



THE MESSENGER

Steele Memorial United Methodist Church
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October 2016

LYDIA CIRCLE will meet on Thursday October 13th at 12:00 for a Salad luncheon. All ladies of the church are invited to attend. Please bring 1 ½ yards of fleece and scissors for making the fleece blankets for the St. Mary's Infusion Center.

ESTHER/RUTH CIRCLE will meet on the THIRD THURSDAY, October 20, 7:00 in OFH. We will be making fleece blankets for the St. Mary's Infusion Center; so please bring 1 1/2 yds. of fleece and a sharp pair of scissors. Any ladies of the church are welcome to join us that evening as we fellowship in the making of these blankets.

SMORGASBORD DINNER-Mark your calendars for Sunday dinner on October 16 after the morning church service. UMW will furnish the meat, drinks, and rolls. Members of the UMW are asked to bring TWO LARGE DISHES for the dinner. Donations for the dinner will be for mission projects supported by the UMW.

GIRLS OF FAITH will be hosting a bake sale Sunday, November 6th after the 10:45 worship service. This will be a mission event with all proceeds going to Baby Charlie Insalaco and his medical expenses. Charlie's mother, Kara Insalaco, was a member of the very first Girls of Faith group. I ask you to come and buy whatever you see on this day. Thank you for your support, Megan Turman.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE is a nondenominational, evangelical Christian organization founded by Franklin Graham to provide spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet the needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing love and changing lives IN JESUS NAME. OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD is a part of that ministry; and is the world's largest Christmas project, bringing joy and hope to needy children around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes and the Good News of God's love. Since 1993, more than 135 million shoebox gifts have been delivered to children in more than 145 countries around the world.

MISSIONS-CARING COMMITTEE/UMW/SINGLES CLASS will be sponsoring the collection of shoeboxes for OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD. Last year our goal was to fill 100 shoeboxes; and we exceeded that goal. We hope to meet/exceed that goal again this year. We will have a "kick-off" Sunday in October. The challenge is to individually, as a group, or with your children/grandchildren to take a plastic shoebox (which will be provided); and fill the shoebox with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies for a child 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14; and return the shoebox for a BLESSING OF THE SHOEBOXES on the collection Sunday in November. The shoeboxes give us a great opportunity to share the gospel with children around the world; so let's accept this challenge as a church to fill 100 shoeboxes IN JESUS NAME.



"And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." Matthew 18:5 In August, one of our mission's focus was Lily's Place in Huntington. Lily's Place is a non-profit residential infant recovery center for infants suffering from Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) and the withdrawal from drug exposure. We were able to supply them with 6 diaper bags, 4 infant outfits, 4 toys, 4 bundles of printer paper, \$47 in stamps, and a cash donation of \$1,200.00. What a wonderful blessing.

REFLECTIONS from the Pastor: Making Disciples

ENGAGING is the first step, as we think about reaching into the secular world to fulfill the passion of the Church to make new disciples with the world-changing grace and love of Jesus Christ!

Engaging leads the Church to CONNECT with others in a relationship, connecting others to the plan God has to reconcile them from lives of isolation, shame, or hopelessness. Connecting is the opportunity the Church offers others to invite the life and Spirit of Jesus Christ into their lives as we yield lordship from Self to God!

Following the time of Connecting, the Church's ministry is to DEVELOP new believers as disciples or followers of Jesus Christ, teaching them the value of prayer and the scriptures.

From developing new disciples, we then prepare God's people to SERVE Him. Christian believers discover great fulfillment serving God in the world around them, whether it's in their church, their workplace, or their neighborhoods and communities!

Engaging with the un-churched is often an intimidating practice! We often hear from really good church members, "I do my witnessing through my life!" "Isn't it enough to just live my life as a good example?" "Won't my good example speak for itself?"

But these comments and questions demonstrate how difficult it has been, or how unprepared we are, to verbalize anything about our faith relationship with Jesus Christ.

