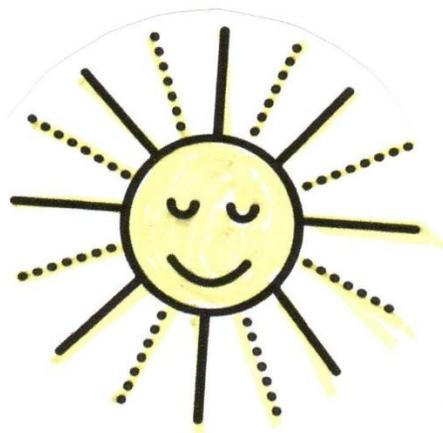


Community United Methodist Church of Kenilworth
455 Boulevard, Kenilworth, New Jersey 07033
Church phone: 908-276-1956
Pastor Roeline Ramirez 973-282-6237
Rev. Heme Ares, Pastor Emeritus
Pastor Don Knott, Retired Elder
Rev. Dr. Baktha Kumar, Counseling Pastor



The Circuit Rider
July/August 2025 Newsletter
Community United Methodist Church of Kenilworth
A Faith Community Ignited by God's Love

JULY/AUGUST 2025 EVENTS

- Sunday School @ 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service @ 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Don's Bible Study on Facebook Live, Fridays at 9:00 a.m.
Treasure Shop open Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Prayer Meetings, Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom ID 749 308 740;
no prayer meeting on July 2, 2025
July 4, 2025 Independence Day
July 6, 2025 Holy Communion Sunday
July 17, 2025 Community Food Pantry, 4:00 p.m.
July 25, 2025 3 M's Gathering (Music, Meditation, & Movement) @ 7:00 p.m.,
in-person at Fellowship Hall and via Zoom ID: 201 699 6704
- August 1, 2025** Vacation Bible School, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
August 2, 2025 Vacation Bible School, 10:00 a.m.
August 3, 2025 Baptism
August 9, 2025 Church Picnic at Echo Lake Park, time TBA
August 10, 2025 Holy Communion Sunday
August 22, 2025 3 M's Gathering (Music, Meditation, & Movement) @ 7:00 p.m.,
in-person at Fellowship Hall and via Zoom ID: 201 699 6704
August 21, 2025 Community Food Pantry, 4:00 p.m.
August 28, 2025 Circuit Rider, 11:00 a.m. at Fellowship Hall



Pastor's Page

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." -Galatians 6:2 (NIV)

Dear Ignite UMC Family and Friends,

As the days grow longer and the sun shines more brightly, I pray this summer brings you moments of rest, joy, and time well spent with those you love. Summer offers us space to slow down, appreciate creation, and find renewal. But even in these lighter days, we are called to live faithfully and lovingly in a world that still groans for healing and peace.

This season, I invite you to do two things intentionally: **pray and participate**.

First, **pray for peace**—in our homes, in our communities, and throughout the world. Though we may be far from conflict zones, our prayers are not powerless. Scripture reminds us that "the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective" (James 5:16). As we enjoy the beauty of this season, let us not forget those who suffer and struggle. Lift them in prayer. Ask God to bring comfort, justice, and peace where it's needed most.

Second, **participate in love**—especially by bearing one another's burdens. There are people in our church and neighborhoods who need companionship, encouragement, or practical help. A visit, a shared meal, a listening ear, or simply showing up can reflect Christ's love in a profound way. Our call is not only to enjoy God's blessings but to be a blessing to others.

Let the words of John Wesley inspire our summer:

*"Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can."*



Let's be people of joyful faith—those who pray deeply, laugh freely, rest gratefully, and serve humbly. May your summer be filled with the peace of Christ and the love that only comes from Him.

