



In the First Place

the monthly newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Sheridan, Arkansas
October 2019 Volume 2019/Issue 10

Carpenter Recognized as SFP Director



At the end of the summer, Mike Carpenter made a decision to resign from his post as director of the Summer Feeding Program. He issued the following statement: "As you may know by now, I have stepped down as the Director of the Children's Summer Feeding Program, which has been one of the hardest decisions I have

ever made in my life. I have prayed and discussed this at length with my family! I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your prayers, donations, volunteering, and support! This program truly has been a church-wide effort, and it has required each one of you for this program to succeed. We are making a difference in children's lives in Grant County! May God bless each of you and your families!"

During the 10:50 service on September 22, Joe Archer, chair of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, presented Mike with a plaque inscribed with these words: "In recognition of Mike Carpenter in appreciation of his vision, dedication, leadership, and contribution to the Grant County Summer Feeding Program. Over 42,000 meals served from 2014-2019. Presented on September 22, 2019, First United Methodist Church, Sheridan, Arkansas. *'The King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' Matthew 25:40.*"

UMW Salad Luncheon October 16 Wednesday, October 16, 11:00-1:00 Fellowship Hall

The annual UMW Salad Luncheon fundraiser will be Wednesday, October 16, from 11:00-1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. It is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the UMW, and even if you are not in UMW, you can help us by providing two salads: one meat and one vegetable or fruit. The doors to the kitchen will open that Wednesday morning at 6:00 a.m. for you to drop off your salads. Please label your salads with your name; the name of the salad, and whether it is meat, fruit, or vegetable. If you used a recipe that is in the Sharing Our Table Cookbook, please provide the page number.

The cost of the luncheon is \$8. To-go boxes are available as well as a delivery service inside of Sheridan's city limits to those who call in their orders ahead of time at 942-4127.

Rev. Dr. Michelle Moore on Gospel Discipleship

The Rev. Dr. Michelle Moore, Lead Equipper for the United Methodist Arkansas Conference Center for Vitality, led members of FUMC on Wednesday, September 25, in an assessment and discussion of Gospel Discipleship. Attendees were given the opportunity to answer a personal discipleship assessment with 22 multiple choice questions. The results were tallied by the responder, and Rev. Morris then revealed what a high score in each category meant.

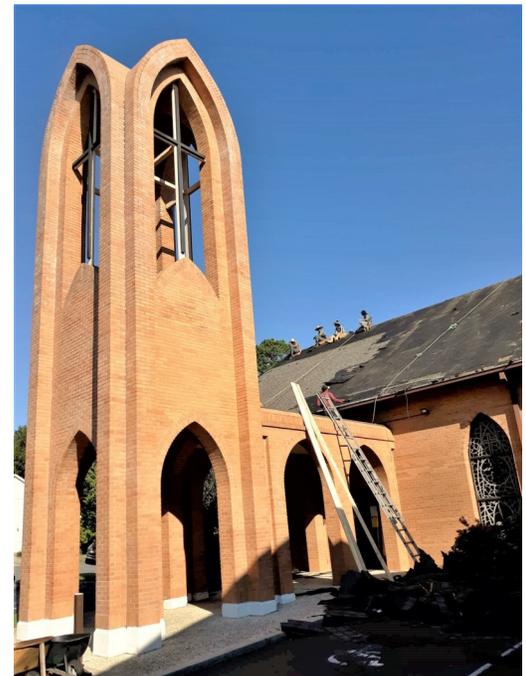
From her website, *"What's Your Discipleship Type? That's the question Gospel Discipleship seeks to answer. Through the process, you (and possibly your whole church) will learn if you are a Markan (Holy Spirit centered), Matthean (Action driven), Lukan (Relationship focused), or Johannine (Mentor-Apprentice nurtured) disciple. Once you understand who you are and how you conceive of discipleship, you can map a path to grow intentionally in your love and life with Jesus. You will also find that you can work better alongside other Christians once you understand where they are coming from too."*

