

June 15, 2018

Summer Greetings Council Tree!

As the transition to summer is in full swing, so are many of the transitions here at Council Tree. I must first mention how proud I have been of our church for offering as much grace to Diane as she moved on to Chicago and to Mike as he wraps up his time as youth pastor this summer.

In the same way the warm welcome of our three interim children's pastors have received has been exceptional (Events: Amanda Blocker & Anna Jenkins, Weekly: Megan Benedict). Still it is a great deal of change and I'm grateful that so many of you are leaning in with optimistic curiosity, asking in prayer, *Lord what do you have for us now?* The overwhelming positive experience we had at Artrageous with over 175 kids and 100 helpers was to me a huge sign that God cares deeply about our children and youth and is going to take great care of us in this transition. Here are a few highlights for our summer.

Children and Youth Transitions

Our Council is approaching this transition with a two-step process.

Step 1: Set a "Discernment Team" to pray and research what our next leadership solution should be for those areas of ministry. This team of Megan Benedict, Chris Bruno, Chris Blocker and myself is well underway and will be sending a survey your way within the week as we want to hear from you. We must first pause and seek God's wisdom for what these next steps are. We are living in the tension between not wanting to rush this and not leaving our children and youth in limbo.

Step 2: Set search teams to then go after these new leaders for our children and youth. It's our realistic hope to have these search teams in place and working by the end of July. Should you have thoughts for who should be on those teams, please let me know.

Worship on the Lake!

To break up our summer and intentionally set aside time to simply enjoy each other in this incredible place we live, we are taking our worship service on the road **July 8th to the pavilion at Horsetooth reservoir!** We'll worship at 9AM, and hope to include some baptisms, if you'd like to be baptized let us know. A lunch will be provided and as we have the place booked for the day, feel free to stay and play as long as you like. Bring your water toys! \$5 per person covers lunch, it's \$7 to park, please carpool, parking is limited.

StratOp Vision & Connections

At the end of last summer your staff and Council participated in what's called a StratOp that is a deeper look at how we are organized and where we are going. Out of this experience we have had teams working to build specific systems on how we can better see and connect everyone at church and set more specific vision for our years to come. I am thrilled to be rolling some of this out this fall.

The Pastor is back in school!

This spring I enrolled in what's called a Doctorate of Ministry program at Fuller seminary. It's a three-year program mostly on line with 1.5 weeks on campus each year. It's been twenty years since I've been in school and deeply feel the need to be stretched this way especially in this program that feels like it was designed for me. It's called "Leading Change" and is built on the idea that the years ahead of the church in this country are vastly different than the years behind us so we need to be in a constant state of innovation and change with what can be changed while holding tight to what will never change in the gospel.

Summer Blessings Church,

Pastor Bert