



At the beginning of the month I was away camping with friends, including their five year old and three year old. While they were excited for camping, the pool, smores, and all those fun things, they weren't always so thrilled with the other "adventures" we went on, at least not the 3 year old. The first day, we took a stroll out to the lake about a mile up from the campsite. It was a beautiful but hot day. Near the end, the 3 year old stated he only had about 2 more minutes before his little legs gave out and he gave up. He told us, if we weren't at the lake by then he was done.

It's a good thing 3 year olds don't really know how to tell time considering we had about another 10 minutes or so to go. But this became the theme for the weekend. Everything became 2 minutes... even if it was 10 minutes or 30 minutes or even an hour. We promised, just another 2 minutes whenever he'd start to get upset about the "adventure."

Our second day was a bit harder. He didn't even want to go on the adventure. He was done after day one. We got about halfway up our hike to the waterfalls and he begins to have a melt-down. His 2 minutes were up (granted it had been about a half hour by that point) and he wanted to go back down and have everyone else met him and daddy at the campsite later.

As with any adventure, we convinced him he might miss something good, something exciting, or as his mother put it, "there might be a unicorn ahead and if you turn back now, you'll miss it!" Somehow, that was the magic touch (at least for another 2 minutes) and he continued on the way, though of course still pouting about it. Not even 5 minutes later, we ran into this huge rock with a mural/painting of a unicorn. Of course, neither the 5 year old nor the 3 year old found it as exciting (or fun/funny) as we did, but there was a bit of amazement in their eyes. But this didn't last long before his 2 minutes were up. Dad and son went on ahead of us until we reached the top and came down a different trail together. He was happy to have the adventure over and he was happy to be going home the next day, too, as he was done with "adventures."

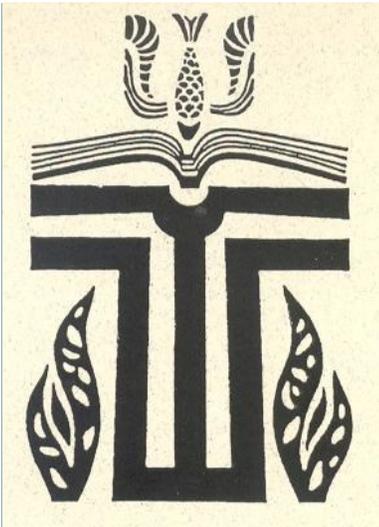
And sometimes I think we can be like that in the church. We aren't always excited for new "adventures" and if it takes longer than we think it should we keep asking, "how much longer?" Or we make statements that we are about to give up or have a melt-down, 3 year old style, in about 2 minutes if we aren't there yet. We'd rather see immediate results rather than wait it out a bit, we'd rather be at the lake already then have to keep walking another 2 or 10 minutes. We'd rather not go looking for waterfalls and stay back in the campsite.

But here's the thing about "adventures," especially when the Holy Spirit is involved (as we always hope the Holy Spirit is in anything we do in the church/congregation), they usually take longer than 2 minutes. We sometimes get lost on the way or the trail is a bit more difficult than we anticipated. We sometimes have to back track or we sometimes have to just close our eyes and push forward hoping for the best. Sometimes, we are lucky, and we even find some surprises along the way to keep us going, to give us hope. Sometimes we find the unicorn that gives us a little more energy until the adventure is over and we can go back to the campsite. Yet, here's the other hard thing, in relation to the church in the world, is the adventure ever over? With the Holy Spirit moving in and among us, in and among the church, isn't it always an adventure? Shouldn't we be ready to live it?



### **Good News Gazette**

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## TOUR DE GOSHEN

August 19th is this years annual Tour de Goshen. Hopefully, you've heard at least a little bit about this as we've been talking it up quite a bit. Pastor Erin will be riding this year, at least 25 miles. A few others might be riding with her as well. Everyone else, we hope, will help at the water station we were assigned to by Joe Fix Its. Our water station is the Erie Railroad station downtown, nice and local. We are still waiting to here officially what time our water station opens but we have a tentative start time by 10am (if not a little earlier). Considering this is normal worship service time, Session has decided to forgo regular worship in hopes everyone will worship with us out in the community. While we know not everyone might be happy about this decision, we also know worship is more than just Sunday morning pew sitting, sermon hearing, hymn singing time. We can worship our great God out in the community and share the love of Christ as we share cups of cold water with the riders of the Tour de Goshen.

### **Per Capita Reminder:**

Per Capita for the year is \$37. It was collected for our second offering in Feb. If you missed this collection please get it into the church office as soon as you can. Thank you!

The night before the race, we are planning on having a pasta dinner beginning around 5:30-6pm (exact time TBD). Please let us know if you'd be willing to help cook some pasta or meatballs or pick up a bagged salad. We will have a sign up sheet closer to the event to get a count on how many people (so we know how much food to prepare). Please consider joining us for a fun dinner!

After the Tour de Goshen, once we are relieved of our duties at the water station and cleaned up, we hope to celebrate together at Long Lot Brewery. We are awaiting to hear if a food truck will be available that day.

## CHICKEN BBQ TIME, AGAIN

The summer has flown by already and it's time to begin planning our next chicken bbq for September (date TBD). We need someone to chair (or co-chair) this event. Please see Pastor Erin if you are interested in chairing this event.

“Faith begins by letting go,  
giving up what had seemed sure,  
taking risks and pressing on,  
though the way feels less secure:  
pilgrimage both right and odd,  
trusting all our life to God.”

Carl P. Daw

## LOOKING AHEAD

August 5 – Communion Sunday

August 6 – Bible Study at 19 Main St. 10 am

August 12 – Session meeting following worship

August 13 – Bible Study at 19 Main St. 10 am

August 18 - Pasta Dinner time TBD

August 19 – Tour De Goshen (no regular worship, meet at the Train Station)

August 20 – Bible Study at 19 Main St. 10 am, Food Pantry Truck pick-up time TBD

August 23—Food Pantry Distribution 4-7pm

August 27—No Bible Study

Pastor Erin will be away August 22-August 31 if there is a pastoral emergency please contact a Session member.

*If you have an article or announcement you would like to have in the next newsletter, please have it into the church office by August 16th.*

### New T-shirts

Our T-shirt are in and they look great! If you haven't yet picked yours up, this is your friendly reminder to please do so soon. Also, if you missed out, we did order a few extra for \$10 each. Please see Pastor Erin for your shirt(s) or if you didn't order but would still like to try and get one.

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