



UMW Salad Luncheon
Wednesday, October 17
Fellowship Hall
11-1

\$8 for Dine In or Carry Out
Delivery available within Sheridan city limits
Call ahead that morning to order for delivery
942-4127

UMY Halloween Carnival
Sunday, October 28
5:30-7:00



Wear your best costume and come for an evening of games, food, and fun for everyone!

The Haunted House of Sheridan

205 N. Main Street
Sponsored by GCUCRC
to benefit vital programs in the community
Thursday, October 18 & 25, 7-10
Friday-Saturday, October 19-20 & 26-27, 7-12
Monday-Wednesday, October 29-31, 7-10
Admission is \$12 for ages 14 and older
Not recommended for younger children!



Chili Cook-Off
Sunday, October 23
Fellowship Hall
5:30

Prizes for best Chili, Soup, Cornbread,
& Children's Dessert
You be the judge!
Sponsored by the Family Life Committee



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

First United Methodist Church
 100 East Church & Main Streets
 P.O. Box 357
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In the First Place

the monthly newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Sheridan, Arkansas
October 2018 Volume 2018/Issue 10

Confirmation Class to Study **"Our History and Heritage" In October**



We are excited to have a new confirmation class for the 2018-2019 school year. We have ten confirmands and three leaders, Mandy Schee, Stephen Shirron, and me, and we meet during Sunday school from 9:45-10:40. Each Sunday in October, we will discuss "Our History and Heritage" and also "spotlight" a church ministry as well. We will invite a member of the church to come down to the youth rooms, introduce to the students who they are, and which ministry they serve in or how they are involved in the church.

Also, we would appreciate any breakfast snacks anyone would like to provide to these confirmands each Sunday. Please see any of the confirmation leaders for more information. Thank you for your continued prayers for these students as they prepare for a lifetime of Christian discipleship.

-Summer Scott
Confirmation Class Leader

UMY Halloween Carnival **Sunday, October 28, at 5:30**

Ready to play games, eat all the hot dogs and nachos you want, and walk to all the standard Halloween music hits in hope you win a cake? The annual UMY Halloween Carnival will be Sunday, October 28, beginning at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. This event is always great fun for both kids and adults, and best of all, it raises money for the Youth's missions. If you would like to provide a treat for the cake walk (it does not have to be cake!), you can drop it off Sunday morning or bring it when you come to the carnival. Admission is free, but donations are much appreciated; concessions are available at nominal prices. Wear your best costume, and kids, bring a bag for your goodies!

UMW Salad Luncheon Set For **Wednesday, October 17, 11:00-1:00**

The annual UMW Salad Luncheon will be Wednesday, October 17, from 11:00-1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. This luncheon is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the UMW, and they appreciate the church's support in this endeavor to raise money for missions. Did you know that in United Methodist Women, every woman in the church is a member, whether she attends meetings or not? That is why, every year, the UMW asks all of the women in the church to provide two salads, one meat, and one vegetable or fruit; of course, men are more than welcome to bring some, too.

The doors to the kitchen will open that Wednesday morning at 6:00 a.m. for you to drop off your salads. Even though Betty Cook will be there to receive them, please help by clearly labeling your salads with your name; whether it is meat, fruit, or vegetable; the name of the salad, and if it's from the cookbook, the page number. It gets hectic in the kitchen on this day and having this information helps the women to keep everything organized in the refrigerators and to speed up the serving process.

The cost of the luncheon is \$8. There will be to-go boxes available and as always, a delivery service inside of Sheridan's city limits to those who call in their orders to the church at 942-4127 ahead of time. Of course, one of the best things about the salad luncheon is being able to dine in and have fellowship. If you have any questions, please contact Betty Cook or any UMW member.

Chili Cook-Off Includes Chili, Soup, **Cornbread, & Children's Dessert for Prizes** **Sunday, October 21, at 5:30**

The Family Life Committee will hold the annual Chili Cook-Off on Sunday, October 21, at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Although it is called a chili cook-off, there will be other categories in which you can compete for the best! There will be prizes awarded for the best chili, best soup, best cornbread, and best children's dessert (made by children from pre-K through 5th grade). If you haven't been before, you are in for a treat. We will have tables lined up for crockpots and cornbread with sample-sized cups in muffin pans for easy transport. You will have a seat at one of the tables and eat; believe it or not, it is VERY easy to get full even if you are only eating a couple of bites from each entry. There will be ballots on the tables so you can vote on your favorites. At the end of the evening, the votes will be tallied and each winner will take home a prize AND a trophy! We hope you will join us and experience the fun and fellowship of one of our favorite fall activities. Be sure to come hungry!

