

View from the Trailhead

from Barry Petrucci



Dropping Out...or Dropping In

News Flash: “Summer is Almost Over and Fall is Around the Corner!” No big news, right? Most of us have engineered our lives to rest through the summer and get down to work in the Fall. School starts again and all are reminded that it is “nose to the grindstone” time again. And folks return to church...or not. This season it might be even easier than normal to NOT return to church. After all, our theme is “The Series About Nothing: Sabbath”. We just rested all summer, right? So why come back to church to talk about rest? Hmm...

Think about it this way: dropping out of school is pretty universally understood to be a bad move. We take learning and preparation for life for granted if we are not calling ourselves into a setting where we are challenged to learn. Elementary, right? Yet, we too easily convince ourselves that church is optional, that we can know God without church, that we are spiritual in our gardens or in the woods, that we love Jesus even when we can't stand church. Maybe. But as a parent, I have heard much the same thing from my child during various stages of development.

This year we invite ourselves back to worship to give ourselves a break. Lives are frantic...even coming off summer that is supposed to be life-giving. Pastorally, I see people running ragged and being fatigued, anxious, depressed. So we kick-off the new year with an invitation to Sabbath, to renewal. If we are over-the-top busy, Sabbath will look like rest. If we pay attention to rest but take no time for the things we enjoy, Sabbath will look like play. Sabbath is time set apart to enjoy all that has been done, all that has been created.

We invite you to reconsider the “drop-out” approach. What would your life look like, what would community look like if we all made a commitment to “drop-in”, maybe “drop back in”, for the Fall and rediscover that God and God's people matter to us? You may not recognize it, but you will see that “it is good.”

Join us on September 12th for Fall Kick-Off:

- 8:00, 9:00 & 11:30 a.m. worship – “A Series About Nothing...Gimme a Break, Please!”
- 10:15 a.m. – Ritter's Ice Cream Taste-Off: All are invited to the Fellowship Hall to vote on your favorite flavor of ice cream, custom created by individuals/groups from Chapel Hill! \$1 per vote, with proceeds going to UMCOR Pakistani Flood Relief.
- 4:30-6:30 p.m. : Youth in grades 6-12 to Formula K for some outdoor fun!
- 5:30-8:00 p.m. : Financial Peace University begins. Be sure to register now!

Join us on September 19th:

- 8:00, 9:00 & 11:30 a.m. worship – “A Series About Nothing: Recalling Your Loves!”
- 9:00 & 11:30 a.m. worship— Bibles given to our Third Graders
- Sunday School for All Ages: for infants through Senior High begins at 10:15, for adults begins at 10:20.
- 3:00-5:30 p.m. – New Member Class begins. Be sure to register by September 12th!
- 5:30-8:00 p.m. Financial Peace University continues. Be sure to register!

Disciple 1, Companions in Christ and Manna & Mercy all begin the week of September 19th. Contact the office for more information or to register: office@pchum.org.

May God Continue to Bless You...Us...on the Journey~