

The Circuit Rider



First United Methodist Church, Harlan
Monroe Chapel United Methodist Church

OCTOBER 2021



Dear friend,

Yesterday, (as I'm writing) was October 5th. Every year, I grow more thankful for the significance of this calendar date in my life. As some of you know, October 5th is my wife Alison's birthday. That in itself is special, but this is also the day that I asked her out for the first time on her 17th birthday. (I won't tell you how many years ago that was, but rather share that Alison's preschool class guessed her to be either 18 or 25 when they celebrated her birthday yesterday!) My life was forever changed by asking out this pretty girl whose faith helped lead me to know and believe in Jesus.

Several years later on another October 5th, God spoke to me, calling me into a new life of pastoral ministry. My life was changed again on this significant date.

God has put it upon my heart that there is a day or time approaching for our church family when the lives of those who are hungry for His leading will be dramatically changed - and that this change will spill out into and impact our community as well. As I have had the opportunity to share with many of you in our recent cottage meetings, I believe that in order to grow the church and to be ready for this coming day we need to focus upon helping our church family members grow spiritually (our expectation of encountering Christ), relationally (through small group participation) and through Biblical literacy (highlighted by next years journey through the entire Bible with "The Story" campaign).

Another facet of spiritual growth - or perhaps the result of the above - is seeking to become better stewards of the gifts God has placed in our lives. This month, I will be holding a workshop focused on discovering the meaning of and the joy in Christian stewardship. I am asking that every church member make the commitment to attend this workshop and receive this life-changing information. In response to last Sunday's "Big Question" poll, I will be hosting this workshop at 3 different times and dates. The dates/times are: **Sunday, October 17th** following worship and lunch at Harlan, **Tuesday, October 19th** at 7:00pm also at Harlan, and **Sunday, October 24th** at 4:00pm at Monroe Chapel.

It is important that you sign-up for one of these dates during worship or by calling or emailing the church office. It is my prayer that the workshop you choose to attend will change your life and be a date you'll never forget.

See you at church,

Pastor Steve

PS: Questions about small groups? Contact Pastor Steve at steve.mcelroy@iaumc.net.

FALL SERMON TOPICS



On October 17th we will start a series on experiencing the vital ingredient for faithful living and being the church: the presence and power of God in our daily living. After that we will explore how and why God shows up to do the miraculous (and why sometimes He doesn't) in a series beginning November 7th.

ORDER YOUR HOLIDAY POINSETTIA THIS MONTH

Poinsettias make a great holiday gift and will brighten up your home or place of business. Order your plant by signing up in the Blue Binder on Sundays or you can call or email the church office. Poinsettias are available in 4 sizes, 4.5"-\$8, 6"-\$12, 8"-\$24, and 10"-\$30 with 3 colors available: red, white, or pink.

Orders will be taken through mid November and plants will be available for pick-up early December.



COMING UP from UMW



Mark your calendars for the Annual Cookie Walk on December 8th. Be thinking about what you can contribute to the craft cupboard and let Sandy Clemons know. Information will soon be available regarding ordering Butter Braids. *Proceeds from both benefit UMW mission projects.*



SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES:

Small groups are a great place to grow your faith and your relationship with fellow church members. There are 3 different days/times for small group participation! Come try out one of the below:

◆ **SUNDAY MORNING** before church at 9:00am

◆ **TUESDAY MORNING** at 10:00am

◆ **WEDNESDAYS** at 6:40pm, as part of our Wednesday Night Spirit Jam activities that includes a meal from 6:00-6:30pm, praise time from 6:30-6:40pm, then small group from 6:40-7:45pm.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SPIRIT JAM

Children, youth, and adults are invited on **Wednesdays** to join together for 6:00pm dinner, a short time of worship at 6:30pm, and then break up into age-level small groups from 6:40-7:45pm.



The Chancel Choir practices at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary each Wednesday. New voices welcome!

JOIN A WOMEN'S CIRCLE



United Methodist Women offers friendship, support and fellowship, and many opportunities to join with other women in service to our church, our community, and to support missions for women and children here and around the world.

If you're interested in this, you are invited to come to the UMW's Rebekah Circle gathering on **Wednesday, October 20th**, at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall.

MISSION INGATHERING KITS

The annual Mission Ingathering will be Saturday, November 6th. The purpose of Mission Ingathering is to show the love of Christ to the world's people by ministering to their needs. This is done by gathering various "Kits" that are distributed domestically and internationally, as well as gathering donations for other long-established mission outreach programs: Self-Help International, Heifer Project, Mobility Worldwide Iowa-Hawarden, and Church World Service Blankets.

For further info, go to: www.midwestmission.org

This year focuses on 5 kits. We typically collect items for Personal Dignity Kits and Student Kits.

There are sheets listing kits and their items by the church entrances. You are invited to either prepare a whole kit or you can donate specific supplies for kits. Items are to be brought to the church office by day's end Friday, October 29th.



A WAY YOU CAN HELP:

Serve on a Church Committee!

We will soon start working on filling church committees for 2022. Let the office know if you're interested in serving on any of the following committees: Ad Council, Education, Finance, Memorials, Missions, Staff-Parish, Trustees, or Worship.

It takes participation from all of us to make the church what we want.

STALEY'S CHICKEN DINNER



A big THANKS to all who helped to make the September 22nd Staley's Chicken Dinner a success. Thanks to all who provided salads, dessert, or pie, to all who helped that night at the Vet's, and to all who came and ate.

We served 571 this year, made a little over \$3,600 in profit, and could not have done it without the help of 71 adult and youth volunteers serving as: supply haulers, ticket takers, dessert preparers, kitchen helpers, take-out helpers, drink preparers, food runners, and take-down helpers. Volunteers providing salads, desserts, and pie totaled 61 - most donating more than one item. What a great list of volunteers! Thanks again for everyone's participation. – *Finance Committee*

THANKS

◆ Thank you to those who hosted the Cottage Meetings in September. We appreciate you opening your home to others for the purpose of getting to know Pastor Steve and Alison and sharing thoughts and goals regarding the church.

◆ Thank you to all who sign up to help during Sunday morning worship. Tasks may seem small, but all of you help to make the morning run smooth.

STAY IN TOUCH!

WORSHIP: If you can't join us for Sunday morning worship, remember you can watch the weekly service via our website, Facebook page, or the local FMCTC, HMU, and Mediacom cable stations.

PASTOR STEVE: Contact Pastor Steve via his email or cell phone. Be sure to check out Facebook for his weekly posts!

JOYS & CONCERNS: Let the office know of your joys/prayer concerns or text them to Pastor Steve at 515-341-7832 if you'd like them shared during Sunday morning worship.

LET US KNOW: Let us know of hospitalizations or if someone would benefit from contact from Pastor Steve.