



FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS

June
2020



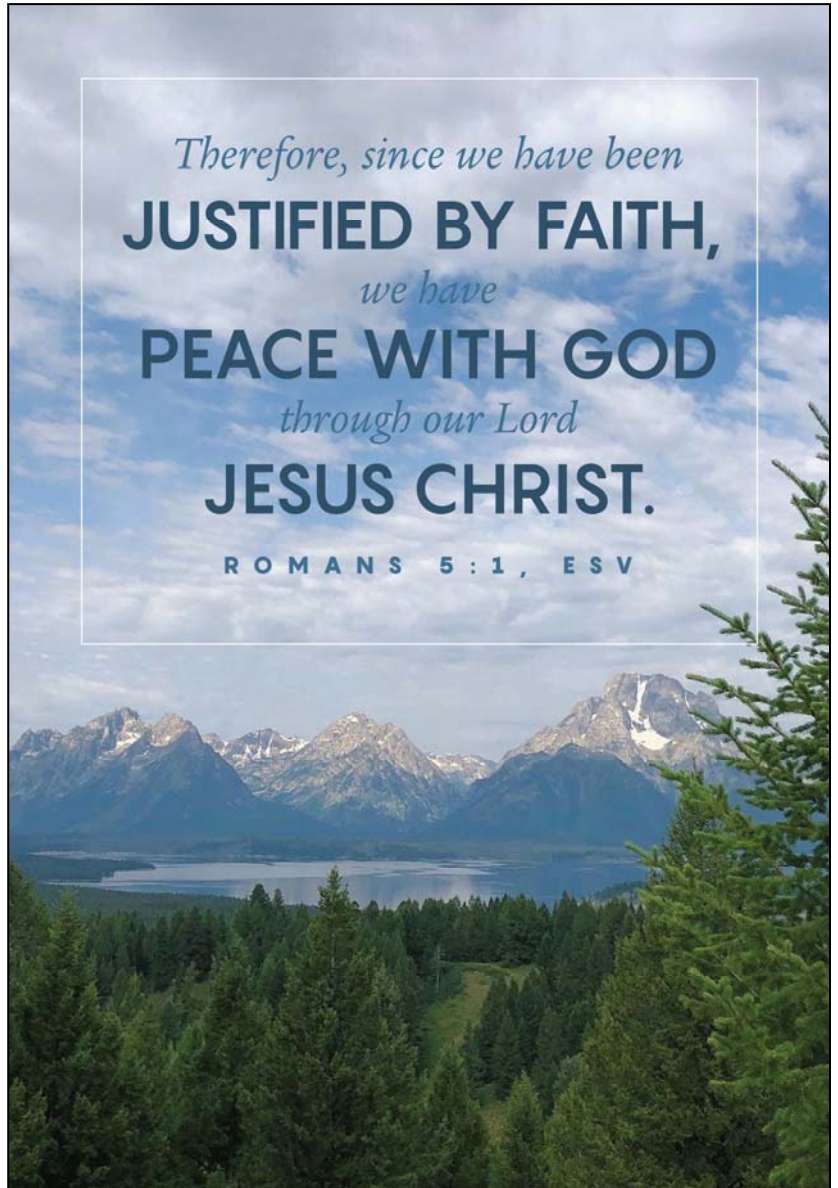
**HAPPY
FATHER'S DAY**

We Honor You

**DADS ARE
A GIFT!**

Therefore, since we have been
JUSTIFIED BY FAITH,
we have
PEACE WITH GOD
through our Lord
JESUS CHRIST.

ROMANS 5:1, ESV



***To see all people **WORSHIP** God,
CONNECT with His people,
and join His **MISSION** in this world.***

Worship the Lord with Us!

Sunday Worship

Traditional Worship Service: 8:30 am

Sunday School for all ages: 9:40 am

Contemporary Worship Service: 10:45 am

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all in-person worship activities are cancelled until further notice.

Please visit www.fumccollingswood.org for our online worship experience.

FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS is published by:

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Tuesday - Thursday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
(Closed for lunch 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm)

FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS

is online at

www.fumccollingswood.org

and is available via e-mail.

Send an e-mail to

ewindows@fumccollingswood.org
to subscribe.

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The submission deadline for the *Summer* issue of Windows is June 26th.

***THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING WINDOWS!***



This month's Windows is only available online due to the COVID-19 outbreak. This edition of Windows is in color to brighten your day.