Blessings,

Pastor Roeline "Wee" Ramirez

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Carter Wilson
- 3 Eric Lim
- 4 Luisa Restrepo
- 8 Cecilia Fuquay
- 10 Bob Woods
- 13 Justin Henry Carvallo
- 14 Charlie B. Fuquay
- 15 Aljon Silva
- 21 Luisa Gutierrez
- 24 Peter Kollory
- 27 Rev. Fran Noll
- 29 Mary Oels



"Another adventure-filled year awaits you. Welcome it by celebrating your birthday with pomp and splendor. Here's wishing you a very happy and fun-filled birthday."

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Matthew and Rachel Diaz
- 28 Malcolm and Andrez Valles



"May plenty of wishes come your way, not just for a year, but forever. May you continue to grow older and happier together. Happy Anniversary!"

"Summer has a flavor like no other. Always fresh and simmered in sunshine." ~Oprah Winfrey

"No one can believe that God is not good when the August gardens are in their heyday." ~Gladys Taber

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Siony Delos Reyes
- 1 Hannah Delos Reyes
- 2 Sowy Arias
- 4 Ralph Koerner
- 4 Amer Ramirez
- 13 James Santiago
- 14 Connie Capiendo
- 16 Bob Conner
- 20 Lee Blanco
- 20 Alfred Bowman
- 20 Alan Nunez
- 22 Luci Kolloori
- 25 Phil Long
- 25 Danielle Blanco
- 25 Wilson Martin
- 26 Faith Scott
- 27 Rev. Bill Noll
- 29 Nathan Ignacio



"A wish for you on your birthday, whatever you ask may you receive, whatever you seek may you find, whatever you wish may it be fulfilled."

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Rev. Hemesias and Norma Ares
- 15 Gerald Carino and Janielle Viuya
- 15 Michael and Elaine Puma
- 16 Bobby and Samantha Caffrey



"Remember, love isn't about the years. It's about cherishing each other every single day. Happy Anniversary!"

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."

Audrey Hepburn

A FLOCK OF FAITH
From All God's Creatures, Jan./Feb. 2025

*A friend loves at all times, and kinfolk
are born to share adversity.*
~PROVERBS 17:17 (NRSVUE)

I have always loved the color pink. I even had a pink bedroom when I was a child. So it makes perfect sense that I've also always loved flamingos, especially once I saw them in person.

I learned recently that when in a large flock, flamingos tend to form smaller social groups—usually just two to four birds. And those same groups remain mates or friends for years (the study I read took place over 5 years.)

I, too, have a group I've been friends with for years. My writer friends from across Georgia and Florida have a yearly retreat where we spend several days together at a condo near the beach, eating, sharing, praying, studying, and—of course—writing.

I was tickled when I read this research article, because our group of four named ourselves The Flamingos from the beginning! And each year when we gather in our "flock," we give one another small, fun flamingo-themed gifts.

Now that I know about flamingo social groups, I'm struck by how appropriate our name is. That first year I got invited along, the three other women had already been planning their retreat. When I asked for prayer for a difficult situation on another email loop, one of the flamingo women saw my request and felt moved to invite me on their beach trip. I

know this was God at work, because it was exactly what I needed in that moment. It was encouragement when I was at my lowest.

Although the flamingos in my flock aren't pink, I love them, too, especially when we gather in person each year to thank God for our friendship.

God, thank You for caring for us through others who listen to Your nudging and obediently reach out to offer love and support. Thank You for the people You place in our lives whom we can depend on. Amen.

Written by Missy Tippens

THE UP SIDE
From GUIDEPOSTS, Feb/Mar 2023

1. "I probably say 'Wow!' more now than when I was a child." William Shatner, *Star Trek* actor, who at 90 became the oldest person to travel in suborbital space, on the wonders and mysteries of life.
2. "Exercising our creativity is an act of faith. On every level, in every situation, the act of making something where something did not exist before is in many ways the very definition of faith." ~Julia Cameron, artist and author of *The Artist's way*
3. "At some point, you just have to let go of what you thought should be happening and live in what is happening." ~Maria Shriver, journalist.
4. "I love the saying 'Good timber doesn't grow with ease; the stronger the wind, the stronger trees.'" ~Apolo Anton Ohno, speed skater and the most decorated U.S. Winter Olympian in history, with eight medals

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women met Wednesday, June 11th, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The program was entitled "I Love You, Dad", from Guideposts Magazine, June/July 2025, in which writers shared what they learned from their fathers.

