

The Parish Visitor

September, 2014

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EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN!

by Rev. Mark

There is a song from the movie All That Jazz called Everything Old is New Again. Written by Peter Allen, the song includes these lyrics- *“Don't throw the past away. You might need it some rainy day. Dreams can come true again when everything old is new again.”*

Old and new- two things that seem to be in constant struggle. Those who want to continue with what is tried and true often cringe at the notion of something... “new”. Meanwhile, folks who are always looking to the “next best thing” tend to be quick to want to dismiss that which is well-established and long-standing. That dynamic creates tension, friction.

And with that as the backdrop- here we are with...new things. New ministries are rolling out in the next few days. New approaches to existing ministries are being tried. The word “new” is being bandied about a great deal at 301 N. College Ave. in Aledo these days! And because of that fact, it might be easy to imagine that the tension I mentioned above is present.

I would like to argue, however, that it is NOT. Why? Well, first of all, because of who you all are. This congregation is SO committed to the notion of truly being a family that I don't sense an undertone of tension or discord about the “new” things that are coming. Secondly, the lack of tension is because...well...everything old is new again!

I am a FIRM believer that a church needs to remain absolutely ROCK solid on their message. And as our current District Superintendent, the right Rev. Sylvester Weatherall, says, “We only have ONE message!” Our message is simple- Jesus, the one and only begotten Son of God, Emmanuel, God with us, came to show us a better way to live, died for our sins, rose for our eternity and is now seated at the mighty right hand of God the Father. That's our message- period. And ministers need to find 52 different ways to present that message every year! And we have a Biblical imperative to not water down that message.

BUT, while we must remain true to the message, we have LOTS of wiggle-room in HOW that message is presented. What worked 50 years ago doesn't work now. What works for seasoned church goers doesn't work for seekers. What works for adults doesn't work for youth and children. So we find NEW ways to tell the OLD story!

And that is EXACTLY what the “new” ministries are- new ways to tell the old story. It's a good story. No- it's a GREAT story- the greatest one ever told. And so we are called to do all we can to get that story out to people who don't yet know it! Please pray for all of the ministries of this church- the old AND the new... because everything old is new again!

SPECIAL DATES:

- September 1 Labor Day Office closed
- September 2 Finance Meeting 6PM
- September 2 Trustees Meeting 7PM
- September 3 WNF Kick-off 5:15PM
- September 3 “FUEL” Kick-off 6PM
- September 3 Emergency Preparedness Training session #1 6PM
- September 7 Communion & Food Pantry Collection Sunday
- September 9 Miriam Circle 6PM
- September 10 Emergency Preparedness Training #2
- September 15 UM Men's Meeting 6PM
- September 18 Naomi Wesleyan Circle @ T & C 11:30AM
- September 20 UMW Annual Fall Meeting at Macomb UMC 10AM
- September 21 Caring Hearts Luncheon 11:15AM
- September 21 Administrative Council Meeting 7:15PM
- September 28 CIA Luncheon 11:30AM

WORSHIP TIMES:

Sundays 8AM & 10:15AM

Sunday School 9:15AM

“The Point” 6PM

NEW/CURRENT PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDIES

Four Great Loves

WHAT: Rev. Mark and Joanne's NEW Tuesday Bible Study

WHEN: Tuesdays @ 9AM or 2PM, Sept. 2 through Oct. 21

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café next to the sanctuary (9AM) and the Sonrise Coffee House (2PM)

WHY: In this life, we are called to four great loves: to love God, to love God's Word, to love God's people and to love God's purposes in the world. It is both an awesome task and a glorious opportunity. God promises to equip us for it. The eight weeks of this study will help you see the tangible ways to love and serve the God who loves you perfectly and who longs for you to know Him more intimately.

How Do You Walk the Walk You Talk?

WHAT: Rev. Mark's NEW Wednesday Evening Bible Study

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6PM, Sept. 17 through Oct. 22

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café next to the sanctuary

WHY: This 6-week study is for people who are interested in learning more about what the Bible says. We will focus on vital passages from Ephesians that highlight how Christians can live out God's priorities of unity, authenticity, holiness, forgiveness, and unconditional love. Each week's study is a powerful resource for personal growth.

