

# The Circuit Rider



First United Methodist Church, Harlan  
Monroe Chapel United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER 2021

Dear friend,

I need your help and your participation!

We are preparing to launch small groups that will meet weekly in our church beginning Wednesday, September 15. The idea and purpose of small groups is to **(1)** grow in faith and **(2)** to grow deep relationships with fellow church family members. There's not enough space in this column to share with you all the virtues of small groups, but what I can share is that small groups will become the backbone of our church and its growth (both spiritual and numerical), and that by participating in a small group you will develop - as my wife likes to say - the core group of people who you know you can call at 2:00am when life takes a terrible turn.



The small group culture we are developing is for all ages - preschoolers through retirees. Through our recent "Big Question" polls, I've learned that 80% of you who responded are interested in or open to trying out a small group and that your preferred options for meeting times are Wednesday evenings, Sunday mornings (before church) or Tuesday mornings. As a result:


**We will kick-off our small group ministry on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th at 6:00pm.** We're calling our Wednesday evening programming "The Wednesday Night Spirit Jam." The evening will start with dinner at 6:00-6:30pm and will include a brief time of worship (6:30-6:40pm), followed by age-level small groups (6:40-7:45pm). Groups will be available for preschoolers, elementary age children, middle and high school youth and adults. Our aim is that this will be a convenient experience for families with a meal being provided and a small group opportunity for parents while their kids go to their own groups. (NOTE: you don't have to be a parent to participate on Wednesday evenings.)

The following week we will begin adult small group opportunities on Sunday mornings at 9:00am and Tuesday mornings at 10:00am.

This is the part where I circle back and reemphasize **"I NEED YOUR HELP AND YOUR PARTICIPATION!"**

I need the gift of your trust and ask that you make a commitment to join one of these small groups. To do so, we need to hear from you at the church. Please call or email the church office by next Monday, September 13th, to let us know which day you will be participating. Also, let us know if you have children or youth who will be participating on Wednesday evenings. (It is especially important for us to have a head-count for the meal on Wednesdays.)

This is going to be the beginning of a new day for our church as we dig deeper into our faith and grow closer to one another. Prayerfully make a commitment to help us start strong.

See you at church, 

**PS:** Small groups are a perfect opportunity to invite unchurched friends and neighbors.

**PPS:** Questions about small groups? Contact Pastor Steve at [steve.mcelroy@iaumc.net](mailto:steve.mcelroy@iaumc.net).

## SERMON SERIES

A new sermon series will begin **Sunday, September 12th** called "BEGIN (AGAIN)." This series will help jumpstart our individual faith lives regardless if we're new to the faith, need to get re-engaged, or want to grow deeper in our relationship with Jesus.

Come join us on Sundays at 8:45am at Monroe Chapel or at 10:30am at Harlan First.



### CHOIR PRACTICE HAS RESUMED!

The Chancel Choir practices on **Wednesdays, from 7:30-8:30pm** in the Sanctuary and would welcome any new voices!

### CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes will be held on Sundays after church every other week beginning September 26th. A meal will be served prior to class. These classes are open to all 7th and 8th graders, as well as any other old youth who are interested.



**Contact the office if your child plans to participate.**

### UM WOMEN



United Methodist Women circles resume meeting this month. Mark your calendars for the Cookie Walk on Wednesday, December 8th. **Let Sandy Clemons know if you'll be donating items** for the Cupboard.

### STALEY'S CHICKEN DINNER

Harlan First's annual "Staley's Chicken Dinner" is **Wednesday, September 22nd**, at the Vet's Auditorium. Serving from 5:00-7:00pm, the menu is chicken, potatoes & gravy, corn, homemade salads and pies, and beverages. Tickets are \$12/adult, \$5/age 4-10, and age 0-3 are free. Pick tickets up on Sundays, contact the office for tickets, or pay at the door.

If you've not signed up to help, **PLEASE DO SO!** We still need general kitchen help, food runners, 7 salads, and 14 pies. Contact the church office if you can help.  
– Finance Committee



### THANK YOU'S

- ▶ Thank you to those who provided special music during worship this Summer and special thanks to Sandy for lining the music up. It's a blessing to have people share their talents!
- ▶ Thank you to those who delivered meals during the month of July. It was a last minute request and we had 14 volunteers step up to the plate. Thank you!
- ▶ Thank you to everyone for the prayers, kind thoughts, cards, and food brought to the house while I was recuperating from my 2 surgeries...and as I continue with upcoming 5 weeks of radiation treatments. We appreciate all of you and your kindness and continued prayers...God bless!

– Rick & Laurie Schaben

### AUGUST MISSION TRIP

Four church members recently traveled to the Tree of Life Ministry on the Rosebud Reservation in Rosebud, South Dakota, completing a successful mission trip. They will share more details about their trip soon!



### ANNUAL INGATHERING

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.

This year focuses on 5 kits: Birthing Kit, Feminine Hygiene Kit, Layette Kit, Personal Dignity Kit, and Student Kit. Personal Dignity Kits and Student Kits are the kits we typically collect. Those kit items are below - **note that items have changed.** There are brochures in the pamphlet holders by the church entrances which give more information on kits and Ingathering.

For further information: [www.midwestmission.org](http://www.midwestmission.org)

#### PERSONAL DIGNITY KIT

- 1 new bath hand towel (No kitchen towels)
- 1 new washcloth (No kitchen dishcloths)
- 1 bar of soap in wrapper (3-4oz)
- 1 new toothbrush in sealed package  
(No child-size or multi-packs)
- 1 shampoo (15-18oz)
- 1 deodorant (2-3oz stick, roll on, or pump)
- 1 one gallon size re-sealable bag
- Place all items in the re-sealable plastic bag;  
Add \$2 for razor & toothpaste

#### STUDENT KIT

- 3 notebooks (1 subject each, spiral 8"x10.5")
- 1 ruler 12" long with metric
- 1 box of 24 crayons (only 24)
- 1 box of 12 colored pencils
- 6 unsharpened pencils
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 eraser (2" or larger)
- 1 pair Student scissors
- Bring items in a plastic grocery bag

**School Bags:** we have a volunteer willing to make cloth school bags, but **material donations are needed.** Material Specifics: at least 1 yard of material; sturdy fabric or denim only; material cannot have the following designs: camouflage, hand prints, foot prints, or paw prints.

Please bring your donations to the church office.



**GREETINGS from MONROE CHAPEL,**



It's been a hot one, friends! It's so hot out here, the grasshoppers even went home! We don't get much to eat now, and the sitters must not either cause theirs nothin' left to scrounge up 'cept a leaf or two from the garden stuff they share with everybody else.

There is a new preacher out here. He's pretty lively, and has got the sitters sittin' straighter up in the benches, eager to hear what he has to say. His mate even comes with him! Sometimes the music box sitter listens so hard, she forgets what she's sposed to be playin'. That tall hop-a-long sitter (with the short Mrs.) cranks his head to "dial in" on the signal so he can hear the talker better. He's the one with the kinship to those big tin circles that he hoards all of his corn in. He's no trapeze artist, and got dropped and clunked on his noodle. Good news is that he's here to tell about it! He's smilin' and countin' his blessins'.


Betty, a faithful sitter is under the weather. She is home now, but has had a tough time feelin' better. We pray for her. Frankly, we sure miss her! Then there's the sitter with the best ever singin voice who has had a tricky ticker. He's finally getting the sparkle back in his eyes. As Grandma says, "prayers are powerful".

The big news out here is that there is a Queen amongst us. Grandpa said Reanna is radiant in her crown. We can't wait to see her again. She is gone now to get more learnen'. Oh, and there's a Shepherd sitter with an important job herding the sheep at some big circus. He was seen on that picture box talkin' bout his job as *Superman*! My Aunt said it was him in livin' color! Holy Moly! The things that go on at the Chapel!

