



Wakarusa United Methodist Church *Newsletter*

From the Pastor

The book of Joshua tells the story of the Hebrew's conquest and occupation of Palestine. Joshua was their leader throughout this period. The people had many trials and temptations as they entered the promised land. Too often they were tempted to ignore the teachings God had given them, and follow the pagan ways of the people who originally occupied the land.

At the end of his life, Joshua calls the people to remember their identity and the foundation of their faith. He reminds the people of their history and then ends with these words:

Joshua 24:14–15 (NRSV) — 14 "Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua reminds the people of God's faithfulness, and then calls them to follow the Lord in faithfulness and sincerity.

As I near the end of my pastorate at Wakarusa United Methodist Church, I too feel God's call to follow the Lord with faithfulness and sincerity. The Lord calls us all to remember what is most important. The Lord challenges us to anchor our lives in the central purpose for why we are here as his people and his church.

We are here to fulfill Christ's mission. We are not here to do what we want. We are not here to do what we have always done. We are not here to do what some influential people in the church might want us to do. We are here at the call and bidding of Jesus Christ our Lord. We are Jesus' servants in this place. We are God's people, whose lives are being shaped by the character and example of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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FROM THE PASTOR

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As a United Methodist congregation, we affirm that our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This is our reason for being. Everything we do is to be measured against this goal. Everything we do is to be evaluated by how well we are fulfilling this mission. The mission is always to be before us as we make decisions concerning how we spend our money, how we invest our time, and where we devote our greatest efforts. We are here to accomplish Jesus' mission, not our wants or desires.

After much study and prayer, our congregation adopted the following vision statement as the way we will focus on achieving the mission:

We are a church: **Glowing** with Christ's love; **Growing** in faith together; and **Going** to share God's light.

We are a church glowing with Christ's love. People in the community will notice the love God has implanted within our hearts, as we share that spirit with all those we meet. God leads us into passionate, heart-felt worship that connects us with the presence of the Lord. During worship, we open our souls to be filled with the Spirit of Christ. We leave behind our old lives of selfishness and pride. We seek to become a people who sing the praises of Jesus Christ our Lord! We glow with Christ's love.

We are a church growing in faith together. Our lives are a journey with the Lord. We begin as babes in Christ. We grow to become mature disciples. Our life is a process of growth and maturity. Each day, we are called to learn something new about what it means to be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. There are ways that we can grow individually. Our times of prayer, scripture reading, meditation and study can all be done during our quiet time with the Lord. However, Christians throughout the ages have repeatedly affirmed how important it is to gather with fellow believers for prayer, study, learning, and worship. The author of Hebrews writes:

"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25, NRSV).

Through Sunday School groups, discussion groups, short term study groups, fellowship groups, or discipleship training groups, we are offered the opportunity to share our questions and receive the insights of others. This exchange has been vitally important in sustaining our growth and development. We are a church growing in faith together.

We are a church going to share God's light. Jesus calls his people to be the "salt of the earth... and the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-14). We are to share the flavor and the light of God throughout the world. We cannot keep God's life only for ourselves. We are to be outwardly focused. This does not mean that we will ignore the important ways that we can support those who are already within our fellowship. Yet, it does mean that our primary attention will be on the community around us. We are not light just for ourselves. We are light for this community. Each of us is to share the light of God with the people we see on a daily basis. This includes our neighbors and friends, co-workers and fellow students, and casual encounters at the Post Office or library. In the past, our church has formed supportive relationships with the staff

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EAGLE SCOUT CREATES PRAYER GARDEN FOR WUMC!

Collin Blosser, son of Steve and Suzanne Blosser, has created a Prayer Garden as a thank you to the Wakarusa UMC for providing the church building for their meetings. The Prayer Garden is Collin's project to earn the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest achievement attainable. Since 1911, only 4% of Scouts have earned this rank. It is a lengthy process after having earned at least 21 merit badges: 13 required, 10 personal choice, and must be completed before the scout's 18th birthday. Collin will be 18 in July.

Nearly two years ago, Collin and his parents spoke with Pastor Ed Geleske about an appropriate project for the church that Collin could undertake in order to earn his Eagle Scout badge. Deciding on a prayer garden, they created plans, priced & selected materials, estimated costs, etc. Then Collin faced the task of funding the project, which (fortunately) proved to be easier than it might have. Within a few weeks, he raised the amount needed by asking local businesses for donations and discounts on materials.



Family and friends provided the remaining funds.

By the end of April, having completed required paperwork, Collin began construction. Digging revealed many large roots, so the garden site was moved a few feet to where the soil could be worked. Other troop members and their fathers volunteered to help, and the Prayer Garden was completed by the middle of May!

Take a few minutes to visit our Prayer Garden located on the north side of the garage. It's a lovely place to sit and enjoy the warm weather.

Thank You, to Collin & Steve Blosser, and all the Scouts and their fathers!!