Dear FUMC Family

First of all, we want to say *thank you!* The prayers, encouragement, and support you've given to us as a staff during this difficult time have been such a strength and blessing. We love you and are tremendously thankful for you!

Second, we recognize that this quarantine has been tough. And as time goes on, we're all longing to see each other again. But along with those feelings come many different - even confusing or conflicting - messages. So it seemed crucial to us that we communicate some clear direction to you in regard to where we are and where we're going as a congregation.

Moving Forward: When and How Should We Meet?

There is a lot on the line when it comes to this question. The matter of re-gathering together includes the emotional and spiritual well-being of each person in our congregation - and we do believe that being together with the Body is crucial. It also involves the physical well-being of people, and we must especially consider those connected to our ministry who are most vulnerable to this dangerous and not-yet-understood disease. So we as a staff are seeking to make a decision that is both Spirit-led and well-informed. We are praying a lot, individually and together (over Zoom, of course.) We are also paying attention to statements from our Governor and other authorities, from our Bishop, and from other faith-communities locally and around the country. Given the uncertainty and ever-changing nature of this pandemic, **it is not possible to declare any definite long-term plans or dates**; however, we also don't want to keep you guessing. So for now, **we are sharing our decisions for the summer.**

Small Groups

In cooperation with the Governor's proclamation that smaller groups can begin meeting, and because of our need as humans to be with each other, **we are allowing smaller groups (including life groups, prayer groups, etc.) to consider reconvening.** But first, recognize that not all group members may feel comfortable doing so just yet. We call all leaders to show grace in your invitations, and consider allowing a hybrid gathering with some joining in-person and others joining virtually. And second, **all groups must meet safely.** The following is our "Top 10 List" of precautions for small groups this summer:

1. Keep it to 25 people or less
2. Stay outdoors
3. Stay 6+ feet apart
4. Wear a mask (if you can't keep 6 feet apart)
5. Bring your own chair
6. Bring your own food/drink (or none at all)
7. Don't use the restroom (We suggest a time limit of approx. 60-90 min)
8. Wash hands/use sanitizer before and after
9. Anyone with symptoms of any kind for the previous 48 hours (fever, sore throat, respiratory symptoms, etc. - even if you *think* it's allergy related), should not attend
10. Anyone with symptoms of any kind within 7 days after meeting in-person with the group, should contact the group, and Pastor Sam or the staff, immediately

Large Groups

We all want to be together again! But in light of the information we're receiving, and through much prayer and discussion, **we have decided to continue our quarantine from large-group gatherings**. So we are planning on having no activities at the building, but keeping all services, meetings, and ministries virtual **through the summer** (including VBS - the children's team will evaluate other options for ministry this summer.) We will continue monitoring the situation. Let us all keep an open mind and be prepared to adjust restrictions looser or tighter, sooner or longer, as necessary.

Moving Forward: Our Posture

In everything, we're asking all of us to remember that **what is most important - more than any position held, or decision made - is our posture as God's people**. Don't forget that we are reflections of Christ in this world, and *everything* we say or do (*or post*), and the attitudes and tones behind it, creates positive or negative ramifications. In light of that, **may we embrace the following posture toward God, each other, and others around us:**

Humility. Yes, all the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 is frustrating, and our temptation is to believe "I know best." But NO ONE - including our government, the experts, our staff, and even you - knows the right answer in any of this. May we all recognize that people are trying to make the best possible decision for the most people possible.

Unity. As God's people, we have a different goal than the world does. We must not seek our own comfort or well-being at another's expense; rather, we work *for* and *with* each other. And unity doesn't equal uniformity: we *will* disagree on many things, but we *can* keep holding on to our common (and most important) vision and mission together.