The women will not be meeting in July and August. Their next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 10th, 2025 at 11:00a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Bag lunches will be brought by the women; Pastor Roe will be our hostess. All women are invited.

COMMUNITY CARE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry served 12 families on Thursday, June 19th, 2025 providing both food and non-food items, and distributed 7 Pet Smart Gift Cards to those who have pets. Thanks to all for helping us to continue this mission. We appreciate your generosity.

Our next distribution dates will be on Thursday, July 17th and August 21st from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Donations of pasta and sauce, and canned fruits and vegetables would be very much appreciated.

THE TREASURE SHOP

The Treasure Shop is open on

Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Bag day for clothing is on the second Saturday of the month. A reminder: the Treasure Shop is no longer open on the second Friday of the month.

Thank you, all, for supporting our Treasure Shop with your visits and your donations. It's always good to see you there.

FROM 199 PROMISES OF GOD

For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.
Mark 9:41

Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord:
Psalm 31:24

For thou art my hope, O Lord God: thou art my trust from my youth.
Psalm 71:5

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
Psalm 119:105

For God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even unto death.
Psalm 48:1

PEBBLES

From All God's Creatures, Sept./Oct. 2044

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

~Matthew 16:18 (NKJV)

I saw the dog before I heard it. There it was, racing across the yard toward me like a tiny tumbleweed. I walk the neighborhood daily, but I'd never encountered a dog on this cul-de-sac. Its fierce approach would have frightened me if not for its diminutive size and the silky white ponytail flopping around on its head.

"Cotton!" It's owner called from the porch. "Get back here. You can't chase that lady. You're no bigger than a pebble."

From that moment on, I've called the tiny dog "Pebble." Thinking about our encounter reminds me of another pebble – the apostle Peter. Headstrong and impulsive, Peter wouldn't have been my first choice to lead a worldwide movement. Yet Christ took him from his fishing nets and called him to be a disciple. He changed his name from Cephas to Peter when he placed his faith in Christ. In Greek, Cephas means "pebble." But *Peter* means "boulder."

Peter's name change reminds me that God doesn't look at our outward attributes (size, talents, beauty) when He calls us to Himself. He doesn't see our character flaws either. Instead, He looks at our potential – what we can become when He fills us with his Holy Spirit, conforms us to His image, and calls us into His service. God has the amazing ability to take someone the world considers insignificant and make them into powerful tools in His hands.

Every time I see Pebble, I remember that with my own strength I can do little, but when I operate under God's power, I can charge the enemy and send him running.

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty.

I Corinthians 1:26-27 (NKJV)

Written by Lori Hatcher

FOOD IS MEDICINE

From healthycurehub

GARLIC is good for the **immune system**

BANANAS are good for the **nerves**

SWEET POTATOES are good for the **digestion.**

WALNUTS are good for the **memory**

ORANGES are good for the **skin**

KALE is good for the **bones**

PINEAPPLE is good for the **joints**

CHIA SEEDS are good for the **heart**

PEPPERS are good for the **metabolism**

MUSHROOMS are good for the **immune system.**

TOMATOES are good for the **blood**

BLUEBERRIES are good for the **brain**

Submitted by a Circuit Rider Reader



PRAYER REQUESTS

(Let's pray for you. Send your prayer concerns & thanksgiving)



FOR PEACE: Across the US, Middle East, Europe, and other parts of the world that are in chaos.

