

A cooperative ministry of

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### *Pastoral Reflections—August 2020*

*Dear Churches,*

I saw a quote the other day that has stuck with me and that I've tried to keep in mind as I read or hear any news of the Covid-19 pandemic or other difficult news that comes out and have people, including Christians, on opposite sides of the issues. This is it: "The proper Christian response to the COVID-19 crisis is still love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." -Michael Svingel

This quote hit me and made me contemplate; am I responding to this pandemic overall with the fruit of the Spirit? Or am I responding to this pandemic and stories about what is happening in a way that isn't Christ-like. What are my thoughts or what are the words I write on Facebook or say to friends about this situation showing about the Jesus I follow and the Spirit which I believe lives in me? Am I tempted to respond to news or a friend or even a stranger's comments with an insult about how they are obviously wrong or am I allowing the Spirit to guide my responses with peace, kindness, and patience? Am I letting my frustration with how long this pandemic is taking and the seemingly increasing timeline on returning to some sense of "normalcy" fill me with anger or hopelessness? Or am I seeking to see how God might be using this season to grow a deeper sense of self-control and faithfulness through hard times in me?

My challenge for us, myself included, is whenever we are reading or watching the news or on Facebook or talking with those who disagree with us, to try to take a step back and think: Am I responding with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control? And if how we want to respond doesn't fit with any one of those, then ask God to help us stifle that response and find a more Christ-like way to respond instead. These are hard times we are living through, but we are still called to look at how Jesus lived, how He responded to hardship and suffering, and to be like Him. And as Romans 8 says, we have the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead living in us to help us do that.

*God bless,  
Pastor Eric*

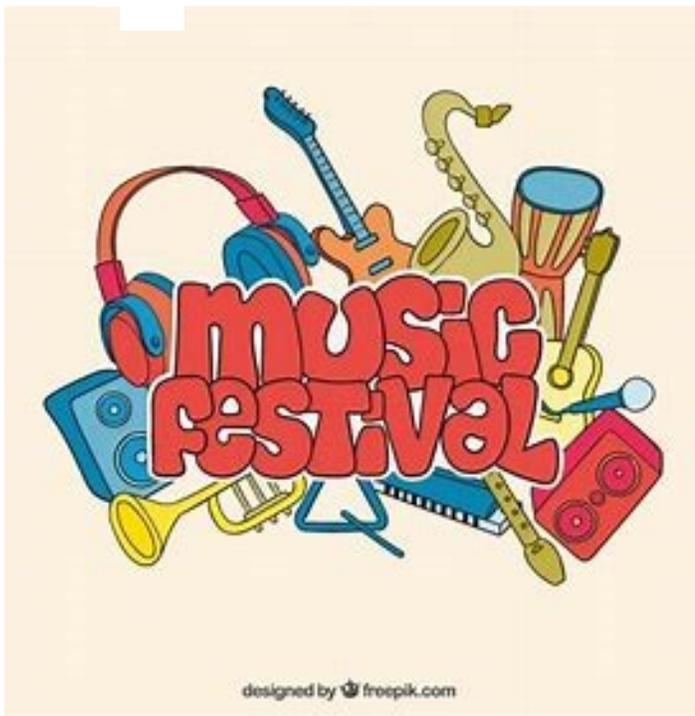
Good Bye July~

"HELLO"  
August



# Please pork and beans for the Food Bank

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<p>1 <b>Lee Foltz</b> <b>Dave Lightner</b> <b>Quinsley Mooney</b></p>
<p>2 Communion <b>Lukas Anderson</b> <b>Willy Erdman</b> <b>Laura Barton</b> <b>Jason Newton</b></p>	<p>3 <b>Steve El-dred</b></p>	  <p>Charge PPRC 6:30 <b>RUMC</b></p>	<p>5 <b>David &amp; Lynne Henry</b> <b>John Yost</b></p>	<p>6 <b>Brian Murray</b> <b>Donnie &amp; Tammy Blystone 1983</b> <b>Amber Johnson</b></p>	7	<p>8 "Hilltop Hallelujah" see page 3  <b>Skip Laird</b> <b>Kevin &amp; Kylie Murray 2007</b></p>
<p>9 <b>Adam Weilacher</b></p>	<p>10 <b>George &amp; Heidi Long 1996</b> <b>John Dragar Jr</b></p>	<p>11 <b>Edith Bronson</b></p>	<p>12 <b>Rob Daily</b></p>	<p>13 <b>Kelly Allen</b> <b>John Crone</b> <b>Kurt Himrod</b> <b>Chris Stewart</b> <b>Aleigha Taylor</b></p>	<p>14 <b>Heidi Long</b> <b>Tami Fosburg</b></p>	<p>15 <b>Ken Foltz</b> <b>George Long</b></p>
<p>16 <b>Rod Brandon</b> <b>Brianna Foltz</b> <b>Bernadette Sewell</b></p>	<p>17 <b>Dorie Foltz</b></p>	<p>18 <b>Robbie Nelson</b> <b>Jonathan Lassiter</b></p>	<p>19 <b>John &amp; Edie Bronson 1972</b></p>	<p>20 <b>Ken &amp; Ginny Lewis</b></p>	21	<p>22 <b>Gavin &amp; Alissa Fuller 2009</b></p>
<p>23 <b>Dennis Karnahan</b></p>	24	<p>25 <b>David Wilcox</b></p>	<p>26 <b>Joshua Long</b></p>	<p>27 <b>Ginny More</b> <b>Jason &amp; Samantha Burek</b></p>	<p>28 <b>Dylan Foltz</b> <b>Eric &amp; Belinda Foltz 1993</b> <b>Byron &amp; Crystal Lindberg</b></p>	<p>29 <b>Devin Bolvin</b></p>
<p>30 <b>Lawrence Lasher</b></p>	<p>31 <b>Aubrey Reed</b></p>					



