



St. John's United Methodist Church

Our Mission: That all may know Jesus and grow in God November/December 2018

Pastor's Notes:

We recently were privileged at our Sunday service, to hear my nephew Alex speak concerning his journey from drug addiction and death to new life in Jesus Christ. The opioid epidemic has consumed millions of dollars of resources and has brought grief to many, many households. It is easy, and if truth is to be told, I have wondered as well, if it is worth spending all of these resources on people who will continue using and who may very well die of an overdose in the next year or so anyway. Alex reminds me why we spend those resources.

I was surprised when Alex said that at the Teen Challenge rehab he attended, they didn't talk much about addiction, but instead they talked mostly about Jesus. But it makes sense when we hear Ephesians 6:12, "for our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Addiction is a spiritual struggle more than a physical one.

In fact, according to Ephesians 6:12, all of our struggles are spiritual struggles. There are supernatural forces (read that to mean Satan) who do not want us to be happy and whole in our lives or in our relationships. The problem is we don't realize this and therefore we buy self-help books and listen to all kinds of advice from secular places to help us out. But the real issue is a spiritual issue. So I can confidently say, no matter your struggle the first step is to come before God and humbly ask for help. At that point we may

Jesus said, "I have come as a light into the world so that everyone who believes in me won't live in darkness." John 12:46. Please continue to pray for Alex and for all those who are still living in darkness.

God Bless,

Pastor Dennis



Alex while at Teen Challenge

Veterans Day Breakfast Sun., Nov. 11

There will be a breakfast to honor the veterans of our congregation Sun., Nov. 11 at 9 AM. All are invited to attend. Please sign up on the sheet on the closet door in the north narthex.

Breakfast will be served in the social hall.



Harvest Home Service

The UMW will lead both services on Nov. 18. The speaker is Sondra Spotts, Executive Director of Open Word Ministries in Mechanicsburg. She will speak about their work in Kenya. There will be time for questions.

UMW will give a donation to the ministries. If you wish to donate, use the UMW Mission envelope, cash or check. Please make checks payable to : St. John's UMW. Thank you for your support



All Saints Sunday, Nov. 4

We will honor the saints who have passed on from us at both Sunday worship services on Nov. 4. If you have a loved one you would like to remember on this Sunday please contact the church office, 469-7181 by Nov. 1.

Memory Angel Tree

We will be doing the Memory Angel Tree again this year and the money will be given to the United Methodist Children's Home. Watch the bulletin for future information.

Decorating for the Advent Season will be held on Fri., Nov. 23. The time will be 5 PM to decorate followed by a hot dog bar! Come out and help to prepare the church for this wonderful time of year.

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child - St. John's will be collecting gift-filled shoeboxes until Nov. 11. Any box dropped off after Nov. 11 will be held until next year. If you have any questions please call Betsy Babik at 717-903-1834.

You Can Make a Difference

Collecting for the food pantry: November - toothpaste and toothbrushes. December - tissues, toilet paper, paper towels



Church Conference

Tues., Nov. 6 at 7 PM

at St. John's

All are welcome

Sierra Leone Project



First of all, I would like to thank all of you who donated items for this project. It would not have happened without your kindness and generosity. Here is a list of what was collected:

- Notebooks—500+
- Pencils—well over 500+
- Erasers—140
- Pencil erasers—300
- Boxes of crayons—492
- Ink pens—352
- Scissors—200
- Pencil sharpeners—129
- Markers—80 (individual markers)
- Rulers—357
- Folders—12
- Colored pencils—144 (individual markers)
- Cloth bags—500 (from Mission Central)

And for the teachers:

- 2 large pencil sharpeners for the classrooms
- 2 boxes of chalk
- 6 bottles of glue
- 1 pair of regular scissors

But now we need your prayers. As all of you have seen, the boxes continue to sit in our North Narthex. As we told you, we were waiting for the shipment that we were promised to be a part of, to be sent. However, when that shipment was ready, we were told that the rules had changed and we could no longer send our boxes on it. So that is why we need your prayers. Please pray that we will be able to find another way to send this shipment to the village of our sister church in Kwellu, Sierra Leone. We are not giving up!

