

# The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



*"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you." (Luke 6:37-38a, NRSV)*

I want to share part of an article that appeared in the September 2017 issue of *Christianity Today*. Entitled, *What Did Jesus Mean by "Judge Not"? - It was written by Pastor Skye Jethani.*

"In 2007 a book was published called *Un-Christian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity*. It's based on research done among non-Christian 20-somethings. One of their core findings was that nearly nine out of ten young people view Christians as "judgmental." And given the prohibition against judging issued by Jesus, this would mean most people view Christians as hypocrites."

"Given these findings, it's pretty important that both Christians and non-Christians understand what Jesus means when he says, "judge not." The key is recognizing that the word judge can be used in two different ways in the New Testament. Sometimes judge is used to mean "judge between things," to differentiate, or discern. In this case we judge between right and wrong, good and evil, righteous and unrighteous."

"It is the second definition, **to condemn**, that Jesus forbids and he makes that clear when the whole sentence in Luke 6 is read: *"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned."* He's calling us to not condemn people, to not pass final judgment and declare them irretrievably guilty. This is an incredibly important idea if you understand the context in which Jesus was speaking."

"This is the judgment that Jesus says is absolutely wrong. When we judge/condemn someone we are declaring that they have no value; no worth - that they do not matter to us or God. And we do this as a means of elevating ourselves." Being a follower of Jesus has never been easy. It is always worth the effort, but it comes with so many challenges and obstacles along the way. Maybe that's why everyone doesn't bother to even try to follow Jesus and maybe that's why we have a hard time attracting new people. It's just too hard. Then there's that little matter of being perceived as "too judgmental."

When you read all of Pastor Jethani's article, you begin to see

how he puts his thesis together and you also begin to see how many of us fall into the trap of being judgmental in the sense that Jesus forbids in Luke's gospel. As Christians, we are obligated to discern between right and wrong, good and evil. We are not the final arbiters of this morality, but we try to do our best to understand the difference between "should" and "should not." However, this is very different from the judgment that leads to condemnation of any human being. As Jethani said so well: *"When we judge/condemn someone we are declaring that they have no value; no worth - that they do not matter to us or God."* This is the judgment that is forbidden by Jesus. None of us has the ability, the knowledge, or the perfect understanding that is required for real judgment; this is why judgment is reserved for God and only God.

Jesus tells us to be discerning so we know good from evil. At the same time, Jesus commands us to love every other human being, even our enemies. We will always encounter sinful people; we are sinful people ourselves. God loves us and forgives us, in spite of our sin. So then, we must also forgive, and love, and respect every other, even when they are struggling with their own faults. We are all struggling with our faults. It's hard to see the plank in our own eye when we spend so much time picking at the splinter in somebody else's eye. We sooth ourselves by talking about such as things as, *"hating the sin and loving the sinner;"* what that really does is translate as plain hate. We trust that because we understand the nuanced definitions of "judgment", everyone must also understand. What we know in our hearts is that this is simply not true. Others do not understand the nuance, they only feel the hypocrisy.

When we do the work that Jesus calls us to, we must find ways to connect with all kinds of people in lots of different places and situations. We will engage those we agree with and those with whom we disagree. Our disagreements may grow out of our differing judgments of what is right and what is wrong. We must not let these differences cause us to make judgments about the value of other humans - all humans are valued by God.

If we truly want to be the church in the world today (not of the world), we must build relationships with people who need and seek the love of God and the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ. In the process, judge not.

*God bless,  
Pastor Don*

## **CHURCH-WIDE GARAGE SALE**

On Friday, October 27 – Saturday, October 28  
FAMILY LIFE CENTER

*Did you have leftovers from this summer's  
neighborhood garage sale?  
Is it time to clean out your closets, garage, or  
storage building?  
Would you like to turn your "great stuff" into  
cash to help pay Apportionments?*

David and Sondra Allen are spear-heading this  
project to help us all do our Fall Cleaning  
around the house AND raise some money for  
our mission contribution to the global church.

***(Thanks, David and Sondra!)***

So, start now planning to donate your "great  
stuff" to this worthy cause.

Contact David Allen for more information.  
(918-638-0565)



Hey Kids

We had a great time yesterday as  
we made our prayer boxes that re-  
mind us of our story about Mo-  
ses. God was always there for Mo-  
ses and He is always here for us. Be  
sure to come next Sunday as we get  
ready to sing on October 8th . This  
will be a special service for all  
kids. We will be giving Bibles to our  
3rd graders. Have a great week!  
Miss Debbie & Miss Marty

## **ATTENTION CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP**

### **FOLKS**

**EFFECTIVE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017**

We're making a few small changes in our Con-  
temporary Worship Service

**NEW TIME – 8:45 AM**

SO, HIT THE SNOOZE BAR ONE MORE TIME  
AND JOIN US.



