



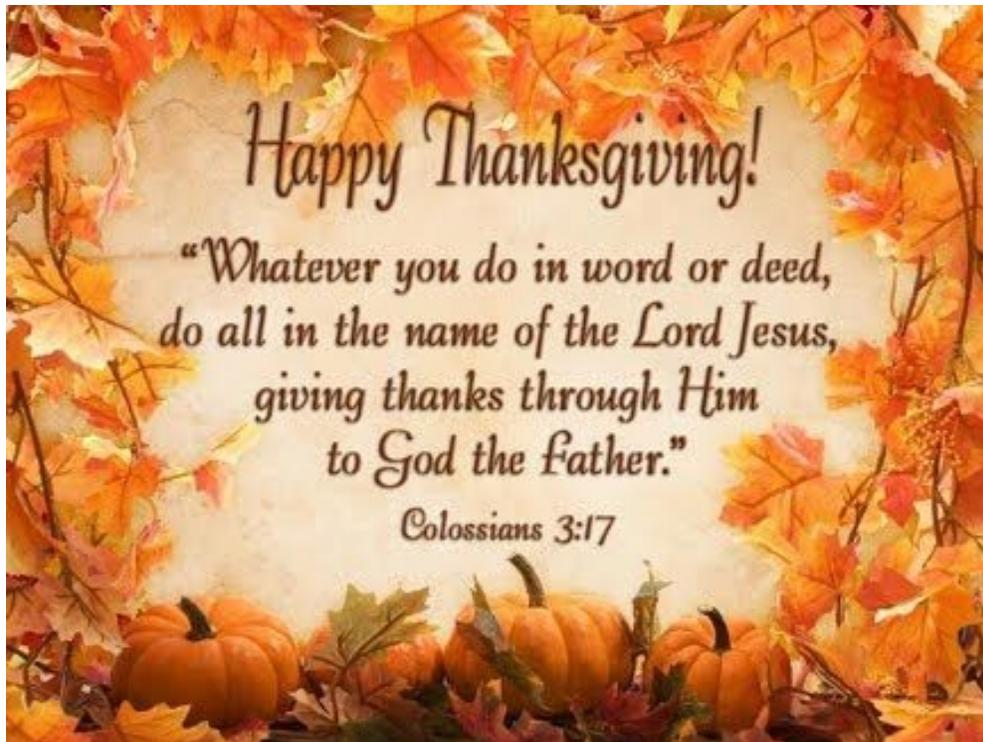
The Beacon

Volume 57 Issue 11

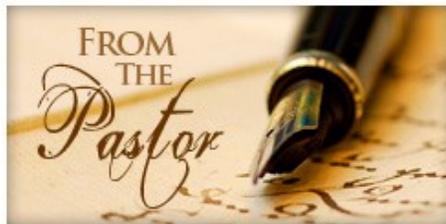
November 2020

University United Methodist Church
Welcoming all to grow as disciples of Christ as we
worship, learn, and serve in community.

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Administrative Assistant: Stacey Cooper
Music Staff: Melanie Wambsganss, Elaine Wellborn
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Pastor Jeff's information: Email Address: <a href=) or phone 785-580-5468



Thankful Greetings in Christ,

As we enter into this season of thanksgiving we may find ourselves a bit conflicted. If you're like me, instead of having conversations with extended family members about *when* and *where* you will be gathering together to give thanks, you're having conversations about *if* you are gathering at all and if so, *what* kind of safety measures everyone will agree to. It's a very different kind of conversation and it certainly comes with a sense of loss as we reflect on Thanksgivings past. Remember that it is ok to grieve and even lament. And most importantly, remember that God is with you and that God loves you. Even in these trying and lonely times, God is always with us and there is always something to be thankful for. I'm thankful for you and I pray that you and your loved ones will find meaningful and safe ways to share your love and gratitude with each other this Thanksgiving.

As a church family, we give thanks to God for the abundance with which God has sustained our ministries throughout this year. As is customary in the United Methodist annual cycle, Fall brought with it Charge Conference 2020! As we look forward to our life and ministry together in 2021, we will continue to focus on being and making committed disciples of Jesus Christ through worship, study, service, giving, and sharing. In the weeks leading up to Advent we will be revisiting each of these priorities in a worship series called "It's What We Do." I look forward to continuing to learn and grow together as disciples of Jesus Christ. Christ's love and grace always give us something to be thankful for.

