

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 7, 2017

Communion / Food Pantry Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:45 a.m. Fellowship Potluck & Sunday School

Monday, May 8, 2017

7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Pack/Troop 47

Wednesday, May 10-Saturday, May 13 2017

Pastor Nicole at Boys & Girls Club National Conference

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

6:30 p.m. Choir

Friday, May 12, 2017

6:00 p.m. Daisy Girl Scout Meeting

Sunday, May 14, 2017

Mothers Day

8:10 a.m. Worship Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Coffee - Fellowship Hall

10:50 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, May 15, 2017

7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Pack/Troop 47

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

9:30 a.m. Coffee with Pastor Nicole - Utopia

5:15 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Friday, May 19, 2017

6:00 p.m. Daisy Girl Scout Meeting

Sunday, May 21, 2017

8:10 a.m. Worship Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Coffee - Fellowship Hall

10:50 a.m. Worship Service

4:00 p.m. Movie Night

Life in the Church

Notes from the pastor.

Doubt

I love that we read the story of Thomas' encounter with Jesus after Easter! Thomas' humanity shines through in full color. He struggles and wrestles with the rest of the disciples story. They told him they saw Jesus. They SAW Jesus! Because he wasn't with them, because he has a hard time believing the rest of his friends, because he needed a little extra proof- Thomas got the moniker Doubting Thomas.

For many reasons, I am not sure this is fair. Sure, he doubts, just as most of us might have and maybe even do from time to time. But that is not the sum total of his discipleship. He doesn't remain in his doubt, but through his wrestling and having his questions answered he is able to believe. His faith is increased.

Sometimes, as we read John's account of Thomas' conversation with Jesus, it is read as a rebuke when Jesus says, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe." We assume that Jesus is angry at Thomas for needing proof. However, if you look at the verses before and after, Jesus does not only appear to Thomas, but he allows him to put his hand in his wounds, to touch him- he gives him tangible proof. Jesus also does many miraculous signs with his disciples present. He gives Thomas proof, but he also gives the others abundant proof as well.

Maybe Jesus wasn't angry after all. Maybe he was simply meeting the disciples where they were- time and time again. Maybe he was simply preparing them once again for the time when he wouldn't be there. Maybe he was preparing us- the modern-day disciples of Jesus Christ- to have faith when we do not have him standing in the room with us and allowing us to put our hands in his side. Instead, we wrestle with our questions, we see glimpses of his miraculous signs and his power in our lives and in our world, and yet we believe.

What are your questions? How has your faith grown as you have wrestled with them?

NOTES:

Children's Sunday School

Julie Thompson is organizing teachers for the children's Sunday School class. Please contact her if you are available to teach a Sunday.

May 07 - Potluck Brunch May 14 - Marla Larimore
May 21 - Becky Dobbins May 28 -

Church Council Meeting

At our April 19th Church Council meeting, items discussed included:

- possible repair of the carillon,
- the stained glass window repair project,
- scheduling a playground work day for June 24th from 8-12 a.m.
- the kitchen stove project
- not having brunches after our single 1st Sunday worship services during the summer (June, July, August, September) and having Sunday School instead
- finding an Annual Conference lay representative (Grand Island, NE from June 7-10),
- hosting the Parsons District Care and Share on October 19, 2017
- allowing healthy families to have ESL classes for their children's families in our classroom space
- scheduled a special meeting to complete our annual Pastoral Review on Sunday, May 7 after worship (around 10:45) as we did not have full quorum present and it is important to for the review.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 17th at 5:15. Reports due to Pastor Nicole by May 8th.

Liturgists

The upcoming liturgists are:

May 07 - Laudine Luhn May 14 - Helen Brown
May 21 - Judy Hiner May 28 - Pat McCoy

If you have a conflict with a date as they are added, please let Pastor Nicole know so a change can be made. Thank you for adding more voices to the ministry and worship at FUMC!

All Church Movie Night

On May 21, 2017 at 4:00 p.m., FUMC will have all church movie night in Fellowship Hall at 4:00. In honor of the opening of baseball season, the movie will be Angels in the Outfield (CVLI Licensed). Themes include abandonment, disappointment, Father-Son, selfishness, embarrassment, fighting, sports, teamwork, believing in yourself, denial with dignity, passion, angels, miracles, prayer, and more.

We'll have movie style popcorn, drinks, and pizza. We'll have coloring sheets for those who arrive early or want to stay late. This is a free event, everyone is invited, and you're encouraged to bring friends. Feel free to bring sleeping bags, camp chairs, and whatever else you need to get comfortable.

Parsons District Special Offering in May

This year the Parsons District Special Offering suggested Sunday will be the entire month of May. As in the past all money raised will go towards scholarships for Institute, Camps and First Time Lay Servant participants. This has truly been a fantastic ministry program for our District and we pray that the support of this continues this year. You may choose any Sunday in May you so desire to collect the special offering.

Last year we raised \$2095.87 through the Parsons District Special Offering for Scholarships. For the summer of 2016 we awarded 22 scholarships to children attending Camp Chippewa, 1 scholarship to a child to attend Camp Horizon and 9 scholarships to youth attending Institute. This was a total of 32 scholarships at \$75 each for a total of \$1650. We are able to do this outreach because of this offering, the offering at our District Fall Worship and other donations. Without our help many of these children/youth would be unable to attend.

Please send the funds donated to: Parsons District UMC PO Box 244, Parsons, KS 67357-0244.

Renegade Gospel Study

The Aldersgate Experience Sunday School class (adult class across from the office) will begin Mike Slaughter's study, *Renegade Gospel: The Rebel Jesus*. We will begin the study on May 14. The books are available through Cokesbury, Amazon, and others.