

It is the mission of Jackson Center United Methodist Church to: Embrace the needs of all people to bring the love of Jesus, Our Lord and Savior

February 2020
Volume 1, Issue 1

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JC United Methodist Church
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The Guided Light

A Word From The Pastor

Stephen Luzader

Greetings, Beloved of Christ,

In our country, about this time of year, we tend to hear from our President, at the State of the Union Address, in which time they lay out what has happened and what is planned for our country in the coming year. I would like to take this time to do something similar with this space, about our church.

Let's start with the reflection; in 2019 our church helped 30 children have presents to open for Christmas with our Angel Tree. We took 14 students back to school shopping for school supplies with our Christ in My Backpack ministry. We sent over 30 full hygiene kits to UMCOR, \$691.00 was raised for the Fish Pond Food Pantry during our Advent Challenge. After the tornadoes hit in Celina and the Dayton area, we sent 154 cases of water, some toiletries and money to relief efforts spearheaded by United Methodist Churches in the impacted areas. Over 20 children attended our Vacation Bible School in June, and we provided gas cards and a Christmas dinner to two of our Angel Tree Families.

In physical church improvements we repainted Fellowship Hall and the nursery. All of the bulletin boards around the church were updated, and they remain updated. There are new banners hanging in the sanctuary. The heavy wooden tables in Fellowship Hall

were replaced by newer plastic ones, along with new metal folding chairs. Both the tables and chairs have new racks on which to store and move them. Our church mission statement is now keeping it's vigil on a wall in the hallway near the sanctuary. Keep your eyes open for more physical improvements coming in 2020.

Speaking of 2020, what might the still new year hold for us? In accordance with our Conference we have developed "Smart Goals" for the 2020 year. Smart Goals are a new way for Pastors and churches to work together for the good of the church. A delegation from the Staff Parish Relations Committee and myself met three times for several hours in late 2019 to develop three Smart Goals for our church. They are: 1) Work to increase growth – specifically in youth and young adult/families attending our church on a regular basis. 2) Focus on ways to bring back existing members currently not attending and getting current members excited and involved with the mission of the church. 3) Prepare our church for growth by preparing the vine to graft new fruit. Over the next few newsletters I will detail each goal for you starting this month with the first goal. Here are some bullet points for us to reach our first goal as a church

- Recruit a Children's Ministry Director (completed) and a Youth Ministry Director
- Collaborate with the Jackson Center Chapter of Fellowship of Christian Athletes to

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co-sponsor events that will bring unchurched youth into contact with JCUMC

- Start a Life/Small group for young adults (age 19-26)
- Advertise church activities through multi-media outlets like social media, where younger generations live.
- Develop and encourage participation of youth and young families in church sponsored events like Family Nights, and small groups for parents.
- Develop a Children's Church and resume the Children's Message in worship.
- Enhance our worship experience to include modern, multi-media expressions.
- Embrace the needs of young families in the community i.e. having a staffed nursery during worship, and hosting meals (breakfast before worship and/or carry in lunch after worship) to relieve family preparation stress on Sunday.

First off, these are GOALS, something we are aiming for in 2020. Second, but most importantly, we will not reach any of these goals without your help. Which means, it may be that time for you to get out of your comfort zone and say, "How can I help serve?" Maybe you already have an idea based on the goals I just shared, maybe a spark took light, maybe you have a thought that wasn't mentioned here that would benefit us reaching our goal. Perhaps you can serve with your physical presence, maybe you can serve through financial support, or maybe you can serve with your constant prayers, the point being that all can serve to help reach these

goals in some manner, and it will take all of us. The one constant comment coming from the group that put these goals together is that we want our church to start putting our love in action in 2020. There is no doubt that as a church we love one another, but it's time to invite others into that love. Will you join us?

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Stephen Luzader

JCUMC Officers & Committee Chairs

Chair: Ed Maxwell
Recording Secretary: Ann Bell
Treasurer: Wendy Carter
Trustees Chair: Ron Ludwig
Finance Chair: Todd Lotz
SPRC Chair: Kim Voress
Outreach Chair: Amanda Shaffer
Lay Leader: Brent Kerns
Lay Member, Annual Conference: Wendy Carter/Kim Voress
Congregational Care Coordinator: Emily Allison
FLC Treasurer: Jack Toomey
Childrens' Ministry Director: Morgan Shaffer
Student Ministry Director:
Worship Chair: Pastor Stephen Luzader

Childrens Ministry

Bible Buddies has begun! This is a ministry designed to reach out to all kids PreK-4th grade. The program consists of a small lesson and snack, and lots of fun! The Bible Buddies will meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, call the church office or check out Facebook!

Church Improvements

As you may have noticed, we have begun improvement projects throughout the church. Several projects are already completed, with many more in the works. Some of the improvements coming include: New television screens in the sanctuary, decorating the nursery, and television screens in the nursery and fellowship hall. If there is a church improvement you would like to see, please let the office know and we will add it to the list.

Ushers/Counters

The ushers for February are Ron and Sherlye Ludwig, and the money counters are Wendy Carter and Amanda Shaffer.

Lay Readers

Lay Readers for the month of February are:

Feb. 2 – Bev Suttles
 Feb. 9 – Barry Elliott
 Feb. 16 – Amanda Shaffer
 Feb. 23 – Barry Elliott

Card Ministry

Emily Allison has been hard at work sending cards in the name of the church. She usually sends 20-30 cards per month – for encouragement, get well, congratulations, sympathy, and holidays. If you would like to help Emily with this amazing ministry- consider donating cards or stamps to her. You can give them to her at church or drop them off in the church office anytime.

UMW News

Sharon Zimpfer

The United Methodist Women met on Tuesday January 7th @ 7pm.

