

Faith Calls...

November, 2018

Pastor's Thoughts

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Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Birthdays

11/1, Dave McLeod
11/3, Judy House
11/9, Jackie Parker
11/14, Brenda Smith
11/16, Rev. Grady
11/20, Virginia McCastlain
11/21, Emma Hoffman
11/23, Cynda Bellamy

Interested in a trip to Garvan Gardens to see Christmas lights? Sign up on the sheet on FYI table. We provide transportation.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Warm Clothing | 2 |
| What is Ingathering? | 2 |
| Are You Ready for Christmas? | 2 |
| Advent Study | 3 |
| Holiday! 2018 | 3 |
| Important Questions | 3 |
| Faith Friends | 3 |
| Pray with Persistence | 3 |
| November Calendar | 4 |
| Scripture | 4 |

Our annual stewardship campaign will be held during the first three weeks of this month. The harvest season always revealed to our ancestors how blessed they were as they brought in the fruits of their year's labor. Even when the crops did not produce as abundantly as in other years, they still made certain they expressed their gratitude. The harvest was a time to count blessings.

We carry on this tradition in our celebration of Thanksgiving. As our families gather to share a large meal, we are called to take a look at our year to contemplate the blessings we have received; our health, our families and our material blessings. We look back with gratitude for what God has given to us and then forward with hopeful expectation for the coming year. Even when things have not been as you would want them in the previous year, we are taught to be grateful for what we still have and for any increase, however small.

Our churches have been truly blessed this year. Spiritually, each church added members, including a profession of faith (Hugh!). While we lost some to death, we are still strong and working. Our financial picture is good, bills are

paid, needed repairs made, some new purchases and money left over to begin the year. We are very blessed!

The expression of our gratitude for such blessings is found in our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. These expressions are often seen as duties, but they are really a joyous privilege and a blessing.

The measure of our gifts to the work of the church is the return of a tithe, or ten percent, of one's earnings. This is ancient, going all the way back to Abraham. Later, the Israelites were to bring one-tenth of the crops and livestock as an offering. In the New Testament, the measure is not one-tenth, but a gift in keeping with income (1 Cor. 16:2).

I encourage you to tithe your income to the church each year. If you are unable to tithe due to income and obligations, I encourage you to give as close to a tithe as you are able. Perhaps you can step-up one percent each year until you are able to tithe.

As your pastor, I tithe because I am exceptionally grateful for the blessings I enjoy, including both of my churches. Another reason I

tithe is to lead my churches by example. I would find it difficult to ask you to tithe if I did not myself.

On November 18, you will be asked to fill out a pledge card stating your estimate of giving for 2019. The pledge card serves as a tangible way for us to give public testimony to our desire to serve the God. Everyone will be encouraged to bring their card forward at the conclusion of the service. If you are uncomfortable with that expression, you can always return your card to the office at a convenient time.

You will receive periodic statements showing your contributions to date and how they compare with your pledge. Please remember, the pledge card is not a contract. No action will result if you are unable to give as you intended. Also, if your financial situation changes you may revise your card.

I want to express my appreciation for your loving stewardship of the church. Your generosity truly proves a deep love for God and God's people through the ministries of the church. Thank you!

Shalom,

Bro. David

While looking through closets for warmer clothing you may find coats that you no longer use. Bro. David will drop them off at Geyer Springs UMC. Some of their Food Pantry friends may be in need.

SAVE THE DATE

Each Monday, 10am, Prayer Watch
Each Wed., 11am, Dominoes

11/2, Faith Friends meeting at
The Butcher Shop at 5:30pm

11/4, All Saints Sunday

11/9, 6:30pm, Parent's Night Out

11/17, Ingathering at AR Food Bank

11/18, Bake Sale after worship

11/22, Thanksgiving Day
(Church office closed 22nd -23rd)

11/27, 1pm, UMW meeting
6:30pm, Admin. Board

BAKE SALE

follows

Sunday Worship

Nov. 18



WHAT IS INGATHERING?

INGATHERING is a conference-wide service event to raise awareness about hunger in Arkansas and to provide needed supplies in times of disaster. It is also a way for the Conference to reflect on how much each Arkansas United Methodist church gives in time, talents, and resources in their local community.

For the service event at the Arkansas Food Bank, volunteers will bag potatoes, pack several varieties of beans, and receive and sort supply kits and holiday food items.

Saturday, Nov. 17, 8am-12pm
Arkansas Food Bank in Little Rock
Register on line by Nov. 12th, midnight
All volunteers must be age 8 or older

NEW THIS YEAR! —Thanksgiving holiday food collection in local congregations. A list of needed items is provided — AR Food Bank Holiday Food Collection List. Bring collections to Ingathering.

Are You Ready for Christmas?



ALL NEW for 2018!

Tickets for the 2018 TREE at First Baptist, L.R. are on sale now! You can buy them by going to www.fblr.org and clicking on the TREE banner. You can also call 844-550-2034 to purchase tickets. Prices vary, free to \$10.

To insure you are able to get the performance time and seating you want, purchase your tickets now!

Fri., Dec. 7, (7pm)

Sat., Dec 8, (1, 4, & 7pm)

Sun., Dec. 9, (2 & 5pm)

See you at the TREE!

