

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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JC United Methodist Church
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The Guided Light

A Word From The Pastor

Stephen Luzader

Hello Beloved,

We find ourselves in some strange times as I am writing this article. Our church had gathered again and then, due to health concerns over Covid we stopped meeting for worship for three more weeks and during that time we lost a dear friend and member of the church. We have begun gathering again, but the mask mandate of our state reminds us that things are still not normal. If all that were not enough, we are seeing an upswing in violence on our country's streets and wildfires and hurricanes impacting others.

One of the silver linings I believe will come from all of these events and the quarantine periods is the desire for people to be in community, and I know, because we've had a couple of phone calls to the church, that people are seeking God, even while, or especially while, they are going through this pandemic.

Because the life of the church is still going and people are still working, I did want to try to finish my three-part article on the SMART Goals of the church, and this one is especially timely. Our third goal is to "Prepare our church for growth to better attract new families moving into our community." When we wrote this goal, we saw that our major businesses around the area are expanding or getting ready to

expand, which means more jobs. We also see new housing being built around the village, which means someone, beside us, thinks that we are going to have some growth in Jackson Center. Our current economic downturn might derail that a little, but as I said, I believe that after we are released back into our normal daily lives we might see some new families who are "church shopping", and we ought to be ready. Or as it is said, we plant in the expectation of rain.

To meet this third goal and what is the future of this church we must look at the church through the eyes of a working aged individual, or family, who have children, and see if we are truly the friendly church we claim to be. It means enhancing our Children's Ministry to provide safe, educational/spiritual programs that are also fun. We have recruited a new Children's Ministry Director, Morgan Shaffer, who will be overseeing all programs from nursery to 6th grade. Morgan is currently studying early childhood education and primary education in college. Morgan has re-established the Bible Buddies program that will meet one Wednesday a month, and she also has some very good ideas for adding to our current Sunday morning offerings for children. The number one thing that a family with younger children looks for in a church is the strength of the Children's Ministry.

The second way to meet this goal is to have a strong Student Ministry. As I have said, if you are an adult in Jackson Center, you have probably made up your church going, or lack thereof,
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mind. But our teens and pre-teens are just waking up to the fact that something is missing in their lives, that there is a “great hole” as the Rev. Dr. Billy graham once said. If we can reach them and let them know what that hole is and who actually fills it, we can not only be growing the Kingdom, but they may also find a church home with us for generations to come. We have put out an ask, that we are very excited about, to an individual (potential team) to be our Student Ministry Director(s) and work with youth in 7th-12th grades. This is still a passion area of mine, so that position will get a lot of support from me.

Along with new programming comes a new look for the church. We have already received rave reviews from the new coffee bar and its location, which is more inviting. While we are still getting used to the TV screens in the sanctuary I just read a study that says our brains process images 60,000 times faster than it does written text, and it retains what it sees over what it hears 80% of the time. Will having a new coffee bar or TVs in the sanctuary make people want to start coming to church? No! But, when they do come, because they were invited (by you), they will find a church that is meeting them where they are at in life and not expecting them to conform to how “we like it done.” Little things, like adding WIFI to the sanctuary, which most of our Seniors didn’t notice, but our young people have taken notice.

So again, what does this mean for you? You can support the third goal the way I hope you have been supporting the first two, with your prayers, and while you are praying, be listening for God’s still small voice to say, “I want you to do that.” Serve. We are having more and more serving opportunities in the church, and we need you to answer the call to serve in one area. And yes,

though your continued, faithful giving. I have been asked several times where all the money is coming from for the changes that are happening, and honestly, most of the new things have been donated, along with the labor. As people are getting excited about what could be, they have jumped in. There are exciting things happening around the church, and I hope that you can catch the vision and join in the excitement. If you have questions, or want to know more about this vision or the goals that came out of it, I can offer up Kim Voress (SPRC Chairwoman) and/or myself to talk to and hear the vision from us. The Holy Spirit is moving around Jackson Center, and also through our church. We are asking you to join us in following Him.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Stephen

JCUMC Officers & Committee Chairs

- Chair:** Ed Maxwell
- Recording Secretary:**
- 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

I have been looking into some ways that we can do a virtual Bible Buddies until we are allowed to meet in person again. I am excited to share it with everyone as soon as I get approval to move ahead.

Ushers/ Counters/Pew Angels

The Ushers for September are Jerry Davis and Tom Suttles. The Money Counters are Cora May Heintz and Ann Bell, and the Pew Angel is Clara Mae Leininger.

Lay Readers

Lay Readers for the month of September are:

- September 6th – Bev Suttles
- September 13th – Jack Toomey
- September 20th – Amanda Shaffer
- September 27th – Barry Elliott

Card Ministry

Emily Allison

No report from Emily as she is currently in rehab at Otterbein.

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

UMW will meet in the sanctuary on September 1st at 7pm so we can socially distance. There will be NO snack.

