



# ***In the First Place***

*the monthly newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Sheridan, Arkansas*  
*August 2019 Volume 2019/Issue 8*

## **United Methodist Women Sunday**

This Sunday, August 4, is UMW Sunday at our church. Members of the United Methodist Women will lead in both services. UMW Sunday gives the congregation an opportunity to see what UMW does locally and globally while celebrating what God has done through this organization.

Reverend Natasha K. Murray-Norman is our guest speaker, and her topic will be "A Means of Grace." Rev. Murray-Norman is married to Rev. Mark Norman, Southeast District superintendent, and they have two children, Kelly and Mylas. At this year's Arkansas Annual Conference, Rev. Murray-Norman was selected as a clergy delegate for the South Central Jurisdictional Conference 2020. Please join us in welcoming her this Sunday.

## **Backpack Packers Wanted**

School is beginning soon, and unfortunately, some of the children will come to school hungry. These children have little or no food on the weekends. Once again, we will be providing backpack food for Sheridan Elementary School.

It takes about \$3000 a month to send food home for weekends and holidays, so donations are necessary and greatly appreciated. You can make your donation to the church and mark the envelope "Backpacks."

Volunteers are needed to fill backpacks every Thursday morning, and you can volunteer for one or more Thursdays. The current schedule is:

First Thursday of the month: Norma Daniel, Betty Robinette, Cindy Hedden, Susan Schultz

Second Thursday: Charles Tadlock, Elizabeth Taulbee, Sandra Turner, Joan Pierce

Third Thursday: Jan Caldwell, Sharla Dunnigan, Julie Allen, Joan Moltz

Fourth Thursday: Peggy Schee, Becky Ross, Freddie Ross, Darlene Culpepper

If you would be willing to give approximately two hours a month of your time to fill backpacks, please let Dee Ann Daniel know which group you would like to join. Email her at [deeanndaniel@windstream.net](mailto:deeanndaniel@windstream.net) or text (870)917-8537.

## **Summer Feeding Program Final Update**



*Mike Carpenter with grandchildren, twins Mackenzie and Mason Clanton, are all smiles on July 23 as they prepared for the final week of the Summer Feeding Program. Volunteers of all ages helped to reach more food-insecure children this summer than previously.*

It seems like yesterday the Children's Summer Feeding Program started providing lunches to hungry children in Grant County, and I can still remember the two little girls who were excited to get lunch on that first day! During the summer of 2014, churches from the Grant County Ministerial Alliance volunteered, prepared, cooked, and provided lunches to children in Sheridan and Leola. We were so excited to have furnished an average of 30 meals a day, or approximately 850 lunches for that summer.

Since the program started, it has grown exponentially, and what a summer it has been this year! The last day we distributed lunches was on Friday, July 26. Again, we provided lunches this summer in Sheridan, Clearwater, Poyen, Leola, and East End. A total of 13,862 lunches were delivered at an average of 365 per day! In six years, approximately 42,000 lunches have been given to children and families with food insecurity in Grant County and East End! So many families and children rely on this program every summer!

This program continues to amaze me with all of its volunteers, donations, and support; not only from our church but from other churches and businesses in our community. On average, 20 volunteers from 13 churches and local businesses were needed each day at the four sites located in Sheridan, Poyen, Leola, and East End. It is truly a community-supported mission.

From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank each and every one of you for your continued support. We would not be as successful as we are today without each and every one of you! Please continue making your contributions throughout the year. We will be able to continue making a difference fighting against food insecurity and hunger in our community!

*-Mike Carpenter, Summer Feeding Program Director*

## From the Pastor's Desk....

My how time flies, doesn't it? Wasn't it just last week that school let out for summer and all of our vacations were ahead of us? Just a few days from when you read this column, school will begin. Teachers may already be back to work! In spite of the dreadful heat and humidity that tells us that it is still very much summer, for families with children and for educators, "fall" is here!



While we mark time in a lot of different ways, for a majority of our population, the new year begins in the middle of August; not in January as the calendar tells us, nor in Advent as the Christian calendar tells us. No, for many of us, the new year begins when we go back to school. As a new year (or a resetting of the calendar, as it were) is a great time for new beginnings, new habits, and resolutions, please let me encourage all of you to consider what you will be doing to grow in faith during this new school year.

