



St. John's United Methodist Church

Our Mission: That all may know Jesus and grow in God

July/August 2018

Pastor's Notes

"...The Heartbeat of the Church"

Here is a riddle for you, "What is the easiest thing we can do for the church that we do not do because it is so hard?" The answer to come a little later.

I don't normally mention new Sermon Series in the newsletter, and while every message is important, this one is at the heart of all that we do. The series and the answer to the riddle are really the same, the answer is... prayer.

I am titling the series: "Prayer, the Heartbeat of the Church". Because I think that is what prayer is. It is the thing that is as foundational to the life of Christians as the heart is to the body. It is also the power behind the life of the church. It is through prayer that the life-giving power of the Spirit flows through the people of God to do the life-giving work of God.

Prayer is not a magic formula. There is no one-to-one correspondence between my prayers and God's answers. That is a simplistic and wrong understanding of

Prayer. Prayer instead is developing a relationship with God and allowing that relationship to open up pathways for God to use you for His glory.

If we take this sermon series seriously, if we take prayer seriously, it will enable us to experience the great things God has in plan for St. John's. In Jeremiah 29:11 God states "For I know the plans I have for you ... plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

And yet, prayer, though so simple to do, is hard, as anyone who has seriously attempted it can tell you. It takes dedication to continue when we pray and don't see answers to those prayers. To trust that God will hear and to trust his response. All that is hard, but may we become more dedicated to it, because it is the heartbeat of the church.

God Bless,

Pastor Dennis

Meeting on Human Sexuality

On July 15th during the Sunday school hour, I will make a presentation on Human Sexuality and the Way Forward in the United Methodist Church. This will take place in the sanctuary. We will discuss the proposal by the Council of Bishops which will be presented to General Conference in February 2019. It will also be a time to answer any questions you may have. So plan to come to Sunday school on July 15th to hear about this important topic. — Pastor Dennis

UMW News

The donation to United Methodist Women from Hershey Road Family Restaurant fundraiser was \$356. The donation to the church from H.R.F.R., through the St John's after 7:45 service breakfast group from January to June 10, 2018 was \$1,100.

Please support them by visiting often. Tell them you are from St. John's and thank them for their generous donations to St. John's.

UMW will meet Sat., July 7 at 9 AM at the church.

UMM News

The United Methodist Men meet the third Saturday of each month. A Bible study is at 6:30 AM prior to their breakfast meeting at 7 AM. All men are welcome and if you don't make the Bible study feel free to come for breakfast.

You Can Make A Difference

Our collections for the Food Pantry are: July- toothpaste and toothbrushes; August- Salt & Pepper The HUB—collection items to be announced.

Committee Secretary Needed -

St. John's sponsored Scout Troop 262 is in need of a committee secretary to take notes at monthly meetings (the 4th Monday of each month at 6 pm), transcribe them and send them to all committee members (via the internet). Any questions about this position should be directed to Bill Jewby (717 534-1562).

Rolling River Rampage

- VBS 2018

This year's VBS theme was "Rolling River Rampage" and it was a big success! We learned that we can find adventure, acceptance, joy, rest and peace on the river and found out about Jesus calling his Disciples, Mary and Martha, Zacchaeus, and Holy Communion.

We had 41 children who came to VBS at least one night and that was up from our numbers last year. Quite a few of these children come back year after year and we are very happy that they do. We renewed our "girls vs. boys" challenge for our offering each night. The girls had won for 3 years in a row so the boys rose to the challenge and won this year! And we raised more money than I think we ever have- \$501.24!! The money will be going to Project C.U.R.E. which is an organization that gives medical supplies and equipment to those in need in 130 countries around the world. They are also "partners in mission" with our own Mission Central which serves as a collection site. So, another great year of VBS has come to an end. We would like to thank the following helpers for all they did. If it weren't for our helpers, VBS would not be able to happen:

Pre-K and Kindergarten—Mary Forshey and Nancy Hinkle

1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade—Nancy Shaffer and Barb Huepenbecker

4th, 5th, and 6th grade—Lynn Bivens

Music—Joanne Isett, Brahm Parks, and Luis Armenta-

Soundboard—Austin Garonzi

Science—Dr. Eddie Einstein and Dr. Emmett Brown

(otherwise known as Pastor Dennis and Mike Forshey)

Storyteller—Lydee Shea (and Joanne Isett)

Movement—Steve May

Kitchen—Doris Harmony, Toni Harmony, and Lorna Jewby



Please remember to keep all of our VBS children in your prayers so that they will continue to remember what they learned about God.
 -- Mary Forshey and Carol Adams, Co-leaders of VBS

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|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Stephen Babik | Cheryl Beachler | Bill Bird | Bob Brandt |
| Vera Ellen Brown | Pat Cavanaugh | Tracy Christoffer | Gloria Coldwell | Dave Dow |
| shey | Reba Gerard | Dan Grow | | Ken For- |
| Molly Gumpher | Jamie Hamm | Linda Haugh | Mary Kay Johns | |
| | Donna Katzmire | Kawich Family | Polly Koons | Albert Kriner |
| Betty Kuhn | | | | |
| Barb Lindsay | Marissa | Pastor Brian Moyer | Warren Rhoad | Lisha Robertson |
| Marti Sherwin | Gene Stum | Isaias Vizcaino | John Walmer | Barry Weaver |
| Jody White | Bill Whitehaus | Willow | Barbara Wolf | Jack Youtz |
| Tiffany Zimmerman | Alice Darrell | | | |