Here are your	September 18
2017 Newsletter	October 2
weeks. Please	October 16
remember-articles are	October 30
due by 11 a.m. on this	November 13
date. Please, mark	November 27
your calendars.	December 11
	January 8, 2018



### **Priscilla Circle Invitation**

Guests are welcome to come  
and be with Robin Coney as she shares  
her recent experiences in India.

For those wanting to carpool/caravan,  
meet at the Family Life Center at 6:40.



### **Here is some of your 2017 Youth Dinner Schedule**

September 20-Seniors In Action
September 27-Priscilla Circle
October 4-Noah/Searchers
October 11-Youth
October 18-CIA/Pathfinders
October 25-Faith Circle
November 1-TNT Class
November 8-Ruth Esther
November 15-Seniors In Action

## *Sunday Lists*

### **Sunday Volunteers—September 24**

Visitors Center & Coffee: CIA/Pathfinders  
Head Usher-8:30am: Amanda Honeycutt  
Head Usher-11:00am: Eddy David  
Child. Church: 8:30am: Kingdom Kids  
Teaching: Jami Warkentin  
Children's Church: Debbie Schmidt  
Counters: Diana Pond & Jack Vest

### **Sunday Volunteers—October 1**

Visitors Center & Coffee: Harmony  
Head Usher-8:30am: Amanda Honeycutt  
Head Usher-11:00am: Eddy David  
Child. Church-8:30am: Kingdom Kids  
Teaching: Jami Warkentin  
Children's Church: Communion  
Counters: Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder

## *Please Keep In Prayer*



**Please remember these in your prayers—Updated 7/2017**

Martha Scudder, Linda Tabberer, Charlene Reeves, BW Proft, Sue Shaw, Greta Green, Bob & Cathy Hula, Bill & Clare Caldwell, Bill & Mary Kay Schwartz, Jack & Jewell Brown, Barbara McClintock, Montie Box, Betty Lund, Lora Caviness, Albert Kahl's mom & sister in law, Ron Hay, John & Sylvia Johnson, Ruth Weaver, Angy Krebs-Warden

*If someone needs to be added to the prayer list or someone was taken off too soon, please contact Tracey in the front office so the prayer list can be updated.*

HELP NEEDED!!



### **Volunteer Opportunity**

We are in need of someone to fill in on the e-mail prayer chain when I am on vacation. No experience necessary! Must have e-mail and must check it daily.

We also need someone to do the e-mail prayer chain every weekend. All you have to do is send e-mail prayer chains as they come in to your inbox or are called in to you.

See me (Tracey) if you are interested or call,  
918-245-5955

Thanks!  
Tracey

## **Fourth Monday** **COMMUNITY MEAL**

4th Monday of the Month  
Fellowship Hall • 5:30-7:00 p.m.

## **Monday, September 25**

*The Newsletter and other  
SSUMC information and activities are  
always posted on our website at:  
[www.sandspringsumc.org](http://www.sandspringsumc.org)*

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Thursday—8:00 a.m.-4:00p.m.  
Lunch—12-1 p.m.

Front door is lock during office hours at all times.  
Ring the bell to be clicked in.  
Use your key only after there is no response after ringing the bell.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SAND SPRINGS UMC

### Monday, September 18

7:00pm-Boy Scouts-FLC

### Tuesday, September 19

7:00pm-Praise Team Practice

7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

### Wednesday, September 20

7:30am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café

1:30pm-Mission to Stitch-Parlor

5:45pm-Y4Y

6:30pm-The Awakening—Youth

7:00pm-Chancel Choir Practice

### Thursday, September 21

\*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

### Friday, September 22

No Activities

### Saturday, September 23

No Activities

### Sunday, September 24

8:30am-Contemporary Worship

9:45am-Communion Service

10:00am-Sunday School

11:00am-Traditional Worship

### Monday, September 25

5:30pm-4th Monday Community Meal-F. Hall

6:30pm-Staff Parish Relations Committee-Parlor

7:00pm-Boy Scouts-Family Life Center

### Tuesday, September 26

7:00pm-Priscilla Circle-Marybeth A.

7:00pm-Praise Team

7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

### Wednesday, September 27

7:30am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café

5:45pm-Y4Y

6:30pm-Youth-FLC

7:00pm-Chancel Choir

*FLC-Family Life Center  
\*-Not sponsored by  
SSUMC but welcome*

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

**Sand Springs UMC**  
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