

MUSTARD SEED

A Publication of Porter United Methodist Church

Let's Go to the Beach

Summer is always a fun time of year. There are just so many things to do when the sun's shining and the weather's good. Going to the beach to me has always been one of those fun summer things to do. The only thing about going to the beach is that you have to be prepared. There are few things we need to take with us in order to enjoy the beach. Pack your bag and come go along with me!

Here's what we'll be putting in our beach bag...

Sunscreen.

One of the first things we'll need is protection from the sun. There's so much skin damage we can get if we don't protect ourselves. The sad thing is, we don't even know sometimes we've gotten skin damage until later down the road and are diagnosed with some type of skin cancer.

It's just like when we as Christians walk in the world and get too close to those worldly attractions and follies. We get burned and get damaged as it were. Sometimes we don't even realize how much we have been damaged by worldliness and those fiery darts of the devil.

We could avoid it if we'd just put on some protection. We'll be using that wonderful brand called, "Christian Armor". It's the highest protection there is. Off brands won't do as they don't contain all the right ingredients. Make sure you apply it liberally.

"Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

Ephesians 6:10 - 18, KJV

Sand Shovel.

One of the most delightful things to do at the beach is digging and playing in the sand. Making sand castles with moats, or for the little ones, just digging in the sand can be just the best of fun. Digging a hole in the sand and just putting your hands deep into it can be the best of sensations.

Digging into the Word of God can be the best too. Bible study doesn't have to be dry and boring. Just dig in! Find some verses that just tingle over your soul like sand does to your fingers when you are digging at the beach.

Take those verses and concentrate on them for awhile. Put them in your bucket, pat them down, and dump them out and admire them awhile, just like you'd do a sand castle at the beach. God's Word will just glisten.

Dig in and take in all the intricacies God's Word has to offer.

"Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it." Psalm 119:140

(Continued on page 4)



JULY 2017



AUGUST 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Pastor's Ponderings</i>	1
<i>Missions in the Spotlight</i>	2
<i>Children's Ministries</i>	3
<i>Pastor's Ponderings cont'd.</i>	4
<i>School Supplies List</i>	5
<i>Calendar of Events - July</i>	6
<i>Calendar of Events - Aug.</i>	7
<i>Church Picnic & Worship</i>	8

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

Sermons in July:

Sunday, July 2nd
Power of God's Goodness
Genesis 50:15 - 21

Sunday, July 9th
Rest for the Restless
Matthew 11:16 - 19, 25 - 30

Sunday, July 16th
A Generous Harvest
Matthew 13:1 - 9, 18 - 23

Sunday, July 23rd
Weed Control
Matthew 13:24 - 30, 36 - 43

Sunday, July 30th
Matthew 13:31 - 33, 44 - 52

Sermons in August:

Sunday, August 6th
You Give Them Something to Eat
Matthew 14:13 - 21

Sunday, August 13th
Matthew 14:22 - 33

Sunday, August 20th
Matthew 15:10 - 28

Sunday, August 27th
Matthew 16:13 - 20

MISSION STATEMENT: "Nourishing Souls with Loving Hearts and Caring Hands."



Annual Conference

Attending annual conference annually is a privilege and an honor that all United Methodist pastors and lay people have. It is a time of renewal, Bible Study, spirit-filled worship, and Christian conferencing between people. It is non-stop activities from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. for three days. This year the theme was "Together We Are More!!!". It means that as a connectional system church, we make tremendous impact in the world because we pool our resources. The backpacks were a prime example. Our church gave 6 backpacks for the homeless which was a tremendous accomplishment for the size of our church, but together the Indiana conference donated over 700 backpacks for the homeless of Indiana. The service of remembrance and communion lifts up all the saints who have served as pastors that have gone to be with the Lord during the last year. It is a wonderful service with great music! It truly was unfortunate that our lay delegate decided not to attend this year. We hope that next year we will have lay representation.

Summer Experiences

Many of us will be traveling this summer and others will be having great experiences right here at home. Once again, we are going to try making a CD of our church families' summer experiences where we each are experiencing God's presence, grace and love. Because of situations like grief journeys, health issues or just life situations, many like to live vicariously through the activities of friends & families in their life that gives them hope for their future. So let's all come together as a family and enjoy our summer activities together. Just forward your pictures to Kim at the office. If you have difficulty she will help you get them off any device!!!!

