



MONTHLY

September 2024

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCHUNITED METHODIST CHURCHUNITED METHODIST CHURCHUNITED METHODIST CHURCHUNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Big news! You are invited!

Donut even think about missing this!



Sunday School Kick Off
September 8th 9:00 am
Sunday School Starts at 9:30
Breakfast, Coffee, Orange Juice
Invite friends!

New Bible Study beginning Tuesday, September 24th
 According to Rev. Fleming Rutledge, Galatians is "the most radical piece of writing in human history, and there is not likely to be any competition for the title until Judgment Day."

Galatians

Tuesday the 24th @ 7:00 pm for Men and Sunday the 29th @ 6:30 pm for all

From the Pastor

Dear ones,

Now that the presidential election conventions have taken place, election season is in full swing and we will begin to see more and more TV commercials and social media memes clogging the visual world in order to offer us new things to be offended or enraged by. It will be made clear to us that both parties intend to choke the very life out of some subset of our population. The sphere of experience will be filled with platitudes intended to create an emotional reaction in us. They will tend to be short, seemingly incontrovertible, and intended to settle a matter once and for all.



Catering to the offended and the polarized has become a lucrative business in our culture. Some politicians (both parties), TV news producers, new editors, online influencers, sign makers, and even some pastors are using offense and polarization to fuel their efforts to enrich and empower themselves (I try hard not to do this). For instance, Etsy is selling signs intended to signal that the purchaser's family most definitely occupies the higher ground when it comes to moral virtue. The strange thing is, Etsy is selling completely opposite signs that are both for that same purpose: to signal a greater and undebatable morality. Ironically, one sign uses platitudes while the other decries the use of moral platitudes with condescending language also meant to offend and polarize in a longer sentence that has effectively become a moral platitude. Clearly, Etsy and the Etsy stores intend to capitalize on our division.

Perhaps we should consider that many people are profiting from the "platitudinous offense industry" (I put it in quotation marks because I don't know if it is a real industry) and have a vested interest in keeping us offended and outraged. The practice of creating offense to drive a response has been on display in pithy one liners meant to shame anyone who disagrees. I found both conventions to be filled with ridiculous examples of this. Do we really want to be driven by simplistic phrases intended to either offend us, or to give us ways to virtue signal our higher moral status? Would it not be better to have substantial, meaningful, even hard discussions of the problems that we are all facing? This is the purpose of a discernment process.

Watching the current political landscape makes me think of two people recruiting others to join them on their respective ends of a boat while never realizing that they are in the same boat, or that the rocks have torn holes in the boat's hull. If the two on either end simply keep spouting "my truth" in order to recruit people to their supposedly morally superior side of the boat (while ignoring the very real holes gushing water into the air) the boat fill with the cold water of real truth; the boat will go down, and it will take all of us with it.

Unfortunately, I feel that much of the discussion in The United Methodist Church concerning the authority of Scripture (both the Old and New Testaments) for the modern church has looked like the scenario above. So, what can we do? There is advice in the 4th Chapter of the Epistle to the Ephesians that may be helpful to us (there are snippets quoted below). I encourage you to read the entirety of Eph 4:2-31.

To a group of baptized followers of Jesus Christ like us, Paul writes:

² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

It seems to me that Paul's advice does not allow for "in your face" sorts of platitudes or yard signs meant to denigrate the virtue or intellectual abilities of our neighbors. I can't imagine how we could apply Paul's advice to our use of social media and then continue to share simplistic "gotcha" memes with a good ole smug "that showed them." I'm sure you have all seen those circulating. It is crucial for our witness that we remember that our commitment to following Jesus and to make disciples of Jesus must be allowed to spill over into every part of our lives. There is no such thing as a religious/spiritual life that is separate from daily life.

It is nonsense to say that the Church of Jesus Christ should not be concerned with political things. After all, any discernment about the Kingdom of God is necessarily political, and all of creation is under the Lordship of Christ. The Church must address political things because the Church sees each person as someone for whom Christ died. Surely we should see each human being differently than a culture filled with ideologues hell-bent on cancelling and destroying alternate viewpoints to their own.

