

The Federated Messenger

August 2026

“You Made It!”

by Pastor Stephen Pettis

We have completed our study of Hebrews! There's something so satisfying coming to the end of a study. I know I have really enjoyed digging deep into the book of Hebrews. There is something powerful about studying an entire book of the Bible as a church family.

From the opening verses to the final benediction, one theme has continued throughout every chapter: Jesus is Superior. He is the superior Prophet who speaks God's final word. He is the superior High Priest who continually intercedes for us. He is the Superior King whose kingdom cannot be shaken. He is the once for all sacrifice who accomplished what no other sacrifice ever could. Everything the Old Testament anticipated finds its fulfillment in Christ. Hebrews connects for us the old testament and new testament.

As I reflected on our journey through Hebrews, I kept coming back to the challenge from Hebrews 3:7–19, which seems to be repeated throughout Hebrews. Throughout this book we have been called to **Trust, Obey, and Encourage**.

Trust Jesus because He is the better Savior, the better High Priest, the better King, and the better sacrifice. Even when life leads us into difficult seasons, we can trust the One who has never failed His people.

Obey Him by holding fast to our confession and refusing to turn back. Genuine faith isn't merely believing facts about Jesus, it is faithfully following Him day after day. Hebrews reminds us that real faith keeps following Jesus. It holds firmly to Him until the end.

Finally, **Encourage one another**. One of my favorite pictures in Hebrews is the "Hall of Faith" in chapter 11. Those saints continue to encourage us by their example, reminding us that God is always faithful. Hebrews 13 then points us to faithful leaders who have gone before us and urges us to imitate their faith. We were never meant to follow Christ alone. We need one another to help us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and to strengthen one another until He returns.

It has been a joy to study Hebrews together. My prayer is that this book has given us a greater love for Christ, a deeper confidence in His finished work, and a renewed commitment to stand firm.

As we head into a new series, may we never leave behind the message of Hebrews:

**Jesus is better. Trust Him. Obey Him. Encourage one another.
And hold firmly to Him until the end.**



Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch...

by Joseph Preston

The mission of WLD Ranch is to guide campers and guests to Jesus as the Truth in life. I have a friend who has been coming to PAYC (Fairview Bible Church's youth camp at WLD Ranch in July) for many years who told me this summer that he was reading about our founding and was reminded how amazing of an origin story the Ranch has. Think about it. A young man with a passion to tell others about Jesus, who wanted to build a place where he could do that effectively for the kids in his neighborhood, but whose life was cut short in tragedy. But Wayne Leonard Davis's dream was not cut short because God had greater plans out of tragedy than anyone could imagine. And so WLD Ranch was formed in 1963 and continues to proclaim the good news of Jesus all these years later! Both evangelism and discipleship take place, with campers and guests meeting Jesus for the first time or growing in their walk with Jesus through their time at camp. And Wayne's neighborhood that he wanted to reach is a lot bigger than he probably thought possible! This summer already, through our own staff and campers as well as through PAYC, we've had people here who live in or were born in the USA, Germany, Puerto Rico, Ukraine, Australia, Pakistan, and Syria. That's a global neighborhood that God has brought here to WLD Ranch so that Wayne's dream can continue to be a part (even a small part) of the amazingly big work God is doing in this world. Praise the Lord!

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen" (Eph. 3:20-21).

Thank you for your prayers and support for God's work at WLD Ranch this summer.



"Support WLD Ranch through Erie Gives on **Tuesday, August 11!** Go to www.eriegives.org to learn more."

It's Blessing Boot time!
Grab a Boot, fill it up, and then drop it off at the Welcome Center Desk by August 30. All donations will be used by the WLD Ranch for building upgrades.



Springfield Senior Center



TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

Springfield Senior Center will meet in the Family Center at 9:45 a.m. **Pastor Terry Campbell from the West Springfield Community Church** will have devotions.

We will have an Auction! Everyone is encouraged to bring an item or two to be auctioned off. The proceeds will go into the Senior Center fund.

Following the auction, exercises will be led by Jule and a delicious lunch will be served at Noon, all for a \$3.00 donation.



Ladies' "KickOff" Brunch

Saturday, August 29, 10:00 AM, Family Center

Good Food & Fellowship!

ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME!

