

Hope-Line

The Newsletter for Hope Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven, Florida 33884-1556
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JUNE 2016



On page 35 in Wendell Berry's book "*Jayber Crow*" one of Jayber's favorite poems is written:

*"Keeping time, time, time,
In a sort of Runic rhyme,
To the tintinnabulation that so musically wells
From the bells, bells, bells, bells,
Bells, bells, bells..."*

I suppose he is right about keeping time in a sort of runic rhyme. Life does sort of run in cycles and rhythms. I remember last summer being so excited in June because I had never done this before. I really did not know what to expect from life in Florida. Florida, Hope Presbyterian, Winter Haven—were all new and different and adventurous for me. This year, I am excited because I have done this before: summer, a full program year, worship—I kind of have an idea what to expect. I love the rhythms of life and find fulfillment in the awareness that life is moving on to new adventures and new endeavors even in the midst of yearly calendars and routines that repeat... But in all of those rhythms and cycles we are moving to new destinations and places much like a wheel on a car, though it moves in circles around the hub, is yet traveling down the road to a new place.

If you follow Jayber's logic, we settle into life, run the patterns and find joy in the fact that we have a sense of contentment—because we have some idea of what comes next. Life in the church is like that. Life in faith is like that because we know that God has a plan for us. I suppose we are called to trust, enjoy and live this life day to day knowing that God is faithful and will give us that "tintinnabulation that so musically wells from the bells, bells, bells..." (Just so you know, tintinnabulation is the pealing or ringing of the bells.)

Anyway, I hope you enjoy the patterns of this summer ahead of us even if they include afternoon thunder-showers every day at 2 p.m.! The church will be here and when you are traveling or vacationing, we hope you will be here too! As I am sure you know, summer is usually a time when our offerings are down. I hope as you travel this summer that you will continue to remember the financial needs of our church. Remember on these hot Sundays, the "cool" place to be is at Hope Presbyterian Church.

Peace.

Pastor Owen



TOUR OF CONSERVATION WAY



We have an exciting opportunity to take a tour at *Conservation Way, Natural Encounters*. If you are interested in seeing the birds that entertain and provide inspiration to thousands of tourists and visitors in our region then join us on **Saturday, June 18** from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

This is not a show, but a tour of where these birds call "Home." One thing unique about going this time of year is that you might see a few babies. So if you are free June 18 from 1:30 to 3 p.m., meet us at the church at 1 p.m. as we will caravan to Conservation Way for our tour. Please notify us if you are interested in joining us so I may give them a headcount of how many will be attending. Please contact Julie: julie@hopepreswh.org or call the church office. This is a free event, but donations are welcome.

Thank you!

News from Josiah the Church Gecko

I don't know if Pastor Owen is playing tricks on me or not, but every time I have tried to write my article on his computer it locks up. This has happened three times. I know if I asked him he would say, "God is trying to tell you something." You and I know otherwise, don't we. Well, it has been a busy time at the church and looks like our summer is going to be busy too! There is a lot going on and I hope you will take note and join in the fun.



My gecko ears were mesmerized a couple of weeks ago when the hand bell choir and Miss Laura played that beautiful arrangement of *"It Is Well With My Soul."* They were marvelous! I must also say that I also loved Mr. Philip's *"Battle Hymn of the Republic"* on Memorial Day Sunday—even though I am a southern gecko at heart! And the Choir's presentation of *"Our Father"* was so beautiful. What a powerful way to end their choir season. It was all beautiful. Not sure I want them to take the summer off, but they have all worked so hard and deserve it. I am sure looking forward to their return! I am going to talk to Mr. David and see if he will ask them to come back early.

I was so proud on graduation Sunday. It was good to see our graduates and recognize their accomplishments. It always makes me feel good when we honor them and celebrate their transition. I also enjoyed attending the graduation and year end program for Hope Creative School. It was wonderful. I don't know when I have had more fun!



They sang all of my favorite songs, *"Jesus Loves Me," "Deep and Wide," "I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy,"* and *"1, 2, 3, Jesus Loves Me."* I will miss having ukulele classes with the children over the summer but maybe I will get to help teach them next fall! And by the way, doesn't the playground look good. My friends and I have been spending a lot more time out there. We love to go out there early in the morning when it is still cool or late in the evening after a summer rain. It is so much fun and we really enjoy it. I am going to ask Miss Holly if she would please put in a small swing and slide for me and my friends.

I must say that I am looking forward to Mr. Normand's return. I am really trying to pull my share of the load around here. When we had our gecko prayer group the other day, I told my gecko prayer partners to lift up Mr. Normand so he would have a speedy return. He does so much around here and we all miss him terribly. I am in the habit of going into his "office" every morning to say hello. It is just not the same without him. I am doing my best to keep up the air conditioners and leaks and changing of the light bulbs and carrying out the trash—so be patient with me till Normand gets back. If you notice something that needs to be done, let me know and I will do my best to get a "round to it."

