

First UMC News

September 29, 2017



We are a fruitful congregation!

We are seeing our local farmers starting the harvest and it has me thinking of fruitfulness—our spiritual fruitfulness. And I think the above picture and caption say it all—we are a fruitful congregation! The picture shows participants in our Dayshore camp kneeling in our worship space as they share a skit they created about praying.

As a community of faith you all have done a lot of hard, kingdom building work over the years to equip yourselves to go out into the world and do for others in the name of Christ. You set a goal a few years ago to be dedicated to young people and that is apparent through Rotation Station Sunday School, a vibrant Youth Ministry, Children's Church, 3-in-1 Afterschool, Vacation Bible School, and now a week-long day camp for community kids.

But that was not the only goal you set. You all felt a calling to feeding ministries. I have never been a part of a church that did as much feeding to their neighbors and friends; Ken-Tenn Food Bank, Community Lunches, Community Thanksgiving Meal, and Garden Ministry for fresh veggies! (continues on page 2).

Dates to Save

Sunday, October 15

The Congregational Care Team is inviting everyone to Fall Gathering and Hayride. Details to follow.

Wednesday, October 25

Stanley Gitari from Maua Methodist Hospital in Kenya will be our special guest for Wednesday Night Fellowship. Stanley will be sharing about New Hope Preschool and the work hospital in Maua, Kenya.



Call for 40 Days of Prayer

As part of our 40 days of prayer you are invited to pray for our church each day ahead of our Visioning Meetings. Prayer begins October 1. Books and guides will be available.

There is also a commitment to care for Seniors with the Wellness opportunities at our Willingham Center and the Coffee Morning Fellowship. And more fruit continues to grow in that place as those Seniors now minister to Adults with Disabilities in our community!

I have a strong belief that all that happened because you sat together and dreamed and planned. And it is important to celebrate that accomplishment. But it is also vital to take our next steps. And we need to do some working/visioning to become a fruitful and healthy church.

Close to 40 people came to our gathering with Bill Owen from the Center for Healthy Congregations a couple of weeks ago. Bill mapped out a 5-month process for our visioning work. After the gathering, the Church Council affirmed and voted to enter into this work. Please take note and plan to attend all the Congregational Meetings listed below. We need everyone to be a part of this work that will lead us into our next faithful, fruitful steps!

This process is different than work we have done in the past. As Bill stated in our gathering, he is not the expert coming with the ideas and outcomes already in mind. He is our coach and guide as we tell our story, listen to God, and vision for what we are called to do together. This process also begins centering on prayer—nothing begins until we as a congregation have gone through 40 days of prayer. This will begin this Sunday and go until our first Congregational Conversation.

God invites us to pray! Embrace this opportunity and trust that God will act, with this season of prayer as a channel for God's love.

Peace and Love in Christ, Pastor Nancy

Congregational Visioning Conversations:

Sunday, November 26

Sunday, January 7

Sunday, Feb 11

Final meeting TBD (To Be Determined)

Note from Joan Homra

Bill and I are so blessed to be in a loving and caring church. Your lifting a prayer for Stacy these last four years has meant so much. We praise God for taking Stacy home.

Amen and Bless you all,

Joan Homra

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are here to pray for you!



Family of Stacy Homra
Susan Cardwell
Bob Bush
Family of Michael Bransford
Brenda Sams
Michael Riddell's Father
Lisa Kinney
Ray Madding
Debbie Lewis
Joyce Tibbs

These were names given to me this week. I will add names from the worship prayer list for next week's newsletter and will also begin listing prayer requests in the bulletin.

Thank you for your faithful prayers.

Shannon Raines,
Office Administrator

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1 IS WORLD
COMMUNION SUNDAY**

*IN PREPARATION FOR THAT DAY THAT IS ABOUT
OBSERVING THE UNITY WE HAVE IN CHRIST
WITH ALL OTHERS THAT PROCLAIM THE FAITH,
HERE IS A POEM BY JAN RICHARDSON.*

**AND THE TABLE WILL BE WIDE
A BLESSING FOR WORLD COMMUNION
SUNDAY**

AND THE TABLE
WILL BE WIDE.
AND THE WELCOME
WILL BE WIDE.
AND THE ARMS
WILL OPEN WIDE
TO GATHER US IN.
AND OUR HEARTS
WILL OPEN WIDE
TO RECEIVE.

AND WE WILL COME
AS CHILDREN WHO TRUST
THERE IS ENOUGH.
AND WE WILL COME
UNHINDERED AND FREE.
AND OUR ACHING
WILL BE MET
WITH BREAD.
AND OUR SORROW
WILL BE MET
WITH WINE.

AND WE WILL OPEN OUR HANDS
TO THE FEAST
WITHOUT SHAME.
AND WE WILL TURN
TOWARD EACH OTHER
WITHOUT FEAR.
AND WE WILL GIVE UP
OUR APPETITE
FOR DESPAIR.
AND WE WILL TASTE
AND KNOW
OF DELIGHT.

AND WE WILL BECOME BREAD
FOR A HUNGERING WORLD.
AND WE WILL BECOME DRINK
FOR THOSE WHO THIRST.
AND THE BLESSED
WILL BECOME THE BLESSING.
AND EVERYWHERE
WILL BE THE FEAST.

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Announcements

UMM Date Change

Due to Fall Break, the United Methodist Men will meet this month on Saturday, Oct. 14, 8am in the Fellowship Hall.

United Methodist Women

The **Night Circle** will meet on Monday, Oct. 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be putting Christmas boxes together for Operation Christmas Child. All who wish to help, are invited to attend.

The **Day Circle** will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 11, 10am at Park Terrace Assisted Living. We will be meeting with our members and all residents for fellowship and prayer.

Worship Team Meeting

We will gather on Thursday evening at 5:30 to plan for Advent/Christmas worship and overall worship ministry. All are invited to attend.

Seeking a Percussionist

The worship band is seeking a new member to play light percussion (not drum set). No musical training is required, just a heart for serving the Lord and a good sense of rhythm. Contact Shannon Raines - musicfultonfirst@gmail.com

Christmas Cantata Rehearsals

You're invited to join the choir for the Christmas Cantata to be presented during morning worship on December 17th. Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays at 7pm, beginning October 4th.

CPR Training

Saturday, October 21

BLS class for medical people – 9am
BLS class for non-medical people – 1pm
Red Cross approved First Aid class – 3-5pm
(Donations appreciated)

CPR Classes along with a Red Cross Approved First Aid Class will be conducted at the Willingham Center. Cost is \$20 per person for all health care personnel. Classes extend to people who have not had a Basic Life Support class for a donation (no card will be received).

To register call the Good Samaritan Health & Wellness Center at 731-479-2112.

Tuesdays 5:30-8pm or Wednesdays 9am-Noon