May God bless our tables this Thanksgiving and may the Holy Spirit remind us of the heavenly banquet that is being set before us by Jesus Christ.

Grace, peace, and thanksgiving,
Pastor Jeff

worship

"It's What We Do" Series

- 10.25.20 - Worship - Colossians 3:11-17
11.01.20 - Study - Matthew 7:24-29 - **All Saints Day**
11.08.20 - Serve - Mark 2:1-12
11.15.20 - Give - 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
11.22.20 - Share - 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

"Rejoice!" Advent Series

- 11.29.20 - *Rejoice! It's Not too Late!* - "A Christmas Carol" - Luke 1:5-25



Open Space meets every Tuesday via Zoom at 8:00 p.m.
If you are interested in joining in on the music and worship, for further information
contact Andrew Mitchell at:

acmitch23@gmail.com

MISSIONS

In October, members of HOPE Circle put together 11 Health Kits for Fellowship & Faith, including such items as a toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, a new washcloth & towel.

Stacey Cooper has been filling the Blessing Box for October and others are also adding to it. Think warm items now. We can always use tuna and tuna helper, individual coffee packets, cocoa packets, small cereal and shelf milk. Thanks to all who contribute.



"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." (Matt. 25:40)

FELLOWSHIP & FAITH

Items needed for their food pantry:
green beans and jelly.



Fellowship and Faith

FINANCE

Stewardship Campaign during COVID-19.

As the year progresses, we find ourselves creating new ways to keep the church operating. The Finance Team has trimmed some monthly budget items to form a 2021 Budget. This year, as in the past, we will be mailing Stewardship materials to your home. It is unknown at this time if we will be together for Consecration Sunday. Therefore, we will enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope so you can conveniently return your pledge card to Mike Peters who will account for and enter 2021 pledges for each member.

Please watch for your Stewardship materials by the first week in November. Blessings, and thank you as we navigate these uncertain times.



Karen Myers
Finance Chair

JUMP

Our justice ministry has just completed its house meeting process. Across Shawnee County, 28 other congregations held similar meetings where people shared what serious community problems impact them personally. The three problem areas with the largest number of stories were, 1) Mental Health and addiction, 2) Health Care and 3) Job barriers.

The members of the University UMC Justice Ministry are: Pastor Jeff Potter, Mike & Mary Peters, David Cooper, Atticus Cooper, Dar Smith, Thaine & Carol Hoffman, Brian Snodderly, Cheryl Walters, Elaine Wellborn, Diana Whitney, Charles & Linda Benton, Stacey Bailey, Sue Holm, Carla Hearrell, Stacey Cooper and Suzy Springer.

Members of our justice ministry joined members from the JUMP congregations at the Topeka JUMP Community Problems Assembly on October 26th. It will be at that assembly where members will vote on the next community issue JUMP will tackle. If you are interested in helping to make social change in Topeka and Shawnee County, reach out to team leaders Stacey Cooper or Suzy Springer about joining the justice ministry. Since this edition of The Beacon came out prior the October 26th meeting, it will be next month when you will know what was voted on.



HOPE CIRCLE

Four of us met on October 19th where we visited and made up 11 Health Kits in zip bags and placed them in the Fellowship & Faith box to be delivered to F&F for their project.

We also signed up for time slots for the UUMW Chicken & Noodle Dinner. Please see page 9 for more information on the dinner.



CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE

We had our church Charge Conference on October 21st. Because of COVID-19, we were not able to accomplish our 2020 goals, those goals have been rolled over to 2021. All of the members of ministry areas will remain the same. Hopefully, 2021 will allow us to grow and allow all of the ministries our church wishes to accomplish. Committee chairs have been asked to contact members of their committee to make sure their commitment to the committee can continue.

Tammy Call
VAT Chair

THANK YOU

I wish to give a big thank you for all of the cards and phone calls. On the days that I've been down a card really cheers me up and I've had down days but I am doing better. Thank you Lord for my church family.

Donna Spray

THANK YOU!
thank you!

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

JUST BECAUSE THE CHURCH IS CLOSED DOES NOT MEAN BUILDING AND GROUNDS CAN RELAX.