The Sermon on the Mount

WHAT: Rev. Mark's current MEN'S Bible Study

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6:30AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café next to the sanctuary

WHY: United Methodist founder John Wesley's desire was to present "plain truth to plain people." Editor Clare Weakley has attempted to help him do just that by updating his original 18th century commentary for the modern reader. As you read *The Sermon on the Mount*, you will see that the Beatitudes are to be the attitude of believers. This study will show you how.

WHAT ELSE: It is NOT too late to join.

The Letters of John and Jude

WHAT: Rev. Mark's current Sunday Morning Bible Study

WHEN: Sundays @ 9:15AM

WHERE: In the Chapel next to the sanctuary

WHY: New Testament scholar William Barclay walks us through the letters of John and Jude. These books deal with dissenting teachings within the early Church.

WHAT ELSE: We would LOVE to have you join this class.

MUSIC MINISTRY

What untapped musical gifts do YOU have? Perhaps you sing or play a musical instrument? If so, perhaps God is calling you to a greater commitment in our worship services. Here is a list of the current music ministry opportunities available:

- The Praise Band is looking for a "lead" guitarist, a bass guitarist and a pianist.
- The Vocal Choir always has room for more singers.
- The Bell Choir is looking for more ringers, including substitutes.
- Do you play the piano? We could use your gifts!

Pray about stepping out in faith. If you feel God calling you to join the music ministry of the church, talk to Rev. Mark- stop him at church, call him at the office or e-mail him at revmark@stickwithjesus.com.



NEW SERMON SERIES(ES)!

by Rev. Mark

On Sunday, September 7, we begin not one but TWO new sermon series! One will be featured at both 8AM and 10:15AM while the other will be featured at the NEW 6PM Sunday evening service!

On Sunday morning, we will venture into uncharted waters as we navigate **Terra Incognita**. In 150AD, Ptolemy, a Greco-Egyptian writer of Alexandria, wrote a book called Geography. It was a compilation of what was known about the world's geography in the 2nd century. In it, he coined this phrase to describe that which was beyond the boundary of what had yet been discovered. Latin for “unknown land”, Terra Incognita refers to the great unknown- that which is beyond our current understanding. Each week, we will look at another aspect of the “uncharted waters” into which we as a church are currently sailing. And along the way, we will see both the beauty and wonder of the “undiscovered country”! The weeks of the series look like this:

Sunday, September 7- Step 1: Choose the Destination (Jeremiah 29:11-14a)

Where you are going is an important thing to know.

Sunday, September 14- Step 2: Decide the Length (Joshua 24:13-15)

How can you properly pack if you don't know how long you'll be gone?

Sunday, September 21- Step 3: Research the Cost (Luke 14:28-33)

It is essential to understand what your journey will require of you.

Sunday, September 28- Step 4: Plan the Activities (Isaiah 32:6a, 8)

What you will do along the way is as important as where you are going.

Sunday, October 5- Step 5: Stay focused and Inspired (Hebrews 13:5-6)

You have to make sure that the main thing remains the main thing.

Sunday, October 12- Step 6: Be Flexible (Philippians 4:11-13)

Curves and potholes will come- you have to be able to adjust.

Sunday, October 19- Step 7: Enjoy the Ride (Ecclesiastes 5:18-20)

Life is simply too short to not revel in every moment that you can.

On Sunday evening, we will turn up the “squirm” factor a bit and look at **The Wussification of the Church**.

Based on the writings of theologian Leonard Sweet, this series will challenge what you think about “church”. Facts don't lie, and the facts say that the Church...capital “C”...has been in decline for decades with no real signs of slowing down or rebounding. Wussification- what does that even mean? According to the Urban Dictionary, “wussification” is “the trend of becoming an increasingly wimpy society”. Every week of this series, we'll ask a question...a HARD question...designed to make us think a bit longer and a bit harder about the Church...and our involvement in it. Come prepared to be challenged AND respond! The weeks of this series look like this:

Sunday, September 7, 2014- The Life Question: What Are YOU Looking For? (John 1:35-42)

We are ALL looking for something. The question is- are we looking for the RIGHT thing?

Sunday, September 14, 2014- The Grace Question: Do YOU Understand? (John 3:1-21)

Jesus can't be understood by old standards- He is the fresh revelation of God.

Sunday, September 21, 2014- The Wholeness Question: Do YOU Want to Be Made Well? (John 5:1-15)

We try to hang on to the hurt, to the thing that holds us back.

