

# Keeping In Touch

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF STAFFORD

## SUMMER DOLDRUMS

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Wikipedia: The Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ /itf/ ITCH), known by sailors as the *doldrums* or the calms because of its monotonous windless weather, is the area where the northeast and the southeast trade winds converge. It encircles Earth near the thermal equator though its specific position varies seasonally. When it lies near the geographic Equator, it is called the near-equatorial trough. Where the ITCZ is drawn into and merges with a monsoonal circulation, it is sometimes referred to as a monsoon trough, a usage that is more common in Australia and parts of Asia.

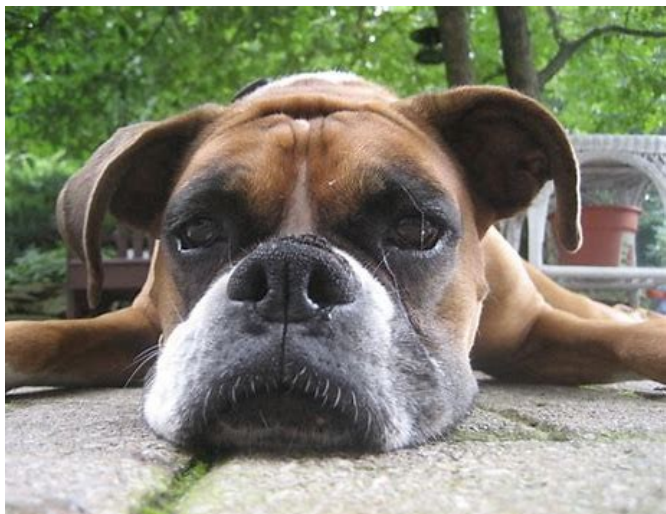
While the above definition of the doldrums explains its origin, that is not what most of us (not being sailors, after all) think when we think about it. For me, and I would assume for you as well, it is the term used to describe the kind of weather we have been having—hot and humid. It makes us want to hide in a air conditioned area, saps the energy right out of the body to do any manual labor (mowing the

grass, for example) and makes us wish for cooler (even cold) weather.

And yet, when the cold weather arrives and the snow is falling outside the windows the reverse happens—we wish for warm weather. It is this paradox that is the difference between human beings and our favorite friends from the animal kingdom. It has been interesting to watch our two house cats during this stretch of hot weather. Most of the time they eat and sleep. The sleeping part can be interesting to watch as they both seek the coolest and most comfortable place. Fortunately their personalities are very different so each likes different places.

I believe that the same argument can be made for people. Each of us develops different likes and dislikes. Yet church is a community of many people with different likes and dislikes. It is a successful community when we all can share those parts of life where we like the same things and can respect and accept those parts of life where we do not share the same things. God accepts us all and asks for us to accept each other as well.

Ken



# August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 Little Shop - 10 - 2 Baseball game - 6 PM
6 Worship Service 9:30 AM	7	8	9	10	11	12 Little Shop - 10 - 2
13 - Sun Valley Worship Service 9:30 AM	14	15	16	17	18	19 Little Shop - 10 - 2
20 Worship Service 9:30 AM Food Bank Sunday	21	22	23	24	25	26 Little Shop - 10 - 2
27 Worship Service 9:30 AM	28	29	30	31		

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Category	Year-To-Date	Budget-To-Date	Percentage
R21—Freewill	\$ 545.00	\$ 500.00	109%
R22—Pledges	\$ 15,945.00	\$ 18,242.00	87%
R23—Contributions	\$ 4,895.00	\$ 1,000.00	490%
R24—Fund Raising	\$ 5,914.00	\$ 5,500.00	108%
Capital Campaign	\$ 2,410.00	\$ 3,127.00	77%

Thru June 30:

## DEACONS

There was an informal meeting to plan our diaconate coverage for the month of August. We have supply pastors planned through September at this time. For the month of August, Pastor Bob LaRochelle will be covering the pulpit (and he will return the last two weeks of September). We have had feedback from the supply pastors that people have enjoyed their services. Thank you for supporting these ministers- it has been a pleasure to get to know them, despite our circumstances.