4th of July Parade

July 4th is right around the corner and it will be time for our participation in the town of Porter's annual 4th of July parade! We ***are in need of freeze pops to be handed out along the parade route.*** Please bring your donations to church with you on Sundays or you can drop them by the church office. ***We also have a sign up sheet for those interested in participating in any way.*** We are looking for volunteers to help decorate the float, be a rider on the float, or be one of the walkers handing out freeze pops & beads to those along the route. See Judy if interested. Line up for the parade is at 8 a.m. in the parking lot of Yost and the parade kicks off promptly at 9 a.m.

Overdose Awareness Benefit on Saturday, August 5th

The 4th Annual Christina Lynn Hill Benefit for overdose awareness will be held on Saturday, August 5th from 2 - 6 p.m. at Frontline Foundations, 1008 Broadway in Chesterton. ALL proceeds go to Frontline Foundation for the Chrissy Hill Scholarship Fund. Last year's benefit provided 18 people with their first 12 weeks in counseling / treatment program.

There will be music, food, raffles all day, a bake sale, kid crafts and games. Donations will be humbly accepted between now and then in Chrissy's memory to help others with the disease of addiction. I thank each of you from the bottom of my heart !!!

Judy Reales



New Quarterly Mission Focus:

Frontline Foundations, Inc.

A new quarter is here and with that, we are shifting our focus to a new quarterly mission: ***Frontline Foundations.*** Their goal is to serve as a source of hope to young men and women suffering from drug and alcohol abuse while also providing an effective treatment and recovery support system.

With their unique approach, Frontline places a strong emphasis on young adults between the ages of 18-38. They offer support through recovery workshops, peer-to-peer group sessions and individual treatment plans that professional substance abuse counselors and program coordinators facilitate.

Why Frontline? The statistics issued by the Indiana Strategic Prevention Framework state that the highest rate of cocaine and marijuana use is among 18-25 year olds, including the highest rate of heavy drinking and binge drinking and the highest rate of prescription drug abuse.

Would you like to make a difference in someone's life? The second most commonly cited reason for people not receiving substance abuse treatment is being unable to afford the perceived costs. Your contribution will support scholarships for those seeking treatment who are otherwise unable to afford services. Your quarterly mission giving helps provide this important resource to those in need.

A little note we received recently:

Dear Pastor Dee & Congregation -

You are making a difference in the lives of our clients. Every Chesterton client that leaves our program has a Bible that you provide! Thank you for your continued generosity!

The Frontline Team



Children's Quarterly Offering



This month begins our new quarterly special children's mission offering for **Jacob's Ladder Pediatric Rehab** in Chesterton. Located at 1595 S. Calumet Road, they are a non-profit organization providing comprehensive therapy & care for special children and to provide support for their family.

This outreach was brought to our attention by Joyce Miller at the end of last year. The money collected will go towards providing scholarships to cover the cost between insurance allowance for therapy and the amount of therapy that is actually needed as their therapist recommends.

Calling All Children!

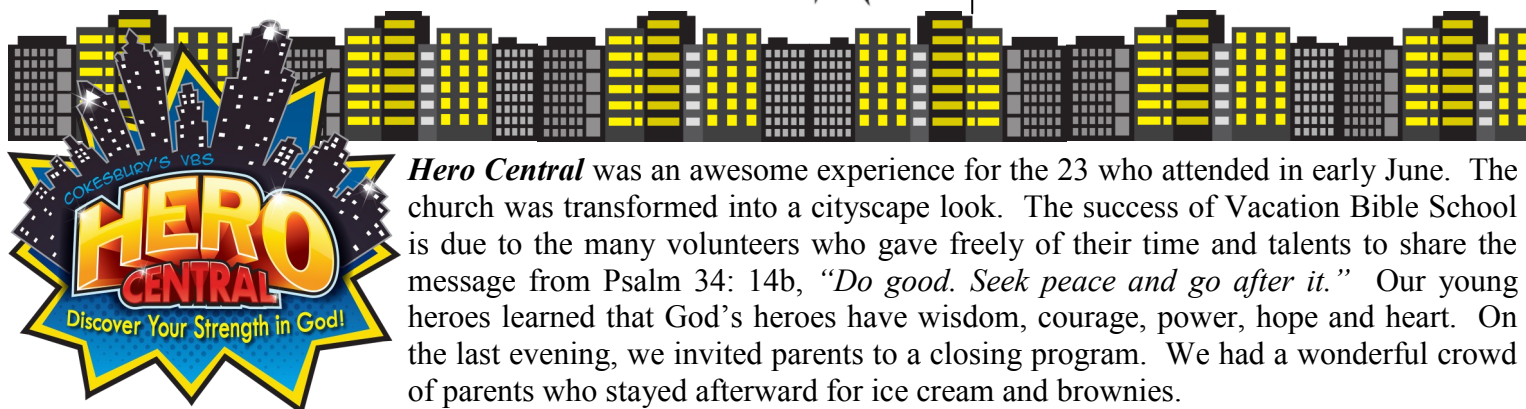
Come to church during the summer for the children's sermon! Each week will be fun and innovative with special summer toy giveaways!!!