A Way Forward I've been reading about a plan to engage with people we don't know yet. A healthy Church approaches ministry in two directions: the first is to deepen the people we already know in their love of God and their love for one another in the Church. The second is to take God's love to the people we don't already know and are not Christian believers, (the un-Connected).

When Jesus was on the earth, He engaged in conversations and relationships both inside and outside the Church. In fact, He was constantly criticized by religious leaders of His day because they were upset with Him for spending time with people they didn't know!

God desperately loves us, but God desperately loves the rest of the world, too. God wants His Church to demonstrate that love to the world!

But the "world" has changed, hasn't it? The un-Churched culture is different for those who have been in the Church most of their lives! And that may have something to do with the negative numbers most mainline churches have experienced over the past 25 years.

Old Model for Church Growth In consultations carried out with many United Methodist Churches by the

Healthy Church Initiative in Missouri, three questions were typically asked of the church members:



1. *How did you become a United Methodist?* Most people became Methodist for one of two reasons. The predominant pathway is being born into the Church. The second pathway is to marry into the Church because the spouse was already a Methodist.

2. *How did you come to this particular United Methodist Church?* People usually arrived from one of two routes. Most often, they found the Church on their own: "I moved into town and looked up the local church like I'm supposed to, because I was already United Methodist or mainline Protestant." The second route of arrival was "I grew up here." Rarely did people report that they came by invitation from another.

3. *Were you a Christian before you came to this Church?* The overwhelming majority said yes.

The answers to these questions shed some light on the type of evangelism – or lack of evangelism – the Church has taken throughout the past 80 years. We've relied on re-populating our pews with those who are born to us or with those who have identified as United Methodist throughout the years.

Our Mission Field Why are we not experiencing growth and effective evangelism in the Church? It has something to do with change – or the fear of change.

Bob Farr, a Church consultant, tells about a time he went to India with a mission team. "Having never been to India before, I contemplated what clothes I would need to pack, what food I would eat while I was there, who I would be with on the trip, what worship would be like there, how to use the transportation system, what I might do and experience while visiting , and so on. Interestingly enough, none of my preconceived ideas about India ended up being true. My assumptions were all wrong because I didn't know the culture. None of my clothes matched the culture. The food was unexpected. The experiences and people I encountered were not what I expected. *Nothing* that I prepared for in my brain matched the reality in India."

That's like the experience the protestant Church now has reaching out into *our own culture!* Today the Church is in a secular world where it no longer has a

central role. We live in a foreign culture – a mission field that feels so different – and we've not adapted or redirected our vision to this "different land" where we find ourselves living!

The Fear Factor The most obvious place where I've heard complaints about change in the Church – is with worship music. When people have groaned and complained about new songs in worship through the years, it was nearly always about our beloved songs, "the old songs we used to sing...!" And when I'm told which songs, they were songs written in the 1920s and '30s.

Now that offers an interesting insight, because it was the contemporary songs of our parents or grandparents generation. (Here's the kind of thing that drives people nuts!): They wanted to hold on to *their* contemporary songs, refusing to make room for their grandchildren's songs. And so we see how many of our children and grandchildren have moved on to another kind of worship experience where the music and aesthetics were more in line with the sounds that stir their hearts!

Listen to a comment from the authors of the book, *Get Their Name*: "If we are going to ENGAGE the UNCONNECTED today, we must first be willing to learn the new world we are in and not kid ourselves that we are just visiting. (The Church is) simply not adapting to the culture in which we live today. We don't understand people's likes and dislikes. We have not accepted their clothing, lifestyles, thinking, or worldview. The church has become the one place that doesn't have to change – the one and only place in our ever-changing lives that will remain unchanged. With a status quo church culture comes an inevitable decline in worship attendance. With that decline comes stress. Or if by change there is change, then there is conflict over the loss of our church as the one constant, unchanging thing in our lives – our safe haven."¹

The Church today has to do something our parents and grandparents never had to worry about: We have to learn to reach people we don't know in a culture we don't fully understand.