Rev. Moore graduated in 2009 from Perkins School of Theology with a Masters of Divinity and in 2014 received a Ph.D. from the Graduate Program in Religious Studies at Southern Methodist University. We hope to meet with Rev. Moore again in the spring to participate in this as a congregation. To learn more, visit her website at <https://gospeldiscipleship.net/>

Sanctuary and Education Building Receive New Roofs

Both the sanctuary and the education building are getting new roofs installed due to hail damage and leaking. Roofers were to finish installation on the sanctuary by Saturday, September 28, and the education building will be finished in the coming week.

(Photo provided by David Puckett)



From the Pastor's Desk....

In Canada, Veteran's Day is known as Remembrance Day. For Canada and the U.S., the origin of the holiday is a commemoration of the end of World War I; the armistice signed on November 11. While it is good and appropriate for us to honor those who have served our country, I think that as Christians it is important for us to *remember* as much as it is to honor. The opposite of remembrance, of course, is forgetfulness. If we forget our past, we forget also who we are and whose we are, for it is in the actions of not only our ancestors and forebears, but also of God that defines our identity.



It is important that we remember that as Christians we are defined not only by the miraculous works of God, but also by the relationship that God has forged with God's people, and the work that God has done and is doing in and through God's people. For five millennia, the people of God have moved (forward and backward) in victory and defeat, not only because of the miraculous intervention of God, but primarily because of what the people of God have done with God's help, with God's presence, with God's direction.

To be sure, there are several examples of God's direct intervention in history that dramatically changed the paradigm. These miracles are part of our memory and part of the reason that we trust God. They are examples of God's power in and over creation; particularly over things which we cannot understand or explain (and thus fear). Jesus calmed the storm. Jesus healed the sick. Jesus raised the dead. Yet these are rare occurrences. God is always present. God is always with us. The dramatic miracles are not the only miracles, though. In fact, I find God's calling of so many people to ministry to be as much of what defines us as the feeding of the five thousand.

It is not just Abraham and Isaac and Jacob who spoke with God and responded to his call. Moses and Joshua and David did as well. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Elijah, and the other prophets did. Peter, James, and John heeded the call of Jesus. Paul, Timothy, Phoebe, Prisca, and Aquila all responded to the call of God. Julian of Norwich, Teresa of Avila, Martin Luther, and John Wesley heard God's voice and responded. Countless others throughout history have heeded the voice of God and have been the hands and feet and mouth and eyes of God. This is what we remember.

God has not stopped working in and through people, either. We remember people in Sheridan who have heard the still, small voice in their own ear. We remember the pastors and staff who have led this community of faith and we remember the saints who have gone before us into God's arms. Of course, we have all fallen short of God's expectations. Abraham and Moses and David sinned. Peter denied Christ. Paul persecuted Christians. John Wesley doubted his own salvation. The list of my own sins and shortcomings before God are too numerous to list in such a short space. However, in spite of our sin, God continues to work in and through people – regular, ordinary people like you and me. Some God calls to professional, ordained ministry. Others God calls to lay ministry. But do not doubt – God calls each and every baptized Christian to be in service to the world (not to self, but to the world!). It is a fact that the primary way that God works in the world is not through dramatic miracles that defy the laws of physics, but rather through broken, fallen people like us.

To that end, our prayer life must focus less on what we want God to do for us and more on listening to what God wants to do through us. For in our relationship with God, we will discover that less and less of God's promises are fulfilled in making life easier for us or even "better" for us, but more in calling us to the difficult service of revealing and building God's Kingdom. As we remember our salvation history, we will find that rarely are the people called by God a) those whom we would expect, or b) thrilled to receive the call. In fact, almost every person whom God calls is not equipped (on their own) to fulfill the mission, and they all resist the mission to which God calls them. If we are to be the people of God, if we are to bring healing to our land, if we are to make our church what God wants it to be, if we are to be about the difficult work of making disciples of Jesus Christ, then we should expect that our lot is no different than the lot of those who have gone before us. The miraculous intervention of God in Grant County, in Sheridan, and at First UMC of Sheridan will come through God's work **in us**. Let us seek God's will as we move forward in faith.

