

The Parish Visitor

November, 2015



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TO COME OR NOT TO COME... THAT IS THE QUESTION!

by Rev. Mark

Remember not wanting to go to school when you were a kid? You might have feigned illness, injury or even death to avoid going to school. But your mom would remind you that if you didn't go to school, you couldn't go to "soccer/band/rehearsal/playtime/insert your event here" after school. You suddenly made a miraculous recovery!

Why didn't we want to go? We always thought we had something better to do. But looking back on it, we can see the difference an education made in our lives, and we are grateful our mothers were as steadfast as we knew them to be! Church attendance is much the same. We find a variety of reasons not to go. Traveling, sporting events, family time and just plain tired are all seemingly good reasons to miss Sunday worship. Perhaps the worship time you like and the music you like don't coincide. Let's be honest- some people don't go to church because they just don't like the pastor! All of this begs the question: why DO we go (or NOT go) to church? And what does it matter?

Let's look at both sides of the coin: maybe you go to church simply for the music or fellowship. Perhaps you go to church because you like the pastor. Maybe you go to church out of a sense of duty or obligation. If any of these are your sole reason for going, you're missing the point.

On the other hand, maybe you DON'T go to church because of the music or the fellowship. Perhaps you don't go to church because you don't like the pastor. Maybe you don't go to church because it seems like a duty or obligation. If any of these are your sole reason for not going, you're also missing the point.

We go to church to proclaim that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. We go to church because what better place could we POSSIBLY be on Sunday morning than with fellow Christians in the presence of our Creator? We go to church to praise and worship God- pure and simple. THAT'S the point. Anything else is either gravy or a minor side note.

When we look back on our education, we see the value of it. And yet, as valuable as that education is, it pales in comparison to the value of praising and worshipping God. One deals with our level of knowledge, the other deals with our eternal soul. Whether you go to church or don't go to church, ask yourself, "Why or why not?" If your answer doesn't begin with praising and worshipping God- reconsider. Our souls are simply incomplete without the connection to God that group worship offers.

SPECIAL DATES:

- Nov 1 UMW Sunday & Golden Age Luncheon
- Nov 1 Communion & Food Pantry Collection Sunday
- Nov 2 Finance Meeting 6PM
- Nov 2 Trustees Meeting 7PM
- Nov 3 Bazaar Work Time 10:30AM
- Nov 4 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- Nov 5 Charge Conference & Potluck at Preemption UMC 6:30PM
- Nov 7 Rittenhouse 50th Anniversary Celebration 1-3PM
- Nov 9 Bazaar Work Time 5:30PM
- Nov 10 Work @ Food Pantry 5:30-7:30PM
- Nov 10 Miriam Circle 6PM
- Nov 11 Office Closed for Veterans Day
- Nov 12 Bazaar Work Time 1PM
- Nov 13 Work @ Food Pantry 8AM
- Nov 15 Administrative Council Meeting 7:15PM
- Nov 16 UM Men 6PM
- Nov 18 Caring Hearts Food Prep 2PM
- Nov 19 Naomi Wesleyan Circle @ T&C 11:30AM
- Nov 19 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- Nov 20 Holiday Bazaar 3PM
- Nov 21 Holiday Bazaar 8AM
- Nov 22 Hanging of the Greens 4PM
- Nov 26-27 Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- Nov 30 PPRC Meeting 6:30PM

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDIES

Revelation: In Christ You Are an Overcomer

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

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6PM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe'

WHY: The Book of Revelation is one of the most intriguing books of the Bible. It's also one of the most mysterious. Filled with vivid imagery, rich themes, and deep spiritual insights, it can be challenging to read and understand. Yet woven throughout Revelation's sweeping tapestry is a unifying message: The victory found in Jesus Christ. This Bible study takes an in-depth, yet practical, look at the book of Revelation, and shares how we can experience a victorious life.



WHAT ELSE: It's NOT too late! The books are \$9

Angels

WHAT: Rev. Mark's current Tuesday morning Bible Study

WHEN: Tuesdays @ 9AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe'

WHY: What - or who - are angels? Where did they come from, and what is their purpose? What is their relationship to us as human beings? This study explores the numerous Bible passages that reveal the services these heavenly beings perform, the part they play in spiritual warfare, and how they differ from other beings in God's created order.

WHAT ELSE: It's NOT too late! The books are \$9

The Twelve: The Lives of the Apostles After Calvary

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

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6:30AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe' next to the sanctuary

WHY: What did the twelve apostles do after Calvary? Where did they go? Author C. Bernard Ruffin has woven Scripture, tradition, and historical documents to re-create and outline the lives of each of Christ's closest followers.

