

End of school, the start of summer

Thursday was the final day of school for the Academy. For our part, we all breathed a sigh of relief that the official start of summer kicked off. As school begins to wind down, it seems as though a great deal of work is condensed into an increasingly shorter window of time.

The conclusion of the school year means more than a change of schedules. Penny has begun to pack in earnest. Unused corners of the parsonage are filling up with boxes, totes, and large plastic bags. Before it's over, we will collectively assess every possession. Our carport looks like someone dumped a moving truck out and drove away. What must the neighbors think?

It's all part of the process that accompanies being a Methodist minister. Sooner or later, the inevitable call comes; it's time for a change. For many of you, it's increasingly difficult to grapple with what all this means for the faith community. It is incredibly tough on the minister and the parsonage family too.

We are all dealing with feelings about leaving the people and places we know and love. Phillips County will soon be a launch pad from the present into the unforeseen future. Each of you, in your own way, is left to wrestle with what the future holds for you as a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. Let me encourage you to lean into your prayer life and continue praying for us as we pray for you.

Late last week, I put the finishing touches on the final block of worship planning for June. It represents the final four sermons of our four years together. That is a bittersweet moment for me. God has undoubtedly been pouring out his blessings on our time together. Some people will be joining the church soon. The reason is that you all are such excellent hosts and a friendly group toward visitors.

Together we celebrated the resurrection on Easter. During the last six weeks, we investigated the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus. Eastertide concludes with Ascension Sunday. Ascension Sunday helps us prepare for one of the most significant events on the liturgical calendar, Pentecost.

I walked into the sanctuary this morning, and the red paraments festooned the altar, podium, and pulpit. The festive red banners flank the chancel, reminding us that the birthday of the Christian Church is right around the corner. Let me be the first to invite you to worship this week to celebrate this yearly event with us.

Memorial Day is May 29. This holiday has its inception as Decoration Day, May 5, 1868, three short years following the Civil War. It was an annual tribute to those who had lost their lives in battle. By the turn of the century, the date shifted to May 30, as most of the nation had flowers in bloom during this part of the spring. Today we celebrate with a long weekend, picnics, and time with our families. It is the official start of summer. Please remember this day is set aside for the fallen service members. We cherish their willingness to serve God and their country at the cost of their very lives.

We have a lot to pack into our next five weeks together. God is undoubtedly at work, bringing us to a deeper understanding of scripture and what he is doing in our collective life of faith. I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to worship this Sunday when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the church's birth.

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13 Pastor Kenny

Calendar for the Week

Wednesday

9:00 a.m. Exercise

5:00 p.m. Youth

Friday

9:00 a.m. Exercise

Sunday

8:45 a.m. Lexa Worship

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Marvell Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Marvell Worship

Monday

Memorial Day

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2023 Budget \$205,705

Needed each week 3,956

Received this week 1,813

Capital Improvements 50

ATTENDANCE

Lexa Worship 5

Marvell Sunday School 23

Marvell Worship 58 + 70

Youth 12

HONORARIUM

KATIE GSCHWEND

Barbie Washburn

MEMORIAL

CORDELIA DAVISON

Mary Nell & Mike Ellenburg