

The Parish Visitor

May, 2018



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SOME DAYS ARE DIAMONDS

by Rev. Mark

Remember John Denver? (Far out!) I LOVED John Denver back in the day! (If I'm honest, I STILL like his music!) On his 1981 album titled Some Days Are Diamonds, he included the title song- Some Days Are Diamonds, Some Days Are Stone. Written by Dick Feller, this song (while not getting a lot of air play or notoriety), really has some great things to say about perseverance- "Some days are diamonds. Some days are stones. Sometimes the hard times won't leave me alone. Sometimes a cold wind blows a chill in my bones. Some days are diamonds. Some days are stones."

You just have to love perseverance! To paraphrase American humorist Josh Billings, the postage stamp is a great example of perseverance- its usefulness is based solely on its ability to stick to one thing until it gets where it's going! I recently had someone comment on my perseverance. Their comments caused me to remember a quote by author Stephen King- "If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot. There's no way around these two things that I'm aware of, no shortcut." How true! There are some days when I sit down to write and it just POURS out- I can't type fast enough to keep up with my head! But there are other days when I fire the 'ol laptop up, get comfortable, put my fingers on the keyboard, and...I got nothin'! I am so dry, I make the Sahara look like an oasis! On days like that, I simply DON'T. WANT. TO. WRITE! I want to close the laptop and go do something else...ANYTHING else. Is life closing in around you? Do you feel like giving up? Are you ready to throw in the towel? All I can say is...DON'T. Psalm 30 (as well as the Contemporary Christian song Trading My Sorrows) says, "Though the sorrow may last for the night, the joy comes in the morning." God IS with you, whether your days are diamonds or whether they are stones. (He seems to be with me even more when they are stones!) He will never leave you or forsake you. Hang in there... persevere!

GRADUATION SUNDAY

On **Sunday, May 13th**, we will recognize High School and College graduates at all morning services. The Church Scholarship(s) will be awarded at the 10:30AM service. Please encourage your graduates to attend church that day to receive a special gift and so their church family can rejoice with them on this momentous occasion!

SPECIAL DATES:

- May 3 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- May 6 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- May 7 Relay For Life Survivor Dinner 6PM
- May 13 Mother's Day
- May 13 Graduation Sunday 10:30AM
- May 14 Mother/Daughter/Sister/Friend Banquet 6PM
- May 15 Work at Food Pantry 5:30-7:30PM
- May 17 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- May 18 Work at Food Pantry 8AM-noon
- May 19 Hunter Harris Graduation Party 2PM
- May 20 CIA Luncheon 11:30AM
- May 20 Youth Fellowship 11:30AM
- May 20 Missions Meeting 5:15PM
- May 20 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- May 20 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- May 20 Administrative Council Meeting 7:30PM
- May 21 UM Men 6PM
- May 23 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- May 24 Women's Bible Study 5:30PM
- May 28 Office Closed for Memorial Day
- May 29 Relay for Life Meeting 6:30PM
- May 29 PPRC Meeting 6:30PM

NEW/CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES

The Gospel of John with Mike Millar

WHAT: Current Tuesday morning Bible Study

WHEN: Tuesday mornings at 9AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café, next to the Sanctuary

WHY: Without the apostle John we would have been left to wonder about the hands-on Jesus. But through John's eyes and pen, we are privileged to witness the ministry of the Savior. John's gift to us is a record of tender moments and heaven-powered miracles.

WHAT ELSE: The books are \$8 and it is not too late to join!

Ten Men of the Bible: How God Used Imperfect People to Change the World with Gary Heard

WHAT: Current Wednesday morning MEN'S Bible Study

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6:30AM (Coffee, breakfast pizza AND donuts EVERY week!)

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe' next to the sanctuary

WHY: The men of the Bible aren't depicted there because they were perfect, but to highlight their faithfulness to God! In this 10-session study guide, Max Lucado looks at the stories of some of these Scriptural characters, pointing out key decisions they made - and the good or bad consequences that resulted. Each session includes discussion questions.

WHAT ELSE: The books are \$15 and it is NEVER too late to join!

The Book of James, Practical Wisdom with Paul Hevland

WHAT: Current Wednesday Night Bible Study

WHEN: Wednesday Night at 6PM

WHERE: Fellowship Café next to the Sanctuary

WHY: The strength of this bible study is that it helps you to apply what you study in the book of James to your everyday life. It also asks some very thought-provoking questions.

