



In the First Place

the monthly newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Sheridan, Arkansas
May 2019 Volume 2019/Issue 5

Funds, Volunteers Needed for Upcoming Summer Feeding Program

Food insecurity for children continues to be a significant problem in our country, especially in Arkansas. A few years ago, Arkansas was ranked first in our country for food insecurity, but with the hard work from various organizations and their volunteers, it now is ranked ninth. Unfortunately, 23% of our children in Arkansas continue to live in poverty. As you know, last summer was a tremendous success with the Summer Feeding Program providing over 13,500 lunches for a total of over 28,000 lunches since 2014. Plans are to serve lunches from June 3 - July 26 at Sheridan High School, Poyen First Assembly of God, Leola Missionary Baptist Church, and The Well in East End. Also, volunteers will deliver meals in Sheridan, Clearwater, and East End.

Our church will volunteer the first week of the program, June 3-7. We will need volunteers to distribute meals at our church and at Sheridan High School, as well as volunteers to deliver lunches in our community. Also, because our church is the hub for deliveries of meals and distribution of them, we need a volunteer each day of the program throughout the summer to assist volunteers with preparing for delivery. Please let Sandra Turner or me know if you can volunteer, or you can sign up on the sheet located in the narthex.

We have received two grants already; one from the ARUMCs 200,000 Reasons to Fight Childhood Hunger and one from the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance. Additionally, we have received donations from Sheridan White Rock, People's Bank, Apple Home Builders, and the Rotary Club.

It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to provide meals, which means we will continue to need donations. This mission is growing and is reaching out to more of the hungry children in our community! If you would like to donate to this mission, please mark your envelope or make your check to Summer Feeding Program.

If you would like to help, please attend the planning meeting on Thursday, May 16, at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for volunteering and your continued financial support! We are making a difference in our community!

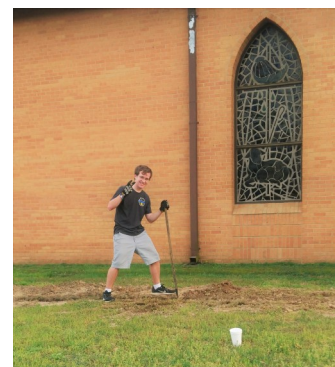
*-Mike Carpenter
Director, Summer Feeding Program*

Preston Scott Honored on Senior Sunday

Preston Forrest Scott was honored on Senior Sunday, April 28. Preston has been a member of FUMC Sheridan since his confirmation and has grown up in this church. He is the media and sound system technician for both Sunday services. He is the son of Gregg and Summer Scott and brother to Karalina.



Preston is a member of the National Honor Society, and is a Senior Patrol Leader for the Boy Scouts of America (Order of the Arrow), Sheridan Bands, Future Business Leaders of America, and the Debate Team. He has served as President and Media Chair for the Southeast District Council on Youth Ministries and on the Refuge and Media task forces for the Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministries.



Preston currently is working on his Eagle Scout project, the installation of outdoor lighting on the church grounds beside the main parking area and the children's playground. Preston worked diligently on this, and we are proud of his initiative to take on this necessary task for his church. He is pictured covering the conduit he helped to bury one Wednesday afternoon in March. He stated the lighting should be completed by early June.

Preston will graduate from Sheridan High School on Friday, May 24, at 7:30 at the Jack Stephens Center at UALR. This fall, he will attend the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville to major in Chemical Engineering.

**Thank you for your donations to
and purchases at the
Youth Rummage Sale!
The UMY raised \$2,355!**

From the Pastor's Desk....

*Jesus said, "Come, follow me."
Matthew 4:19*



When Sara was two years old, she was fascinated with birds. She commented on their songs when she heard them in the morning and desperately wanted to interact with them when playing in the yard. We took her to the Winged Wonders show at the Little Rock Zoo, and that nearly held her attention for 45 minutes – some sort of record for a two-year-old, I'd say!

There was a time when we were in our backyard, and a robin fluttered down to the ground about twenty feet from where she was standing. The robin began hopping around, and Sara was enthralled. "Come here, wittle birdie!" she called. Somehow, Sara knew that running pell-mell toward the robin would not end with contact, so she stayed on the porch, calling for that "wittle birdie" to come to her. Needless to say, it did not, and soon flew into a tree, much to Sara's disappointment.

I'm afraid that God is so often disappointed that we do not "Come, follow Him" when God calls to us. God is such an inviting God. Scripture reveals that every time God worked closely with people, it was due first to an invitation. God did not command Mary to give birth to Jesus; he invited her to. Jesus did not command the disciples to become his followers; he invited them to. Jesus didn't even command Thomas to believe but invited Thomas to put his fingers into his wounds.

It is so easy for us to get caught up with the "Thou shalt's" and "Thou shalt not's" that we often miss the fact that what God wants most is a loving, trusting relationship with us... and that God knows that we must enter into that relationship willingly and without reservation. When we think about making disciples of Jesus Christ and bringing new people into our church, it is tempting to think that it must be done with clever marketing or worse, with shaming and guilt. But if we are careful to remember our own walk of faith, it almost certainly began with an invitation; an invitation from a parent or a friend, and an invitation from God. God calls, and God invites. It would seem that God's favorite word is "Come."

"Come, let us talk about these things. Though your sins may be as scarlet, they can be white as snow."

"All you who are thirsty, come and drink."

"Come to me all, all of you who are tired and have heavy loads, and I will give you rest."

"Let the little children come to me, for to such belong the Kingdom of God."