Sunday, September 28, 2014- The Discipleship Question: Do YOU Want to Quit? (John 6:60-71)

Jesus measures our life with a yardstick, not a stopwatch.

Sunday, October 5, 2014- The Sacrifice Question: Will YOU Lay Down YOUR Life? (John 13:31-38)

Jesus asks us to set aside the things that keep us from Him.

Sunday, October 12, 2014- The Cross Question: Will YOU Drink the Cup? (Matthew 26:36-46)

We are called to share our life with Jesus, to follow Him no matter what.

Sunday, October 19, 2014- The Empty Tomb Question: Why Are YOU Crying? (John 20:1-18)

The Good News brings joy, not sorrow.

Join me every Sunday morning as we chart a new course! Join me every Sunday evening as we ask the hard questions!



C.I.A. (CARING INDIVIDUAL ADULTS) LUNCHEON SEPTEMBER 28TH

by Joanne Harris

Caring Hearts continues to flourish! This group is open to both mature men and women who live alone. This includes anyone who has lost their spouse, divorced or separated, or whose loved one is in the nursing home. The Caring Hearts ministry here at AUMC provides a CIA luncheon once each month. This month, the luncheon will be on Sunday, September 28th, immediately following the 10:15AM worship service. You don't have to bring anything except yourself. Feel free to invite a friend to share the meal and fellowship. I will look forward to seeing you on the 28th of September at 11:30AM!

THANK YOU

To AUMC and Ms. Farrell,

Thank you so much for your recent donation of \$346.06 and your kind note. We appreciate it! The money will go to help fund school supplies, underway at our Center now. The community support is welcomed and our sincere thanks for the generous donation.

*Mercer County Family
Crisis Center*

(Note: These were
funds raised at VBS.)



MIRIAM CIRCLE WELCOMES YOU TO START BACK THIS FALL!

All ladies are invited to join us at the **September 9th Miriam Circle** meeting **6 PM** in the Fellowship Room. We are starting up the second half of 2014 after a two-month lapse of meetings. Our meetings include a short study from the UMW program book, business meeting, an awesome 15-minute DVD study of Christian answers to everyday issues, food and fellowship. **We welcome new members and visitors to our fun and active group meetings and activities**

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE SAFETY TEAM IS DOING FOR YOUR SAFETY?

We are planning another CPR/AED training class on Monday, September 15, 2014 6:00 – 8:30 PM. If you would like to join this class, please contact Deb in the church office.

We thank those who have already given their CPR credentials for the file in the office. Our goal is to have as many as possible feel prepared to step up in a health emergency.

The AED is regularly checked and is ready for use when needed. We have an extra set of adult pads in the office. The second set of pediatric pads is missing. If you know the location of the AED pads in a small square cardboard box, please take them to the office.

The Church Safety Search in last month Parish Visitor was a fun “quiz” for your safety awareness. The answers are posted outside the church office or any safety team member has the answers. Be sure and check out contents of the larger emergency first aid kits located on top of the coat racks in the Fellowship Room and the Dining Room.

We hope that you are planning to attend the Community Preparedness classes on September 3rd and 10th. There will be a Food Safety class scheduled in mid October.

Prepare, Prevent, Protect



BIBLES FOR THIRD GRADERS

On **September 21** at both morning worship services, our United Methodist Women will carry on a proud and long-standing tradition. Children who have just started 3rd Grade will receive a Bible at the service they normally attend. (The Bibles this year are...in a word...AWESOME!) If you have a child who just started 3rd Grade or was in 3rd Grade already but didn't get a Bible, please don't hesitate to contact the office. (We don't want to miss anybody!)

LABOR DAY

The first Labor Day was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City. The first proposal of the holiday described it as a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations," followed by a festival for the workers and their families. In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations and on June 28, 1894, Congress made it a federal holiday. It originated as a "day off for the working citizens" and now is celebrated by most Americans as the symbolic end of summer. In addition, Labor Day marks the beginning of the NFL and college football seasons. The NCAA usually plays their first games the week before Labor Day, with the NFL traditionally playing their first game the Thursday following Labor Day. Celebrate the working men and women of our country on Monday the 1st!

SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN SEPTEMBER

Are you aware that September is Classical Music Month? What about Hispanic Heritage Month? Or Fall Hat Month? It's also International Square Dancing Month, Blueberry Popsicle Month, Chicken Month, Little League Month and Better Breakfast Month! In addition, these are some of the special days in September: the 1st- Labor Day (see accompanying article), the 2nd- Emma Nutt Day (1st woman telephone operator), the 3rd- Peanut Butter Day, the 4th- Newspaper Carrier Day, the 5th- Skyscraper Day, the 6th- Read a Book Day, the 7th- Be Late For Something Day, 8th- Grandparent's Day, 9th- Date Nut Bread Day, 10th- Sewing Machine Day, the 11th- Make Your Bed Day, the 12th- Chocolate Milkshake Day, 13th- Teddy Bear Day, the 14th- Cream-Filled Donut Day, the 15th- Felt Hat Day, the 16th- Play-Doh Day, the 17th- Citizenship Day, the 18th- Miniature Golf Day, the 19th- Butterscotch Pudding Day, the 20th- Punch Day, the 21st- POW/MIA Recognition Day, the 22nd- Elephant Appreciation Day, the 23rd- Dogs in Politics Day, the 24th- Cherries Jubilee Day, the 25th- Count the Stars Day, the 26th - Johnny Appleseed Day, the 27th- International Rabbit Day, the 28th- Ask a Stupid Question Day, the 29th- Confucius Day and the 30th- National Mud Pack Day.

Take some time this month to celebrate all that September has to offer!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP IS HERE!

Wednesday Night Fellowship will kick off for the fall on Wednesday, September 3rd. This ministry is offered EVERY Wednesday night! The evening begins with dinner at 5:15PM, with our BRAND NEW Children's Ministries- **FUEL**- for kids Pre-School through 6th Grade (see accompanying article), a youth Bible study for grades 7th through 12th, Bell Choir and Chancel Choir rehearsals and a variety of classes for adults (see accompanying article) from 6:PM-7PM. The nursery will also be available. Pray about your commitment to Wednesday Night ministries. We would love to have you for dinner...and more!

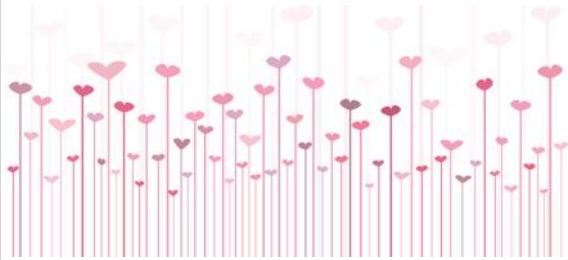




ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER

- 09/01/2001– Robert & Andrea Parker
- 09/07/2007– Brian & Carol Parchert
- 09/09/2000– Joshua & Michele Joseph
- 09/16/1951– Gene & Virginia Cooper
- 09/19/1970– Dean & Carol Hill
- 09/23/2000– Matthew & Jamie Breeden
- 09/24/1983– Mark & Brenda Dunn
- 09/25/2004– Douglas & Kelsey Huston
- 09/26/1992– Rick & Diana Eggen
- 09/28/1957– Arthur & Patricia Olson



UM Women

Golden Age Birthdays

- 09/05– Doreen Bailey
- 09/07– Marian Nesbitt
- 09/10– Janet Hunter
- 09/11– Katharine Jones
- 09/17– Patricia Olson



THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS



- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Hank Allan | Rev Mark & family | Dave Salmon |
| Anderson family | Leanne Helton | Shellie Saltzman |
| Ayers family | Joanne /Christy | Carrie Jo Shride |
| Joanne Beard | Jenny Johnson | Dianna Spencer |
| Linda Biebaum | Annabelle Kell/cancer | Marilyn Wagler |
| Brenda Brandt/cancer | Marsha & Linda/cancer | Butch Watson |
| Lucy Ceurvorst/cancer | Butch & Judy McGill | Kent Weeks |
| Joshua Cosby | Sondra McWhorter | Kevin Wilkens |
| Doherty family | Kathy Melton | Family/motorcycle accident |
| Dowsett family | Jane Mumm | Earthquake in California |
| Laura Diehl | John Omeara, Jr/cancer | Family situations/difficulties |
| Chris Engstrom | Nadeen/Rhonda Perkins | Homeless veterans/Aledo |
| Jenifer Franks/cancer | Bryce Rathje/6 yrs old | Ferguson, Missouri |
| Neil Gabrielson | Mary Kay Ryan | “FUEL” |