Some time in August or September, we will be having a new member service (based upon the availability of the persons involved). Please keep in touch on Sundays and on Facebook for updates!

Sincerely in the peace of Christ,  
Sarah R.G.

## TRUSTEES

Hey everyone, the Trustees have decided after putting in numerous hours trying to clean the deck completely of paint that we will stain the deck white again instead of clear. There are several spindles that are too close to the posts, and make it impossible to chip without taking parts of the deck apart. Also, there is paint inside of numerous cracks in the wood, and in every nail hole, which would take far too much time to clean out. If we stained it clear, all of these issues would show. I believe after getting it power washed, stripping close to 99 percent of it and sanding it thoroughly, this deck stain will give us at least ten years without much wear. There will be extra stain to touch up any problem areas in the coming years. I will be staining the deck Saturday, and it requires two coats. I do ask for no one to walk on it from Saturday until Monday. I will make an announcement in church and have cones up as well with a sign. We had our plumber Joe clean out our oven and replace the ignitor switch. The oven now starts with the ignition button rather than using a lighter to start the pilot. He also replaced a hose on our dehumidifier that was clogged, which was causing the dehumidifier to fill up and stop running. I will have an S.O.P in the kitchen for how to start the oven in case I am not at an event or funeral. Lastly, I bought a couple pieces for the downspout by the Little Shop door that was damaged a few years back. I will install that Saturday as well.

Respectfully, Andrew Board of Trustees Chair

## PULPIT SUPPLY FOR AUGUST

Our supply pastor for the month of August will be the Rev. Dr. Robert R. LaRochelle.

# IN AND AROUND THE CHURCH ...

Our Hearts and Prayers reach out to our Brothers and Sisters who have various needs and struggles: prayers for Marcy recovering from a fall and a broken leg ... prayers for Beth recovering from blood clots ... prayers for the Marin and Beebe families ... prayers for Stu Fisher who had surgery ... prayers of comfort for all who suffer from the aggressions of war ... prayer for those who suffer from mental illness and addictions ... prayers for the Hodge family ... continuing prayers for Melissa, Victoria and Lorraine ... prayers for Janice Johnson and her family ... prayers for those who suffer at the hands of gun violence ... continued prayers for Lucy, Donna, Doris and Sarah ... prayers for the family of Barbara Kellem ... prayers for Ellen Rebo who had surgery ... prayers for the family of Micheal Depeau who passed away ... prayers for Sarah Lemon going through cancer treatment ... prayers for someone special going through an emotionally and physically trying time ... prayers of safe travel for Patty and Laura ... prayers for a sister Angela undergoing cancer treatments ... prayer of joy for Julie that her cancer was found and treated ... prayers for Rosie's sister to come out safely in September ... prayer for Pastor Brian Baeder recovering from bypass surgery ... thanks to Linda and her family for all their hard work with the duck race ... prayers of safe travel for Cindy and her family vacationing in Maine ... prayer for Chris Wyteck who lost his father ... prayers for my brother Alan Gowdy ... prayers for Ellen Lancaster who lost her husband Murray ... prayers for Bruce on his retirement ... prayers for better health for Gale Parkhurst.

Celebrations: thank you to those who supported the Book Sale ... Cousin Ed and his husband Fernando visited this week ... we have a new grand niece—Aurora ... Joe who will turn 99 in August ... grandson Aaron celebrated his 15th birthday ... for my mother who celebrated her 99th birthday ... daughter Marilyn who had her baby.

## A LIGHTER MOMENT. . .

A: I have the perfect son. B: Does he smoke? A: No, he doesn't. B: Does he drink whiskey? A: No, he doesn't. B: Does he ever come home late? A: No, he doesn't. B: I guess you really do have the perfect son. How old is he? A: He will be six months old next Wednesday.

\* \* \* \*

A police officer attempts to stop a car for speeding and the guy gradually increases his speed until he's topping 100 mph. The man eventually realizes he can't escape and finally pulls over. The cop approaches the car and says, "It's been a long day and my shift is almost over, so if you can give me a good excuse for your behavior, I'll let you go." The guy thinks for a few seconds and then says, "My wife ran away with a cop about a week ago. I thought you might be that officer trying to give her back!"