WHAT ELSE: The books are \$12

The 10 Commandments

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

WHEN: Sundays @ 9:15AM

WHERE: In the Dining Room

WHY: God's rules do more than restrict--they give freedom. They are words of prevention and protection. They define identity--ours and God's. Each of the weeks in this study by Rob Suggs looks at one of God's commandments and a Bible passage that will help you better understand how to apply God's law. As you study these laws, you will encounter God himself.

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

C.I.A. (CARING INDIVIDUAL ADULTS) LUNCHEON UPDATE

by Joanne Harris

The November meeting of CIA- aimed at folks who often find themselves eating alone- will be included as a part of the all-church Hanging of the Greens.



Follow the Star Holiday Bazaar

Friday, Nov. 20th 3 PM to 7 PM

Saturday, Nov. 21st 8 AM to 11 AM

Special Preview for Seniors Nov. 20th 2 PM

This is an event which you and your family do not want to miss. We pride ourselves in displaying over a hundred Nativity Sets as well as maintaining an old-fashioned, unique and high-quality bazaar for the fourth year. Spread the word and invite your friends to attend.

It is another great opportunity to connect others to Jesus Christ!

Our Ever Popular Displays & Booths

Beautiful Nativities on display to celebrate the birth of Jesus

Candy Cane Café	The Country Store	Sweet Shoppe	Appreciation Creations
Love Notes	Secret Shoppers	Kids Korner	Creative Hands
Pampered Pets	The Cutting Edge	Dinner-To-Go	A Star is Born

Fellowship Café features soups and pulled pork sandwiches Nov. 20th & biscuits and gravy Nov. 21st

This is truly a team effort to plan and prepare for the upcoming Holiday Bazaar.

Thank you to everyone who has helped or will be helping in any way.

Many individuals are donating their time, talents, Nativities, and money for this project!

There are still opportunities to serve!

Items that are needed:

Cookies and candies

Hand-crafted items

Home-baked goods

Card tables

Low-fat baked goods

Sugar-free baked goods

Gluten-free items

Workers needed:

Set up tables in Nativity room Mon. Nov. 16th at 6:30 PM

Set up tables Wed. Nov. 18th after WNF

Set up booths & Nativities Thurs. Nov. 19th 9 AM

Final set up Fri., Nov. 20th 9 AM

Work at the Bazaar Friday and/or Saturday

Clean up Saturday 11:30 AM

Pack up your own Nativity sets by Sunday, Nov. 22nd

More Work Together Opportunities to Prepare for the Holiday Bazaar!

Tues, Nov 3rd 10:30 AM:

Mon, Nov 9th 5:30 PM:

Thurs, Nov 12th 1 PM:

More Ham and Bean Soup

More Lasagna

General Final Work Prep

“Hanging of the Greens”

Sunday, November 22nd

4:00 – 6:30 PM

FAMILY ACTIVITIES GALORE!!

Making a Banner

Decorating the Sanctuary

Decorating Cookies

Making Christmas Crafts

Stringing Popcorn & Cranberries

Singing of Christmas Carols

Telling the Christmas Story

Lighting of the Christmas Tree

Wonderful Meal & Fellowship



Begin a *blessed* Christmas season with your church family!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES...



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SHOEBOX DONATIONS!!! We currently have approximately 140 boxes committed for the 2015 collection. We have built a HUGE collection of HAPPINESS in our Fellowship Room! If you remember, **the goal** of the number of shoeboxes to be collected was **250!** YOU still have time to bring joy and happiness to a child somewhere in the world. Let's reach that goal!

Please remember:

- **INCLUDE \$7 POSTAGE** for each shoe box
- **NOVEMBER 8** is the **DEADLINE** for collection of the boxes

for the Operation Christmas Child Mission.

