

The Beacon

February 2019

UMW NEWS

United Methodist Women's Sunday will be February and we will do both the 9:00 and 10:30 service. Our guest speaker who will share the message is Keith Zimmerman, chair of Our Conference, Our Kids Ministry. Between services we will be serving coffee. On Sunday, February 17 at 3:00 we will serve the funeral dinner for Shelli Shoop's family. If you can help on either occasion, we welcome food or extra hands. You can contact Carol Kemper at 742-7421 or Marge Haahn at 742-3761. We do appreciate the help and we thank you.

Our regular meeting will be Tuesday, February 12 at 9:30. Iva Smith will serve coffee and the program will be "Prayer and Self-denial" by Laurie Leadley.

Evening Circle we be held February 18 at 7pm and Morning Circle will be February 19 at 6:30am.

We hope to see you
and thanks again,

Carol Kemper



SAMS will hold its 5th annual "Noodles for Poodles" **Chicken Noodle Dinner** on Saturday, February 16, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Elmwood United Methodist Church. The menu includes chicken and noodles, mac and cheese, potatoes and gravy, green beans, rolls and butter, and iced tea, lemonade, water and coffee to drink. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 4 to 10, and Free for children 3 and under. There will also be a bake sale and silent auction. Carry-outs are available. Please join us and help support your local non-profit no-kill animal shelter. We would love to see you!

Thank You!

I want to thank Pastor David and my friends at the church for all the prayers and thoughts after my accident.

God is good - Jennifer Wilson

Thank You!

Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers for us both during Wayne's treatments. He is cancer-free and doing well!

Wayne and Connie Dalton



Greetings friends in the Holy and loving Name of Jesus the Christ.

Recently I was witness to a conversation on Facebook between pastor and some lay folks. Apparently, the pastor had said a few things during his sermon with which people in the congregation did not agree. Apparently, the pastor said he's always believed in the statements he made, and he was shocked to find that they were not in the Bible. Does the Bible say, "God will not give you more than you can handle"? Many Christians believe so, but you won't find it in Holy Scriptures. This is one of many quotations inaccurately attributed to the Bible. Others include: "This too shall pass." "Cleanliness is next to godliness." "God works in mysterious ways." "Everything happens for a reason." "Love the sinner. Hate the sin." "God helps those who help themselves." Well, guess what? The Bible doesn't make any of these claims.

This conversation of God's word and words of the world, or interpretations of what the Bible says, was shocking to me because the pastor was claiming these items or statements were in the Scriptures. However, his parishioners were pointing out to him they were not. He was shocked to believe that these words that he had used for years, that his parents and grandparents had taught him, were not scripturally based. This past summer in 2018, our vacation Bible school use the text from Isaiah 43 verse 2a. "2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." Needless to say, this is one of my favorite Scripture verses for a long, long time. I find myself drawn back to it over the last few months -whatever the reason. I believe the bottom line is that we need to be careful because the words of the prophet Isaiah can be easily misunderstood and misapplied. When God says through the prophet, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you (43:2a), God is not saying, "I will not give you more than you can handle." Nor is God promising, "This too shall pass." No, the message is really very different. Social media throws quotations at us every day, and not all of them are reliable. The most famous of these might be the words, "The problem with quotes on the internet is that no one can confirm their authenticity." —Abraham Lincoln.

Gregory Sullivan runs a website called "Quote Investigator" that offers examinations of the dubious origins of familiar quotations by Yogi Berra, Mark Twain, Marilyn Monroe, and others. Yogi Berra is often credited as saying, "Always go to other people's funerals; otherwise, they won't go to yours." But guess what? The line appeared first in a novel in 1876 before Berra was born. Mark Twain is quoted as saying, "The more I know about people, the better I like dogs." A funny observation — one that seems to fit the humor of Twain — but credit goes to a French book from 1822. And Marilyn Monroe? She reportedly said, "Give a girl the right shoes, and she can conquer the world." But, there is no evidence for this quotation. Credit should go to Bette Midler, who said in 1985, "Give a girl the correct footwear, and she can conquer the world." Bottom line: Marilyn Monroe didn't say that!

The big rage right now is what's called "fact-checking." That's why we have the Bible. So, we can check the facts.

God will not leave us or forsake us - that is the fact. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

God is all-powerful - that is a fact. (Matthew 19:26)

Jesus died and was resurrected - FACT! (1 Corinthians 15:12-20)

God's Spirit resigns in those who trust and believe in him -FACT! (1 Timothy 4:10)

Life will be difficult and have pain - FACT! (John 16:33)

Things do not always go our way - FACT! (Isaiah 12:2)

There's nothing that could ever come your way that would prevent God from loving you - FACT! (Romans 8:31-39)

Yes, these are facts, and yes they can be checked - guaranteed the word of God will provide the fact check you need. As I watched this conversation wind to a close, the pastor admitted that he personally was very uneducated when it comes to the Bible. I bet he is going to spend a lot more time reading it instead of just using it for sermons. It is good to know his congregation was going to support him even though it was going to be challenging for some. But, that's the struggle of faith, it's the foundation of God's truth that saves us through Jesus Christ and what he did on the cross for us. **Jesus died on the cross- FACT! Jesus raised from the dead-FACT! Jesus is returning soon-FACT!**

I encourage you to spend more time in God's word.

May the Lord bless you this month as we are encouraged by God's truth - FACT!