The ladies approved a \$500 UMW Pledge to Missions. They also set the following dates for UMW activities:

April 6, 2020 – Delta Kappa Gama dinner

May 3, 2020 – Mother/Other Banquet

October 25, 2020 – Smorgasbord

November 3, 2020 – Election Day Meal

Here are the UMW officers for this year:

President: Sharon Zimpfer

Vice President: Kathy Lotz

Secretary: Melanie Lotz

Treasurer: Deb Elliott

Committee on Nominations: Karen Woodruff, Cora May Heintz, Clara Mae Leininger

Baby/Baptism Gifts: Emily Allison

Cards: Amanda Shaffer (secretary)

Flower Committee: Deb Elliott

The UMW meets again on February 11 @ 7pm in the fellowship hall. If you are interested in joining the UMW or would like to know more, please contact any of the ladies listed above.

Save the Date!

THE GRACE OF *Les Misérables*

Our Lenten Bible Study has been announced! This year we will be exploring “The Grace of Les Misérables”. We will have a sermon series, and both an adult and youth Bible study.

The sermon series will begin on Sunday, March 1st.

The youth Bible study will take place at the Family Life Center and will run every Sunday from March 1- April 5. It will be at 6:30pm and is open to ANY youth in the community grades 7-12.

The adult Bible Study will be every Monday from March 2-April 6 at 7pm at the church. For more information please see the flyers in the hallway or call the secretary’s office.

VBS

VBS will be June 15-19, 2020. More information coming soon!

Church Council

Amanda Shaffer

The JCUMC Church Council met on Thursday, January 16th. There were several items discussed at the meeting. Financial reports were distributed, discussed and approved. Those reports can be found on the bulletin board in the hallway if anyone has an interest in seeing them. The church purchased new chairs and tables for the fellowship hall to replace some of the older items.

Jack Toomey reported on the Family Life Center – rentals are up, and we are

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This Month's Events

February 2nd
1pm, Fellowship Hall
Secret Sister Reveal

Please let Linda Wahrer or Mary Lou Stewart know if you are unable to attend

February 4th
7pm, Fellowship Hall
UMW Meeting

This is a community prayer group-open to anyone in Jackson Center and surrounding area.

February 5,12,19,26
6pm, Family Life Center
Ecumenical Prayer Group

This is a community prayer group-open to anyone in Jackson Center and surrounding areas.

February 8
4-7pm, JC Fire House
Firemen Soup Dinner

February 11
12:30-6:30 pm, JCUMC
CBC Blood Drive

In need of volunteers, cookies, and punch, see secretary to sign up. To donate to give blood or platelets, visit www.DonorTime.com

February 13
7pm, Fellowship Hall
Church Council

February 18
7pm, Lounge
Worship Committee

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February 26

All Day, JCUMC

Ash Wednesday Services

The church will be open 6-8am, 11am-1pm, and 4:30-6:30pm for anyone who would like to be blessed by the ashes.

February 26

7pm, Rum Creek

Ash Wednesday Service

There will be a full Ash Wednesday service for anyone who would like to attend.

Have something you want included in the next newsletter? Call the office for details!

in need of new chairs and tables at the life center. He is purchasing 3 new tables and 24 new chairs.

The trustees did the annual walkthrough of the parsonage – all things were ok with no major repairs being needed.

The Shelby County Sheriff's Office is offering a free security class to churches. We have decided to participate in this class in order to learn more about church security and what measures to implement.

The next council meeting will take place on Thursday, February 13th at 7pm.

Worship Committee

Rev. Stephen Luzader

The worship committee met on Tuesday January 21 in the lounge, to begin planning worship items for Lent and beyond.

The Ash Wednesday service will be open church times as last year, where anyone can come in and be blessed by the ashes. The times are 6-8am, 11am-1pm and 4:30-6:30pm. There WILL be an Ash Wednesday service at Rum Creek at 7pm that evening if anyone would like to attend.

You may have noticed that the pew pads are no longer in the pews. They were not being utilized as they should have been, and so the decision was made to switch to visitor cards instead of the pads. You can find those cards in the pews, and on the table in the hallway as well as the sound table at the back of the church.

Summer is going to be here before we know it, and with it comes Summer Music! If you or someone you know has a talent they would like to share with the congregation, please let us know so we can get them scheduled! You can do this by contacting the office or by talking to Ricki Maxwell.

If there is anyone who is interested in being an accompanist for the church, please let us know. We are in need of at least one more accompanist. The current accompanists are willing to work with anyone willing to get them familiar with the pace of service.

SPRC News

Kim Voress

The SPRC will be focusing on the church's "SmartGoals" this year. The SPRC would like all of us to think and pray about these goals. We want to be God's hands, feet & voice in our growing community. Please listen as God places ways to do that on your hearts. We are all called to be, and make disciples. If God lays any ideas on your heart, please feel free to email the office and share them.

Outreach News

Amanda Shaffer

The Outreach/Missions committee is hard at work planning events to help further the mission of our church. These events are designed to get us out into the community, and help grow our church. Some of the things we are looking at this spring are soldier care packages, a blessing of the bikes, and another paint luncheon. If you have an idea for something you would like to see us do here in the church, or the community, please email the church office and let us know!



February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Tom & Karen Woodruff
9	10	11	12 Larry Clevenger	13	14 Linda Wahrer Zach Elliott	15
16	17 Warren & Karen Sprague	18 Catherine Brown Mike Myers	19	20	21	22 Ray Zwiebel Karen Woodruff
23 Bev & Jerry Ryder	24	25 Erin (Wren) Pence	26 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	27	28	29
30	31					

The Guided Light
Newsletter of the
Jackson Center United Methodist Church
PO Box 577
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