



# The Ambassador

July 2021

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## From the Pastor

### The American Dream

This past week China became only the second nation to put a land rover on Mars. We were the first, but it seems they may be catching up to us in the space race. Why does this annoy me? Why would it bother any of us? With everything else going on in the world, why does this rise to any level of concern?

I believe there is a certain kind of patriotism that is similar to being a fan of a sports team. I'm a big Ohio State football fan, and folks like me don't root for them to simply improve over last year, or even to just beat Michigan. These days



fans expect a national championship every single season. And likewise as Americans, because we've had so much success, because of our status in the world and all of our achievements, we feel the pain of coming in second very intensely. We figure we should always be first. I'm

guessing most of us have that kind of patriotism residing somewhere within us.

But there is another kind of patriotism that originated with these words: *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."*

The Declaration of Independence did not concern itself with whether or not we were a powerful or accomplished nation back in 1776. We were definitely not those things at the time. What it did say is that we were going to be a nation that was justified by a universal principle, namely, that God created us, and that we are, in God's eyes, all equal. Yes, it literally says "all men," and yes, those who wrote and signed this declaration were mostly slave holders. But I hope we can admit that even if it was a partial understanding they were still reaching for fundamental truths. There is a God, and this God has blessed all his children with

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### Worship With Us

Online & In Person  
Worship @10:30 am  
Sunday School @ 9

Online Bible Studies  
@ 10 am Wednesdays and  
@ 6 pm Thursdays

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true worth and true dignity, made us “a little lower than the angels” as mere mortals are described in Psalm 8. We should not allow ourselves or anyone to be considered second class in any basic sense. This is the root of the so-called American Dream. I’ve had the opportunity to witness its power in many places. Where there is a battle for justice, for equal rights, for the underdog, whether here or abroad, the American Dream is at work.

I like to think it was July 4<sup>th</sup>, or a July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, when our whole family went to lunch at a local restaurant. It may not have been the 4<sup>th</sup>, but in my memory the lunch and the holiday are forever associated. It was an “Old Country Buffet,” a chain that has fallen on hard times but used to be very popular. We went there after church, it was crowded and we had to wait, and so I looked around at all the patrons. Every single racial and ethnic group I could imagine was represented in the restaurant that particular day. Few were sitting together, but they were all having a good time, and nobody looked as though they felt out of place, like some imposter. They all seemed to believe everyone had a right to be there. I felt this surge of patriotism – and not the kind of patriotism based on how many battles we’ve won. All these people, at least for this one moment, were clearly equal in some fundamental way. God bless America.

Our responsibility as Christians is to lift up the best intentions of the Declaration of Independence and other documents that govern us. We are charged by God with this responsibility. These universal principles should apply to our conduct as citizens of this country, but also as citizens of the world. This, I believe, is how we truly honor the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Peace, and a happy and safe holiday to you and yours.

*John Wagner*



*By Mary Ellen Clinard*

## Music and Worship Notes

### **WORSHIP-*Behind the Scenes....***

When we attend worship, we experience the result of a series of plans created by our ministers, worship director, musicians, soundbooth techs, and many others. Sometimes we are surprised by things that happen in worship when our plans don’t work the way we expect them to, but I believe that the Holy Spirit knows our intention and sometimes offers us opportunities to move away from our plans and follow His lead. As someone who plans for worship, I am very aware that this is the great unknown factor that breathes life and wonder into each Sunday.



However, with the emergence of Live Streaming, recording, websites, and other outgoing media, the church has an added responsibility of ensuring that all copyrighted material we use during worship is with permission and reported. This is part of the planning that isn’t seen, and is rarely thought about as we worship.

Your church pays a membership fee to two major licensing groups that make it possible for us to legally stream, record, print, and use certain worship music materials. CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing International) and OneLicense.net are the two agencies that our church currently uses to obtain rights to worship music materials. The two groups approach reporting

# Mission Moment

An update from Dr. Les and Debbie Dornon, missionaries to Nepal working in the Tansen Hospital

## Beauty in the Midst of Hard Times

We give thanks for answered prayers — our work permits came through about a week ago, and Les is happily back at the hospital seeing patients legally! Also, the UMN General Agreement for 5 years was finally signed — another big answered prayer. We rejoice in these times when we can see God working — it helps us to keep faith during the times we cannot see what God is doing!

Several months ago, we had devastating forest fires burning across Nepal. Then, the surge of the Covid second wave and the desperation of people to get oxygen. Now — we are facing landslides, floods, and road blocks due to the heavy start to monsoon. (This is a hard time, as the rains are so needed, but the destruction can be enormous). Please join us in praying for God's mercy on Nepal! We are thankful that the Covid numbers are slightly down, and that the rains have let up a bit, but it is still so hard to see people struggling once again against what seem to be insurmountable odds. Lockdown is still in force, and only about 3% of the population has been vaccinated at this time.

