



The Circuit Rider

A comprehensive report on the ministry of Lebanon First UMC

Luke 24:1-8 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Has Risen

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" ⁶ He is not here; **He has risen!** Remember how He told you, while He was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" ⁸ Then they remembered His words.

Alleluia
He is

Risen

Pastor Kim's Ponderings



It's Not Too Late!

When you receive this newsletter, we will be well into Lent – our journey that leads to the cross... And I'm nowhere near where I hoped to be!

In this season of slowing down... making more time for prayer... fasting and abstaining... and other spiritual practices, my hopes were to be more intentional on my personal study and devotion time, and to cut back on TV. But I don't feel up to speed on either of these. The Olympics have a lot to do with the fact that I haven't been able to turn off the TV, and because I tend to stay up late, I haven't been able to get up early enough to do more intensive personal study and devotions! Perhaps I am just making excuses!

In Luke there is a passage where Jesus compares himself to a mother hen, saying, "How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!" (Luke 13:31-35.) And I can imagine a very large brood of little chickens, with myself in the midst of them all, and us all chirping together, "Lord, I'm trying to get there under your wing, but... I've got meetings to go to, people to call back and visit, chores to do, and a whole lot of email to answer before I can get there... and the Olympics are on, Lord! But I really do mean to be there, under your wing, real soon... Well, at least just as soon as I can... Meaning, I guess... eventually...."

And I can also hear Jesus speaking in the parable where a landowner has a fig tree and he complains to the gardener about this tree that has not borne fruit for three years. "Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" And this gardener says, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." (Luke 13:6-9.) And it can be easy to give in to a sense of gloom or defeat... And wonder if I've been bearing any fruit at all.... Depending on how I hear this story Jesus tells.

Pastor's Ponderings continued on page 3...

...Ponderings continued from page 2

It's often been assumed by interpreters that God must be the landowner in this parable, and Jesus must be the gardener, pleading for a little more time for the tree, which must be Israel, or the church, or perhaps each of us.... I am that tree! Which on one level does seem to be implied... But maybe there are other ways to hear the story?

So – let's consider another possibility, one that seems to fit better with the spiritual disciplines of Lent. What if the one in this parable who owns this vineyard is not God, but we ourselves – and/or the world we live in? Demanding a fruitfulness that we are all incapable of producing? (At least on our own.) A fruitfulness perhaps attainable... Only when we slow down and hold still... long enough for God the gardener to get good manure down around our roots...

Maybe this parable is yet another strong suggestion from Jesus... That if we don't want to end up as self-chopped cord wood... Better give God time to bury all the stuff that the world (and we ourselves) often consider our biggest problems... What if it's all about letting God dig all the stuff of this world's admittedly dire problems into the soil of the soul... translating troubles that claim so much attention into fertility-inducing plant food... For the reviving and revitalizing of God's people?

I love the possibility that God is really out to revive our ability to give (many) a fig... Enough to give this parable and this season at least another try... So, excuse me, please... I'm going to turn off the TV and pick up my Bible.

If I don't hurry... Maybe I can be on time.

God's grace and peace be with you,

Pastor Kim.





Trustees' Report, March 2018

By: Joe Zimmerlee

*Great News! A very generous family has paid off the ARP Loan of \$201,181.98 on February 9, 2018. The ARP account currently has \$19,211.96 in it. The Trustees and Finance Committees will be forthcoming with a recommendation for the use of the remaining ARP account money.

*The expanded church security has been installed and is working.

*We are in the process of updating the wiring in the church.

*Our Sanctuary slate roof was recently inspected, and some repairs made.

*We are in the process of updating the speakers in the Sanctuary, hoping to improve the listening ability for the congregation.

*New brighter lights have been installed in the altar area.

Psalm 22:30-31 Amplified Bible (AMP)

“The Psalm of the Cross”

³⁰ Posterity will serve Him;

They will tell of the Lord to the next generation.

³¹ They will come and declare His righteousness
To a people yet to be born—that He has done it
[and that it is finished].

***Please read Psalm 22 in it's entirety.

EASTER MORNING TRADITION



An empty cross will be available on Easter morning outside the church to decorate with fresh flowers. What a wonderful tradition to display our love for Our Lord.

“All that a Christian does, even in eating and sleeping, is prayer, when it is done in simplicity, according to the order of God, without either adding to or diminishing from it by his own choice.”

– John Wesley, from *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection*:



Food Pantry March Collection

Mar. 4 Peanut butter & Jelly

Mar. 11 Pastas & Sauces

Mar. 18 Cereal & Canned Fruit

Mar. 25 Sugar & Flour

Lebanon Matthew 25:40 Ministries (LMM)

The LMM is in full swing this new year. The month of January has been very busy.

The food pantry has given food bags to **58** households which has enabled **118** individuals to eat healthy meals.

The Community Care advocates have met with **16** clients assisting them with electric bills, water bills, and rent. Your monetary donations made this assistance possible.