OCC SHOEBOXES

by Beth Rigden



For the month of August we are collecting school supplies:

pencils, pencil Sharpeners, pens (blue and black), scissors (blunt tip), erasers, colored pencils, crayons, spiral notebooks, and drawstring backpacks.

How can school supplies help a child come to know our loving Savior? Here is a story from an Operation Christmas Child report that explains.

In Kenya, 9 year old Setian used to pick up stubs of pencils she found on the ground so she could do her homework. Her parents were unemployed and could not buy her new ones. Setian attended an outreach event where she heard the Gospel and prayed for what she needed before she opened her shoebox. Inside she found pens and pencils! Setian told her parents about Jesus, they accepted His salvation by faith and began attending church with their daughter. Setian then shared the Gospel with her friends and today 20 other children are coming to church as a result of her invitations.

We love to pack school supplies in every box we send out. So we need your help! **On Monday, October 12th we will be packing 500 boxes for boys and girls ages 5-9.** Let's all work together to make sure each box represents God's love for a child!



We will be preparing items for the shoeboxes at **our next work session on Thursday, August 6th from 1-3 PM in the church dining room. We welcome all ages!**

Save these dates!

Thursday, August 6th - OCC Work Session from 1-3 PM in the church dining room

Monday, October 12th - Annual OCC Packing Party in Family Center



**SUNDAY
AUGUST 23
WLD RANCH**

- ♥ **Activities are from 3-5:00 p.m.** Come enjoy archery, horseback riding, disc golf, swimming, bouldering wall, octaball, basketball, various yard games and a hayride
- ♥ **Baptism at 5:00 p.m.** followed by a Potluck Dinner (bring a dish of food to share)



A service of baptism will be held at the **WLD Ranch** in the beautiful pool at

the Annual Church Picnic, **Sunday, August 23rd**. If you would like to be baptized, please plan to attend a class on **Sunday, August 16th in the Prayer Room at 9:50 a.m. or see Pastor Ed.**

Congratulations to Tyler and Rachel LaGreca on the birth of their daughter, Bethany Joy, born June 9, 6 lbs. 10 oz. and 19-1/2" long. Bethany is being welcomed by siblings Jake, Wade, Leanna, Avery, Brooke, and Helena.

Congratulations to Kendall and Becca Hunter on the birth of their son, **Malachi James**, born July 1st. Malachi is welcomed by big brothers Eli and Titus and big sister, Leah.

Congratulations to John and Amanda Bush on the birth of their son, **Matteo Joseph**, born July 18, 7 lbs. 4 oz. 20.75" long. Matteo is welcomed by siblings Titus, Malachi, Keah, Jonah, Atlas and Silas.





◆ **Celebration Class**

This class is for people celebrating their “mature” years in the church dining room, studying the

scriptures on the current sermon series.

- ◆ **Men’s Class** – Studying the book of Mark, led by Pastor Rick, Bob Pettis and others. Meet in the Church Basement Room 32.
- ◆ **Ladies Class** – Studying Esther, led by Suzanne Barton, Room 10 in the church basement.
- ◆ **Faith Chapel Ladies Class** –following an inductive study on Romans led by Christina Corbett. All ladies welcome!
- ◆ **Sanctuary Class** – a verse by verse study of the book of John, led by Jerry Hills in the sanctuary.
- ◆ **Everyone’s a Theologian** - What do Christians believe and why? This series on Systematic Theology is designed for new believers and anyone wanting to grow in their understanding of God’s truth. Meet in **Room 29**, Church Basement
- ◆ **College & Young Adult Class** – Room 28 in the Church Basement, exploring what the Bible says about topics relative to life, led by Mike and Cheryl Anderson.
- ◆ **Good News Class** – Family Center Office Room, studying the book of Ephesians with Seth Huntley and Sam Ring leading.
- ◆ **Couples Class** – for married and engaged couples, led by Rick Fails and Jamie Greig in Room 31 in the church basement, studying The Fruits of the Spirit
- ◆ **Heart and Soul Class** – led by Paul Burgess in Room 19/20 of the church basement, studying Biblical Covenants.
- ◆ **The Upper Room Class** – led by Pastor Mal Beall and Paula Adams. Open to Young Adults both single and married. Meeting in the big room upstairs in the church and studying a variety of topics.