Several days before Les got his permit, he got a rather frantic call from the maternity ward. A breech delivery was in process, but the doctors and midwives there weren't able to get the baby out. So — Les went over and was able to deliver a little boy —

saving the baby's life and maybe the mother's too! We were thankful he was here and available to help (even without the paperwork completed! Shhh — don't tell!)

We think of you often — thanks for your prayers and support. Here is a beautiful orchid which has grown on a tree just outside of our house. Beauty in the midst of hard times!

Stay well!

Love, देबी (Debbie) and लेस (Les)

Want more stories and photos?  
Check out our blog at  
**[dornonnepalmis-sion.wordpress.com](http://dornonnepalmis-sion.wordpress.com)**.




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## Music and Worship Notes

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differently, CCLI assigns a reporting “block” of weeks per year, and OneLicense requires weekly reporting.

Every song (sung or played) is checked to make sure it's in Public Domain (composed before 1925 generally) or if it has a copyright notation. Even hymns in our hymnal that are in public domain may have been adapted or arranged at a later time and that arrangement is copyrighted. These songs are reported to these agencies and that is how composers are fairly compensated for their music. The topic of copyright, licensing, and worship are complex and detailed, but an interesting and necessary part of worship planning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

*Christ Our Life — Service Our Lifestyle*

July 2021

July Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dates to Remember in August: August 6: First Friday Concert @ Noon, Janice Codispoti						
4 COMMUNION INDEPENDENCE DAY 9 am Sunday School 10:30 Worship	5 8:30 am Breakfast Club	6 	7 10 am Son Reflectors Bible Study 7 pm Choir Rhrs!	8 6 pm Sonshine Bible Study	9 5:15 Wedding Rehearsal	10 5:30 pm Clippinger Wedding
11 9 am Sunday School 10:30 Worship	12 8:30 am Breakfast Club	13 6:30 pm SPRC	14 10 am Son Reflectors Bible Study 7 pm Choir Rhrs!	15 6 pm Sonshine Bible Study	16 <u>AMBASSADOR</u> <u>DEADLINE</u>	17 9 am Hope Circle @ Bob Evans 6-8 pm Hispanic Women's Ministry
18 9 am Sunday School 10:30 Worship - Bible Sunday	19 8:30 am Breakfast Club	20 6 pm Finance 7 pm Council	21 10 am Son Reflectors Bible Study NO Choir Rhrs!	22 6 pm Sonshine Bible Study	23	24
25 9 am Sunday School 10:30 Worship Congregational Care Mtg after worship	26 8:30 am Breakfast Club	27 6:30 pm Trustees	28 10 am Son Reflectors Bible Study NO Choir Rhrs!	29 6 pm Sonshine Bible Study	30	31

- 1 Mike Snyder
- 2 Debbie Dornon
- 3 Don Burley
- 4 Gene Goecke, Dani Ortega
- 6 Dan Hausman
- 8 Debbie Ellis
- 10 Darrel Davis
- 13 Nancy Heberling
- 14 Dolly Dixon-Gordon
- 15 Paulette McCandless, Jeff Caldwell, Nortence Church
- 16 Barb Balsmeyer
- 20 Kyle Wilson
- 21 Ron Spaulding
- 26 Chris Buchert
- 27 Sheila Crowe, Kavon Church-Davis
- 30 Fred Parrella,
- 31 Lee Bachelor, Norma Jean Davis

Happy Birthday!

## Are You Willing to Receive The Ambassador Via Email?

Currently, we have about 87 households in our church family that receive The Ambassador by email, which has resulted in a decrease in our paper mailing list. To utilize the reduced postage costs of bulk mail you must mail 200 copies, and we are getting to the point where we won't have enough. Email is the most cost effective way for us to distribute the newsletter, so please let us know if you are willing to receive it that way — all we need is your email address! However, our primary goal is for you to actually read the newsletter, so if you desire to continue receiving a paper copy, we can either put it in your church mailbox (located in the hallway behind the sanctuary) or send it first class. If you don't have a church mailbox, just let us know and we will set one up for you. Call us at 513-423-4629 or email at [office@myfumc.net](mailto:office@myfumc.net).

Thanks!



July 13 —SPRC, 6:30 pm  
July 17 — Hope Circle 9 am  
July 20 — Finance 6 pm, Ad Council 7 pm  
July 27 — Trustees 6:30 pm

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