

Green Circle Fields

Green circle fields polka dot the barren, flat high plains of Eastern Colorado. This observation absolutely fascinated me on our trip to visit family.

The central point of each field is a pump with a well or water piped to it. Water is delivered from the center to the edge of the field through spans from which sprinklers dangle. Field diameters commonly span as much as half a mile or even a mile.

Corn was the most common recipient of irrigation and the fields amazed with uniform height and a beautifully healthy green hue. Many fields grew alfalfa while a scant few produced wheat.

About all that grew outside the circles was brown grass and a “Russian thistle”. Farming cannot be done in the region without irrigation. Some farmers are able to grow dry wheat, everything else needs irrigation.

In the high plains desert, water is essential and life-giving. In our flatland farmland region, water is also essential. Irrigation is rare as most farmers freely receive the cycle of rains.

Here is the spiritual truth: Without a life-giving, personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, persons will have dry-grass, thistle-infested souls that eventually wither and die.

The Psalmist writes: “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night” (Psalm 1:1-2 ESV).

Either you can hang out with sinners and scoffers . . .

Some have always done that at local meeting places, but now it can be done on social media fed by news stations, reality TV, and talk radio.

. . . or you can meditate on scripture day and night.

Which do you think is the path to spiritual maturity?

The Psalmist continues: “He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers” (Psalm 1:3 ESV).

Trees grow by soaking in water through osmosis. A person planted in the word of God will grow.

Spiritual growth is nurtured through fellowship, worship, Sunday School, and small groups. It is fed by spiritual disciplines such as Bible reading, prayer, Christian books, and meditation. It grows by serving others and witnessing to the love of Jesus Christ.

The Psalm concludes with a warning: “The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish” (Psalm 1:4-6).

Russian thistles arrived in the high plains during the late 1800s from Eurasia in shipments of flax seed. With no natural predators, it is a pervasive noxious weed in arid regions with sparse vegetation. With limited usefulness as foraging material for livestock, when it dies, the entire plant breaks off from the root system and becomes a tumbleweed. Tumbleweeds propagate by blowing around and spewing thistle seeds in their wake.

The contrasting question posed by the Psalmist: Which would you rather be? A tree planted by the water? Or a tumbleweed?

In the Colorado high plains, the difference is irrigation. For persons, the difference is the water of life. The Bible concludes with an invitation: “Let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price” (Revelation 22:17 ESV).

Pastor Brad



July 2018

June has been a crazy month. It has left me thinking on Ecclesiastes 3. There is a time for everything. June has been my time of busyness. I was away from home for 16 nights in June. It was over half of the month! Between honeymooning and two mission trips, this month was hectic. As we approach July, it is refreshing to look at a semi-blank calendar. Hopefully July is a time for restful ministry back home. A time to enjoy summer and to refresh and recharge from a long June.

The 2 mission trips we took were incredibly fruitful. The Sr. High group served with Youth Works and it was amazing to see the maturity in these students. They have such a love for Christ and seeing them serve and love each other and others in the community was great. Anytime something needed done, whether small or big, students constantly stepped up to serve. It was so fun to be with this group for a week.

Our Jr High trip was no different. We served at Shepherd Community Center in Indianapolis. It was super cool to work in an urban environment and have a totally different experience than back home. Students learned about poverty alleviation and learned not to judge others based on first impressions. The people who run this organization were super great to work with. They kept reminding us of our purpose and always kept Christ central in their mission. By the end of the week, we had heard several different people complimenting how well our Jr High students served. It's cool to work with such awesome teenagers!

Have a great July!

Pastor Tom



Join us this summer for Family nights at the ROCK!!! All Events will be from 6-8 pm and includes free dinner and events.

July 10th—Bingo

July 24th—Board Games

August 7th—Carnival



We are happy to announce the opportunity has presented itself in the form of an offer from Napoleon Nazarene to join our efforts at the fair stand and we have been meeting with Ben Hartford and Lori Coey. They will supply a work force for a share of the profits.

This project has grown more than we could have hoped for and could have expected.

We are the only full time stand of our type at the fair and the only breakfast. It is quite a job, and we are so grateful for those who work multiple shifts as if they were on the committee.

Breakfast will be simplified this year. Breakfast sandwiches, pancakes meal, sausage and gravy will be on the menu. No made to order egg meal will be available. This should tremendously improve the ease of breakfast.

Thank you to everyone who has helped make this endeavor the success that it is. Sign-ups will be out soon. We are excited to have them join us and hope you will help them as they learn the ropes.