Joan Reynolds and Scott Spencer

CURRENT AND NEW SERMON SERIES(S)!

by Rev. Mark

On Sunday, October 11, we began a new morning series- **The Exodus**. The story of Moses and the Hebrews is a powerful reminder of OUR lives...and the impact God can have on them. The remaining weeks of this series look like this:

Sunday, November 1- Called (Exodus 3:1-5)

There comes a moment in everybody's life when God's call can't be denied. (1Samuel 3:1-4, 2Timothy 1:7-9a)

Sunday, November 8- Promise (Exodus 5:22-6:2)

God is always with us, regardless of the circumstance. (Psalm 23, 2Peter 3:9)

Sunday, November 15- Release (Exodus 12:31-34)

Being obedient to God leads to a feeling that cannot be equaled. (Daniel 6:16-22, 1Corinthians 10:13)

Sunday, November 22- Freedom (Exodus 14:26-31)

God offers us freedom...true freedom. (2Chronicles 7:14, Galatians 5:1)

At The Point- 6PM on Sundays- we are in the middle of **God's Promises**. We are spending 5 weeks looking at 5 specific things God promises in His Word. The remaining weeks of this series look like this:

Sunday, November 1- Salvation (Luke 19:1-10)

Trust Jesus alone for your salvation.

Sunday, November 8- Comfort (John 11:17-33)

Jesus preserves our heart and secures our comfort.

Sunday, November 15- Peace (John 16:29-33)

First find peace within yourself, then you can offer peace to others.

Sunday, November 22- Blessing (Mark 10:13-16)

Everyday is a new blessing from God.

Then, on November 29th, we begin Advent- the season leading up to Christmas. And we begin two new sermon series. First, at both the 8AM and 10:15AM services, we will focus on the events of that first Christmas Eve as we consider **The Greatest Gift of All**. The weeks of that series look like this:

Sunday, November 29- The Opportunity (Luke 2:1-5)

Sometimes, the best outcomes grow out of the most unlikely sources.

Sunday, December 6- The Baby (Luke 2:6-7)

There is nothing "normal" or "expected" about the way Jesus came.

Sunday, December 20- The Announcement (Luke 2:8-14)

This News is so Good that it HAD to be shared!

Thursday, December 24- Christmas Eve- The Endowment (Luke 2:15-20)

A Baby in a manger, Who split time in half, is the greatest gift of all.

At the 6PM service, we will spend the Christmas season **Finding Meaning**. The meaning of Christmas is SO obvious...and yet SO overlooked. The weeks of this series look like this:

Sunday, November 29, 1st Sunday in Advent- Hope (Psalm 71)

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.

Sunday, December 6, 2nd Sunday in Advent- Peace (Psalm 34)

Peace is not the absence of conflict- it's the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means.

Sunday, December 20, 4th Sunday in Advent- Love (Psalm 136)

Love isn't something you find. Love is something that finds you.

Come each week expecting God to speak to you in powerful ways!



THANK YOU!

by Rev. Mark

On behalf of Joanne, Sam, Hunter, Hank and Betty, I would like to sincerely thank all of you for the amazing outpouring for Pastor Appreciation Month. We were humbled and overwhelmed by your generosity- both in the gifts you gave us and the wonderful things you said. We feel incredibly blessed to serve alongside each of you. God is doing amazing things at The Aledo United Methodist Church and we are excited and honored to be a part of it! God is good, all the time!



MIRIAM CIRCLE SALAD SUPPER

Miriam Circle will have their annual Salad Supper November 10th at 6 PM. Please join us, bring a salad to share and enjoy the fellowship. We will have a Thank Offering after the short meeting – bring your coins from your thankful moments during the year.

STAFF MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

The Pastor Parish Relations and Finance Committees have approved a new staff ministry opportunity at The Aledo United Methodist Church, starting January 1, 2016. This 5-hour a week position will include basic clerical office duties as assigned by our Office Administrator and/or Pastor, such as data entry, document preparation, processing and filing. The hours will generally be outside of normal AUMC office hours. The self-motivated applicant should be computer literate, with knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite, and have the ability to learn Church Windows- the proprietary software that the church uses.

Complete Job Descriptions and Applications can be picked up at the church office or in the back of the sanctuary starting November 1st. The application deadline (in the church office) is November 15th. Interviews will be the week of November 16th – 20th. For more detailed information, contact Rev. Mark or Ruth Dulaney, PPRC Chairperson.

THANKSGIVING

by Rev. Mark

Thursday, Nov. 26th brings the annual celebration of Thanksgiving- a day originally set aside to give thanks for the things one has at the end of the harvest season, Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November.

We trace this American tradition back to 1623. After the harvest in November that year, Governor William Bradford proclaimed: *Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest...has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and...has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience, I proclaim that all...gather at ye meeting house...between the hours of 9 and 12...on Thursday November 29th, 1623, there to render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all his blessings.*”

This year at Thanksgiving, I pray you will be able to break bread with family and/or friends. This Thanksgiving, take time to count your blessings- name them one by one. This Thanksgiving, be sure to give God the thanks He deserves for all of the blessings He gives us.



