

Be Prepared

Last weekend I spent a few days out at Camp Naish Scout reservation with Stephen and the rest of his den of Webelo Ones. Even though the weather was miserable most of the time, it was a lot of fun. This camping trip brought back a lot of memories for me from my days as a Cub and Boy Scout. From the long hikes and not so clean bathroom facilities to the fun had swimming and hanging out with friends when we were supposed to be sleeping, it all felt very familiar.

One of the lessons I was reminded of while being back at camp was the Boy Scout motto to “Always Be Prepared.” There were a few times we found we were not completely prepared for the day. Typically, our lack of preparation would result in additional trips back to our campsite (about half a mile away from where most of the activities were) for needed supplies, making us late for activities and unable to fully participate. I have carried the lesson of preparedness with me from my time as a Cub Scout into many of the situations I face today.

With the idea of preparedness in mind, I would like to encourage you to join me this Sunday morning between worship services for our 5th Sunday Fellowship Breakfast and a special presentation. I will be sharing about the upcoming General Conference meeting the United Methodist Church will hold in February in St. Louis. This General Conference was called for the express purpose of making some decisions regarding the future direction of the denomination given the divide over homosexuality. There are a variety of proposals that have been submitted for discussion and approval at General Conference, and the purpose of our conversation Sunday will be to share an outline of each proposal and the potential impact each could have on the local church.

I’d like to share a little about how the United Methodist Church (UMC) works (or sometimes doesn’t). The UMC is a worldwide denomination with churches in the United States, Eastern and Western Europe, Africa and Asia (primarily the Philippines). Every four years representatives from across the global UMC meet to discuss issues and update church rules and denominational policies. This meeting is called the General Conference, and the General Conference is the only body authorized to speak on behalf of the UMC. There are twelve people from Missouri elected to represent the churches in our state – six are clergy and six are laity.

In 1972, the General Conference adopted a statement that reads: *“The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching. We affirm that God’s grace is available to all. We seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons (The UMC Book of Discipline, 2012 ed. P.111).”* In addition to this, the UMC has legislated that *“self-avowed, practicing homosexuals”* will not be ordained or otherwise appointed to serve as clergy in the UMC. Furthermore, the policy dictates that clergy of the UMC are not to preside over unions that celebrate same sex relationships, and United Methodist Churches are not to hold such ceremonies on their property.

In recent years, there has been a movement to reduce or remove these provisions from our church laws in order to better minister to the LGTB community. Some of our clergy have presided at same-sex weddings. Some of the Conferences (regional authorities) have begun appointing and ordaining openly homosexual pastors and some closeted clergy have revealed their sexual identity to their congregations. The UMC response to this movement has been inconsistent. Some conferences actively enforce church policy, including suspending pastors who perform same-sex unions or are self-avowed practicing homosexuals. Other conferences embrace and support pastors who perform same-sex unions or are self-avowed practicing homosexuals. These acts of civil disobedience and lack of uniformity across the denomination have increased tensions to the point that at the last General Conference (held in 2016) there were calls for a denominational split. This upcoming meeting is a response to those calls and an effort to either avoid such a split or to split the denomination in an amicable way.

Again, I encourage you to join us Sunday morning as I share a little more about the proposals that will be presented to the General Conference and what it will mean for us. Beyond attending this meeting, I ask you to begin or continue to hold our denomination and all the representatives who will gather from across the world to discuss this issue in your prayers. As we bathe this conversation in prayer, we know that God will help us be prepared for whatever the future may hold.

Thank you for the honor of being your pastor and being in ministry to God and our community.

Blessings,
Chris



July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Services 8 & 10	2	3	4 Happy 4th of July!	5	6	7
8 Services 8 & 10 am VBS 4:30	9 VBS 6-8:30	10 Association Meeting 7:30 VBS 6-8:30	11 Tarsney Lunch 12:00 VBS 6-8:30	12 VBS 6-8:30	13	14
15 Services 8 & 10	16 PPR Meeting 7:00	17 Missions Meeting 7:00	18 Be an Angel 10 Tarsney 12:00 Yoga 6:15	19 China Painting 9:00	20	21
22 Services 8 & 10	23 Worship Team 7:00	24 Church Council 7:00	25 Tarsney 12 Yoga 6:15	26	27	28
29 Services 8 & 10 am Potluck 9:00	30	31				

Steve Bee
 Jeremy Brooks
 Keith Brunsmann
 Les Case
 Donna Casey
 Ron Clarke
 Charlene Davis
 Bill Green
 Michael Hatfield
 Warren Hassler
 John Hilton
 Edie & Gary Ken
 Morgan (Hatfield)
 Ryan Neighbors
 David Parrish
 Kris Peterson
 Judy Peterson
 Carl Pinkerton
 Steve Raymond
 Rosemary Robinson
 Norma Silvain
 Duane/Peggy Taylor
 David Tackett
 Elaine West
 Mitch Williams
 Wilma Williams
 Joe Virgalla



