



Transforming Lives As We Seek, Share, And Serve God.



## THIS MONTH'S THEME

HEROES

## THIS MONTH'S FEATURES

### THIS SUMMER'S MISSION & OUTREACH

Life Is Precious  
Rise Against Hunger  
Sherbourne Food Pantry  
Soccer and Salsa  
Vacation Bible School  
Yard Sale

### GROWING SLOW



## ORDINARY PEOPLE FOR EXTRAORDINARY WORK

By Pastor Don Gibson

Hello all, blessings and happy summer! I pray that you are enjoying your summer- hopefully finding some time to enjoy the out-of-doors with family and friends. This summer we, your pastors, are utilizing the summer months to offer a study (sermon series) from an "out of the box" perspective- 'Holy Heroes, The Gospel According to DC and Marvel.'" What I have been reminded of, by reading the book in preparation for this sermon series, is that bible heroes teach us to depend on the Lord's strength not our own and, in our weakness, He is made strong! I am reminded that all the Biblical characters, or heroes, were flawed and, most of the time, weak.

Here are just a few of the characters/heroes who were made strong in their weaknesses: Moses, he had a speech defect, yet the Lord empowered him to lead the Israelites. David was the least in Jesse's children, yet the Lord chose him to succeed Saul. Peter is impetuous. He also doubted Christ and feared for his own life. It led him to deny Jesus three times. Yet, Peter repented, changed, and became instrumental in founding the early church. Mary Magdalene was rejected by society. Seven demons previously enslaved her but when the Lord freed her, she became one of Christ's most devoted followers. She was even one of the women who first learned of the resurrection of Christ. Paul was the most avid persecutor of the church. Yet when he encountered God, he became the most influential preacher, authoring most of the New Testament books.

The message of the world contradicts the message of the Bible. The world teaches us that strength is found in us alone. However, the Bible characters teach us that God chooses ordinary people for extraordinary work- which begins with a humble heart! Remember, "the Lord sees not as the world sees, for the world looks only at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart (1 Samuel 16:7)."

## A HERO OR VILLAIN?

By Suzanne Davis

Have you ever looked back and found that someone has stepped into your life for a moment and in that moment your life was completely changed? I call these moments seeds. Our hearts and minds are like soil ready for someone to leave a mark in. The mark takes root and grows like a seed. Sometimes the seed is a beautiful flower other times it is a weed. God often uses these moments to help us grow as individuals and also closer to him. I would like to share a moment which has single handedly shaped who I am as a Christian now.



Middle school is a very awkward time for any youth, for me it was doubly so. I had an arch enemy; we will call her Julie for the protection of her identity. Julie was more than “just a bully” she was brutal with words and actions not only in middle school but also throughout high school. Because of her I spent a good three months straight on crutches my 7<sup>th</sup> grade year. In 9<sup>th</sup> grade she pushed me down a flight of stairs. In 12<sup>th</sup> grade she spread rumors which got me kicked out of the school play. The incident I want to talk about happened in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

The local YMCA had something called Youth Night on the first Friday of the month. If you were in 8<sup>th</sup> grade you got access to the gym, pool, and rec room, all without the over seeing eye of an adult. I was in the pool having a good time. This girl named Wendy came and got me out of the pool because Julie and her friends had broken into my locker and hidden my clothes in various places such as in a running shower and in the toilet. I didn't know Wendy. I knew she hung out in the “christian group” of kids, but so did Julie. Wendy helped me locate as much of my stuff as we could. On that night Wendy became the nicest person to me in the entirety of my 8<sup>th</sup> grade school year. Though I watched her interact with her friends I never really spoke to Wendy again during my school years.

