



First United Methodist Church
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SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2019

Loving God, Growing Together, Sharing Christ



This past week many of us experienced the “Back to School” routine that marks the end of our summers. We got the supplies, we toured the schools, we figured out the schedules and met all the teachers. Teachers began to review their curriculum, prep their rooms, and get to know a new room full of students. Another year of learning and growing is well under way.

Summer break is a beautiful gift in that it provides opportunities for family vacations and extended times together. Summer break comes with some challenges as well. The lack of schedule can leave many of us a little frazzled. The lack of regular learning can leave brains a little fuzzy. I have heard teachers say that it takes a few weeks (or months?) to coach the kids back into the learning environment, and often there is a lot of review of material that was “lost” over the summer.



I believe that Summer break can also have an effect on our faith journey. It is no secret that churches often experience the “summer slump” when attendance and engagement gets slim. Sometimes we are away because of vacation and travel plans. Sometimes we just find things we would rather do with our Sunday mornings. Regardless of the reason, many of us come out of this time away frazzled and fuzzy in our faith journey. That time away from our regular faith practices takes a toll, and often we need a few weeks to get back into the routine and start to recover what was “lost” over the summer.



The first few weeks of September will provide plenty of opportunities to jump right back in. On September 8th we will begin Sunday School for all ages. In addition to our Children and Youth classes, we have an Adult class starting up as well. We will also begin a series of messages in worship focused on the foundations of our faith. I pray we will all take advantage of these opportunities to learn and grow in our faith!



September

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
8:30 am—Sunday School (all ages)
9:30am—Coffee time
10:00 am—Worship*
2:00 pm — Zomi Christian Fellowship
*Nursery available

www.fumc-mtown.org
fumc@fumc-mtown.org

Church Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday
9:00 am - Noon
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Closed on Monday

FUMC Staff
Senior Pastor: Jeff Kodis x1002
Organist/Bell Director: Jan Randall
Worship Arts Director: Jenn Pedersen x 1016
Education Director: Jenn Pedersen x 1010
Administrative Assistant: Jo Ruff x1000
Business Manager: Kay Coutts x 1007
Custodians: Steve Cherveney x1001
Becky Goodell

Please send articles for the October newsletter to Jo Ruff at fumc@fumc-mtown.org by September 20.

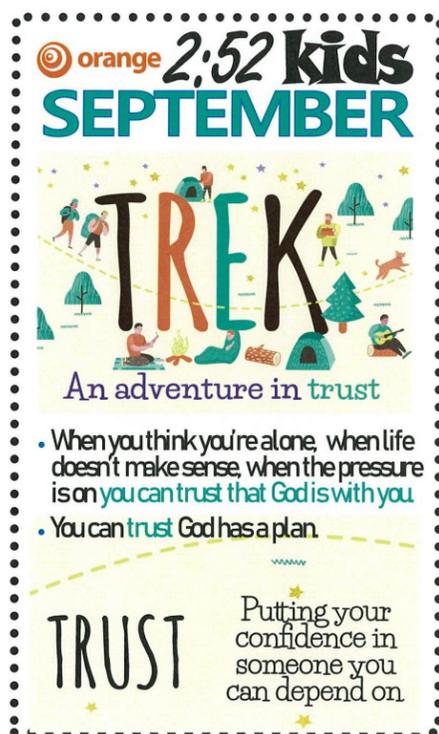
FAMILY MINISTRY by Jenn Pedersen

Our VBS took place August 5th-8th and was a great success. We had 35 children attend VBS that week and many wonderful volunteers poured into the lives of those children. We had great times of worship, drama, games, crafts, and games. We all learned about the fruit of the Spirit throughout the week and how we can **Power Up** with the power of the Spirit.

We continue to be in need of volunteers for our children and youth Sunday School ministry. If you are willing to volunteer on a regular or periodic basis we can find a role for you. Please talk with Jenn Pedersen if you are interested.

Children and youth Sunday School will begin for the fall semester on September 8th with our Rally Day event. We will kick off our time with a light breakfast in the children and youth areas at 8:30 am and then jump into our fall lesson series at 9 am.

Our September Children & Youth Sunday School Studies:



For PK-5 - *Trek: An Adventure in Trust* - In September we will explore how just like a trek through the wilderness, life takes trust. We will talk about the life of Joseph and how he put his confidence in God and how we can put our confidence in God because we can depend on Him.