We are sad that Miss Hyla went to heaven. She was a Queen, too. We could all learn a thing or two from this 97 year old lady 'bout never sayin' a disparagin' word 'bout anyone or anythin'. We are glad her chitlins still come out to sit with us!

Granpa saw that tall Wooly lumberjack out here tapping on the side of the church. Nobody will mistake who we are now-it's written all over the side of the Chapel! We appreciate his bravery in nailin' it!

That's all I kin remember to tell ya. Pastor Mac or P-Mac (Pastor McElroy) is determined to get the sitters readin' and understandin' somethin' called "*Love Letters*". Ooh lala that sounds interestin'! Our whiskers will be "dialed in", too. He preaches with Style and a Smile! Remember the 5 P's now-- *Patience, Persistence, Perspective, Prayer and Perspiration* (we got that one covered)!

Peace out, Monty and family 

**SEPTEMBER CALENDAR**

<b>Sep 1:</b> 9:30am UMW Mtg	<b>Sep 12:</b> 8:45am Worship: MC	<b>Sep 22: Staley's Chicken Dinner</b>
<b>Sep 2:</b> 9:30am Prayer Group	10:30am Worship: First	5:00-7:00pm @ Vet's
7:00pm Cottage Mtg	6:00pm 4H Group	<b>Sep 23:</b> 9:30am Prayer Group
7:00pm Pairs & Spares	7:00pm Cottage Mtg	6:30pm Scout Pack
7:30pm NA	<b>Sep 15:</b> 9:30am Rebekah Circle	7:30pm NA
<b>Sep 5:</b> 8:45am Worship: MC	<b>Sep 16:</b> 9:30am Prayer Group	<b>Sep 26:</b> 8:45am Worship: MC
10:30am Worship: First	6:30pm Scout Den Mtg	10:30am Worship: First
<b>Sep 8:</b> 10:00am Cottage Mtg	7:30pm NA	7:00pm Cottage Mtg
<b>Sep 9:</b> 9:30am Prayer Group	<b>Sep 18:</b> 11:00am Bridal Shower	<b>Sep 28:</b> 7:00pm Cottage Mtg
7:00pm Rachel Circle	<b>Sep 19:</b> 8:45am Worship: MC	<b>Sep 30:</b> 9:30am Prayer Group
7:00pm Sarah Circle	10:30am Worship: First	7:00pm Cottage Mtg
7:00pm Cottage Mtg	7:00pm Cottage Mtg	7:30pm NA
7:30pm NA		

→ With things returning to normal, there are once again opportunities to SIGN-UP to help with worship on Sundays to: make coffee, read, or greet and usher. Let the office know if you could be on the list to run Sound or Video. ←

## SUNDAYS

### MONROE CHAPEL

**8:45am:** Worship

**9:45am:** Coffee

### HARLAN FIRST

**10:00am:** Coffee Time

**10:30am:** Worship

## WEDNESDAYS: Sep-Apr

### HARLAN FIRST

**6:00-6:30pm:** Meal

**6:30-7:30pm:** Small Groups for All Ages

**7:30-8:30pm:** Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## TV AIRING of 10:30 SERVICE

**10:00am:** Mondays, Mediacom #18

**7:30pm:** Mondays, HMU #15

**1:00pm:** Tuesdays, FMCTC #48

**7:30pm:** Wednesdays, HMU #15



## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*"Where Joy Is Shared and Love Is Lived"*

9th & Durant PO Box 28

Harlan IA 51537

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## CHECK IT OUT

Check the church's website or Facebook page:

[www.harlanmethodist.com](http://www.harlanmethodist.com)

**Harlan First & Monroe Chapel**

**United Methodist Churches**

✓ STAFF CONTACTS & WHAT WE BELIEVE

✓ WORSHIP & MUSIC ACTIVITIES

✓ CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

✓ MISSIONS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

## QUESTIONS, CONCERNS,

**Stop By:** 1202 9th Street, Harlan

**Call:** 712-755-5172

**Email:** [fumch@harlannet.com](mailto:fumch@harlannet.com)



## MISSION STATEMENT

***Making Disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world.***

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