

*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*

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# The Guided Light

## A Word From The Pastor

*Stephen Luzader*

*Ants are creatures of little strength,  
yet they store up their food in summer  
~Proverbs 20:25~*

Dear Members & Friends,

Summer life is our default position. An anthropologist told me long ago that human beings are essentially tropical creatures. We're made to live in balmy climes, where an omnivorous diet of fruit, grains, and meat is available year round. We lack the thick fur of yaks and timber wolves. And as hard as some of us try, hibernation is out of the question for our species. Our bodies couldn't bear it. We're designed to endure high temperatures fairly well – with enough water. But it requires all manner of ingenuity for us to survive the cold. In order to live in colder climates, we've had to develop intensive agriculture, methods of food preservation, the spinning and weaving of cloth, all types of building construction and architecture, and a huge industry around fuels and energy. If you think about it, we live almost as exiles in places like Jackson Center. We spend so much of our life's resources just seeking the warmth and the abundance of our ancestral home in the tropics. All the seasons are beautiful, and our great human intellect has enabled us to live

quite well in far colder places than this. But in the end, we sink into summer each year as if it were our favorite chair. Maybe that's why most people envision "paradise" as a place with palm trees and pineapple drinks.

Of course, summer is the season when the church grows quieter. The church building ceases to hum with daily activity during the summer months. Most classes go on hiatus. The choir takes a break. The only two people on the chancel on Sunday are the pastor and the liturgist. Summer is like a dear old friend who only visits once a year; we've got so much catching up to do, so much living to squeeze into that one brief visit! We were created for a season that we only experience for three months out of twelve. Is it any wonder church attendance dips?

In quiet moments, we know that it's not just a seasonal summer that we spend three fourths of our days longing for. There's an inner summer that we desire, too; a summer of the soul. Only occasionally do we experience the deep sense of comfort and relief that we feel we were created for. Scripture speaks of these spiritual seasons in poetic speech. Genesis says of our inner winter: "God cast Adam out of Eden, to till the ground from which he was formed. God drove the man out, and at the east of the Garden of Eden, God placed the cherubim...to guard the way to the tree of life." And Jesus calls our inner summer "the kingdom of God." It's the place where all is as it should be.

Kingdom life is our default position. Just as summer is our body's real home, so the self-giving way of Christ is our

spirit's true home: hope, faith, love. We yearn for this distant summer in ways both great and small, usually unsure of *continued on page 2*

just what it is we're longing for. We've devised all manner of governments and laws to protect us from life's cold, all in imitation of the spiritual summer – the love – that is our home. How will you practice summer this year – the summer of the earth, or the summer of the heart?

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

Morgan Shaffer

There isn't a whole lot to report since we haven't been able to do any

children's events. I am excited to announce that we are revamping the Children's ministry section of our website. Stay tuned for what I am hoping will be a fun site for your kids to spend some extra time with Jesus!

## Church Improvements

Now that we are resuming worship, we would like to continue with updates and improvements to our church facilities. Below you will find a "Wish List" of improvements and needs that have been suggested to enhance our worship experience and to make the building more open and inviting for our members and visitors. These will not ALL be accomplished in the near future, but we will try to prioritize the improvements and spend money only as available.

It has been suggested that this wish list be shared with the congregation in case anyone would like to purchase and donate any of the items or possible assist with donations toward any of the projects. All categories are open for donations if it is an area that speaks to you personally. All assistance is appreciated and can be tax-deductible. Gifts may be in honor or memory of someone, and/or can be anonymous if desired. If you have any questions or would like to contribute in any way, contact the church office and talk to Amanda or Pastor Stephen.

The list has been sub-divided into 3 areas: **1. Immediate or Pressing Goals**, **2. Needed and will complete as funds are available**, and **3. Hopes and Desires for enhancing worship and building use**. The items in each group are in no particular order or priority.

### 1. IMMEDIATE GOALS

- a. New computer for church office

- b. New computer for Pastors office
- c. Streaming software
- d. Glare screens for sanctuary tvs
- e. AED machine
- f. Pack & Play for nursery
- g. New digital soundboard
- h. Replacement toilet seat – womens restroom
- i. New desk for office
- j. Electronic piano

### 2. NEEDED GOALS

- a. Closed circuit installation
- b. 65" Smart TV (fellowship hall)
- c. 43" TV (nursery)
- d. Wall mounts for 3 TVs
- e. Comfortable chairs for lounge
- f. New/gently used toys
- g. Nursery changing table supplies
- h. Diaper bag for changing supplies
- i. New flooring in restrooms
- j. Shelf in women's restroom

### 3. HOPES AND DESIRES

- a. Feminine hygiene products for bathroom
- b. Comfortable replacement chairs for hallway (2)
- c. 4x6' magnetic dry erase boards (5)
- d. 3x4' magnetic dry erase board
- e. Dry erase marker/eraser set (6)
- f. Audio/Visual production cabinet
- g. Patio and chair set (2)
- h. Replacement (or rebuild) Baptismal font
- i. Prayer candle stand

- j. Votive candles for prayer stand

## Ushers/ Counters/Pew Angels

The Ushers for July are Melanie Lotz and ?. The money counters are Pat & Wendy Carter. The Pew Angel is Barry Elliott.

