

The Circuit Rider



First United Methodist Church, Harlan
Monroe Chapel United Methodist Church

OCTOBER 2017



HOLIDAY POINSETTIA SALES

Poinsettias are a sign of the holidays and make a great gift, brightening up your home or place of business. Order your plant in October by **signing up in the Blue Binder on Sundays or you can call or email the church office**. Sales benefit our youth organizations.

Poinsettias are \$12 with 4 colors available (red, white, pink, or marble). Orders will be taken through Monday, November 6, and plants will be available for pick-up on Sunday, December 3.

You can order for yourself - OR you can order one to be delivered to our nursing home residents or shut-ins. We are looking for donations for 15 deliveries.

FOOD PACKING EVENT ON OCTOBER 14

In our world today, an estimated 925 million people are chronically hungry; we can make a difference through a Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) MobilePack event at the Veteran's Memorial Auditorium on Saturday, October 14. FMSC is a Christian nonprofit hunger relief organization working with volunteers to produce MannaPack Rice, a scientifically formulated food formula that is culturally accepted worldwide. **If you and/or a group would like to help pack meals, go to give.fmsc.org/swiowa to sign-up**. Two groups from the church are already signed up. For more information, you can visit: fmsc.org



OPEN MIC NIGHT AT FIRST UMC



Let us know if you'd be interested in participating in an Open Mic Night at the church on **Sunday, October 15**, from 6:30-7:30pm. Sign up in the Blue Binder if you'd like to sing or play a song, read a poem, or tell a story. Refreshments will follow.

MISSIONS LUNCH ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

The Nature-Witness-Outreach Committee will offer a Lunch following worship on **Sunday, October 22**. All are invited downstairs for a free-will offering lunch following 10:30am worship. Pork, cowboy beans, chips, salads, and bars will be served. The offering will go toward supporting mission work.



Love. Grow. Serve.



ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS

"Working Together...Celebrating God's Good Gifts" is the theme of First UMC's annual stewardship emphasis for 2018. The campaign will begin on Sunday, October 22, and end with Consecration Sunday, on November 12. On that Sunday financial commitments are made to the church's ministries and then celebrated at a meal following worship. The **October 22 through November 12 Sundays** will coincide with a new sermon series, "Treasure" from Pastor Mike.

Financial contributions help First UMC continue day to day and month to month ministries, as well as help Christians grow spiritually in their relationship with God – to give for your own spiritual development by supporting your church's mission and ministry with a percentage of your income. It is not the size of the gift or its effect on the church budget that matters, but whether or not the giving affects you.

"For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building."

1 Corinthians 3:9

THANKSGIVING INGATHERING, a statewide United Methodist project to help alleviate world hunger is Saturday, November 4, at the Greenfield UMC. Due to the recent flooding, Health Kits are needed.

→ See page 2 for ways you can contribute ←

NATIONAL 4-H WEEK

October 1-7 is National 4-H week. 4-H'ers are encouraged to show their pride by wearing their 4-H shirt to church on Sunday, October 1, as they help greet and usher worshippers.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, October 3 - SPRC at 6:30pm;

Tuesday, October 10 - NOW at 6:30pm;

Tuesday, October 24 - Education at 6:30pm, Finance at 7:00pm, and Administrative Council at 7:30pm.

UM WOMEN MEETINGS

United Methodist Women meet Wednesday, October 4, at 9:30am for Executive Committee, followed by a Cookie Walk meeting and Program Planning.

Team Pink and Sarah Circles are at Elmcrest on Friday, October 6, at 2:00pm. The Conference UMW Annual Meeting is Saturday, October 7, in Washington, Mission U is October 20-22 in Marshalltown, and the District Mission Study Day is Saturday, October 28.

PAIRS & SPARES GATHERING

The fellowship group will meet for lunch at 11:00am on Saturday, October 14, in the Fellowship Hall. Following lunch they will go pack meals at the Feed My Starving Children event at the Vet's Building. Contact Dianne Lawson at 755-2001 with any questions.

REBEKAH CIRCLE MEETING

All women are invited to the Rebekah Circle meeting on Wednesday, October 18. Come at 9:30am for a short meeting. A program by Judy Marnin, who will tell of her travels to Lithuania, and lunch will follow.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Our annual church meeting is Sunday, November 5, at 2:30pm, here at First UMC. We will share our church meeting with churches in our area. Churches will meet together to worship, vote on required items, and discuss the ministry we share together. Committee chairs or a representative is required to attend. All are welcome.

FIRST UMC FINANCES

We are just about three quarters through our fiscal year and have a negative balance of approximately \$6,000. We also owe on our apportionment obligation.

We're doing God's work here at First UMC - Sunday worship, Wednesday night activities, choir and bell rehearsals, church group meetings, community group meetings, funerals, weddings, and the occasional special event. We thank you for supporting our ministry and for choosing First UMC as your way of returning to God a portion of what has been given to you!