FOR HEALING & STRENGTH: Betsy DC., Beverly A., Mary Ellen., Dee K., Faith Scott, Mary Oels, Mary Catherine R., Greg R., Robin T., Laura, Barbara H., Oscar D., Janet C., Tony S., Sylvanna, James F., Sue, Cindee, Charles, Eileen, Bob W., Betty S., Cathy, Gianna, Bob Mier, Diana, Jun V., Barbara, Boyet J., Brenda G, Edna R., Ofelia, Raissa S., Theresa, Pastor Don, Elba, Sal, Pat, Al B., Gareth A., Terri, Gerliz Anne M., Judy, Jen & Binny (Norma's co-workers), Ricky O., Scott W., Rob. W., Tom & Shiela, Kathy S., Crissy, Pastor Hemi., Miriam S., John (brother of Kathleen)., Susan Frey., Patrick, Elmer D.R. Jen, Mari, Ciera

FOR THANKSGIVING: All graduates and awardees

FOR HOUSING and JOB PROVISION: Kevin C., James R., Mayra S.

FOR SAFE TRAVEL: Carlos Ascue and Luz Hartley Family, Ethan Restrepo, Abigail Pla

FOR STRENGTH FOR NEW BABIES: Theo, Zion Mark, Luke and all newborn babies

FOR COMFORT & PROVISION: Affected by various calamities, accidents, and country's economic challenges.

FOR GUIDANCE & PROVISION: Abuela B., Drew & Gracielle R. fam, Vercillie F., Owen F., Fam., Anlyn, Mary Ellen, John D., Puma fam., Betsy DC's parents, Karen W., A. Restrepo Fam, Fuquay Fam, Opacity Fam, Margaret N., Silva Fam., Yen & Will, Viuya Fam, Janielle & Gerald, Adrian M., Reden & Gloria C., Jane R., Ms. Toni, Kathleen E., Levine fam, Janet H. & Mom Grace., Mr. Tony S & Fam, Caffrey fam, Ptr Heme Ares & Norma Fam, Rachel R. Fam., James & Sharon S., Dale S., Luz A., Luisa & Lucianna R., Francis Fam, Vallez Fam, Jeremias Fam, Freda Fam, Crissi & Johnston Fam, Cindy P., Phil L., Marty K., Lori Strubble, Stephanie P., Pagan Fam., Kollory Fam., Abigail, Rich W., Duelly Fam., Ramirez Fam., Salvador Fam., Stephen N., Linda Sosa Fam., Edit Fam., Fabian & Nattali, Mayra S. & Fam., Blanco Fam., Kevin C., Will & Ann Dougherty., Ana Patrick, Maria Silva R. fam., Maria, Owen F. and family., Maria, Linda., Kathy

FOR WISDOM, COMPASSION, AND MERCY IN LEADERSHIP: The US President and all the leaders of our country. Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi UMC clergy and church leaders.

SPECIAL INTENTION FOR THIS MONTH: Smooth transition for all UMC churches who have a change in pastoral appointments. Safe and Meaningful Summer Vacation to all.



For additional prayer requests, pastoral care and services, please contact Pastor Roeline

Text: 973-282-6237

Voicemail: 908 276-1956

email: ramirezroeline@gmail.com

igniteumckenilworth@gmail.com

Vacation Bible School 2025

TEAM JESUS

"Called to Serve, Ready to Go!"

August 1, Friday @ 5pm - 8pm
August 2, Saturday @ 10 am - 4pm
455 Blvd., Kenilworth, NJ 07033

Scan the QR Code to register

for kids entering Kindergarten-10th grade

For inquiry, please email:
igniteumckenilworth@gmail.com or revdrbattle@gmail.com

Hosted by: **IGNITE UMC and ST. PAUL AME**

ATTENTION PLEASE!

