

Ottawa FUMC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May, 2018

Dear Friends,

Walking the dogs this past week has been anything but fun! It seems as though every mother bird in a six block radius of our house has decided it was time to push their babies out of the nests. As a result every time I have taken the dogs out, they have managed to flush out at least one already traumatized bird. The moment they find the baby, there are several adult birds who begin cawing and dive-bombing us. In the midst of all the confusion, I am the one who gets hopelessly tangled in the leashes. Have you ever tried to control two excited dogs who are certain their new best friend is getting away while trying to protect one's body from a flock of angry birds? It may be exciting but it certainly isn't fun!

I watched the progress of one particular bird over the course of two days. It seemed to be having more difficulty learning to fly than its nest mates. While two of them hopped around the yard most of the morning and cried for help, by mid-afternoon they were fluttering from one bush to another with little supervision from the older birds. The third one, however, seemed to become more distressed as the day wore on. It refused to do anything but hop from one hiding place to another. When the other two began to flutter, this one ran behind them crying even louder. All the while the older birds were circling above it in an attempt to keep it safe from predators and other natural hazards.

As I watched from the kitchen window as this whole scene unfolded, I began to wonder how often those of us within the church are like that reluctant bird. While God has given us everything we need to fly, we refuse to spread our wings! The Holy Spirit not only surrounds us with words of encouragement but is also willing to show us how to complete those tasks we have been asked to perform. Yet, despite all of this, we are allowing our fears of the unknown to stop us from even trying.

Like the bird, we need to learn that God will not ask us to attempt anything we are incapable of doing. If only we listen . . . if only we trust and follow . . . the future will be filled with joys and accomplishments we never dreamed were possible.

See You in Church,
Pastor Kathleen



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THANK YOU FOR GIVING TO THE LORD

Congratulations! We did it! For the second year in a row we paid one hundred percent of Mission Shares, World Service and Conference Benevolences. While these are often considered an unfair tax on the local congregation, the truth is that by combining our financial resources with other United Methodists throughout the country we are able to accomplish more ministry in more places than we could ever do on our own. The World Service Fund underwrites our mission program that reaches around the world. It empowers the United Methodist evangelistic effort that spreads the Good News of Jesus Christ into communities that have not yet heard or responded. This money is also used to support such programs as the Ministerial Education Fund so those who have been called by God to serve within the church can receive the monetary assistance that makes a seminary education possible.

But your generosity has done more than support these world-wide efforts of our denomination. Because you give, children and youth are going to camp where their lives will be touched by the love of Christ. Women who are attempting to escape from domestic abuse have a safe place to shower and clean up. Those who have suffered personal losses such as death and divorce are able to get the emotional and spiritual support they need to rebuild their lives. Narcotics Anonymous provides the same support to individuals who are recovering from the effects of drug abuse. We also support one of the most active Boy Scout troops in the area. Then there is the support we give to Hope House; the

outreach to children and adults through the shared Awana program; and all of the programming we provide to our own members so we can continue to grow in our spiritual lives.

All of this is made possible through your prayers, your participation and your financial giving. While we continue to make plans that will increase our outreach programs and expand such areas as our children and youth ministries, we are also realistic. At the current time our budget is falling short by about \$1,500 per week. As we enter into the summer months there is concern about meeting our financial obligations. With that said, we also know that the people of Ottawa First United Methodist Church are committed to being a vital witness in our community and in the world. So as you make plans for all the special activities that occur during this time of year, please remember to include the church in your prayers and in your giving. With a little effort on everyone's part we can, and we will, meet our financial obligations while strengthening our ministries in the months to come.

In His Service,
Pastor Kathleen and Members of the
Finance Committee



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THE WAY FORWARD

This is an important time for The United Methodist Church. At the 2016 General Conference the Council of Bishops appointed a task force composed of delegates throughout the world to develop a proposal concerning the denominational stance on issues surrounding the possible ordination of homosexuals and the ability for clergy to perform same-sex marriages. That task force has now completed its work and presented its recommendations to the Council of Bishops. A special General Conference has been called for 2019 so that the elected delegates from every United Methodist Conference can vote on those recommendations.

In the months leading up to that special Conference, our Bishop will be hosting a series of listening events. He plans on hosting one event in every district throughout the Great Plains Conference. In preparation for those listening events it is important that every local congregation become informed about the suggested proposals and the effects they will have on our denomination as a whole.

