

JULY 2022 | ISSUE 7



ENGAGE

Go beyond to lead people of a hurting world into new life through Jesus Christ.

Greetings from Pastor Bee

Dear Colonial Park Family,
I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ who loves us all.

As I am writing this greeting, I am sitting in a hotel room in Brentwood waiting for annual conference to begin. This afternoon we had the rehearsal for the ordination service that will take place on Thursday evening. The ordination service is a very high holy moment for the whole church, and this year we have a large class coming up for commissioning and ordination. We have much business to take care of. And since this is our first annual conference as the new Tennessee-Western Kentucky (TWK) conference, it will be a historic event. A lot of our time will be about the change we will be going through as we become a new conference. We will be building relationships with each other so that we can be stronger together in our mission of making new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

By the time you read this however, I will be in Denmark visiting our daughter, my sister and family. Yesterday when I spoke with my sister, she told me that our plans for doing "stuff" had changed. You see this year, the Tour de France will start in Copenhagen during the second week I am home. That week no cars will be allowed to drive inside the city limits. But they have great public transportation in Copenhagen, so we will still be able to do what we have planned. We just have to adjust to the change...

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THIS MONTH'S FEATURED ARTICLES

From the Pastor's Desk
Spanish with a Mission



Greetings from Pastor Bee continued

and that is not always easy, to adjust to change. Throughout my personal life and life in ministry, I have had to adapt to change many times. For example, when I lived in Kolwezi, a mining town in Congo, I would read a recipe I wanted to try. I would then go to the market with a list of ingredients to buy. But when I arrived, there were never the things I needed. I would have to adjust and change what I was going to cook for supper. Although I am just talking about "what's for dinner", change is still hard. You make plans and you get set on doing what you have planned, just to find out things have to change.

The way I have learned to adapt to change is by looking at Jesus. The stories we read about Jesus and how he went about his ministry tell how he experienced constant change. In Luke Chapter 19 we can read the story about Zacchaeus. Jesus is passing through Jericho, when he stops and asks Zacchaeus to come down from the tree so they could have dinner together. Zacchaeus had planned to stay in the tree to observe when Jesus changed the plans. Jesus was only passing through, when his own plans changed, and he decided to invite himself to dinner at Zacchaeus' house. Both Zacchaeus and Jesus had different plans, however, those plans changed. Because of that, their lives were changed by this encounter.

In many other stories we read about Jesus, he is walking from one place to another. While walking, Jesus is always confronted with some kind of detour where he has to go heal someone or feed someone. We never read about Jesus making it straight from point A to point B. Change is not always easy, however, we never hear Jesus say, "No, I won't go there" or, "No, I won't do that." What Jesus has taught me is this: it is all about how we let change influence us. We can accept it and go with it or we can resist it, but only for so long. Change will eventually happen. And wouldn't it be sad if things never changed? What if our phones were still the ones I grew up with, that were attached to the wall and you had to use a rotary dial to call the number? With the new technology we have on our phones, I can face time with my daughter and our family wherever they are in the world! Change is not always easy, but it is not always bad either.

I am truly looking forward to meeting you all and to being in ministry with you. The staff has already been so kind and helpful as I have moved into the office. I have had great conversations with Kendrick Little and Lee Gilliland as I shared what I will be preaching on in July. The first four Sundays I will share my favorite Scripture passages with you starting with Joshua 1:9, 1 John 4:7-21, Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16 and ending with Matthew 28:16-19 on the last Sunday in July.

Please know I have an open door policy so I do hope you stop by for coffee and conversation.

FAMILY MINISTRIES PRAISE AND PLAY!

VBS is a well-loved summer tradition. Most adults remember going to at least one VBS when they were a kid. I know I sure do!!! Well while there are still traditional VBSs out there (and yes, they are still amazing!!), the fact is that we are now living in and navigating a post-pandemic church. One where fewer people are returning to traditional worship or the church in general. So, what does this mean for traditional summer events like VBS?

To answer this question, I am going to go back and reference Mike McGee's videos listing our church's goals and objectives. For those that might not remember, our church and board spelled out and agreed on certain objectives for the future of the church. There is a lot of wonderful information there but as a Sea Isle resident myself, these particular objectives stood out to me the most:

- Colonial Park will prioritize creative discipleship environments and efforts to engage young adults and young families where they are physically, spiritually, and emotionally.
- Colonial Park will develop and seize opportunities for meaningful ministries in the immediate community of Colonial Park to serve the common good.

Insert our Pop-Up Style VBS, Praise and Play at the Park. This event spans 3 different days over May, June, and July and takes place at our beautiful Sea Isle Park. The brainchild of (and co-hosted by) Cindy McRae, this event gets us out in the community and engaging with our neighbors. Meeting them exactly where they are. Families can sign up for this event, but we also invite anyone who happens to be at the park that day to play. It has been an incredible, God-centered event that has gotten us out in our neighborhood and making meaning connections with our neighbors. As I write this article, we only have one VBS left in July, but if our first two are any indication, this next one will be just as wonderful.

