



In the First Place

the monthly newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Sheridan, Arkansas
June 2019 Volume 2019/Issue 6

Help Feed Hungry Children Through the Summer Feeding Program

The school year is complete, and summer has arrived with the return of the Children's Summer Feeding Program. Our church, along with the Sheridan Ministerial Alliance will be providing lunches from June 3 until July 26 at Sheridan High School, Poyen First Assembly of God, Leola Missionary Baptist Church, and The Well in East End. We also will deliver meals in Sheridan, Clearwater, and East End.

We continue to need volunteers. Our church is responsible for delivering meals into the community this upcoming week of June 3 - 7, the first week of the program, and for the week of July 8 - 12. Also, because our church is the "hub" of operations and where the food is delivered, we need volunteers to help get the meals ready for distribution. Please let Sandra Turner or me know if you can volunteer. We have placed a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex.

We continue to need donations. Thanks to your support, this vital mission is growing and reaching out to more of the hungry children in our community! Please mark your envelope or make your check to Summer Feeding Program if you want to donate.

Last, but certainly not least, we continue to need prayers. For every child we are able to serve, there are many, many more in need. Pray that we can reach every one of them until none of these children are hungry.

Thank you for volunteering, your continued financial support, and your prayers. Together, we are making a difference!

*-Mike Carpenter,
Children's Summer Feeding Program Director*



Confirmation 2019



Confirmation Sunday was held on May 5. The UMW served breakfast to the confirmands and their families, where UMW President, Zoe Hines, presented each with a devotional book from the UMW titled *Jesus Calling*. During the 10:50 service, they were received as full members of the church. Pictured above are (front row) Mary Elizabeth Taylor, Joanna Kay Loretz, Cooper Evan Cody; (middle row) Sara Elizabeth Taulbee, Karalina Rayne Scott, Emily Paige Baker, Jackson Riley Appleget, Nicholas James Cacciatori; (back row) Confirmation leaders Summer Scott, Pastor Todd-Paul Taulbee, and Mandy Schee. Not pictured are Stephen Shirron, leader, and Bryce Terry, who will be confirmed at a later date.

Our Delegates at Annual Conference 2019

The 2019 Arkansas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church was held May 26 through June 1 in Hot Springs. Pictured at right are delegates Betty Cook, Zoe Hines, and Dee Ann Daniel. Zoe was our church's delegate while Betty and Dee were our members-at-large and voting delegates as Southeast District delegates-at-large. To see photos and read recaps of the conference's events, visit the Conference's Facebook page at [ArkansasUMC](https://www.facebook.com/ArkansasUMC).

From the Pastor's Desk....

Jimmy Buffett, the great poet, beach bum and philosopher, wrote: "Reading departure signs in some big airport reminds me of the places I've been. Visions of good times that brought so much pleasure makes me want to go back again. If it suddenly ended tomorrow I could somehow adjust to the fall. These changes in latitudes, changes in attitudes; Nothing remains quite the same. Through all of the islands and all of the highlands, if we couldn't laugh we would all go insane."



Change is hard. Transitions are hard. So often we'd rather keep things exactly as they are, even if we are miserable, because we have such fear of what change might bring. We'd rather dance with the Devil we know (often quite literally) than make an adjustment to the unknown. Maya Angelou wrote: "Sometimes we become lethargic out of fear. It's not really laziness so much as it is timidity. We'd rather bear the ills we have than fly to others that we know not of, when in truth the place where one is standing may be untenable, it may be dangerous, it may be stultifying and it's better to just step on. You know, you have to move."

The issue, ultimately, is not whether we will change or not, because even the most stubborn of us recognize that change comes no matter what we do. The world is so much bigger than we are as individuals, and try as we might, we cannot keep things just the way they are. Ultimately, there *will be a change in latitude. The issue, therefore, is whether we will adjust to that change in latitude with a change in our attitude. How will we react to the constant shuffling of life? How will we live in community together? And will we help to bring about change that reflects God's plan, or simply allow the world to change around us with no vision for a better future?*

We already know that we have been commanded by Christ to love God and love our neighbor. And we also recognize that we have not fully perfected that task. Therefore, we know that we (as a community of faith and as individual Christians) must grow, we must change in order to more fully love God and love our neighbor. We should not change everything we do (and everything we are); because we also recognize that we do, in some ways, already love God and our neighbor. However, we must evaluate where we have

fallen short of this goal and be open to new methods by which we might more fully complete this high calling.

Furthermore, (and I think this is most critical), we must do all that we can to assist one another (as well as those who are not a part of our fellowship) to make the difficult changes necessary to be and do all that God calls us to be and do. "It may be hard for an egg to turn into a bird; it would be a jolly sight harder for it to learn to fly while remaining an egg. We are like eggs at present. And you cannot go on indefinitely being just an ordinary, decent egg. We must be hatched or go bad." (C.S. Lewis)

Helping one another change from eggs to birds can be as simple as volunteering to provide food for the youth or teach Sunday School or greeting someone you don't know on Sunday morning. And it can be as complicated as discovering the details of God's vision for our church and through that emerging process cooperate with one another on how we get to where God is calling us through holy conferencing and administrative meetings. With love we might learn to laugh with one another through the process. Else Mr. Buffett will be right - we'll go insane!