July Servant Schedule

	July 1	July 8	July 15	July 22	July 29
8:15 Door Greeters				Hartford Family	
8:15 Nursery	D. Bare Family	Overmier Family	D. Mohler Family	C. Carter Family	Howe Family
S. S. Door Greeters	Louise Dalton		Davis Family	Mack Family	Fetterman Family
S.S. Nursery	Spangler Family	Martin Family	Miller Family	Starkey Family	Bostelman Family
10:30 Door Greeters	Louise Dalton		Davis Family	Mack Family	Fetterman Family
10:30 Nursery	Gutierrez Family	Conner Family	J. Sharpe Family	Roger Sane-holtz Family	Masood Family
Greeters Welcome Center	D. Mohler Family	Hoffman Family	Keller Family	Strayer Family	Spangler Family

Prayer
 *Changes things*
Let us pray for you with Faith
Believing
 HE WILL LIFT YOU UP

Isaac Seagrave (Steve & Mary Seagrave's son) - Health concerns; Geoffrey Yoder (Tom & Gretchen Tedrow's grandson) - Health Concerns; Chinjamba and family—Chinjamba's mother and brother-on-law passed away recently; Joie O'Neal—Recovering from surgery; Bill Strauss.

Long-Term Needs: Margaret Bollman—Health Concerns; Rebecca Livengood (Vicky Leatherman's mother) - Health concerns; Ken Silveus; Morris Myers—Lung Cancer; Leo "Bud" Zenz, Patsy Leatherman, Kent Spiess, Braden Kramer - (Fetterman extended family) - Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia; Brady Chapa—Cancer; Connie Cramer (Christy Myers' mother) - Lymphoma. Also, members of the military and their families, our missionary families.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Andrea Kessler Jake & Libbey Clapp	2 Bob & Eloise Griteman Sean & Kelsey Ford	3 Carol Witte Fouzia Tahir Eric & Carol Witte	4 John Frysinger	5 J.T. Oelkrug	6 Sydney Davis Carter Booth	7 
8 Jenny Hartford Carl Carter Eva Saneholtz Tyler & Linnea Short	9 James Case Harold Conner Lucas & JoHanna Young	10	11 	12	13 Margaret Bollman	14 Tenny & Marci Nash
15 	16 Rick Shadday	17 Joie O'Neal Kara Estelle Allan Witte Lisa Collier Andrew Murrey Russ & Judy Strayer	18	19 Stevie Kessler	20 Diane Spiess Russ Strayer Avery Carter Brad & Sherry Martin	21 Carrie Mohler
22	23 Adele Masuwa Kurt & Shelley Davis	24 Tom Wolf Tom & Lowynn Atkinson	25 Rick & Stevie Kessler Bill & Carrie Quigley	26 	27 Carla Gillen	28 Tom & Christy Myers Tim & Kristy Keller
29 Libbey Clapp	30 Lee & Ninfa Starkey	31				
						

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! Vacation Bible School will be held July 29-Aug. 2, 2018 from 6-8:30 pm, with dinner at 5:15 pm. Sign up sheets are in the Welcome Center for volunteers!!! All students 4 yrs old through 6th grade, (please sign up according to the grade your child just came out of), are invited to sign up to participate.



Church General Fund Appeal – July 2018

Our church has a strong tradition of supporting the mission of the church through the five areas of stewardship. (Prayer, Presence, Giving, Service and Witness) Church teachings on these five areas have been shared by Pastor Brad in sermon topics and are posted on our church web site on the “What is Church?” page. Our members have a strong history of supporting missionaries as well as responding to special needs and appeals. Information on the missionaries we support, and the past special appeals are on the “Ministries” page on our web site. Total giving by members remains very strong. However, during the first five months of 2018 stewardship to the General Fund has been insufficient to meet the budget. The Finance Committee is asking that you prayerfully consider your stewardship to the General Fund.






Sunday Worship Times: 8:15 a.m. (Nursery Provided)
 10:30 a.m. (Nursery Provided)
 9:15 a.m. (Nursery Provided)

Classic Worship
 Praise Celebration
 Classes for All Ages

Sunday School:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 6 pm Trustee 7 pm Ad Council	3	4 	5	6	7 7 am Men's Prayer Time
8 6 pm Girl Scouts	9 8 pm Worship	10 6-8 pm Family Night at the ROCK	11	12	13	14 7 am Men's Prayer Time
15 Fellowship Hall Reserved	16 6-7:30 pm Bountiful Blessings 7:30 pm Evangelism	17	18 12 pm Senior Luncheon	19 7:30 pm Fair Board	20 9-11 am Bountiful Blessings	21 7 am Men's Prayer Time
22 6 pm Girl Scouts	23 6:30 pm Missions	24 6-8 pm Family Night at the ROCK	25	26	27	28 7 am Men's Prayer Time
29 5:15 pm VBS supper 6-8:30 pm VBS	30 5:15 VBS supper 6-8:30 pm VBS	31 5:15 pm VBS supper 6-8:30 pm VBS				30 7 am Men's Prayer Time

Liberty Chapel United Methodist Church
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Lead Pastor Dr. Brad Martin Youth Pastor Tom Gerberich

Church Phone 419-533-2881

Church Office Hours M – F 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS – 8:15 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:15 A.M.

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*“A body knowing and growing in Christ so deeply that He is
overflowing to others.”*

Return Service Requested

July 2018

