





# **Message from Pastor D...**

### Don't take a vacation from church

Finally, summer weather is here and I for one am so thankful. I don't know about you, but I NEED the sun.I could sit outside all day when the sun is bright, and the temperature is high. I am one who there is not such thing as too hot. I have lived in Texas and Panama, and I loved the extreme temperatures. I know that many people could not wait until all the reminders of winter are gone. Trees are blooming, grass is growing, and grills are glowing.

As we enjoy the weather and this season that God has given us, let us not become lax in our attendance in worship. Some surveys have shown that on average churches lose about 20% of worshippers in the summer. I would imagine that in a cold climate area it may be much higher as people want to enjoy the outdoors for the limited time that we have warm weather. I encourage each of you to not be a part of the 20%.

When you think about taking significant time away from the congregation think about these things: #1 God never takes a vacation from us. He is always there even in the summer <sup>(2)</sup>. Matt 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. [KJV]

#2 Nourishment for the soul. Just as your body continues to be nourished even in the summer, so should your soul.

Matt 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. [KJV]

#3 The worship of God should be a priority in our lives, no matter what season we are in. Matt 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. [KJV]

#4 We need each other. The power of "presence" is a ministry. Heb 10:25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. [NLT]

#5 4. Consistency in Spiritual Growth: Consistency is key to spiritual growth. By maintaining our commitment to church attendance and participation throughout the summer, we establish a rhythm of faith that keeps us through all seasons of life.

2 Tim 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. [KJV]

Together let us worship him ALL summer. Let us show God our appreciation for every season. Don't forget to check in when you attend worship so that we know you are doing your part in the family by being present. May God grant us a safe, enjoyable summer.

#### Five Self-Care Tips to Maintain Mental Health During the Summer From Discoverymood.com

The warmth, relaxation and flexibility that the summer months bring can be exciting for vacations and sunshine, but for some, summer months can have the potential to trigger feelings of being overwhelmed and losing control. Expectations of being carefree can put a lot of pressure on those who are struggling with depression or anxiety. Below are self-care tips and tricks that can be used to maintain your mental health during the summer months.

#### 1. Take care of your mental health this summer by getting outside.

Exposure to natural sunlight increases levels of vitamin D and serotonin, which are known to boost your mood. Taking a moment to step outdoors, smell the roses, feel the sand under your toes or watch a sunset can provide a sense of calming and well being. Pick up a new outdoor hobby where you can spend 30 minutes in the sunshine. Whether it is gardening, hiking or paddle boarding, spending time outdoors is an essential element of self-care.

#### 2. Take time to unwind by using your vacation time.

Many of us use paid vacation time to accomplish tasks around the house that we neglect during our busy workweeks. Instead of cleaning out the closet, organizing the garage and attending long-overdue appointments, use your vacation to enjoy yourself. Such activities can include reading a book at home or traveling to a new place for the day. Your vacation time should be spent unwinding and enjoying time away from your to-do lists.

#### 3. Re-focus your energy by planning a getaway.

Getting out of town and experiencing a change in scenery is a great way to unwind and re-focus your energy on the present. Whether it is an overnight getaway or a multi-week international trip, escaping the business from the daily grind can help clear your mind and boost your mood. This can help you immensely on your return home back to your everyday routine.

4. Maintain a healthy sleep schedule for mental health.

Just because school is out for summer and your kids can stay up late and sleep in does not mean they should. If you are a parent, try to maintain a healthy and steady sleep schedule for yourself and your kids, regardless of work and school schedules. It is recommended that we obtain 8-10 uninterrupted hours of sleep, as sleep hygiene is an essential component of our mental health.

#### 5. Stay physically active.

Whether it is going to the gym, signing up for a yoga class or taking a walk outside, physical activity is known to boost your mood. During the summer months, it is easy to stay on the couch and binge-watch the latest television series, but an idle activity can promote negative consequences on our physical and mental health. Try to maintain 20-30 minutes of cardiovascular exercise each day. You may be surprised how good you feel.



#### Grow spiritually June Bible Readings with a focus on prayer 30-Day Prayer Bible Reading Plan

June 1: Matthew 6:5-15 (The Lord's Prayer) June 2: Philippians 4:6-7 June 3: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 June 4: James 5:13-18 June 5: Luke 18:1-8 (Parable of the Persistent Widow)

> June 6: Ephesians 6:18 June 7: Romans 12:12 June 8: 1 John 5:14-15 June 9: Jeremiah 33:3 June 10: Matthew 7:7-11 June 11: Psalm 145:18-19 June 12: Colossians 4:2 June 13: 1 Timothy 2:1-4 June 14: Mark 11:22-24 June 15: John 15:7

June 16: Psalm 66:16-20 June 17: Hebrews 4:14-16 June 18: Luke 11:5-13 (Parable of the Friend at Midnight)

June 19: Daniel 9:3-19 June 20: Matthew 26:36-46 (Jesus Prays in Gethsemane)

June 21: Acts 4:23-31 June 22: 1 Kings 8:22-53 (Solomon's Prayer of

Dedication) June 23: Psalm 5:1-3 June 24: Jonah 2:1-9 June 25: Luke 18:9-14 (Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector) June 26: James 1:5-8 June 27: 1 John 3:21-22 June 28: Psalm 141:1-2 June 29: Ephesians 3:14-21 June 30: Matthew 21:21-22

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2024

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