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/02/1978– Dwight & Joan Reynolds
 11/03/1990– Kris & Heidi Hess
 11/06/1965– Richard & Martha Rittenhouse
 11/08/1980– Michael & Sandra McEwen
 11/18/1956– Jim & Barbara Runyon
 11/18/1978– Richard & Nancy Robinson
 11/19/1955– Donald & Gerry Harmon
 11/26/2006– Tim & Cathy Hay
 11/29/1985– David & Laurie Etter



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

11/21– Gladys Johnson
 11/22– Cheryl McCaw
 11/26– Maxine Riley

Happy Birthday



You Are Invited!

We will be celebrating our 50th Wedding Anniversary on November 7, 2015 with an Open House from 1-3PM in the church dining room.

Please join us. No gifts.
Dick & Martha Rittenhouse



THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Aileen Andress
 Roger/Jodie Andress
 Linda Bierbaum
 Dola Boals
 John & Bev Carlin
 Shirley Chrisman
 Ellie Davis
 Diane Earl Family
 Jim Earl
 Ron/Diane Engstrom
 Susie Hall
 Florine Hampton
 Rev Harris & family
 Katie Hermanson
 Kelsey Huston
 Easter Jacobs
 Kathy Keller
 Leonard/Jane Kenney

Fred Kernan
 Kevin & Terri
 Kimberly
 Butch King
 Martha King
 Jean Kinnamon
 Vickie Korn
 Alison Kuk
 Becky Long
 Walter Marshall family
 Jerry McAlister
 Edna McCreight
 Mick Miller
 Ed & Marion Nesbitt
 Steven Oaks, Jr
 Linda Patsche
 Donna Pinger
 Bryce Rathje

Molly Paulsgrove
 Donna Pinger
 Curt Richardson
 Alan Ricketts family
 Mr & Mrs Rusty Smet
 Janet Smith
 Marcella Stefani
 Carmen Techau
 Marilyn Wagler
 Jane Wheeler
 Shut Ins/ Nursing Homes
 Military & families
 All ill/in hospitals
 Those seeking work
 Families & marriages
 Our nation & world
 Contentment
 Weather victims

Mercer County Schools
 Administration, Teachers, Students
 and Staff
 National and Local Governmental
 Leaders



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Don't forget- in the wee, small hours of the morning of Sunday, Nov. 1st, we turn our clocks **BACK** one hour as we end Daylight Savings Time. So mark your calendars, adjust your clock, and come to worship on the 1st of November ready to experience God in a powerful way!



CHARGE CONFERENCE...IS A POTLUCK?!

This year, Charge Conference (our annual "meeting" to set both the budget and ministry teams for the coming year) is a bit different. It is on Thursday, November 5th at 6PM. It will NOT be at our church, however. It will be at the Preemption United Methodist Church. We will be part of a larger group of congregations from our District who will gather together for a good 'ol Methodist potluck and worship service! Our District Superintendent, Rev. Sylvester Weatherall, will be preaching that day- and he is worth the price of admission all by himself! The necessary "paperwork" will be incorporated into the service, but the emphasis will be on praise, worship and food! Please plan on attending. We will carpool to the event.

SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN NOVEMBER

Did you know that November is Child Safety Protection Month? It is also International Drum Month. In addition, it is Adoption Awareness Month, Model Railroad Month and Peanut Butter Lovers Month. Special days include- the 1st- All Saints Day (see accompanying article), the 2nd- Look for Circles Day, the 3rd- Sandwich Day, the 4th- King Tut Day, the 5th- Gunpowder Day, the 6th- Marooned without a Compass Day, the 7th- Bittersweet Chocolate with Almonds Day, the 8th- Dunce Day, the 9th- Chaos Never Dies Day, the 10th- USMC Day, the 11th- Veteran's Day (see accompanying article), the 12th- Chicken Soup for the Soul Day, the 13th- World Kindness Day, the 14th- Operating Room Nurse Day, the 15th- Clean Your Refrigerator Day, the 16th- Have a Party With Your Bear Day, 17th- Take A Hike Day, the 18th- Almond Day, the 19th- Have a Bad Day Day, the 20th- Absurdity Day, the 21st- False Confession Day, the 22nd- Make Your Own Head Day, the 23rd- Square Dance Day, the 24th- What Do You Love About America? Day, the 25th- National Parfait Day, the 26th- Thanksgiving Day (see accompanying article), the 27th- Black Friday, the 28th- Go For a Ride Day, the 29th- Eat a Cranberry Day and the 30th- Stay At Home Because You Are Well Day. Pick a few of these unique, interesting, and odd days and observe them with your family in creative ways!