That said, we pray:

Eternal and merciful God, give to us the enabling grace that will equip us to strive to live out Paul's vision for complex conversations about matters of both faith and politics; not as adversaries to one another, but as one body— as the Body of Christ. Help us to be truthful with one another and to seek to understand how the theological and political issues we must address together affect each one of us differently. Help us to be charitable toward one another, that real truth may be spoken in the love of Christ. Guard us against assuming or pretending that our preferences are the only possible answer. Work in us through the Holy Spirit that we might continually be conformed to the image of Christ. And in the end, may it be that our Lord Jesus Christ was glorified by our work together. For, it is in his name that we pray. Amen.

Dear ones, I have been proud of the way you all have engaged one another in our meetings. I believe that our common faith in Jesus Christ, and the grace of the Holy Spirit at work in us, will allow us to continue to have productive conversations. Let us, then, resolve to fix our eyes, faith, and heart on imitating our King.

FRASER DAVIS



Flower Calendar for 2025
The yellow days are available
for Sign-up!

January	5	12	19	26	
February	2	9	16	23	
March	2	9	16	23	30
April	6	13	20	27	
May	4	11	18	25	
June	1	8	15	22	29
July	6	13	20	27	
August	3	10	17	24	31
September	7	14	21	28	
October	5	12	19	26	
November	2	9	16	23	30
December	7	14	21	28	

Date	Worship Attendance
July 28	9:30 am Sunday School— 35 Worship 10:30 am — 82
Aug 4	9:30 am Sunday School—39 Worship 10:30 am — 86
Aug 11	9:30 am Sunday School—38 Worship 10:30 am — 87
Aug 18	9:30 am Sunday School— 35 Worship 10:30 am — 80
Aug 25	9:30 am Sunday School— 39 Worship 10:30 am — 86

Starting this fall... A *laity-led* **Grief Support** group is being formed for those in our church. Stephen Ministers and others interested in helping for those of us seeking *a safe place to talk* about the challenges of losing a loved one. Once the group is off the ground, we can invite pastors and others to provide a short program about what they offer for those going through the *difficult times up to and following loss*. As anyone who's experienced it, there is no way or time limit to grieving. Contact Pat Terry, 803-460-8106, or the church office, 803-435-8115, to help or if you have any questions about this program.

Our Prayer List Please remember the people below in your prayers.

This list is in continuous rotation, if you do not see your loved one on this list please call the church office and update us on their health.

Joe Brewer	Ann Cutter	Howard King	Karen Myers
Frank & Marie Brunson	Phyllis Dickason	Don Lee	Neal Onderlinde
Chuck Buddin	Tony Dubose	John Lesemann	Ted Putnam
Jake Buddin	Elisa Furse	Rick Lindsey	Tim Richburg
Paul Butler	Kristen Helms	Ken Lovorn	Ted Tucker
Bob Clark	Lou Holladay	Grey Matthews	Duane Wiggins
Mary Cramer		Clint Michaelson	John Willis

Please remember to Pray for our members who are living away from home, in the **military**, or who have limited mobility:

Camrien Barrett	June Davis	Wilson Lepp
Betty Black	Liz Denny	Neal Mahoney
Joyce Bowers	Jared Dube	Joan Odom
Isabelle Brown	William (Artie) Gamble	Willie Sabb
Dedee Clark	Woody Haynes	Jean Schmelzle
Rosella Daniels	Margaret Lee	Cliff Toner

September

9/4 Penny Windham
 9/9 Bo King, Cathy Kennedy, Kelli Brunson
 9/11 Robin Page, Elizabeth Brock
 9/12 Mickey Sexton
 9/13 Ellen McFaddin, Elizabeth Denny, Patrick Burns
 9/14 Ann Alderman, Cindy McInnis, JoAnn Eaddy
 9/15 Genie Hodge



9/17 Barbara Flowers, Richard Anderson
 9/20 Sue Jordan
 9/23 Joe Witt
 9/24 Laura Brogdon
 9/26 Arthur B. Jordan, Mary Michael Walker, Katherine Burns
 9/27 Linda Younts
 9/30 Buck Sprott

