



In the First Place

the monthly newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Sheridan, Arkansas
January 2019 Volume 2019/Issue 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

From the Pastor's Desk...

On January 1, your whole life can be transformed. For one day at least, all your good intentions can be jump-started, and all your bad habits can be unplugged. At least for a few hours (or minutes?), the year is a perfect reflection of your best self. But January 1 is followed inevitably by January 2 and January 3. Someday soon you will opt for staying in a cozy bed a few more minutes rather than plunging out into the cold on that jog. Pretty soon candy wrappers will start appearing in your desk drawer again. By the 14th or 15th, you will surely have been aggravated enough at a bad driver or a dropped glass or a stubbed toe to have let loose a blue streak of bad words or unsanctified thoughts. By the 17th your socks are back on the bathroom floor and your dental floss is gathering dust. By the 20th you fall asleep before you can even get the Bible open. For all but a few of us, most New Year's resolutions get packed away with the last of the Christmas decorations. By Epiphany our behavior and the whole New Year are just as tarnished as they were before January 1st.



The problem with most of our resolutions is that they are too safe, too sensible, and too self-centered. We resolve to make tiny cosmetic changes in our lifestyles - but refuse to consider restructuring our lives and changing the paradigms by which we live. The ultimate New Year's resolution does not challenge us to cut fat grams, or quit smoking, or get to aerobics class twice a week. The ultimate resolution a Christian can make is to live in the light of divine intentions, not human inventions. The New Year's resolution to end all resolutions is to live under the umbrella of God's expectations and to make it my business and your business to be a part of God's business.

But this just begs a bigger question: What is God's business? God's business is transformation. So what does the Christian who resolves to be a part of God's transforming work on January 1st do on January 2nd (or 3rd or 5th or 17th)? There are two essential requirements: First, we must go deeply into the Word. Second, we must go widely into the world.

What if instead of resolving to lose 10 pounds this year, you resolved to eat according to a diet that could sustain the whole world? What if instead of resolving to get more exercise this year, you resolved to exercise some spiritual muscles and took a Bible study or started to attend Sunday School? What if instead of resolving to spend less time in front of the TV and more time

reading some good books, you resolved to teach those struggling with illiteracy to read those books to you? What if instead of resolving to spend more "quality time" with your family you resolved to take your whole family on a mission project for a week?

Your life, your commitment to the ultimate resolution, can help the love of God through Christ to transform the world. The New Year has begun and lies unblemished before us. What do you resolve to be on January 2 and for the rest of your life?

-Pastor Todd-Paul

BBQ with Bill
President of Hendrix College
Fellowship Hall
Sunday, February 10, at Noon



As a United Methodist, you have a connection to Hendrix College in Conway. Whether or not you've attended or visited Hendrix yourself, you've supported students at this United Methodist-affiliated school through the church-college relationship. And you know some Hendrix alumni: Rev. Todd-Paul Taulbee and his wife, Elizabeth, met there as students! Charles Tadlock is a distinguished alum, as well. Current students from our church are Jacob Turner, a senior Religious Studies major, Aly Savage, a sophomore Business Economics major, and Kennedy King, a junior English major.

Because we value our ties to Hendrix, we are hosting a stop on what's known as "Bill's BBQ Tour." It is how Hendrix President, Bill Tsutsui, is getting to know Arkansas: traveling to each of its 75 counties, sampling his favorite cuisine along the way. Because Hendrix wants to spend time with the United Methodists of Grant County, we are not just providing the location; we are invited to be the college's guests at this meal.

Bill's BBQ Tour stop at First UMC of Sheridan is set for Sunday, February 10, at noon. Be looking for more information about signing up over the coming month. We want everyone who can to attend and extend to Bill a warm Sheridan FUMC welcome.

Memorials and Honor Gifts Received

In memory of Larry Roark (Robin Roark's father): Youth by Dee Ann Daniel; Bobby & Laura Daniel; Raymond & Joan Mooney; Sparky & Cindy Hedden; **Summer Feeding Program** by I Think I Made a Hugh Mistake Fantasy Football League

In memory of Clinton Graves: Memorial Fund by Bobby Graves & Sons

In honor of the Sheridan Bands: Backpack Program by Retired Teachers

Christmas Cantata



The FUMC Chancel Choir presented "The Christmas Story: A Classic Carol Celebration" on December 16, directed by Julia Stinson and accompanied on the piano by Dana Teel. Summer Scott and Stephen Shirron were narrators.

SPRC Meeting Notes

The SPRC met on November 28, 2018. **Love** – Each member shared a personal devotional on how God was present in their life recently. **Learn** - We discussed the article "Church Attendance is Dying, Here's What's Next." **Lead** - The committee filed the required reports for the Bishop and Cabinet, which included a vote asking the Bishop and Cabinet to reappoint Pastor Todd-Paul as our pastor for our 2019 appointment.

*-Seth Glaze
SPRC Chairperson*

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

In The First Place is a free monthly publication printed by First United Methodist Church, 100 East Church Street, Sheridan, AR 72150. Periodical postage paid at the U.S. Post Office in Sheridan, Arkansas.

United Methodist Women



What a grand December celebrating the birth of our Savior with the ladies of our church. We enjoyed a "Twinkly Tree Tapas Tasting," including a story shared by Becky Ross and an ornament exchange. We collected "bags" of toys for the Angel Tree, thanks to the generosity of our ladies. A special Thank You to the ladies that helped prepare, Peggy Schee, Becky Ross, Judy Green, and Dee Ann Daniel. Plans are already underway for next year so ALL ladies, old, middle, and young, be ready to participate!