It's the most **WONDERFUL**
time of the year!

Advent Study

The all-church Advent study, *All I Want For Christmas: Opening the Gifts of God's Grace*, by James W. Moore will begin Sunday, December 2nd at the usual Sunday School time of 9:45 AM.

“Ever since the wise men came bearing gifts, Christmas has been a time of giving. But when we focus on what we want to give and receive, we sometimes miss the gifts Christmas has for us.” Let’s explore these gifts together this Advent season!

Please sign up at the FYI table. The study book, which also includes daily devotions for the season, will be provided to each participant. All are invited to attend.

September Stats

| Date | Worship | Gen. Fund |
|------|---------|--------------|
| 9/2 | 51 | \$ 4,459 |
| 9/9 | 51 | 1,997 |
| 9/16 | 64 | 1,903 |
| 9/23 | 52 | 914 |
| 9/30 | 61 | <u>4,014</u> |

Total \$13,287

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| Noisy Offering | \$ 114 |
| Renovation | \$ 490 |



River City Men’s Chorus will perform at Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Dr. at the following times.

Sun., Dec. 16, 3pm
 Mon., Dec. 17, 7pm
 Tues. Dec. 18, 7pm

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS CONCERNING the Way Forward and the Special Session of General Conference is a document created by Bishop Mueller to address questions concerning the Commission on a Way Forward and the 2019 Special Session of General Conference. A copy is on our FYI table for those who want to know the answer to some of the questions.

You may also see the document on-line. Go to docs.arumc.org. Click on “Way Forward”, then “Important Questions”.

Faith Friends, a new group at Faith, will meet at The Butcher Shop, Fri., Nov. 2, at 5:30pm. All are invited to attend this social outing which is held once a month, usually on the first Friday. A location is selected each month. Watch for more information and plan to join the fun!

PRAY WITH PERSISTENCE

- When we are struggling, we can cry out to God.
- When we are excited, we can share our gratitude with God.
- When we are confused, we can claim the promises of God.
- When we are anxious, we can cast our worries on God.
- When we are joyful, we can shout our praises to God.
- When we are tired, we can ask for strength from God.



_by Abigail Dahlman, Cedarburg, Wisconsin

Administrative Board

- Ben Allen
- Trinette Barnes
- Harold Bristow, Chairman
- Jerry Brummett
- Carolyn Eubanks
- Gary Horton
- Virginia McCastlain
- Ellen McCloskey
- Dianna Noe
- Robert Rutt
- Ginny Ryan
- Brenda Smith

November, 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| <p>Stewardship Campaign, Nov. 4-18</p> <p>All Saints Sunday ↓</p> | | | | <p><i>1</i> 11:30 a.m., Alzheimer's Arkansas (Lunch & Learn) RSVP 224-0021</p> | <p><i>2</i> 5:30 p.m., Faith Friends meet at The Butcher Shop for dinner</p> | <p><i>3</i> Noon—6pm Bionic Ear Assoc. meeting *Our Methodist Conference Leaders</p> |
| <p><i>4</i> 9:45 a.m., Sunday School 11:00 a.m., Worship Service, Communion Retreat for Admin. Bd. with lunch</p> | <p><i>5</i> 10:00 a.m., Prayer Watch Ministry at Faith or wherever you are</p> | <i>6</i> | <p><i>7</i> 11:00 a.m., Dominoes/Bring your lunch 6:00 p.m., Choir Practice</p> | <p><i>8</i> 11:30 a.m., Sr. Networking</p> | <p><i>9</i> 6:30-9:30p.m., Parents' Night Out</p> | <p><i>10</i> *Those who grieve</p> |
| <p><i>11</i> 9:45 a.m., Sunday School 11:00 a.m., Worship Service</p> | <p><i>12</i> 10:00 a.m., Prayer Watch Ministry at Faith or wherever you are</p> | <i>13</i> | <p><i>14</i> 11:00 a.m., Dominoes/Bring your lunch 6:00 p.m., Choir</p> | <p><i>15</i> 1:00 p.m., Cure PSP</p> | <i>16</i> | <p><i>17</i> 8am-noon, Ingathering at AR Food Bank *those in need</p> |
| <p><i>18</i> 9:45 a.m., Sunday School 11:00 a.m., Worship Service Bake Sale after church</p> | <p><i>19</i> 10:00 a.m., Prayer Watch Ministry at Faith or wherever you are</p> | <i>20</i> | <p><i>21</i> 11:00 a.m., Dominoes/Bring your lunch 6:00 p.m., Choir Practice</p> | <p><i>22</i> <i>Thanks- giving Day</i></p> | <p><i>23</i> Church Office Closed</p> | <p><i>24</i> *caregivers</p> |
| <p><i>25</i> 9:45 a.m., Sunday School 11:00 a.m., Worship Service</p> | <p><i>26</i> 10:00 a.m., Prayer Watch Ministry at Faith or wherever you are</p> | <p><i>27</i> 1:00 p.m., UMW meeting 6:30 p.m., Administrative Board meeting</p> | <p><i>28</i> 11:00 a.m., Dominoes/Bring your lunch 6:00 p.m., Choir Practice</p> | <i>29</i> | <i>30</i> | <p>*Please pray for those listed above.</p> |

Scripture

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." —Philippians 4:6.