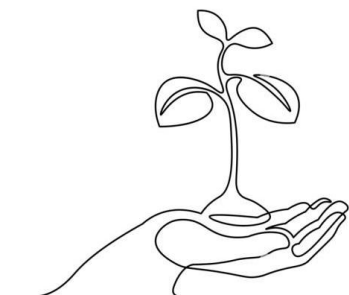
Now move forward 6 years. I've moved to Richmond and I had to leave the only church I had ever attended. I was nervous as christians had never been my favorite group of people. During this time in my life the seeds Julie planted in me had me thinking that most christians were not nice people. I struggled if I should even start going to a new church at all. I asked God to show me where I should be. Later in the day I got lost trying to locate the grocery store and pulled into a church parking lot near the intersection of Hopkins and Chippingham. I heard God calling me. This area around Hopkins was where I needed to serve Him. Scared out of my mind I went to church the following Sunday and was invited to a small group that night. It was an outright anxiety driven battle for me to go. The very first face I saw as I walked into the classroom was Wendy. I instantly remembered the seeds of kindness she planted, and I felt safe. I was reminded of God's love.

As I write this 2 Corinthians 9:6-14 comes to mind; *6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”*

*10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

*12 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. 14 And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. 15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!*

Continued on page 3



It has been over 30 years since Wendy pulled me out of the pool. Her small act of kindness planted a seed in my heart enabling me to be able to show God’s kindness and love to the people here at Beulah and in the surrounding community. It has also been over 30 years since Julie planted seeds of hate in me. When we choose which seeds we will let grow in us we are also choosing if we are going to be someone’s hero or villain. The garden of my heart is something I must actively tend to. I decide which seeds I will let grow and which I will pull out. With God’s hand, I pray those seeds will be cultivated and planted into other people’s lives for His glory.

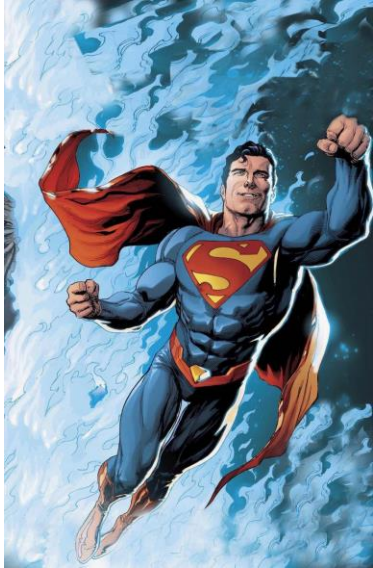


## WAS SUPERMAN JEWISH

By Barry Iglehart

“Look! Up in the sky! It’s a bird! It’s a plane! No, it’s Superman!” ...Many of us at or past a certain age will remember those words from a certain television show featuring the “Man of Steel”, aka Clark Kent, mild-mannered reporter for the Daily Planet... But “Clark” was not his original name. He was found and adopted by John and Martha Kent of Smallville, Kansas and raised by them as their own.

Who was he? Where did he come from? If you read comic books at all, you probably know that Clark Kent is Kal-El of Krypton, sent here by his parents to escape a doomed and dying world. Our yellow sun allowed him to develop physical powers “far beyond” any human. But how did all this get cooked up? Who would think of all this? And to some extent, why?



Action Comics, Volume One, DC Comics, had as its writers and artist Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, both sons of Jewish immigrants. Keenly aware of the gathering storm clouds of world-wide antisemitism and fascism in the 1930’s, and keenly aware of a doubting America, they sought to bolster the view of their “alien” race by incorporating as much of their faith into their character as inconspicuously as possible, starting with having him be an alien from another planet. And much of Krypton’s “culture” as shown in the comics could be interpreted as inherently and demonstrably Jewish. Disguised; but, nonetheless Jewish.

