

Ottawa FUMC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March, 2019

Put on the full Armor of God

Ephesians 6:11

Dear Friends,

In his book, *The Prodigal Prophet*, Rev. Timothy Keller recalls a fairy tale he read several years ago about a wicked witch who lived in a cottage deep within a forest. When travelers passed by looking for lodging, she offered them a meal and a bed. It was the most comfortable bed anyone had ever felt. It was also a bed full of dark magic, and if a person were sleeping in it when the sun came up, he or she would turn into stone, making one a figure in the witch's statutory until the end of time. Now this witch had forced a young girl to become her servant. While the girl had no power to resist the witch, she had become increasingly sorry for her victims. One day a young man came looking for a night's lodging. The servant girl couldn't bear to see him turned into stone. So she threw sticks, rocks and thistles into his bed making it horribly uncomfortable. Everytime he turned over or moved in any direction, he felt a new painful object under him. Though he cast each one upon the floor, there was always a new one to dig into him. Unable to sleep, he finally rose long before dawn and prepared to leave. As he walked out the front door, the servant girl met him, and he berated her saying, How could you give a traveler such a terrible bed? What kind of a person are you who would treat another so badly? As he went on his way, she whispered under her breath, Ah, the misery you know now is nothing

like the greater misery a comfortable sleep would have brought upon you. Those were my sticks and stones of love. As I reflect over the events of the past two weeks - as I hear the sorrow, hurt and even anger that many of you have expressed - I cannot help but wonder if God has brought us to this place, not as punishment, but as an act of love. The uncomfortable feelings we have as we face a new, uncertain future can either defeat us or awaken us to new possibilities. Perhaps we have become too comfortable. Maybe we had been lulled into a false sense of security. Or could it be we are simply afraid to reach out - to take those first steps that will lead us into a deeper commitment to serve and love those outside the church? As Rev. Keller points out, God puts sticks and stones of love in our beds to wake us up, to bring us to rely on him, lest the end of history or life overtake us without the Lord in our hearts, and we be turned to stone. Indeed, the Bible speaks of salvation like this. "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." (Ezekiel 36:26). While it is disappointing that I will not be a part of whatever future God is calling Ottawa First to embrace, I am also excited that you are being called to embrace a new spirit . . . a new ministry. As we begin this Lenten Season, I encourage all of you to join me in prayer as we discern where we are being called to go and serve. Christ is with us and through him all things are possible!

See You in Church,
Pastor Kathleen

Ottawa FUMC

203 East 4th Street, Ottawa, KS 66067

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7 Ways to Prepare Your Heart For Easter

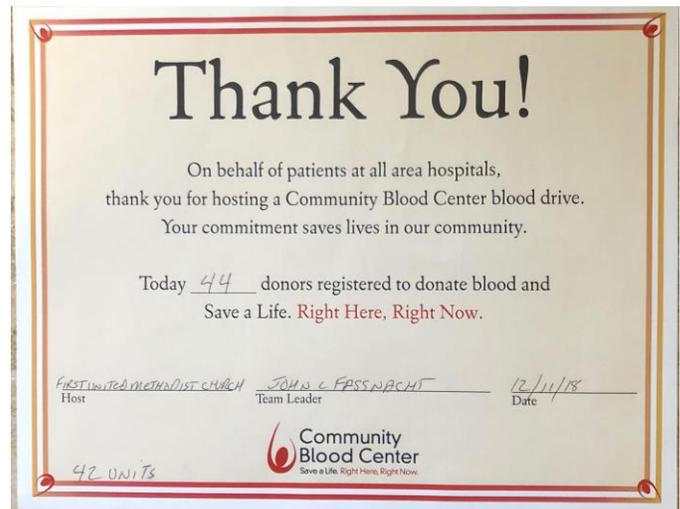
- Provide meals, care and the message of God's life-transforming love for those who are homeless by making a gift to our ministry at Hope House.
- From now until Easter, give up a food you love remembering those in our community who are homeless.
- Contact us about ways you can volunteer to help those in need.
- Perform an act of kindness or offer an encouraging word to a neighbor, or even a stranger, everyday.
- If you feel the need to complain, pray instead, thanking God for the blessings in your life.
- Begin your spring cleaning early, donating gently used clothing or canned foods to a helping ministry.
- Read the Easter story as it is recorded in all four Gospels. Share with a family member or friend what the message means to you

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Ottawa Ministerial Alliance will host a community Good Friday Service on April 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel at Ottawa University. It will be a traditional Tenebrae Service which includes remembering the events leading up to, and including, the crucifixion through the reading of Scripture and the use of candle lights. Please plan on joining us for this powerful service of remembrance.

Community Blood Drive

Thank you to all who donated and helped with our recent blood drive; it was very successful. It takes a lot of work - approximately 370 phone calls and 160 messages were made by the mission committee -to schedule donors. The blood, plasma, and platelets are used by area hospitals, including Ransom Memorial Hospital here in Ottawa.