FUEL- OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

by Rev. Mark

Our Wednesday Night Children's ministry- **FUEL**- is off and running. 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!



Did You Miss Sunday's Sermon?

If you miss church on Sunday, you can STILL experience the sermon. Simply go to www.stickwithjesus.com. Scroll down the main page until you find the date you missed- that day's blog will be 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 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

WHAT: Twelve Women of the Bible, Joanne Harris' current Women's Study

WHEN: Tuesdays at 2PM

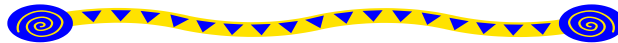
WHERE: Fellowship Cafe

WHY: In this 12-session small group Bible study, *Twelve Women of the Bible*, we will look at the spiritual lessons learned from twelve biblical women and what they mean for your life today. We will learn about the triumphs and failures of Mary Magdalene, Rebekah, Hannah, and nine other women, studying their lives and learning how to:

- Apply biblical lessons to their own modern-day struggles
- Live through their failures as well as successes
- Draw near to God in a world filled with trials
- Find lasting contentment
- Overcome rejection and insecurity and much more.....

WHAT ELSE: Books are \$10

I am excited to be able to dig deeper into the Word and learn about these women and see how it applies to my life today. Come and join me! - Joanne



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

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 just haven't taken the plunge! There is no time like the present! Contact Rev. Mark (469-2515, revmark@sjumchurch.org) and set up a time to visit with him. This 30-minute meeting will allow you to get to know each other better. 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?

Save the Date

**MnM (Men and Ministries) Night
Saturday, November 14th @ 5PM
Aledo UMC**

**Message— Rev. Sylvester Weatherall
Music— Gospel Soul Revivers**



THE NURSERY

Perhaps one of the best-kept secrets at AUMC is our Nursery Program. Professionally staffed and lovingly tended, our Nursery is a great place to take your children! The main focus of our nursery is simple...care. Our goal is to provide a loving environment where the youngest among us can feel comfortable and safe. At the Aledo United Methodist Church, we truly believe that the children of our congregation are NOT simply the future of the church- they are very much an active, important part of the PRESENT of the church! We strive to take good care of them while offering them a glimpse of...THE KINGDOM!

IT'S TURKEY TIME: SAFELY PREPARE YOUR HOLIDAY MEAL

From Your AUMC Safety Team

Holidays are times we share the kitchen with family and friends. Make it a goal this year to also share good food safety practices. When preparing a turkey, be aware of the four main safety issues: Thawing, preparing, stuffing and cooking to the adequate temperature. Always use a food thermometer to guarantee that foods are cooked to a safe-to-eat temperature.

Safe Thawing:

Thawing turkeys must be kept at a safe temperature. The “danger zone” is between 40 and 140 degrees F – the temperature range where foodborne bacteria multiply rapidly. While frozen, a turkey is safe indefinitely, but as soon as it begins to thaw, bacteria that may have been present before freezing can begin to grow again, if it is in the “danger zone”. There are three safe ways to thaw food: in the refrigerator, in cold water, and in a microwave oven.

Safe Preparation:

Bacteria present on raw poultry can contaminate your hands, utensils, and work surfaces as you prepare the turkey. If these areas are not cleaned thoroughly before working with other foods, bacteria from the raw poultry can then be transferred to other foods. After working with raw poultry, always wash your hands, utensils, and work surfaces before they touch other foods.

Safe Stuffing:

For optimal safety and uniform doneness, cook the stuffing outside the turkey in a casserole dish. However, if you place stuffing inside the turkey, do so just before cooking, and use a food thermometer. Make sure the center of the stuffing reaches a safe minimum internal temperature of 165 degrees F. Bacteria can survive in stuffing that has not reached 165 degrees F, possibly resulting in foodborne illness.

Safe Cooking:

Set the oven temperature no lower than 325 degrees F and be sure the turkey is completely thawed. Place turkey breast-side up on a flat wire rack in a shallow roasting pan. Check the internal temperature at the center of the stuffing and meaty portion of the breast, thigh, and wing joint using a food thermometer. The food thermometer must reach a safe minimum internal temperature of 165 degrees. Let the turkey stand 20 minutes before removing all stuffing from the cavity and carving the meat.