January Tithes & Offering Report

January Summary:

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Sunday Offerings: | General: \$12,577 | ARP: \$2,345 |
| On-Line Giving: | General: \$ 2,785 | ARP: \$ 200 |
| January Totals: | General: \$15,362 | ARP: \$2,545 |
| 2018 Monthly Budget: | General: \$17,609 | ARP: \$1,549 |

January Attendance (Weekly Average):

Worship: Sunday School:

74 Adult: 21
Children: 5 (Includes Nursery)

MANAGE YOUR OFFERINGS

- ◆ Set up and manage recurring giving.
- ◆ Make one-time contributions .
- ◆ View your online giving history.



Get started today!

Visit our church website:

www.lebanonmethodist.org



The Lebanon First UMC *CONNECTION LINE* Stay connected to church activities & prayer requests!

Three ways to connect; voice mail, e-mail or text.

Sign up today!

For more information, call 618-537-6622

office@lebanonmethodist.org

Senior Stretch



2nd & 4th Thursdays
March Gatherings: March 8th and 22nd Noon
Fellowship Hall

A light lunch is served. All are welcome!
Invite your friends and neighbors!

Senior Stretch: Exercise, Fun, Fellowship, and Much More!

Many of you who have been attending Senior Stretch know our gathering is much more than exercise and fellowship. For March gatherings we have planned two very interesting and informative speakers:

March 8th - Dallas Dixon from Regions Bank in Lebanon will present, "Building Your Financial Confidence."

March 22nd - Police Chief Roth of the Lebanon Police Dept. will present "Personal Safety."

By Janet Eckert



2018 Flower Calendar

(Back wall of the Sanctuary)

Remember, honor, celebrate a loved one or event. Sign up now to donate flowers for Sunday Worship in 2018. The cost is \$30 per arrangement.

YOUNG AT HEART



“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those that love God, to those who are called according to God’s purpose.” Romans 8:28

In our discussions at Young at Heart meetings, we have become aware of the fact that God has a purpose for each one of us, no matter our ages. As we age, we may be tempted to think we are no longer useful to God’s plan. We may think we are too old, too slow, unable to do the things we did 10-20 years ago. But God has a purpose for us even now. God wants to use us for His glory in spite of our forgetfulness or physical challenges. God cares more about our faithfulness than our physical abilities.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you...” Jeremiah 29:11

In this season of Lent, let us ask God to give us the wisdom to seek a purpose-filled life in these later years.

Young at Heart will meet **Wednesday, March 14, at 10 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Hostesses will be Shirley Malone and Evelyn Gregory. All seniors and retirees are invited to attend.





SUNDAY SCHOOL IS FOR EVERYONE!

Every Sunday morning, 11 am

† **Children** (Education Wing, Upstairs), Peg Gerdes.

† **Sojourners** Room #101 (Downstairs near Fellowship Hall), Mike Bennett.

† **Disciples** Parlor (Next to Sanctuary), Kay Korte.

† **Wired Word** Room #203 (Upstairs Education Wing), Jeff Thornton.

† **Wired Word @ 1814 Restaurant, 8 pm**, Jeff Thornton



March 11

Daylight Savings Time!

Move your clocks forward 1 hour.



Lunch Bunch

We will still be taking a winter break during the month of March, and will return to The Foundry, 220 W. St. Louis St., Lebanon in April. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month, so we hope to see you on **April 4th at 11:30 AM.**

All women of the church are welcome.

Please let Ann Zimmerlee 537-2755, know if you are planning to come so she can give the restaurant a count. Thank you!

HOLY WEEK



| | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| March 25 | Palm Sunday | 9:30 AM |
| March 29 | Maundy Thursday | 7:00 PM |
| March 30 | Good Friday | 7:00 PM |
| April 1 | Easter | 9:30 AM |



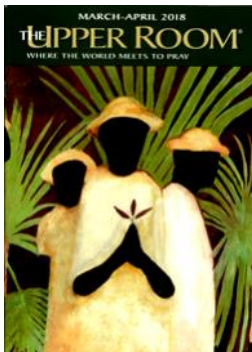
*Lent: Feb. 14 - April 1

*Senior Stretch Thursdays, March 8th and 22nd at noon.

*Daylight Savings, March 11

*St. Patrick's Day Church-wide Dinner
Saturday, March 17th, Social time: 6 pm, Dinner: 6:30 pm

*Community Easter Egg Hunt Extravaganza Saturday,
March 31st, 10 am. McKendree U. Bothwell Chapel Front Lawn



Upper Room
(March - April edition)

Available Now!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



By: Casey Andrew

LOCAL MEETING: March 26, 1:00 p.m.

PROGRAM: Ellen Schilling

HOSTESSES: Lawana Feltrop and Carol Field

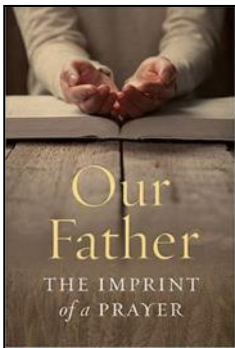
OFFICER UPDATE &

DISTRICT PERSONAL GROWTH SEMINAR

“The Christian Consumer: Living Ethically in a Material World”

Saturday, March 3, 9:00 a.m.