Mercer County Schools: Administration, Teachers, Students, Staff
 National and Local Governmental Leaders, Military, Security Officers
 FUEL, Bus Ministry, College Students, Shut Ins, the lost

NEW WORSHIP SERVICE- WHAT'S "THE POINT"?

by Rev. Mark

On Sunday, September 7th at 6PM, our NEW Sunday night service- **The Point**- will debut. This new service is geared to be an alternative worship experience for folks IN our congregation who are gone for a weekend, work on Sunday morning or are simply looking for more opportunities to be involved in worship. It is also, however, aimed at folks within Mercer County who don't have a church home. We will regularly explore the question, "What's the point?" What's the point of faith, what's the point of a relationship with God, what's the point of life.



This new service will feature:

- a sermon that is DIFFERENT from Sunday morning- **group discussion will be included**
- weekly Communion
- **shared leadership between myself and others who attend**
- a "mission moment" as a weekly feature
- prayer time, include "thankful moments" and testimonies
- monthly sensory activities designed to involve more senses in faith development
- monthly "Take-Aways"- a rock, candle, pen, heart, hand, 3x5 card, etc. will be offered
- video clips

A postcard has gone out to everyone in the zip code, letting them know about this and the other ministries of the church and inviting them to join us! I would challenge you to "talk up" this service and invite folks from the community to try it out! Please pray that this service will help us connect more people to Jesus Christ.

God is doing GREAT things- will you be a part of this newest addition?

ARE YOU A MEMBER?

Bishop Gregory Palmer, the former Bishop of our Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church, in an e-letter dated December 20, 2008, said this about the decline of our denomination, "...the invitation to discipleship is at the core of our identity and mission as The United Methodist Church. We as an annual conference...have struggled to be invitational...with the gospel of Jesus Christ. In 2007, 60 percent of our congregations received ZERO persons by professions of faith. We are simply not bringing new people into the life of the church in a way that outpaces our decline. As Bishop of the Illinois Area, I want to encourage you that, as United Methodists, we have a glorious heritage of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and offering invitation to the transforming relationship with the Savior."

6 out of every 10 United Methodist Churches in our conference are losing ground. This makes AUMC all the more exciting of a place in which to do ministry! So far this year, your church has welcomed 14 new members and performed 11 baptisms. If THAT doesn't get you excited...then your wood's all wet!

Have you felt God tugging at you, urging you to take a leap of faith and become a larger part of something bigger than yourself? Have you been considering joining the church, but don't quite know how? Here's what you do! Simply contact Rev. Mark (revmark@myaledoumc.com) and set up a time to visit with him. This 30-minute meeting will allow him to get to know you better and talk to you about your faith journey. At the end of the meeting, you'll decide which Sunday you would like to join the church...and the rest, as they say, is history! Pray about it- are YOU ready to step out in faith?

CALL-EM-ALL

Did you know that your church has a notification service named Call-Em-All? We use it to notify church members, both through automated phone calls and/or text messages, of a variety of things. Do YOU get texts and/or phone calls from Call-Em-All? If not, would you LIKE to? Whether you are a committee member, a member of a group like United Methodist Men or Women or you would like to receive all-church news or prayer requests, Call-Em-All can help keep you informed. If you are not currently receiving Call-Em-All notifications or would like to receive more of them, simply call the office. We can help!



The deadline for the next Parish Visitor is *Thursday Sept. 23rd at 8am.*

Please have all articles submitted by this date!

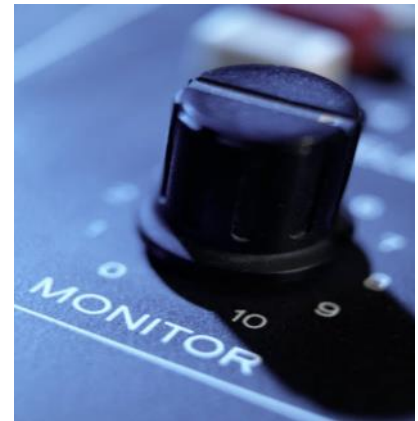


CHURCH WEBSITE

Have you looked at your church's website? If not, go to www.myaledoumc.com and see what's going on! Not only can you see the "basics" about the Aledo United Methodist Church, you can find the most current church calendar. In addition, the 2-minute "call to worship" videos that start our 8AM service every week are available. Also, the monthly newsletter AND the weekly bulletin (complete with the current version of the Prayer List) can be found on our website. Stop by and check it out!