WHAT ELSE: The books are \$8 and it is not too late to join.



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 church current calendar. Also, the monthly newsletter can be found on our website. Stop by and check it out!

DID YOU MISS SUNDAY'S SERMON?

If you miss church on Sunday, you can STILL experience the sermon. You can go to the church's Facebook page OR the church website to watch a video of any sermon you missed. You can also go to www.stickwithjesus.com and choose "read my blog" to read a transcript of the sermon! If you would like to subscribe and receive a daily email link, email Rev. Mark at revmark@stickwithjesus.com. Please share these links with your friends and family.

CURRENT/NEW SERMON SERIES

by Rev. Mark

In 590AD, Pope Gregory defined the 7 Deadly Sins as lust, wrath, gluttony, greed, sloth, envy and pride. At that time, he also included a counter-balancing set of values that we should adopt. They have become known as the 7 Heavenly Virtues. Starting Sunday, May 6, we will be immersing ourselves in these lists in an effort to identify and celebrate our own strengths as well as name areas of our lives that perhaps need more attention. The weeks of the series look like this:

Sunday, May 6, 2018 Chastity (Luke 11:33-36)

Purity and abstinence that serve as a counterbalance to lust.

(Psalm 119:9-11, 1John 1:8-9)

Sunday, May 13, 2018 Patience (Mother's Day) (Luke 8:9-15)

Forgiveness and mercy that serve as a counterbalance to wrath.

(Ecclesiastes 7: 8-9, Romans 12:9-13)

Sunday, May 20, 2018 Temperance (Luke 10:25-28)

Humanity and composure that serve as a counterbalance to gluttony.

(Proverbs 25:27-28, 2Peter 1:5-6)

Sunday, May 27, 2018 Charity (Luke 12:32-34)

Benevolence, generosity and sacrifice that serve as a counterbalance to greed.

(Proverbs 19:17, Acts 20:35)

Sunday, June 3, 2018 Diligence (Luke 11:9-11)

Persistence, effort and ethics as a counterbalance to sloth.

(Proverbs 13:4, Galatians 6:9-10)

Sunday, June 10, 2018 Kindness (Luke 6:32-36)

Satisfaction and compassion as a counterbalance to envy.

(Proverbs 11:16-17, Ephesians 4:31-32)

Sunday, June 17, 2018 Humility (Father's Day) (Luke 14:8-11)

Bravery, modesty and reverence as a counterbalance to pride.

(Proverbs 22:4, James 4:6b-7)



MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May (Monday, May 28th this year). Formerly known as Decoration Day, it commemorates U.S. men and women who died while in military service to their country. First enacted to honor Union soldiers from the Civil War (it is celebrated near the day of official reunification after that war), it was expanded after World War I to include American casualties of any war or military action.

On Sunday, May 27th, we will honor those men and women who gave their lives for our country during all three morning worship services. Please remember the ultimate price these brave people paid so that we might have freedom- including to worship as we see fit.

We will also remember those in our church, our families and our community who have died. Names of loved ones who have died in the past year will be read and a bell will be tolled. If you lost a loved one this year, please feel free to submit their name to the church office for inclusion. Also, each family in attendance will have the opportunity to come forward and light a candle in memory of a loved one that they have lost. Plan on attending this powerful service...and bring someone with you!



RHUBARB FEST LUNCHEON 2018

We need your assistance to make this event a success.

*We will be soliciting food donations and workers for
Thursday, May 31st; Friday, June 1st; and Saturday, June 2nd.
Sit-Down Crew work times and Pie Baking times listed on poster
Please sign up to donate food and/or work at the luncheon.*

Look for sign-up posters in the Fellowship Room

This is your opportunity to serve!

**We need over 300 rhubarb or fruit homemade pies
(If you have or need rhubarb, call Mary Flint at 582-7615)**

The homemade menu includes chicken salad on a croissant or
lettuce leaf or ham and cheese on wheat bun; potato salad
or chips, fresh fruit, rhubarb or fruit pie and beverage.
A child's meal which includes a hot dog or ham sandwich, chips,
cookie and juice box is also available.



Take-out meals and delivery to

Aledo homes and businesses

Place orders ahead at the church office.

Church Bus Service to and from church

Downtown Bus Stop



AN OUTREACH IDEA

Here's a low-risk, easy way to introduce others to faith- share Rev. Mark's website with them. Described as "a daily look at life as a shaved-headed, earring-wearing, rock-drumming United Methodist minister", www.stickwithjesus.com features a "thought for the day", written by Rev. Mark- a new one is literally added daily! There is also a daily Bible verse AND a Prayer Request page, where you can (anonymously if you want) ask for prayer! Check it out- if you would like to subscribe and receive a daily email link, email Rev. Mark at revmark@myaledoumc.com and let him know.

Food Pantry Needs

- Canned Peaches
- Canned Pineapple
- Canned Potatoes
- Chili Beans
- Peanut Butter
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Breakfast Cereal
- Cash Donations



**Spring into Action
due at the church by May 7th**

NOW WHAT?

by Rev. Mark

We're now past the "busyness" of Easter (731 folks worshiped with us between Maundy (Holy) Thursday and Easter Sunday!) It was a marvelous mountaintop experience: great worship, incredible music and an experience of God we won't soon forget. But now we're back in the valley, life is back to "normal", the spiritual high is diminishing, and we ask ourselves, "Now what?"

Here's what! Don't let Easter be the end of anything. Instead, let it be the beginning of a whole new adventure. Let this be the year you turn another corner in your faith journey. Refuse to simply slide back into "business as usual". Instead, reach out- GRAB that brass ring. Embrace all that God has to offer. Live life to the fullest. Don't waste a moment.

The power of Easter is found in an empty tomb. But that power is lost if we don't live our lives recognizing the tomb is empty for our benefit. Like Esther in the Old Testament, The Aledo United Methodist Church was created for "such a time as this". There has never been the potential for ministry in this town as there is right now. How will we respond? God is good, all the time!

WRMJ RADIO BROADCAST

On the 4th Sunday of each month, and now on any 5th Sundays, we broadcast our 10:30 Worship Service live on WRMJ. Would you like to sponsor this? It costs \$70 to sponsor a Sunday broadcast, and is a wonderful way to get our Services out to the public and to those who cannot make it out to church. If you are interested, let the office know at 582-2169. If you would like to sponsor in memory of a loved one, give us the information and we will acknowledge it in the bulletin and in the announcements.



MOTHER/DAUGHTER/SISTER/ FRIEND BANQUET

Our church's annual Mother/Daughter/Sister/Friend Banquet is Monday, May 14th at 6:00 p.m. Last year's event was a huge success and so much fun that we have decided to duplicate it this year. Our very own United Methodist Men will be catering the meal. The family-friendly entertainment will once again be provided by ComedySportz of the Quad Cities.

Tickets for the evening are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children ages 4-10, and free for ages 0-3. Our meal will consist of either marinated pork loin or lemon-herb chicken, tossed salad, mashed potatoes, green beans, and dinner roll. Children may select either ½ of an adult meal or a hot dog meal with their child's ticket. Dessert is served with all.

This promises to be a fun, entertaining evening which will honor our mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends. Tickets are available from Mary Flint, Molly Joseph, or the church office. Please purchase before Tues., May 8th so that we can get an accurate count for food.



SCHEDULING EVENTS

The Aledo United Methodist Church is a BUSY place! (Our custodians tell us that they struggle to find time to CLEAN the church because there is always something GOING ON in the church!) And since we are busy connecting people with Jesus Christ, then it is a VERY good thing that we are busy! But BECAUSE we are so busy, it makes scheduling a bit more of a challenge. Events that never had to be concerned with the calendar before now...have to!

We continue to find creative, collaborative ways to enable multiple events to happen at the same time- which IS our goal- but we can't do that if we don't know an event is scheduled. With that in mind, please contact the Church Office as soon as possible to make sure your date/time/area of the church is available and to get your event on the church calendar. Is your church a busy place? Yes! Is it busy connecting people to Jesus Christ? Yes! Therefore, we want to do EVERYTHING we can to make sure as many ministries as possible that help further our mission are able to happen!

Do you want to take some food to a friend who is ill or in need?
Our Caring Hearts freezer, in a new location by the elevator doors in the basement, has a variety of soups, casseroles, fruit, and desserts.

A group of dedicated ladies prepare the delicious homemade food twice a month for anyone who is in need of cheer.

Please help yourself!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are in need of volunteers to greet for Sunday morning Services. This is an IMPORTANT ministry. Please contact Ruth Dulaney at 309-738-6151 to volunteer one Sunday a month.



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

05/03/2014– Jose & Kaitlyn Marceleno
 05/07/2011– Darren & Kia Winsor
 05/16/1970– Michael & Barbara Millar
 05/17/1980– Roger & Jackie Maynard
 05/20/1978– Mike & Vicki Peterson
 05/21/2016– Pat & Amy Sage
 05/25/1996– Bill & Jane Stropes
 05/29/1993– Jeff & Trisha Hank

Happy
Anniversary

UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

05/11– Linda Tharp
 05/19– Louise Engwall
 05/21– Martha Rittenhouse
 05/30– Clara McCreight



The deadline for the next
 Parish Visitor is
Wednesday, May 23rd @ 8am.
 Please have all articles submitted
 by this date!

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Norma Adams family	Chris Engstrom	Olivia Jones/health	Ron Schmidt/healing
Sandy Anderson/peace	Soni Engstrom	Terry Jones/cancer	Neil Seaton/stroke
Sharon Andress	Evelyn/1yr old/cancer	John Karwath/cancer	Rollin Spencer/health
Jordan Balmer	Bob Fausett/heart	Sherrie Kenney/strength	Stacey
Don Benson	Rich Fell/sciatica	Aubrey King/cancer	Verla Thompson
John Blick	Jenifer Franks	Chad King/brain tumor	Jim Stites
Bob Bocox	Carol Freeman/cancer	Martha King/heart	Joe Thibedoux/lymphoma
Brian Boenkamp/coma	Connie Freeman	Allison Kuk/remission	Charley Thomas
Brenda Brandt	CJ Friedel	Jon Lee/cancer	Pam & Neil Truman
Renaee Brown	Gail/chemo & radiation	Kirsten Leeper & baby	Tammy W
Holden C/heart	Rodney Glidden/lung cancer	Tiffanee Lloyd	Rebecca Weihler/brain tumor
Calvin	Will Green/deployed	Mary Louck	Jo Weis
Valerie Carlson family	Linda Hall/shoulder surgery	Violet Meskan/Lyme disease	Son-in-law/health
Robin Ciccotelli/chemo	Susie Hall/breast cancer	Connie Midkiff	AUMC church family
Melissa Coleman	Rev Mark and family	Cathy Miller/shingles	Shut-ins/Nursing Home Residents
Tricia & Rory Conway/ Lymes	Michael Harris	Steve Morss/health	Military & families
Dave Corbin/job	Pam Heath	Kayla & Jamie Mugford/ baby	All ill/in hospitals
Hurley Crossman/cancer	Marilyn Hessman/cancer	Joel Noe	All who battle cancer
Charlie David	Sheryl Hodges	Ember Pappas	All who mourn
Dee Dellitt	Parker Hopkins/2yrs old/ cancer	Bryce Rathje	
Stacey DeSpain/6yrs/ health	Judy Inman family	Robert & Monica/health	Mercer County Schools Administration, Teachers, Students and Staff
Dick & Beverly	Irven	Nick Riordan family	National and Local Governmental Leaders
Madge Douglas	Jackson	Fred Rooth	
Jim Droste	Jeremy	Lisa Rzepecki	
Lauren Eggen/cancer	Debbie Jones/heart	Kris Salmon/cancer	
	Kevin Jones family		



WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MAY MEALS

Come join us for homemade meals on the
following Wednesdays at 5:15 PM.

Donations are accepted for our Brazil mission

- May 2nd Hot Beef "Sundaes", Toss Salad, Green Beans, Peaches, Cupcakes –
Kathy Jenkins, Deb Swank, Ruth Dulaney
- May 9th Last WNF of the Season Potluck – Grilled pork chops and
hot dogs provided – everyone bring a dish to share

If your last name begins with A – C, please bring a dessert

If your last name begins with D – H, please bring a bag of chips

If your last name begins with I – R, please bring a vegetable salad

If your last name begins with S – Z, please bring a fruit salad

*Enjoy the food and fellowship!
Thank you for your participation this season –
join us again in September!*

GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS FOR A PASTOR

Good News: The United Methodist Women voted to send you a get-well card.

Bad News: The vote passed by 31-30.

Good News: The Elder Board accepted your job description the way you wrote it.

