

July 1 is Canada Day. July 4 is American Independence Day. On the banks of the Detroit River, the cities of Windsor, Ontario, and Detroit Michigan set off one of the largest fireworks displays to celebrate freedom in both countries. July is a good time to contemplate freedom.

We hear a lot of people screaming about their personal freedoms and the ways that others infringe on their rights to do whatever they want to do.

Albert Camus quotes the Roman Emperor Caligula as saying, "You are always free at the expense of someone else". Sometimes, while exercising our freedom, we cross personal boundaries to interfere with the freedom of others and restrict it. The philosopher continues, "*Absolute freedom is the right for the strongest to dominate.*"

I Peter reminds us that there are limits to our freedoms. Although Christ has set us free, Peter notes, we are "not to use our freedom "as a cloak for maliciousness, but as servants of God" (I Peter 2:16 KJV). Like Jesus, our freedom should always be tempered by the question, "How can my freedom serve those around me?"

Instead of demanding as much freedom as my strength will allow...this July we are called to ponder how we can serve others so that their freedoms may also be celebrated. As some unknown, but wise, person once noted: "My freedom ends where your nose begins."

Pastor Ray



Diana Schmiedeke

About two years ago, Diana and her husband of 33 years, David, who lived in Iowa, decided that the winters were too cold, and they started considering moving south. In looking for possibilities, they saw an article about Miami, Oklahoma, and decided to move here. They have been pleased with their decision. They like the nice weather and the friendly people.

Diana grew up on a farm in Iowa. They had hay, corn, and cattle. Diana liked the fact that it was very quiet, and they had a garden. They had no running water. She had a sister three years older and a brother two years younger. Her brother died in a tractor accident on the farm. They attended a country school in Lucas, Iowa, for the first eight years. Diana and her siblings graduated from High School in Chariton.

Diana's career was as a Certified Medic. She liked working with the elderly. She enjoyed their stories.

Diana has three children. Janice has no children. Lyle lives in St Paul. Robert and his wife have six children. One of his children has six children. And one of them is a little girl who just turned a year old. Diana loves to show pictures of her.

After her doctor's recommendation, Diana walks two miles every day. One of her favorite places to walk is Rotary Park near NEO College.

Nancy Gee



- July 2** What Do We Love More than God?
- July 9** Never Enough
- July 16** The Prodigal Sower
- July 23** Weeds Among the Wheat
- July 30** Finding Value in the Overlooked



Kum Ba Yah aka Kum Ba Zoom

We meet every Wednesday on ZOOM for fellowship, study and prayer. 7:00 PM. The link to the Zoom Meeting is sent in the Wednesday eMail each week.

Kum Ba Yah topics:

- July 5** Matthew 24
- July 12** Matthew 25
- July 19** Matthew 26
- July 26** Matthew 27

Adult Sunday School

Sundays at 9:30am on Zoom and in Person!

- July 2** Extending Peace
- July 9** Living Peace
- July 16** Positive Questioning (Tim Keith)
- July 23** Fostering Love, not Fear
- July 30** Gun Violence Trauma: a collective shared wound

BACKPACK PROGRAM

We are grateful for the leadership of Dave Foster and Janice Johnson who organize our weekly food program with children at Roosevelt Elementary School. From the beginning of the school year until the end of the school year we delivered **721** backpack bags.

We would like to thank all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication this past year. We look forward to working with you again in the next school year. If you have not helped with this ministry before and want info please get a hold of Dave Foster or the office.



MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee met on June 20, 2023. They decided to give in Local Missions this month **\$1,000.00 to the Food Pantry.**

The Mission program is sustained in part by gifts from the Myers Sisters bequest as well as gifts from members. You can designate gifts to “Local Mission” or “Global Mission”.

The Deacon's Shoe ministry has already given out **28** pairs of shoes since the beginning of the year.