WORSHIP TECH OPPORTUNITIES

Do you like electronics? Then your church needs YOU! We need people to help operate the sound system and computer during Sunday morning worship services. What do you need in order to run these things? The list is LONG- a willingness to serve, and...that would be about it! The systems, designed specifically for churches, are quite simple to operate. (Don't let all the knobs and switches intimidate you!) The great part about this ministry is that it happens during worship, when you're in church anyway! Do you feel God calling you to step up and help? Talk to Rev. Mark or Ruth Dulaney.



ALEDO UMC BUS MINISTRY

We'd love to come pick you up and bring you to any of our services. Just make arrangements with **Greg Cobert** in advance by calling (309) 737-5621 and we'll put you on our "Pick Up" list.





Follow the Star Holiday Bazaar

Friday, November 21, 2014 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Saturday, November 22, 2014 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

It's time to start thinking about how you can share your talents by participating in the family-oriented Holiday Bazaar. The core Bazaar team has met and has great new ideas for the fourth annual event. The team is led by co-chairpersons Nicole Taylor and Ruth Dulaney. Each work area has leaders to coordinate their unique booth so many workers, crafty items and donations are needed. If you would like to make some items to donate, but just do not feel your budget can support the supplies, ask Nicole or Ruth who can confidentially partner you up with someone who would like to make a monetary donation for the supplies. All profits from the Bazaar are given to local charities and church programs.

Our basement booths will include the Candy Cane Café, Country Store with home baked goodies, Sweet Shoppe with lots of cookies and candies, the Razzle Dazzle fun booth, Creative Hands with all sorts of hand sewn items, Love Notes with great paper gift items, Deck the Halls with decorating items for the Holidays, Pampered Pets with goodies for the four-legged friends, Kitchen Korner selling Rada cutlery, Dinner to Go with frozen casseroles for a quick and delicious meal, and Secret Shoppers will help the children make surprise purchases.

The main focus of the event will be the nativity sets. Last year we had 135 nativities displayed for people to "Follow the Star" to the Christ child. The Nativity Room will be beautifully decorated with the nativity sets which you are willing to loan out for the two day event. (Anyone bringing their nativity set(s) will need to be responsible for setting up and taking down their own sets.)

Upstairs in the sanctuary we will be taking photos in Nativity costumes where "A Star is Born". This year animal costumes will also be provided for anyone wanting photos with their pets.

The Fellowship Café area will serve two different kinds of soup on Friday evening and biscuits and gravy on Saturday morning. The whole family can come and eat and enjoy the festivities.

This event has grown to involve the whole church family. We have preparation times planned for anyone who wants to join in the fun and fellowship.

Monday, September 8 th at 6:00 PM in the basement:	Craft Work Time
Monday, September 29 th at 6:00 PM in the kitchen:	Dog Treat Preparation
Monday, October 6 th at 6:00 PM in the kitchen	Noodle Preparation
Tuesday, October 7 th at 2:00 PM in the dining room:	Bag the Noodles

What can YOU do to join in? 1. Look for posters with donated items needed to soon appear. 2. Volunteer to help in a booth. 3. Make items to sell. 4. Bring your nativity set. 5. *If you have pint or quart jars that you can donate now for the Craft Work Time, please leave them on the back table near the Fellowship Café.*

Caring Hearts Celebration Luncheon

When: September 14th after 10:15 Church Service

What: We have planned a family style sit-down lunch to celebrate the growth of the Caring Hearts ministry! We invite everyone to come help us thank all of the many members who have "caring hearts" and have volunteered over the past two years. Any donations received at the luncheon will be used to further this worthwhile and ever-growing ministry. Come and learn of new teams being formed as well as the need of expanding existing teams. Don't miss a delicious chicken casserole meal with lots of side dishes!

(Continued from page 11)

4. Kill them with kindness

Psalm 25:21-22 says, "If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you."

