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PATHWAYS

JULY 2023

*You show me the path of life. In
your presence there is fullness of joy.*
Psalm 16:11

Find us on social
media @FCCStow!

VBS: Twist & Turns!

Sunday, July 9th – Thursday, July 13th, 6 – 8 p.m.

Level up and spin the spinner! Register online at

<https://www.myvbs.org/fccstow/>.

See the article below to hear more about our theme for this year!

Beautify Stow! DATE CHANGE

AUGUST 26th, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Sign up in the Gathering Area to help clean up our town!
Trash bags, gloves, and a shirt for the event are provided!

Upcoming Loaves & Fishes – July 16th, 4-6 p.m.

General Assembly, Louisville, KY, Jul 29th – Aug 1st

For the first time in four years, the Church is gathering together again, this time in Louisville. See inside to register online and read about the focus on the [sic] “Kindom of God.”

Rubber Ducks Game + Fireworks—Save the Date!

Saturday, August 19th

Women’s Retreat Returns! September 15th – 17th

Contact Barb Bell at bajabe52@yahoo.com or 330-807-5498 for more information.

June 2023
Elder's Epistle

You Know...It never ceases to amaze me how God provides examples and inspiration on how we are to live and follow the examples of Jesus Christ. Of course, there's the Bible...the best place to find most everything! But if you've ever had a dog, you've witnessed unconditional love and loyalty. He's there to warn of danger, and offers comfort. We can learn a lot from dogs. We can even learn lessons from geese. Really!!!

Fact 1: As each goose flaps its wings it creates an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

Fact 2: When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.

Fact 3: When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position.

Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people are interdependent on each other's skills, capabilities and unique arrangements of gifts, talents or resources.

Fact 4: The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Lesson: We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, the production is much greater. The power of encouragement (to stand by one's heart or core values and encourage the heart and core of others) is the quality of honking we seek.

Fact 5: When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again.

Then, they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock. Lesson: If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.

Bob Vanik, Elder

4th of July Pancake Breakfast Returns!
July 4th, 7 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Mark your calendars! The 4th of July Pancake Breakfast is back! That's right! We're partnering with the Boy Scouts to restart this popular event from 7:00 to 10:00 am on the 4th. Please help spread the word to friends and family that have missed this event the past few years. Of course, many hands make light work, and we are looking for volunteers for set-up, cooking, serving and clean up! There's several roles to be filled after the Boy Scouts take on their responsibilities, so please look forward to the volunteer opportunities! Sign up forms will be available in the Gathering Area, or at the following link on our SignUp Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B45AFA82AA2FC1-july>

Twists & Turns
Vacation Bible School
Sun, July 9 – Thurs, July 13, 6-8pm

Age 3 – 5th grade! Register at <https://www.myvbs.org/fccstow/>
It's time to level up VBS! Spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play to win! You'll need to bring your A-game for this VBS. Twists & Turns is a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They'll find that even when they mess up it's never "game over."
We hope you can join us as we learn "Following Jesus Changes the Game!"

The Woman's Retreat is Back!
Sept. 15, 16 & 17th, Lake Chataqua, NY

We're excited to see the return of this special fellowship opportunity this fall on beautiful Lake Chataqua! See the sights, visit with the Village Casino on Bemus Point, and enjoy the sunshine! Contact Barb Bell at bajabe52@yahoo.com or 330-807-5498 for more information.

Loaves and Fishes + Pantry
June 18th, 4-6 p.m.

Join us this Sunday as we serve the community with Sloppy Joes and Sides!
Happy Father's Day!

Kid 'n' Parent Prom Wrap Up!

Thanks to those who helped us create such a special evening for our community! We hosted 15 parents and their families, most of whom are not already part of our church community. We're grateful they came out to have fun with our Kid 'n' Parent Prom: An Encanto Evening! We're looking to return next year to this event with even more fun for the families of our Stow community to host a fun night of memory-making for kids and their parents!

General Assembly, Louisville, KY
July 29 – August 1, 2023

When the General Assembly meets in Louisville, Kentucky July 29-August 1, 2023, it will be the first time in four years the church as a whole has gathered in person. The theme for the 2023 General assembly is "Kindom of God Within Us, Among Us." The theme is based on three

scriptures, Luke 17:20-21, Genesis 11:1-19, and 2 Peter 1:3.

The planning committee described the theme, “There are multiple words, scriptures, languages, and ways to share and shape our common life. The church has more than one story to tell, and more than one tool for innovation and distinctive witness in the future. God is with us. What is life before God like? Salt, an open table, zoom, and treasure in clay jars. What have Disciples learned about life before God in the midst of the uncertainty the church and its members faced over the last three years?”

The theme “Kingdom of God Within Us, Among Us” is a call for Disciples to strengthen their relationship to God both individually and communally through an expansive in-person and digital gathering of the church in Louisville. The past two years, local congregations and the wider church have needed to be separated but have also innovated new ways for God’s limitless love to be revealed in our church, our communities and around the world. God’s limitless imagination holds so many possibilities for the church.

This four-day event will encourage Disciples to gather online and in-person to celebrate the way that God’s expansive love connects each of us as “kin” and to part of the larger Kingdom of God. Save the date and join the church in Kentucky.

You can register online at <https://ga.disciples.org/> or volunteer your time if you feel so led.

Tag Tree—Thank You for Supporting!

Thanks to everyone who took a tag through June and provided for our pantry—Needs at this time show up in so many different ways,

with so many different challenges facing those in need right now. Our support for the community in regular and emergency supplies are available.

Lend a Hand, Beautify Stow!

Team Up 2 Clean Up!

DATE CHANGE:

AUG 26th, 2023 – 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Youth Group (and anyone else!) are invited by the City of Stow to assist with trash clean up along major roads in the city. We will be assigned an area to clean up. Trash bags, gloves and a shirt for the event will be provided! Sign up to participate in the Gathering Area.

Summer Camp Dates / Information!

Camp Christian, Summer 2023

Summer camps continue! If your student or another youth you know is interested in going to camp, make note of the options listed below! Additionally, if you’re interested, you can sponsor a camper! Donors may contribute full or partial week payments, and they are tax deductible. If you’re interested in going to camp, or looking to sponsor, contact the church office for a registration form for camping or the contact information for sponsoring.

Ribbit – Junior Camp

For children completing 2nd grade and/or 3rd and 4th graders whose parents want a shorter camp experience

July 5th – 8th, 2023

Chi Rho Camps

For Youth completing 6th, 7th, or 8th grades
this spring.

Camp #2

July 9th – 15th

CYF Conferences

For youth completing grades 9th, 10th, 11th,
or 12th this spring.

CYF Week #2

July 16th – 22nd, 2023

Advance – Full Week

For anyone ages 19 – 29 (At least one year
out of High School)

July 30th – August 6th, 2023