Here are some of the things the members of the Building and Grounds committee have been working on this year:

- The grass keeps growing so Gary Weekly made arrangements to have the lawn mowed.
- The new plants along the UCD walk needed watering so Mary Winans took care of that.
- Stacey Cooper, Dar Smith and Terri Hearrell have been caring for the plants just outside the offices.
- There have been problems with plumbing so Bob Smith has addressed those.
- Dan Orndorff has arranged for conversion of the heating system to air conditioning and vice versa. He also arranged for new filters for the unit heaters in the UCD area.
- Of course, we want to thank Linda and Bob Reece not only for keeping the building clean but also for sanitizing the building in this time of Covid.
- Kevin Koester and I have been changing light bulbs. He has purchased LED lights which I have installed.
- The south doors on the elevator are not working and I am working with suppliers for those repairs.
- The fire inspector indicates that the kitchen hood needs to be cleaned. I'm checking on firms that could provide that service.

No doubt I have omitted others that have helped with the upkeep. Thanks to all who have helped.

Thaine Hoffman



THRIFT SALE UPDATE

Dear Fellow Congregants/parishioners/whatever: Since we have had several inquiries regarding the "Thrift Sale" and alternate event that occurred this summer as a result of COVID19, we thought we should explain what happened and the results. Originally, we had a couple of our fellow members downsize as they made the transition from a standalone home to retirement housing and in some cases, assisted living. The timing of these moves happened just prior to the scheduled Spring Thrift Sale in late February and early March. Since it would only be a few weeks, we decided we could make the exception of accepting "thrift" early. Just as we were planning the event, COVID19 hit, causing everything to be put on "pause", including attending church. So, the Thrift Committee decided we had no choice but to delay the Spring Thrift Sale, possibly moving it to the summer. By July, it became apparent there would be no summer Thrift Sale and most likely no Fall Thrift Sale. (Social distancing, sanitation, requiring masks of all workers and attendees, etc.) We had to do something with the thrift that had been placed in our care. We certainly could not ask the members to "take back" their thrift. We really could not continue to use the church as a storage unit, either. We brainstormed and decided to try Facebook Market Place. None of us had prior experience with this venue, so we started tentatively. It was a lot of work, but we found it to be more profitable than anticipated. Because we have no idea how long we will be confined or limited by COVID19, we are discussing the possibility of conducting the Spring Thrift Sale in a similar fashion and opening it up to the whole church. This will obviously take a considerable amount of time and effort, and will also require the assistance of many more people than the original 5 (Mary W, Linda R, Dar S, Diana W and Carol H as the money bag keeper.) Please be patient with us as we maneuver through the logistics for an event of this magnitude. We will keep everyone posted. We know everyone has a room full of thrift in anticipation of our biannual events, just as we do. While this may not bring in quite the amount of \$\$ the actual sales have brought in the past to provide funds for our chosen missions, it is (better than a poke in the eye) at least some money for those we serve.

Our final count for the First Covid19 Facebook/Marketplace Thrift Sales came to \$5090.75. Roughly \$945 came from the congregation in what we like to call "Thriftless" sales. Many congregants provided \$\$ as a result of having individual plant sales and garage sales. All the efforts of working around the obstacles of Covid19 paid off and the winners are our missions.

We will keep you posted,
The Thrift Committee

Mary Winans Linda Reece Dar Smith Carol Hoffman Diana Whitney

PERSONNEL

Your Personnel Team has been busy! In the month of August we sent notes and gift baskets to each of our paid staff members to let them know how much we appreciated what they are doing during the pandemic.

In the month of October, we sent notes and a congratulatory gift to Pastor Jeff for his ordination on Oct. 3rd. He attained that status after meeting all the requirements to become ordained in the United Methodist Church, and our congregation wished to celebrate with him and acknowledge the work he had done.

Our church is so blessed to have such dedicated people on our staff. A BIG thank you to them all!
Carla Hearrell
Chair



THE SCHOOL IN ANAPRA STILL NEEDS OUR HELP.

We were in Anapra in March, but with the threat of Covid19, we have decided not to make our usual mission trip at Thanksgiving. We keep up with them and as if the conditions were not bad enough before, they are much worse now. Pastor Antonio indicates that 180 factories in the area have closed down, putting many of the people in Anapra out of work. In an effort to help, the school has cut tuition in half and is not even charging tuition to those in the most desperate situations. Two parents of students at the school have died due to the virus. Many are hungry so the Briones are starting a free lunch program. They have about 130 enrolled but all classes will be via distance learning so these lunches will need to be distributed. Many families do not have Wi-Fi or even a computer so Antonio is finding ways to provide these. As if their budget was not tight before, all these extra costs mean they really need our help. Some of us are already upping our support but if any of you feel moved to help, please write your check to University UMC and include "Anapra" in the memo line. We are all suffering through this but some have it much, much worse. Thank you for your support.

