



Protestant Fellowship Newsletter

August 2026



“Heads, I Win; Tails, You Lose”

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. ... Jesus said “Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” Matthew 22:15, 19-21

We are familiar with this story and how Jesus outwitted the Pharisees. But how does this story affect us today?

Paul wrote to Titus, “Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work.” But what does Jesus say about rulers and Caesar specifically?

The words and edicts from Caesar in Rome were enforced, usually with cruelty, by appointed governors and soldiers. Jesus, however, does not condemn Caesar or urge defiance against Caesar. Instead, as I read the passage, Jesus merely says to the Pharisees that some things belong to the physical world and some to the Kingdom. And He does not give instructions for differentiating. We have to use our brains and spirits to discern which is which.

Put another way, we should both obey the tax laws and support the spread of the gospel by living as believers. Sometimes, the choice is not an either / or situation. Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from IRAs are taxable. If the financial institution managing your IRAs makes a distribution directly to tax-exempt organizations (called Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)), the distribution is considered part of your RMD, and it is **not** counted as taxable income. For example, a QCD of \$2,000 to your church, to the Protestant Fellowship or to another organization is not taxable and it counts as part of your RMD. However, an RMD paid to you of \$2,000 is taxable; after

taxes approximately \$1,500 is available for the charitable organization. Talk to your financial advisor or tax advisor for more information.

Consider using QCDs as a way to obey the tax laws and, at the same time, to obey to Great Commission at the end of Matthew: “¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Gracious God, guide us to be wise stewards of your blessings, rendering unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God what is God's. In Jesus' name, Amen. Prayerfully submitted by John Hodges

Protestant and Community Worship During August

Protestant Worship each Sunday at 2:00 pm from the Chapel with

Prelude at 1:45; also on ACTV channels 976 and 980

All are Welcome to join us in the Chapel on Sunday Afternoons

Sunday, Aug. 2	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost: the Rev. Susan Sciarratta will preach and officiate Communion. Prelude will begin at 1:45. Organist: Susan Mason; Pianist: Betty Kingston.	
Sunday, Aug. 9	Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost: the Rev. Eric Bond from St. John's Episcopal Church will preach. Prelude will begin at 1:45. Pianist: Betty Kingston.	
Sunday, Aug. 16	Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost: the Rev. Rick Bunker from PARX Racetrack Ministry will preach. Prelude will begin at 1:45. Organist: Joan Kirk; pianist: Betty Kingston.	
Sunday, Aug. 23	Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost: the Rev. Corstian Devos from North and Southampton Reformed Church will preach. Prelude will begin at 1:45. Organist: Ann Keesey; pianist: Betty Kingston.	

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Sunday,
Aug. 30

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost: the opportunities for ministry by working and serving will be explored through scripture, meditations, hymns, psalms and songs. Prelude will begin at 1:45. Pianist: Betty Kingston.

Quiet Reflections and Prayers: The Chapel at Ann's Choice is open daily for private reflection when worship services and other events are not being conducted.

Ministries in Continuing Care: Monthly Protestant Communion service is held in Memory Care. Pastoral Visits and Home Communion are also available. Also, each week, worship bulletins and hymns are delivered to residents at RG and CP and to those who have asked for them on a regular basis.

A hymn sing and worship service at 11:00 am is held on the fourth Monday of each month. Contact Bud Williams (TC-107) to volunteer, or if you have questions.

School Supplies for PARX Racetrack Ministry: On July 19 we began collecting school supplies in the Chapel Narthex for PARX Racetrack Ministry. Items to get include pencils, markers, pens, crayons, notebooks, binders, folders, rulers, protractors, pencil boxes, blunt-nose scissors, and other common supplies.



Second Saturday Cinema on August 8: We will show the 2021 comedic feature *Mayberry Man* in the **PAC** at **7:00 pm** with pre-show at 6:45. This program is a ministry to residents at Ann's Choice and staff. No donation will be requested. Your presence at this movie is your donation.



Greeting Card Ongoing Ministries: Handmade Greeting Card Group meets the second Tuesday of each month from 12:30 to 2:30 in the Village Craft Room; next meeting is Tues., August 11. Contact Shanda for more information at (513) 739-6258 or sfcuster@aol.com.

The Elderly Brothers: On Thursday, August 6, at 2:00 pm, experience four decades of soulful folk and folk-rock magic with the Elderly Brothers! A free-will offering will be received to benefit the Benevolent Care Fund.



New England Seafarer's Mission in Boston: Thursday, August 6 at 7:30 pm in the Liberty Commons Catering Room. Rev. Steve Cushing will discuss the work of the mission as it serves sailors and mariners who dock in Boston, Providence, and Narragansett Bay as well as how the mission started and whom it serves.



Protestant Page on the Resident Website: You may find newsletters, worship bulletins, hymns and other information at www.acresidents.org.

Supporting Our Ministry and Mission: Donations may be enclosed in an envelope addressed to Rev. Na in Pastoral Ministries and taken to any clubhouse front desk. Donations by check are preferred; please make the check payable to "A. C. – Protestant Fund". On the memo line, please write "Donation."

Bible Study: Weekly Bible study meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am in the Liberty Commons Room. We are studying the Epistle to the churches in Galatia. Contact Rev. Na at (215) 443-4925 or Kang.Na@erickson.com for more information.



Protestant Fellowship Council:

Our purpose is to bring glory to God in all that we pursue in and through the Protestant Faith Community

Members of the Protestant Fellowship Council in 2025

Jack Custer	John Hodges	Dave Smith
Dolores Ehrenfeld	Betty Kingston	Bob Swan
Trudi Hertfelder	Pat Nickett	Lynn Swan
Mark Heuckroth	Steve Schroeder	Janet Wentz
Non-voting member, Polly Riddle		

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