## Lay Readers

Lay Readers for the month of August are:

August 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jack Toomey  
August 9<sup>th</sup> – Amanda Shaffer  
August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Bev Wren  
August 30 – Karen Sprague

## Card Ministry

Emily Allison

It was my privilege to again represent JCUMC to those who needed to hear words of affirmation that they are loved and prayed for during their hospital stay, recovery time at home, sadness over a loss, illness. For the month there were fourteen contacts made. There could have been more if we would hear of the need. There is a new supply of greetings just waiting to go visit someone who needs encouragement or a cheerful note.

## Prayer Chain

Do you have a prayer request through the week that you would like added to the prayer chain? If so, you can do so by calling Rose Ann Kerns at 937-596-5214. If you are not on the prayer chain, but would like to be, please let Rose Ann know and she will get you added to a chain.

## UMW News

Sharon Zimpfer

No report given.

## Online Giving

We are excited to announce that we can now accept online offerings! Signing up is as simple as going to our church website and look for the offering icon. That button will take you to the offering page for our church. Simply sign up and begin giving online today! There is also a link on Facebook as well as a video to show you how to sign up. If you have any questions or need help, feel free to contact the church office and Amanda will walk you through the process.

## Church Council

Amanda Shaffer

The JCUMC Administrative Council met on July 9, 2020 with 8 members present. Ed opened the meeting with a devotional from retired Methodist minister Jim Wagner, and a prayer. The minutes were previously sent out to all council members for review, and with no changes or corrections, Jack moved and Wendy seconded to approve minutes. Motion passed.

Wendy and Jack handed out the financial reports for the church and FLC. With no questions or discussions, Emily moved and Brent seconded to approve all financial reports. Motion passed.

Ed gave the finance committee report since Todd was not present. He brought us up to date on the purchase of the house next door. The church has received the signed paperwork back from the owners, and the bank is doing a title search now. The mortgage for the property is being taken out against the parsonage. Todd and Scott Lotz will be

## This Month's Events

**August 11 @ 7pm**

Lounge, JCUMC

**Outreach Committee Meeting**

**August 13 @ 7pm**

Fellowship Hall, JCUMC

**Church Council Meeting**

**August 17 @ 6pm**

Fellowship Hall, JCUMC

**SPRC Meeting**

**August 18 @ 7pm**

Fellowship Hall, JCUMC

**Worship Committee Meeting**

tearing down the house at their cost. The only thing the church has to pay for is the dumpsters. We will be opening the house after services a couple of times so the congregation can see the house if they would like.

Emily gave her congregational care report, she sent out 8 praying/thinking of you cards, 1 hospitalization, 1 surgery, 3 recovery and 1 sympathy. She is in need of stamps, if anyone would like to help.

Stephen gave the worship report. We are not going to have the Easter in July service. He didn't feel like it would be as special as the day asks for. Worship is working on Back to Church Sunday with outreach.

The trustees report was given. There was an issue with the HVAC unit at the FLC, Chilltex came out and took care of it. Vic Hurley has been doing weeding and trimming at the church. After some

*continued on page 4*

discussion, Emily moved and Brent seconded paying Vic for his time. Motion passed unanimously.

Brent gave the lay leader report. He didn't have much to report on, other than he's been receiving complaints *continued on page 4*

about people NOT wearing masks during service. There was a lot of discussion on the subject. For the moment, we will leave the masks as optional, unless the governor says otherwise.

Stephen gave the Pastors report, where he informed us that annual conference will now be entirely virtual. He also decided that it was time to share his vision for the church. Right now, the church is at a crossroads. Those who have done ministry are either gone or in a place where they can't/won't do it anymore. In trying to pass the baton to the younger generation, there has to be a transition. We have to be willing to FULLY pass that baton. IF we can't we will see less people in the church, and less people who want to do ministry. The things we are doing/looking to do in the church are to welcome in the younger generations into the church. It is not to forget about those who got us where we are, but to bring in those who will take us into the future. Our focus needs to shift from what we have done to what we can do. These things we are doing to update the church are ways to bring new people into the church. We need to be sure of where we are going and what we are doing. This is one way we do this.

Old Business: The "Wish List" has been prioritized into 3 different categories. This was done after some pushback by the congregation. Ed passed a copy around, he will finalize with leadership.

The COVID plan was discussed, Kim would like us to continue without

hymnals for now. Masks should stay out where the congregation has access to them if they need one.

Grace Lutheran is still working out all the logistics on taking the organ. More info to follow as they let leadership know. (UPDATE: Grace Lutheran approved the organ on Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. They will be picking it up the first or second week of August.)

New Business:

FLC Driveway/Parking Lot. We are thinking of giving the driveway/parking lot to the village to make into a road (most likely an extension of Tiger Trail). Leadership is working with other property owners to try and make it happen. More to follow after leadership meets again.

