

The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



Then he said, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You address me as 'Teacher' and 'Master,' and rightly so. That is what I am. So if I, the Master and Teacher, washed your feet, you must now wash each other's feet. I've laid down a pattern for you.

What I've done, you do. I'm only pointing out the obvious. A servant is not ranked above his master; an employee doesn't give orders to the employer. If you understand what I'm telling you, act like it—and live a blessed life." (John 13:12-17, MSG)

This passage comes right after Jesus washes the feet of his disciples on the evening before he died. It is a heart-warming and heart-breaking scene as we watch Jesus give completely of himself in order to show his disciples, and us, how to do ministry in the world. It breaks our hearts because we have the advantage of hindsight that tells us what happens the next day. What Jesus seems to be telling us is that we have a choice: we can choose to follow his example or we can choose not to. God does not force us to obey.

Freedom – that's what God offers us through Jesus Christ. Freedom to become all that God intends for us to become or freedom to choose something else. With freedom comes responsibility and accountability. We are challenged to make responsible choices that reflect the will of God and the model set forth by Jesus. We are held accountable for the wrong choices we make from time to time. As I watch the news and see the terrible things going on around the world in places like Nice, Berlin, Dallas, and now Ft. Myers, Florida, I am grieved by the actions of a very few people who have hurt so many by the misuse of their freedom to choose. I see the protestors who are understandably angry, yet some of them are using their freedom to choose more violence as a response to the violence. I hear many voices exercising their freedom

to choose hateful speech and divisive rhetoric as their response to the various tragedies. Then I hear Jesus' words echoing back: *"If you understand what I'm telling you, act like it—and live a blessed life."* I cannot deny that it is hard to watch and listen to the bad news that seems to surround us every day. I too shake my head and wonder how people can behave so badly and disregard human life so completely. I admit that I have no answers and I don't understand this any better than you do. I realize that the perpetrators of these acts are in the minority and they do not represent the larger population groups from which they come. Muslim extremist terrorists do not represent members of their religion or citizens of the countries in which they live. Police officers who may shoot without thinking do not represent all police officers. People, of any race, who commit crime, do not represent their race. White supremacists do not represent all white people. The members of Westboro Baptist Church do not represent all Christians. What these examples represent are people who have exercised their freedom to act contrary to the will of God and the example set by Jesus Christ. The best we can do is use our freedom to make better choices and pray that the world will soon realize what freedom is for. Freedom is for loving God and loving others as Jesus demonstrated for us. Freedom is for caring for one another. Freedom is so that we won't be embarrassed when we don't have all the answers and we will be humble enough to look to where the answers are.

"I know now, Lord, why you utter no answer. You are yourself the answer. Before your face questions die away." – C.S. Lewis

Amen and amen!
Pastor Don



A Great **BIG** THANK YOU!!!

Many thanks to all who helped with Vacation Bible School last week. We had 61 kids registered and around 50 kids each night. We really appreciate all of you-thanks for showing and sharing Jesus love with them. Looking forward to working with all of you again next year!

Debbie and Marty



UMW Salad Supper

The United Methodist Women will be having a pot luck salad supper on August 11 at 6:00p.m. in the fellowship hall. The guest speakers will be Rev. Elizabeth Horton-Ware and Rev. Sandra Reeves-Shepherd. They will be talking about women in ministry as this is the 60th anniversary of women being ordained in the United Methodist Church. Everyone is welcome to attend and hear these young ordained clergy women.



Hey kids-

What fun we had in Vacation Bible School last week learning about Jesus and catching the waves of His love for us. You were awesome singing on Thursday night and Sunday morning. This Sunday, July 31st in Kidzone we will celebrate our 4th, 5th, and 6th graders who will be moving to Miss Suzie's class. Be sure and join us! Have a great week and stay cool ~ Miss Debbie and Miss Marty



Cathy's Notes

This last Sunday we celebrated the service that Judy Hopper has given to the SSUMC. With Judy at the piano for 20 years, our church has experienced beautiful music, not only in two completely different services each week, but in weddings, funerals, cantatas and numerous solos and ensembles. I have told Judy that when she plays, I can hear the whole orchestra in her music. She has a great touch on the keyboard. It has been my pleasure to know her and work with her and I look forward to many more years.

Bible School was a blast! The music was so much fun. I would encourage our parents to get their children to Kingdom Kids each Sunday at 9 a.m. It is important to be consistent for them and in order to prepare the children to sing on a regular basis.