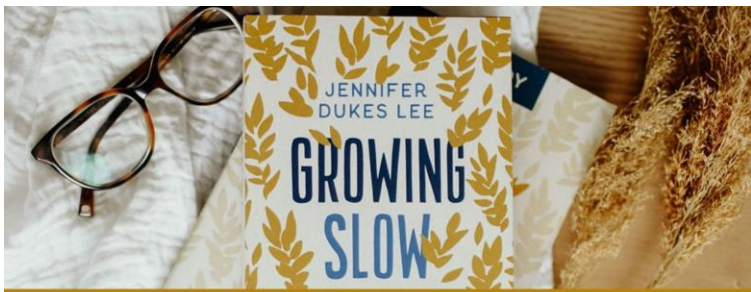
He arrived in a spaceship and was adopted as one of our own. While there are no doubts messianic connotations are present, Kal-El, originally introduced as Kal-L, was perhaps seen as more of a Moses figure, the ship standing in for the basket in the bullrushes and the Kents for the house of Pharaoh. But does his name really mean anything?

In Hebrew, “kal-el” literally means “lightweight, easy one”, which might work if all he could do was fly, as Krypton’s gravity was supposed to be that much greater than Earth’s. Odd thing, with Hebrew accent markings used by the authors, the meaning changes and Kal-El translates instead as “voice” or “vessel of God”. In this latest cinematic version, his Kryptonian birthfather is heard to say that in sending Kal-El to Earth, “He shall walk as a god among men” alluding to the Hebrew origins of his name. Then,

**FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET!...LOOK! UP IN THE SKY! IT'S A BIRD! IT'S A PLANE! IT'S SUPERMAN! YES, IT'S SUPERMAN! STRANGE VISITOR FROM ANOTHER PLANET...WHO CAN CHANGE THE COURSE OF MIGHTY RIVERS, BEND STEEL WITH HIS BARE HANDS, AND WHO-DISGUISED AS CLARK KENT, MILD-MANNERED REPORTER FOR A GREAT METROPOLITAN NEWSPAPER-FIGHTS A NEVER ENDING BATTLE FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE AND THE AMERICAN WAY!**  
- ANONYMOUS -

when confronted by escaped Kryptonian criminals, he goes to a Smallville church, maybe one the Kents had attended. There’s a short discussion with the pastor as to humanity’s place in the universe. He asks the pastor “Where does that leave me?”

Where indeed? Where would it leave any of us? Begun in the days leading up to World War II, the darkness spreading everywhere, Superman vowed to “fight for truth, justice, and the American way.” What does that even mean anymore? In the world we face, Superman’s purpose is being altered, twisted. “American way” becomes “a better tomorrow”. And while this may sound innocent enough, noble enough, square pegs are being forced into round holes. “Always” is seen as “never”. We fought then and triumphed against an unrighteous world. Maybe, with God’s help, we should at least try again. Baruch atah, chaverim. Bless you, my friends. And “Up, up, and away!”



A NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT DISCIPLESHIP STUDY  
STARTING JULY 20<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:00 PM  
ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE

## GROWING SLOW

On **Wednesday, July 20**, we will start a new Online Discipleship Study, *Growing Slow*, by Jennifer Duker Lee. In this 6 week study, we will see how land is a picture of our slow growth into claiming the promises of God and is a central part of the magnificent narrative, from the very beginning when Creator God used dirt to make life on a farm called Eden. The land--both then and now--teaches us how to un-hurry our hurry-sick hearts. If you would like to get a study guide for this Discipleship study please let the office know or sign up at the Information Center. Books will be available for those who requested one on Sunday, July 17. The study can be found on Facebook and YouTube, Wednesdays at 7:00 pm starting July 20.

## WEDNESDAY WORSHIP MEAL

Join us this **Wednesday, July 6** at 6:00 pm as we gather to share in Fellowship, a meal, and a devotion. We will have Papa John's Pizza and Salad with Wing Stop Chicken Wings. Please sign up at the Information Center so we will know how much food to have ready.

## BEULAH CARES

The Cares team will be meeting at on **Wednesday, July 13**, at 5:00 pm in room 107. Please contact Pastor Pam if you would like to learn more about the Cares Team or would like to take a role as a team lead.