If you have fallen out of the habit of worshipping regularly: come on back! There is no better way to begin the week than by praising God with your sisters and brothers in Christ. Another way to grow in faith is to learn. Quite obviously, that is what we hope our children will be doing as they begin school this year. We also know that one is never too old to learn something new. Did you know that UALR offers classes for free for persons 65 and older? If you aren't in a Sunday School class, we have three great adult classes that you can join (at 9:45 am on Sundays). There are three classes for youth and several for kids as well! During the year, there will be short-term studies offered. Be on the lookout as those come up. Grow in faith by learning more about who you are, who God is, and how we can be in relationship with our Creator.

I have also found that Christians rarely grow without serving God and one another. We become the people God wants us to be by focusing more upon our neighbor and less upon ourselves. Consider joining the United Methodist Women or the United Methodist Men, each of whom engage in service throughout the year. Consider teaching or helping with a children's or youth Sunday School class, with children or youth on Wednesday night, with youth on Sunday evening, or sign up to help with meals and clean-up on Wednesday nights. Incidentally, we never retire or "age-out" of helping children become disciples of Jesus Christ! Whether you have kids or not (or if those kids are in our church or not or if those

kids have grown or not), there is always a place for you to help a child or a youth grow in faith. And also, be on the lookout for other short-term mission projects that pop up during the fall. In short, find a way to be in service in or through our church.

Finally, we grow by sharing our story. "Evangelism" and "witness" have become loaded words in our culture and even in our denomination. Let us never think that we are supposed to pressure or guilt others into following Jesus. We are called to share the story of our faith and how our faith has impacted our life with someone who may not have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Almost all of us can share the story of our family. Share the story of our church family as well; particularly how our church family and our faith make a difference in our life.

It is that time of year when we should all be going back to school. We'll start the school year in worship with a Blessing of the Backpacks service (both worship services) on August 18. Bring your backpack (or satchel or workbag), and we'll kick off the year with praise and thanksgiving. I hope and pray that each of you will answer God's call to grow in faith this year. Happy Learning!

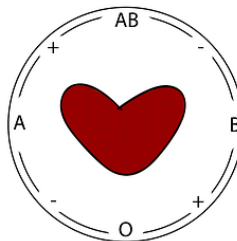
*-Pastor Todd-Paul*

## Memorials and Honorariums

**In memory of Marcia Gartman: Summer Feeding Program** by Jenny Swilling; **UMY** by Sparky & Cindy Hedden

**In honor of hostesses of shower for Allison Archer/Hudson Wells: Backpacks** by Anne Wells

**In honor of Mike & Denise Carpenter: Summer Feeding Program** by Bo & Sheila Aaron; Sandra & Steven Turner



**Blood Drive**  
Saturday, August 3  
11:00 until 3:00  
FUMC Sheridan  
100 E. Church St.

**First United Methodist Church**  
At the corner of Church and Main Streets  
PO Box 357 / Sheridan, AR 72150  
870-942-4127 / sheridanfumc.org  
fumcsheridan@gmail.com

*Todd-Paul Taulbee, Pastor*  
*Betty Lancaster, Church Secretary and Treasurer*  
*Sandra Parham Turner, Newsletter Editor*



Mr. & Mrs. Gregg Scott  
& Boy Scout Troup 60  
cordially invite you to attend the  
Eagle Scout Court of Honor for

*Preston F. Scott*

Sunday, August 11, 2019

2:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church  
Reception following ceremony

## OMP 101 Camp



Three of our children attended OMP 101 on July 29-31 at St. Paul UMC in Little Rock. Ozark Mission Project is a nonprofit mission of the Arkansas Area United Methodist Church, organized for ministry to persons in need in response to Jesus Christ's call to servanthood. OMP 101 serves as a precursor to Jr. High and Sr. High OMP camps and is open to 5th and 6th grade students.

During the week, campers learned about OMP and its ministry. They tied bags for Arkansas Gleaning, which were to be used to hold nutritious food for people in need. They learned about tools and used what they learned on a construction project of building a flower pot to give to their "neighbors." Next, they met a representative from Community Café to hear about its ministry; they also learned about the working poor and what it might be like to be in someone else's shoes. At the end of camp, they went to visit their "neighbors" and delivered their gifts.

Pictured above are campers Tatum Cody, Carter Lowery, and Baylor Williams. Tatum said her favorite part of the week was helping her "neighbors" in their yard. Carter liked the snacks, but really enjoyed singing the worship songs! We hope this will be a camp more of our children can attend next year. Look for announcements next spring to register for OMP 101 or for the Jr. or Sr. High camps. For more information, find them at <https://www.facebook.com/OzarkMissionProject/>.