Following the tasting we set up for the Christmas Store. The children of our church shopped for their family members. I, for one, received a great journal and some perfect candle holders that match the ones I got last year! It is fun for the children, our youth who were shopping guides, and the ladies, especially in the wrapping room! Thanks to all who helped make it a success.

On Saturday, January 12, 2019, (yes 2019) we will be hosting the UMW Southeast District Training Sessions. This will be our own Betty Cook's first gathering as President of the Southeast District, so we are planning to be in full force.

Then on Sunday, January 27, we will be hosting our annual Poor Boy lunch. The funds received from donations will be used for multiple mission projects throughout the year. Please plan to have lunch with us!

I am looking forward to the many opportunities that 2019 will bring for us to be God's voice, hands, and feet in our community and further.

*-Zoe Hines
UMW President*



*Delicious food enjoyed by the UMW
at their 2018 Christmas party.*

United Methodist Kids

Our first rotation for the new year will be Jonah and the Fish. The story of Jonah is filled with humor and unexpected twists! We are sure the children will enjoy their science lesson recreating the smell in the belly of the fish and baking prayer pretzel breadsticks all while learning we should follow Gods commands! We will begin our first lesson on Wednesday, January 9, at 6:15. Until then, Happy New Year!

*-Nicole Cacciatori
UMK Director*



The UMK presented their program, "Sing a Song of Christmas," on Sunday evening, December 16. Those present for the performance were treated to beautiful music provided by the Youth Band under the direction of Rachel Loretz and Gregg Scott. Afterward, over 35 of our UMK filled the stage and choir loft to fill the sanctuary with songs full of the joy of Christmas. After the Christmas potluck that followed the program, the children were visited by their old friend, Santa. Our appreciation goes to Nicole Cacciatori, UMK Director, and Dona Glaze, Pam Reed, and Helen Shirron, program directors, for bringing this performance together and to all the leaders and parents who helped.



Children's Christmas Program 2018



Methodist Mission Team

The Mission Team will have a workday on Saturday, January 6, in Prague. Anyone interested in helping should bring your tools and work gloves and meet Sam Green at 10:00 a.m. in the church parking lot.

Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Heather and Ryan Wells for the birth of their twin daughters, Gwendolyn Grace and Finella Hope. Katie and Henry Wells are very proud grandparents!

Children's Church Ministry

*Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old they
will not turn from it. ~ Proverbs 22:6*

Happy New Year! I would like to start this year off on a little different foot. We will have a brief meeting after church on Sunday, January 6, immediately following the 10:50 service. Please bring any ideas about any changes you would like to see. Also if you have any favorite websites or other materials you would like to share, please bring them.

The Children's Church ministry currently serves the four- to six-year-olds of our church during the 10:50 service. Children stay in the service through children's moments and then are dismissed into the education building for supervised lessons, play, and organized activities. Light snacks are provided by the volunteer. If you have any questions, please plan to attend the meeting or contact me.

*-Dona Glaze
Children's Church Coordinator*

Your Feedback Wanted!

How did you like this new way of receiving your monthly newsletter? If you have any comments, suggestions, or wish to subscribe/unsubscribe, please email me at sparhamturner@gmail.com or email the church at fumcsheridan@gmail.com, subject line NEWSLETTER.

Also, anyone can submit articles, photos, etc., to be included in the newsletter, and I certainly welcome any new content! The deadline for the February newsletter is Friday, January 25.

I pray you all will have a blessed, happy, and healthy 2019!

*-Sandra Turner
Newsletter Editor*

Sheridan First United Methodist Church



Sunday Services & Activities: Wednesday Night Activities:

8:45 Early Service
9:30 Coffee & Donuts
9:45 Sunday School
10:50 Worship Service
5:30-7:00 UMY

5:30-6:15 Soul Food Café
5:30-7:30 UMY
6:15-7:30 UMK
6:45-7:30 Choir practice

JANUARY 2019

Soul Food Café Menu:

9 Baked Spaghetti/Stromboli
16 Pot Roast/Popcorn Chicken
23 Taco Bar/Taco Pie
30 Shepherd's Pie/Beef Fingers
\$5 7th grade-Adults \$3 K-6th grade Free Pre-K

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Kathy's Closet Food of the Month: Cans of funa	1 Church offices closed	2 No Wednesday activities	3	4	5
6 Epiphany Sunday Children's Church Ministry Mtg. following 10:50 service UMW Gen. Mtg. 2:00	7	8 UMW Night Circle 7:00	9 Welcome Back to Wednesday Night activities!	10	11	12 Mission Team Workday Meet at church 10:00 UMW SE District Training Mtg. w/ lunch Fellowship Hall 9:30
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 UMW Afternoon Circle 2:00 UMMen 6:30	22	23	24	25 Newsletter deadline	26
27 UMW Poor Boy Luncheon fundraiser after 10:50 service	28	29	30	31	 Health Screenings 8:00-8:30 a.m. Jason Kelley 9:45-10:30 a.m. Pam Reed	
Children's Church 6 Anne Wells 13 Lauren Goins 20 Helen Shirron 27 Nicole Cacciatori		Worship Schedule January 2019 Greeters: Bobby & Laura Daniel Counters: Betty Lancaster, Becky Ross Ushers: Bobby Daniel, Eddie Lybrand, John Cacciatori, Sam King, Lang Wells, Cole Sanders			Coming in February: 10 Youth Sunday/BBQ with Bill	