Bad News: They were so inspired by it, they also formed a search committee to find somebody capable of actually filling the position.

Good News: Your women's softball team finally won a game.

Bad News: They beat your men's softball team.

Good News: The Trustees finally voted to add more church parking.

Bad News: They are going to blacktop the front lawn of your parsonage.

Good News: Church attendance rose dramatically the last three weeks.

Bad News: You were on vacation.

Good News: The youth in your church come to your house for a surprise visit.

Bad News: It's in the middle of the night and they are armed with toilet paper and shaving cream to "decorate" your house.



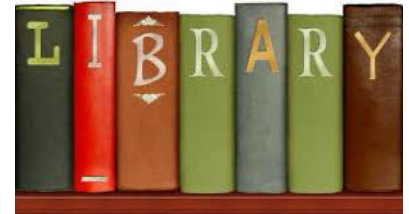
LIBRARY NEWS

Two new books are available in the church library. The books give us a glimpse of Heaven. The first is "Visits from Heaven" by Pete Dieson. Mr. Dieson experiences an eye-opening encounter with death, grief and comfort from Heaven after the death of his wife. This is a true story. Mr. Dieson now does lectures regarding his experiences. It is a very good read.

Book #2 is "Imagine Heaven" which relates true stories of people who have had near-death experiences. Upon reading this book, I discovered many of the named people have been referred to in the news, one being the young boy from "Heaven is For Real".

I found both of these books very thought provoking, and I believe they will catch your attention also. Try one or the other or both. Thank you.

Carole Schmidt



Mother's Day

Do you have your greeting card picked out? Are the lunch reservations made yet? **Sunday, May 13th is Mother's Day!** Those tireless, often thankless women who brought us into this world (and can take us back out if we don't stay in line!) are honored on that day. The women of the church will be recognized that day in all 3 worship services, and the men of the congregation will be giving each of them a special gift as well. If your mother is no longer with us, say a special prayer of thanksgiving for her that day. If she IS with us but lives too far away, make sure you call her to tell her how much he means to you. If she lives nearby, bring her to church to be a part of the celebration. Then, take her to lunch and tell her in person the impact she has had on your life!

Special Observances in May

Did you know that May Is American Bike Month? It is also Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. What about Asparagus Month? Or Asthma & Allergy Awareness Month (makes sense!)? It is also National Bar-B-Q, Egg, Hamburger, Salad and Strawberry Months! Here are some special days in May- May 1st - Mother Goose Day, May 2nd- Baby Day, May 3rd- Lumpy Rug Day, May 4th- National Teacher Day, May 5th- National Hoagie Day, May 6th- International No Diet Day, May 7th- Space Day, May 8th- National Dance Like a Chicken Day, May 9th- No Socks Day, May 10th- Tulip Day, May 11th- Twilight Zone Day, May 12th- Clean Up Your Room Day, May 13th- Mother's Day, May 14th- Kite Day, May 15th- Be a Millionaire Day, May 16th- Peace Day, May 17th- Pack Rat Day, May 18th- Visit Your Relatives Day, May 19th- Circus Day, May 20th- Armed Forces Day, May 21st- Lindbergh Flight Day, May 22nd- Buy-A-Musical Instrument Day, May 23rd- Penny Day, May 24th- National Escargot Day, May 25th- Hug Your Pet Day May 26th- Blueberry Cheesecake Day, May 27th- Ham Sandwich Day, May 28th- Memorial Day, May 29th- Sun Screen Day, May 30th- International Jazz Day and May 31st- World No Tobacco Day. Celebrate all that May has to offer!

Connection Coins For May

The Connection Coins (or as Rev. Mark calls them, the "thinly-veiled Pringles cans"!) are doing great things in the life of the Aledo UMC! On the 2nd Sunday of each month, during the Children's Moment, the ushers pass around those cans. You are encouraged to drop your change in- although we WILL accept "folding money"! And that change goes toward helping fund a ministry within the church.

This month (May 13th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward another important ministry, the HyVee bread delivery. The bread products we receive every Saturday are free, but we give the driver \$10 a week toward gas. So, 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 13th of May will be used to help that valuable ministry. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So bring your change on May 13th!