If you are in the area, stop in and see me, I am usually in the Gardens of Hope and I would love to see you!



Peace,
Josiah

YOUTH OF HOPE

Wow!!! What a whirlwind for our Youth. We have been really active this spring! Our church has been so very generous in allowing us incredible opportunities. We spent a day at the beach with Mrs. Lynne Maxwell and had a perfect day of weather and fun. We played in the water, walked on the beach and collected seashells, played games on the seashore and in Mrs. Lynne's back yard, enjoyed the swimming pool, ate a totally scrumptious lunch, and even socialized and shared ice cream with some of Mrs. Lynne's neighbors. (The neighbors were interested in our games...they thought we were Mrs. Lynne's family.) We, of course, told them that we were Mrs. Lynne's family...her church family. Thank you to the Maxwells for allowing us such a wonderful opportunity!



Now if that were not enough...the very next weekend we were invited to the Boland's for our End-of-the-Year Gathering. Little did we know that Josiah the gecko joined us. He hid in Pastor Owen's bag of games. He knew that when you were invited to the Boland's that there would be a spread of food that only geckos dream of. Josiah was right...the food was like something out of Southern Living. We feasted and enjoyed a tremendous meal! Then the festivities began...boating, paddle boarding, tubing, floating and relaxing in the pool, and then the big game that Josiah came to see. He had heard about these games Pastor Owen had made at Montreat and had seen them in the bag, but Josiah had to see for himself how much the youth enjoyed and competed with these games. Josiah could not get over what a "good arm" Ardis had on her...Stacy gets it honest! Josiah now fully understands how "King Troy" keeps his title with this game. Now I hear that some special memories were made on Ms. Stacy's boat which made us think of the disciples out on the water. Josiah also especially enjoyed watching Mrs. Joyce Snively on the paddle



board...it was as though she had done this all her life...what a natural. Special, special thanks are extended to the Boland's for opening their home to us and for all their kind hospitality. Thank you to Matt and Scott for keeping the grill hot and tasty. Also special thanks to everyone that brought a side dish, sunscreen, extra lawn chairs. A very sincere, special thanks to Stacy Woodward for coordinating such a wonderful End-of-the-Year Gathering and her phenomenal, heartfelt, leadership. Josiah has decided this should be a yearly event!!!

The youth will be meeting periodically throughout the summer for some "just for fun" occasions and I will be in touch with you regarding these dates. We have truly had some special times together and we give glory to God for our Youth of Hope. We are grateful for the leadership that we have had this year. Thanks to Stacy Woodward, Carrie Cahoon, Laura Greenberg, and Lisa Ellingson for their dedication, time, love, and commitment to Hope Presbyterian Church and the Youth of Hope. We are certainly blessed!

— Christian Education Committee

CEDARKIRK TRAVELING DAY CAMP

At Hope Presbyterian Church



Our Day Camp with Cedarkirk Camp is **Monday, June 27 through Friday, July 1**. Registrations are coming in! If you are available to help out for even just one day, please contact me. This is a unique and exciting opportunity for youth to experience day camp right here within their own community. Our leaders from Cedarkirk will provide the curriculum, the songs, fun activities, and Bible study for our youth. We simply need to support the leaders and help with the youth. There is a fee of \$75 per youth attending...however, scholarships are available and it is our goal that no child be turned away.

The Curriculum is called *Fearless Faith* and explores the courage to explore, to trust, to forgive, to stand and to connect through the scripture passages of Genesis 12, Ruth 1, Genesis 45, Daniel 3 and Matthew 28. These teachings will help youth grow and be nurtured through scripture as a neighborhood and community. So pray for us as we reach out to the youth in our area to enjoy, celebrate, and grow in God's love!

Published by:

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Address Correction Requested

Summer Worship Schedule
One (1) Worship Service—9:30 a.m.
Children's Church—9:45 a.m.
Adult Sunday School—10:40 a.m.

“LIKE US” ON



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| Sunday, June 12 | Summer Worship Schedule begins: <u>One Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.</u>
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper |
| Wednesday, June 15 | Adult Ukulele Class — 7:00 p.m. — Sunset Room |
| Saturday, June 18 | Tour of Conservation Way — 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. |
| Sunday, June 19 | Father's Day — Gift for all Men of Hope |
| Monday, June 20 | “Jayber Crow” book review—6:30 p.m. — Sunset Room
Led by Reverend Carriker |
| Tuesday, June 21 | Meeting for all volunteers planning to work at the Day Camp — 7 p.m. — Parlor |
| Wednesday, June 22 | Adult Ukulele Class — 7 p.m. — Sunset Room |
| Thursday, June 23 | “Jayber Crow” book review — 10:30 a.m. — Sunset Room
Led by Reverend Carriker |
| Saturday, June 25 | Baby Shower for Savannah Kenny — 12 Noon to 2 p.m. — McGrath Hall
All women of Hope are invited. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend. |
| Monday, June 27 through Friday, July 1 — <u>Cedarkirk Traveling Day Camp</u>— 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. | |

