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### Light on the Mountain Awards 2019

Thank you to all who participated in making Light on the Mountain a wonderful success this year. It takes a large number of volunteers and hours and hours of work to make this special event happen, and we are grateful for each and every one of you! More Pictures will be available on the church's Facebook page soon!



### Upcoming Meetings at Monte Sano United Methodist Church

Church Council	March 10 at 1:00pm in the Choir Room
Pastor Parish Relations Committee	March 12 at 6:00pm in the Library
Finance Committee	March 12 at 7:00pm in the Library
Kitchen Committee	March 14 at 10:30am in the Library
Trustees Committee	March 20 at 6:30pm in the Library

*These are scheduled meeting times, but occasionally meetings must be rescheduled due to conflicts, weather, or holidays.*

*Please call the church office to confirm the time and date of the meeting.*

### Fellowship Opportunities

#### Wednesday Night Dinners in the Fellowship Hall

**RSVP in worship or call the church office by noon on Tuesday.**

**5:30pm-6:30pm**

- March 6: Red Beans & Rice with Sausage, and Cornbread
- March 13: Corned Beef Casserole, roasted potatoes, Irish Soda Bread, and Mixed Vegetables
- March 20: Lemon Chicken, Noodles, Peas, Mega Salad, and Bread
- March 27: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, and Salad

#### Retired Mountaineers in the Youth Room

**10:00am-1:00pm**

- March 6
- March 13
- March 20
- March 27

#### TABLE

- March 9
- March 23

# Newsletter

March 2019



### From the Pastor



On February 26, a diverse group of over 30 leaders in our church family were invited to share dreams, ideas, and opinions with the purpose of creating a new mission statement for Monte Sano United Methodist Church. Our great hope is that this mission statement will help us to develop a strong sense of purpose for our wonderfully unique and diverse congregation. It will also help us to focus on what we do and why we do it and how we can better focus our resources around our mission!

As we gathered around tables, in the Fellowship Hall, each participant was asked to share how they came to Monte Sano UMC and why they stayed. The stories we heard were varied and wonderful. Some made us laugh and others brought us to tears. These stories helped prepare us for the questions that each table would answer that morning:

- What do you like about our church?
- What makes our church unique?
- What does our church do with excellence?
- Who is our primary audience and who do we serve well?

We took the answers to these questions and consolidated the five most popular answers, then we asked the participants to vote for their top three. The words that were most often used to describe the church were *affirming, accepting, welcoming, service, missions, sincerity and authenticity*. The group also lifted up our caring ministries, missions, and hospitality as ministries we do with excellence.

We took this information and began crafting a mission statement that we unanimously agreed would be a working draft of our new mission together as a church:

**Monte Sano United Methodist Church welcomes all to grow in love and faith through Christ.**

Over the next several months we will see if there are any additions or changes that need to be made before we formally adopt a mission statement at Church Council.

Monte Sano  
United Methodist Church  
**WELCOMES**

**ALL**  
to **GROW** in  
**LOVE & FAITH**  
through **Christ**

### Celebrations



**The Baptism of Emma Kathryn Henke**

**Daughter of Steven and Kimberly Henke and sister to Samuel**

**Sunday, March 17 at the 9:00am Service**



**Disability Ministries Valentine's Day Party at 305 8th Street**

**Ministry Updates**



**Missions: UMCOR Sunday, March 31**

Our generous gifts on UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sunday help cover the agency's administrative costs so UMCOR can continue to guarantee that 100% of all other donations go toward specific relief projects. Any time you donate to a specific UMCOR project, 100% of your donation goes to that project!

Unlike other benevolent causes, UMCOR receives no funds from the regular United Methodist Church budget. We cannot all be present when disaster strikes. However, on March 31, we can equip others to go. Our congregation will join thousands of people around the world by participating in The United Methodist Church's special UMCOR Sunday Offering to help cover administrative costs. For more than 75 years, UMCOR has provided disaster relief, often long after others have left the scene. UMCOR has helped rebuild after hurricanes and earthquakes, aided refugees, and confront the crippling challenges of world hunger and poverty. But UMCOR simply cannot do it without us! Please prayerfully consider how God would have you cheerfully and generously show God's love around the world with your special donation on March 31.

**Children's Ministry**

Confirmation Classes began on February 24, but it's not too late for your 5th, 6th, or 7th Grader to join us! We meet Sunday afternoons from 4:00pm until 5:30pm in the Administration and Youth Building. We will meet every Sunday except for March 3, March 17 (Spring Break), and April 21 (Easter). Confirmation Sunday will be May 5.

**Youth Ministry**

*Laser Tag at Insanity in Madison*

Seven youth and four "adults" joined us for laser tag in Madison on February 17. The reigning champions of the event were Dexter Strong and Pastor John Mullaney.

*Youth Bowling Night on Sunday, March 24.*

Youth will meet at Stars & Strikes off of University at 5:30pm. Parents pick up students at 7:00pm. The cost will be around \$15 with additional money needed for food and drinks.