*You are so very nice!*

LOVE REESE

Dear Sheridan FUMC,

Thank you all so much for the love offering given to our family! That was so very kind and thoughtful! The Visa gift cards really came in handy for us and Reese during our stay at Children's. We are so very blessed to be a part of such a loving church family. The support we've felt the past few months as we've worked to get Reese healthy has truly been a comfort to us! We are truly thankful for all the prayers, cards, visits, and love shown to us and our family!

May the Lord bless you and keep you!

The Roark Family

## Ice Cream Social

Everyone is invited to the annual ice cream social on Sunday, August 11, at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Of course, we need homemade ice cream, so if you want to provide any, please have it to the church by 5:15. The Family Life Committee are the hosts and will provide everything else. Come out for a deliciously fun evening to celebrate the end of summer!



You are invited to a bridal  
shower in honor of

*Hope Layton*

*Bride-elect of Brady Bone*

*Sunday, August 18, 2019*

*1:30-3:00 p.m.*

*Grand Hall*





## To Mars and Beyond: Explore Where God's Power Can Take You

*Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us! – Ephesians 3:20.*

This was our VBS theme this year. Each night the kids received a scripture treasure to help emphasize what they learned. Go Beyond with...Faith! Boldness! Kindness! Thankfulness! Hope!

The first night we learned how Daniel trusts God in the Lion's Den (Daniel 6). The second night we learned how Queen Esther takes a stand (Esther 4-9). On the third night, we learned how the Good Samaritan helps a fellow traveler (Luke 10: 25-37). And on the final night, we learned how Jesus heals 10 Lepers (Luke 17:11-19). Each night the kids also engaged in amazing science lessons, expressed themselves through fun crafts, participated in various recreational activities outside and enjoyed singing and dancing to fun songs they would perform on the Sunday following VBS.

VBS Sunday was so much fun. The entire congregation was able to watch "The Good Samaritan" skit in the sanctuary, performed by our awesome Storytelling actors. Following the skit, the kids performed the four songs they learned during the week, and they did an excellent job! Hearing the kids sing is a special moment in our church. We get to see the excitement on their faces as they are singing their praises. Following the church service, we enjoyed a delicious lunch in the grand hall. Thank you to our cooks!!! And to end the activities we went outside to have sno cones and play on the bouncy house/water slide. The donations of our church and church members are outstanding!!!

VBS 2019 was a huge success! This is 110% a direct reflection of our dedicated church family that has always been devoted to the mission of growing our youth. We would like to thank EVERYONE for your contribution to this special event. As directors of VBS, we never doubt that we will have the continued support to ensure this is a wonderful time for our kids every year.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Kelley, Dona Glaze, and Johni Beth Teague



*Preston Scott leads a budding group of Mars travelers into outer space with a fantastic science lesson!*

## Leaders/Helpers Needed for Children

*Teach children in a way that fits their needs, and even when they are old, they will not leave the right path." Psalm 22:6*

With the new school year comes another new year in our children's ministries! We have a large group of children who are eager to learn and need to hear about God's love for them. One way they can do this is through members of our congregation! It is a calling to teach or to help others lead, and we have extraordinary, dedicated leaders who teach our children on Sunday mornings or on Wednesday evenings (some are doing both due to a shortage of leaders). It takes several people committed to leading to allow a rotating schedule for Sunday school and UMK. Can you serve as a leader or a helper in one of our children's classes?

August 18 will be a big morning for the children! Those in the Sunday school classes will move up to their current school grade, so some will be going to a new class with a new teacher. Then at the 10:50 service, children are invited to bring their school bags with them to church for the blessing of the backpacks.

September 4, we will have our annual Back to Wednesday Bash for the United Methodist Kids (UMK)! The Pre-K thru 5th graders will start the year with jump houses, games, and ice cream!

If you are willing to lead or help, please contact Nicole Cacciatori at 870-917-5084.

**SS Move-Up Day at 9:45**

**Blessing of the Backpacks at 10:50**  
**August 18**

## Sheridan School District Open House Dates

**August 6**

SHS 6:30-8:00

6:00 Orientation for 9th/10th/new students

**August 8**

SES and EEE 5:30-7:30

**August 12**

SIS, EEI, SMS, EEM 5:30-7:30