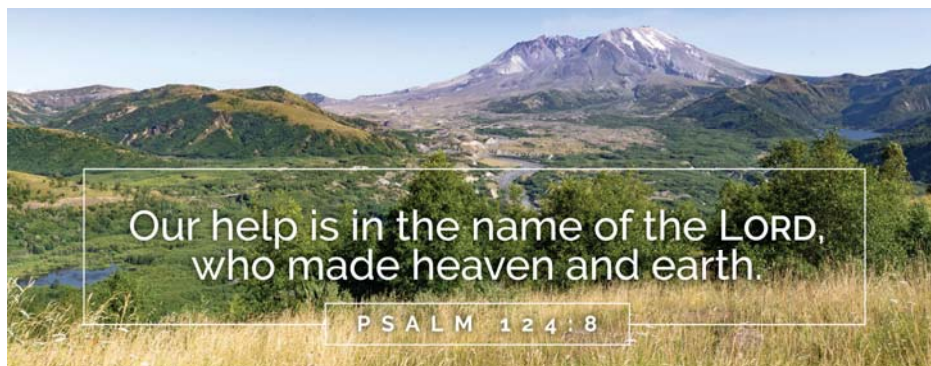
Grace. Let us throw away our attitudes of condemnation toward others who hold a different position, make choices we don't understand, or don't act/speak with their best behavior (you and I don't always either.) Everyone is under a great degree of stress. Give each other the benefit of the doubt and "make allowance for each other's faults." (Col 3:13)

Love. "Above all else, clothe yourselves with love." (Col 3:14) "Let no debt remain outstanding except the continuing debt to love one another." (Rom 13:8) "[If I] do not have love, I am nothing." (1 Cor 13:2)

In other words, may we seek to live right, not merely be right!

Finally, we want to acknowledge the reality that this season has been (and will continue to be) very painful. This pandemic has created quite a strain on us in multiple ways - physically, relationally, emotionally, spiritually, mentally, and/or financially. We see you, and we care! **We as a staff are committed to your safety and your well-being, and will continue to do all we can to lead you and meet your needs. More importantly, God cares - He sees you, He is with you, He has not forgotten you!** May we all find comfort in God's invitation and promise to us: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." (Prov 3:5-6)

Love,
Your staff - Pastor Sam, Matt, Leon, Will, Shawn, and Pat





Opportunity to Serve Our Community



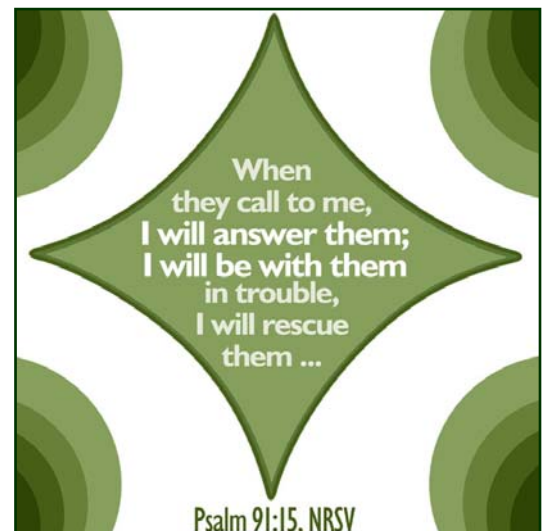
In light of the things that so many people are facing these days we have a special opportunity to bring Christ's love. Our community has a new website online for volunteers to help with community needs right here in Collingswood during this "stay at home" time. It is run by the Borough of Collingswood and is called "Collingswood Cares." Here is the link: <http://www.collscares.org>.

They are looking for volunteers to help SAFELY pick up grocery or pharmacy items for people in our Collingswood community who cannot get out for these items. The volunteers will purchase these items using funds and gift-cards from the town or our church, using all the usual safety protocols we are already using when we do our own shopping. The items will then be dropped off by the front door, rather than handing it directly to person in need. That way everyone remains safe.

If you're looking for a way to serve, simply go to the "Collingswood Cares" site and click on the button to put in your volunteer information. Our church is helping to coordinate needs and volunteers along with other chaplains and pastors in our town. Please join us in prayer and action as we care for others around us.

Let's continue to pray and find one person to call today. We give the Lord praise for your continual generosity and faithfulness in sending your envelopes to the church and online giving at fumccollingswood.org. Your prayers and support are so vital as we work together in these days and in the future in sharing Christ's love and hope, Please feel free to email or call us with updates so we may pray and respond as a church family and staff during these challenging days. If you have a need please let us know so that we may journey with you at this time. Above all, know you are loved today!

In His Love and Grace,
Pastor Sam and Staff

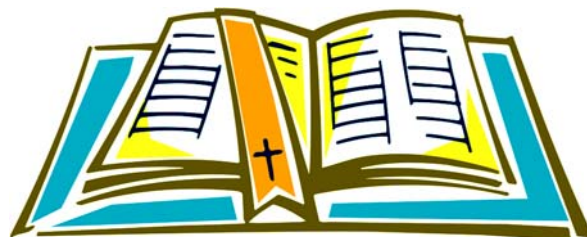


We now have a new website through Faithlife!

