

The Beacon

September 2018

UMW NEWS



Our next meeting will be our soup and sandwich lunch on September 11. The program will be given by Marge Haahn. Come and join us for lunch – husbands are very welcome, we eat about 11:30.

The Fall District meeting will be held September 11 at Peoria First UMC from 8:30am until around 2:00pm. The program, given by Donita Parra, is Oklahoma Missionary Conference Past and Present. It is about the history of Native Americans. Reservations have to be in by September 7. Please let me know if you would like to attend, I will call in the reservation. Cost is \$10.00.



Evening Circle will meet September 17 at 7:00 at the church.

Morning Circle will meet on September 18 at 9:30am Carolyn Stevens home. We will carpool

Blessings-
Carol Kemper
742-7221

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Bobbi Staples
- 1 Bob & Mary Howard Anniversary
- 2 Pat & Shannon Glover Anniversary
- 4 Alix Steele
- 5 Maddux Provence
- 6 Angie Ladd
- 10 Wayne Dalton
- 10 Payton Provence
- 11 Celene Duley
- 12 Jenni Case
- 12 Dan Keefer
- 13 Kyle Doubet
- 14 Marilyn Bowhay
- 15 Rene Schulz
- 15 Wayne & Connie Dalton Anniversary
- 16 Chris & Shanna Swadinsky Anniversary
- 17 Karla Kane
- 18 Chris Swadinsky
- 18 Marla Holloway
- 19 Marge Haahn
- 21 Jared Ekstrand
- 21 Don & Michelle Forrest Anniversary
- 21 Terry & Rene Schulz Anniversary
- 23 Addyson Powers
- 25 Dean Cantu
- 27 Carolyn Dean
- 27 Bill & Michelle Seipel Anniversary
- 30 Logan Seipel



Greetings my friends!

Summer has almost officially ended. Where did it go??? More so a deeper question: "where did most of our people go?!?" We had great weather this year, so that included- sunshine, beaches, lakes, family, road trips, sports, no school...and no church? Summer is a great time to be with family, but did you know summer months is also a very challenging time for many church members? Here is what the church has experienced. Not just our congregation but the church in general, People:

#1 - Take a vacation from church! Every summer people get out of the habit of attending church. It usually starts with "legitimate reasons" around family, work, or play. But, after a while a thought enters the mind, "I don't need church to have a relationship with God." Obviously, we can walk with God outside of church, but we're stretching this idea to benefit our self- centered interest as well. I've never seen a spiritually mature Christian who is not committed to their local church.

#2 - Take a vacation from giving! Every summer there are people that stop honoring God with their finances. Usually the logic is, "I'll pick it up again after summer ends." So, they use their tithe or offering, that typically goes to God, and give it to beaches, road trips, lakes, or summer toys in their life. Sometimes there is a thought that, "I'll catch up later." Both thoughts are not realistic. Rarely, does someone come to church in September, with a check for missed tithes in June, July, and August. It just doesn't happen.

This is why we will be bringing back the focus of Consecration Sunday at the end of September. This 4-week program will focus on "what if." We will hear sermons and testimonies that challenge us to make a step of faith. I know this is exactly what you wanted to hear, especially after returning from your summer vacations. Yet as members of this congregation, we have a promise and commitment to be faithful to the local church with our presence, time, talents, gifts, service and prayers. Many people become "grumpy" when the church talks about money, yet, this was the main topic that Jesus preached about as he walked this earth.

We read from the Bible in Paul's second letter to the church in Corinth - we are invited to "give only what you have decided in your heart to give for God loves a cheerful giver." We as a congregation are facing a difficult time financially. We have not done a stewardship campaign for over 4 years now. Every now and again, I need to be reminded and challenged to remain faithful to the call of God to be good steward in the church, don't you? I invite you to ask God specifically what he would have you give to the many excellent ministries and missions that are supported by our congregation. If you are undecided about your church attendance this late September and mid-October, please know that there will be no pressure - people will not be coming to your house with their hand out, they will not get in your face. I will not preach guilt or shame, this is only an invitation and opportunity to participate in what God has been, is doing and will continue to do in and through us here at United Methodist Church of Elmwood. We have seen great things happen this past year, please help it to continue!

Please understand this is no pressure... We have missed you, please come back.

Trust the Lord.
PD.

Youth News



EUMC Youth Group, J-Squad, is up and running for our 2018/19 year! We had a meeting on August 19, where we played games, had a devotion time, discussed activities, and talked about officers for our group. We will elect a President, a Vice President of Communications and Finance and a Vice President of Outreach and Activities at our next meeting.

On September 9, we plan to go to Kartville. Students are encouraged to attend and invite friends.



Youth Mission

Our first Youth Mission Team meeting will be held on September 16, from 4-5 PM. We currently have nine students interested in going on the trip to the Quad Cities in 2019. Please contact Lori Johnson, 309-231-1580, with questions or donations.