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**ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE FEED
FAT TUESDAY: MARCH 5TH, 2019
4:30 – 7:30PM**

**OTTAWA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
A good will offering will be collected.
All proceeds will go to mission projects
that directly benefit our kids and
community!**



FRETSA

FRETSA is busy as always; both homes are occupied, and we have the usual backlog of applicants. The need does not grow less...it seems that we see more and more families who are living marginally, going from relative to relative to find a place to sleep for even a few nights. With weather like we've been seeing, sleeping in a car is not an option, and Ottawa Communities in Schools tells us they have documented 192 homeless/at risk students in just Ottawa alone, not counting the other schools in the county.

FRETSA reminds the church that it is almost time for another quarterly "FRETSA SUNDAY". This will be the designated Sunday to give help to FRETSA; please put cash donations in an envelope marked "FRETSA" or make the notation on your check. If the weather cooperates, we are looking at March 10 as the date...but that will remain to be seen!

This is the time of year when grants for funding are being written, and fundraising is in full swing. Our thanks goes to the FUMC foundation committee for their support ...which was one stipulation Eileen Roseberry made when she left a portion of her estate for the homeless. She wanted her church involved, and you all are to be commended as you step up, both as a church and as individuals, to carry out her wishes.

This is how the church becomes involved in a community, and each of us should proudly carry the FUMC banner out into the streets, just as Christ commanded us to; as He put it, "Those who are well do not need a doctor; I came to heal those who are sick..." And you, in helping with FRETSA, are supporting a very sick population; poverty is a terrible thing to behold.

Mabel Gilliland, FUMC liaison to FRETSA

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Our annual chicken and noodle dinner is going to be held on Monday, April 8th. In order to make this event a success it will take not a village of people but the people of Ottawa First United Methodist Church to pull this event off...that means YOU!

We have many jobs and many shifts that we need to fill with willing and able bodies to help serve our community a wonderful meal. So, if you would be willing to fill a need then please look at the times below and email me back with your name and what times you are available to help. (Some of you that helped in the past I have already reached out to via email to see if you would do the same job again so you can respond to either email!) The jobs range from serving food, washing dishes, cleaning tables, greeting people, etc.

Morning Shift: 10:30 - 1:30 pm (need 24 helpers total)
10:30 - 1:30 pm (need 12 drivers to deliver orders)

"Between" Main Shift Help 1:30-3:00
(need 4 helpers)

Evening Shift: 4:00-7:00 pm (need 24 helpers total)

Please consider serving in this ministry event. I promise you will feel blessed! I have many new people who have already said "yes" to being a part of this. I am hoping you will say "YES" too! Thank you for your time and consideration!

Amanda Lyman
785-312-0320
amandanbrett@gmail.com

Ottawa First & Trinity UMC

CHICKEN NOODLE DINNER
MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2019
4TH & HICKORY

LUNCH 11:00AM TO 1:30PM

DINNER 4:30PM TO 7:00PM

TICKETS: \$8.00 IN ADVANCE
\$9.00 AT THE DOOR
\$4.00 FOR YOUTH 6-12

MENU: CHICKEN AND NOODLES, GREEN BEANS, REAL MASHED POTATOES, SALAD, ROLL, PIE AND DRINKS

CONTACTS: CHURCH OFFICE 785-242-1419
BEV BRANDS 785-242-1200
TRINITY UMC 785-242-1428

NOON ONLY – TO GO ORDERS FOR 5 OR MORE AT ONE LOCATION.

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Party Invitation-- Save the Date!

What: An Easter Extravaganza Event
When: Sunday, April 14th (Palm Sunday)
Time: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm--Activities Listed Below
Where: Ottawa First United Methodist Church
Who: Any kid who wants to have a fun time!

List of Activity Events and Times:

9:00 - 10:00 am Palm Branch Art
Activity (Donuts provided)
10:30 - 11:30 am Church Service
(Enter waving palm branches)
→ 10:40 -11:30 am Children Sunday
School (Bird house craft activity)
→ 10:40 -11:30 am Nursery for Infants
(Design Easter bag activity)
11:30 -12:30 pm Lunch is provided
(Eating "Jesus" Style) *Parents and
Children Encouraged to Attend together!
12:30 - 1:00 Easter Egg Hunt
(Bags will be provided!)



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The Prayer Room

Open whenever the church doors are open, located through the left door at for meditation or counseling. The Prayer Room also houses the Prayer Friend/Prayer Shawl Ministry. We gladly accept donations, shawls from persons who enjoy knitting, crocheting or quilting (approximately 65-70 X 18 inches). We would appreciate names of persons who would benefit from this special blessing. We also give stoles, prayer squares and hugs as we pass along the love of prayer. Any questions? Call Bonita at 785-242-5674 or the church.



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



The UMW circles will be starting again in September. We have the Friendship Circle meeting on Monday nights, New Dimension meets the third Wednesday in the morning, and Dorcas-Outreach meets the third Tuesday in the afternoon. We would love to have you join us. You do not have to be a member of the church. Just a woman searching for Christian fellowship. Our Mission in UMW is to do mission work in our community, state, and different countries. If interested, please call Joyce Green 242-4893.

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