If we fail, we may end up like another group who has chosen to "freeze" the practices and customs of an older culture in a changing world: I'm talking about the Amish, whose way of life reflects a pre-Revolutionary War era.

Pastor Kevin

CHURCH SECURITY

New locks were recently installed on doors around the Church building because it's so easy to lose track of keys circulating in the community over the period of fifty years. Those who need a key should come by the Church office or speak to Eddie Smith, our Trustees Chairman. For special events or private parties at the Church, individuals can obtain a key for temporary use

through the Church office. (A refundable deposit may be required.)



FOSTER FAMILIES

Wait No More: Finding Families for Waiting Kids

Right now, more than 100,000 legal orphans in United States' foster care are waiting for adoptive families. The United States also has more than 300,000 churches, and God has given clear commands for Christians to take care of His orphan children.

So if the command is clear and the need is apparent, why are these kids still waiting?

At **Focus on the Family**, we believe that every child has the right to have a family. That's why we're collaborating with adoption agencies, church leaders, and ministry partners to raise awareness of and recruit families for those waiting for permanent families.

Through one day events, Focus on the Family is highlighting the urgent need for adoptive parents. For too long, these children and youth have been overlooked.

But that is changing. God is stirring the hearts of His people to welcome these children and youth into *forever homes*. To date, more than 3,200 families have initiated the process of adoption from foster care as a result of the collaborative efforts of **Wait No More**. And this is only the beginning.

Recent and upcoming **Wait No More** event locations include:

Shepherdsville, KY: Saturday, November 12, 2016, at Little Flock Baptist Church. For more information, visit the web site: focusonthefamily.com and search "wait no more" or visit: <http://icareaboutorphans.org/whatwedo/saitnomore/>

PRAYER FOR THE NATION

Our nation may seem like it is spiraling out of control with daily reports of violence, immorality and threats to faith and freedom. But we are not helpless. We are not without hope. God has provided a powerful tool for believers to impact culture—through the power of prayer. You can join others who are committing to **31 Days of Prayer** for our nation throughout October.

The **31 Days of Prayer Guide** includes daily prayers as well as bonus prayers from some of our nation's spiritual leaders. Here's a sample:

Dear Heavenly Father, We come to You today as a humble people desperate for Your supernatural intervention on behalf of our beloved nation. First, we thank You for all the blessings You have bestowed on our land, blessings that have allowed us to bring so

¹ Resource for this reflection comes from the book: "Get Their Name: Grow Your Church by Building New Relationships", by Bob Farr, Doug Anderson, and Kay Kotan

much good and benefit to not only our own citizens but also to the rest of the world.

*Enable us, by Your Spirit, to no longer be secret agent Christians but rather to publicly declare and live out Your truth in a spirit of love so that You feel welcome in our country once again. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen*

You can help save America by joining the **31 Days of Prayer** effort Oct. 1 to 31 in advance of the November election.

Please commit to pray with others daily throughout the month of October for our nation. Pray for healing ... for God's perfect will in the elections ... for our schools and children ... for our courts and so much more. And may God use our prayers to strengthen families and bring healing to America!

Download the prayer guide with 31 specific daily points of prayer today. Or you can follow on the *Focus*

on the Family Facebook where prayers will be posted daily. http://media.focusonthefamily.com/free-downloads/pdf/31_Days_Prayer_Guide%20Final.pdf

"If My people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

HELP WANTED

A **paid position for child care** is available through the Church. We are looking for help to staff the Church Nursery on Sunday mornings from 10:30 – Noon. Applicants can contact the Church office via email or phone.