**Regular Youth Schedule:**

*Wednesdays:*

- Meet at Starbucks on Governors at 3:30pm.
- Tutor at the Boys & Girls Club from 4:00-5:00pm
- Return to the church for dinner and Youth.
- Youth ends at 7:00pm

*Sundays:*

- Youth Sunday School at 10:00am
- Youth Sunday in the Youth Room from 5:30-7:00pm  
Dinner Provided.

**Results of the Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church**

A special session of the General Conference was held in St. Louis, MO from February 23-26. The purpose of this gathering of 864 clergy and lay delegates from over 100 countries was to examine paragraphs in our church doctrine related to human sexuality and the inclusion of LGBTQ persons. Three different plans were presented before the Conference, with a fourth added during the gathering. The three plans were: The One Church Plan (the majority of the Council of Bishops presented this as the plan they recommended), The Traditional Plan, and the Connectional Conference Plan. The Simple Plan was added at General Conference.

The General Conference began with a day of prayer, which was followed by two days of motions, petitions, amendments, and the votes on what plans would be presented for the final vote on Tuesday, February 26. The Traditional Plan was the only plan that was approved for a vote on February 26. The One Church Plan, the Connectional Conference Plan, and the Simple Plan all failed to garner enough votes to be voted on Tuesday. The One Church Plan was brought back as minority report on Tuesday, but once more failed to garner enough votes to move forward. Late in the day, after multiple amendments and points of order, the General Conference voted on and passed the Traditional Plan. The vote was 438 to 384 and needed only a simple majority (51%) of the vote to pass.

How will this affect Monte Sano UMC? By and large, it won't impact us at all. The language surrounding LGBTQ people in our doctrine will remain the same as it has been for the last 40 years. Our denomination does not ordain gay clergy and our churches and clergy cannot host or officiate same sex weddings. The impact will be felt most keenly by two groups: 1. LGBTQ persons 2. Pastors who feel God calls all people, regardless of sexual orientation, into the life and ministry of a fully inclusive church. For LGBTQ persons this is a very painful decision that furthers feelings of exclusion. For inclusive/affirming pastors, this decision makes civil disobedience next to impossible because the plan strengthened punishments for clergy who would act against the UMC's doctrine.

Some elements of the traditional plan were ruled unconstitutional by the church's Judicial Council. How this impacts the whole Traditional Plan will be revealed in April. For now, our work is to pray for our denomination and for our brothers and sisters in Christ hurt by these decisions.



**Worship**

**Ash Wednesday: March 6, 2019 at 6:30pm**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. The Lenten Season consists of the 40 days before Easter, which are often marked with repentance, fasting, and the adoption of spiritual disciplines. The Ash Wednesday worship service is a time to reflect upon our mortality and our need for Christ. It concludes with the imposition of the ashes on the foreheads of the congregation.

**CHANGE: Seven Words for Lent**

In March, we will begin our Lenten Sermon Series, "CHANGE: Seven Words of Lent." In this series, we will be exploring seven key words that help us to promote change in our lives and in our faith. YES, NO, THANKS, ENOUGH, HELP, SORRY, and WOW. If you've been hoping to make some changes in your life, this is the series for you!

March 10

'YES'- 2 Corinthians 1:19

March 17

'NO'-Psalm 78:70-72, 86:11

March 24

'THANKS'- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

March 31

'ENOUGH'- Exodus 20:9-10

April 7

'HELP'- Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

April 14 (Palm Sunday)

'SORRY'- Matthew 21:1-11

April 12 (Easter Sunday)

'WOW'- John 20:1-18



**HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

- Palm Sunday Services-April 14 at 9:00am and 11:00am Worship Services
- Maundy Thursday Worship Service-April 18 at 6:00pm
- Good Friday Drum Circle-April 19 from Noon until 3:00pm
- Easter Services**
- Community Easter Sunrise Service-April 21 at 6:30am at the amphitheater in Monte Sano State Park
- Easter Sunday Services-April 21 at 9:00am and 11:00am Worship Services

**Prayer List**

- Scott Beck
- Sara Burcham
- Natalie DeWitt
- David Guess
- Neal Jackson
- Carol Lamb
- Jean Lovelace
- Megan Luerus
- Keith Masterson
- Dan Meadows
- Cami Miller
- Tera Mosburger
- Jen Newsome
- Carolyn Parkin
- Andre Rivamonte
- Marsha Sanders
- Cheryl Clayter
- Walt & Sue Terry
- Jennifer Triola
- Wendy Watson
- Ben West

**Financial Update**

**MONTHLY**

February 2019 (as of Sunday, February 24, 2019)

Income	Expenditures
29,930.62	February Numbers not available at time of publication

**YEAR TO DATE**

Income	Expenditures
82,259.84	February Numbers not available at time of publication \$31,604 (January 2019 Expenditures)

**INDEBTEDNESS**

Original Debt Incurred for the New Building: \$2.8 Million  
Current Indebtedness: \$950,000  
Additional Debt Reduction Paid Toward Principal Above Monthly Payment: \$70.00

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

	9:00am Service	11:00am Service	Total
February 3:	111	77	188
February 10:	83	66	149
February 17:	85	68	153
February 24:	101	68	169