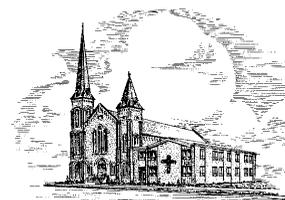


# At the Beach

N Z F Z J K L F E U C N O E M  
 H S I F Y L L E J D R D N A S  
 S R E D A D K U Q Z P D J L K  
 L G Z Y P Q Q F Z M D Q K L V  
 Z H L R S A N D C A S T L E T  
 M W E O W L Q U E F A D G R B  
 C X V N I H P L O D W G P B B  
 S G O T M S F G C D H X K M A  
 U J H A S I R O C E A N Q U R  
 N K S O U F W L S W L V P M C  
 B Y Y B I S E A W E E D J O B  
 L T X F T U B U C K E T W X A  
 O Q C R E I P B V Z V M O Z L  
 C K J U S E A G U L L X R X L  
 K T G S E J K V S L L E H S A

BALL	FISH	SANDCASTLE	SUNBLOCK
BOAT	JELLYFISH	SEAGULL	SURF
BUCKET	OCEAN	SEAWEED	SWIMSUIT
CRAB	PIER	SHELLS	UMBRELLA
DOLPHIN	SAND	SHOVEL	WHALE



## *Steeple Breezes*

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VOLUME 223

JULY 2018

NO. 7

Greetings from the pastor:

As I write this I am aware that we have been betrayed. By “we” I mean “Christians.” It is tragic that the betrayal has been done by those who call themselves Christians. The most obvious indication of that betrayal is the misuse of our sacred writings. A few days ago (as of the writing of this missive), the Attorney General for the United States referred to Romans 13 as justification for separating children (even infants) from their parents. This is a clear case of misuse of the scriptures.

I don’t know the circumstances in which Paul wrote these particular words. What I can be sure of is that he wasn’t saying to follow a law which is unjust, immoral and very much against the teachings of Jesus. Those who say differently are discarding their commitment to Christ on an altar of political expediency.

If the early Christians had believed Paul intended that they obey all authorities in every matter, they wouldn’t have risked being martyred because they refused to worship Caesar.

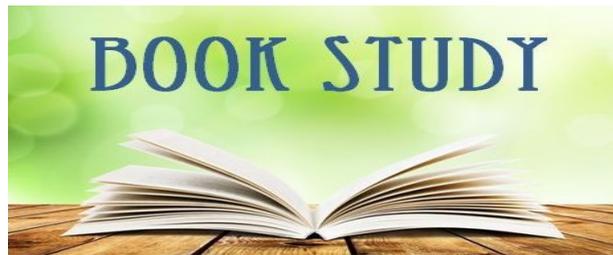
What is most telling is that those who quote the first part of the thirteenth chapter of Romans as justification for immoral actions such as separating children from their parents, conveniently ignore the last part of the chapter. Verses one through seven, are about obedience to rulers. However, verses eight through ten, affirm that, for followers of Jesus, the only standard of relating to others is love. If there is a choice between obeying rulers and loving one’s neighbor, where do you think Jesus (and Paul) would stand?

God doesn't excuse the actions of His people because they are dealing with political realities. Over and over in the Old Testament, there is a condemnation of Judah and Israel for mistreating the "alien in their land." The treatment of the foreigner is noted by the prophets as a part of the reason for the overthrow of Judah and Israel.

I love this land, the United States of America. However, we now stand under God's judgment for our actions. This is not about party politics, both parties have things that they need to repent of if they are following Christian principles. Unless that repentance takes place, we are witnessing the end of the nation.