We are all navigating a new sense of normalcy now. Where the world is open for business, but it's still not 100% back to what it was. As the Director of Family Ministries, I am excited to expand our church, connect with our neighbors, and see what exciting things the future holds.



Mark Your Calendars!

7/4: Independence Day - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
7/7: Mobile Food Distribution
7/8: Lifeline Heart Screening
7/9: Men's Breakfast
7/10: Welcome Reception for Pastor Bee
7/14: J.O.Y. Luncheon
7/14: Equipping Night
7/16: Spanish with a Mission
7/19: Praise and Play Pop Up VBS at Sea Isle Park
7/21: Mobile Food Pantry Distribution
7/25-7/28: Project Transformation

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

Over the last few of years, you have heard the phrase “missional discipleship” or “discipleship” used on Sunday mornings, in conversation, in meetings, or in classes. Perhaps it seems like a label, buzzword, or passing fad – a new catchy phrase. But missional discipleship is not just any phrase and it is certainly not new.

Missional discipleship is our identity as the church, as children of God, and a way-of-life that we are commanded to embody twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. So, what exactly is missional discipleship and why do we keep talking about it?

Come join me for our Missional Discipleship Primer! We'll meet on Sundays at 4:00 pm for 4-sessions beginning on August 21 – September 11 to expand what's possible in our discipleship journey. Each class will last approximately 1.5 hours. Even if you know about missional discipleship, this primer is for you. The class will help orient and challenge ourselves in our understanding of mission and biblical discipleship in our lives and in the larger church. These are some of the topics we will discuss:

- Who Jesus is and His methods of discipleship.
- What exactly IS discipleship?
- What's the Mission and whose Mission is it?
- The three-dimensional life of Jesus and the command to imitate.

In community, we will pray, learn, reflect, and respond to next steps on where God may be leading us.

At Colonial Park, we continue to be intentional on developing transformative ways for you to gain the tools and preparation that is needed to go out into the world as a representative of Christ. Our goal is to come alongside you to equip you for your discipleship journey whether with formal opportunities or informal organic conversations. If you would love to chat about your discipleship journey, I would love to talk to you. Please feel free to reach out – mwarren@colonialpark.org.

If you are interested in taking part in the Missional Discipleship Primer, please sign up in the main office by emailing info@colonialpark.org or calling (901)683-5286.



OUTREACH MINISTRIES

I hope everyone had a great Memorial weekend. You know the watermelon, hot dogs, barbeque, homemade ice cream and don't forget the war movies. Watching those WWII movies has become quite a tradition at my house. You can always count on finding your favorite movie somewhere on the host of TV stations we have now.

Now that I think about it, I really enjoy watching those Yankee Doodle Dandy movies on the 4th of July or Charlie Brown and the too many to name Christmas favorites at Christmas time.

Oh well, back to Memorial weekend and the celebration of our country's brave soldiers that risked or lost their lives for all of us to have a better life. The parades and flag waving are really neat to be a part of or at least watch. It's wonderful that these brave men & women are remembered and celebrated for helping to assure our way of life would be better!

This brings to mind the celebrating we do at Easter and Christmas for someone that sacrificed His life, not risked, but chose to die so that we could have eternal life, not just a better life. Then there are the movies like "Risen" or "The Greatest Story Ever Told" that I enjoy watching over and over again. I'm sure you have your favorites as well. Maybe the movie that the actor best portrays Jesus. Somehow lumping Jesus into our holiday celebrating just doesn't get it.

What do you think about starting each day thanking Jesus for all he's done, all he is doing, and all he is going to do? Would that be more fitting? How about a daily celebration for the one that died so we can live? Sharing that story with someone that needs to hear it would be so much better than watching a movie.

The next holiday may never get here or tomorrow for that matter. Take advantage of the Gift of each day to Celebrate your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He deserves it!!!!

Peace Be With You,

Gary W. Vaughn
Director of Outreach Ministries



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Organization

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Join us Sundays for In-Person Worship at 9:00 am for Traditional Worship, 10:00 am for Sunday School and 11:00 am for Casual Worship. Not ready to be in-person yet? Catch us on Facebook or YouTube at 11:00 am @Colonial Park UMC. Or you may call the worship service hotline at 901-329-6527 to listen from your phone.

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Scan the QR code with your smartphone to go directly to Easy Tithe. This is an easy way to remain faithful to the ministries of Colonial Park.

This is a newsletter of Colonial Park United Methodist Church. The newsletter is published monthly & mailed third class, and e-mailed weekly except holidays.

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