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# TIMBER RIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## NEWSLETTER

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July 2024

### HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY

### RURITAN FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- JULY 1 - BIBLE STUDY 10 AM**
- JULY 4 - RURITAN CELEBRATION AT YELLOW  
SPRING (SEE ARTICLE)  
JOANN THOMPSON'S BIRTHDAY**
- JULY 7 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM  
WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM  
COMMUNION SERVICE  
LADIES FELLOWSHIP MEETING  
HEIDI VANDERLINDEN'S BIRTHDAY**
- JULY 8 - BIBLE STUDY 10 AM  
CAPON BRIDGE VBS BEGINS 6- 8:30 PM  
(SEE ARTICLE)**
- JULY 12 - LAST DAY OF CAPON BRIDGE VBS  
ERIC & SUZANNE REID'S ANNIVERSARY**
- JULY 13 - MEN'S BREAKFAST 8 AM (HAYFIELD)  
KAY KLINE'S BIRTHDAY**
- JULY 14 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM  
WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**
- JULY 15 - BIBLE STUDY 10 AM**
- JULY 18 - PRAYER MEETING 4 - 5 PM (LARUE'S)**
- JULY 21 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM  
WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM**
- JULY 22 - NO BIBLE STUDY  
CHRIS ORNDORFF'S BIRTHDAY  
MONICA CASH'S BIRTHDAY**
- JULY 28 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM  
WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM**
- JULY 29 - BIBLE STUDY 10 AM  
AL & JANE BILLINGS ANNIVERSARY**

The annual Ruritan Fourth of July Celebration will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11 am at Ruritan Park in Yellow Spring. Anyone who would like to volunteer to serve food or help with the auction would be greatly appreciated.

#### CAPON BRIDGE VBS

Vacation Bible School at the old Capon Bridge School will be held from July 8 thru July 12, with our church preparing and serving the meal on Friday. If you wish to help with the meal, preparation may begin at the church and then served at the school from approximately 5:30 - 7:00 pm on Friday. Also, volunteers are needed for each night of VBS. Please contact Pastor Mike or Jeanie Spaid for further details.

#### ANNUAL MEMORIAL/HOMECOMING SERVICE

Our annual Memorial/Homecoming Service was held on June 16, with approximately 65 persons in attendance. Pastor Mike brought us an inspiring message and the Trustees reported that the information gathered from the "Restoring Americas Cemeteries" project held in our cemetery on June 3<sup>rd</sup> was very enlightening and has prompted an in-house project to at least clean and possibly repair stones in our cemetery. In addition, a project is underway to identify the gravesites in the cemetery in an electronic format for future reference and preservation of data. Any help with these projects would be greatly appreciated.

We welcome any articles, comments or suggestions.  
Alan & Ginger Brill, [alanbrill1@frontier.com](mailto:alanbrill1@frontier.com)

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### PASTOR'S PEN

#### The Gospel Message

The gospel message is simple in its content yet complex in its application. The gospel message is the central theme of not just the New Testament but the entire bible. From the beginning of Genesis through the ending of Revelation, God wove the gospel message into the very fabric of the story of redemption and the life of God's people. The theme of the gospel message is so important that to miss it is to lose everything. Yet, many do. They miss the freedom offered in the gospel. That's why it's good for us to look again and again at why Jesus came, what He accomplished, and what it means for us.

In the original movie *Cutting Edge*, a female figure skater who has difficulty keeping skating partners long-term recruits an ex-hockey player to be her new partner. In one of the first scenes of them on the ice together, the ex-hockey player skates for the first time with figure skates. These skates have a toe pick, which allows the skater to do various jumps. Hockey skates don't have this feature. As they practice their routine, he must reach out to grab his partner's hand. Every time he leans forward, his toe pick hits the ice, and he falls over. It's a hard lesson to learn, and he falls more times than you can count. But it's an important lesson. Skating with his partner will be impossible without understanding how his new skates work. A similar thing happens when you don't understand the gospel correctly. Walking rightly with Jesus becomes impossible because instead of gliding on grace, you will constantly stumble over the toe pick of works.

The Old Testament offers us the message of a coming Messiah almost immediately. Once sin enters the world, the only hope is that the Savior, promised by God, would come to save us from Satan. The rest of the Old Testament is the story of that plan of redemption unfolding in the lives of God's people. The accounts of Noah, Abraham, Jonah, and the twelve sons of Jacob show us how sin has affected all of creation. The Law of God given to the people of Israel in the wilderness is another reminder that it is impossible to win God's favor through the fulfillment of the law. That's why Jesus came. To accomplish what we couldn't. And He did!

Jesus lived a perfect life, fulfilling all the righteous requirements of the Law for His life. This is called the active obedience of Christ. Where we consistently fail to do what is right, He succeeded. Where we turn from God to do our own thing, He submits to His Father, even to death upon the cross. And in that death, He paid the penalty for our sin, my sin, and yours. Colossians 2:13-14 reads, "And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross." Your sin is only paid for by nailing it to the cross, realizing that Jesus paid the full price to redeem you from the curse.

That means you no longer must strive to win God's love. You can't! God's love is a gift, bought by Christ and freely given by the Father. When we arrive at judgment day, there will be only one way to get into heaven. Through the Door that is Jesus Christ and the keys that open the Door to heaven have been given to the church. Again, that Door is Jesus, and the keys represent the gospel message. The message is that Jesus saves sinners from the wrath of God. If you rely on works you will stumble and fall. But those who glide on grace will enter their rest. Beloved, the gospel is good news precisely because it offers us freedom from working for our salvation.

~ Pastor Mike