For 6-12 - *Rhythm* - This series explores the importance of developing spiritual habits. Students will explore various aspects of spiritual habits including worship including connection, worship through rest, worshipping God with your mind and with your talent.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDIES by Reva Roland

Tuesday Bible Study: We will start our new 6 week study "The Quest" by Beth Moore on September 10. Classes are held at 10 am and 5:30 pm in the Oasis Room. If you are interested in taking the class please call Reva Roland at 641-691-1335 or email her at rolandrjr2003@yahoo.com. All women and men in the community are welcome to attend.



Grant Fitz
Derek Johnson
Garrett Larson
Rob Larson
Scott Tasler
Scott Vial

This Month's Usher / Greeter Teams

Brandon Bell
Susan Breed
Dick Cope
Bev Hatcher

Levi Bell
Jerry Clark
Zoey Garber



I would like to thank my Church Family for the prayers and encouragement for my son, Gabe, during his extended illness and for my mother during her recent hospitalization. I am a firm believer in the power of prayer and saw God do miraculous things in both of their lives. Your support means the world to me and made all the difference!

Steve Cherveney



I would like to thank all of you for the prayers for my recent surgery. I appreciate your thoughts and prayers so much. I ask that you please continue to pray for my recovery. Thank you.

Dorothy Perry



I would like to thank everyone for the beautiful cards and gifts I received for my 80th birthday on August 10. It was so great. Thank you very much.

Shirley Beeghly

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Hebrews 11:6

SPRC by Dick Cope

- The Committee started preparing the documentation required for the annual Central District Charge Conference to be held in October.



Monthly Meetings:

Church Council: Tuesday, September 17, at 5:30 pm
Trustees: 6:00 pm, Staff Room
SPRC: 6:00 pm, Upper Tower
Finance: No Meeting
Stewardship: 6:00 pm, Lower Tower
Vision: No Meeting

Endowment: No Meeting
TLC: No Meeting

Hand in Hand: Tuesday, September 10, at 5:30 pm
Missions: Tuesday, September 24, at 11:15 am



In Christian Sympathy
 Our thoughts and prayers go out to:

Brad & Connie Etter in the loss of
 Brad's mom, Bette.

Julia IntVeldt's Family

Mavis Brown's Family

Eunice Gilgen's Family

Steve Thompson in the loss of
 his mother, Kathryn Thompson.



WORSHIP ARTS MINISTRY by Jenn Pedersen

Sanctuary Singers and Alleluia Ringers began regular rehearsals on August 28th. New members are welcome to join in singing with Sanctuary Singers at any time; fall is a great time to join in and experience the joy of making music to the Lord together.

Anyone interested in getting involved in other aspects of our worship ministry such as sound tech, projection, instrumentalists, vocalists, communion stewards, ushers . . . there is a place for you to serve. Please talk with Jenn Pedersen if you would like to get involved in the worship ministry.

Fall planning is in full swing, including looking ahead to our fall worship retreat which will take place the evening of October 27th and Christmas planning has also begun. Our musical groups are looking forward to gathering regularly once again and leading our congregation in worship.

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16

September Collection:



Dish Soap



Communion
September 1

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Join us!



9:30 am Sundays



September
Change for Change:
Ingathering



Temple Builders

Exercise Class
 8:15 - 9:00 am
 Tuesday & Thursday
 Fellowship Hall
 All you need is an
 exercise ball & mat.

Please notify the church office of any address or e-mail changes or if you desire to be removed from the mailing list. If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to Jo Ruff at fumc@fumc-mtown.org



Prayer Shawl Ministry
 Thursdays at 10:00 am in the
 Staff Room.
 Anyone is welcome to join in.

Insurance Requirement
 Please do not sit in the
 front row of the balconies.

UMW by Bev Sloppy

- On September 5, the board met in the lower tower room. We worked on our budget for the next year. We support several charitable organizations and it is important our mission statement is kept by our monetary contribution.
- September 13 is the date for the Central District Annual Mtg. @ UMC Indianola. If anyone is interested to attend, contact me or Edie Hodges.
- On October 3 @ 8:00 am we will be holding a memorial breakfast @ Perkins for members who passed away in 2018 or prior to Oct. 2019. Contact Ruth Jackson to make a reservation.
- In October on the 5th, there is an UMW Iowa Conference @ Staves in Des Moines. If interested ask a UMW member about attending.
- The second Mission U is also in October, the 18-20th. Ask Sharon Owen or Ruth Jackson and they can tell you how great the sessions are.
- On November 2, all the Ingathering kits will be taken to Cedar Falls. We hope to take a record number this year. A monetary donation is also accepted.
- On November 23, we will have our Holiday Stroll (this year is all about Angels) and the famous cookie walk thanks to Val Clark. We will let you know more about the Stroll, Messiah and the Cantata in the months ahead. If you are asked to donate cookies, bars, soup or pies, hopefully you will say YES!