A great big "Thank You" to all the people who have provided music for the services while the choir has been on vacation. From the Men's Group, Tracey & Kelly, Connie Fisher, and this coming Sunday, Sharon Schuermann on her flute, we will have been blessed with many wonderful musical offerings.

When the choir returns to rehearsal on August 3rd, I hope you will consider joining our choir. We enjoy great fellowship, inspiring music and provide a mission through music. I look forward to seeing you August 3rd at 7 p.m.

Singing His Praise—Cathy

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—July 31

Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery
 Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David
 Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids
 Teaching: Jami Warkentin
 Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Lisa & Caleb Massey
 Counters-Sondra Allen & Dick Ford

Sunday Volunteers—August 7

Visitors Center & Coffee-TNT
 Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David
 Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids
 Teaching: Jami Warkentin
 Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Kat Katzung
 Counters-Sheree Buttler & Jami Warkentin

September Coffee: CIA/Pathfinders

Please Keep In Prayer



Martha Scudder, Linda Tabberer,
 Elsie Jones, Bob & Cathy Hula, BW
 Proft, Bill & Clare Caldwell, Darryl
 Muse, Jack & Jewell Brown, Owen
 Johnston, Tristan Schwartz, Charlene
 Reeves, Delbert Sloan, Mark Hill, Jim
 McCormick, Pauline Hanigar, Glenda
 Paul-Reyna, Barbara McClintock,
 Monti Box, SSUMC & Unspoken Requests

Acknowledgements

Thank You...

*My cup runneth over. Thank you so much for the
 kind words, gifts, beautiful decorations, refresh-
 ments, and the coupon for a free medium slush at
 Sonic. I will never forget the day.*

Your Sister in Christ~

Judy



Here are your
2016 Newsletter
weeks. Please
remember-articles are
due by 11 a.m. on this
date. Please, mark
your calendars.

August 8
 August 22
 September 5
 September 19
 October 3
 October 17
 October 31
 November 14
 November 28
 December 12
 January 9, 2017



Here is some of your 2016 Youth Dinner Schedule

7/27-Harmony
 8/3-No Youth
 8/10-CIA/Pathfinders
 8/17-Faith Circle
 8/24-TNT
 8/31-Ruth Esther Circle



Here is some of your 2016 Children's Church Schedule

8/14-Jo Fritts
 8/21-Debbie Schmidt
 8/28-Amanda Honeycutt
 9/4-Marty David
 9/11-Katherine Reeves
 9/18-Kat Katzung
 9/25-Jo Fritts

Help Wanted

**We are seeking nursery
 attendants to start immediately.
 Please contact the Church Office.**

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
 Closed 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. for Lunch

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SAND SPRINGS UMC

Tuesday, July 26

5:30pm-Cub Scouts-FLC
7:00pm-Praise Team
7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, July 27

7:30am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café
6:30pm-The Awakening—Youth
7:00pm-NO Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, July 28

*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

Friday, July 29

No Activities

Saturday, July 30

No Activities

Sunday, July 31-Youth Leave for Mission Trip to Kansas City, MO

8:30am-Contemporary Worship
9:45am-Communion Service
10:00am-Sunday School
11:00am-Traditional Worship

Monday, August 1-Pray for Youth on Mission Trip

6:30pm-Bible Study-F. Hall
7:00pm-Boy Scouts-Family Life Center

Tuesday, August 2-Pray for Youth on Mission Trip

5:30pm-Cub Scouts-FLC
7:00pm-Praise Team Rehearsal
7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, August 3-Pray for Youth on Mission Trip

7:30am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café
6:30pm-Youth On Mission Trip
7:00pm-Chancel Choir

Thursday, August 4-Pray for Youth on Mission Trip

6:00pm-UMW Unit Meeting-F. Hall

Friday, August 5-Pray for Youth on Mission Trip

NO Activities

Saturday, August 6-Pray for Youth on Mission Trip

6:30pm-Roller Derby meeting at FLC

NOTE:

FLC-Family Life Center

*-Not sponsored by SSUMC but welcome

For more calendar information, call the office at 918-245-5955.

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918-245-5955 Fax-918-245-2801
Family Life Center: 918-245-3725
www.SandSpringsumc.org

It's Weed Pullin' Time!

If you have time, the desire, and are willing, please feel free to pull the weeds out of the flower beds at the church...at your convenience!