Kids Church is for children 4 years old thru 5th grade in the Family Center. The children should be signed in at the Family Center desk by a parent/caregiver before services and promptly picked up afterward.

Infant and Toddler care: During the 8:15 a.m. service, unsupervised Infant/Toddler rooms are available for families to use. Also, there is a nursing mother’s room available during both services at the back of the sanctuary. Infant and Toddler care *is* available during the 11 a.m. service in the Family Center. **MORE VOLUNTEERS** are needed to care for the children. If you can help, please contact the Church Office or the Welcome Center Desk.

If you are interested in being part of the cleaning / packing work team for the **Pill Bottle Recycling Program**, please contact **Amy Bovaird at 814-431-4266** or **Suzanne Barton at 814-392-4383.**



The times for the recycling operation will be as follows: **(meet in the Church Dining Room)**

August 10, 1-4 PM September 7, 9 AM-12 PM
October 15, 1-4 PM November 9 1-4 PM
December 7, 1-4 PM

More Volunteers are needed. NOTE: These dates have changed from the previous listing



- **Father & Daughter Camp Out, September 4-6**
- **Praise Choir Rehearsals Begin, September 13**
- **Albion Fair, September 15-19**
- **Journey Kickoff, September 23**
- **Fall Fest at Springfield Park, September 27**

August

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRI.	SAT.
						1
2 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School	3 7 PM Men's Bible Study, Welcome Center	4	5 10 AM Golden Circle 7 PM Prayer Meeting	6 9:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study 1-3 PM OCC Workday, Dining Rm. 6:30 PM CR	7	8
9 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 3 PM Bow Shoot & Fellowship, Pavilion	10 7 PM Men's Bible Study	11 9:45 AM Senior Center 6:30 PM Leadership Meeting	12 10 AM Golden Circle 7 PM Prayer Meeting	13 9:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 PM CR	14	15
16 8:15 & 11 AM Worship COMMUNION 9:45 AM Sunday School	17 7 PM Men's Bible Study	18	19 10 AM Golden Circle 7 PM Prayer Meeting	20 9:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study 10 AM Fed Mom's Meet-Up 6:30 PM CR	21	22
23 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 3 PM Church Picnic at WLD Ranch, Baptism	24 7 PM Men's Bible Study	25	26 10 AM Golden Circle 7 PM Prayer Meeting	27 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	28	29 10 AM Women's Kickoff Brunch
30 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School	31 12 PM Mobile Food Pantry 7 PM Men's Bible Study					

AugustFed Kids Schedule

ATE	SERVICE	VOLUNTEER 1	VOLUNTEER 2
Aug 2	8:15 Kids Church Helper		
	9:30 Check In Desk		
	9:45 Toddler Room	Amy Swartzfager	Mary Ellen Hulley
	10:45 Check In Desk		
	11 Toddler Room	Amy & John Swartzfager	
	11 Kids Church Helper	Keah Bush	
Aug 9	8:15 Kids Church Helper		
	9:30 Check In Desk	Liz Bright	--
	9:45 Toddler SS	Mary Ellen Hulley	
	11 Toddler Room	Emily Corbett	Brooke/Violet/ Savannah
	10:45 Check In Desk	Liz Bright	--
	11 Kids Church Helper	Jaelin Snyder	
Aug 16	8:15 Kids church helper		
	9:30 Check In Desk	Taylor Billings	--
	9:45 Toddler Room	Mary Ellen Hulley	Amanda Nagle
	11 Toddler Room	Josiah Merrit& Amy Pettis	Connie Solomon
	10:45 Check In Desk	Taylor Billings	--
	11 Kids Church Helper	Azalea Ring	
Aug 23	8:15 Kids Church Helper		
	9:30 Check In Desk	Terena Snyder	
	9:45 Toddler Room	Mary Ellen Hulley	Tamim Fenton
	10:45 Check In Desk	Terena Snyder	
	11 Toddler Room	Melissa Greig	Violet/Savannah
	11 Kids church Helper	Jaelin Snyder	
Aug 30	8:15 Kids Church Helper		
	9:30 Check In Desk		
	9:45 Toddler Room		
	10:45 Check In Desk		
	11 Toddler Room		
	11 Kids Church Helper		

Come join us in Fed Kids! Reach out to Libby, if you can help us fill these needed positions!