

# Soul Food:

## A Weekly Update of Christ's Reformed UCC

*"Growing people of faith who live in Jesus, love one another and bear abundant fruit"*

### July 17, 2018

#### Celebrations

If you have celebrations in your life, we want to celebrate with you! Celebrations take many forms: new babies, marriages, accomplishments at work, a child's successes, transitions in life, just plain old good news. Please contact the church office ([crc1854@myactv.net](mailto:crc1854@myactv.net)) and share celebrations with us.

- What are your celebrations? May you give God praise and honor and glory for them!

#### Prayer Requests

- Pray for the pastoral search process and team
- For the ATS fifth floor, that God would find just the right tenant to use the space to his glory and to meet our city's needs

#### Connections

- **Upcoming Services:**
  - July 22<sup>nd</sup>: Dr. Hodge will be preaching from Jeremiah 23:1-4, Psalm 23, and John 10:11-16 on the subject of "Good Shepherds, Bad Shepherds, Hired Hands, and False Prophets."
- **Out of the Office**
  - ♥ Karen – Thursday, July 19 and Friday, July 20 for funeral services for her nephew.
- **Summer Office Hours** – The church office has now begun its summer office hours. We will be open 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. As always Dr. Hodge is available by cellular phone when needed.
- **Youth Fundraiser Gift Cards** – You can also purchase a gift card to Texas Roadhouse! See Sophia Bedard after worship service in the church

school auditorium for your \$15, \$25 or \$50 card. These cards have no expiration date so it would make a perfect gift.

- **An Evening Prayer Study:** Everyone in the church family is invited to a bi-weekly time of prayer and study: the next one will be Tuesday, August 7th at 6 pm in the Strunk Library.
- **The Lectionary Reflection Group** continues to meet on Wednesday mornings at 11:00 am to study and reflect upon the Lectionary for the following Sunday. All are invited.
- **Micah's Backpack** – Please continue to bring your donations as we partner with Zion UCC on this service project. Any individually-wrapped single serving items are needed.

## Food for Thought

This past Sunday, our Bible study class talked about the images and metaphors that Biblical writers used to describe the relationship between God and God's people. We debated the contemporary usefulness of the historical images of husband/wife, master/slave, king/subjects, parent/children, and governor/governed. We concluded that some of the images and metaphors that made sense to the ancient Hebrews – including during the time of Jesus – do not make much sense to us today.

This Sunday, the lectionary scripture and the sermon will explore metaphor often used by Jesus: the shepherd and the sheep. The sermon will be titled "Good Shepherds, Bad Shepherds, Hired Hands, and False Prophets." Here are the scriptures we will engage: Jeremiah 23:1-4, Psalm 23, and John 10:11-16

You may wish to read those scriptures this week, and to begin to think through the images used to describe the relationships between God and humanity. Here are a few questions for reflection:

1. What differentiates the good shepherd from the bad one?
2. How is the way of the good shepherd fundamentally opposed to the moral logic of our current world?
3. According to the gospel, what is the difference between the bad shepherd and the hired hand?
4. How would you compare the bad shepherd and the hired hand to the figure of the false prophet that the Bible warns us against?