-Pastor Todd-Paul

In Sympathy

Donna Clark and family in the death of Bill Clark on May 1.

The family of Irene Blake, who passed away on May 19.

Memorials and Honorariums

In memory of Bill Clark: Summer Feeding Program by Charles & Alexis Tadlock; Jenny & Virgil Swilling; Ron & Joyce McHone; **Backpacks** by Dee Ann Daniel

In honor of Sara Taulbee's confirmation: UMY by Sandra & Roy Smith

In honor of Liz Ann Lancaster: Summer Feeding Program by Virginia Lancaster; Rebecca, Scott, Anna, and Kate Hancock

Thanks for Another Year of Soul Food Cafe

We thank the Family Life Committee and especially its chairs, Seth and Dona Glaze, for all the work involved in keeping Soul Food Café running this year. We appreciate them for making the commitment to keep the doors open after the SFC crew retired last year. Every Wednesday throughout the year needed many volunteers, and the church appreciates all who helped. We are also thankful for our Youth who took it on as a ministry to clean up each week. Thank you all for a job well done!

First United Methodist Church

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

Congratulations to Our College Graduates

Alex Richardson graduated on May 12 from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, receiving a Bachelors of Science in Nursing. While a student at ASU, Alex was involved in the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority, was an executive board member of a mental health advocacy club, Active Minds, and was on the executive board of the Student Nurses Association. Alex is moving to Little Rock, where she has accepted a position in the Intensive Care Unit at CHI St. Vincent where she will begin in July. Alex is the daughter of Kris Richardson and the granddaughter of Donna and the late Bill Clark and David and Charlene Holloway.



Jacob Turner graduated on May 11 from Hendrix College in Conway with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies with a minor in Computer Science. At Hendrix, Jacob was a UMYF scholar, Station Manager for KHDH-FM, Elections Commissioner for Student Senate, and a participant in other student organizations. Jacob resides in Conway and is the Web Developer and Communications Liaison for the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church in Little Rock. Jacob is the son of Steven and Sandra Turner.

First Summer Food Program Delivery



Carey Roberson (left) with PepsiCo's Food for Good is shown with David Puckett, Denise Carpenter, and Summer Feeding Program director, Mike Carpenter, as the first delivery was made on May 31 for the Summer Feeding Program, which begins this Monday, June 3, and runs until July 26. For more information, see article on page 1. Please volunteer for this vital program to feed hungry children in our community who go without school meals during the summer.

United Methodist Women



The Sheridan United Methodist Women Day Circle delivered pillows to Arkansas Children's Hospital on Monday, May 20. Inside the four bags were 152 brightly-colored comfort cushions designed for patients recovering from surgery. These women from the Day Circle, along with local quilter, Gail Damron, spent approximately 75 hours creating these pillows. Previously, they have sewed and assembled 115 kits for Days for Girls. The women are now deciding what their next project will be where they can use their sewing skills in ministry to others. Shown accepting the pillows are Volunteer Engagement Center coordinators Halley Hamon, intern Sarah Newburn, and Emily Martin given by (left to right) Betty Robinette, Peggy Schee, Barbara Horn, Gail Damron, Norma Daniel, and Becky Ross.

Congratulations to...



Mike & Denise Carpenter in the birth of their grandson, **Colton Jason "CJ" Carpenter**, born on May 10 to Jason and Nomie Carpenter.

The family of **Aaliyah Grace Barranco**, born on May 10. Her grandparents are Shelba and the late Phillip Barranco.



Support Our Dragon Race Team



Praying for the Finish Line in 2018

The 7th annual River Cities Dragon Boat Festival will be Friday and Saturday, June 14-15, at Lake Willastein in Maumelle. *Praying for the Finish Line* will represent FUMC Sheridan for the third year in a row. It's the perfect family-friendly event with not only boat races, but tailgate parties, food trucks, DJ, and a children's area with arts and crafts. Friday night is the kick-off for teams, with the fun going on from 7—9 and ending with a fireworks display over the lake. Saturday is the all-day event for everyone to watch the races beginning at 8:00. All money raised will go the Children's Protection Center.

If you would like to donate to our team, please make your check to the church and mark it "Dragon Boat." Thank you so much for your continued support!

-Joe Archer,
Team Captain, Praying for the Finish Line



VBS 2019
June 17-20
6 - 8 p.m.
Rising Pre-K
through 5th grade

Happy Retirement!

We thank Sherrie Rowland for her faithful work with the Soul Food Cafe crew over the years. Sherrie is retiring after 12 years of Wednesday nights here at FUMC with plans to keep her granddaughter. We will miss her and her always-smiling face, but are happy she will have more time to spend with her family!



United Methodist Kids

On Wednesday, May 15, the last night of UMK, Becky Ross showed the group the 152 pillows that were made for the surgical patients at Arkansas Children's Hospital and explained they would be used by children their age who are recovering and need comfort. After this show and tell, we spent the rest of the time playing games, enjoying ice cream, and spending one last evening on the playground until September. Come back in the fall for more fun in UMK!

Join us for Vacation Bible School and bring your friends!
June 17-20, 6:00-8:00, rising pre-K through 5th grades!
We are going "To Mars and Beyond!"