

STULL COMMUNITY of FAITH

1596 E 250 Rd, Lecompton, Ks 66050

July-August 2024 – NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the August edition of the Pastor's Pen. August is a time to slow down a bit and reflect on life; where we are at with various things; enjoy a holiday or, possibly, a quieter workload; and ready ourselves for the next season - autumn. We all forget at times that we were created to be human beings, not human doings. So, grab a cup of coffee and a cookie and read on to see what you need to be aware of this August.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2-New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Everything Has Its Time

3 For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born and a time to die;

a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;

One of the things I miss about my childhood is harvest time. I lived in western Kansas. Wheat, corn silage, and milo was mainly what we harvested to be put in the bins or silo. Most of which we raised we fed to our cattle. That was some of the hardest work I've done physically, but with the greatest of its own rewards. There is nothing to me like the wide-open spaces. Hot, dry, cold, windy. How could you want anything more?

The writer of Ecclesiastes - believed to be King Solomon - tells us in this famous passage that there are times and seasons in life. One of those is a time to plant and a time to reap (or harvest). And just like in agriculture, so too in the ministry of the church, there is a time to sow and a time to reap. Our "crop" is souls - making disciples as Jesus commanded us to do in Matthew 28. We do a lot of sowing into people's lives, don't we ... either in terms of sharing the gospel (evangelism) or teaching and guiding people in the Christian life (discipleship). But there are times when I get frustrated that we seem to sow a lot, but not see a lot of harvesting. Perhaps, that is a matter of prayer - do we pray and ask God that we see a harvest of souls - people coming to faith? We live in difficult times, where the "soil" of people's lives is hard, dry, and cracked, and if you know anything about gardening, you'll know that hard and dry soil isn't a good seedbed for growth! Part of the reason for this is that people's hearts have grown cold and distant to religion and faith. The advancements in technology have made the world a much smaller place and now we see not just our own struggles, but the global struggles of life. As such, people cannot see God, or would even question that if there is a God of love, why does He allow so much pain and hurt to continue? (The answer for that is easier than you might think but wouldn't necessarily satisfy the non-believer's question). So, I believe we need to be praying on multiple levels because clearly, the Bible teaches about the sowing of the gospel into people's lives and the discipleship of those who believe in Jesus Christ. Our words are empty and powerless unless God provides the power behind them. Only God can truly convict the heart and challenge the soul. We don't make people Christians - He does that work. So, let's PRAY that: • The "soil" of the non-believers' hearts is revitalized and nourished by the Holy Spirit • That opportunities to sow the seed of the gospel are presented in greater abundance. • That hearers of the gospel more readily accept the message without question (or too many questions!) Blessings, * That those coming to faith, and those already in the faith, have a heartfelt desire to learn and journey with Jesus so that fruit is seen in their lives.

Thank you to everyone who gives financially into the life of the church. Did you realize that the money you give is actually not yours, but God's? In the Old Testament, God required the Israelites to give a tenth of their first fruits (first income) to the Storehouse, which is now the church. Of course, we are no longer under the Old Testament Law, but as Jesus demonstrated it is not about just a tenth (though that is still a useful guide and baseline), now it is about sacrificial giving – just as Jesus sacrificially gave His very life for our freedom. Giving is something that should come naturally and joyfully to the Christian. If you don't give, why not try, and see how God provides and blesses you. AND FINALLY Wishing you every blessing for the remainder of this month and into the new month. If you can, take time to slow down, perhaps do something different, and seek refreshment. And don't forget to keep your eye out for where God might be wanting to use you to speak hope and truth into people's lives.

Keep looking up! God bless you all,

Pastor Kyle

Pastor Kyle has established standing office hours in his office in the Faith and Friendship Center on Wednesdays from 10:30-1:30ish. He is also available to meet with folks at any time as needed; just give him a call.

You can watch our 11am Sunday worship services on YouTube on Sunday evenings of each week. Visit www.stullcoff.com, click on multi-media tab in the menu across the top third of the page, click on You Tube on the left side of that page; you will be taken to each weeks service, click on the service date you'd like to watch.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

2ND QUARTER FINANCE REPORT (April, May & June 2024)

TOTAL DONATIONS: \$23,455.64

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$52,673.64

As you can see from the above numbers, we are falling short of meeting our monthly budget expenses. We understand that offerings are not linked to what people earn but are given by Christians to express thanks, give praise &/or to show love for God. We have several options available for making those offerings to the Church, including a QR code that offers direct giving to the church's operating account. If you have questions, please talk to Jane Edmonds or Mary Shultz.

BACK TO SCHOOL:

This year, we adopted twenty kids through our Community Cupboard to provide backpacks filled with school supplies and an outfit. We received lots of praises and thanks from the parents and kids when they picked up their items. A **BIG** thanks to all who made donations, helped pack the backpacks & especially to Irma and Marilyn for the homemade pillowcases!

BOOK STUDY "Wrestling with Doubt Finding Faith" by Adam Hamilton. We will meet every other Tuesday evening, starting on September 10th, continuing on Sept 24, Oct 8, Oct 22, Nov 5, and Nov 19. Please let Carolyn know by August 24th (785-925-0190), if you want to attend so we can order you a book.