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 Thursday August 9th with 6 members present. Stephen opened the meeting with a devotion from Romans 15:1-6.

The minutes had been previously sent to all council members, and with no additions or corrections; Wendy moved and Ron seconded to approve the minutes.

Wendy handed out the financial reports; it was moved by Brent and seconded by Ron to approve after minor discussion.

Ed gave the finance report for Todd. Todd has gotten the deed back on the Sprague property, as well as the closing statement. The first mortgage payment has been made. We cannot get the gas to the house shut off – it will have to be the Spragues, or we will have to set up an account in order to shut it off. Todd and Scott would like to have the demolition done before harvest begins, and are trying to get dirt and pricing on the dumpsters. There was discussion on what to do with the Larry Sprague memorial contributions that come in – they will be put toward the dumpsters.

Individual committee reports can be found in the newsletter.

Stephen gave his pastor’s report. Emily is settled into Otterbein for rehab; the Spragues are continuing to improve, which is great. Larry’s service has been planned and will take place on August 24th. Clergy session for annual conference was held via Zoom.

Old business: We have had a pack and play donated from the wish list – thank you to the family who did that. The organ has been moved to Grace Lutheran, and the Clavinova has been

This Month’s Events

September 1 @ 7pm

Sanctuary, JCUMC
UMW Meeting

September 8 @ 6pm

Grace Lutheran
BackPack Packing

September 10 @ 7pm

Fellowship Hall, JCUMC
Church Council Meeting

September 15 @ 7pm

Lounge, JCUMC
Worship Committee Meeting

September 20 @ 10:30am

Sanctuary, JCUMC
Back To Church Sunday

moved where the organ used to sit. Grace is also graciously paying for the repainting of the back wall in the sanctuary where the speaker for the organ sat. Bill Elsass came in and took care of that. A great deal of thanks to all of them. We are continuing the COVID plan of wearing masks and social distancing.

New business: Discussion was had on the landscaping at the parsonage. It is looking a little neglected. Council has someone in mind to possibly clean it up, they will be speaking to them.

With no other business before the council, Brent closed the meeting with a prayer.

The next Council meeting will be September 10th @ 7pm.

Worship Committee

Rev. Stephen Luzader

Worship committee meets September 15th @ 7pm in the lounge.

SPRC News

Kim Voress

No SPRC report.

Outreach News

Amanda Shaffer

The Outreach Team would like to thank everyone who brought in notebooks and/or school supplies for our modified Christ in my Backpack program this year. Because of your generosity, we were able to donate 179 notebooks and other school supplies to the school.

Amanda and Kira will be taking over the Backpack Food program next school year. If you are not familiar with this program, it was started several years ago by Cora and Phil Jarrells of Mt. Tabor UMC in Gutman. It provides bags of food to some of our less fortunate kids that they can take home to make sure they have good, nutritious food to eat on the weekends. There are 7 churches that help support this program, including ours. Phil and Cora have decided to step down after this year, so we decided to take it over. We will spend this year learning how Phil and Cora do everything before we take it over. We will bring more information to all of you as we learn.

Right now, we are still planning on having the church picnic following the Back To Church Sunday Service on September 20th, but we need to hear from you. Please let us know if you are or are not comfortable attending a

picnic with all that is going on. This will allow us to gauge interest and plan accordingly.

We have not yet been able to meet to decide what our First Responders Sunday will look like on October 25th, but please mark your calendars and watch Facebook and the bulletin for more information.

Trustees

Ron Ludwig

Work is continuing on the roof of the Family Life Center. All of the parts have been purchased, and hopefully the work will be completed soon.

New Member Class

Stephen Luzader

If you are over the age of 18 and you are not a current member of Jackson Center United Methodist Church and you would like to become a member of this church, we are offering New Members Class for adults on Sunday, October 11th, 2020. We will meet at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall of the church and have lunch together, and then hear (from current serving members) about the different ministry areas of the church, and then Pastor Stephen will lead us through what being a member of the church means and looks like, along with a little history about the United Methodist Denomination. If you are interested in becoming a member and can make this class, please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, October 7th, 2020. If you have any dietary restrictions, please let us know when you RSVP.

September Birthdays/Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Bev Wren Brandon Wahrer	3 Ed Maxwell	4 Clay Akers	5 Wendy Carter
6 Harold Helman	7 <i>Labor Day</i> Dick Taylor	8	9 Ashley Rostorfer	10 Deb Elliott	11 Jill Payne Mark & Ginger Adams	12
13 Mark Rue	14 Nancy Valentine	15 Eric SMister	16	17 Warren Sprague Jr. Karrine Lotz	18 Tyler Braun Michele Schaub	19 Linda Dodge
20 Gina Ludwig	21 Melanie Lotz	22 Christy Akers Alison Barkman	23	24 Ray Valentine	25 Josie Mann Alexis Regula	26 Ginger Adams
27 Vic & Rita Hurley	28	29 Steve & Peggy Christler	30 Alicia Zwiebel			



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