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Pastor's Pen

**Returning to What Matters Most**

*Dear friends, let us love one another,  
because love is from God,  
and everyone who loves has been born of God  
and knows God.  
(1 John 4:7)*



**simplify.**

Decluttering, simplifying, unburdening ourselves of stuff is a popular practice today. These efforts aim at restoring joy to one's heart, freedom to one's life, and space to one's home. One approach, popularized in Marie Kondo's book *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, invites us to ask one simple question about everything we have: "Does this

spark joy in my heart?" Another approach, espoused by Joshua Becker in *Becoming Minimalist*, encourages the use of a "four box method". As you go through your things, put each item in the proper box: 1) Put away, 2) Give away, 3) Throw away, or 4) Undecided.

There's something alluring about the promise that comes from less, from the simple, from the essential. Freedom, room to breathe, peace...isn't this the life experience we all long for? Interestingly, Jesus was (and is!) a master at redirecting us to what matters most. And what matters most is the key to the joy and peace, freedom and breath we crave.

In the "great commandment" of Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus tells us who to be. In the "great commission" of Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus tells us what to do. Who we are—those loved by and thereby who love like God. What to do—expand the family of faith by finding and forming followers of Christ. No simpler statement can be made. This is who the church is and what the church is to do.

My encouragement to you (and to myself) is to keep things simple. We are plagued by complexity. Worry, fear, stress... these myriad of emotions and experiences reveal how complicated we make things. Instead, imagine being who God made you to be and doing what God designed you to do. Imagine life simple again.



Richard Halverson, former US Senate chaplain, described how Christianity became increasingly complicated throughout history: *"The church began as a fellowship of men and women centered on Jesus Christ. It went to Greece and became a philosophy. It went to Rome and became an institution. It went to Europe and became a culture. It came to America and became an enterprise."* Imagine being that simple fellowship of disciples again, who lavishly love one another and their neighbor, regularly welcoming new believers into the family. Imagine returning to what matters most...

Graciously in Christ,  
Pastor Steve



My dog eats first



My Dog Eats First will be relocating our distribution efforts effective August 8, 2018

Most of you are aware My Dog Eats First - [www.mydogeatsfirst.org](http://www.mydogeatsfirst.org) -helps the homeless with companion animals in the Louisville area with pet food, supplies, vet care, spay/neuter, pet deposits for housing, registration for emotional support animals to assist with housing and more.

We ALSO operate a pet food bank in the Portland/West End communities for underserved constituents who need supplemental food, supplies, free spay/neuter and low-cost vet care. We distribute a limited supply of pet food and supplies the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month and hold low-cost vaccination/wellness clinics monthly.

Our last serve in The Anchor Building at [2509 Portland Avenue](http://2509PortlandAvenue) will be July 26th. We are moving our Pet Food Bank to just down the street at The Church Of The Promise (The Table building) and will be open per our usual distribution schedule August (the 8th) at 7:00 p.m..

The entrance to where we will be serving is on the side of the building...NOT the front entrance to The Table Restaurant.

Our distribution schedule remains the same. We are open the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Betheny Buster, Founder/Director  
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[www.mydogeatsfirst.org](http://www.mydogeatsfirst.org)  
Mobile: 502-876-8594

Lemonade Stand

The Deacons will open the Lemonade Stand after the morning worship service in June, July, and August.



Stop by to enjoy some yummy treats and share in the vegetables and herbs provided by members in the congregation. This allows everyone to socialize with each other while they enjoy a treat.



## Mission

As you know the Mission committee and the church have been focusing on the homeless here in Louisville for over a year. **Here is some exciting News that was announced last month:**

The Coalition for the Homeless is thrilled to announce that Louisville has won a \$3.45 million HUD grant to end youth homelessness in Louisville!

The Homeless Youth Demonstration Grant is awarded to select communities in order to create comprehensive and innovative plans to address homelessness for unaccompanied youth age 24 and under. For more details, please see: <http://louhomeless.org/hud-grants-louisville-3-45-million-to-end-youth-homelessness/>

We are so grateful for the hard work of our Homeless Youth Committee, our Youth Action Board (comprised of youth who have experienced homelessness), and over 70 community partners who have been working hard for the young adults in our community for decades—and with a renewed and collaborative focus over the past year.

We believe that the youth of this community are our future, and we are elated that we will be able to empower and serve them so much better with this grant. 🗝️ 📄 🌍

## FAITH & aRT ~ Candy Wheat



### Artist of the Month Alisha Stewart

Alisha has been doing pottery at the Center for six months. She is a member of Apple Patch. She is 24 and loves pottery and playing softball.

## August birthdays



- 8/1 Kyle Mullin
- 8/2 Jacob Koukola  
Marc Bushue
- 8/3 Judy Shanahan
- 8/4 Yohan Kim
- 8/6 Chris Schuler
- 8/9 Marty Johnson  
Grace McDaniel
- 8/12 RoseMary Hambleton

- 8/13 Elizabeth Latham  
Anna Marie Redcorn  
Shelley Shumate
- 8/14 Kylee Mullin
- 8/16 Robin Williams-Neal
- 8/24 Jan Bloom
- 8/28 Collin Troxel
- 8/29 Mary Corum  
Nathan Lankford



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Trinity Presbyterian welcomes all visitors who are seeking to find Christ in their lives! Our regular Sunday morning services are at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Nursery and Children's church provided!