## KITS FOR CONFERENCE

Many thanks to everyone who donated Cleaning Buckets and Hygiene Kits to UMCOR through our Virginia Annual Conference this year. Thanks also to Randy Ramey, who delivered the 9 buckets and 81 kits to Lakeside UMC to be sent to help people in need after a disaster, whether natural or man-made. We are blessed to be a blessing!



## ANNUAL UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Ladies you are invited to come for a night of Ice cream and fellowship on **Tuesday, July 19**, at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please email Sandra Sanderson at [sandersonsb@comcast.net](mailto:sandersonsb@comcast.net).

## UWF MISSION WITNESS

The Prayer Calendar is published annually by United Methodist Women. It invites us to pray as one people responsive to God's call to relationships of caring, connecting and healing in a world of uncertainty in all but the love of God. Each month we share a testimony from a person in mission for Christ through the United Methodist Church.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH

*You teach me the way of life. In your presence is total celebration. Beautiful things are always in your right hand.*

*Psalm 16:11*

### WITNESS

*I have developed a friendship with a woman who struggles with mental health. We met because I volunteered to give her rides to medical appointments, banking and shopping. Going away from her trailer is difficult for her, as is any situation that adds stress. Life became very difficult for her recently when her partner's health failed, and he had to go to a nursing home to regain strength. He was frustrated with being sick and separated and called her constantly. Yet, each time we drove together and took care of a particular problem that had been weighing heavily on her mind, she burst out in joy and thankfulness. It could not be contained. She was extravagant in sharing her happiness. And in turn, I was filled with joy because of her joy and because God allowed me to experience it with her.*

Judy Vasby, Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner, Willerup United Methodist Church, Deerfield, Wisconsin

### PRAYER

Please pray for international missionaries serving in Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria and North Macedonia and our missionaries serving in the United States in Nebraska, Nevada and New Hampshire.

# SUMMER MISSION AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES



## JULY COMMUNION OFFERING

Once again, our July Communion Offering is designated for Rise Against Hunger and will pay for the 10,000 plus meals we - as a congregation - package on Sunday, August 28 following our 11:00 am worship service. The total cost to us is \$3550. The meals we packaged last August were sent to ORPHANetwork in Nicaragua. So please generously support this worthy and fun event with your communion offerings.

## RISE AGAINST HUNGER AUGUST 28!

Rise Against Hunger is **Sunday August 28** and will take place in Fellowship Hall following the 11 am service and lunch. Please Sign up at the Information Center and make sure this is on your calendar and join us for this fun and worthwhile mission effort.

## SHERBOURNE FOOD PANTRY

We are 925 lbs behind in our pledge for the Sherbourne Food Pantry. During the month of July, Sherbourne Food Pantry is requesting donations of peanut butter and jelly. Some people are allergic to peanuts so spread alternatives such as sunflower butter and almond butter are greatly appreciated. Your donation can be left on the wire rack at the Information Center or in the white Afterhours Donation Cabinet in the Breeze Way. Thank you for your help in reaching our pledge of 5000 lbs.



## BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

As part of Beulah UMC's Social Action, we will be running a *Life is Precious Campaign* June 26 to July 24. Did you know this past year there were 154 teenage pregnancies in the Chesterfield County and that approximately 19% ended in elective termination? Our drive will benefit the Pregnancy Help Center of Chesterfield County as they serve our teens in counseling, care during the pregnancy and help during the child's first couple years of life. Their mission statement: "The Pregnancy Help Center of Chesterfield exists to honor God by defending the value of all life, born and unborn, through the lifeline of compassionate care and resources. We will be distributing baby bottles to fill with cash or checks (no amount is too small). If you want to do more, there is a wish list at our display showing some of their needs. **Our drive will end on July 24.** Drop off your filled baby bottles and unwrapped shower gifts at our display by then.