Vacation Bible School

As I attended the VBS program this year, I stood in awe at this incredible venture accomplished by lay disciples who all said "yes" to teaching about God's love!!!! Their imagination is beyond incredible and their enthusiasm was contagious!!! I was so excited to see new faces who said "yes" to help and having both male and female disciples present was terrific! I want to thank each person that said "yes". I also want to thank **Deb Sharp** and **Linda Green** for all the terrific visions and leadership. It was a great outreach into the community again this year. It was also rewarding to know that we passed the decorations on to Chesterton UMC and then onto Hammond Woodmar who will be having VBS later in the summer!

Pastor Dee



Hero Central was an awesome experience for the 23 who attended in early June. The church was transformed into a cityscape look. The success of Vacation Bible School is due to the many volunteers who gave freely of their time and talents to share the message from Psalm 34: 14b, "Do good. Seek peace and go after it." Our young heroes learned that God's heroes have wisdom, courage, power, hope and heart. On the last evening, we invited parents to a closing program. We had a wonderful crowd of parents who stayed afterward for ice cream and brownies.

A big thank you to the following people for volunteering at VBS and for **Pastor Dee's** support:

Decorations:	Linda Green
Registration:	Linda Green & Loretta Wise
Captain Shield:	Rancie Lucas
Flame Puppet:	Judy Reales
Science Leader:	Tony Reales
Bible Story:	Richard Coslet
Music:	Roxanne Micinski
Meals:	Sandy Allmon (chair), Anna Kalbe, Debbie Bowen & Jeanine Thomas
Team Leaders:	Karla Allmon, Liz Scharp, Charlotte Fike & Jenny Ancell
Games Leaders:	Hannah Green & Rancie Lucas
Photographer & PowerPoint Presentation:	Jim & Owen Green
Publicity & Technical Assistance:	Kim Allmon
Other helpers:	Megan Burton & Jim Frieske
VBS Director,	
Deb Scharp	



(Continued from page 1)

Sand Bucket.

Let's bring along a bucket or something we can collect our treasures in while we are at the beach. Aren't the shells you can find along the beach just amazing? They are so beautiful and interesting.

The treasures found in God's Word are amazing too. There are so many things like the promises and assurances that are wonderful finds to put into our buckets and keep.

Here are a few of my favorites to pick up and admire.

The treasure of strength

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Isaiah 41:10

The treasure that Christ is unchanging

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8

The treasure of eternal life

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

There are so many more treasures in God's Word just waiting for us to pick up and put in our buckets.

Beach Ball or Frisbee.

Having a little activity at the beach is always fun. Playing with a beach ball or Frisbee can be great.

Activity as a Christian can be fun too. The Christian life can be so rewarding when we are actively living it to the fullest. There is so much joy in serving Jesus! We've got to embrace all there is to serving the Lord and put all we can into what we do as Christians. It not only furthers the cause of Christ but it enhances us as individuals.

"Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord." Romans 12:11

*"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."
I Corinthians 10:31*

Sunglasses.

We wouldn't want to go to the beach without our sunglasses. We not only need them to protect our eyes from the sun's damage, but they also help us to focus. When we don't have them on in the bright sunlight, we tend to squint and not see as clearly.

