



Kern Connection

June 23, 2022

This Week in Worship

Message:
"Annual Conference Report"

Luke 11:1-13

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 services on June 26. I hope you will be able to attend and learn more about your Holston Conference.

- Priscilla Spitzer



Sunday Services

Contemporary **9am**

Online &
Sunday School **10am**

Traditional **11am**

Praying Together

We've been preparing for our new minister, Rev. Will Conner for several weeks. So many hands have worked together to prepare the parsonage for their home. Many generous hearts have contributed toward funding the parsonage and repairs.

Our hearts and hands have also been praying together for Pastor Will and his family. They have arrived in Oak Ridge and are beginning to get their bearings. To use a time-honored expression, we are covering him, his family, and his ministry in prayer.

The time is almost here for us to enter into our faithful ministry together. The first Sunday with Pastor Will will be July 3. Please plan to be with us to welcome the whole family.

During that service a prayer shawl will be presented to Pastor Will that represents our prayers in preparation for his arrival and our commitment to continue praying for his ministry with us. You are invited to tie on a tassel or attach a small note to this beautiful handmade shawl. Drop by the church on a weekday between now and June 30 or find it at the 9:00am and 11:00am services on Sunday (June 26). You'll find yarn and notepaper with the shawl in the Narthex on weekdays.

As we pray together for Pastor Will, we are also praying together about where God is leading Kern UMC in the coming weeks and months and years.

This week in worship, Priscilla Spitzer, who is our Lay Delegate to Annual Conference, will share about this year's conference in which Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett urged the delegates (and through them, us) to pray together. You'll want to hear what Priscilla has to share with us.

- Marcia Walker

**Prayer for Compassion
for the Less Fortunate**

Please give my children soft hearts and compassionate spirits for those who are in need (Matt. 25:31-46; Jas. 1:27).

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.

Camp in the Community

CITC was a great success! Kern hosted 30 children and had 5 junior volunteers during the week.

Many thanks to all who brought desserts, helped in the kitchen, served food, cleaned, gave a morning devotion, donated monetarily, prayed, or volunteered in any way. The joy of sharing Jesus with the children in our community was evident by all who participated.

Food donations were provided by the camp to support each family, and extra food was donated to Kern's blessing box.

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.

- June 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 6

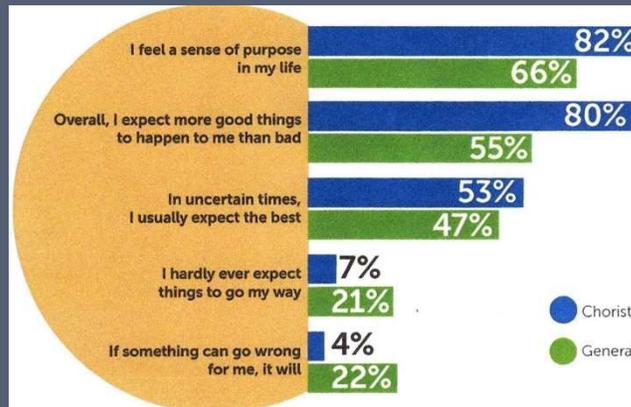
by Ronda Mostella

Optimism

Nearly three-quarters of choristers (72%) believe being in a chorus helps them be more optimistic about life .

Their belief seems supported by differences between choral singers and the general public with regard to a number of qualities and characteristics associated with optimism.

In the case of our new Chorus Impact Study: Singing for a Lifetime, the data is clear. The sheer number of Americans singing today— over 54 million, more than ever before—is truly striking.



What's even more striking are the benefits that singing in a chorus offers to both individual singers and to communities. The more engaged singers are in their art, the more benefits they report. Put simply: Singing is good, and more singing is better.

The 2019 Chorus Impact Study was made possible through lead support from the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), the NAMM Foundation, the Katherine B. Andersen Fund of the Saint Paul Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

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.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

- Acts 1:8

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's one more event this summer at which Kern members can help Crossroads. 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!

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!

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).

To support this mission trip, please donate in-person or online at kernumc.org and indicate European Mission Trip in the comment/memo. And 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.

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.

Informal Home Gatherings Invitation!

Michelle Pawel

Will Conner and his beautiful family will be joining Kern in ministry beginning next Friday, July 1!

As his appointment at Kern begins, Pastor Will is interested in getting to meet and learn a little bit about as many of our congregation as he can. Informal home gatherings have been organized for his first few weeks.

Please choose a date from those listed below that fits your schedule and sign up to attend by sending 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.

Do not neglect to meet together, but encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:25

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 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
- July 9
Baby Shower for
the Conners
- October 30
Trunk Or Treat

Plant/Rummage Sale & Breakfast

The Plant/Rummage Sale and Pancake Breakfast has been rescheduled for the Spring of 2023. Please continue to save items for the rummage sale. Proceeds help maintain the church grounds.

Looking Ahead

June 27 – 30

- **Monday, June 27**
9:00 am Monday Morning Maintenance
9:30-4pm Staff Onboarding (Fellowship Hall)
5:30 pm Yoga (Family Life Center)
- **Tuesday, June 28**
9am-12pm Camp Faith (Rooms 24, 26)
- **Wednesday, June 29**
6:30 pm Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
- **Thursday, June 30**
8:00 am Prayer Partners (Parlor)
9am-12pm Camp Faith (Rooms 24, 26)
6:00 pm Online Service Recording
(Family Life Center)

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)

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!

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 Church is blessed through your faithful giving. The Church depends upon such faithfulness in moving forward in mission and ministry.