We will continue to improve on it in the coming months but it is now up and running. You reach it at the same address: www.fumccollingswood.org.

Please come visit our website where you can access recordings of our services, old newsletters and more!

UPCOMING SERMONS AND SCRIPTURES



Presence Matter Most Summer Series

Who would have thought 2020 would have been quite the year we have experienced... The pandemic and all that has been coming everyone's way this year? *What would happen if you told God how you really feel or what you really think? Have you ever found yourself praying the same words over and over again without really opening up with God?*

The Holy Spirit and God's Word can help us deal with our inner struggles that reach beyond the world of sight and sound to reveal what our senses long to see and hear—our authentic self and the heart of God. Join us this summer as we journey together in God's word and pray real prayers from our hearts together. Don't worry. God is big enough to handle all our pain, fear, desire for control, prejudice, greed, doubt, unfulfilled longings... or any other thoughts or feelings stirring inside. He's inviting us to relax and spend this summer in His Presence.

June 7	<i>When God's Spirit Shows Up</i>	Acts 2:42-47		Shawn
June 14	<i>Life's Big Challenges</i>	1 Samuel 17:8-50	Communion	Pastor Sam
June 21	<i>Looking to What's Ahead</i>	1 Samuel 18:1-16	Father's Day	Pastor Sam
June 28	<i>Unbelievable Strength</i>	Isaiah 40:28-31		Leon



Due to the coronavirus our Baby Bottle Boomerang will not have baby bottles. Instead, we invite you to contribute to Options for Women directly. Their address is:



Options for Women
1500 Kings Highway North, Suite 110
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

You can also go online to <https://optionsnj.org> and click on the DONATE button to give with a credit/debit card or checking account. If you have any questions contact Chuck Swanson at 856-795-0166. Thank you so much. Our contributions will help pregnant women make the correct choices during their pregnancy.

MISSIONARY MESSAGES



We Remember...

**Melvin Floyd went home to be with
the Lord on April 20, 2020.**



David and Phyllis Schmid, Haiti

Dear Friends of STEP,

Last week in my leadership class, I talked about how adaptation - the ability to adapt to changing circumstances - is one of the marks of a good leader. I chuckle now as I think about it because this year has been a master class in adaptation for all of us at STEP.

Truth be told, the average Haitian has a Ph.D. in adaptation by the time they graduate High School. But adaptation for survival and adaptation in leadership are two different things. I didn't realize how much of a learning opportunity this year has been until a student raised his hand in class last week - after we had just temporarily relocated the campus - and asked "How did you guys do this so quickly?" It turns out that adaptation gets easier with practice...

Adaption at STEP 101: Peyi Lòk

This isn't new territory for us. Haiti shut down almost entirely this past fall for several months. Every day flaming barricades blocked roads all over the country and it was impossible for our students to get to the campus.

So we adapted with WhatsApp. These days in Haiti, the internet is a little better than it used to be and most students have some sort of smartphone. Almost all of them communicate using WhatsApp. Within a week or so we created groups on WhatsApp for each of our courses. Our professors started teaching by sharing images and voice messages to the groups. It wasn't perfect, but it provided a way for us to stay connected with the students and keep advancing (although a little more slowly) through the courses.

Adaption at STEP 201: Escalating Tensions in Bolosse

Eventually, Peyi Lòk calmed down and we were able to resume classes on campus again. That changed on Thursday, March 5th. As our students were leaving for the day, a group of armed individuals told us we could no longer access the campus via the Ft. Mercredi road - effectively cutting off our access to the

campus. Recognizing this as a significant escalation in the ongoing tensions in our neighborhood, we knew we were going to need to temporarily hold classes off-campus.

Within 24 hours, we located an alternate site, and within 36 hours, we relocated our 26 dorm students to alternate housing on the other side of the city. By Sunday morning, we were well-positioned to open for classes at the temporary site the next day. Classes went off without a hitch there for two weeks, and things were moving in the direction of us heading back to the campus soon.

Then COVID-19 entered Haiti.

Adaptation at STEP 301: Coronavirus

Late last week, the President of Haiti announced the first two official cases had arrived in the country. In the same address, he closed all schools until further notice, instituted a national curfew and restricted all gatherings to less than 10 people. We don't know what Covid-19 will do here yet, so we're assuming we'll be closed for at least a month. Time to adapt again!