The type of sunglasses we'll be using is the "God's Love" kind. When we look at the world through Christ's eyes we see a lot more clearly and things look a lot more different.

Just like the sun doesn't bother us so much when we've got on our sunglasses, things won't even annoy us so much when we are looking through the eyes of God's love. We can focus better and begin to see the souls of the people around us too.

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:34

Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

SO, ARE YOU READY FOR THE BEACH????

If anyone would like to do some sunset watching or just sitting on the beach this summer, Give me a call, I would love to spend time on the beach with spiritual friends!!!

Pastor Dee

Friendship Snack Mix



Life is more interesting when you have a diverse "mix" of friends. Show your variety of buddies how much they mean to you by making this snack for (or with!) them.

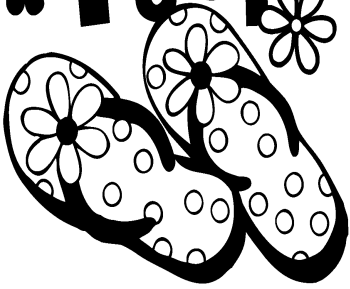
What you need:

- 1 cup fish-shaped crackers
- 1 cup chocolate Chex
- 1 cup mini pretzels
- 1 cup peanut butter crackers
- ½ cup mini M&M's
- Large bowl
- Snack-sized zippered baggies
- Permanent markers
- Foam stickers

What you do:

1. Mix all the food in the bowl.
2. Write a personalized message on each baggie. Decorate with stickers.
3. Measure some snack mix into each baggie. Seal them shut.
4. Share this snack with your friends!

Happy Feet



This summer, put your best foot forward by brightening up a pair of flip-flops.

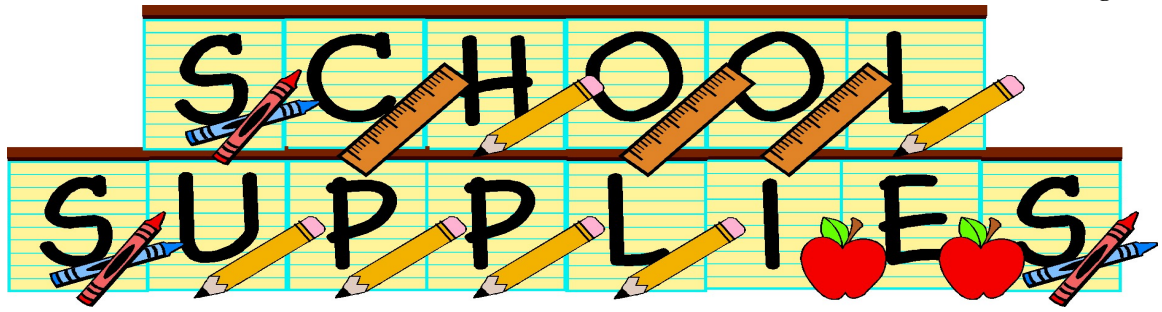
What you need:

- Flip-flops in your size
- Metallic permanent markers
- Foam stickers
- Craft gemstones
- Plastic flowers
- Ribbon
- Hot glue gun (and adult help)

What you do:

Use these ideas to decorate clean, dry flip-flops:

- Draw with markers on the soles.
- Decorate the sides and soles with stickers.
- Glue gemstones along the strap.
- Glue plastic flowers on the strap between your toes.
- Wrap ribbon around the strap and glue in place.



Listed below are school supplies that we will be collecting for area elementary schools.

Fiskar scissors (rounded safety & pointed)

Pencil boxes & pouches

1 subject spiral notebooks (70 - 100 pages)

3 x 5 index cards

Composition notebooks

Kleenex tissues (family-size & regular)

Clorox wipes

Ziploc bags (snack, sandwich, quart, & gallon)

White board erasers & washcloths for erasing boards

Boxes of latex Band Aids

Small multiplication flash cards

Decorative folders

Backpacks (no wheels)

Art shirt (an oversized shirt is fine)

Ear buds

Even though school has only been out a few weeks, back to school sales will begin to pop up - not to mention all the stuff available at dollar stores - and we want to get a jump on collecting these items for kids in need. Thanks!



