or sitting at the edge of a tall building bring me amusement and wonder, but I would be extremely fearful to do either. I am “afearred” of heights. We all have different fears that cause us anxiety. We all have predilections that others may find fearful. (Continued on page 2.)