From the Pastor’s Desk...

Like most folks, I try to avoid commercials on television. However, there are a few that I’ll actually watch. The Foundation for a Better Life (values.com) has a series of ads that promote positive cultural values. I’m sure you’ve seen some of these. One is set to Kenny Chesney’s “The Good Stuff”; another to Josh Groban’s “You Raise Me Up”; another to Celine Dion’s “The Power of a Dream.” There are several. It is hard to be against pursuing dreams or celebrating those who have helped us or including others in our activities.



The only question is why we should pursue these positive activities or values. Do we advocate for (allegedly) positive values just because they are positive? Who says that these are things that are positive? After all, there are some among us who don’t believe in inclusivity. There are others who point out that no one has helped them, so why look to the past. Yet others who suggest that society is better when everyone knows their place (in other words, pursue your dreams as long as it doesn’t upset the current order).

As Christians, of course, we recognize that there is a code of ethics that shapes our behavior, particularly our interaction with one another. That code of ethics is firmly rooted in our reading and interpretation of Holy Scripture. Does the Bible have anything to say about “positive” values? The answer is a resounding, “Yes!”

I Thessalonians 5: 11 says, “Therefore, encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.” Romans 14: 19 says, “Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.” Hebrews 10: 24 says, “Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds.” What a wonderful turn of phrase: “provoke one another to love...” Each of these (and of course many more) passages direct Christians to be positive, to celebrate the victories of each other and to build up one another rather than tear one another down. These are good lessons, to be sure. But if we dig just a little bit deeper, we can see why scripture directs us this way.

Our Hebrews passage is part of a larger sermon that encourages Christians facing hard times to hold fast in the faith because of our redemption brought about by the blood and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. As we look to the cross, we can, even in the worst of times, provoke one another to love and lift up one another, for we know that we have been bought by Christ. The Romans passage is set in the middle of Paul’s exhortation to “grown-up Christians” to not be a stumbling block for others as they pursue the faith. There is a larger

thing at stake than simply our own faith; indeed, the very Kingdom of God is revealed in and through us! We are to make little sacrifices so that others might come to know the love of God through Jesus Christ. Those of us who have already accepted Christ as our Savior are expected to make it easier for others to do the same. And perhaps most strikingly, the Thessalonians lesson falls at the end of a passage that foresees the return of Jesus Christ. Building up one another stands as the key lesson of the end times! Reminders of God’s provision (in the future) for those who have died are powerful testaments to God’s care for all believers in the present. Notices of permanent union with the Lord in the future are challenging statements about God’s desire for believers to come together on earth right now.

These commandments from scripture are not innocuous ideas (as indeed the ads of TV may be). They are radical and impinge on how we are to live our lives now. These passages challenge us to know and understand the sordid experiences of our brothers and sisters in the world and live with one another in light of God’s sacrificial act on the cross and His return in the future. So when we are told to “build up one another” or “provoke one another to love” these are not simply nice ideas set to catchy music. These are foundational commandments for us as we seek to love God and love neighbor. Let us endeavor to make a better life for one another. Let us be provoked to love someone who may not know love any other way.

- Pastor Todd-Paul

Fun at the Fair Parade



Many of our church’s United Methodist Kids enjoyed the Grant County Fair parade on Tuesday, September 18, from the back of this pickup truck! What a fantastic load to have! We love these and all of our children and are thankful for having the opportunity to teach them more about God’s love. In doing so, even as adults, we learn more about God’s love from them as well! Join us on Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:30 to be a part of UMK!