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3:30 pm Robotics 4:40 pm Jr. Youth 5:30 pm UMYF	2 Church Office Closed 	3 8-12 MUMC Day School	4 8-12 MUMC Day School 3:00 pm CIA 6:30 pm Choir	5 8-12 MUMC Day School 5:30 Pilot Club	6 8-12 MUMC Day School	7
9:00 am Sunday School Kick Off Epworth Work Day Offering 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	9 8-12 MUMC Day School 10:00 am Prayer Team 6:30 pm United Methodist Men's Supper	10 8-12 MUMC Day School	11 8-12 MUMC Day School 3:00 pm CIA 6:00 pm Trustee Com. 6:30 pm Choir	12 8-12 MUMC Day School 2:00 pm Jane Craft	13 8-12 MUMC Day School	14 Fellowship Hall Rented
15 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3:30 pm Robotics 4:40 pm Jr. Youth 5:30 pm UMYF	16 8-12 MUMC Day School 10:00 am Prayer Team 5:30 Myrtle Strange Circle Covered Dish	17 8-12 MUMC Day School OCC Activity Day	18 8-12 MUMC Day School 3:00 pm CIA 6:00 Finance Com. 6:30 pm Choir	19 8-12 MUMC Day School	20 8-12 MUMC Day School	21
22 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3:30 pm Robotics 4:40 pm Jr. Youth 5:30 pm UMYF	23 8-12 MUMC Day School 10:00 am Prayer Team AARP Car Fit	24 8-12 MUMC Day School 6:00 pm Stephen Mins. 7:00 pm Galatians (Men)	25 8-12 MUMC Day School 3:00 pm CIA 6:30 pm Choir	26 8-12 MUMC Day School	27 8-12 MUMC Day School	28
29 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3:30 pm Robotics 4:40 pm Jr. Youth 5:30 pm UMYF 6:30 pm Galatians Bible Study	30 8-12 MUMC Day School 10:00 am Prayer Team					



9/3 Joe & Jean Witt
 9/7 Cecil & Debbie Rowell
 9/8 Mike & Pat Terry
 9/14 Jay & Jessica Weinberg
 9/30 Tommy & Jane Benton



Thank you Monika for a very nice Witness Wednesday.

Mark your Calendars!

October 30th at 6:30 PM: Karla Beasley

January 29th at 6:30 PM: Bert Ingram

April 30th at 6:30 PM: Rachel Gainey

July 25th at 6:30 PM: Kimbo Richardson

Memorial Gifts:

Bill Cory

Given by:
 Billy & Betty Coffey
 Jim Black
 Rock & Vicki Ouzts
 Sharon Cramer
 Sandra Brewer
 The Chancel Choir

Colleen Kennedy

Given by:
 Billy & Betty Coffey
 Garson Taylor
 Rock & Vicki Ouzts
 Susan Elmore
 Sharon Cramer
 Annette Browder
 Sandra Brewer
 Jarma Hewitt
 Nancy & Lloyd Roberson
 Betty Cole
 Prothro Chevrolet
 Linda & Sam Gamble
 Artie & Beverly Felder

Bill Cummins

Given by:
 Rock & Vicki Ouzts

Bettye Johnson

Given by:
 Harriet & Jimmy Holladay

Steve Brunson

Given by:
 Lauri & Fuzzy Furse
 Garson Taylor

Bill Flynt

Given By:
 Lauri & Fuzzy Furse
 Ann Alderman
 Garson Taylor

Kay Kirkpatrick

Given by:
 Randy & Sarah Smith

Clyde Bryce

Given by:
 Stan & Lu Nickell

Howard Bagnal

Given by:
 Garson Taylor

Dinky Russell

Given by:
 Garson Taylor

Jennie DuRant

Given by:
 Garson Taylor

Honorarium Gifts:

PJ & Ken Lovorn
 Given by:
 Jane & Tommy Benton

2024		Tithes & Offering	
Needed Each Week	\$ 9,794.00		
	Received Weekly		
July 28	\$ 5,285.00		
Aug 4	\$ 9,096.68		
Aug 11	\$ 5,648.24		
Aug 18	\$ 12,004.24		
Aug 25	\$ 7,546.48		
Total Received	\$ 39,580.64		
Needed Year to Date			\$ 332,996.00
Total Received YTD			\$ 269,523.19
Overage or (Deficit)			\$ (63,472.81)



EPWORTH MOMENT: OPEN DOORS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED. Epworth Children's Home goes above and beyond providing food and shelter for children who have experienced a rough start in life. It provides children with tutoring, counseling, health care, recreation, and the spiritual formation they need to heal and gain a sense of belonging. Through the ministry of Epworth Children's Home, we open our doors to these children, surround them with comprehensive care and provide them with the opportunity to transform their lives. On Sunday, September 8th our congregation will stand with Epworth to break the cycle of abuse, neglect, and shame through our collection of the Annual Epworth Work Day Offering. Without the support of churches like ours, Epworth could not provide transformational care for children in need. We invite you to give generously to the children who are served by Epworth. For more information, please visit Epworth at www.epworthchildrenshome.org.

*Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.
They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23)*

EVERY MORNING WE SEE GOD'S MERCY

Dear friends, Ecuador is going through difficult times with criminal violence, especially in the coastal areas of the country, but in recent months, thank the Lord, this situation is reducing its negative impact. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers. Even amid extreme difficulties and conflicts, throughout history, God has used the church to continue its mission faithfully to show God's love in local communities and worldwide. Despite our inner conflicts, God sees us as sons and daughters and still trusts us with God's mission. History reminds us that the Lord's mercy is renewed every morning. Remembering the presence of God's holy spirit at Pentecost, and the "strangely warmed" heart of John Wesley, we see how the Lord's mercy and strength have remained faithful throughout history. We feel powerfully his hope and mercy in Ecuador, we feel it through the passion for mission lived among our Methodist Churches. Even amidst very adverse conditions, the church continues to grow, reaching new communities. We see how the Lord uses pastors and local leaders to continue expanding the Kingdom of God. Every day we see the living witness of the proclamation of the abundant life that brings us the Gospel of our Lord and Redeemer Jesus Christ, touching and transforming lives of hundreds. We thank God for the renewal and joy that is felt in the church in Ecuador. At the beginning of April, we had a national encounter of worship teams from Ecuador with the visit of team from the USA, was wonderful to see more than 70 leaders returned to their churches with joy and passion to continue strengthening their talents for the Glory of God. On the last Sunday of April, Bishop Pilatuña was consecrating a woman pastor from the Otavalo community who concluded her studies in the seminary while serving her church with her husband. This is a new Methodist congregation that started work around 13 years ago. On this same day, after consecrating the pastor, the Bishop was blessing and praying with the Congregation, standing on land that has been purchased for the construction of their own temple. We give Glory to God. On May 21, another great joy filled our hearts, after much work and searching, some documents were finally signed in the process of purchase a piece of land for the Methodist Church in El Prado. The ministry in El Prado began work 12 years ago and today we give thanks to God, because this church will now have a safe place to build and continue serving more than hundred children and families in the communities in the middle of these beautiful mountains of Ecuador. Like these joyful new churches, in these last several years the church in Ecuador has had a similar process of blessing and consolidation of new congregations, blessings of new land and beginning the construction of facilities for 5 new congregations - 3 in the Coastal District and 2 in the Sierra District (both mentioned above). God's mercy is great. Hallelujah! God's mission is blessed by years of tireless work by pastors, women and men, and lay leaders of churches in Ecuador; God's mission is blessed by the offerings, time, and labor donated by local Ecuadorian churches, and by the support and accompaniment of churches in the USA; churches and people like you. Thank you for being part of God's mission in Ecuador. We invite you to continue to pray for Ecuador, and to pray for all the churches and the church leadership; we invite you to visit and work side by side with these new and old congregations, strengthening the ministries to serve hundreds of children, women, families, and communities in many corners of Ecuador. May God bless you. Sara Flores GBGM Missionary serving in Ecuador Quito – Ecuador, May 2024

The Back Page September

2024



These are our winners of the MUMC Pickleball Tournament:

1st John William & Kelly

2nd Jay & Joann

3rd Dianne & Elaine

pickleball Lessons

Tuesdays at 1pm

See Kelly



These two are styling some of our upcoming fashions for this years yard sale

Save the Date October 5th



Our Youth have organized a road side trash clean up!

Please support Ryleigh in organizing this event

Sept 14, 2024

9am-11am

Please meet by the old Clarendon gas building

Bring lots of water, gloves, bug spray, sun screen and

dress appropriately for the weather and work

Sign up with Ryleigh or Kelly

We have some mind blowing things going on at our Robotics team meetings