Thaine Hoffman, Anapra coordinator.

OUR SAINTS THAT HAVE GONE BEFORE US

Richard Lewis 01/16/2020

Elsa Pomery 02/10/2020

ANNUAL UMW CHICKEN & NOODLE DINNER

Due to COVID, we are not able to hold our annual Bazaar.

HOWEVER, we are going to be serving a take-out dinner. You can pick up your dinner(s) in the church parking lot between 4:00p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 14th. Enter lot off of Boswell and follow the signs. If you are unable to pick up your meal, we can deliver them to you. Donations/tips accepted. **Please call the church at 785-235-2331, or send in the form below, to reserve your meal(s) by Thursday, November 12th.**



We will be serving: salad, chicken & noodles, mashed potatoes, corn, dinner roll & a slice of pie. We will have pumpkin, apple and cherry pie available. Please tell us your preference and we will do our best to accommodate your request. As always, we will have gluten free noodles & pie and sugar-free pie available. Full meals are \$10.00 and Half are \$6.00.

Call the church at 785-235-2331 when you arrive, give your name and number of meals and they will be brought out to you.

Chicken & Noodle Dinner Order Form Orders must be received by November 12th

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Gluten Free FULL _____ X \$10.00 HALF _____ X \$6.00 = \$ _____

Number of FULL dinners _____ X \$10.00 each = \$ _____

Number of HALF meals _____ X \$6.00 each = \$ _____

Total Due = \$ _____

I need my meal(s) delivered _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

Total Payment received \$ _____ Payment method _____ Check _____ Cash

Doorstep

This year has certainly been a different one! Our 3rd Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Fun Run became a virtual event. We had half the number of participants as previous years. We still made \$5,900 thanks to our sponsors, and those who did participate. However, we didn't meet our goal of \$9,000, and we had to cancel the cinnamon rolls and tamales sale, losing more event income for 2020.

We appreciate everyone and our member congregations who have continued to bring in food to stock the pantry, and sending monetary donations to keep our doors open and helping even more people in need during this time of COVID-19.

Our focus now is this year's version of the Christmas Store. It won't be a Store this year where the clients we adopt through the Christmas Bureau come in and shop for the families. This year we are working even more closely with the Christmas Bureau, United Way, Topeka Rescue Mission and the community by streamlining how we are approaching Christmas adoptions.

Doorstep will still adopt the 260 households and 800+ individuals like before, but what and how we provide food and gifts will change. In 2020, adopted families will receive a \$15 gift card for each family member, our regular Christmas food order, a health kit, and a blanket or quilt.

What we need for Christmas this year is: Towel sets (bath, hand, washcloth), Shampoo/Conditioner, Combs, Bar Soap, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Full/Queen and King Blankets only, and money. We need money to purchase the gift cards, the food, and any of the above items not donated. Where we have asked for items in years past, please send a check or go to our website (www.doorstoptopeka.org) to donate by credit card.

All of the items we have collected to date will be saved for next year. This is the best way to reduce the number of people we need, and the number of people who are working together at one time.

We know it is not ideal, but with COVID, nothing is normal this year, and unfortunately, the Christmas Store process will not be either. Please help where you can.



DOORSTEP

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Is there any doubt in your mind these days about what season we are in? Carolyn and I went for a walk at Mt. Hope Cemetery on Sunday afternoon and it was cold. I think the temperature was 45 but the wind chill made it seem like 36. Of course there was no sun and an abundance of wind out of the North. We walked the East end and then back around West and back to the parking lot. I wore a down-filled jacket and was nearly frozen stiff by the time we finished. I don't know what that has to do with anything but that's my story and I'm sticking to it.



Let's look at what's going on in the church these days. We are still not allowed to worship in the church. We worship at home on the computer or iPad or cellphone, wherever we can hook up to Facebook. I know it doesn't matter where we worship God because God is everywhere, but I do miss the friends that I would see at church. I also miss being able to teach Sunday School every Sunday and I miss the ladies in my class. I miss Fellowship time and I miss the church Bazaar in November and the Chicken Noodle Dinner with the Bazaar.