"Heap burning coals" means that regardless of what people may show on the outside, you will make them burn with regret over what they just said. It's such a well-known tactic that it has a name: It's called "killing people with kindness".

That doesn't mean the guilt will show up in people right away. Generally, they will look confused or stunned.

But often they'll go away and think about it. Conversely, if you say something mean back, you are throwing fire at fire. What happens to the fire when you add fire to it? It grows and grows. Will fire ever put out a fire?

In the end, as Christians, we want to follow the lead of Jesus, who said in Matthew 5:44, "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Are you ready to do that on Facebook today?

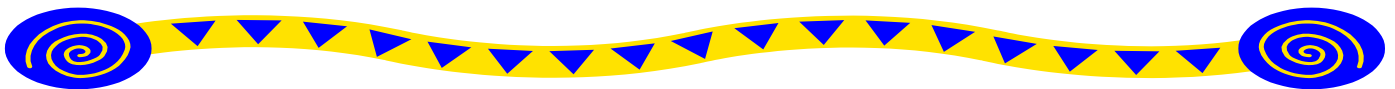


Melissa Farrell– Director of
Youth and Children's Ministries



THE NURSERY: OUR FRONT-LINE DEFENSE

When young families visit a church for the 1st time, the FIRST place they go often is the Nursery! If they find a friendly, clean, inviting atmosphere, they are likely to drop their kids off and attend church. If they DON'T find those things, they will politely respond that they were just looking, NOT drop their kids off...and NOT come back! Your church works hard to provide a great Nursery Program. Professionally staffed and lovingly tended, our Nursery is a great place for our kid! Your church truly believes that children are NOT simply the future of the church- they are very much an active, important part of its PRESENT!



FUEL- THE NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

by Rev. Mark

The NEW Wednesday Night Children's ministry- **FUEL**- begins on Wednesday, September 3. And the leadership couldn't be more excited! The emphasis is built around "Hands-On Bible". The kids will have fun while they learn more about the great stories of the Bible...AND how those stories impact their lives! We have also streamlined the time- the kids will meet from 6PM until 7PM every Wednesday evening to better coincide with the rest of the evening's programming.

Wanda Cobert and I are SO excited about the changes that are coming AND the positive impact those changes will have on our children! If you have children or grandchildren, please consider helping them be a part of this exciting new program. If you have friends or neighbors who have kids, please invite them. Let them know that they are welcome to come for dinner at 5:15PM, stay for an adult Bible study while their kids are ministered to from 6PM to 7PM and be home, working on homework and getting everybody ready for bed, by 7:15PM!

FOUR PRINCIPLES FOR GODLY FACEBOOKING



How do you respond when someone posts negative comments online?

I recently heard of something that happened on Facebook. A girl posted about New Year's Day, saying "People always make New Year's Resolutions, but let's face it, none of us are going to keep ours."

How would you respond to a statement like that?

Some people posted back in agreement, and the poster had a lot of likes. But one of the poster's 375 "friends" had just made a New Year's Resolution to go back to the gym. She really wanted to keep it, and was a kind of "up" and bubbly person, so that comment really got to her. This girl (we'll call her Jena) simply posted back "Ew".

In other words, Jena had read this negative comment, had felt it strike her wrongly, and she posted her feelings about it: "Ew."

It turns out things had gotten a little tense between the girl and Jena lately. They were in the same math class ... no words had been exchanged, just a few dirty looks that probably started with mutual jealousy. The first girl posted back to Jena, "I hear you're switching high schools. Is it because you don't have any friends at this school?"

What she didn't realize was Jena's dad had serious surgery the year before, and they were moving so he could live in a house that didn't have as many stairs. Switching schools was causing the whole family a tremendous stress.

The point is, this Facebook war mushroomed into something that involved three days of posts, over 160 people from 5 different communities and 3 different schools.

Some would argue it all started with just TWO LITTLE LETTERS: E-W. Ew.

With that story in mind, here are four principles to help us be godly Facebookers.

- **1. Your online behaviour reflects your offline attitudes**

Philippians 4:8 says, "whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things."

You can't say, and you can't post, what you're not thinking about.

So before you write something on Facebook, imagine how others might respond to what are you saying. How do think they will feel? Good? Or bad? If you think there's a chance they will take it negatively, maybe you shouldn't post it.