(Photo courtesy of Lauren Goins)

Memorials and Honor Gifts Received

In memory of Sue Green (mother of Dana Chaney, Sam Green, and Denise Names): Backpacks by Karen Rutherford & Wilma Thompson

In memory of Philip Barranco: Backpacks by Dee Ann Daniel

In memory of Donald Hedden, Sr. (father of Sparky Hedden): Backpacks by Sam & Judy Green; Karen Rutherford & Wilma Thompson

In memory of Margaret Hines Koon: Backpacks by Bobbie & Jim Allen; Sam & Judy Green; Karen Rutherford & Wilma Thompson

In memory of Harriette Boyd: Backpacks by Jeanie Camp

In memory of Richard Kirkpatrick (father of Bro. Daniel Kirkpatrick): Backpacks by Jack Williams Sunday school class

In memory of Ronald Beliew (brother of Jeff Beliew): Backpacks by Jack Williams Sunday school class

In honor of Judy & Sam Green: Backpacks by Joe & Shannon Archer

In honor of Betty Cook: Summer Feeding Program by Jeanie Camp

Our condolences to Rev. Daniel Kirkpatrick and family in the death of his father, Rev. Richard Kirkpatrick of Magnolia, on September 7.

Our Church’s Unspoken Witness Window



Some of you may have noticed the masthead artwork change in recent months. I chose this particular stained glass window of our church because, quite simply, it is my favorite. The UMW’s *Sharing Our Table* cookbook has a photograph of each window in the church along with descriptions of each written by Louis L. “Biff” Averitt and Coats A. Mitchell, as well as a history of the church. The cookbook not only is a showcase of delicious recipes but a repository for our church’s history; a keepsake for adults to treasure and to save for the children who are now growing in their faith in this church.

This window was referred to in the cookbook by Averitt and Mitchell as the church’s “unspoken witness” because it was placed to where it can be viewed from the street, day or night. Of course, this window is highly recognizable as it is possibly the most known work by Michelangelo. *The Creation of Man* portrays the hand of God and the hand of man almost at the moment of touch: “It is a striking witness to the ultimate union of God and man which is the central purpose in our journey of life. The limp hand of man speaks of our human need for the meaning and purpose which only God can give. Its message is in its simplicity.”

United Methodist Women

Sheridan First United Methodist Women are back at work planning for the upcoming events that are a regular part of our work. The biggest event is the annual Salad Luncheon, which will be held Wednesday, October 17, from 11:00-1:00. We request an \$8 donation for the luncheon. We ask that each woman in the church (and men are welcome to participate also) to donate two salads: one meat salad and the donor’s choice of a vegetable or fruit salad. The kitchen will be open at 6:00 a.m. for dropping off salads. We ask that you put a note on your salad with your name, the name of your salad, and if the recipe for the salad is in the church cookbook, the page on which the recipe can be found. All proceeds from the luncheon go to the mission work of the United Methodist Women.

The UMW members present at the quarterly meeting on Sunday, September 23, elected the following officers: Betty Cook, president; Joan Pierce, vice president; Gail Harrington, secretary; and Judy Green, treasurer. Heading the UMW committees will be Sandra Turner, Spiritual Growth; Katie Wells, Membership, Nurture, and Outreach; Jenny Swilling, Bereavement Coordinator; Dee Ann Daniel, Education and Interpretation; Betty Robinette, Program Resources; Becky Ross, Social Action; and Carolyn Duncan, Nominations. At least three of our members will attend the Southeast District Conference meeting in West Memphis on October 6.

Dates to put on your calendar include:

- Wednesday, October 17**, Salad Luncheon, 11-1
- Sunday, November 18**, next general meeting at 2:00 and decorating of the Grand Hall for Christmas at 3:00
- Tuesday, December 18**, United Methodist Women’s Christmas Dinner, 6:30 p.m., followed by setting up for the Christmas store
- Wednesday, December 19**, Christmas Store for children to shop (children ages 2 through fifth grade)
- Saturday, January 12, 2019**, 9:30-noon, Southeast District Officer Training at Sheridan FUMC
- Sunday, January 27, 2019**, Poor Boy Luncheon fundraiser after church

-Betty Cook, UMW President

Inside the pages of the attractively-bound UMW cookbook, *Sharing Our Table*, is every recipe you will ever need, including this easy to make dessert, found on page 30, that is perfect for fall! Pick up your copy for \$20 at the UMW Salad Luncheon on October 17 or ask any member for one. All proceeds go towards UMW’s many missions.

Candy Bar Apple Salad by Sheila Aaron



- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 c. brown sugar, packed
- 4-6 Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored, and chopped
- 6 (2.16 oz.) Snickers candy bars, chopped
- 1 (8 oz.) tub Cool Whip, thawed

Blend cream cheese and brown sugar; fold in apples and Snickers. Gently stir in Cool Whip. Refrigerate until serving.