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Annual Thanksgiving Ingathering: this statewide United Methodist project was started in 1980 to help alleviate world hunger. You can donate a kit (kits are sent all over the world through UMCOR), items for auction: baked goods, handcrafts, quilts, wood crafts, or cash donations. Sheets listing various kits and their items are available at the church entrances or you can call the office. Items need to be to the church office by Monday afternoon, October 30. Items will be taken to the Greenfield UMC on Saturday, November 4, where United Methodists will gather to worship, donate, and fellowship together. For more info: www.iaumc.org/thanksgivingingathering



Local Food Pantry: Our local West Central serves many people in need each month. Always welcome in our containers by the church entrances are toiletries, detergent, and diapers. Needed at this time: cereal, pop tarts, boxed meals, pasta and sauce, rice and pasta packets, soups, and beans.



Back Pack Food Program: The Back Pack Program is in its third year and currently serves 12 young teens. This would include items that don't need to be cooked: *Poptarts, Fruit/Jell-O/Pudding or Apple Sauce Cups, Fruit/Cereal or Granola Bars, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Nutella, Cereal (has to fit in a backpack), or cans of Tuna or Chicken;* items for the microwave: *Ramen Noodles, Rice or Noodle Packets, Easy-Mac, and cans of Ravioli, Spaghetti-O's, or Soup;* drinks such as: *bottled water, juice or gatorade;* and toiletries: *shampoo, body wash, deodorant, and toothpaste.*



TeamMates: TeamMates is a one-to-one school based mentoring program in our community in need of caring adults to serve as mentors. For one hour, once a week - you can make a difference in the life of a child. Contact Courtney King-Crum: at ckingcrum@hcsdcyclones.com, or 755-2725, to help.



THANK YOU

✧ Thank you for the angel given in Richard's memory. We so appreciate all the prayers, visits, and support shown us these past years. Thanks to Pastor Mike for his visits and the beautiful service. We feel blessed to be part of the family of God at First UMC.

– Family of Richard Ferry

✧ Thank you to the recent cottage meeting hosts for their hospitality and to all those who attended the meetings and shared about themselves and the church.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

BIBLE SUNDAY: On Sunday, September 10, six 3rd Graders received The Action Bible: Kenzley Bruck, Camryn Goshorn, Carleigh Goshorn, Erik Heslink, Logan Strom, and Wyatt Swank

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES: All groups meet from 6:00-7:30pm for a meal and activity. Elementary MYF: for Pre-K-4th Grades; Jr High MYF: for 5th & 6th Grades and 7th-8th Grades; Confirmation: for 8th Grades - meeting October 4 and 18 this month; and Sr High MYF: for 9th-12th Grades.

HELP ON WEDNESDAYS: Can you give 1 - 2 hours of your time on Wednesdays to benefit our kids? We are IN NEED of 2 volunteers to help in classrooms on Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:30pm. There is no prep time, teachers just need an extra adult to assist in the classroom for the little kids and Jr High kids. You can help on an occasional Wednesday, or more if your schedule allows. Contact Angela or the office to help.

2017-18 REGISTRATION: Registration forms are available if you have new contact information. Contact the office.

WEDNESDAY MEALS: There are three ways you can help: 1) work in the kitchen preparing, serving, and cleaning up every Wednesday; 2) donating goodies to serve for dessert; 3) donating a monetary gift to offset food expenses. Call the church office to help, to get put on the goodie schedule, or to help with expenses!



A MOMENT WITH MIKE

We live in what many call a post-Christian era, meaning that our culture is mostly done with Christianity. Of course, we are not completely done. We can see the influence of the Church in our monuments, the church buildings in most towns, and in some of our founding values as Americans. Nonetheless, the church does not hold a lot of influence in our culture anymore. More and more people are growing up without much experience being inside a church except for maybe a funeral, wedding, baptism, or Bible School. This reality affects all communities. According to a Mission Insite report, 67.4% of the population of Harlan has some kind of religious preference, and 43.2% are actively involved in a congregation. This is actually higher than the national average, which is 38.9%. So in Harlan, over half of our population is not actively involved in a church. You know what this means? There is great potential to invite others to know the life-changing message of Jesus!

The problem is that we are not used to inviting others. Generations before us took it for granted that if you held a church event, people would come. Therefore, many of us grew up without learning how to be invitational. We just aren't used to it. New churches get the importance of inviting others, but established churches have a more difficult time with this. That's o.k., though, because I know you want to learn new things!

If you are going to invite someone to church who is not actively involved in a church and perhaps never has been, then you are going to need be able to answer three questions. You may not explicitly be asked them, but people who are not involved in a church want to know the answers. The first question is, "Why do I need Jesus?" The second question is, "Why do I need the Church?" Finally, the third question is, "Why do I need your particular church?" In the next three newsletter articles, we will be exploring the answers to these three questions.