Rev. Ross T. Lucas  
Transitional Pastor

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The Tuesday morning Book Club invites you to join us as we read and discuss the book "Unbelievable," written by one of our favorite authors, John Shelby Spong. In praise of this author, Karen Armstrong, a former nun and author of "A History of God" writes-Spong shows how Christianity is not simply a received faith, but one which constantly grows to interaction with the world; he demonstrates how it is possible to make the faith a force against the injustice and lack of compassion in our modern society. The Book Study also agrees with our American Baptist Churches of America's "Living Our Values" statement that Diversity Adds Depth-we can celebrate our differences because of what we share in common.

We meet each Tuesday from 10 am until 12 noon at Vic and Billie Johnson's home. Please join us.

## JACKSON PERSONAL CARE MINISTRY (JPCM)

### FBC GREETER AVAILABILITY WORKSHEET

JULY 2018 THRU MID-JAN 2019

Greeter Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

For each date, please mark 'yes' if you are available to be a greeter for the JPCM, 'no' if you are not.

Date	Yes	No
5-Jul	Freese, Don	
12-Jul	White, Troy	
19-Jul		
26-Jul		
2-Aug		
9-Aug		
16-Aug		
23-Aug		
30-Aug		
6-Sep		
13-Sep		
20-Sep		
27-Sep		
4-Oct		

Date	Yes	No
11-Oct		
18-Oct		
25-Oct		
1-Nov		
8-Nov		
15-Nov		
22-Nov	Thanksgiving	
29-Nov		
6-Dec		
13-Dec		
20-Dec		
27-Dec		
3-Jan		
10-Jan		

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2018 GRADUATES**

**Noah Woodruff**-son of Ron & Mary Woodruff; grandson of Dan & Sherry Dodge, graduate of Northwest High School and has been accepted to the University of Michigan to study Computer Science.

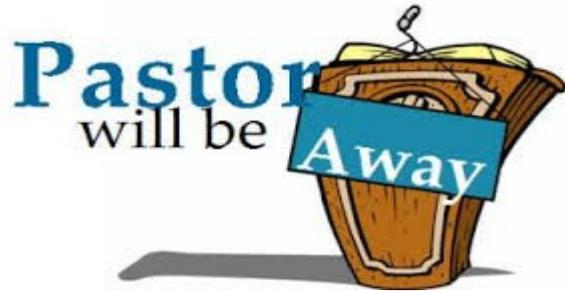
**Benjamin Woodruff**-son of Ron & Mary Woodruff; grandson of Dan & Sherry Dodge, graduate of University of Michigan with a degree in Political Science and Economics.

**Rylee Rogers**-daughter of Kelly Georgopolis and Mick & Jennifer Rogers, graduate of Vandercook Lake High School and plans on attending Jackson College to study Healthcare.

**Sydney Topa**-daughter of Mike & Vicki Topa; granddaughter of Ken Stobel graduate of Spring Arbor University with a degree in Business Administration.

**Trevor Topa**-son of Mike & Vicki Topa-grandson of Ken Stobel graduate of Indiana Institute of Technology with a degree in Mechanical Engineering & Energy Engineering.

\*\*\*\*\*



Rev. Ross Lucas, Ph.D. will be out of the office until Wednesday, July 11th. He will not have access to email during that time. If something arises, please contact the church office.

\*\*\*\*\*

New Parish Directories are now available in the church office. Please stop by Monday thru Friday between 9am-1pm to pick one up.

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Dar and I would like to thank our church family for the calls, visits, and goodies. We appreciate all that everyone has done for us, especially with keeping us in your thoughts and prayers.

We would also like to give a special thank you to Sue, for making sure we get the bulletins each week and a copy of Steeple Breezes.

God Bless,

Dar and Jan Watts

**BLESSING BOX**

A few months ago, the Connection Service decided we wanted to do a mission for our community so we took inspiration from the book boxes around Jackson and created a Blessing Box to provide small basic necessities for those who need them. The box will be stocked with socks, hats, and mittens when it is cold and personal care and non-perishable food items year around. These items will be available at anytime and available for the taking by anyone who needs them. It is our hope that these items will be blessings that show the local community the giving heart of Jesus. Submitted by Abby Jane White