Families of Tarsney
 Lake

Congregation de
 Mellier

Heart and Soul
 Children's Christian
 Learning Center

All Ministries
 of the Church



June through August: Enjoy fellowship with our young friends at Tarsney Lakes or help prepare food for the Wednesday lunches. Contact Jerri at jerri152@comcast.net

Sunday, July 29 8:45 -10:00: All-Church Fellowship and Missions Highlights Breakfast. Enjoy a fantastic meal with your church family and learn about important information discussed at Annual Conference

July – August 5: Monetary donations are being collected to purchase school supplies for the Tarsney Lake children. Make checks payable to LLCUMC with "Tarsney School Supplies" in the memo line

Thursday, August 2 12:50 – 4:00: Assist clients at Lee's Summit Social Services *Back 2 School* activity. To sign up, contact Alice at acfuerst@netscape.net **NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Sunday, August 12 5:00 – 6:00: Join the potluck picnic with Tarsney Lakes residents. Fried chicken will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert and a chair. I will be on the east shore of the Tarsney Lake. We will be distributing school supplies to Tarsney Lake kids.

August 19 – September 9: Monetary donations will be collected to purchase supplies for Personal Hygiene Packs to be donated to the annual Missouri Festival of Sharing. Make checks payable to LLCUMC with "Festival of Sharing" in the memo line

Saturday, September 8 9:00 – 12:00: Recycling Extravaganza. Volunteers needed 8:00 – 12:30. See www.llcumc.org for further information



Time for School *Supplies*

"Back-to-School" is just around the corner and LLCUMC would like to help nineteen local students start the year off well-prepared. Twelve Kindergarten through 6th Graders will receive new backpacks filled with their required school supplies. Seven Middle/High School students will receive new backpacks and gift cards for purchasing their supplies.

The Mission/Outreach Committee is requesting monetary donations to purchase backpacks, school supplies and gift cards. With an estimated average cost of \$50 per student, nearly \$1000 is needed to fulfill this mission.

Please write your check to LLCUMC with "Tarsney School Supplies" in the memo and place into our collection plate. Donations will be collected through August 5th.

Thank You for your generous participation!

Questions? Contact Jerry Metcalfe 816-449-0651 or
816-774-8279 or jerry152@comcast.net

Summer Picnic Program

The Summer Picnic Program with our neighbors at the Tarsney Lake area is enjoying great success as LLCUMC volunteers share a hot lunch and visit with several families. Milk and bread have been added to the weekly Free Mini Market which is keeping the resident's pantries well stocked with a great variety of nutritious foods. In addition to food and fellowship, the sharing of God's love has resulted in growing positive relationships both within and beyond the neighborhood.

REMAINING PICNICS: Wednesdays July 25, August 1 & 8

Meals shared: 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

With your generous contributions, there is a wonderful supply of non-perishable items for the remaining weeks of the Mini Market. As "Back to School" time is quickly approaching, the Mission/Outreach Committee is requesting **monetary donations** to purchase backpacks, school supplies and gift cards to distribute to nineteen local students. Please write your check to LLCUMC with "Tarsney School Supplies" in the memo and place into our collection plate. Donations will be collected through August 5th.

Supplies will be distributed at August 8th and 12th picnics.

Thank you for your continued support!

Save the Date **Sunday August 12th**
5:00 p.m. @ the
main Tarsney Lake

All are invited to attend the End-of-Summer Picnic. A fried chicken dinner will be provided. Please bring a lawn chair.

Questions? Contact Jerry Metcalfe: 816-449-0651 or 816-774-8279

or jerry152@comcast.net

Charles Kitley

Student Loan Applications

are due in the church office

by Thursday August 2, 2018

Church office hours are Monday– Thursday

7:00 am– 12:00 pm



Mark your calendar – 9:00 a.m. Sunday, July 29

Important changes may be occurring in the future for the United Methodist churches. Pastor Chris attended the Missouri Methodist Annual Conference in June and learned some of the details. He will share this information with us at a breakfast in Fellowship Hall (church basement) after the early church service on Sunday, July 29. Everyone is invited to attend and learn. This breakfast is planned between the worship services to make attendance easier for everyone. If you would like to bring food to share, please do so. Suggested foods include breakfast casseroles, fruits, breads, etc.

NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Lee's Summit Social Services needs our help with their "Back 2 School" school supply distribution. Meet the clients and work one-on-one with them to select new backpacks, school supplies, and clothing (if needed).

Thursday, August 2 12:50 – 4:00

Lee's Summit Social Services

108 SE 4th Street, downtown Lee's Summit

