

A Message from Melba Speelman: Many thanks to the Deacons for all the extra special attention during my illness. Thank you for the flowers that I received during my hospital stay. Thank you all for the cards and well wishes that I received. A Special Thank You to Deacon Susan Eichelberger. Susan did my grocery shopping while I was recovering. She shopped for and got the exact items that were on my shopping list and delivered them to my home. What a

There are a few churches that support NICE by doing a monthly collection of a named item from their congregations. It is usually an item that is expensive for the Center to buy or that is very popular. **We are now collecting for the month of July and August. We will be collecting school supplies.** The items can be put into the collection box in the Narthex.

Watch the newsletter and bulletins for what we will be collecting each month.

The families that come to the NICE Center are very appreciative of all that you do.

Thank you for your support!!

NICE SCHOOL SUPPLY NEEDS 2018

Watercolors	1” Binders	Colored Pencils
Glue Bottles	Whiteout	Scissors
Copy Paper	# 2 Pencils	Rulers
4x6 and 3x5 index cards		Pocket Dictionaries and Thesaurus
Pencil top erasers, Pencil sharpeners		Pocket Folders, assort. Colors
Hand Sanitizer		Backpacks for 5 th thru 12 th graders
Backpacks for Pre-K thru 4 th graders		Girls Underwear SZ. 4-5, 6, 6X,10
Women’s Underwear SZ. 5, 8		Boys Boxer Briefs SZ. XS
Men’s Boxer Briefs SZ. M and LG		Girl’s Socks Pre-K thru 12 th Grade,
	Boys Socks SM and MED, Men’s MED and LG	

Any school type items will be accepted. Please bring items to the church.

Distribution of school supplies starts in mid-July and in August. Distribution will continue throughout the month of August as needed.

We certainly appreciate all you can do for this School Supply Drive!

NICE Ministry: Our church co-sponsors, along with 14 other area churches of several denominations, the NICE Center (Neighbors in Christ Ecumenical) in Lee, IL. The NICE Center operates a food pantry that provides food for 30-50 area families per week and availability for community members to receive donated clothing and household items. The Waterman Presbyterian Church staffs the NICE Center twice a year, in August and February. The Staff help starts at 8am every Saturday of those months. A sign up sheet will be posted mid July for the staffing volunteers in August.

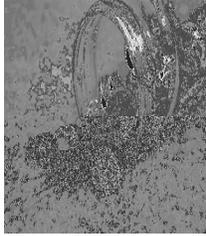
From Christian Education Committee: A huge ‘thank you’ to all of our helpers at VBS! You went above and beyond your ‘call of duty.’

As this newsletter is being printed VBS is “going on”. Look for detailed statistics in the August newsletter.

AGAIN ~THANK YOU!!!



July 7th....Morgan Conley
 July 9th....Jennifer Russell
 July 15th.....John Conley



Change For the Better Mission for UMPEC: Clean out the bottom of your purse, reach down into your pocket, and check under your sofa cushions! There are 2 coin jars on the table in the Narthex. Our last deposit was October of 2017. A June 2018 deposit has been made in the amount of \$28.80.

Thank you everyone!



Open Hands Preschool in Waterman is having registration for the 2018-2019 school year Tuesday, July 17 at 6:00 p.m. There is a \$35 registration fee and \$20 supply fee to be paid at the time of registration along with the first month's tuition. This is also the night of the Enrollment/Orientation meeting for families that have preregistered. Please come

prepared to fill out forms with your approved pickup contacts and medical information. Open Hands Preschool is a joint mission project of the Waterman Presbyterian Church and the Waterman United Methodist Church. The Preschool is located in the Waterman United Methodist Church and is DCFS licensed.

If you have any questions, please call 815-264-3991 or email ohpreschool1988@gmail.com. There is also information at watermanumc.org.

~ **Please Pray for:** The Family of Wilma Carroll, The Family of Tom Maple, The Family of Phyllis (*Jodie*) Shuck, The Family of Norman Johnson, The Family of Reverend Robert Conner, The Gaston Family, The Jimenez Family, Melba Speelman, Floyd Hunt, Frank Bilardello and Our Church.
Our military personnel: Staff Sgt. Vadon Loudermilk Jr., Major Garrett Slack & Major Bob Mitchell.



Reminders~ Coming up in August:

- 1) **Communion/ Worship August 5th** with Reverend Conner.
- 2) **The NICE Center**, August is WPC's turn to staff.
- 3) **Hope Haven**, will be on Wednesday, August 29th, with WUMC serving.

Elder/Session Members

- Laurie Johnson 815-264-7706
- Lynn Byington.....815-739-1728
- Linda Loudermilk....815-264-3555
- David Stryker.....815-970-1792
- Melba Speelman.....815-758-5953
- Clerk of Session, Sue Rood.....
815-824-2518

Deacons

- Susan Eichelberger...815-264-7772
- Mary Stryker.....815-970-1791
- Jeanetta Boughton....815-495-4681
- Lindsey Conley

Religion in America on July 4, 1776

When the Declaration of Independence was drafted on July 4, 1776, religious practice in the 13 colonies of the United States was colorful and varied. The quest for independence — as well as loyalist resistance to the cause — permeated church life and teachings across denominational lines. Patriots argued that their fight was God-ordained. Around the time of the Revolutionary War, most American Christians belonged to Anglican, Congregationalist, or Presbyterian groups. In 1776, there were also around 2,000 Jews (mostly Sephardic) and five synagogues in the colonies. The average size of a church congregation was around seventy-five members, and religious observance amounted to about only 17 percent of the total population.



The effect of the struggle for independence on religious practice was most visible in Anglican parishes. Since Anglican priests pledged loyalty to the King as a part of their ordination vows, many remained faithful to the British and continued with liturgical prayers for the monarchy. Some Anglican congregations aligned themselves with the revolutionary cause and chose to change the liturgy rather than abandon it entirely. The rector of a Christ Church in Maryland pasted strips of paper with prayers for the Continental Congress over the prayers for the King in the *Book of Common Prayer*. During the struggle for independence, several ministers left their congregations to work as chaplains or take up arms. Even some Quakers felt that the cause of independence superseded their commitment to pacifism.

Music played a key role in these early Congregationalist services. Popular at the time were the hymns of Isaac Watts, including "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" and "Joy to the Word." Legend has it that when they ran out of proper wadding for their guns, revolutionary soldiers once even used pages from Isaac Watts hymnals offered by a resourceful Presbyterian minister nearby!

The fight for independence took the energy and attention of church leaders and congregants, and the idea that God was on the side of the revolution filled both the religious and political mindsets of the time. While religious practices were diverse, both patriots and loyalists felt their causes were ordained by God. Even today, "America the Beautiful" occupies a place in most church hymnals and the American flag often stands behind the altar. 242 years after the drafting of the Declaration of Independence, American belief in — or hope for — God's presence in the political realm lives on.

Excerpts from a Huffington Post blog by Maria Mayo



Stamp Ministry - you can contribute to the Sisters of the Holy Cross Ministry With the Poor. The sisters remove the stamps from the envelope paper, sort them and sell them to brokers and collectors. The proceeds benefit their ministries, helping those in need around the world. Save stamps that have their perforations intact, are not too heavily canceled, and are not torn, cut or stained. Leave at least 1/4 inch on each side of the stamp when cutting it from the envelope. Most valuable Stamps in mint (un-canceled) or fine/very fine condition: Foreign stamps, U.S. Commemoratives, Stamps with postage values of \$1 or more. A collection box is on the table in the Narthex.