## SOCCKER AND SALSA AND FIESTA

Saturday, July 23 from the Soccer Ministry is hosting a Soccer and Salsa Fiesta. From 9:00am - 12:00pm will be Coach for Community coaching course for new coaches (fellowship hall and soccer field). Then a Soccer Fiesta from 12:00pm to 3:00pm Registration for the free Soccer clinic starts at 12:30, for boys and girls, ages 5 to 18. A Salsa Lesson will start at 2:00pm. Everyone (all ages) are welcome to participate in the Salsa Dance Lessons.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS Registration is LIVE! August 3rd through the 6th. Please share the news to all your children (K-5 as of 2021-2022 School Year) and friends about VBS! This year's theme is Food Truck Party. We will explore how God is Good by how God gives us our daily bread (Matt 6:11). All children who wish to participate **MUST REGISTER!** You can register at our Facebook page or at Beulahumc.org! If you have any questions about registration, please contact Pastor Daniel Chun.

## SUMMER YARD SALE

Rent a space for the Beulah Yard Sale scheduled for Saturday, August 6 from 8 am to 1 pm. The yard sale will be on the front lawn this year. The spaces are 10' by 10' and cost \$25 each. You may reserve a space in THE BOOK at the Information Desk or by calling the church office. Spaces are limited so reserve your space soon.

Please contact Sarah Eastwood or the church office if you would like to donate items to the Yard Sale. We are not able to come pick up items.

*Thank You!*

**To: Beulah Family**

**From: Jann Niccoli**

I love our Beulah family! I greatly appreciate all the cards, calls, texts and in person support given me during my cardiac workup and my episode. My workups are continuing through June so I will get answers in early July. I know that God has me in His hands and that He is guiding me and my medical team through this. Prayer means so much to me and I feel the warmth, love, and support from all of you. God's blessings for each one of you.

**To: Pastor Don and Staff**

**From: Peggy Jenkins Morrow-Sanders and Bill Sanders**

Thank you all so much for the prayers during my cancer surgery. Hopefully, looking at a goal of Christ to start putting my mouth back together, if no more cancer. I had a baptism on May 22 and had time to make it to BMC for 11 am Service. The best of plans never workout, but I sure tried. Bill and I love Beulah Methodist Church. Bill could actually read the words on the wall to sing along which is great for legally blind people. Hopefully, I can learn more about Beulah at some point in my recovery. Thanks for your call, Pastor Don. I heard Bill talking to you while we were getting ready to go to the Macey Cancer Center. We appreciate the prayers and calls.

## JULY CALENDAR

- 04 Church Closed**
- 05 Hugging Hearts**
- 06 Wednesday Worship Meal**
- 11 Bells Rehearsal**
- 12 VBS Meeting**
- 13 Beulah Cares Meeting**
- 14 Bazaar Meeting**
- 18 Bells Rehearsal**
- 19 Springdale Bible Study  
Hugging Hearts**
- 20 Start of Growing Slow  
Senior Council Dinner**
- 21 Family Group**
- 23 Soccer and Salsa Fiesta**
- 26 Prayer Meeting**

## OCCURRING WEEKLY

- Sunday** 8:30 Worship  
Sunday School  
11:00 Worship
- Monday** Card Ministry
- Tuesday** Soccer Camp
- Wednesday** Staff Meeting
- Thursday** Soccer Camp
- Friday** Dog Ministry

**TRANSFORMING LIVES  
AS WE SEEK, SHARE,  
AND SERVE GOD.**



01	Bonnie Ramey	13	Beth VanDenBerg	26	Kathy Donovan
02	Ken Brooks	15	Richard Robertson		Dorothy House
	Joie Jones		Jessica Compton		Donald Joyner
	Alec Sadler	16	Christy Gibson	27	Jimmy Hart
04	Carl Griggs		Jay Wright	28	Lee Goff
	Anita Adkins	18	Pam Tyler		Shirley Pfeil
06	Chuck Salmon	21	Pam Anderson	31	Jean Lane
09	Brooks Taylor IV	22	Marcia Abernathy		
10	Meredith Anderson	23	Gavyn Conner		
11	Connie Cook	25	Sandra Sanderson		
	Patsy Hayden		Logan (Spitzley) Lee		