

# Ottawa FUMC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April, 2018



Dear Friends,

The past few weeks have been more hectic than usual. It did not matter how long or how fast I worked, my "to do" list just kept growing. Imagine my relief when someone called with a request then said, "I know you've been really busy. Just take your time on this one."

In a society that teaches us the importance of being busy, sometimes it is an unexpected blessing to be told to take your time. The task may be as insignificant as returning a phone call or deciding when to meet for lunch. But just to have one thing that can be placed on the back burner, if only for a day or two, can be so freeing. But there can also be another, unspoken message behind those words. We need to be responsible with the time we have been given. After all, it is a gift from God and we should learn to treat it as such.

When was the last time you took time to listen to the birds singing in the early morning hours or watched the sunset over a lake? Can you remember a time when you spent the afternoon playing games with children, walking on a nature trail, or sitting on the front porch and visiting with folk who pass by? Have you stopped to enjoy the smell of newly mown grass or paused long enough to watch the antics of squirrels as they run through the park?

We know how to hurry. We know how to worry. We know how to live in such a rush that we fall into bed exhausted knowing that, in the morning, we will rise and do it all again. But do we know how to take our time and simply enjoy the journey that is life?

Most importantly of all, do we know how to spend some time with God each and every day? If not, pause and reflect upon these words as they are recorded in Psalm 90:12: So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Go ahead. Take your time and think about it!

See You in Church,

Pastor Kathleen



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Prayer Friends/Prayer Shawl Fellowship will meet on an as needed basis rather than regular monthly meetings. However, it will continue to exist by communicating through personal contact, devotion groups, email and texts. Donations of knitted, crocheted, or quilted items would be appreciated...free yarn is available. We also accept crazy squares that can eventually be crocheted together to make yarn quilts. If you know a person who would benefit from the gift of a prayer shawl or stole please contact us through the church office 242-1419 or for more information contact Bonita Kitts at 242-5674 Blessings, Bonita

Hopefully, you have taken the opportunity to enjoy the First Cup coffee fellowship hall which serves several purposes including but not limited to, meet and greet, family visitation area, short meetings, and every Tuesday morning at 9am DONUTS & DEVOTIONS. Maybe you've noticed that the glass secretary desk is decorated by caring persons and is a point of interest throughout the seasons, which is another nice touch to the ambiance in this delightful area.



Remember that we recycle printer ink cartridges. The collection boxes are by the door to the library.



Mission U in Topeka will be August 17-18.

Great Plains Conference will be at Church of Resurrection on Sept. 14-15.

Fall District Meeting at Paola Sept. 21.



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## FRETSA UPDATE

Last newsletter I wrote that this issue would give more details about FRETSA (Franklin County Emergency Temporary Shelter) and how it works...so here goes:

FRETSA is the only group which works with the core problem of homelessness: budgeting and saving. None of our funding goes for utilities, food, gas, or motel rooms...all needed items by the homeless, but none of which address the "how they got there in the first place", and all are items which can be obtained from other sources.

FRETSA does have a small amount donated by Cornerstone Church for motel use IF the family has applied, looks to be a good fit for our program by Board decision, but the background check has not been returned so that a final decision can be made.

The parameters of the FRETSA program are simple: the applicant family must be working, must be willing to abide by the strict rules of the application process (no smoking inside the units, or where smoke can enter the building), no pets, no allowing others to live with them, have goals set for entry back into regular housing, following a set budget (Dave Ramsey "envelope" plan, set up with a caseworker), track all expenditures, allowing the caseworker to check receipts, income stubs, and show a savings plan, and participate in all ECKAN benefit programs. Most important: absolutely no drugs. FRETSA gives no tolerance: one incident and the resident family is out...right then.

Yes, this is a labor intensive work, and it is where we could use more volunteers. We could use people to make the weekly home visit, under the supervision of a certified caseworker, to check receipts, budgeting compliance, and other items the caseworker might suggest. It does not require much time... just the willingness to help others with Christ's love and compassion.

There are also other needs that FRETSA has. The second unit, Palmer House, needs shelving in the kitchen cabinets...nothing fancy, but a cupboard with a four foot span isn't very usable. Also we need either some brick pavers or concrete blocks to extend from the front steps outward. There is a bad "swag" (read swimming pool !) in front of the storage shed, but we have hopes of getting that fixed by the park owners. Roseberry House needs the siding cleaned; the park owners have a power washer that can be borrowed, but if we have a mother and children as residents, we need manpower to do the job.

And, as with all houses, the list goes on and on. Always we can use paper goods, laundry products, and other items which allow us to keep our budget money for rent and utilities.

FRETSA is an important part of the FUMC missions, and as the quarterly FRETSA Sundays come around, we hope you will remember to give generously to this worthy cause.

Mabel Gilliland...FUMC liaison to FRETSA

The church will have a special FRETSA offering on May 13. Please help this wonderful organization meet their goal in assisting so many people. Please write in the memo line that your check is for FRETSA.

## Hope House

Hope House thanks you for helping with their 100 Easter sacks. Our donation of 50 certificates for hams is deeply appreciated. Thank you for helping families have a better Easter.

"Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest." Matthew 21:9

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## UMW CIRCLES

The UMW Circles have started a new year. Women of the church you can be a member of UMW and you don't have to be a member of Ottawa UMC. We have 3 circles that meet on a Monday night, Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning. If you are interested in visiting one of these circles please contact Joyce Green (New Dimensions), Chris Johnson (Dorcas-Outreach) or Ruth Jansen (Friendship). Our Reading Program has started. Blessing and Prayers go to Dee Anne Harnden who started this program. Ruth Chapman, co-chairman of Reading Program, has continued this program. The next book will be "You're Already Amazing", category is Spiritual Growth. It will be April 24. Ruth has ordered the books and you can get one from her after March 12. Her phone #242-5033. May is coming and so is the "All-Daughter Tea", May 6. Friendship Circle is starting to work on this. More info will be coming. A Special thank you for all that participated in the UMW Sunday. If you weren't there you missed a good talk from one of our former members, Deb Handy. You also missed in what all our UMW participates in.

Have a Blessed Month.



Registration deadline for VBS is May 7!  
Registration forms are on the ledge in First Cup. It will be the four Wednesdays in June.

Follow the Yellow Brick Road



To The All Daughters' Tea

May 6<sup>th</sup> 2:00 – 4:00 PM



### Graduation Sunday

May 20<sup>th</sup> is Graduation Sunday. Please let the office know if you have a graduating high school or college senior so we can acknowledge them for their hard work and perseverance.

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