August 7, 5:00 pm, on the Hill - **Back-to-school Ice Cream Social**. Please bring finger foods to share and ice cream toppings. Also please contact Crystal if you are able to provide some home-made ice cream.

The **Small Group** coordinators are beginning to form new groups for the coming 2-year cycle. Please see the response form in your mailboxes to indicate your interest as well as your ideas! **Please reply by today.**

Rebecca will be at an IN-MI conference Leadership Team meeting this Fri-Sat, Aug. 5-6. The team welcomes your prayers as we continue to work towards a new Vision and way of Covenanting together. Contact an Elder for urgent needs.

La clase de espanol will not meet for several weeks. It will resume in early Sept. In the meantime, continue reviewing and practicing the things you have learned. It's amazing how quickly this kind of knowledge can leave your brain if you don't use it! A special thanks to our coaches, (Jon, Crystal, Mica, Ray, Bonnie, Dietrich, the Nunezes) for the help they have given.

The annual **Good Samaritan Fund** annual Barbeque will be on August 20. Sarann weeks is asking f anyone from our fellowship can contribute a dessert (no cookies or cupcakes). Also there will be an opportunity to serve the food from 5:30 – 7:30 pm on Saturday 8/20. If you have questions or want to help please let me know. Thanks Sherry.

Aug. 27-28 - **Summer Camp-out at Patoka Lake**. Jason and Rhiannon Harrison will lead various activities, beginning on Saturday at 3:00 pm. Watch for more info to come.

Pray for God's blessing on the Jr. High students who attended "Know Jesus" this weekend. May they experience the love of God deeply in their hearts and discover the hope of faith in Jesus more fully. Those attending are: Lily, Bernice, Amos, Samuel, his friend Dakota, Matthew, Madeline, and Evie and Dave B-K as adult sponsors.

Pray for all the students, teachers, and staff as they being a new school year. May they be blessed with good relationships, excitement to learn, and energy for the work before them. And may they carry the Light of Christ with them in all they say and do.

Pray that the Sullivan family would feel God's presence and comfort as they walk with John as his earthly life nears its end

Trees
Shalom Sunday
July 31, 2016

Out of the ground God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food…
God put the human in the garden to till it and keep it.

–Genesis 2.9, 15

Tree Care

As stewards of the earth we are called to care for trees (Genesis 2.15). Trees are a central part of God's creation, as seen in the very first and last chapters of the Bible. In the design of God's creation, our life depends on trees and their care depends on us. Tree care, like gardening, is life-giving as it reconnects us with the earth and our first role in the Garden of Eden, originally understood as a grove of trees.

1. **Plant.** The average American uses around a ton of tree material each year—the equivalent of one 100-foot tall tree, 18 inches in diameter. Planting trees is a way of giving back. Reduce lawn space and increase native trees and shrubs not only for beauty but biodiversity to sustain a healthy ecosystem. Avoid exotic plants that are invasive or don't support wildlife and install native plants that provide food and cover for a range of animals.

2. **Water**. Water is essential for trees to thrive. Watering is critical until newly planted trees are established or when the ground is dry for long periods, especially when it's hot and windy. Slowly provide an inch of water on the whole area under the tree's crown. But do not over water, as water-logged soil can hurt or kill the tree.

3. **Mulch.** Trees love mulch. While young, place 2-3" of organic mulch around the tree the width of its crown but several inches away from the trunk. Mulch helps retain soil moisture, reduce grass competition, feed the soil, moderate soil temperature, improve soil structure and protect the tree from trimmer damage.

4. **Release.** Like removing weeds around garden plants, removing competing trees or brush from desired trees releases them to grow more fully. For example, to help a young white oak struggling under the shade of a large white mulberry, remove the mulberry tree. The oak will then thrive with more access to light, water and nutrients once this big exotic weed is gone.

5. **Unstake.** Trees establish more quickly and develop stronger trunk and root systems if they are not staked. The stress of wind actually strengthens trees. If it's necessary to stake for support or protection, remove stakes after a year. Otherwise there's risk of girdling it and limiting its natural strengthening from the wind.

6. **Protect.** Deer and rabbits can seriously damage trees. Where trees are prone to such damage, protect them with tree guards.

7. **Prune**. We prune trees to enhance their health, form, fruitfulness and longevity. Prune branches that are dead, dying, damaged or diseased and those that are weak or wayward. Advanced pruning is done to train young trees to develop good form and strong structure. Don't make flush cuts or leave stubs but learn how to make a proper cut, otherwise we can harm rather than help the tree.

For more on tree care, visit *www.treesaregood.com*. --Steve Thomas

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Trees
Shalom Sunday
July 31, 2016

Cherokee Morning Song: We n' de ya ho, We n' de ya ho
We n' de ya, We n' de ya, Ho ho ho ho
He ya ho, He ya ho, Ya ya ya
("I am of the Great Spirit, it is so.")

Call to Re-member and Worship:
Poem by Wendell Berry
Drumming by Darren, Andy and Kara
SS 198

Songs:
You are holy – SS 34
I saw a tree by the riverside – SS 116

Children's Story: "The Tree" by Dana Lyons

Tree Meditation ……… by Steve Thomas

Song: Let all creation dance

Sharing/Prayer

Sending: The Peace of the Earth – SJ 77

Today we welcome our speaker, Steve Thomas and his family! Steve is director of Pathways Retreat Center in Goshen, IN. He recently finished as transitional pastor at First Mennonite in Indianapolis, and begins a new assignment this fall. Thank you for coming south!