Posting and texting is just like any other area of life. In Matthew 7:12 Jesus states clearly, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." This 'Golden Rule' sums up almost every other command in the Bible.

- **2. Avoid online negativity**

This principle is like a subcategory of the first. If you say something negative about a person, it often gets back to the source. If you post something negative in public about another person, that's worse. If you try to encrypt it so that only a few people know what you're talking about, it will be sniffed out by the source — and probably 20 other people who are so deeply insecure that they think everyone is referring to them.

If you have something you need to say to someone, then go and talk to them face-to-face. And do it with grace and love.

- **3. Don't return evil for evil**

What if someone says something negative about you? Not returning evil for evil is really hard, and yet it is where the rubber meets the road in relying on Christ. You're going to need practice and patience.

Here are some examples I've seen of people responding to negative comments:

- *Negative person says: "Where'd you get those ugly jeans?"*

Reply: (roll eyes) "I know they're not the best ... but I really love all the stuff you wear."

- *Negative person says: "I can't stand so-and-so. He's really annoying."*

Reply: "Actually, he sits beside me in math. He's really nice once you get to know him."

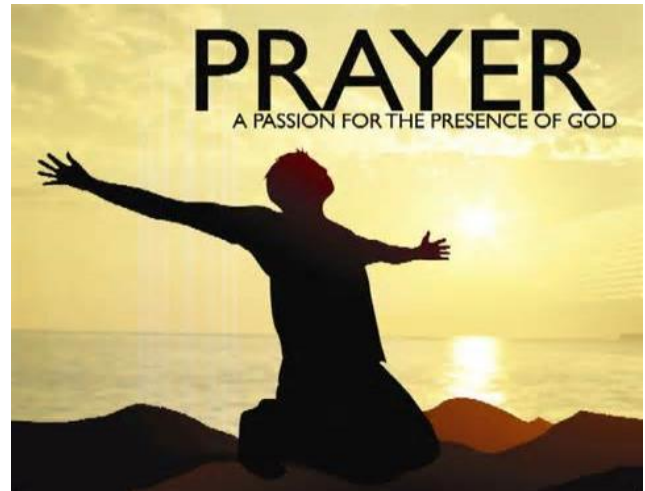
- *Negative person says: "So and so wrote bad stuff about you on the bathroom wall."*

Reply: "You're kidding! Wow. I always really liked her. I'll try and find a time to chat with her about it."

It's very hard to return a mean comment with a nice one because we feel like we are giving that mean person even more power. But the opposite is true.

**COME CONNECT
WITH US
IN PRAYER**

**PRAYER WALK
THROUGH THE
CHURCH EVERY
SUNDAY MORNING
AT 7AM.**



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

As you are shopping for your children's "back-to-school" supplies for their classrooms, why not pick up a few extra items (at **SUPER CHEAP PRICES!**) to put in your **Operation Christmas Child shoebox**? The prices can't be beat! There will also be **free** toothbrushes and pencils available in the Fellowship Room. Collection of the boxes will begin **October 5th**, and **all the boxes are due here at the church by Sunday, Nov 9th!** There will be more information in the near future.

Joan Reynolds & Scott Spencer



HOW ARE WE DOING FINANCIALLY?

by Rev. Mark

Summer's over, Fall's here- kids are back at school. Soon, leaves will turn and temperatures will drop. And that means- "get back to church" time. In the Summer, church attendance and giving typically go down. And while attendance hasn't dropped much this summer, giving HAS been down- enough that we've had to make weekly decisions about which bills to pay. This has caused us to be two months behind on the support we send to our United Methodist Conference...not a position in which we want to be!

But one thing I've learned in 18 years of ministry is to trust God. Therefore, I'm NOT entering this Fall in "panic mode". Instead, I'm entering Fall with a bucketful of hope, joy and excitement! Are we where we want to be, financially? No. Am I confident that we'll get there by the end of the year? Absolutely!

Pray for your church. See if God is calling you to step out in faith and increase your giving. If it was simply about electric bills and Conference claims, I would say...no! But it's not. It's about doing ALL we can to better connect people to Jesus Christ!

FINANCIAL MATTERS

(WEEKLY NEED \$5,768)

Date	08/03	08/10	08/17	08/24
Attendance	181	204	204	196
Receipts	\$5,225.75	\$4,538.00	\$5,647.43	\$3,593.00