Please mark your calendar for two musical concerts we have coming up. One will be Saturday, September 21st with Becky Lercher and the other will be Sunday, December 8th with Vanessa Thomas. You can check their respective websites out at www.beckylерcher.com and www.vanessathomassings.com.

Sunday, September 29th will be our 5th Sunday potluck meal immediately following worship. After lunch we will then have a Blanket of Blessings sewing in the afternoon. Many steps go into completion of each blanket, and you do not need to know how to sew to play a significant role in this ministry. Questions, email us at info@stullcoff.com.

Join us for Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot on Sunday, October 27th from 4-5pm. We are inviting all the ghosts and the goblins in the community to come join in the fun! If you are interested in hosting a trunk, please email us at info@stullcoff.com and we will contact you.

Thanks to the staff from Frontier Farm Credit Services who helped us with our Rural Mobile Distribution on a sweltering day at the end of July!!! Their assistance was appreciated.

We invite you to stop in and check out the church playground as we are making some changes and updates. We thank everyone who contributed to our annual pancake fundraiser proceeds and some memorials are being utilized on the playground.

If you are cleaning out your closet and have any gently used jackets or coats in sizes from youth through adults to donate; the Closet ministry would welcome those as we head into the fall/winter months. Please email us at info@stullcoff.com or talk to Mary/Brenna to arrange a drop off time.

We encourage folks to check out our website www.stullcoff.com and like us on Facebook @StullCommunityofFaith as you can find many of our event dates and times.

Want to receive the newsletter via e-mail and also get special newsletters, please contact Carolyn at 785-925-0190 or cwulfsuhle@lpa-s.com. Help save a tree and postage.

PRAYERS: Marilyn Stone healing of her broken arm, all students, teachers, and staff headed back to the classroom from preschool to college.

CHURCH CALENDAR

- Aug 14th, 9:30am Morning Muggers meets in the Faith & Friendship Center for coffee and conversation. Everyone is welcome to stop in whenever possible.
- Aug 15th, 6:30-7:30pm Community Cupboard and the Closet open in the church basement for anyone in need of these services.
- Aug 19th, 7pm Administrative Team Meeting in the Faith & Friendship Center.
- Aug 21st, and 28th, 9:30 am Morning Muggers meets in the F&FC.
- Sep 4th, 9:30 am Morning Muggers meets in the F&FC.
- Sep 4th, 7-9pm Grief Support Group starts for 12 weeks on Wednesday evenings in the Faith & Friendship Center. Contact Pastor Kyle and/or our website for more details.

- Sep 5th, 6:30-7:30 pm Community Cupboard and the Closet open in the church basement for anyone in need of this ministry.
- Sep 10th 7-8:30 pm Book Study Starts “Wrestling with Doubt Finding Faith” (see article for details).
- Sep 11th, 9:30 am Morning Muggers meets in the F&FC.
7pm Grief Study with Pastor Kyle.
- Sep 16th, 7pm Administrative Team Meeting in the Faith & Friendship Center.
- Sep 18th, 9:30 am Morning Muggers meets in the F&FC.
7pm Grief Study with Pastor Kyle.
- Sep 21st, 6pm **Fall Family Festival** held on the church campus with musical entertainment. provided by Becky Lercher. Sloppy Joes, drinks and table service furnished, please bring a covered dish or two to share and your lawn chairs. (see attached flyer for more details).
- Sep 24th, 7-8:30 pm Book Study “Wrestling with Doubt” in the F&FC.
- Sep 25th, 9:30 am Morning Muggers meets in the F&FC.
7pm Grief Study with Pastor Kyle.
- Sep 26th, 12-1pm Harvesters Rural Mobile food distribution in the church parking lot for anyone in need.
- Sep 29th, 12 pm 5th Sunday Potluck Meal in the Fairh & Friendship Center.
12:30 pm Blankets of Blessing sewing in the afternoon (see article).
- Oct 2nd, 9:30 am Morning Muggers meets in the F&FC.
7pm Grief Study with Pastor Kyle.
- Oct 3rd, 6:30-7:30 pm Community Cupboard and the Closet open in the church basement for anyone in need of this ministry.
- Oct 8th, 7-8:30 pm Book Study “Wrestling with Doubt”.
- Oct 15th, 5-7pm Quarterly Community Meal Night with menu of ham and beans (cooked in a kettle), brats, cornbread, fruit, and homemade desserts. Dine-in or carry-out are available. Donations are accepted for local church missions and ministry projects. Our quarterly community meal night will also have a vaccine clinic with Heartland Health onsite. More details later.
- Oct 27th, 4-5pm Trunk or Treat on the church campus. All ghosts and goblins in the community are encouraged to attend.
- Dec 8th, 4pm (Change of date) Songs of the Season Concert with our worship leader Vanessa Thomas. You can check out Vanessa at www.vanessathomassings.com.



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Jesus Fulfills us Spiritually.