Last Friday, our students scattered back across the country to return to their homes. This week, our professors have been returning to their WhatsApp groups while we work on getting course content uploaded to an online learning management system called Edmodo.

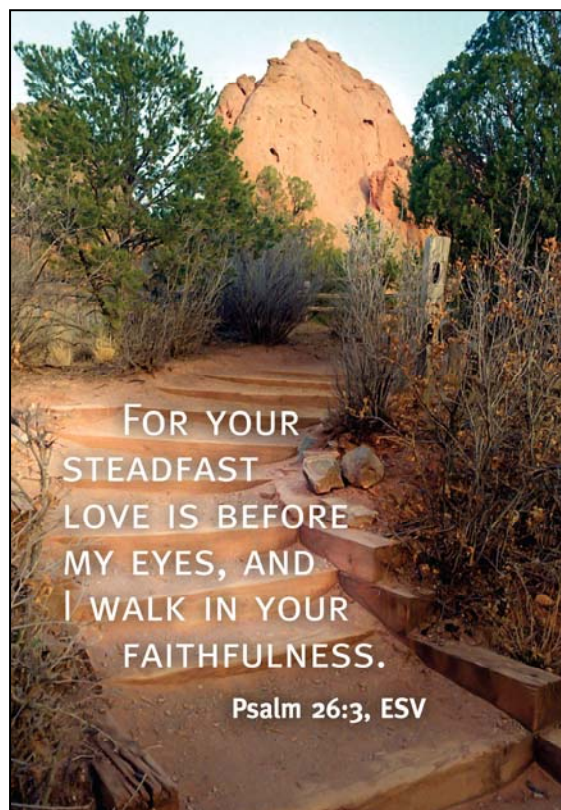
The current challenge we face is not getting our courses online, but getting those online courses delivered to our students. Many of them are now in the countryside with little if any access to the internet. We haven't solved this challenge yet (please pray for us!), but we're going to keep working at it until we figure it out.

The Mission Matters

Last week as I stood in front of my students for what would be the last time for a while. We said one of the best motivators for adaptation in leadership is a compelling mission. When you really believe that your mission matters, you don't let obstacles stop you. Instead, leaders are those who find ways to push through, allowing the mission to advance no matter what.

STEP's mission is to prepare maturing Haitian leaders to make disciples of Christ that transform their communities to the glory of God. We believe in this mission with all of our hearts. We believe that if this mission succeeds, one day we'll see a new Haiti emerge.

These students of ours are going to face more than their fair share of obstacles after they leave STEP. Hopefully, the experience gained in this academic year will help make those obstacles just a little bit easier to hurdle.



Dan and Esther Parsons, MI

In the midst of it all, my mind goes back to one moment about 2 weeks ago during LRI's Global Summit in Brazil. LRI's president, Craig Parro, was sharing with the crowd of 128 church leaders from some 38 nations about the progress of the Movement of the Word around the world. He pointed out that God's footprints can be clearly seen at every step. Through gospel partnership, pastors on every continent are being trained in God's Word by their own countrymen, brothers from their own nations.

Leading up to the Global Summit, our security team had been monitoring the coronavirus outbreak, and the situation looked stable and safe enough for us to proceed with the event. However, after we had been there several days, the level of global concern accelerated, and then the World Health Organization redefined this health crisis as a "global pandemic." At that point the situation began changing rapidly – countries began restricting travel and closing borders. As a result, we compressed the schedule from seven days to four, and we immediately began the daunting task of re-ticketing 120 staff and partners for their return trips home. While this undertaking proved to be both difficult and expensive, we believe it was the right thing to do in order to faithfully care for our partners and staff.

All LRI staff are home and accounted for. However, three of our global partners remain in Brazil, unable to return home due to travel restrictions and border closings in their home countries. We are in regular communication with them, and they are being well cared for by our Brazilian partners, Preach the Word. As we all long to see family and friends, please pray for these men, that the Lord will shepherd them well in these days and return them to their families in Peru and Haiti soon.

Alan and Arlene Bachmann, FL

When Barbara passed last August, I later attended a grief-share ministry in the Village. I was asked to lead 13 Friday sessions. As we comforted those who had lost a spouse or loved one, God brought Arlene Miller and I into a growing relationship. Our pastor gave wise council. We became engaged and planned for a wedding in our new church.