Beginning in July,
Sunday School
starts at **9:30 AM**
For adults, youth, & kids

Followed by
WORSHIP SERVICE
at **10:30 AM**
ALL ARE WELCOME

**Don't Miss this
fun and
exciting
Musical Play.
Our very own
John Drescher
is one of the
talented casts.**



**Buy your
tickets now!**

**Disney
THE
LION KING
JR.**

Tickets: \$20

**Thursday, July 24, 7:00 PM
Friday, July 25, 7:00 PM
Saturday, July 26, 2:00 PM**

**MAINSTAGE at
Union County Performing Arts
Center (UCPAC)
1601 Irving Street
Rahway, NJ 07065**

**CAU COMMUNITY PLAYERS'
14TH ANNUAL MUSICAL**

CAU Community Players is a theater troupe of all abilities advancing community inclusion through the arts. CAU Community Players strives for excellence while promoting acceptance, understanding, and equality for all members. Each year the troupe collaborates to stage an exciting performance like no other.

UPAC: <https://ucpac.org/event/cau-community-players-presents-the-lion-king-jr/>

LEGACY SPONSOR **Coli
Construction**

Community Access Unlimited | 80 West Grand Street | Elizabeth, NJ 07202 | (908) 354-3040 | caun.org



**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL GRADUATES AND ACHIEVERS
SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025**



Special congratulations to:

ACCEPTED FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL

Ethan Restrepo, Abigail Pla

**4TH YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AND
WITH HONORS:**

Luisa Restrepo Agudelo, Jerrah Viuya,
Sophie Restrepo, Gonzalo Ascue,
Maximiliano Acosta, Ryan

9TH GRADE WITH HONORS

Savannah Sosa, Amara Ramirez

8TH GRADE GRADUATES AND WITH HONORS

Juliet Felix, Kaitlynn Francis

7TH GRADE WITH HONORS

Amiro Ramirez

KINDERGARTEN GRADUATE

Catalina Caceres-Lima

MOVING ON

From The Upper Room, May-June, 2023

Read Isaiah 43:18-21

The Lord says, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing."

Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)

I identify with the baby bird that lingers in its nest outside my door. Its three siblings flew away yesterday, and it is alone. Its parents flutter by in the mornings and evenings, sometimes providing food, but mostly urging the little one to spread its wings and fly. But the baby bird is hesitant. Over and over it hops to the edge of the nest, looks around and down, and then retreats to the only place it has known.

I identify with that baby bird because I have been afraid to move on too many times. Whether it is beginning school for the first time, changing schools, leaving home, getting married, beginning a new job, moving to a new place, or retiring, life is filled with uncertainty. It is easy to hop to the edge of my comfortable nest, look around, and want to retreat to the security of what I know.

But just as God promised the people in today's scripture reading, God will always be doing new things, always providing a way, always giving us fresh reasons to move out to do God's bidding and to proclaim God's love. Because God is our shelter, we can step to the edge of our nests, open our wings, and fly with confidence in a faithful God.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

I can move on to new things
because God moves with me.

Prayer: O God, give me the courage today to move out of my place of comfort and move on to the opportunities and relationships prepared for me. Amen.

~Jerry White (Florida, USA)

DEVOTION

From Prayer and Promises for Women

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

MATTHEW 16:24 NIV

"No servant can serve two masters. The servant will hate one master and love the other, or will follow one master and refuse to follow the other. You cannot serve both God and worldly riches."

LUKE 16:13 NCV

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

ROMANS 12:2 NLT

God, I belong to you. I adore you, and I want to live my life fully committed to you. Knowing Jesus laid down his perfect life for me, I want only to honor his sacrifice by doing the same. Because I am weak, I know that even though I want this, I can't do it without your help. Strengthen me, God, to live my life for you. I surrender all I am and I have to your will.

