

The Circuit Rider



First United Methodist Church, Harlan
Monroe Chapel United Methodist Church

OCTOBER 2019

A MOMENT WITH MIKE

As we head into October, I am optimistic about the ministry of our churches! In Harlan, we launched four new small groups meeting Sunday nights with a brief worship service beforehand. We have a total of 27 people signed up for these groups, which is great! A special thanks to those who have volunteered to lead some of the groups, including Jeff Branstetter, Rebecca Gough, and Neal and Cindy Smith. If you were unable to sign up for a group due to a busy schedule in the Fall, we will launch some new small groups again in the new year.

In both churches, we are beginning a new sermon series called "The Bible Is Not...An Honest Look at How We Have Misread Scripture." For many people, reading and understanding the Bible is a daunting task, and for good reason. The Bible has been read and interpreted by many in a way in which it was never intended, and many have placed expectations upon the Bible that it was never meant to handle. This is not necessarily because we have intentionally done anything wrong but because the Bible is not an easy book to understand. In our new sermon series starting September 29th, we will take a look at some of the ways we have misread scripture, and then we will look at how the Bible was meant to be read, which is how many have read it for most of Christian history. We will see that while the Bible is inspired by God and reveals God to us, it does not do so in the way many of us may assume.

September 29: The Bible is Not a Science Textbook

October 6: The Bible is Not a Marriage and Parenting Guidebook

October 13: The Bible is Not a Road Map for the Future

October 20: What is the Bible?

God bless, Pastor Mike

ORDER YOUR HOLIDAY POINSETTIA THIS MONTH!



Poinsettias are a sign of the holidays: they make a great gift and will brighten up your home or place of business! Order your plant 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. There are also large poinsettias available for \$25. **Orders will be taken this month and through Monday, November 4th,** and plants will be available for pick-up on Sunday, December 1.

ANNUAL CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE



Our annual church meeting is **Sunday, October 20, 2:30pm**, at the Manning 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 are required to attend. All are welcome.

STALEY'S CHICKEN DINNER REPORT



A big THANKS to all who helped to make the September 25 Staley's Chicken Dinner a success. Thanks to all who provided salads, dessert, or pie, to all who sold tickets, to all who helped that night at the Vet's, and to all who came and ate. We served 555 this year, made a little over \$2,600 in profit, and could not have done it without the help of 73 adult and youth volunteers serving as: supply haulers, ticket takers, dessert preparers, kitchen helpers, take-out helpers, drink preparers, food runners, and take-down helpers. Volunteers providing salads, desserts, and pie totaled 67. Thanks for everyone's participation!

WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITY HELP



PreK through 12th Grades are invited for a 6:00pm meal, followed by 6:30-7:30pm activities each week. **We are still in need of 1 TEACHER for Grades 5-6 every other week and a few ROOM HELPERS.** This commitment is 1.5 hours a week and requires little to no preparation. Contact Ronda if you can help at 515-657-3143 or at fumchcec@harlannet.com.

UMW OCTOBER ACTIVITY

United Methodist Women meet Wednesday, October 2, at 9:30am for Executive Committee, followed by a Cookie Walk meeting and Program Planning. Team Purple and Sarah Circles are at Elmcrest on Friday, October 4, at 2:00pm.

The Conference UMW Annual Meeting is Saturday, October 5, in Des Moines, Fall Mission U is October 18-20 in Marshalltown, and the District Mission Study Day is Saturday, October 26 in Coon Rapids.

GRIEF GROUP

Lean Into Life is open to anyone who has lost a spouse or life partner. It meets every other Thursday, October 10 & 24, at 6:30pm in the Prairie Room at Myrtue; call 755-4312 to register.

KITS FOR MISSION INGATHERING

The Annual Mission Ingathering is Saturday, November 2, in Greenfield, Iowa. Begun in 1980, this is a way for Iowa United Methodists to address hunger, poverty, and disaster problems locally and around the world. Every year the Ingathering collects kits for UMCOR and Midwest Mission; UMCOR kits are distributed following disasters within the U.S., and Midwest Mission kits are distributed in response to requests within and beyond the U.S. We collect donations for Hygiene and School Kits, the two most requested kits. Sheets with kit descriptions are by the church entrances or call/email the church office. *Items are to be to the church office by day's end October 28.*

THANK YOU'S

✧ Thank you to those who served at the Iowa Community Kitchen in September: *Aaron & Marian Anliker, Grant Christensen, Sharon Donlin, Jolene Lytle, Jan McElwain, and Shirley Wolf.*

✧ Thank you to those who participated in the Feed My Starving Children food packing event on September 21: *Mike, Jennifer & Ava Agnew, Amy & Judy Coenen, Rich & Bev Goshorn, Rita Knights, Judy Knudsen, Dan & Pat Kleinpaste, Debra Larson, Steve & Dianne Lawson, and Jolene Lytle.*

✧ Thanks to those who delivered meals in September. A total of 22 people volunteered their time and vehicles to provide this service. The meals and a friendly greeting mean a lot to the people being served by the program.



OCTOBER WORSHIP HELP

MONROE CHAPEL

COFFEE HOST

- 06 Cathy Noon
- 13 Jane Fabian
- 20 Jan Curtis
- 27 Deb Manz

BIRTHDAYS

- 04 Delores Claussen
- 15 Christian Noon
- 20 Alex Schechinger

FIRST UMC

COFFEE HOST

- 06 B/B Petersen
- 13 B/M Lemons
- 20 Jolene Lytle
- 27 Jo Ann Blair

ACOLYTES

- 06 Joel/Hayden Gross
- 13 Kenzley Bruck
- 20 Camryn/Carleigh Goshorn
- 27 Judy Coenen

LITURGIST

- 06 _____
- 13 Ava Agnew
- 20 Nina Pulatie
- 27 Joann Portwood

POWER POINT

- 06 Joe/Jim Evans
- 13 Caden Bruck
- 20 Cael Goshorn
- 27 Brooke Goshorn

SOUND

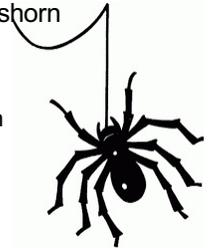
- 06 Steve Lawson
- 13 Craig Clemons
- 20 Lance Bartley
- 27 Ronda Evans

FILMING

- 06 Dan Evans
- 13 Mark Vande Berg
- 20 Darren Goshorn
- 27 Kevin Goshorn

USHERS

- 06 4H Participants
- 13 Kevin & Suzanne Goshorn
Brooke Goshorn
Rita Knights
- 20 Brian & Amy Coenen
Dan & Pat Kleinpaste
- 27 Paul & Jo Ann Blair
Bruce & Tina Christensen



FIRST UMC FINANCES

First United Methodist Church has been blessed in many ways....with faithful members who give to the ministry of the church and with a beautiful building in which to do this ministry. The ministry of our church entails Sunday worship, Wednesday night activities for children and youth, choir rehearsals, bell choir rehearsals, funerals, weddings, committee meetings, church group meetings, community group meetings, and the occasional special event to bring people together in our church.

We are three quarters through our fiscal year. As of the end of September, we have a negative balance of approximately \$10,000, and we also owe on our apportionment obligation.

As we plan our 2020 budget and approach the November Finance campaign, please remember the many ministries of our church and at this time, we ask you all to reflect on your gifts to First United Methodist Church, as your gifts mean much to many!

