

The Circuit Rider



First United Methodist Church, Harlan
Monroe Chapel United Methodist Church

JUNE 2021

JUNE 13TH RECEPTION



There will be a reception in the courtyard **following 10:30am worship on Sunday, June 13th.** Come and wish Pastor Mike well as he moves on to his new appointment at the Cherokee UMC.



2021 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be at First Church **Sunday, August 1st through Thursday, August 5th** this Summer. Kids will meet from 5:30pm to 8:00pm for a meal and then will move through various stations: science, crafts, Bible Story, music, and games. The theme is “Knights of North Castle” and curriculum will be provided by MUMM’s, *Mobile United Methodist Missionaries*.

One or two MUMM representatives will be here to help and provide supplies, but we have to provide the rest of the VOLUNTEERS. August will be here before we know it, so we need to secure volunteers now.



CAN YOU HELP? We will need a Leader OR Co-Leaders for: science, crafts, and games. All curriculum is provided and easy to follow! We will also need floaters to go around with the groups and help if needed. Please consider being part of the VBS team and contact the church office! Even if you can only help one or two evenings, we will find a place for you. Donations: Monetary donations are welcomed to offset meal expenses. Indicate “VBS” in your memo. Thank you for the support.

AUGUST MISSION TRIP

A mission trip to the Tree of Life Ministry in South Dakota will be **in early August - final date to be determined.** Tree of Life is a Multi-Denominational, Cross-Cultural Mission and Relief Agency with their site on the Rosebud Reservation in Rosebud, South Dakota. They are the working hands and feet of God for the Lakota Nation residing on the reservation. They offer a Soup Kitchen and Thrift Store and help with home repairs.

Each year over 1,000 volunteers from across the United States come to meet and serve the Lakota and Dakota people, bringing assistance to the poorest racial group of people in the nation. Dates will be secured soon and then sign-ups will be available. No funds or experience necessary - just the desire to help others! *Contact the office with questions or interest.*



A MOMENT WITH MIKE

As most of you know, during the last eight weeks, I have been on a personal renewal leave. During that time, I have engaged in various online continuing education opportunities and have also prepared for my upcoming move to Cherokee. Thank you to Rev. Lori Shannon for leading our worship services during this time! There is no doubt that we are all in a time of transition as you get ready to welcome your new pastor, Rev. Steve McElroy. I have known Rev. Steve for a number of years as a colleague in ministry, and I have confidence he will be effective in leading you into the future.

My ministerial duties in Harlan and Monroe Chapel will resume in June for a couple of weeks, and then they will come to an end on June 16th, and Rev. Steve will become your pastor in July. Many of you may know this, but I want to be clear that after I move, I will no longer be your pastor, which means I will not be coming back to officiate funerals, weddings, or engage in any other pastoral duties. Those things will be for your new pastor, and I encourage you all to welcome him as he arrives in the community.

We have been through a lot together, no doubt. There has been much uncertainty in the last year or so, but one thing remains the same. Jesus Christ is with us through it all. As we go through this pastoral change, may we continue to serve Christ through our work in our churches and communities. – Pastor Mike

