



Friday, July 20

The Weekender

The (Entertainment) Company We Keep

I was reading *Story as Torah* by G. Wenham last week. He is trying to help the reader understand how Biblical narrative instructs believers. He quotes Wayne Booth, a literary critic whose book, *The Company We Keep: An Ethics of Fiction*, reminds us that what we read (fiction or the Bible) influences our actions and attitudes.

In one place Booth says, "Whenever I work my way into a narrative . . . the 'I' that is 'me' becomes increasingly like my picture of the implied author; I succumb—I begin to see as he or she sees, to feel as she feels, to love what he loves, or to mock what she mocks." That means that when we read a book, any book, and even when we watch a movie or TV show, we are shaped by the mind behind that book or movie or show. Of course, we already know that. Commercials are doing the same thing. When advertisers tell a story about their product, they are trying to get us to see things from their point of view and to be favorably disposed to their product.

Elsewhere in the same book Booth says,

Anyone who conducts honest introspection knows that 'real life' is lived in images derived in part from stories. Though usually our imitations are not highly dramatic, especially once past adolescence, everyone who reads knows that whether or not we *should* imitate narrative heroes and heroines, we in fact do.

Modern, western Christians find an enormous number of stories and entertainments that influence us. We are influenced by the music and the radio commentators. We are influenced by podcasts, TV shows, movies, books and magazines. We have almost limitless opportunities to be entertained—and influenced.

How do we let Christ influence us? In my mind there are two ways. One is that we engage thoughtfully the entertainments that we listen to and watch. We ask, "Is this story telling me the truth? Does this story reveal the way things really are?" I think it is crucial to be discerning in what you read and watch. Of course, the other way is to read the Bible in a systematic and thoughtful way. If we spend 20 hours a week listening to music, watching TV or movies and reading, how much time should we spend with God's word? I can't answer that for you, but I hope you'll ask yourself! May God guide you to find the answer.

See you Sunday!

In Christ,

John

P. S. Disciple I is starting August 15 led by Kathy Hansen. That would be an excellent way to allow Christ to influence you through His word!



This Sunday in Worship
July 22
9th Sunday After Pentecost

Anthems:

Jesus, You are Holy

Let Us Praise the Lord!

Sermon:

Genesis 24:1-67 "Isaac and Rebekah"

Rev. John Barnes preaching (8:30, 11:00 a.m.)

Genesis 24:10-21 "Behind the Scenes"

Rev. Allyson Lawrence preaching (9:45)

CURRENT NEWS



Help Reach 95 Pint Goal at Blood Drive

It's only a few days until our Red Cross Blood Drive. Can you give this Sunday, July 22, between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.? Our goal: 95 pints! If you have not reserved a spot, come on! The Red Cross will make sure to include you.



Youth: Go All Night at Andretti Indoor Karting and Games

Get ready for high energy worship, go karts, arcade games, laser tag and more for 12 straight hours at the LaGrange District Lock-in at Andretti Indoor Karting and Games coming August 3-4. Cost \$35. A midnight snack and breakfast are included. You don't want to miss this back to school kick off event. Register now at fayettevillefirst.com.



Last Oz Pizza Night is Tuesday, July 24

Have dinner on the square at our last Oz Pizza fundraiser night between 5 and 9 p.m. this Tuesday, July 24, to support the trustee fund. Tell them you're with FFUMC and Oz will donate a percentage of your purchase to the church. Make plans now for our final Dinner on the Square event this summer at Twisted Taco on Wednesday, August 1.



Let's Stop Hunger! Sign Up Now

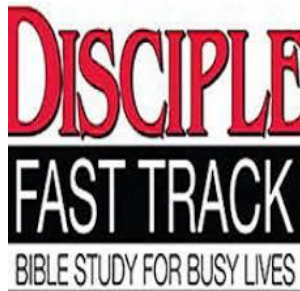
It's time to stop hunger! Come for service and fellowship as we pack 30,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger on August 19 at a two-hour packing event. It's exciting and fun! Enjoy a pre-event lunch at noon in the Fellowship Hall (Lunch reservations due by August 12). The packing event begins at 1 p.m. in the gym. Just go to fayettevillefirst.com now to sign up for lunch and/or the packing event. Let's rise against hunger together.

UPCOMING



Sunshine VBS Begins Monday, July 23

We are excited for another year of Sunshine VBS for adults running July 23-26 in the evenings. Please be in prayer for all the participants and volunteers as they prepare for a great week of VBS!



Disciple Bible Study Begins August 15

Disciple Fast Track is a great option for busy people who want to engage more deeply with the entire Biblical text. Spend 12 weeks studying the Old Testament this fall beginning with an orientation class on August 15 and the first class session on August 22. You can continue your study with the New Testament beginning in early 2019. Sign up at fayettevillefirst.com for this class, led by Kathie Hansen, at 6 p.m. each Wednesday evening through November 14 in Room C-250. The cost of materials is \$15 if purchased through the church.



Gain Financial Peace

A nine-week Financial Peace Class begins August 19 at 4:30 p.m. Learn life-changing principles on how to take control of your money in these sessions led by Bobby and Laurie Brooks. Cost: \$100. Register at fayettevillefirst.com.



Square Foot Ministry Day in Griffin

On Saturday, August 4, we are once again invited to a Square Foot Ministry Day in Griffin. Help is needed from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The address is 115 Lynn Lane, Griffin. Water and lunch are provided. Please let us know if you plan to come. Questions? Email mphillips@fayettevillefirst.com.



Charity Sale Benefits FFUMC

FFUMC is partnering with another local business: Shop the Belk Charity Sale and you'll help raise more funds for FFUMC (and get major bargains)! How? Simply purchase a \$5 ticket from a trustee or the church office (the church gets to keep 100% of these ticket sales) and you'll gain entry into the Private Ticketed Event on Saturday, August 25, from 6 to 10 a.m. With your ticket you will receive \$5 off your first purchase along with big savings throughout the store, including many rarely discounted brands. See the sales flyer at fayettevillefirst.com. You can also shop in advance of the sale and pick up your items any time on August 25. Get your ticket, save the date, and get ready for a win-win event!



Save the Date for FFUMC Clean It Out Yard Sale

Head to the FFUMC gym on Saturday, August 11, at 9 a.m. for our "Clean It Out Yard Sale." So what's for sale? Chairs, desks, cabinets and other useful but no longer needed items at the church. Funds raised will benefit the trustee fund. Call the church office for more information.



Kick Off the Fall at Wednesday Night Supper August 15

We will begin our new Wednesday Night season with a cookout! Sign up now for Wednesday Night Suppers at fayettevillefirst.com. Select the permanent list if you know you'll be coming every week (once and done!) or make your reservation on a week-by-week basis. *Menu on August 15: Hamburgers, Hotdogs, French Fries, Baked Beans AND a snow cone truck!* Note new prices: Adult: \$7, Child \$4; Family \$22.

Current Financials

Year to Date receipts \$807,017.55

Year to Date expenses \$842,441.77

Murphy-Harpst Children's Center Offering \$855.00

Thank you for your gifts!

Celebrating a GREAT week at MAD Camp 2018!



**MUSIC +
ART +
DRAMA =
FUN!**