We need only listen for God's voice in our life to discover what God invites us to do and to become. God rarely runs at us at full speed. God knows that most of the time we'd just fly away from God. Instead, God continually offers the invitation to Come and follow Jesus to a life where our hunger and thirst are filled, where our sins are forgiven, where God will replace the heavy burdens of this life with a mission and a calling, where we will discover the Kingdom of Heaven, and where we might issue the same invitation to another person who longs to be loved, to belong, to know peace, and to fill that yearning for the Holy Other.

Come.

-Pastor Todd-Paul

Memorials and Honorariums

In memory of Wava J. McClellan (Sister of Shirley Phillips): Backpacks by Shirley Phillips & Family; Jack Williams SS Class

In memory of Bob Shannon: Cookson Hills by Charles Tadlock

In honor of Laura Daniel: Summer Feeding Program by Good News SS Class

In honor of Robin Roark: UMY by Charles & Alexis Tadlock

In honor of the hostesses for the Tadlock reception: Summer Feeding Program by Charles & Alexis Tadlock

Arkansas Annual Conference 2019

May 29–June 1

Hot Springs Convention Center

Bank of the Ozarks Arena

For more information,

visit <https://arumc.org/ac2019/>

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

Congratulations to...

Mike and Gail Harrington on the birth of their granddaughter, Nev Clover, on April 11. Nev is the daughter of Stuart and Randi Harrington of Memphis.

Robby and Kristin Daniel on the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Lindell, on April 9. Charlotte is the great-granddaughter of Norma Daniel and the granddaughter of Bobby and Laura Daniel.

Justin and Mandy Hedden Deckard on the birth of twins, Hattie Claire and Wilson Louis, on April 12. Hattie and Wilson are the grandchildren of Sparky and Cindy Hedden.

Jim and Betty Lancaster on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Caroline Grace, on April 28, Jim's birthday! Caroline is the daughter of Lance and Carley Weld of Spartanburg, S.C.



Clockwise from left: Nev Clover Harrington, Charlotte Lindell Daniel, Wilson Louis & Hattie Claire Deckard, and Caroline Grace Weld



United Methodist Women

Well, we say we have had our last 150th-year celebration! Our district president, Betty Cook, lead us in recognizing women who have been members for over 50 years at the district meeting in Warren. Our youngest member, Wesley Hines, handed gifts to those in attendance. She is pictured with the Southeast district's longest-term member, Nila Faye Lackey of Lakeside - Pine Bluff, who has been a member for over 67 years. There are 50 fifty-year members in our district!

On Sunday, April 28, we celebrated with Preston Scott and his family at the Senior breakfast. UMW presented the book, *Jesus is Calling*, to each of our high school graduates.

Our next recognition breakfast will be this upcoming Sunday, May 5, for the confirmation class.

We invite members of **both** UMW circles and all of the women in our church to a Dutch treat dinner on Tuesday, May 14, 6:30 p.m. at Cotija's.

Get Up and Give, there is still time! The boxes will be out through Sunday, May 12. Help us help Methodist Family Health by donating items from their list.

Help us help others!

*- Zoe Hines
President, Sheridan UMW*

*Nila Faye Lackey of Lakeside—
Pine Bluff has been a member
of UMW for over 67 years. She
is pictured with Wesley Hines,
the youngest member of FUMC
Sheridan's UMW and
granddaughter of Sheridan
UMW President, Zoe Hines.*



**Last Wednesday Night
Soul Food Café & Activities**

May 15

**Have a great summer -
See you back in September!**

Praying for the Finish Line **Returns to Dragon Boat Festival** **Donations Needed to Raise Money for** **Children's Protection Center**



Praying for the Finish Line in 2017

The 7th annual River Cities Dragon Boat Festival will be June 14 -15 at Lake Willastein, Maumelle, and for the third year in a row, FUMC Sheridan will be represented by team Praying For the Finish Line! 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.

The money raised by boat team sponsorships and activities benefit the Children's Protection Center (CPC), whose mission is *"to provide a child-friendly facility where professionals work together to protect and treat child abuse victims and their families, to prevent child abuse in all its forms, and to hold offenders accountable."* (information provided by childrensprotectioncenter.org)

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

United Methodist Kids

For the last three weeks of our Wednesday night UMK, the children will hear the story of Jesus' post-resurrection appearance to the disciples while they were fishing, discover that Jesus appeared to his followers after his resurrection, and learn that Jesus' death was not the end of the story! The lessons are titled "Come to Breakfast." We will complete the cooking and science sections on May 1 and May 8 and save the games section for our last meeting this school year on May 15.

I want to thank all of the volunteers: Pam Reed, Helen Shirron, Tamyra Cody, Elizabeth Taulbee, Audra Hines, Sandra Turner, Karen Appleget, and Karen Rutherford, for their constant presence on Wednesday nights. We also have been blessed with a host of "special guests" this year, including Preston Scott, Reid Roark, Haze Robinette, Jameson Archer, Rivers Wells, Johnny Robinette, Chris and Lauren Goins, Scott Hines, Stephen Shirron, and Jason Kelley (I hope I didn't miss anyone).

We enjoy the opportunity to be involved with your children! We have a great group of UMK Kids.

*Nicole Cacciatori
UMK Coordinator*

CHILDREN'S SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM

FREE LUNCHESES FOR CHILDREN
June 3rd – July 26th



First United Methodist Church, 100 E Church St, Sheridan
11:00 am – 12:30 pm

The Well, 5105 W Sawmill Rd, East End
11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Poyen Assembly of God, 104 S Ash St, Poyen
11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Leola Missionary Baptist Church, 201 E 9th Ave, Leola
11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Deliveries will be made to predetermined locations
in Sheridan, Clearwater, and East End

For more information, please call 870-942-4127
Sponsored by the Sheridan Ministerial Alliance
& local area churches and businesses!

Donations needed and appreciated!
Please mark envelope "Summer Feeding Program"