October 2016 Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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						1 Reid Carroll Susan McClung
2 Jackson Fetty	3 Rick Jones Ben Taylor Sally Whitt	4 Pat Gwinn	5 Ed Burton Sue McCallister Chase McKinney <i>Fred & Vicki Delp</i>	6 Nancy Allman Megan Carroll Lorri Turman <i>Patrick & Sarah Wagoner</i>	7 Sawyer Adkins Misty Hutchinson	8 Russ Lingenfelter
9 Lynette Call Bonnie Herrold	10 Reese Wolfe	11 Jerry Johnson Peggy Morrison Keith Ross	12	13 Will Lester	14	15 Kristin Call
16 Mike Call <i>Jon & Holly Fannin</i>	17 Ed Chapman	18	19 Cindy Braley	20 Jack Crandall DiAnn Willis Jack Yeager	21 Brenda Cornwell Sue Cummings <i>Jack & Barbara Yeager</i>	22
23 Ben Holbrook Matthew McClung Don Williams	24 Mike & Lynette Call	25 Susan Call	26 Lori Crabtree	27 Brenyn Kimball	28	29 Andrew LaFon Alisha Scites Rod Whitt
30 Mike McClung, Sr.	31					

This month the shut-ins are Janice Eddy, Bill Howard, Joan Grove and Helen McClure. Brighten their day, week or month with a note, card or flowers.

October 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 -Men's Bible Study 8-9 AM
2 -Communion Sunday -Early Worship 8:45 AM -Sunday School 9:45 -Morning Worship 10:45 -Softball game 4:00 -Church Picnic at the park	3 -Sea Scouts/Cub Scouts 6:30 -Boy Scouts 7:30	4 -Celebrate Recovery 6:30 OFH	5 -All Stars 5:30 -Youth 5:30 -Bible Study 6:45 -Choir Practice 7:45	6 -Ladies Bible Study 7:00 -M. Call gym 7:00	7	8 -Men's Bible Study 8-9 AM -Youth to the Creation Museum
9 -Early Worship 8:45 AM -Sunday School 9:45 -Morning Worship 10:45 -Youth Group 6:00 -Evening Worship 6:30	10 -Sea Scouts/Cub Scouts 6:30 -Boy Scouts 7:30	11 -Celebrate Recovery 6:30 OFH	12 -All Stars 5:30 -Youth 5:30 -Bible Study 6:45 -Choir Practice 7:45	13 -Lydia Circle Salad Luncheon 12:00-Ladies Bible Study 7:00 -M. Call gym 7:00 -Troop 88 SFH 7:00	14	15 -Men's Bible Study 8-9 AM
16 -Early Worship 8:45 AM -Sunday School 9:45 -Morning Worship 10:45 -UMW Smorgasbord Luncheon 12:00 -Youth Group 6:00 -Evening Worship 6:30	17 -Finance Com 7:00 -Sea Scouts/Cub Scouts 6:30 -Boy Scouts 7:30	18 -Celebrate Recovery 6:30 OFH	19 -All Stars 5:30 -Youth 5:30 -Bible Study 6:45 -Choir Practice 7:45	20 -Presch. Adv. 6:00 -Esther/Ruth Circle 7:00 OFH -M. Call gym 7:00	21 -K. Lantz gym 12:00	22 -Men's Bible Study 8-9 AM -B. Chapman NFH 6:00 -P. Ballard SFH 1:00
23 -Early Worship 8:45 AM -Sunday School 9:45 -Morning Worship 10:45 -Admin Council after worship -Youth Group 6:00 -Evening Worship 6:30	24 -Sea Scouts/Cub Scouts 6:30 -Boy Scouts 7:30	25 -Celebrate Recovery 6:30 OFH	26 -All Stars 5:30 -Youth 5:30 -Bible Study 6:45 -Choir Practice 7:45	27 -Ladies Bible Study 7:00 -Troop 88 in SFH 7:00	28	29 -Men's Bible Study 8-9 AM -J. Meadows Gym 2-6
30 -Early Worship 8:45 AM -Sunday School 9:45 -Morning Worship 10:45 -Youth Group 6:00 -Evening Worship 6:30	31					

Parking Lot Greeters:	02: Gary Cox – Kelly McGuffin 23: Pat Cornwell – Tony Ryder	09: Donnie Barbour – Kim Stanley 30: Gary Cox - Donnie Barbour	16: Larry Dickens – Mike McClung
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