-Pastor Todd-Paul

Memorials and Honorariums

In honor of Mike & Denise Carpenter: Summer Feeding Program by Zoe & Gary Hines

In honor of All Backpack Volunteers: Backpacks by Zoe & Gary Hines

In Sympathy

To Michael Skorcz in the death of his sister, Kristen Louise Skorcz, Katy, Texas, September 21.

First United Methodist Church

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

SPRC Meeting Notes

The SPRC met on September 18, and following the 3L's (Love, Learn, and Lead) meeting format, the SPRC discussed how Christians are to celebrate one another as a means of love and grace as the "Love" segment. The "Learn" portion consisted of a discussion of an article from *Christianity Today* entitled, "Invite People to Your Church, But Point Them to Jesus." Both were led by Pastor Todd-Paul. The following issues were addressed during the "Lead" portion of the meeting: The committee is excited to announce that Judy Green will take over as Director of the Summer Feeding Program from Mike Carpenter, who resigned earlier this month. The SPRC wants to thank Mike for six years of dedication and made plans to recognize Mike during the September 22 services. The annual pastor's salary/compensation for 2020 was discussed, and a recommendation was agreed upon and will be made to the charge conference in November. The last point of business was preliminary plans for replacing Robin Roark as Youth Director this coming summer after his graduation from seminary.

-Joe Archer, SPRC Chairman

Welcome to the World!

Congratulations to our nursery assistant, Baylie Barker, who gave birth to a son on September 17. Rustin Lee Gill is also the little brother of Emery!

FUMC to Participate in Fall Carnival

To find out how you can help, please contact Dona Glaze, who is the coordinator for our church.



Grant County
FALL CARNIVAL
 AND TRUNK OR TREATING
 POWERED BY KICK START SHERIDAN, INC.
 Thursday
 ~ OCT 31, 2019 ~
 5:00PM - 9:00PM
 in the shadows of the
GRANT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
 SHERIDAN, ARKANSAS

COSTUME CONTEST • LIP SYNC BATTLE
PHOTO BOOTH • PET COSTUME CONTEST
CARNIVAL GAMES & CANDY GALORE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN JOIN IN THE FUN:
 EMAIL: GRANTCOUNTYFALLCARNIVAL@GMAIL.COM • FIND US ON FACEBOOK: GRANT COUNTY FALL CARNIVAL
 CALL US AT (870) 941-1447

Girl Scout Meetings at FUMC Look for New Members



Lauren Appleget enjoys spending time with her friends and learning new things in Girl Scouts. "My favorite thing has been going camping with my dad. I would encourage anyone to join. There's something for everyone!"

Every other Thursday at 6:00 p.m., the Sheridan Girl Scouts Troop #1266 meets in the basement of our church. Troop Leader Sarah Ottens provided information on what goes on in a typical meeting: "We often get all the girls together at the beginning to open our meetings, do the pledge, announcements, etc., and then break off into age groups to do activities."

Different age groups start at kindergarten and go all the way to 12th grade: Daisies (K-1st grade), Brownies (2nd-3rd grade), Juniors (4th-5th grade), Cadettes (6th-8th grade), Seniors (9th-10th grade), and Ambassadors (11th-12th grade).

Ottens said, "Each year the different age groups talk with their individual leader about what kinds of things they are interested in, and we try to tailor the activities we do to their interests as much as possible. Over the summer, our Juniors' group showed an interest in learning more about animals, so we have just wrapped up a series of activities and service projects to help the Sheridan Animal Shelter, and several of those girls will earn their Bronze Award for their project."