Safe Use of Leftovers:

Refrigerate leftovers at 40 degrees or below as soon as possible and within two hours of preparation to prevent food poisoning.

Connection Coins For November

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 (November 8th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward another important ministry. The Network of Caring is a fund that allows the church staff to anonymously help people in need. It has provided a GREAT deal of assistance in Mercer County. The holiday season...and the cold weather...creates even greater need. Any money put in the Connection Coin cans on the 8th of November will be used to help cover the costs of this powerful ministry. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So bring your change on November 8th!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP IS GOING GREAT!

Wednesday Night Fellowship is an AWESOME way to connect people to Jesus Christ! The evening begins with dinner at 5:15PM, with FUEL Children’s Ministries (for kids Pre-School through 5th Grade), a Youth Bible study (for grades 6th through 12th), an Adult Bible Study (see accompanying article) and Bell Choir rehearsal from 6:PM-7PM. The Chancel Choir rehearses from 7PM-8PM. The nursery is available. Pray about your commitment to Wednesday Night ministries. If you or your group would be willing to provide a Wednesday Night Fellowship meal, please contact Ruth Dulaney (309-738-6151 or ruth-dulaney@gmail.com) We would love to have you for dinner...and more!



Are You Thankful?

Luke 17

Lepers were required to keep away from people in fear that others would catch their disease. The disease is quite terrible. They cannot feel anything. No pain, nothing. Because of this, they get infections and injure themselves without knowing it. Then, the infection spreads and they smell like rotting meat. They often lose fingers, arms, feet, and other body parts.

Lepers were outcasts. Their condition had made them unclean in the eyes of the public and the authorities. They were not allowed to join in with the rest of society. They had to avoid ANY contact with any other people. They could not touch anyone and no one dared to touch them. They could not touch anything that others would touch. And no one dared touch anything that belonged to them. They could not stay in the same place, they could not worship with others, they could not work, could not drink the same water, could not eat the same food. They were forced to live away from everyone else – completely isolated. They were rejected. Lepers were not allowed to mingle with the public in any way.

If the lepers had tried to approach Jesus, there would have been a riot. Instead, they kept their distance and shouted all together as one voice, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” In this way, Jesus was drawn to them.

By what they had heard about Jesus, they knew that He had the power to heal them.

Jesus healed them, but then Jesus did something that may seem a little strange. He asked them to go to the priests? Why? Because even though healed, people would want to have a public validation that they had been healed. Only the priests could do that. Priests were the ones who could inspect a leper and say, “Yes, you are clean now, go free. You don’t have to remain an outcast anymore”. By this, Jesus not only healed the lepers, but also brought them back into fellowship with the community.

TAG Challenge: Make a list of the things you are personally thankful for, then offer God a prayer of thanks for what He has done in your lives....**EVERYDAY SHOULD BE THANKS-LIVING!**

What’s Coming Up, TAG:

**2/3RDS OF GOD—
NOV 14TH,
10-12PM**



*Melissa Farrell
Director of Youth and
Children’s
Ministries*

TAG FACT:

Did You Know?

TAG stands for Teens Among God; the name was created by our two founding members of this ministry, Ally Engle and Quinci McIntire.

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



WORSHIP TIMES:
Sundays 8AM &
10:15AM
Sunday School 9:15AM
"The Point" 6PM

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,
November 19
at 8am.**
Please have all articles submitted by this date!

PARKING

By now, you've probably noticed that the parking area on 3rd Street just outside the Church Office has been re-painted. The goals that the Trustees have for that area are:

1. to offer two spots (all the way to the west) that are reserved for vehicles that have lifts which need extra space to load and unload
2. to offer a few parking spots that are designated for people who need to park as close as possible.

The nine spots in that stretch that are to the east ARE marked (on the pavement) as "handicapped" spots. They are, however, not "legal" handicapped spots, due to space requirements. Therefore, what the Trustees ask is that, if you HAVE a handicapped parking designation for your vehicle OR you simply need to park that close...please park there! On the other hand, if you are able/comfortable to park across the street and walk over, then please save the other spots for folks who need them! Parking is CERTAINLY a problem here at AUMC- and what a GREAT problem to have!

FINANCIAL MATTERS
(WEEKLY NEED \$5,833)

Date	10/04	10/11	10/18	10/25
Attendance	200	238	213	228
Receipts	\$5,246.00	\$6,065.11	\$8,523.00	\$4,584.00