Sincerely,

Carol Adams, Hub Coordinator



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|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Cheryl Beachler | Bob Brandt | Pat Cavanaugh |
| Tracy Christoffer | Gloria Coldwell | Alice Darrel |
| Norma Eyster | John Ferrick | Ken Forshey |
| Reba Gerard | Vickie Gesford | Korynne Gillette |
| Jerry Goshorn | Jackie Grieks | Dan Grow |
| Tim Gamber | Alan Jewby | Linda Johnson |
| Molly Gumphier | Jamie Hamm | Linda Haugh |
| Lori Hull | Bert Hyde | Truela Izer |
| Donna Katzmire | Kawich Family | Albert Kriner |
| Betty Kuhn | Pastor Brian | Moyer Warren Rhoad- |
| Lisha Robertson | Janet Sandy | Glen Shaffer |
| Larry Shaffer | Herb Shaull | Marti Sherwin |
| Ken Smith Jr. | Clay Thrasher | Scott Travitz |
| Barry Weaver | Jody White | Bill Whitehaus |
| Willow | Barbara Wolf | Tiffany Zimmerman |

Military: Daultyn Kline, All those serving home and abroad and their families; Jo Kuhn's nephew on SEAL Team

Other: Pastor Saffa Jengo & the Kwellu Church in Sierra Leone, Bria Griffin and her campus ministry, students and teachers

Alex Adams Mallory Anspach Todd Sherwin
 Family of Grace Kline Family of John Walmer
 Family of Anna Hetrick

UMM & UMW Meetings

UMM Meeting - The United Methodist Men meet the third Saturday of every month for breakfast at 7 AM in the church social . A Bible study is held prior to breakfast at 6:30 AM. Come on out and have a great time of Christian fellowship.

UMW Meeting - All are welcome to attend the next United Methodist Women meeting scheduled for Nov. 3 at 9 AM in the church social hall.

Christmas Eve Services

6 PM—Family Service with Candle Light

8 PM Traditional with Candle Light

A Way Forward - An Update

Thank you for praying for the future of the United Methodist Church as it wrestles with the issue of human sexuality. A special session of General Conference will be held February 23-26, in St. Louis, to discuss how to resolve the great differences between various factions of the church.

At General Conference 2019 three proposals will be submitted and here I will give only the briefest of overview of each.

1) The One Church Plan – This would remove all of the language that currently prevents homosexuals from being ordained and from same-sex couples to be married in the church. It would also allow Annual Conferences, local churches and pastors who believe that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching to not be required to either ordain homosexuals (this refers to Annual Conferences) or perform Same-sex marriages.

2) Traditional plan – keeps the language as it currently stands and would strengthen enforcement of it. It would also provide for an easy and gracious way for Annual Conferences, local churches and pastors unable to accept this to leave the church.

3) The Connectional Conference Plan – would keep one United Methodist Church but would have three different branches and Annual Conferences, local churches and pastors could decide to which branch they would belong. Each branch would be able to make up their own rules regarding human sexuality. There would be a Progressive branch (with full acceptance of homosexuality) a Traditional branch (that would presumably keep the rules that are currently in place) and a Moderate branch (that would be somewhere in between.)

If you are interested in more information about these plans go to www.goodnewsmag.org and go to “In the News” header and scroll down to where it says “What’s in the Connectional Conference Plan” to read about it. Directly under there should be articles about the Traditional Plan and the One Church Plan.

Concert for a Cause

THE GRANTVILLE FOOD BANK

Matthew 25:35—"I was hungry and you gave me food"

Sunday, December 2
2 pm

St. John's United Methodist Church

A concert presented by many local, talented musicians to benefit the Grantville Food Bank.

A donation of a non-perishable food item will be thankfully received.

If you prefer to make a monetary donation the Food Bank can, through the power of bulk buying, make your generous contribution go further.

FREE Live Nativity with Live Animals



Fabe's Corner at Rt. 743 & Rt. 22

Friday - Sunday, December 14, 15, 16 and

Saturday - Sunday, December 21, 22, 23

Runs continuously every 15 minutes from

7 - 8:30 PM

FREE cookies & hot Chocolate

Come out and enjoy an evening of preparing your heart in the Advent season to receive Christ in your life! Bring along friends, family and neighbors too.



St. John's celebrated Grandparents Day recently with a breakfast shared among grandparents and grandchildren. Thank you to all those who helped in this morning celebration.