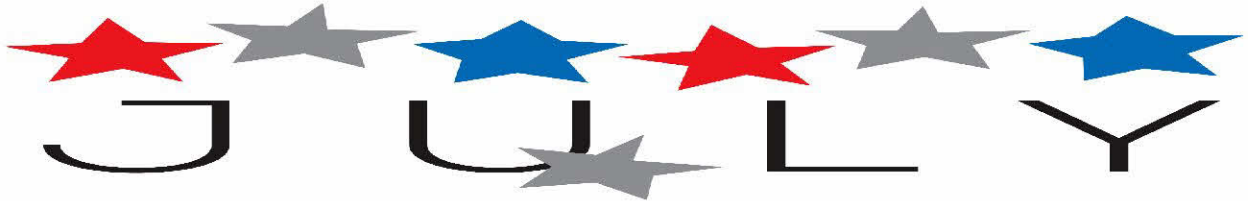
Food Pantry: Since the beginning of the year the food pantry has handed out **186** bags of food through the end of May. We gave 53 bags out in the month of May alone.



When our church hosted Presbytery, we were pleased that we have a wheel chair. A lady, from Tulsa, was obviously struggling with balance when walking. Ross asked her if she would like a wheelchair and she was relieved and grateful. She used it all day.

It is in the storage closet in the Youth room if you would like to offer it to someone.

Nancy Gee



The first international phone call

Can you hear me now? It was on July 1, 1881 that the first ever international phone call was successfully made. The call originated in the Canadian province of New Brunswick and was received in the US state of Maine. How we would love to be eavesdropping on that call!

Presidential deaths

Here is one of the more somber July facts. 7 US Presidents have passed away in July. That is the most of any month. Interestingly enough, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, the 2nd and 3rd US presidents, died on the exact same day, July 4th, 1826. We doubt there was much celebrating on those Independence Days!

We landed on the moon

This is one of the most historic fun facts about July. On July 16th, 1969 the crew of the Apollo 11 launched from Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Four days later, on July 20th, 1969 Neil Armstrong was the first human to set foot on the moon. The moon landing will forever be known as one of America's greatest scientific achievements.

Other independence days

It isn't just the United States that has their national holiday in July. Canada celebrates their independence from the British empire with Canada Day every July 1st. France celebrates the French Revolution with Bastille Day every July 14th. Many other countries also celebrate their nationhood in July as well, including Algeria, Argentina and Belgium.

We love to vacation in July

In the Northern hemisphere it is common for school to be out for the summer months. And people are most likely to take vacations from their jobs in the month of July. It's no wonder that the US National Parks are busiest in July. Families from across the country flock to the parks to camp, fish, hike, and explore the spectacular nature.

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 Choir	3 Office Closed for Holiday 	4 Office Closed for Holiday 	5 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	6 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 GA	7 10-12 Food Pantry	8
9 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 Choir 11:30 Deacons Mtg.	10 10-12 Food Pantry	11 10-12 Food Pantry	12 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	13 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 GA	14 10-12 Food Pantry 5 pm Private Function in F.H.	15 Private Function In Fellowship Hall
16 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 Choir	17 10-12 Food Pantry	18 10-12 Food Pantry	19 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	20 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 GA	21 10-12 Food Pantry	22
23 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 Choir	24 10-12 Food Pantry	25 10-12 Food Pantry	26 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	27 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 GA	28 10-12 Food Pantry	29
30 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 Choir	31 10-12 Food Pantry					



- Steven Carden.....7/2 Brent Rendel.....7/15*
Shelly Thomas.....7/3 Cheryl Hartman.....7/18
Richard Seybolt.....7/3 Taylor Zabel.....7/21
Lyndee Fuhrman.....7/7 George Reeves.....7/23
Melinda Thiesing.....7/9 Susan Russell.....7/27
Jera Rendel.....7/9 Gary Sommer.....7/27
Job Rendel.....7/12 Bill Thomas.....7/31

*Should your name be here?
 Please let the office know your birth date so we can include you!*



It's hot up here

The month of July holds some very hot records! In the northern hemisphere, July is usually the hottest month of the year. The hottest temperature ever recorded in the United States was in Greenland Ranch, California. The thermometer soared to 134°F/57°C on July 10th 1913. It was hot enough to fry an egg on a rock in a matter of seconds!

