

CLEAR WATER CURRENTS

July 2019 Newsletter



"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." ~ Matthew 5:43-48

Jesus wants me to do what?!

What do you think when you read the above passage? Do you think that that standard of love sounds really, really hard? Or maybe even impossible? If you're leaning towards the latter then you're not alone. Many of the original hearers likely thought the idea of such indiscriminate love was pretty radical, even upsetting. How could we possibly show love and kindness to those who act wickedly towards us? Jesus' words take our natural disposition to "treat others the way they treat us" and flip them upside down by calling us to take on a heart after God's, which "makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust." God loves those who don't love Him (Rom 5:8) and He calls each of us to do the same. So, what does this look like practically in your life? I'll suggest four things.

Ask God to:

- ◆ Change your **mind**. *Stop giving a foothold to bitter and vindictive thoughts towards your enemy (Romans 12:1-2)*
- ◆ Change your **heart**. *Instead pray for their blessing. Pray for their salvation. Remember your own heart condition before being rescued by Christ (Romans 12:14)*
- ◆ Change your **speech**. *Do you often speak sharp, sarcastic, or hurtful words towards your enemies? Even if you speak words that are true, the truth spoken without love is unhelpful, even obnoxious. Choose to speak words of life, not death towards those you consider your enemies. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)*
- ◆ Change your **actions**. I think Paul's words summarize this one better than I can: On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head. "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:20-21)

Remember, with all four of these things the action is two-fold. We're choosing to relinquish our natural desire to avenge ourselves and we are asking God to replace it with a supernatural desire to love everyone – even our enemies – the way that He loves us. This month I challenge you to pray that God would help you to put these words into practice. There might even be someone specific right now that you're thinking of. Don't wait, go and love that person with the love that Christ has shown you. Go, be the church, love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor – even your enemy – as yourself.

Isaac Owen, isaacsiriowen@outlook.com
Member, Interim & Guest Worship Leader

(We will miss Issac, Siri, Zoey, and Aurora as they move to Washington on July 8 for Isaac to finish his Master of Divinity at Western Seminary. Thanks for sharing your lives and ministry with us these last five years!)

Around the Bend



4th of July BBQ - Thursday, July 4, 5pm - 8pm Russian Jack Springs Park, 801 Pine Street

Celebrate Independence Day with our church family. The church will provide BBQ, drinks, paper products and eating utensils. You bring a side dish to share, camp chairs, and whatever lawn games you enjoy.

There will be no Thursday night service on July 4th.

Co-ed Overnight Backpacking - Friday-Saturday, July 5-6

One night only! Come out for a two-day, one-night local backpack trip. We have the gorgeous Chugach Mountains right in our backyard. Experience God's creation and spend some time enjoying the beauty of Alaska with a group of friends. This will include an option of bagging a peak on Saturday morning. Contact: James Embree at 315-3803 for more details.



Bolivia Team Meeting - July 7 following worship service

Contact James Embree for more information at 315-3803.

PS - The Garage Sale for Bolivia Mission trip raised \$350. Thank you to those who donated items and who supported the event.



Club68 Summer Fun - Tuesday, July 9, 6-9pm at the Merriners' home, 2027 Duke Drive

For all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, you are invited to a fun filled night. Lawn games, food, water activities, biking, and much more. For more information contact Brian Whitson at 268-8659. It will never be boring!

The time has been extended to 9pm.

High School Summer Fun - Wednesday, July 10 and July 24, 7-9pm at the Merriners' home, 2027 Duke Drive

Students in High School this fall are invited. Play lawn games and ride in a canoe. Dessert will be provided. Come and have fun and build relationships. We'll also enjoy a brief devotional and prayer time.





Young Adult Camping and Climbing Friday-Sunday, July 12-14

Join us at the Hatcher Pass Monolith for basic rock climbing, hiking, camping, and fellowship. Bring a helmet, rock shoes, harness, belay device and wag bag. If it rains, we will hike, as rock climbing can not be done in the rain. With respect for this wilderness areas, this trip will abide by the "Leave No Trace" principles. For ages 20+. Contact James Embree at jamesembree@gmail.com for more information.