With no other business before the council, Stephen closed with prayer.

Next Council meeting will be August 13 @ 7pm in fellowship hall.

## Worship Committee

*Rev. Stephen Luzader*

Worship committee meets August 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm.

## SPRC News

*Kim Voress*

SPRC met on July 20. One of the two SPRC positions has now been filled by Ashley Gross. Kim will be reaching out to another person to get them more information on the responsibilities of the SPRC, and hope to fill this position that ends in 2022. Brent Kerns has been named the SPRC liaison for the FLC.

He and Jack Toomey have reported that Michele Schaub, the FLC custodian, has been doing a great job so far. It was decided that since she is "contracted" to do work only at the FLC and is separate from the church, they will not do an employee evaluation on her. Jack and Kim will be getting with Amanda ASAP to do her six month evaluation. Brent brought up the need for the Trustees to have a liaison for the FLC as well, and it was decided he would bring that up at the Trustees meeting on July 21<sup>st</sup>. That contact information needs to be on the FLC contracts.

SPRC was asked by the Council to look over and discuss the church going with a One Call Now service to get important information out to the congregation. It can be used for small groups as well and meeting times and other information can be shared quickly and easily. It was decided by the SPRC to go forward with this service. In doing so, it was suggested that only 1 contact number be used per family. The yearly fee for the service is based on how many contact numbers are used.

Kim met with Deb and discussed with her the extra disinfecting and cleaning that needs to be done in areas of high traffic. Deb will now be letting Amanda know what supplies she needs and the church will order them through Key Supply.

A better way to share prayer concerns and brief announcements were also brought to the SPRC. We will try having a clipboard at the back of the church for those items to be written prior to the start of church. Pastor Stephen will then take that to the pulpit with him at the beginning of the service.

The deep cleaning dates for the FLC and the church were set for the following dates: FLC – October 10<sup>th</sup> at 9am; Church – November 7<sup>th</sup> at 9am.

*Continued on page 5*



The next SPRC meeting will be held August 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm.

## Outreach News

Amanda Shaffer

The Outreach team met July 2<sup>nd</sup>. We discussed back to Church Sunday, which will take place on September 20. The Uncalled Four will be here to perform, as well as some kids from the high school choir. John and Kira Klinger have graciously agreed to host the church picnic that same day. More info to come as we get closer. We are still hoping to be able to do Christ in My Backpack, but with the current pandemic, it is going to look very different. Kira should have more information on that in the next week or so. We received an email from a children's choir about coming and doing a free concert here this fall, Amanda is waiting to hear back from the director to see what we can do. The choir is here from Kenya, trying to raise money for a new orphanage. The concert itself is free, a love offering will be collected during the concert to help the kids. The only thing the church will have to do is house the choir while they are here (only a day or two). There will be more info coming on that as well if we can get a date. Last, but certainly not least, we are planning a First Responders Sunday, to take place on October 25. We will be meeting to decide what that service will look like, and will pass along more information as the date draws closer.

## Trustees

Ron Ludwig

Trustees met on July 21 to discuss several things happening in and around the church and FLC. Ed filled committee in on what was happening with the Sprague house. The load has

been approved, and closing date is July 29<sup>th</sup>. The roof at the FLC needs replaced around the HVAC unit, Ron got a couple of quotes for the job. Warren moved, and Larry seconded to go with a reinforced white roof. Motion passed unanimously. The cost for the repair is \$2,260.00

## Church Library

Have you checked out our church library, located across from the coffee bar? We have lots of new and old books, both fiction and non-fiction available for you to check out! All you have to do is sign one out on the clipboard, and then sign it back in when you are done!

Starting next month, we will feature the "Pastor's Pick" – a book the Pastor recommends in our library.

Be sure to check it out today! If you have any questions, please let the office know. Happy reading!



## Back to School Blessing

Dear Heavenly Father,

You sent us your Son,  
How great is your goodness.  
How great is your love.

Now, as we send our children back to school, we trust again in your care for them. Let them see clearly that which is good and reject all evil.

Bless their teachers – guide their hearts.

May our children learn and grow,  
always in your sight and under your protection. Let us teach them how to stand firm upon convictions yet be merciful and kind.

Guide them, oh Lord. Pour out your loving grace. Let your glory shine in their lives.

And when they suffer, let us understand how to comfort them without hindering your character building process.

You are the architect of a holy life. Build our children up according to your will.

Oh loving Lord, our children are yours since the beginning of time. Thank you for their lives. Bless and protect their souls.

In Jesus name,

Amen

# August

## Birthdays/Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Jessie Logan Mark & Denise Wahrer	4	5	6 Larry & Linda Wahrer Justin Rostorfer	7 Ron Ludwig	8
9	10 Pat & Wendy Carter	11	12 Connie Helman	13	14 Amanda Shaffer	15
16 Peggy Christler	17 Brian Lotz	18	19 Michael Lotz	20	21	22 Roy Shuff Eric & Kim Voress
23 Katrina Myers	24 Ben Gross	25	26	27	28 Mark Bunke	29
30	31					



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