
HOPE HEADLINES

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The Gift of Sabbatical

My first response to my upcoming sabbatical is great *thankfulness* to the congregation for this gift.

My second response is *humility*. There are many people who have demanding jobs who will never get a sabbatical.

Why me?

My third response is to acknowledge Hope's *wisdom* in making sabbatical a regular part of congregational rhythm (every four years). Being disciplined about doing the routine maintenance on your car doesn't automatically mean it will last longer. But there is certainly a better chance of it. Similarly, a period of restoration for the pastor is good "maintenance," which increases the likelihood of length of service to the church.

And finally, a fourth response: Sabbatical is not a ready-made phenomenon for which one simply presses a button and it goes. I have to *create* the sabbatical. So, let me tell you some things I will be doing.

I have a reading list of six books. Two of them are on spiritual life: *Prayer* by Hans Urs von Balthasar and *The Awakened Heart* by Gerald May. The latter is a guide to practicing God's presence. *Run with the Horses* by Eugene Peterson is about pastoral ministry. *How to Read the Psalms* by Tremper Longman and *Advances in the Study of Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic* by Benjamin Noonan are resources for biblical studies. Finally, *Healing Haunted Histories* by Elaine Enns and Ched Myers is about the on-going effects of colonization, the Doctrine of Discovery, and moving forward in justice.

I will be doing some Hebrew studies with a retired Old Testament professor who lives in Hesston, to take my language skills to the next level.

I will be taking a drawing class—quite a stretch for someone who is about one level above stick figures.

On my own, I will be continuing my translations of the Gospel of Mark (now complete, but I will be going over portions again throughout the summer) and the Book of Psalms (118 done, 32 to go—about 2-3 more years of work at my pace).

Carole and I will be traveling to Maine in July where we spent our honeymoon. I will also be spending a week in a cabin at Kanopolis State Park—a favorite place.

At home I have the garden, the bike, the guitars, and Fridays with grandchildren. There will also be a few home projects to do. Oh, yes, and I'm trying to remember to rest as several of you have encouraged.

Once again, thank you for this gift and I look forward to being back in the fall. Blessings, *Pastor Dave*

Sabbatical transition Sunday

On June 12, Susan Jantzen will be joining us for worship. As part of this transition Sunday, both Dave and Susan will be leading communion. Join us for a reception following our service...say goodbye to Dave and hello to Susan.

Susan will officially begin on June 14 and hold office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Her first Sunday in the pulpit will be June 19, although she has met already with the deacons, Vision Council, staff and Music Committee.



Women's Summer Bible Study

We will be meeting every other week, **June 14 and 28, and July 12 and 26, Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am on Zoom.** We will be studying Joy Together: Spiritual Practices for Your Congregation by Lynne M. Baab. If you are interested in a book being ordered for you, please notify the church office, by Wednesday, June 1. If you order your own book, funds are available to reimburse you for the cost of the book. If you have questions, contact the church office.

In Joy Together: Spiritual Practices for Your Congregation, Lynne M Baab exuberantly, and realistically, displays the way spiritual practices can strengthen groups or whole congregations of Christians. Her illustrations are convincing; her experiences, vast and confirming; her explanations, constructive. I heartily urge every Christian to read this book, significant as it is, because we who respond to the Trinity with practices need to learn to live more as a community!" Marva Dawn, Theologian, author of *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly* and *Unfettered Hope*

"In Joy Together, Lynne Baab introduces six essential spiritual practices that can help congregations to spend time with Jesus, listen to what he is saying, be changed by him, and then speak and act in the world for him. Her insightful book provides practical and promising ways for groups to enter God's presence and be transformed." Henry G. Brinton, pastor of Fairfax Presbyterian Church in Virginia and author of *The Welcoming Congregation: Roots and Fruits of Christian Hospitality*

"In a world where happiness equals personal satisfaction or gratification it is lovely to come upon a book called Joy Together. The spiritual journey is not about hiking solo. It is a pilgrimage with others into prayer, hospitality, gratitude, Sabbath, etc. Those looking for ways to grow together with God will enjoy the personal and practical tack of Joy Together." Adele Ahlberg Calhoun, co-pastor Redeemer Community Church and author of The Spiritual Disciplines Handbook and Invitations from God.



We are looking for one or two more people to help tend to the Memorial Garden and other flower beds around the church throughout the summer. The work consists of weeding, deadheading, watering, pruning, etc. We have a rotating schedule of "gardeners" who take two-week blocks throughout the summer and early fall. The pay is great - being outdoors, listening to the birds, enjoying the beautiful blooms of the gardens, and playing in the dirt. Please see Marcus if you would be interested in helping.

Three Boys and a Dad, Round XXI.



Summer is just around the corner and with it comes the dream of completing some of those projects that just never seem to get done. The answer to this problem may be "Three Boys and a Dad, Round XXI." Anything from painting the house, hanging up shelves, shingling, hanging sheetrock, replacing siding, putting up a privacy fence are all possibilities. If you have a project that you would like help with this summer, contact Donovan Regehr, or one of the boys...Jordan, Justin, Jared.



**Western District Conference
July 29-31, 2022**

Camp Copass, Denton, TX

Would you consider being a delegate for the upcoming assembly? Hope is entitled to send 8 people. There are funds available to help off-set some of the costs. Annual Assembly sounds like it's something just for pastors or church chairpersons. It's not! It's for everyone who wants to learn more about what's happening among our Western District Conference churches all the way from Nebraska to Texas! It's also an opportunity to hear from people who know what they're doing in faith formation for all ages, church planting, responding to depression and anxiety among us, and more. Oh, yeah, and Annual Assembly is also for families!

We'll gather at Camp Copass, a kids' church camp with LOTS of recreational options. (Click [here](#) for more information about Camp Copass.) We've been apart for too long. A big chunk of our time together will be spent reconnecting with each other through recreation and service for all ages—both active and more quiet options—depending on your needs and preferences. We'll have fun, age-appropriate activities for kids and youth to learn about living the Jesus life, as well as childcare for the little ones. There will also be intergenerational fun.

Adults will have the opportunity to talk to members of a congregation outside the US who want to join as a member church of WDC. We'll also hear the good work of some of our partners in ministry, like Mennonite Disaster Service, Mennonite Central Committee, our seminary and colleges, and more. We will have time to catch up with each other and pray together around tables.

Then we'll worship God, play, and do service projects some more. If you live in the northern part of WDC and don't want to drive, we have reserved some 15-passenger vans. Because we're meeting at a church camp/retreat center, our costs will be increased from the past couple of years. For the sake of fairness, we will each be asked to pay well below the actual cost. We hope to make up the difference through generous donations. We will also have several scholarships you can apply for if the reduced rate is difficult for you. See below for discounted costs.

Discounted Rates (or What can we expect to pay for WDC Annual Assembly 2022?)

Discounted Food x 5 meals:

Adults: \$28 each; Kids (age 2-10) \$20 each; Kids (0-1) \$0

Special dietary needs? You can bring an ice chest with your own food.

Discounted Lodging Options:

*Tally Conference Center hotel room 2 queen beds w/ bathroom: \$135 total (1-4 people) Rollaway cot available for 1 more person.

*R.V./Camper Hookup: \$40

*Bunk House (bunk beds & shared bathrooms for 12 people): \$35 total per person

*Day Rate (no overnight): \$10/day x 3 days = \$30

Discounted Transportation Option:

* Van rental & gas from North Newton, KS: \$25 per person

A large, stylized cursive graphic of the word "June" in black ink, positioned at the bottom of the page. The letters are thick and fluid, with a decorative flourish at the end of the "e".