Sunday School teachers and students enjoyed ice cream and outdoor games while parents registered their kids at the Sunday School Kick-Off August 26. Special thanks to Jesse Ebert for his parachute and sports prowess and to Nancy Davis and Laurie Leadley for their dipping skills.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

It's starting! Sunday School for all our kids begins September 2 at 9 A.M. You are invited. All are welcome.

Our Teachers

Preschool:

Angie Ladd and Destiny Deal

Kindergarten/First grade:

Gayla Taylor and Sheri Kosowski

Second/Third Grades:

Carrie Koll and Curt Smith

Fourth/ Fifth Grades:

Terri German and Denise Hayes

Sixth through Eighth Grades:

Karla Kane and Lori Johnson

High School:

Linda Pyell and Rusty Koll

Our Curriculum

- ★ Deep Blue's "At Home with God," designed to give students a three-year, age-appropriate excursion through basic Bible stories and concepts
- ★ Includes the Deep Blue app for Android or Apple for all parents and caregivers

Our Goals

- ★ Meaningful interaction for your child to learn God's truths
- ★ Regular updates for both parents and the congregation
- ★ Integrated chances for service to others

An army of volunteers will support this effort with their prayers, their work, and their talents. To join the All-Volunteer Sunday School Army, contact the church office, Janet Mottaz, or Gayla Taylor. To register your child for Sunday School, look for the table near the entrance.

SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM

9 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

September 2, 2018

GREETERS: Curtis/Doreen Smith
USHERS: Kent/Georgia Stevens
LITURGIST: Don Forrest
ACOLYTES: Faith Foster/Katy German
VIDEO: Aaron Miller
MUSICIANS: Tom Hayes
NURSERY: Mary Drone/Laurie Leadley
COMMUNION: Mary Nell Simpson
COFFEE BAR: Sunday School Kick-off

September 9, 2018

GREETERS: Chuck/Carolyn Stevens
USHERS: Janet Vallas/Leann Sweeney
LITURGIST: Doreen Smith
ACOLYTES: Ian Smith/Ty McFarland
VIDEO: Chuck Stevens
MUSICIANS: Saved For Later
NURSERY: Janelle McFarland/Abi Davis
COFFEE BAR:

September 16, 2018

One Service 10:00AM

GREETERS: Gene/Peggy Gibson
USHERS: Tom Morse/Bob Paige
ACOLYTES: Addi Powers/Lee Kosowski
VIDEO: Jason Hahn
MUSICIANS: Teen Challenge
NURSERY: Karla/Sara Kane
COUNTERS:

September 23, 2018

GREETERS: Gail Sprout/Mary Drone
USHERS: Doug Whitney/Kurt Webster
LITURGIST: Curtis Smith
ACOLYTES: Katy German/Lucas Kosowski
VIDEO: Kent Stevens
MUSICIANS: Closer to Free
NURSERY: Gene Gibson/Megan Perryman
COFFEE BAR:

September 30, 2018

GREETERS: Denise Hayes/Gerri Pettit
USHERS: Kent/Georgia Stevens
LITURGIST: Jason Hahn
ACOLYTES: Baron/Cassidy Case
VIDEO: Chuck Stevens
MUSICIANS: Strong Tower
NURSERY: Emily Roberts/Lisa Doubet
COFFEE BAR:

SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

September 2, 2018

GREETERS: Nancy Davis/Mary Howard
USHERS: Celene Duley/Charlotte Haley
LITURGIST: Mary Nell Simpson
ACOLYTES: Faith Foster/Katy German
ORGANIST: Bobbi Staples
NURSERY: Celene Duley/Alana Parm
COUNTERS: Ruth Arnold/Diana Ladd

September 9, 2018

GREETERS: Ruth Arnold/Diana Ladd
USHERS: Mary Nell Simpson/Nancy Davis
LITURGIST: Janet Mottaz
ACOLYTES: Ian Smith/Ty McFarland
PIANIST: Charlotte Booth
NURSERY: Emily Schauble/Laurie Leadley
COUNTERS:

September 23, 2018

GREETERS: Dan/Pat Keefer
USHERS: Chris Stevens/Celene Duley
LITURGIST: Nancy Davis
ACOLYTES: Katy German/Lucas Kosowski
ORGANIST: Bobbi Staples
NURSERY: Angie Ladd/Alix Steele
COUNTERS:

September 30, 2018

GREETERS: Bobbi Staples/Charlotte Booth
USHERS: Chuck/Connie Johnston
LITURGIST: Karla Kane
ACOLYTES: Baron/Cassidy Case
PIANIST: Kris Petermeyer
NURSERY: Nancy Davis/Katie Parm
COUNTERS:

