

Digital World

When I started seminary in August of 1987, I was given a hand-me-down, 64K computer by my in-laws. It lacked what we now call a monitor, so I had to wire it to a 12 inch, black and white TV that I happened to have via the antenna connections in the back. I was fortunate that I was also given an external 5 ½ inch floppy disc drive that attached to the computer via a very wide, tape like connection. It was little more than a glorified typewriter, but it got me through all the writing I had to do for my master's degree, and it sure beat having to submit papers on a regular typewriter as I did in college less than ten year earlier! That was my introduction to the digital world that was dawning in those days, and it seems I've been continually playing catch-up ever since.

Lake Lotawana Community United Methodist Church is in the same situation in 2020 that I faced in 1987. We are comfortable with an analog world, with known and proven ways to doing things as a congregation that worked in the past. But here's the bottom line. **As a congregation, we now are in a digital world.** Email has replaced, by and large, mail with stamps on it ("snail mail" to use a common expression). Text messaging has replaced, more or less, a phone call (especially for the younger generations). Attractive websites and social media, which now includes video, are necessary tools for outreach as we fade out paper newsletters and posters. We will, for the time being, still send out letters, make phone calls, and print newsletters, but we must also use the digital world to get our message of Christ's good news out in all that we do as a congregation. This tension between older ways of ministry versus newer ways was acutely felt when the pandemic hit full force last March and you could not worship in person.

I recognize that this tension between the old and the new still exists and will persist for a while. I feel it internally everyday—every time I use my smart phone in fact (just ask my wife)! I am asking that we seek to understand that tension between the "old" analog world and the "new" digital world, rather than fight it. Here's my reason for asking. **As a congregation, we must move into the digital world.** A case in point is how we gather, store, and utilize your personal information, including a picture of you and your family. We put out a request last week for the kind of information you would see in a church picture directory. Rather than do so in relation to some company putting together a picture directory for us every three to four years (and you having to pay for a package of pictures in order to make that happen), we want to put all that information into a digital database that is password protected and only be viewed by a few folks (myself included). In other words, your personal identifiable information (PII) is protected and private—something that was stressed in my military career and that will be stressed at LLCUMC. I hope that you will send your information to Tonia if you haven't already so that we can fill the data fields this summer and be set to do great things when the pandemic restrictions allow, and perhaps have new ways of registering our attendance as well.

And for those who are uncomfortable moving into the digital world, I am right there with you, and we can do it together.

Pastor Tom



2020 ELECTRONICS / METALS RECYCLING

**SAVE
THE
DATE** SAT, SEPT 12th 9:00 AM - Noon
Mark your calendars!

Plans are underway for our annual recycling event. Like so many other things in 2020, our event this year "will be a bit different"! Due to policy changes of our usual participating organizations, the list of items we can accept this year for recycling will focus on electronics, electrical/battery powered items, and metal items.

Our recycling vendor will collect fees on some of the electronics and appliances.

More details coming soon



On Going: Les Case, Wade Davis, Roger Grable, Richard Fuerst, Winnie Fuerst, Harvey Geary, Michael Hatfield, Mike McMillin, Nancy Rowe, Family of Don Woods

Health and Healing: Phillip Rogers

Missions: Hillcrest Transitional Housing, Harvester's Food Bank, Lazarus Ministries, Tarsney Lake Families, Congregation de Mellier, Heart and Soul Children's Learning Center

***Please contact the office to update or add
prayer requests***

FESTIVAL OF SHARING

2020



573.474.3332

FestivalofSharing.org

festival@socket.net

TEAR OUT HERE

Through Festival of Sharing in Missouri, various Christian denominations and non-profit organizations have joined forces to respond to poverty, hunger and injustice throughout the world by providing funding and resource goods.

Lake Lotawana Community United Methodist Church has participated in this project for many years and this year we will be accepting donations to purchase "new" twin, full, queen and king size blankets or quilts to be given to agencies in Missouri. The blankets will be given to domestic violence victims, foster children, homeless individuals and victims of disasters

throughout the state. Donations will be accepted through August 9th. If you write a check, please write a separate one (do not include with your normal giving) and in the memo or on your giving envelope, please indicate "Blankets". Let's cover the State of Missouri with our love by providing blankets of warmth to those in need.



July 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
5 Services 8:00 & 10:00	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Services 8:00 & 10:00	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Services 8:00 & 10:00	20	21 Missions Meeting 7:00	22	23	24	25
26 Services 8:00 & 10:00	27	28 Church Council Meeting 7:00	29	30	31	