Children's Ministry

ROBOTS, SPACE TRAVEL, & JOYFUL NOISES .FROM BETH



Sometimes I wish I was a robot so that I would always say the right thing and do the right thing, but it isn't that easy. God has created us with free will; we make our own choices! It is up to each of us to read God's word, to listen for his guidance and live our life accordingly. This has been a topic of a previous children's chat. On Mother's day, the children took it a step further. We worked for many weeks to make robot costumes. We wore them to sing along to some robot-themed videos of the songs "What a mighty God we Serve" and "The B-I-B-L-E" We hope you enjoyed the presentation.



Prepare to travel out of this world

I am currently seeking volunteers for our Fall Bible School. This year's theme is "To Mars & Beyond" It is based on the verse Ephesians 3:20 "Glory to God, Who is able to go far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us."



If you have been involved in the past, I hope you will commit to do it again. If you haven't taken the giant step to get involved yet, then make this the year to say yes. **We need approximately 40 adult volunteers each Sunday to make it happen! Let me know how you want to help.**

Beth's "Children's Ministry"

Continued from page 4

Make a joyful noise

The entire congregation enjoyed the singing on Mother's day, The children will sing again at the **special service for Pastor Ed on Sunday June 30th**. Join us in Sunday School each Sunday to practice the songs.



June Children's Birthdays

June 2
June 10
June 24
June 24
June 25

Travis Cripe
Dottie Pogue
Becket Geleske
Elliot Jones
Alaina Bickel



PAST FATHERS' DAYS AT WUMC

From Judy Briganti

The first known Father's Day service occurred at the Williams Memorial Methodist Church South in Fairmont, West Virginia in 1908. Several other people across the nation had similar ideas throughout the years, but Mrs. Sonora Smart Dodd is credited for being the one to popularize it in 1909-10, starting events that led to Father's Day becoming a U.S. national holiday.

However, it was not until 1966 that President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first presidential proclamation honoring fathers, designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Six years later, the day was made a permanent holiday when President Richard Nixon signed it into law.

Fathers have always played significant roles in their families and additionally the life of our church. Recently, I found records depicting activities like bowling and basketball that were sponsored by our church from 1993-1996. It was wonderful to discover that many familiar names attending:

Denny and Trevor Hershberger
Ed, James and Ben Geleske
Dick and Michael Letherman
Rick, Joe and Nick Abel
Phil and Zac Lechlitner
Steve, Nick, Nate, and Neal Brown

Tim and Jon Hershberger
Bob and Eric Zell
Jim and Jeremy Hartzell
Steve and Brandon Hajicek
Tom and Charlie Roeder-
Rick, Neil, and Adam
Vandegrift

Clif and Eric Reynolds

Happy Father's Day to all the men in our church!



Sherman Andrus

FAMOUS For Breaking the Color Barrier in Contemporary Christian music when he joined the Imperials as their lead singer

Performs at the 10:30 AM SERVICE

Sunday, June 9, 2019

June Adult Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

June 6	Steve Brown
June 9	Sally Housour
June 14	Dennis Hershberger
June 21	Gerald Hirschy
June 22	Kathy Mikel
June 28	Jody Schutz

ANNIVERSARIES

June 6	Kathy & Mark Mikel
June 6	Susan & Rick Vandegrift
June 12	Mandy & Nick Davis
June 18	Linda & Dick Letherman
June 25	Annette & Steve Brown
June 28	Gail & Rick Abel

CONNECT WITH US
ON FACEBOOK:
WAKARUSA UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH



JUNE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ADULTS

The Hope Classroom with Judy Briganti will not meet during June. Class members will seek connections by attending other adult classes or by helping with the children's ministry. The Connections Class will resume in July beginning with the last two sessions of "When You Come Unglued, Stick Close to God."

The Faith Classroom with Pastor Ed Geleske will begin studying "Women of the Bible." On June 2, Deborah will be the biblical woman discussed.

The Love Classroom with James Geleske has begun studying *First Peter* using *Right Now Media* materials.

A NOTE FROM JO

This is a bittersweet time for Ed and me. We have looked forward to being retired together, but we will miss the people at Wakarusa United Methodist Church. I want to thank you for your support throughout the years. You were there for us during our family deaths, illness, and in other times of need. You have helped us raise two wonderful sons and two delightful grandchildren.

We have shared many joys together: special times of spiritual significance, outreach to our community and world, weddings, births and baptisms. Memories of these times will continue to fill our hearts with joy. We have also shared times of sorrow during deaths and illnesses of loved ones.

I pray that you will support Greg and Terri Way in the same manner that you have us. We will continue to keep you all in our prayers.

FROM THE PASTOR

(continued from page 2)

and students of the Wakarusa Elementary School, and the WaNee Middle School. We have strived to be a blessing to these two schools in particular, and any other school in the area. We sponsor the Wakarusa Nursery School as a way to enrich the lives of preschool children. We open our church to the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts to support those in the larger community. We have also formed relationships with Family Christian Development Center, Open Door, Miller's Merry Manor, and many other local organizations and groups. We are striving to bring God's kingdom to our neighborhoods. We are a church going to share God's light.

