

# LIGHT MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## AUGUST PATHS



## *From the Pastor's Pen*

Have you ever heard someone cautioning another person “Don’t put God in a box!”? There is a true & well-intentioned warning to make space for God. Implicit is also the suggestion that we must not limit God’s power & possibility by our own egos, disobedience, & unbelief (Mark 6: 4-6). When I hear someone say “Don’t put God in a box”, “Let go & let God”, or “Let God drive!” whether or not it is being said to me directly, I feel as if the person saying it is missing something important. And perhaps is also “Shoulding on someone” by telling them to be whom they are not or to do something that in human finitude they cannot do. In those moments, I feel stuck. It is at such times that I feel like God is already doing everything, & is already inside lots of boxes. God is after all, inside each one of us! In these moments I wonder & pray: are these perceived anxieties simply your way God, of stirring us into a new thing!?!

In my view, there are 2 main issues with the advice “Don’t put God in a box!” First, I can’t help it. I cannot see, think about, or imagine God in God’s fullness at all. I can only focus on one aspect of God at a time, like an astronomer looking through a telescope at a star in a solar system, in a galaxy, in one universe, in one tiny part God’s infinity. So, in order to think about God in any meaningful way at all, I have to think of God using a series of boxes like for instance, “God is love.” Yet, even in this box, everyday there are many revelations & claims of love. Trying to see what is really love as compared to what some people claim is love is challenge enough. If looking at one aspect of God threatens to melt my brain, remembering simultaneously that God isn’t **just** love but God is also justice, mercy, health, vengeance & salvation- simply seems too much to juggle. I cannot do, or be, more than myself. And, neither can you. So to tell someone “Let go & let God”, “let God drive” or “Don’t put God in a box” is not helpful. It might even be dismissive & hurtful. There is no kindness in asking someone to do something that they- for their own reasons - or reasons of biology- cannot do.

The second problem with the admonition “Don’t put God in a box!” is it is often cover for, “I am not comfortable with what you are saying. But I don’t know scripture very well & don’t study on God very much, so I don’t know what else to say to you, tho’ I don’t want to take the time to find out, even as I don’t want to seem mean & disinterested enough to just ignore you...” This problem is the lazy person’s way of pretending to be pious & be in real relationship, when in reality it is a tip off about lazy theology, lazy listening, & not surprisingly, lazy relationship. “Let God drive”, “Let go & let God”, & “Don’t put God in a box” is not authentic Christian conversation. If I want to discuss the mysteries of evil, atonement, salvation, or election, there is no way to avoid putting God in a box of words, & all of that discussing doesn’t take as much work as real love takes...that is the real reason why we invented platitudes in the first place!

Pastor Mary Jo

## FELLOWSHIP AND EVANGELISM EVENTS August 2018



### Upcoming Events:

**-LMPC Picnic-Sunday, August 26th-**We will have a church service at Legion Park at the covered pavilion starting at 10:00. After that, we will share a potluck picnic lunch. Please bring a dish to share. Drinks will be provided.

### **-Cabbage Burger Feed Fundraiser!**

When: Sunday, Sept. 16th/ 11:00 am-1:30 pm

Where: Light Memorial Presbyterian Church

What: Individually wrapped cabbage burgers will be sold.

Chips/drinks/cookies will be available for purchase also. A raffle using donated items will also take place. Tickets can be purchased towards winning the raffle items in a drawing. Patrons can come in and buy tickets for individual cabbage burgers and/or sides and drinks. Meals will be served as take out food, but patrons can sit and eat at tables in the Fellowship Hall as seating is available. Tickets for food and the raffle items will be sold ahead of the event, or at the door.

### **We need your help please!**

**-Cabbage burger planners/bakers-**helpers that would make and bake the cabbage burgers, and then wrap them up for sale!

**-food donations-**donations toward ingredients, chips, drinks, cookies. Drinks would include: ice tea and lemonade

**-ticket sellers-**creating/selling tickets for the cabbage burger feed and/or the raffle items

**-raffle items-**please consider donating items for the raffle-be creative! During previous raffles we have included: gift cards, wonderful homemade items/crafts, **-passes, gift baskets...**and the list is endless!

**-raffle item organizer-**help with organizing raffle items/ticket sales workers to serve food/drink

**-donations/purchase of items toward food carry-out** such as wrappers, napkins, -paper bags, cups with lids, straws.

**-set-up/take down before and after the event** (in Fellowship Hall)

**-cashiers/ticket vendors**

**-dining room hosts/hostesses**

**Organizational meeting: Sunday, August 5th, 3:00-4:00 in Fellowship Hall.** Please let a member of the Fellowship Committee know if you have specific things you would like to do to support the fundraiser. Sign-up sheets are on the table in Fellowship Hall, and a sign-up slip will be in the weekly bulletin starting in August. Thank-you!

### Day Camp

**The Day camp held from July 23-27 was a great success.! Three counselors from Highlands camp came and led a group of 18-26 children for 5 mornings. The kids had a great time with games, crafts and bible study. Thanks to Patrick, Michael, and Darby for leading them. Thank you also to all who helped with registration, snacks and supervision**



# August

## Serving in August

**greeter** Randy & Leslie Richards

**usher** Glenn Morrison

**communion servers (12)**  
Leslie Richards, Sharon Hargreaves

### local church committee

\*Leslie & Randy Richards  
Eileen Nightingale Mary Nightingale  
Callie Schilz Jennifer Holtz

Just a reminder from the Stewardship committee, if you have not paid your 2018 Covenant Commitment (Per Capita), it is \$50.08 per person. We appreciate your contributions.

*For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.*

*1 Corinthians 12: 12*

## Birthdays

- 1 Wanda Bush
- 8 Elaine Ransom
- 9 Mark Blanke
- 12 Kaiya Talich
- 15 Chris Kromberg
- 18 Carl Farmer
- 23 Evelyn Schiller
- 28 Jakob Kurz
- 30 Larry Nelson



## Anniversaries

- 7 Bill & Jean Willburn
- 14 John & Sandy White
- 17 LaVerne & Betsy Bown
- 22 Bret & Wanda Whartman
- 23 Paul & Clarice Sheaman
- 24 Bob & Judy Pohl
- 28 Kent & Susan Talich

If I have not gotten your birthday or anniversary in please let me know. Leslie

Pastor Mary Jo will be on vacation from July 31 to August 9th. Also, from Aug. 13th to Aug. 23rd as her son will be home on leave at that time. If you need pastoral assistance, please call Leslie at 308-249-0557 or Bud at 308-249-0207,

## Celebrate Sunday School

Sunday school will begin soon. We are in need of teachers. If you are interested in giving your talents please call the church office (254-5675 or 249-0557) and let Leslie know.