She continued, "The types of activities varies greatly from meeting to meeting. The Scouts do everything from STEM projects, art, social skills, skits, and crafts to field trips of all shapes and sizes, camping, and more! No one meeting is ever really the same! And there is a badge or patch they earn for every interest imaginable."

Members from Sheridan FUMC are Lauren Appleget and Claire Wyatt. This is Lauren's second year and Claire's first. Ottens said the troop is so happy to have Claire join this year, and of Lauren, she said, "She is such a joy and (has an) outgoing spirit!" and added, "We truly feel so blessed that First United Methodist Church has embraced our Girl Scout Troop and supported our girls! I look forward to sharing how these young ladies grow as future leaders in our community!"

Membership is \$25 to join the first year with an additional \$45 for a vest and patches. The troop will cover these costs every return year and has a monthly supply and badge fee of \$5.

Sheridan Troop #1266 currently has 31 scouts with 13 adult volunteers enrolled in the troop. Now is a great time to join! For more information about Girl Scouts, please contact Sarah Ottens, Sheridan Troop #1266 Leader, at 501-317-0409, or email her at ottenshouse@gmail.com. You also can join online at www.girlscoutsdiamonds.org/join.

United Methodist Kids



The UMK had a blast at their annual "Back to Wednesdays" Bash on September 4! The UMK meets every Wednesday from 6:15-7:30. They have fun while learning of God's love for them and what it means to follow Jesus. There are classes for each age group, and you can join at any time. Be sure to ask a friend to come with you to UMK!

The Return of Wednesday Night Activities

The Wednesday night Soul Food Café returned on September 4 along with UMK, UMY, and Choir practice. We are so thankful for the many, many people who spend time planning, preparing, and serving in all of these ministries so that we can look forward to Wednesday nights!

Zoe enjoys having a delicious meal after work on Wednesday nights!



UMY October Schedule

Sunday School (9:45-10:30)

6 Alexis Tadlock
13 Tamyra Cody
20 Sandra Turner
27 Alexis Tadlock

Sunday UMY (5:30-7:00)

Snack Supper

6 Jeff/Karen Appleget
13 Chili CookOff/**No UMY**
20 Hunter/Bryanna Broadway Alexis Tadlock
27 Halloween Carnival/**No UMY**

Safe Sanctuary Volunteer

Karen Appleget

Wednesday Night Safe Sanctuary Rotation (5:30-7:00)

2 Alexis Tadlock
9 Jeff Appleget
16 Jennifer Kelley
23 Tamyra Cody
30 Alexis Tadlock

Chili Cook-Off Includes Chili, Soup, Cornbread, & Children's Dessert for Prizes Sunday, October 13, at 5:30

Bring your appetite and get ready to judge at the annual Chili Cook-Off sponsored by the Family Life Committee on Sunday, October 13, at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. There will be prizes awarded for the best chili, best soup, best cornbread, and also the best children's dessert (made by children from pre-K through 5th grade). We hope you will join us and experience the fun and fellowship of one of our favorite fall activities.

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

The annual UMY Halloween Carnival will be Sunday, October 27, beginning at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. This event is for all ages to raise money for the Youth's missions. Admission is free, but donations are much appreciated; concessions are available at nominal prices. Wear your best costume and come out for an evening of fun and games!

PETER PAN PRESENTED BY THE GRANT COUNTY THEATER

OCTOBER 18-19
7.00PM
SHERIDAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

TICKETS ARE \$10
AVAILABLE AT MCCOY-TYGART AND
THE PERFECT BLEND

The Haunted House of Sheridan

205 N. Main Street
Sponsored by GCUCRC

Friday-Saturday, October 18-19 & 25-26, 7-12
Thursday, October 31, 7-10

Admission is \$12
Group Rates Available

Not recommended for children under 10
Ages 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult
Call Laurie Welch at 870-942-7373 for more info