**Summer Slump or Summer Jump?**

**You Decide!**

Take initiative and make this summer a time when you move forward spiritually in significant ways. We will provide a few ideas every few weeks to help you make this your best summer ever in your faith. Why not choose one or two steps every few weeks and watch how you begin to make progress! You can do this as an individual or decide as a couple or family to take the same step.

**Pursuing God:**

… try fasting. Skip a meal or food for a whole day and pray during that time.

… increase your generosity. Give an offering that is a little more than you think you can afford.

**Unleashing Compassion**

… volunteer to host at The Landing.

… have a game night at your house and invite some unchurched friends.

**Building Community**

… attend the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (movie night, baseball game, etc.)

… initiate a conversation with a person you don’t know.

Watch for new suggestions every few weeks!

**Even If!**

**“Grace: Seriously, What Is It?”**

**Bill Balbach, Associate Pastor July 7 & 8, 2018**

**Are you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?**

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. “

2 Corinthians 12:9a (NIV)

**God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not

hear. Isaiah 59:2 (NIV)

**God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 1 John 4:8 (NIV)

**God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 (NIV)

**The world’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is based on what you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23 (NIV)

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. Galatians 5:4 (NIV)

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is willfully making choices opposite of the heart of God.**

The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Romans 5:20-6:2 (NIV)

For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. Romans 6:14 (NIV)

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is never \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Question to ask: Do I live in a way that brings \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to**

**the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ He gave?**

Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. Romans 6:3-7 (NIV)