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2	3	4  9 a.m. 4 th of July Parade OFFICE CLOSED	5 8 p.m. AA Meeting	6	7	1 7 p.m. Models Club 8
9 Worship 9:30 a.m.	10	11	12 8 p.m. AA Meeting	13	14	15 3 p.m. Models Club
16 Worship 9:30 a.m.	17	18	19 8 p.m. AA Meeting	20	21	22
23 Worship 9:30 a.m.	24	25	26 8 p.m. AA Meeting	27	28	29
30 Worship 9:30 a.m.	31	 <p><i>Independence Day</i> is a time to remember our freedoms and thank God for them. FOR YOU WERE CALLED TO FREEDOM, BRETHREN; ONLY DO NOT TURN YOUR FREEDOM INTO AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FLESH. BUT THROUGH LOVE SERVE ONE ANOTHER. GALATIANS 5:13</p>				



- 2 Ayden Edwards
- 3 Miranda Kalbe
- 6 Scott Allmon
- 6 Tony Reales
- 8 Brian Miller
- 9 Logan Adams
- 9 Joshua Copollo
- 10 Owen Green
- 11 Russell Burton
- 14 Darlene Peterson
- 14 Alicia Marshall
- 15 Jeanine Thomas
- 17 Rhonda Miller
- 17 Mary Lou Kolosci
- 18 Kevin Kremke
- 19 Jessica Jackson
- 19 Will Scharp
- 20 Keenan Bush
- 21 Collin Miller
- 22 Sandy Allmon
- 25 Evelyn Fike
- 27 Heather Adams
- 31 Jon Miller

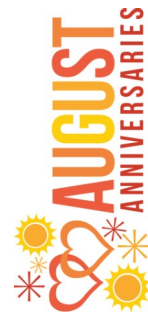


- 16 Loren & Joan Knibbs
- 23 Richard & Deb Bowen
- 25 Ray & Emily Neal
- 30 Ryan & Dawn Mills

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5 2 - 6 p.m. <i>Overdose Awareness Benefit</i> (Frontline)
6 Worship 9:30 a.m.	7	8	9 8 p.m. AA Meeting	10	11	12 7 p.m. Models Club
13 Worship 9:30 a.m.	14	15 <i>Newsletter Deadline for September</i>	16 8 p.m. AA Meeting	17	18	19 3 p.m. Models Club
20 Worship 9:30 a.m.	21	22	23 8 p.m. AA Meeting	24	25	26
27 Worship 9:30 a.m.	28	29	30 8 p.m. AA Meeting	31		



- 3 Rancie Lucas
- 3 Deb Marshall
- 5 Gunner Lucas
- 6 Brian Copollo
- 8 Julia Kretlow
- 9 Zachary Copollo
- 10 Richard Smith
- 11 Lisa Hokanson
- 12 JoAnn Burton
- 14 Dana Kalbe
- 16 Charlotte Fike
- 16 Bonnie Blackford
- 17 Jim Green
- 20 Bud Duvall
- 20 Judy Reales
- 21 Aaron Copollo
- 21 Mary Cooper
- 23 Dana Jackson
- 27 Craig Poparad
- 30 Andrew Allmon
- 31 MJ Scharp



- 15 John & Mary Lou Kolosci
- 24 David & Dannyelle Reid
- 29 Robert & Pam Furdo

Porter UMC's OUTDOOR WORSHIP & CHURCH PICNIC

**Sunday, September 10th
10:15 a.m.**

**featuring the bluegrass Gospel group Rusty Nail Crossing
(check them out at www.rustynailcrossing.com)**

**Looking for volunteers to help out with the grilling
of burgers & hot dogs**

Bring a side or dessert...and a FRIEND (or two)!

**Porter United Methodist
Church**

Dee L. Miller, Pastor

**Summer Worship: 9:30 a.m.
(through 9/3)**

**Regular Worship: 10:15 a.m.
(beginning 9/10)**

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday

8a.m. - 12 Noon

(219) 926-1586

VISION STATEMENT

As the community of Christ, which is one in Jesus Christ, we will nurture and care for one another, spread God's word and love throughout the community thereby fulfilling our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.



*Porter United Methodist Church
100 E. Beam Street
Porter, IN 46304*