*How can you devote your life
more to God?*

JUNE 2025 HIGHLIGHTS



PENTECOST SUNDAY



RECOGNITION SUNDAY



IGNITE UMC MEN MESSAGE IN SONG



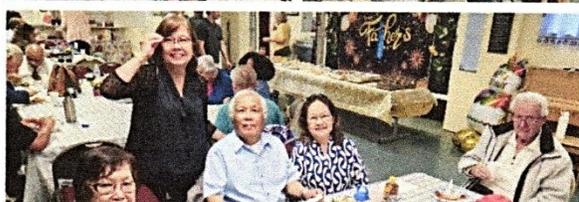
FELLOWSHIP TIME



FATHER'S DAY



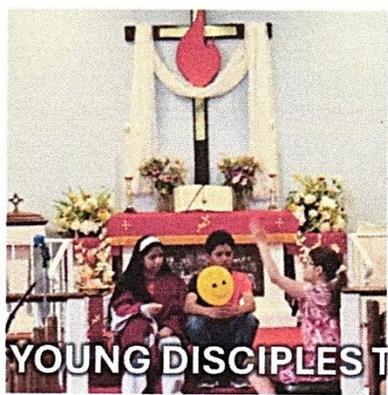
LET'S GET LOUD: YOUTH EVENT



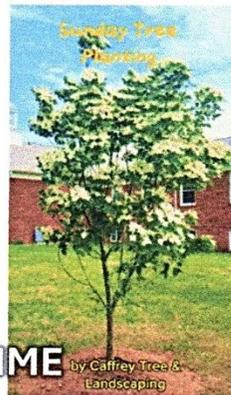
PRAYER MEETING



IGNITE UMC WOMEN



YOUNG DISCIPLES TIME



INDEPENDENCE DAY

Independence is declared;
it must be maintained.

~Sam Houston, American politician (1793-1863)

The Declaration of Independence is America's revolutionary Charter of Freedom and the document upon which the nation's founding principles were established.

Here is an excerpt from the Declaration of Independence (US, 1776):

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall see most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Did You Know?

The name "John Hancock" is synonymous with "your signature" because Hancock's bold signature on the Declaration of Independence dwarfed the signatures of the other signers. Legend says that Hancock wanted the king of England to see the rebellious signature without having to wear his spectacles!

From The Old Farmer's Almanac,
Boys Town, 2020

What is the longest word in the English language? (Answer at bottom right.)

"I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him."

~Abraham Lincoln

HOW TO BEAT THE HEAT

Drink More Fluids

1. Drink more fluids, regardless of your activity level. Do not wait until you are thirsty to drink.
2. If you're older, take care to drink fluids; as we age, the body retains less water.
3. Avoid salt tablets, if possible. If you take water pills, ask your doctor how much you should drink.
4. Avoid caffeinated, alcoholic, or sugary liquids; these can be dehydrating. Avoid very cold drinks.
5. Cut back on exercising; if you must exercise, drink 2 to 4 glasses of cool, nonalcoholic fluids each hour.

Keep Your Body Cool

1. Wear wide-brimmed hats and sunglasses.
2. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), fans may provide comfort, but they do not prevent heat-related illnesses when the temperature is in the high 90's.
3. Cool off with a cool shower or bath or move to an air-conditioned place.
4. To feel cooler, eat cooler. Reduce your protein intake.
5. Stay in the shade, especially between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Avoid strenuous activities during this time.
6. Never leave anyone in a closed, parked outside vehicle, even with the windows down.

From The Old Farmer's Almanac,
Boys Town, 2020

Puzzle answer: Smiles, because there is a mile between the first and last letters.



SUMMER

WORD SEARCH

UQEZJYLAVEXSTFL
NOITACAVLGACYQO
QXDCCTGTTGAKVPL
ZTFUPFSUNFLOWER
HOQQTACAOXADQH
HEATCIIQLTQUCNY
BVBDQCNAEOHAVWF
FANPDECSMPEVLUS
GASKBCIFRBOPAWK
SNVEARPCCEGOINO
FSISBELJTDFMLDG
UIOTWAKJAXMQEBF
AIYSAMLFWIVNAFG
ITACEOHLNGDBYVF
TFZCGKBGOVWNPYC

BEACH
BASEBALL
ICE CREAM
SWIMMING

PICNIC
VACATION
SUNFLOWER
WATERMELON

SANDCASTLE
HEAT
BOATING
POOL

Have a blessed summer.
See you in September!