Noorvik Mission - July 22-29

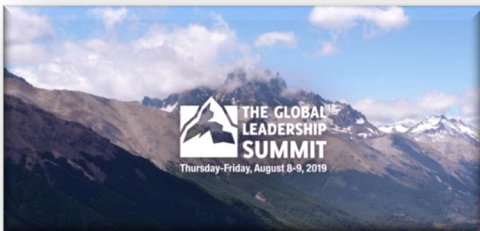
Our Noorvik team will be holding a teen camp on the banks of the Kobuk River and a Vacation Bible School in Noorvik. This is Clear Water Church's 5th trip to Noorvik. Keep them in your prayers for a successful trip, safe travel and good health. The mission team is led by Greg Balcao, Melody Balcao and Brian Whitson.



Upcoming Events

Community Service Day - **July 27**
Global Leadership Summit - **August 8-9**
Welcome Lunch - **August 11**
Back2School Party - **August 15**
High School Students & Parents Canoe Trip - **August 16-18**

Visit www.clearwater.church for more details and look in the church bulletin.



Global Leadership Summit - Thursday-Friday, August 8-9, 8:30am - 4pm Community Covenant Church, Eagle River

The Global Leadership Summit is a Thursday-Friday event featuring fresh, actionable and inspiring leadership content from a world-class faculty. Everyone has influence. No matter where your influence is - in your family, school, work or church - you are invited to join 405,000 of your peers to learn how to maximize it. You can get more information about the Summit at <https://www.willowcreek.com/events/leadership/>.

The cost for Clear Water Church attendees is \$139. Clear Water Church is a partner church and receives a discount. When you register use the code 19PRTORG and state that your church is Clear Water Church, PO Box 91100, Anchorage, AK 99509.

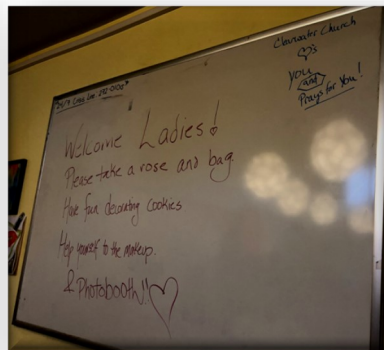
Recent Ministry Report

AWAIC Mother's Day Celebration - May 11

Brian and Kristen Whitson's Journey group hosted a Mother's Day dinner for eleven residents of AWAIC (Abuse Women's Aid in Crisis). It consisted of a full dinner, with a photo booth, and gifts for the ladies. While the attendance was not what we were expecting, the intimate conversations and prayer time we had with each resident was super sweet.

Brian said he was praying with one of the ladies for God to place a hedge of protection around her during this time of trouble and tribulations. At the end of the prayer he looked up and saw she tears running down her face and she asked, "How did I know that she was going through a trial?" The Holy Spirit leads in always.

Please keep the ladies and worker of AWAIC in your prayers as we go into this summer season. Thank you for all the support we receive from Clear Water Church.



Child Dedication Day - June 2 & 16

Clear Water Church held two child dedication ceremonies this last month. The Christian ceremony dedicates a child to God. During this ceremony, the parents also dedicate themselves to raising their child in a Christian manner with the understanding that salvation is the work of God. It also forms a covenant between the church and the families to support them in the raising of the children. We had eight families dedicate their children to God.

Josh and Tracie Berkland (Keira Berkland), Marty and Katie Gibson (Christian Gibson), Doug and LeAnn Ketterer (Oliver Ketterer), Wes and Angela Martin (Isabella Martin), Trevor and Raley O'Hara (Jacob O'Hara), Isaac and Siri Owen (Aurora Owen), Calvin and Victoria Ross (Tilly Ross), Brian and Kristin Whitson (Elizabeth Whitson).



Junior High Outdoor Club - June 3-7

A dozen middle schoolers in the woods might sound like a scary thought to most, but it was actually a lot of fun! For five days, we took both Christian and unbelieving middle schoolers around Anchorage in search of adventure and made some really great memories. We went through the life of Daniel who

served several kings in Babylon and Persia and students heard about miracles and prophecies that set apart their one true God from the deities worshiped in the countries where Daniel and his friends were taken. If God could protect three people in a furnace so hot it was burning the guards, what is he capable of doing in the lives of our middle schoolers? What can He do in your life?