FINANCE by Kevin Miller

Psalm 147:5 says "Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite." Since the tornado that hit Marshalltown last year the theme that keeps showing up is "Marshalltown Strong". I think it should have been "God Strong". So many things that happened after the tornado felt like God things, people who showed up because they felt led to help, donations to help Marshalltown, and many others felt like God had a hand in helping us. We need to show our thanks to God and one way to do that is through our Church. Increasing your donations not only helps the Church pay its bills but also allows us to help others.

We are still struggling with our budget. We are keeping most of our bills paid but are way behind in paying our apportionments. Since July we have been doing a little better but are still behind and will not be able to pay our full apportionment.

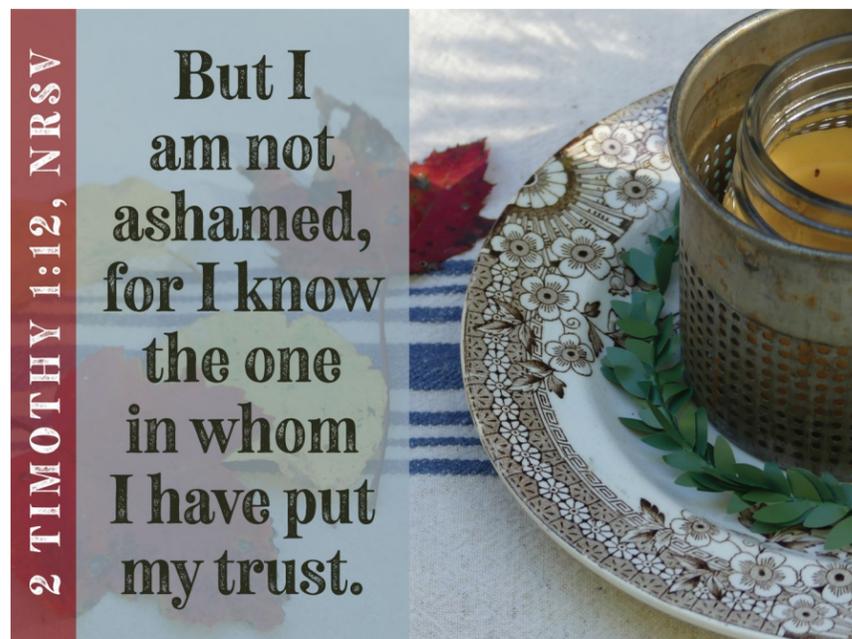
Thank you for your giving both your time and money. I hope we are close to turning the corner and you are a big part of that turnaround.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY by Kathy Braga



Here we are beginning our Fall routines. We at Prayer Shawl Ministry are evaluating another Fall project of making hats and scarves for those in need this winter. We have checked places that receive our donations and they are wanting to receive them. We would appreciate help with this either with a donation of heavier yarn for making scarves and hats or actually making hats and scarves and donating them to us. (no wool, please). Thank you for the help we already have with such items.

We continue to teach some crocheting at our recent meetings.
Happy Fall Y'all!



Parking Request

On Sundays, if you are able, please park in the lot across the street to the east or on the north side of the building so people who have difficulty walking can park in our lot. Thanks for being considerate of others.

Weather Cancellations

To find out if church activities are cancelled, check
Email
KCCI TV Channel 8
Facebook

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSIONS by Barb Matya

Gina Ruddock and I just met again with the Unmet Needs committee and have 3 families to help. I added up our commitments so far and we have written checks for \$2,940. We are in the process of spending \$8,600 as soon as work or shopping are completed. We started with \$20,000 for this project so we will be able to do more as the needs are presented. As I mentioned before, these families/requests have been thoroughly checked out and are now at the Unmet Needs Group.

Hand in Hand will once again be asking for your help with Ingathering kits. This year we are only sending Hygiene and School kits. Watch for more information soon.

Our monthly Supply Closet collection for September will be dish soap and Change for Change will be used for Ingathering. Thank you for your donations.

"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."
1 John 3:18 NIV



Please remember to pray for our military.

Grant Fitz

Jim Hart's grandson

Derek Johnson

Brian & Joan Johnson's son

Garret Larson

Don & Judy Westphal's grandson

Rob Larson

Don and Judy Westphal's son

Scott Tasler

Linda Tasler's son

Scott Vial

Lee & Mary Jo Vial's son

Remember them and their families in your prayers.