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### August Birthdays

- 2 Ryan Hoefle
- 3 Jennifer Bourque
- 4 Joseph Perko  
Carmen Lingley
- 9 David England
- 17 William Depault
- 18 Sarah DelBene
- 20 Desiree DelBene
- 23 Cindy Lingley
- 28 Linda Sprague
- 29 Joe Demars

### August Anniversaries

- 2 Shawn and Kristina Depault
- 9 Michael and Roseanne Gowdy

# LIGHTING OF THE CROSS

The month of August:

In memory of Claire Richens by George McGinness

In loving memory of my mother Phyllis Davidson by Cindy Lingley

## MISSIONS

Thirty-seven pounds of food were taken to the Crystal Lake Food Pantry on July 18th. Thank you all for your food offerings.

SafeNet is again this year offering school supplies to families in need. They are looking for packages of # 2 pencils, 70 page one subject notebooks, 2 pocket folders among all the other school supplies that a child might need. Please bring your offerings to church and leave them in the narthex like we do for the food. We will give the offerings to SafeNet the week of August 13th. Thank you all.

The Missions Committee

## DUCK RACE RESULTS

The duck race this year was a huge success. Through our combined efforts, we raised a whopping \$1,639.50. It was a beautiful day for the race and we had a record crowd on hand. All our hotdogs were sold out and so many youngsters were seen with a duck painted on their face thanks to artistic abilities of Kara Hoefle. The rushing water took the ducks quickly down the brook instead of the usual relaxed manner in which they have traveled in the past. Thirty prizes were awarded. Again, a heartfelt thank you to all who helped make this year's race such a fun event.

Linda Sprague, Race Coordinator.

## BOOK SALE

We had a book sale July 1st in Fellowship Hall and were able to raise \$326.00. We donated \$22.00 to America's VetDogs leaving the Church with a net total of \$304.00. Thank you to Kim, Zoey and Sarah for helping out that day, along with Judy and Kathy helping move some books!

Andrew

## TAG SALE

On August 12th from 9 to 3 we will be having a tag sale at the church. A woman named Darla who frequents our Flea Market and donates quite a bit asked if we could let her sell her late husband's antiques and collectables. She will be set up outside along with myself, with the barn open. If any other members want to sell things as well, let me know. I will also probably have some other type of fundraising going on that day. Darla will be donating part of her earnings to the church.

Andrew

## CLERK REPORT

Hey everyone, it's your favorite Church Clerk. I normally don't really have a report, but just wanted to talk about our attendance at the midway point of the year. Last year at the midway point we averaged 19.3 people per service, and this year we are averaging 18.9. Last year, we averaged 17 people per week for the entire year, and in 2021 we averaged 18 per week. I know we can easily attain or surpass that again this year. We have lost many beloved members and our pastor, so I thought that this is important to note. I am so happy to see our members going to church as many Sundays as they can, and really enjoying their time there. It gives us hope, knowing that our attendance stays consistent, even when life tries to slow our members down.

Respectfully submitted, Andrew Greaves, Church Clerk

## RALLY DAY

Hey everyone! Rally Day will be Sunday September 10th. I will be taking over for Judy as Sunday School teacher this year but she will be available for emergencies. We have a great group of teachers besides me, and I plan to have them all involved in one way or another. We have a great group of kids, and I look forward to teaching them for many years. If anyone knows any families with kids that are interested in touring our facility I plan to be available a half hour before the service and 1 hour after Rally Sunday. I always welcome friends, family members, or any families who just need a break and want to have their kids attend a class! I am also always open to ideas and suggestions from all families as well. Don't hesitate to call or e-mail me. Thanks so much!!

Andrew

## FARM DAY—SEPTEMBER 10

We will have a booth with Children's activities and a bake sale. Sign up will be downstairs for anyone who would bake. Call or text Kim with questions. 413-374-3247

