

Today is Human Relations Day

Turn on the news or drive around the outskirts of your town and you will find what Jesus called “the least of these.” Those living in the margins of society, struggling to survive. People like:

- An immigrant teenager in Texas’ poorest county, being recruited by a local gang
- A father struggling for sobriety in Little Rock, Arkansas
- An Oklahoma woman recently released from incarceration looking for work

Over and over Jesus served people like this, embracing them, and that’s what we want to model as the people of The United Methodist Church. To continue the ministry of Jesus, Human Relations Day has been established as a Special Sunday that calls all of our churches to participate in helping all God’s children to realize their potential. Please see the bulletin insert for more information, and use that envelope to place your donation in today’s offering plate.

Youth Parent Meeting Today at 12:15 PM

Please plan to attend the Youth Parent Meeting immediately following worship today in the Fellowship Hall. We will share/present a tentative draft on the Winter/Spring Youth Calendar and gather your thoughts and input. At least one parent per family is requested to attend. Thank you!

Kingdom Kids Fellowship Meets TODAY

Sunday, January 15, from 4:00pm to 5:00pm, children age 4 through Grade 5 are invited to meet in the 4th and 5th grade Sunday school classroom. We will read the Bible, sing, pray, make a craft and have lots of fun!

Youth Bible Studies in January

Our Youth began a new Bible Study entitled, “Starting to Go Where God Wants You to Be” by Doug Fields and Brett Eastman on January 11. This study will help our young people gain a better understanding of God’s will and building community. The study takes place on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30pm.

On Sunday evening, January 15, the Youth will begin a new Bible study entitled, “Pillars of Character.” This study takes place after dinner from 5:30-7:00pm.

Outreach Smocking Class Set for January 27

Outreach has scheduled a Smocking Class for Friday, January 27 in the Fellowship Hall from 10:00am to 12:00 Noon. Patricia Hollowell will lead this class. Everyone is welcome!

Subs and Strategies Planned for the BLG on January 24

Plans are underway for the BLG 2017 schedule of events. First up is the “Subs and Strategies” event which will take place Tuesday, January 24 at 12:00 Noon in the Fellowship Hall. Make plans to join the BLG for an afternoon of fun and games. The day will feature delicious sub sandwiches from Subway and a variety of challenging games to test your skills. Other outings tentatively being planned are lunch at the Meadow Restaurant on Thursday, February 23, and Movie Day in March. Hope to see you here!

The BLG plans an event for each month of the year. We invite and welcome everyone to participate! See Sharon Hundley, Huntsie Strickland, or contact the church office at 910-892-2339 for more details.

UMW Brunswick Stew Fundraiser is Sunday, January 29

The UMW Brunswick Stew Take-Out Sale is planned for Sunday, January 29 at 12:15pm after worship. The price is \$10.00 per quart. You can take a quart home for lunch and put an extra quart or two in the freezer for later in the winter. Thank you for your support of the United Methodist Women!

Youth “Souper Bowl of Caring” Fundraiser February 5



tacklehunger.org

Since 1990, young people have been leading the charge and inspiring others to collect dollars and food weeks leading up to the Big Game. Teaming up with local partners, these groups give 100% of donations to local charities, changing the nation's largest weekend of football into the largest weekend of caring.

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 5, the youth will be participating in the “Souper Bowl of Caring” Fundraiser. Through this mission, the youth will raise money to help shelter the homeless, feed to the hungry, and show compassion to those in need. We will have “soup pots” available for donations after worship as you are leaving on February 5. Be part of this movement that is sharing God’s love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday!

Response to the Word from Isaiah 49 and Psalm 40

TFWS 2051 "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry"

Sing stanza 1

One: Even before you were born, I have been with you. My love for you is beyond time.

All: Fill us with your love. Equip us for your work.

Sing stanzas 2 and 3

One: I have given you a song of praise. I will teach you a new melody.

All: Fill us with your music. Equip us to sing your harmonies.

Sing stanzas 4 and 5

One: You are my faithful servants. I offer you all that you need to do the work given you.

All: Fill us with your Spirit. Equip us to share your love with the world.

Sing stanzas 6 and 7

One: Even before you were born, I have been with you. My love for you is beyond time.

All: Fill us with your light. Equip us to become beacons of your salvation.

Bookworms

We are launching a Divine Street Book Club! "Bookworms" will meet the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Visioning Center at 12:00 Noon. Below are our plans for the first two books.

Date to Discuss: 02/22

"Balcony People" by Joyce Landorf Heatherley

Some people are in the "balcony" of your life, cheering you on, energizing you with their affirmation. Others are in your "basement" doing exactly the opposite. This book is about being a "balcony person." Pastor Beth recommends this book for EVERYONE... especially: those interested in the power and benefits of positive attitudes

Date to Discuss: 03/22

"The Circle Maker" by Mark Batterson

"Drawing prayer circles around our dreams isn't just a mechanism whereby we accomplish great things for God. It's a mechanism whereby God accomplishes great things in us." The Circle Maker: Praying Circles Around Your Biggest Dreams and Greatest Fears explores inspiring stories from the author's own experiences as a circle maker. Pastor Beth recommends this book for EVERYONE... especially: those who desire to enhance their personal prayer life

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT BOOKWORMS

Before the discussion date:

- ✓ Obtain your own copy of the book.
- ✓ Read, make notes, mark pages, and gather your thoughts to share with the group.

On the discussion date:

- ✓ Bring your own lunch. Feel free to share your dessert with the pastors.
- ✓ Be ready to discuss the thoughts and ideas you discovered while reading this month's book.
- ✓ Don't forget to bring your copy of the book.
- ✓ If you haven't read the book, you are still welcome to come and listen to the discussion.

During the discussion:

- ✓ It is ok to disagree.
- ✓ Please respect the person who is speaking.
- ✓ Keep on topic, but feel free to introduce information that is relevant to the discussion (historical facts, bio details, book background, related authors or topics).
- ✓ Personal stories are welcome... you have exactly two minutes to tell yours.
- ✓ If you cite copyrighted material, please appropriately reference your source. Also, please don't inappropriately post or distribute copyrighted material. (We love Facebook and making copies, but let's be sure to follow the legal stuff!)