At the end of his life, Joshua called the people to remember their identity as the people that God has created as His own.

At the end of my ministry at Wakarusa United Methodist Church, I call you to remember who you are in Christ Jesus! We are not our own. We have been bought with a price, the precious blood of our Lord. We are called to live out this identity. We are God's people. It is my prayer that the Wakarusa United Methodist Church will always keep the mission and vision of Christ at the center of all that is done. May this church truly be the Body of Christ in this place! Amen.



ONLINE GIVING

Scan the code & follow the link to make electronic donations to the church



MMGA ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR JULY 13, 2019

Features Wakarusa & Nappanee Gardens!

Michiana Master Gardeners' Association Annual Garden Tour

The 22nd Annual Garden Tour sponsored by the Michiana Master Gardeners' Association (MMGA) has piqued considerable interest this year since the tour gardens are located in the Nappanee and Wakarusa areas. In fact, two featured gardens are in central Wakarusa, two are slightly northeast of Wakarusa, and four gardens are in the Nappanee area.

The 2019 gardens represent a variety of garden options ranging from "in town" city lots to broader spaces in country settings. As always, the MMGA selection committee approved gardens planned, planted, and maintained by the homeowners. Carefully chosen for design, plant variety, and creative touches, the eight gardens this year offer visitors inspiration for their own sun or shade garden.

The tour will be held on Saturday, July 13, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tickets may be purchased for \$10 at major garden centers around the area and specifically at Coppes Commons, Kountry Cabinets, the Nappanee Chamber of Commerce in Nappanee, and at Richmond Feed Services in Wakarusa. Tickets (\$12) are available the day of the Tour at the Hospitality Center, West Park Pavilion, 500 North Nappanee St. in Nappanee. Also at the Hospitality Center, Plants and crafts are available for purchase.

The MMGA thanks its Wakarusa Supporters: Pro-It Solutions, Grandma's Pantry, Dru's Jewelry, Mom and Me Floral Boutique, Richmond Feed Services, and the Wakarusa Chamber of Commerce.



HAVE FUN! IT'S GOOD FOR YOU! (Con't from past newsletters.)

Having fun makes us smarter, improves our memories and concentration abilities and could expand our horizons. Being introduced to new ideas and broadening our understanding improves our well being.

Carolyn Wesolek enjoys walking, dancing, and playing cards with friends. She wants to learn to play the guitar.



Ted Wesolek enjoys golfing, biking and horseshoes. He wants to learn to play the piano.

John Guttman enjoys being with friends, bicycling, backpacking at various national parks and wilderness areas. He wants to go skydiving once or hot-air ballooning.

Bonnie Woodlee enjoys visiting/socializing with family/friends, traveling/exploring nature and cooking/reading. She would like to learn to cross country ski, sail a boat, explore the beauty of the Polynesian islands, and stay in a glass floor hut in Tahiti.

Mandy Davis enjoys watching her boys play sports, going for drives with one of the boys driving her, and reading. She wants to learn more about photography.



Nick Davis enjoys golfing, watching his boys play sports and spending time with friends.

Jim Swihart enjoys going for drives, going to the lake and spending time with grandkids. He wants to get back the use of his hands in order to build things.

Thank you to everyone that shared their interests during this series. If you were not contacted and would like to

add your information for a future article, please email jabrig-anti@aol.com or call 574-304-1062.



JUNE EVENTS:

**WAKARUSA UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

MAKING DISCIPLES OF
JESUS CHIRST FOR THE
TRANSFOMATION OF THE
WORLD

*GLOWING WITH CHRIST'S
LOVE*

*GROWING IN FAITH
TOGETHER*

AND

*GOING TO SHARE GOD'S
LIGHT*

June 5	1:30 pm 6:30 pm	Bible Study SPA
June 9	10:30 am	Sherman Andrus at WUMC
June 10-15		Mission Trip to Kentucky
June 12	7:00 pm	IF meets in Kathy Mikel's home
June 12 16		UMC Annual Conference (Indianapolis)
June 16		FATHER'S DAY
June 18		Pastor Greg Way Moves-Into Parsonage
June 19	1:30 pm	Bible Study
June 20	7:00 pm	Administration Council Meeting
June 26	1:30 pm	Bible Study
June 28	6:00 pm	Decorating for Rasler Open House
June 29	1:00-6 pm	Brooke Rasler Open House in Fellowship Hall



**WAKARUSA
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**
309 S. Elkhart Street
PO Box 414
Wakarusa, IN 46573

Phone: 574-862-2863
E-mail:
wakarusaumc@gmail.com

**Visit us on the web:
www.wakarusaumc.org**



Sunday mornings schedule:

- 8:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
- 9:30 a.m. Discussion groups and classes for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE