



Kern Connection

June 16, 2022

This Week in Worship

Message:
"From Madness to Mission"

Luke 8:26-39

So many voices vie for our attention. Without leaving the house, we can be bombarded with voices and comments online on our multiple devices or on dozens of channels on TV. Even our junk and spam mail tries to tell us how to think if we want to call ourselves a member of this or that group. When we venture out, we see billboards and signs on doors and in yards. We are inundated with sound and images and content any time of the day or night. Even when we manage to turn it all off, our minds and hearts may chatter away at us in sleepless nights or burdened days. It's crazy-making!

This week in worship, we will follow the story in Luke 8 and a modern-day story to move our focus from the multi-voiced madness to the single call of Christ.



Sunday Services

Contemporary **9am**

Online &
Sunday School **10am**

Traditional **11am**

TO KERN, WITH LOVE

Kern Church, cherished friends in Christ,

Diane and I thank God, O how we thank God, and you for your grace upon grace extended to us. I have tried to state our warm memories, high regards, and affection for you during our 2006-2010 ministry here. These most recent unexpected, who but God could think of this, six plus months have been among the deepest grace experiences of our lives, and that is saying much! While my mission was to love you, you have loved upon us from day one, actually before day one, with the warmest welcome, encouragement, affirmation, and grace. Diane will tell you that each day, each day, has been a grace experience. And really, more importantly, from day one you have exemplified "Church," faithfulness to Christ, truly believing in Christ's future with you despite the seeming odds, showing love, compassion, forgiveness, and welcome, taking some bold steps of faith already bearing fruit. We are so proud of you, so very proud of you. We are so excited and so confident about you serving with Rev. Will Conner and his family.

This past Sunday was certainly an over-the-top grace experience! We will take to heart, cherish, and save your rich words, hugs, gifts (we have tried to out-give you but it must be impossible), and immeasurable acts of kindness.

And so, as I turned to British singer Lulu from "To Sir, With Love," to help me say what I couldn't say ... "To Kern, With Love" ... Then, Now, Always, "To You, Kern, With Love." May God in Jesus Christ bless you and keep you. May each of you, all of you, and those to be joining you in the near and distant future, experience such grace as you have showered upon us.

- Jim, Diane, and certainly Piper

Kern Youth

Alisha Balcom

Prayer for Commitment to the Church

God, give my children a strong and lasting commitment to the body of the Christ, the church (Psa. 122:1).



Photo by Jametlene Reskp, Unsplash

Please continue praying for our Children and Youth through the summer months.

Camp in the Community

We are currently in the middle of Camp In The Community and it is going wonderfully. We will have a full report for you next week.

Back to School Party

Back to School Party will be held at Oak Ridge Bowling Center on July 17, 4pm. All children and youth are invited to attend. Limited lanes are reserved, and shoes are provided. Please let Chanda or Alisha know if you plan to attend.

Kern Kids

Chanda Knight

Nursery Workers Needed

We need nursery workers for Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. This is a paid position.

If you are interested or know someone who may be interested, please have them contact Chanda Knight.

Camp Faith Fall Session

Camp Faith will be taking registrations for our Fall Session starting July 3. The fall session will run August 2–December 15. The cost is \$180 per child. We have openings for ages 6 weeks to 4 yrs. Please contact Chanda Knight for further information at chandak@kernumc.org.

Kern Youth & Kids Calendar

- June 19
Father's Day gift distribution at 10:00am
- June 22, 29
NO meal or Youth Group
- July 17
Back to School Party
- August 7
Promotion Sunday
- September (TBA)
Outdoor Movie Night
- October 30
Trunk Or Treat

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

- Proverbs 22:6

Benefits of Choral Singing - Part 5

by Ronda Mostella

Helps With Grief

Medical Science has identified a new group of older individuals called Super-Agers. Super-Agers are older individuals who have the mental or physical capability of their decades-younger counterparts.

Scientists know any regular physical activity reduces health risks. But working your brain with mental activity preserves areas of the brain involved in memory and reasoning. People who use their minds throughout their lives tend to have stronger and active minds later in life.



Photo by CW/Marvel, EW

Researchers found that some areas of the brain in older individuals appeared thinner - an indication of cell loss. But Super-Agers have thicker regions of the brain, which indicates better memory, attention, and higher scores on word memorization tests.

Choirs require basic music-reading skills, which are known to increase the capacity of your memory, sharpen your concentration and improve your spatial organization. Yes, think of choir as boot camp for your brain. Give your brain a work-out, have a reduction of dementia and neurodegenerative diseases.

Yet another reason to join the Kern Choir!

Promotion Sunday

Promotion Sunday will be on Aug. 7 for any children transitioning out of the nursery into the pre-school Sunday school class, and any 4th graders moving up to 5th grade will transition to the youth.

Fall Mission Trip

We are looking for volunteers to participate in a possible Mission trip in the Fall. Contact Alisha if you may be interested. Planning and searches for new opportunities in missions is underway.

All Aboard the Meal-Train!

Are you able to help provide a meal for someone in our congregation? Are you willing to donate money to help with this cause? The reasons for this need vary: recovering from surgery, injury, and illness, to grief and many other things. Please send an email to feedtheneed@kernumc.org if you are interested in helping our church family through times of need.

Baby Shower for the Conners

On Saturday, July 9, we will be having a baby shower for our new pastoral family, the Conners, in celebration of their newest family member. If you are able, please bring a gift for the baby or for the family. We want to make them feel supported and loved through this exciting time!

Keep an eye out for more information to come!

He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.

- Deuteronomy 10:18



Photo by Alex Shute, Unsplash

Missions and Outreach News

We're helping others because KERN CARES!

Crossroads Ministry

Crossroads Ministry, founded by our own Cora Rhew, prepares homeless and at-risk single mothers for the challenges ahead by learning to face the world head-on with goals, good decisions, and training. Crossroads is transforming an abandoned hotel into a Center of Hope to house these women and children. There are two events this summer at which Kern members can help Crossroads. The first is the Oak Ridge Lavender Festival on Saturday, June 18 from 8:00AM-4:00PM where Crossroads will again have their 'Crazy for Brownies' booth. This year, there will also be scones, sourdough bread, Artisan Bread, and other specialty baked goods, plus gluten free options, so Cora is looking for bakers! Cookies will need to be five to a package, breads sold whole, scones and brownies will be sold individually. Also, on Saturday August 20, the Crossroads Annual 'Tea for Two' will be held at Kern Church so mark your calendars now, and email Cora at crhew@comcast.net to make your reservation!

European Mission Trip

We have an opportunity to help refugees across Europe!

Our Worship Leader, Chris DeCew, has been invited to go to Europe in early July with Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church for the purpose of handing out supplies, transporting families, gathering information on organizations, and spreading the gospel. This will be a two-week trip, bouncing around the continent to partner with several organizations: Gouda, Netherlands (Int. Christian Fellowship) Berlin, Germany (The London Project) Bucharest, Romania (All4Aid).

For more information contact Chris at chrisd@kernumc.org.

Pray for Ukraine

So many people are displaced and suffering in unimaginable situations. Sometimes it seems that praying isn't enough, but we know that God works miracles and honors our petitions for others.

Each One Bring One

Steve Ryman's churches in the Greeneville, TN, area need non-perishable food, clothing, and just about anything else. This area is very impoverished. Steve picks up your gifts on the last Thursday of each month. Green containers are in the Narthex and Family Life Center. If we each bring just one item, we'll FILL UP STEVE'S TRUCK!

Celebration!

Zimbabwe Mission Buckets

Many thanks to all who contributed funding to provide food buckets to the Zimbabwe Ishe Anesu Project for Underprivileged Children. Our goal of 10 buckets has been met!

Thank you to our great team that helped purchase, pack, and deliver buckets for shipping.



Informal Home Gatherings Invitation!

Michelle Pawel

Will Conner and his beautiful family will be joining Kern in ministry in just two short weeks! In his first weeks here, Pastor Will is interested in getting to meet and learn a little bit about as many of our congregation as he can. He has asked that SPR organize opportunities for the congregation to sign up to participate in an informal home gathering during the month of July. And SPR has done just that! In the newsletter last week, you were asked to Save a Date specifically for one of these meetings. This week, you are invited to choose a gathering and participate.

Below is a list of the dates and times of the scheduled gatherings. Please pick a date that fits your schedule and send an email to signup@kernumc.org with your name, phone number, number of family attending, and the date of the gathering you would like to attend.

Gatherings have limited capacity and seats will be filled on a First Come, First Served basis. If your chosen gathering fills up before your email is received, you will be contacted to choose another gathering.

We will also offer Zoom gatherings. If you are interested in gathering by Zoom, please be sure to sign up for a Zoom gathering at the above email address.

We are so blessed to have the Conner family coming along side us in ministry. Let's plan to gather and meet Pastor Will throughout the month of July!

Gatherings:

Thursday, July 7, 2-4pm at the home of Steve and Michelle Pawel

Tuesday, July 12, 10am-12pm at the home of Mike Cox and Marcia Walker

Saturday, July 16, 10am-12pm at the home of Dean and Peggy LeBlanc

Monday, July 18, 6-8pm at the home of David and Sandy Bradshaw

Tuesday, July 19, 2-4pm at the home of Janet and Lyman Bowker

For Youth Only, Wednesday, July 20, 6-8pm at the church

Zoom meeting(s) TBA – please let us know your preference

For questions, contact michellepawel@comcast.net.

"For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

Matthew 18:20

"For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

Matthew 18:20

"And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness."

Acts 4:31



Upcoming Events

- June 19
Father's Day gift distribution at 10:00am
- June 22, 29
NO meal or Youth Group
- June 30
Steve Ryman
Donation Pickup
- July 1
Rev. Will Conner's
First Day at Kern
- July 3
Rev. Will Conner's
First Sermon
- July 7- 19
Home Gatherings
- July 8 - 21
European Mission Trip
- October 30
Trunk Or Treat

Looking Ahead

June 20 – 23

- **Monday, June 20**
The office will be **CLOSED** in observance of Juneteenth
9:00 am Monday Morning Maintenance
12 pm United Women in Faith
(Fellowship Hall/Zoom)
5:30 pm Yoga (Family Life Center)
- **Tuesday, June 21**
9am-12pm Camp Faith (Rooms 24, 26)
6:00 pm Finance Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- **Wednesday, June 22**
10:00 am Mommy and Me (Family Life Center)
6:30 pm Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
- **Thursday, June 23**
8:00 am Prayer Partners (Parlor)
9am-12pm Camp Faith (Rooms 24, 26)
6:00 pm Online Service Recording
(Family Life Center)
6:30 pm Crossroads Ministry Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday School Classes – 10 am

Adult Classes

Christian Formation – led by Steve Pawel
(Family Life Center)
Seekers – led by Priscilla Spitzer (Parlor/Zoom)
Faith Weavers – led by David Bradshaw (Room 11)

Children and Youth Classes

Childrens' Sunday School (Room 24)
Youth Sunday School (Youth rooms)

Annual Conference

Priscilla Spitzer

It was my honor to serve as Kern's lay member at the 2022 annual conference. In 2020 and 2021 the conference was a virtual event and abbreviated to just a few hours each year. This year we accomplished more and had more fun.

This was Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett's first Annual Conference with us. I was impressed with her energy, preaching, quick wit, and tact. There was so much spirit in the room as we worshiped together and debated and voted on resolutions. I will give a more comprehensive report at our church services held on June 26. I hope you will be able to attend and learn more about your Holston Conference.

How To Give

Since the first Biblical family, giving back to God has been central in worship and service. We may give through the offering plates in the Family Life Center and Sanctuary, online through the website (www.kernchurch.org); through checks in the mail; or by using the mail slot in the front door. We also are blessed through qualified charitable distributions from IRAs and stocks.



Kern Memorial

United Methodist Church

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