A new start began with planning a Village yard sale. We would empty our apartments and no longer pay rent. Then came the virus! No yard sale, no anything. The Village “locked down” all buildings. No church wedding (postpone until ?); we lost internet; closed on a fully furnished mobile home in the Village; gave our things to needy persons; got a marriage license at the courthouse (closed two days later.) What a whirlwind of distractions.

Pastor Marc married us per the license in a gazebo surrounded by a lake. We walked over a footbridge, where he graciously led us in our vows. Just us three!

Data and Debby Cherry, Germany

Please pray with us for the Lord to raise up the \$800 a month in support we need to return to Germany in July. We need to begin the process of applying for our German visas in order to allow extra time for things to be processed once travel bans are lifted. In order to get our visas we need to demonstrate to the German government that we have the required income to cover our expenses while living in Germany. We know the pandemic has affected everyone in different ways. For us, it has meant not being able to travel and meet new people in order to raise up new ministry partners. Therefore, we are trusting that God will bring about the support we need in His own special way! He is more than able and we know how faithful He is!

But
THE LORD
is
FAITHFUL;
HE WILL
STRENGTHEN
YOU
and
GUARD
YOU
from the evil one.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:3, NRSV



June 1	Jeremy Wallace	June 20	Audrey Diehl
June 3	Virginia Morrow	June 24	Aryana Zook
June 5	Maxwell Schoch Samuel Schoch	June 26	Janice Bittle Miles Tribulas
June 6	Lisa Mountain	June 28	Prin Pappas Brian Steward
June 13	Jean LeBlanc Dawn Molloy	June 29	Jason Meyers
June 15	Shirl Latch	June 30	Nathanael Meyers
June 19	Linda Schoch		



June 1	James & Katherine Jungclaus Jr.
June 2	Phil & Kathy Boswell
June 4	Stan & Pat Scheaffer
June 20	Leon & Rhonda Fraley
June 21	Michael & Dawn Molloy
June 23	Dean & Beth Stefano
June 28	Tom & Carolyn Thompson

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ??

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Which of the following are mentioned in the list that follows?

- A. a time to teach, and a time to learn
- B. a time to mourn, and a time to dance
- C. a time to fast, and a time to eat
- D. a time to work, and a time to rest

Answer: B (See Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.)

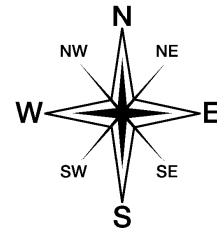
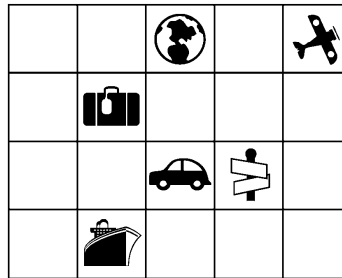


PUZZLE

Wherever we go

No matter where we journey, God always protects us.

Directions: Use the map and compass to answer the clues. Then write the boxed letters in order in the spaces below to complete Psalm 121:8, NIV.



Start at the SHIP.

Move 1 space N, 3 spaces E, and 2 spaces N

Start at the WORLD.

Move 1 space W, 1 space S, and 1 space SE

Start at the SUITCASE.

Move 1 space NE, 2 spaces S, and 1 space E

Start at the PLANE.

Move 2 spaces SW, 1 space S, and 1 space W

Start at the CAR.

Move 1 space E, 1 space N, and 1 space NW

Start at the SIGN.

Move 1 space SE, 1 space W, and 2 spaces NW

The _ ORD will watch ove_ your comi_g and go_ng
both no_ and for_ vermore. Psalm 121:8, NIV

Answer: plane, car, sign, ship, world, suitcase. The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Psalm 121:8, NIV

Puzzle!

Use the code to find out what these biblical people may have taken on a picnic.