PD

Youth News



We held our monthly Youth Group meeting on January 6. Ten members attended. We enjoyed fellowship, prayer, a business meeting, devotion, and games. Members voted on an activity for February. We decided on bowling at the Christian Center followed by supper at Pizza Ranch on February 2, leaving church at 3:20. We look forward to mission planning at our March meeting, to be held on March 10 from 4:00-5:30 at church.



Youth Mission Team

Only 5 months until our mission trip to the Quad Cities! We held our monthly meeting on January 20. We had our business meeting and devotion. We discussed tee shirt designs and decided to spend up to \$15 per shirt. Mission team members look forward to serving at the Easter Sunrise Service. A parent meeting will be held in April.

Thank you for praying for us and a special thank you those who ask how they can help support our team.





First through Fifth Grade Kids! This is for You!

The Light Kids Conference is a one-day event for children in 1st-5th grades and their ministry leaders. Kids will enjoy music, worship, Bible Buzz, MERGE Recreation, entertainment, snacks, lunch, and tons of fun! Ministry leaders will have the opportunity for a 40-minute network and equipping time during the day. It's Saturday, March 9, from 9:00 to 2:00 at Peoria First UMC, 116 NE Perry Avenue.

We would like to send kids AND adults to this event. If you are interested, call or text Janet (309) 368-1907. Or call the church office. Or write it on the back of your attendance card.

The All-Volunteer Army wants YOU!



February Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 3 Lois Hill
- 6 Sherry Powers
- 6 Jim & Mary Dawson Anniversary
- 7 Samantha Seipel
- 8 Audrey Rushing
- 9 Tom Tracy
- 10 Brad Crisco
- 11 Doug Whitney
- 13 Diana Ladd
- 14 Meade Montgomery
- 16 Pat Keefer
- 16 Eugene & Veva Windish Anniversary
- 17 Nicole Johnston
- 20 Lori Johnson
- 20 Joe Webel
- 21 Darren McMillan
- 22 Helen Laurson
- 23 Susan Sartin
- 23 Katie Parm
- 24 Kent & Georgia Stevens Anniversary



Saturday Evening Service

March 2 * 5:00pm

Simple – Meaningful - Fun

SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM
9 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

February 3, 2018

GREETERS: Dan/Pat Keefer
USHERS: Denise Hayes/Gerri Pettit
LITURGIST: Don Forrest
ACOLYTES: Baron/Cassidy Case
VIDEO: Jason Hahn
NURSERY: Bill/Michelle Seipel
COMMUNION: Mary Nell Simpson
COFFEE BAR:

February 10, 2018

GREETERS: Jennifer Wilson/Terri German
USHERS: Karla/Sara Kane
LITURGIST: Cathy Ekstrand
ACOLYTES: Ian Smith/Ty McFarland
VIDEO: Aaron Miller
NURSERY: Jill Crisco/Megan Perryman
COFFEE BAR: UMW Women

February 17, 2018

GREETERS: Gail Sprout/Laurie Leadley
USHERS: Bob Paige/Mike Sweeney
LITURGIST: Dean Cantu
ACOLYTES: Lee/Lucas Kosowski
VIDEO: Kent Stevens
NURSERY: Lisa Doubet/Emily Roberts
COFFEE BAR:

February 24, 2018

GREETERS: Alan/Rosie Suydam
USHERS: Doug Whitney/Kurt Webster
LITURGIST: Curt Smith
ACOLYTES: Katy German/Addi Powers
VIDEO: Jason Hahn
NURSERY: Laurie Leadley/Mary Drone
COFFEE BAR:

SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM
10:30 A.M. Worship Service

February 3, 2018

GREETERS: Meade/Betty Montgomery
USHERS: Charlotte Haley/Celene Duley
LITURGIST: Mary Howard
ACOLYTES: Baron/Cassidy Case
PIANIST: Charlotte Booth
NURSERY: Nancy Davis/Katie Parm
COUNTERS: Alana Parm/Celene Duley

February 10, 2018

GREETERS: Ruth Arnold/Diana Ladd
USHERS: Nancy Davis/Chris Stevens
LITURGIST: Mary Nell Simpson
ACOLYTES: Ian Smith/Ty McFarland
PIANIST: Kris Petermeyer
NURSERY: Laurie Leadley/Emily Schauble
COUNTERS: Kanes

February 17, 2018

GREETERS: Charlotte Booth/Bobbi Staples
USHERS: Tom Morse/Nancy Davis
LITURGIST: Karla Kane
ACOLYTES: Lee/Lucas Kosowski
PIANIST: Charlotte Booth
NURSERY: Angie Ladd/Alix Steele
COUNTERS: Ruth Arnold/Diana Ladd

February 24, 2018

GREETERS: Charlotte Haley/Mary Nell Simpson
USHERS: Mary Howard/Chris Stevens
LITURGIST: Celene Duley
ACOLYTES: Katy German/Addi Powers
PIANIST: Kris Petermeyer
NURSERY: Alana Parm/Celene Duley
COUNTERS: Alana Parm/Celene Duley

LOVE IS Patient *and* kind,
NOT jealous, boastful, proud, rude, self-seeking, irritable, or resentful.
LOVE *does not* delight in evil **BUT**
rejoices with Truth. **Love**
protects, *ALWAYS* trusts *always* hopes,
ALWAYS perseveres. **LOVE NEVER fails.** 1COR 13:4-8