Young Adult Connect - Every Thursday



This group has grown to an average weekly attendance of 20-25. They enjoy food, volleyball, s'mores over a fire, Tim Tam slamming, and great conversation.



Women's Kayak Trip - June 8-9



Liz Paulston, Hannah Paulston, Teresa Walkush, Kristie Gavitt, Siri Owen, Robin Stralka, Kim Burgess, Zoe Flannery

Several of our women enjoyed a relaxing stay in a rustic hostel style lodge at Kayaker's Cove (Seward). It was a beautiful day for kayaking, hiking, sharing meals, fun and companionship. Thank you Teresa Walkush for leading this event.



Zoe Flannery, Robin Stralka, Kristie Gavitt, Liz Paulston, Teresa Walkush



Siri Owen, Teresa Walkush, JJ Walkush, Zoe Flannery, Liz Paulston



Siri Owen and Kim Burgess

Blood Drive - June 9

Thank you to all who donated blood at the event held with First Congregational, Clear Water Church and Faavae Fou. Your blood saves as many as three lives!

If you did not have an opportunity to donate blood, visit <https://www.bloodbankofalaska.org/schedule-donation/>.



Change for Life - Father's Day, June 16

This year we filled 22 baby bottles and presented them to the Community Pregnancy Center. Bottles were filled with spare change, cash and checks between Mother's Day and Father's Day. Thank you Clear Water for participating in this event.

Father's Day - June 16

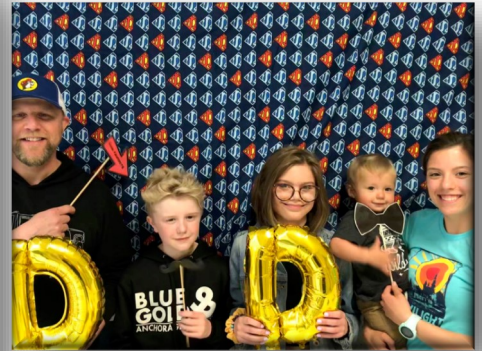
We celebrated Father's Day by spoiling our dads a little with "Doughnuts for Dad" and a super hero themed photo booth. Thanks to all of you for your families. You are our Super Heroes!!



*The Wade Family
Jed, Wyatt and Levi*



*The Gibson Family
Charlie, Christian, Marty, Lance*



*The Martin Family
Mike, Dylan, Olivia, Levi, Kristyn*

Club68 Summer Fun - June 11 & 25

Club68 is for students in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. In June they had water fun, went bike riding and even had a watermelon seed spitting competition. "Who can spit the most seeds into the cup?" Lots of fun for all!



Parents' Day in the Park - June 27



Aurora and Axel

Another fun summer day in the park for both parents and kids. Join in the next Parents' Day on August 29!



Levi T



Maria , Levi, Carly



Zoey and Axel



Wyatt



Levi W



Congratulations!! Go out to Tessa O'Hara and Lane Kaltenback. They were wed on June 15th. Tessa is the daughter of Trevor and Rahly O'Hara.



On Mission Report

Ali Butler (CRU) is a full-time staff member with CRU (Campus Crusade for Christ) at the University of Colorado in Boulder. She will be leading a team of college students this summer to Slovakia to share the gospel through an English teaching venue called "Speak Out" for high school students. Clear Water is supporting Ali with a gift of \$1000.

Individual Summer Missions

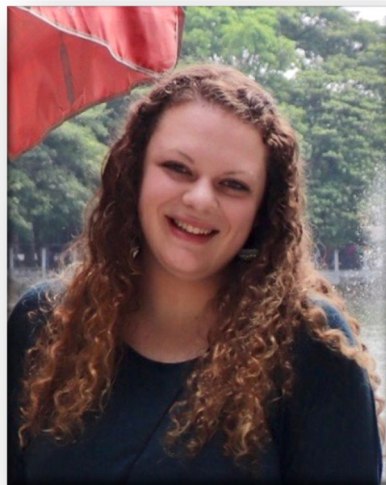
Please pray for our fellow congregants who will be going to share the gospel and serve this summer. As a church, we have given each individual \$100 to help with their expenses. You are welcomed and encouraged to contribute, too.