FUEL- OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

by Rev. Mark

Our Wednesday Night Children's ministry- **FUEL**- is going well. And the leadership couldn't be more excited! The emphasis is built around "Hands-On Bible". The kids have fun while they learn more about the great stories of the Bible...AND how those stories impact their lives! We are SO excited about the positive impact this ministry has 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! Fuel ends for the Spring semester on May 9th.

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:

Either (or both) of the Praise Bands need a Bass Guitarist

The Vocal Choir always has room for more singers.

The Bell Choir is looking for more ringers, including substitutes.

Do you sing or play an instrument? Special music presentations always have a place for you!

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.



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 Mike Millar or Ruth Dulaney.

What's Coming Up.

VAG:

ATTN, 6-8th graders,

Join us every Tuesday,

5-6:15pm

Senior High (9-12th),

come learn and fellowship
with us every Sunday,

6:00-7:15pm

Youth Bible Study—

Wednesdays, 6-7pm

Youth Fellowship—

May 20th, 11:30am-12:30pm

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Mary Flint is in need of volunteers Tuesday, May 15th, 5:30-7:30PM, and Friday, May 18th, 8AM-noon, for the Churches of Mercer County Food Pantry. It is AUMC's turn to provide helpers. Please let Mary know if you are willing to volunteer at either of those times.



YOU ARE INVITED!

You are invited to a high school graduation brunch for Hunter Harris Saturday, May 19th, 10AM to 12PM. It will be held in the dining room of the Aledo United Methodist Church.



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!

CALL-EM-ALL UPDATE

Call-Em-All now has a way for you to get those messages that only come through partially. It is called **Message Replay**. If you call the number 844-358-1565, they will play for you the last message sent to your phone number. Be sure to call from the phone that received the original message, and call soon, as you will get only the last message sent.

THE NURSERY

Have you ever wondered why churches need good, safe, well-staffed nursery programs? Well, wonder no more! The reason churches need strong nursery programs is that, for folks with young children, the nursery is often THE most important part of the church. If there is a good nursery, they can comfortably leave their kids in capable hands and attend a worship service. If, however, they find a nursery that is poorly or under-staffed with folks who seem unfriendly and stressed, they A. won't leave their kids, and B. won't come back! 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!

Tami Hevland and Jessica Thomas



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

Need a ride to church?

Contact Greg Cobert at 309-737-5621, or the office at 309-582-2169 to make arrangements to be picked up.



**WORSHIP
TIMES:
Sundays 8AM,
9:15AM,
10:30AM
Sunday School
9:15AM**

**C.I.A. (CARING INDIVIDUAL ADULTS)
LUNCHEON MAY 20TH**

CIA continues to flourish! This group is aimed at folks who often find themselves eating alone. This includes (but is NOT limited to) anyone who has lost their spouse, divorced or separated, or whose loved one is in the nursing home. The CIA luncheon happens once each month. This month, the luncheon will be on Sunday, May 20th, immediately following the 10:30AM worship service. You don't have to bring anything except yourself. Feel free to invite a friend to share the meal and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you on the 20th of May at 11:45AM!

JOURNEY THANK YOU

Thank you to the Journey team and the many women and men who gave of their time, energy, and talents to make this year's Journey such an awesome day. The many hours of preparation helped make this event a way to connect women to Jesus Christ. We humbly thank the speakers as they stepped out in faith to share their stories. A huge heartfelt thanks to the men of our church, as we couldn't do it without you. We can always depend on you to work behind the scenes with setup, parking, cleanup, takedown, etc. It was a great day... To God be the Glory! We have chosen the Churches of Mercer County Food Pantry, Mercer County Crisis Center, Quad Cities Autism Center, Inc., and Spotlight on Lyme, QCA to be recipients of our worthwhile cause. God is good!

RELAY FOR LIFE

If you'd like to be part of our Relay for Life church team, please contact Pam Truman or Laura Patterson. There is no cost for registration this year. Mark your calendars for May 12th, 10:30 to 1:00, to come out to Mercer Market and get a grilled pork chop to support our church relay team. Once again, we will be collecting loose change in prescription bottles available at the back of the church. Mercer County Relay for Life is Saturday, June 23rd at Central Park. Thank you to the many people who support our church team for Relay.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS
(WEEKLY NEED \$6,689)**

Date	04/01/2018	04/08/2018	04/15/2018	04/22/2018
Attendance	441	413	283	251
Receipts (Toward Budget)	\$9,763.20	\$4,853.12	\$6,125.00	\$4,034.00