In an effort to help our congregation in this process, several different activities will be offered. First, it is important to understand the spiritual principles that guide our decision making process. On July 8th, Pastor Kathleen will begin a three part sermon series based on the late Bishop Ruben Jones' book *The Three Simple Rules*. Secondly, an intergenerational Sunday school class entitled *The Wesleyan Way* will be offered during that same time frame. Pastor Kathleen will help us explore the basic

beliefs of United Methodists. Thirdly, in early August there will be a time to gather and explore the proposals that will be voted on at the 2019 General Conference. This step will prepare us for the Five Rivers District Listening Event with Bishop Ruben Saenz.

JOIN OUR YOUTH IN A SUMMER FILLED WITH SIMPLE ACTS OF KINDNESS

On Sunday, June 3rd, the youth will present the church with a giving tree. It will not be an object of great beauty until our members and friends participate in at least one act of kindness. There will be suggestions for people of all ages, including children, hanging on the tree. Most of them will not require any money and all of them should take no more than an hour to perform. Individuals and/ or groups are encouraged to take a picture of themselves performing their acts of kindness. Send them to the church office via email (ottawafumc@gmail.com) or drop them by in person. They will then be placed on the tree in order to transform it into a thing of beauty and be sent to our web-page as a fun way of letting others see our faith in action.

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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

FRETSA thanks FUMC Foundation for the Roseberry Trust monies for 2018, and a special thanks to all of you who gave during the last "FRETSA Sunday" at church. It was greatly appreciated, with the rise in utility costs and summer's heat coming at us. Just a gentle reminder: If you weren't at church last Sunday, and missed giving...two things are always open: the church doors and the offering plate! Any Sunday that you want to share something for FRETSA, it's very welcome.

Another bit of good news: This quarter's gift to FRETSA from Amazon Smile was \$19.87. This reflects the amount given by people who bought from Amazon and designated FRETSA as their charity of choice... smile.amazon.com/ch/20-1983931. This may not seem much to you, but it pays our Kansas Gas statement for the month!

Mabel Gilliland, FUMC Liaison to FRETSA

Hope House

Thank you for your donation of 22.4 pounds of assorted food items. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

God Bless, Hope House

"Let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do."

Matthew 5:16



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 "Sum It Up" by Pat Summitt. It will be June 26. You can check out the book at the Ottawa Public Library, or purchase one at Walmart.

The UMW is sponsoring a cook-out after service on June 10. They will be serving pulled pork and hot dogs, as well as furnishing the rest of the meal also. Everyone is invited to stay and eat. A free will offering will be taken.

Have a Blessed Month.

Brynn and Kinsley Perry would like to thank the church family, UMW and Memorial funds that provided them with Chippewa Camp scholarships. They feel very blessed to receive them.

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April Blood Drive and Award

Ottawa First was given an award as a "Top Organization for 2017" by the Community Blood Center for our three blood drives during 2017. Ruth Jansen, Celia Davis, and Sue Petersen attended the Community Blood Center Topeka Recognition Luncheon on May 3rd. We were recognized for our participation for the past 15 years, and also for increasing our number of units collected.

At our most recent blood drive April 25th, the CBC staff registered 42 volunteers, and collected 42 units of blood. Since each unit can be used to help 3 people by giving red blood cells, platelets, or plasma, we potentially helped 126 people at this drive alone. This was our 30th drive at FUMC. It should be noted that although 1 in 7 people will need blood during their lifetime, only 1 in 20 people donate. To enlist donors our Mission Committee members make between 200 and 300 phone calls per drive. We would like to sincerely thank all who donated or helped with the drive.

The FUMC Mission Committee



Thank you so much for the 54 year Celebration. To the Staff Parish Relations Committee for the plant and planning the dinner, to Pastor Kathleen for her kind remarks, to Linda Rishel for playing some of my favorite music, for the love gift of money, and for all your cards and notes of appreciation. God Bless!

Dorothy Matthews

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The Fuller Center Bike Adventure

On July 6th and 7th, FUMC will be hosting a group of cyclists who are biking from Ocean Beach, California to Ocean City, New Jersey. They are raising funds for The Fuller Center for Housing to help end poverty housing worldwide. There are brochures on the bulletin board with more information if you are interested in helping in any way. The email for the center is (www.FullerCenter.org). If you would like to assist them with food donations, they would appreciate foods such as pretzels, graham crackers, dried fruit, granola bars, tuna packets and dry nuts and seeds. There is also a complete food list on the bulletin board. They would love for you to stop by while they are here and visit with them about their mission.

Happy Father's Day

To all the Dads in our lives!



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