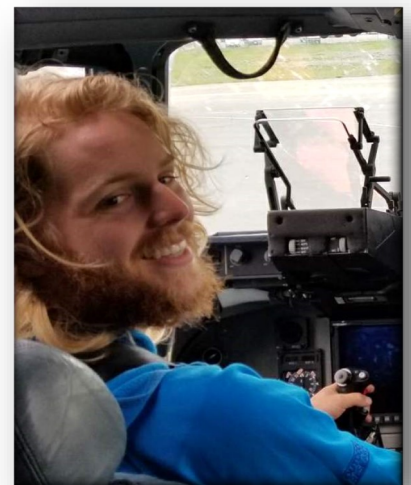
Ali Butler - Slovakia



Amy Wilson - Slovakia with CRU



Laney Kyle - Myanmar with Chi Alpha in May



Jonathan Burgess - Young Life Camp "Beyond Malibu"



Kim & Bill Burgess - Young Life Camp "Beyond Malibu"



Aubrey & Wes Burgess - Young Life Camp "Beyond Malibu" [that is moss beards!]



David Burgess - Young Life Camp "Beyond Malibu"

Support to other Groups - Clear Water Church gave \$2000 each to [Young Lives](#), a ministry to teen parents and to [Covenant Youth of Alaska](#), a ministry of fellowship and discipleship among Alaskans 18-25 coming into the city from village Alaska.

Clear Water Church gives 10% of all contributions away to other faith-based organizations.



Clear Water Team 1

Softball July's Softball Schedule

Only a few more games! Come out for some friendly competition. As of June 25th, Clear Water 2 has 4 wins and 2 losses and is in 3rd place. Clear Water 1 has 1 win and 5 losses.

Clear Water coaches are Greg Balcao at 310-7026 or Brian Whitson at 268-8659. There is still time to play.

	Team	Time	Field
July 1	CWC 1	6:30 pm	Albrecht 4 Field
	CWC 1	7:35 pm	Albrecht 3 Field
	CWC 2	7:35 pm	Albrecht 4 Field
July 8	CWC 2	7:35 pm	Albrecht 3 Field
	CWC 1	8:40 pm	Albrecht 4 Field
July 15	CWC 1	6:30 pm	Albrecht 3 Field
	CWC 2	8:40 pm	Albrecht 4 Field
July 22	CWC 1	7:35 pm	Albrecht 4 Field
	CWC 2	7:35 pm	Albrecht 4 Field



Clear Water Team 2

Memory Verse Challenge



Summer is in full swing. But that does not mean there is not time to spend in Bible. Take the time to memorize our monthly Memory Verse. Meditate on the words. Let the verse be written on your heart.

July's Memory Verse is [Matthew 7:24-25](#)

The next Memory Verse Challenge will be held
Thursday, July 25 and Sunday, July 28.

Will you be ready?

Opportunities to Reach Out to Others



Downtown Soup Kitchen Hope Center

Thank you to those who have volunteered their time at Hope Center. More volunteers are needed, especially during the summer months. Children with parents can volunteer too!

Sign-up now by clicking on this link <https://www.downtownhopecenter.org/sign-up>.

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.clearwater.church

[Facebook.com/clearwaterchurchak](https://www.facebook.com/clearwaterchurchak)

Follow us on [Instagram](#)

Get the Clear Water Church App for Apple and Android devices. Search for “**clear water church ak**” in the Apple and Google store. It’s free. Have easy access to sermons, the memory verse, online giving, church events, the Bible, a daily Bible reading plan and more.

Give Us Your Feedback - What do you think about Currents, Clear Water Church’s newsletter? What would you like added? Click [here](#) and let us know. We welcome your input.

The due date for submissions to the next edition of Currents is July18.
Send articles and photos to cwcoffice13@gmail.com