## **"Hilltop Hallelujah" A Day of Music and Praise**

**Saturday 8 August from 11 am  
to ?  
Rain or Shine**

**On the grounds of Pleasantville  
Community Church  
343 W State St Pleasantville**

**Showcasing local musicians  
Contemporary, Country Gos-  
pel, and Praise & Worship  
Music**

**Everyone welcome! Bring the  
whole family! Food will be  
available! Bring a chair and  
sunscreen**

**Rain location: in the church  
and fellowship hall**

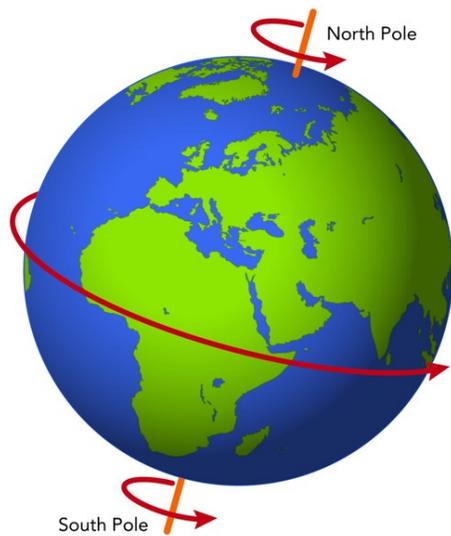
**for details call Colleen at  
814.967.5225**



**Call One Now: Pastor Eric: 725.674.3744**

### **Charge PPRC Meeting**

**There will be a Charge Pastor Parish Relations meeting at Ri-  
ceville at 6:30 pm on Tuesday 4 Aug**



## The East-West Continuum

*The Book of Mysteries*—Jonathan Cahn

It was dawn. We were watching the sun rise over the desert landscape.

"Kedem," said the teacher. "It's Hebrew for east, a most critical direction."

"Why?" I asked.

"The Temple of Jerusalem was built according to the *kedem*. It had to face the east. The altar of the sacrifice was at its easternmost end. The holy

of holies was at its westernmost end. Everything else was in between. So everything in the Temple existed on an east-west continuum. Everything that took place in the Temple took place on an east-west continuum. Most importantly, on the holiest day of the year, Yom Kippur, the sins of Israel were atoned for, removed from the people, on an east-west continuum. The high priest would offer up the sacrifice in the east, and then sprinkle the blood on the ark of the covenant in the west. He would journey back and forth on an east-west continuum. And the closing act of the day would see the sins of the people symbolically removed away from the Temple and into the east of the wilderness."

"But why is that more significant than if it was a north-south continuum?"

"Because," said the teacher, "the earth is a sphere...and it turns on its axis on an east-west continuum. Therefore the earth has a north pole and a south pole, but no east or west pole."

"I still do not understand."

"How far is the north from the south?" he asked. "It's finite. All north come to an end at the North Pole. And all south ends at the South Pole. If the Temple had been built on a north-south continuum, then sin would have been removed a few thousand miles from the sinner. But how far is the east from the west? East and west have no poles. Therefore, they never end. East and west are infinite. They go on forever. In fact, the Hebrew word for the east, *kedem*, also means everlasting."

"But back then no one knew the earth was a sphere."

"God did. And all this is a shadow of the atonement of Messiah, our salvation. So in Messiah, how far does God remove your sins from you? An infinity away...an eternity away. And if you had all eternity, you could never find them again. As it is written, 'So far has He removed our sins away from us...as far as the east is from the west.'"

August Prayer Calendar for

Centerville—Riceville—Parade Street

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you always In every prayer of mine making request for you with all joy...."

Philippians 1:3,4



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi Pastor Eric Oliver	3 Michael & Donna Allen	4 Kaitlyn Russell	5 John & Pat Balmer	6 Michael & Lesley Bailes [Laura & Justin]	7 Kathy Clark	1/8 DS Dennis & Deborah Swineford Sunday Services
9 Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi Pastor Eric Oliver	10 Edna Beckwith	11 Donald Barton	12 Max & Jeanne Clark	13 Calvin & Tammey Bloss [Kylie & Calvin]	14 John Barto Jr	15 DS Dennis & Deborah Swineford Sunday Services
16 Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi Pastor Eric Oliver	17 Mike & Chris Cooney	18 Becky Brown	19 John Barton III	20 Betty Eldred	21 Jason Burek [Harrison]	22 DS Dennis & Deborah Swineford Sunday Services
23 Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi Pastor Eric Oliver	24 Larry & Linda Barton	25 Steve & Dawn Eldred [Matthew, Ian]	26 Steve & Doris Dorn [Kira, Liz, William, Michael]	27 Laura Barton	28 Rachel Eldred [Owen]	29 DS Dennis & Deborah Swineford Sunday Services
30 Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi Pastor Eric Oliver	31 Brian & Sherry Eastman [Sydney & Emily]					
<p>Our Military family</p> <p>Kaitlyn Russell—Navy, Groton, CT * Lee Foltz—Navy, deployed Middle East * Michael Smithers—Rangers, state-side * Frank Pikutis—Navy, CA * Shane Reynolds—Air Force, deployed Korea * Jayde Hoban—Navy, FL * soldiers in Afghanistan</p>						



*Things you learn from a dog:*

- Have a great attitude.
- Greet everyone with enthusiasm.
  - Explore everything.
  - Loyalty is a virtue.
- Protect those you love.
  - Be yourself.
- Love unconditionally.



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[paradestreetumc16438.org](http://paradestreetumc16438.org)

[centervilleumc16404.org](http://centervilleumc16404.org)

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