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

(Genesis 3:6)

Adam and Eve 6 18 21 9 20

(Genesis 25:28)

Isaac 23 9 12 4 7 1 13 5

(Genesis 25:34)

Esau 19 20 5 23

(Numbers 11:5)

Israelites in Egypt 3 21 3 21 13 2 5 18 19

(Ruth 2:1-4)

Ruth 7 18 1 9 14

(1 Samuel 14:2)

Saul 16 15 13 5 7 18 1 14 1 20 5 19

(1 Samuel 14:29)

Jonathan 8 15 14 5 25

(Daniel 1:12-16)

Daniel and friends 22 5 7 5 20 1 2 12 5 19

(Matthew 3:4)

John the Baptist 12 15 3 21 19 20 19

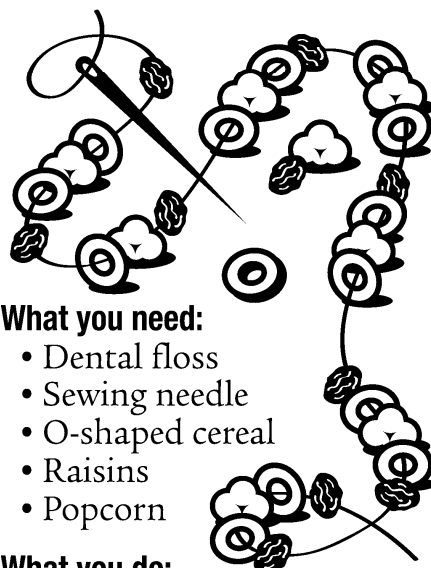
(Matthew 14:17)

The 5,000 people 2 18 5 1 4 & 6 9 19 8

Answer: fruit, wild game, stew, cucumbers, grain, pomegranates, honey, vegetables, locusts, bread & fish

ROAD TRIP TREAT!

Make this snack necklace to enjoy during summer travels.

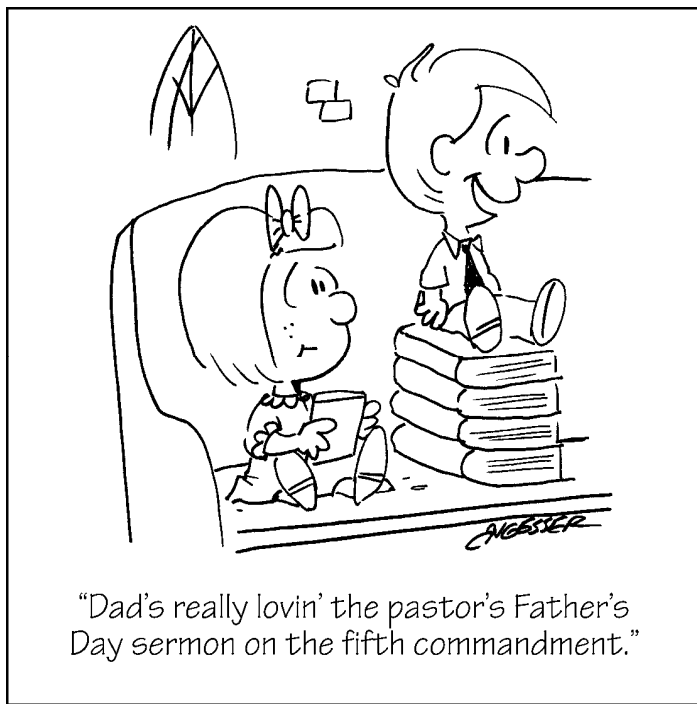


What you need:

- Dental floss
- Sewing needle
- O-shaped cereal
- Raisins
- Popcorn

What you do:

1. Carefully thread a yard of floss through the needle.
2. String a pattern of cereal, raisins and popcorn on the floss until only 4 inches remain on either end. Tie the two ends together.
3. Repeat to make necklaces for your whole family.
4. When you're ready to eat, simply bite off each "bead." Experiment with other non-perishable foods.



TOO GREAT TO GRASP

For more than three decades, St. Augustine of Hippo toiled over the mind-boggling doctrine of the Trinity. According to legend, one day the church father was strolling along a shore, wrestling with this puzzle. He saw a boy running back and forth, using a seashell to pour water from the ocean into a hole he'd dug in the sand. When Augustine asked what he was doing, the boy proclaimed, "I'm going to pour the entire ocean into this hole!"

"That's impossible," replied Augustine. "The sea is so great, and the shell and the hole are so little."

"That's true," the boy said. "But it would be easier to draw all the water out of the sea and fit it into this hole than for you to fit the mystery of the Trinity and his divinity into your little intellect."

Indeed, only through faith can we accept the infinite nature of our Three-in-One God; for our finite human minds, it's simply too great to grasp.



Please **PRAY** for those
affected by **COVID-19**



The First United Methodist Church
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