Wait, there is good news: there will be a dinner. It has been determined that we will have the Chicken Noodle Dinner, just not in Fellowship Hall. November 14, will be a busy day at University United Methodist Church. There will be a dinner from 4:00 – 6:00. All of those beautiful people will be spending the day preparing that wonderful meal while others will be baking those good homemade pies to top it off. All you have to do is call in pre-order, drive up, and someone will bring it to your vehicle and take your money.

Be safe, pray for those who are struggling with illness or the prospect of becoming ill with COVID19. Remember God is with you always. All you have to do is believe and he will be there for you. This will not last forever and when it is safe, we will be back together again in our church home. Please continue to support the church so it will be there when we are allowed back in.

Heavenly Father, your children so want to believe and trust in you. We will continue to search for answers because we are what you created us to be. We were created in God's image and given the ability to choose freely, but we will continue to ask for your guidance. We will also continue to ask for your forgiveness when we fail to thank you for all you do for us; for bringing structure to our unstructured lives and for your continued protection when we are in need of your wings to shelter us and keep us safe.

In God's name we pray,
Jo Miller,
UMW President

**OUR PRAYERS AND CONCERNS GO OUT:
TO OUR MEMBERS & FRIENDS WITH SPECIAL CONCERNS:**



Jo Miller's son - John, Pam Campbell, Lisa Eiben, Jane Noble, Pam Land, Norma Pike, Michael Springer, Donna Spray, Steve & Jan Kendall, Grace Reichle, Steve Hearrell, Dave Schaffer, Gary Weekly, Evie Unkefer's Granddaughter-Ettie, Our Police Officers: Randy Bailey and Wendi Winans and our devoted caretakers, The essential/front line people who face COVID-19 daily, our enemies, peace for our world AND PRAYERS FOR OUR COUNTRY.

Our congregation members in the Retirement Centers: Gayle Dick, Joanne Armstrong (Plaza West); Peggy Harrison, Jean/Jerry Hinton, Sue Holm & Dave Wexler, Marie Culver and Maxine McDaniel (Brewster Place); Jim/Ann Fredrickson (Lexington) and Ardith Granger (Aldersgate). And for all nursing homes themselves, all the essential people watching over all the people. **Gayle Dick & Joann Armstrong have both tested positive for COVID & need extra prayers.**

TO THESE DISTRICT CHURCHES:

1 November Elmont	8 November Elwood United Community	15 November Grantville	22 November Hiawatha First	29 November Hiawatha Trinity - Powhattan
Francis Stockton Jeff Moszeter	Efrem Byrd Sondra Carter	Rick Souter Caroline Bigham	Andrew Finch Dave Hoffman	Kevin Rea Nancy Prawl Jackie Wenger

Please contact the UUMC office if you know of someone who should be included or removed from our prayer list.



Prayer Requests

If you would like to be notified by e-mail when there are new prayer requests, such as church members in the hospital, surgeries, births, deaths, etc., or if you have a prayer request you would like others to know about, contact Mary Winans at mewinans50@gmail.com or phone 785-224-4155 and leave a message. If you do not have email and would like to be notified by phone, please call the office at 235-2331.

November Birthdays

- 4 Kay Conn
- 5 Diana Whitney
- 8 Randy Bailey
- 13 Dale Bearce
- 13 Sue Holm
- 14 Richard Brown
- 14 Banks Lear
- 16 Bob Reece
- 16 Dan Orndorff
- 19 Stan Harder
- 25 Pam Bearce

Milestone Birthdays

None this month



November Anniversaries

- 20 Dale & Pam Bearce 5
- 27 Kyle & Abby Lear 21



If you know of a birthday or anniversary that has been omitted or is not correct on this list, please call the office and let us know.

<p>1 November Josh 3:1-17 Ps 107:1-7, 33-37 1 Thess 2:9-13 Matt 23:1-12</p> <p>8 November Josh 24:1-3a, 14-25 Ps 78:1-7 1 Thess 4:13-18 Matt 25:1-3</p> <p>15 November Judg 4:1-7 Ps 123 or Ps 76</p>	<p>15 November cont. 1 Thess 5:1-11 Matt 25:14-30</p> <p>22 November Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24 Ps 100 Eph 1:15-23 Matt 25:31-46</p> <p>29 November Isa 64:1-9 Ps 80:1-7, 17-19 1 Cor 1:3-9 Mark 12:24-37</p>
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The Beacon is published
monthly for the members
and friends of University
United Methodist Church.

*** SUNDAY SCHEDULE ***
9:15 a.m. Worship Service
VIA Facebook
You can also view on YouTube
Links found on our website listed on
the front page.