But it's cold down here

While it may be hot north of the Equator, people living in the southern half of the world see their coldest temperatures in July. In fact, the most severe cold season on record happened in July 1983 near the South Pole. The temperature at Vostok Station in Antarctica saw an extreme temperature of -129°F/-89.6°C. That's weather only a penguin could love!

July Firsts

Here are some fascinating July facts to impress your friends at your next barbecue. The first ever rabies vaccine was administered by Louis Pasteur on July 6th, 1885. The first atomic bomb test was detonated in New Mexico on July 16th, 1945. And the first bikini debuted in Paris on July 5th, 1946 at the famous Piscine Militor swimming pool. No word if it was an itchy-bitsy, teeny-weeny, yellow polka-dot bikini.

Quirky July days

As it is with all the months, July has some head-scratching daily observances. July 2nd is World UFO Day. July 6th is International Kissing Day. Finally, July 24th is National Tequila Day. If you end up having one too many margaritas and kissing an alien – well you can just blame it on the month of July!

The junk food month

It makes sense right? July is the month of barbecues, beach days, traveling carnivals and road trips. Along with all of this comes some serious junk food cravings! It's no surprise that July lays claim to National Ice Cream Month, National Chocolate Month, National French Fry Month and National Hot Dog Month.

Our stomachs are growling just thinking about all the deliciousness!

Servers in the Lord's House		
	Coffee Host	Backpack
July 2	Open	Summer Break
July 9	Open	
July 16	Open	
July 23	Open	
July 30	Open	

Please call the office or talk to Pastor Ray to sign up for servers slots!



VBS

We will be hosting a one day Vacation Bible School on Thursday, August 3rd, beginning at 9:00am. Our theme "Operation Restoration" will focus on the care of creation. How can you help?

1. Invite! Family, neighbors, children of co-workers....
2. Set aside that day to help. We will need teachers, helpers, crafts, recreation, music, and food.
3. Pray for a successful and faithful program.

FOOD PANTRY



Food Pantry

We have seen a marked increase in the number of households being served through our food pantry and the cost of food has nearly doubled in the last two years. Government food benefits have been cut, prices are up, people are suffering, and we are struggling to keep up! At the end of May we had a deficit of over \$600. We are adjusting the contents of the emergency food bag and creating ways to increase donations. We appreciate your help and your prayers.

J



J U L Y

HYBRID MEETING SETUP



KUM BA ZOOM to be hybrid. Beginning in July we will add an in-person option for our Wednesday night Bible study. Join us online, or join us in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00pm every Wednesday.

July



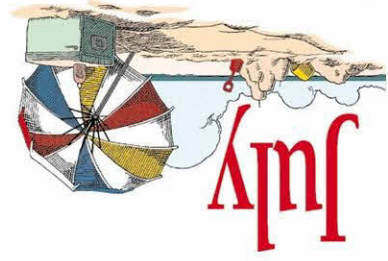
During the Mission Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 20th we were discussing the Food Pantry and it's needs. Dianna Minick volunteered to check into getting some food at discounted prices from manufacturers and other sources. The next day she was able to acquire, at a large discount, some very nice food products.

The products were as follows
all for \$20:

- 5 cases of Cereal
- 5 cases of Soup
- 10 cases of oatmeal
- 2 mystery cases.

Thank you Dianna, , and first and foremost Thank You God for the blessings which you bestow upon us!

*The First Presbyterian Church
1410 N.E. Veterans Blvd.
Miami, OK 74354*



Philippians 4:8 KJV

[8] Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