Mt. Olive United Methodist Church



Lenten Study with Pastor Kim

Our Father: The Imprint of a Prayer

Thursdays, February 22-April 5, 6:30 pm

Tuesdays, February 27 - April 9, 1:00 pm

Books are \$6.00

OUTREACH

Community Outreach is how people see Christ in our church. Outreach follows God's command to love and care for others. Our church puts belief to action with King's Closet, Matthew 25:40 Ministries, God's Super Saturday, Cub Scouts, community dinners and Senior Stretch.

At the annual Fat Tuesday Pancake and Sausage Dinner, we served or provided ninety-five meals. Seventy-two were served in the Fellowship Hall, many staying to socialize.

As with every dinner, more volunteers are needed, because we take the time to serve everyone who comes. But, we also want people to visit with our guests. Here are some examples of how we make a difference:

- * One guest came in tears; help was offered.
- * Two young ladies admitted they wanted to come on other occasions, but were afraid of neighborhood bullying.
- * A senior lady, recently widowed, welcomed the meal and much-needed fellowship.
- * A young man would not come into the Hall, but came for a meal, because he had been invited when he came into the Food Pantry that day.

Come, be blessed by serving others in any of our church-sponsored ministries.

By Mike Bennett





St Patrick's Day Dinner

March 17th, 6:30 PM

All church members are invited.
Signup required in Fellowship Hall.

NURTURE (St. Patrick's Day Dinner)

Several times a year, activities are planned to bring the church family together. In March, there will be a St. Patrick's Day Dinner. Please make a donation for the cost of the food when you come. Reservations are needed, so the cooks can shop and prepare for a specific number. Children are welcome. If they need a different menu other than corned beef and cabbage, let Mike or Carol know. Chicken nuggets can be provided.

By: Mike Bennett



Flowers for Easter

Help decorate the Sanctuary with the trumpets of lilies! You may dedicate a plant in honor or memory of a loved one. The cost will be \$20. Watch the bulletin beginning March 4th to place your order. The plants will be provided by Steven Mueller Florist in O'Fallon.

TEAM GSS (God's Super Saturday)



Team GSS (God's Super Saturday) had our fourth children's event February 10th. Our theme was "God Is Love." 23 children, 17 not connected to the church, and multiple adults attended. Our next event is a Community Children's Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday March 31st at 10 am, at McKendree's Bothwell Chapel front lawn. If bad weather, we will have the event at our church. Much appreciation to the following who worked the February 10th event: Peg Gerdes, Kay Korte, Maggie Bergmark, Ally Peterson, Jamie Ryckman, Eleanor and Matt Blystone, Leah Corbitt, Pastor Hagedorn, Nedra Godwin, and Allyn Wiechert. Thank you to all team members for planning and consultation. Kim V.

Team GSS needs your help!

We are needing Easter candies and small items to place in their prepacked bags like small sheets of stickers, small snack size bags of gold fish, pretzels, fruit snacks, and candy. Please keep in mind a lot of the children will be very young. We will start collecting items for the Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 4th. A box will be placed in the fellowship area.

Thank you! TEAM GSS

Lebanon First UMC Community Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 31st, 10 AM, McKendree University Bothwell Chapel Front Lawn (inclement weather, inside LFUMC)

Children ages baby to 10 years old.

Easter Eggs redeemed for bags of candy and Easter items.





***Circuit Rider* April Edition**

All articles are due March 15th

Email to Kim Vunesky: kimvunesky@gmail.com

or bring to the church office.



Holy Folders

Thursday, March 22, 9:30 am

Fellowship Hall



King's Closet Sale Day

Friday, March 9

10 am to 2 pm

A MINISTRY OF LEBANON FIRST UMC

507 W. St. Louis



Thank you to all who sent cards, flowers and prayers as I recovered from a heart attack. As many of you know, I have a long period of recovery ahead. It doesn't seem so daunting with the love and support of all of you at Lebanon First.

Heart-felt thanks!

Allyn Wiechert

Lebanon Matthew 25:40 Ministries Fundraiser

Saturday, April 14, 2018

The Lebanon Matthew Ministries will receive from SAVERS

\$0.20 per lb for clothing, shoes, bedding etc.

\$0.05 per lb. for toys, household, small appliances, etc.

A list of acceptable items has been provided
as well as a list of items that cannot be accepted.

YES

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

NO

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

YES

ALL CLOTHING:

Men's, women's,
children's & infant's
Towels, sheets, pillows
Blankets, shams, curtains
Shoes, purses, wallets
Socks, ties, jewelry
Backpacks, luggage
Placemats, tablecloths
Dishes, cups, glassware
Silverware, cutlery, utensils
Cookie sheets, bakeware
Toaster, coffeepot, mixer
Frying pan, can opener
Home decorative items
Records, tapes, DVD
Video games, CDs, DVDs
Hand tools, garden tools
Lamps, humidifier,
Toys, games, stuffed toys
Puzzles, sports equipment

NO

Computers or monitors
Tires or auto parts
Paint or motor oil
Any liquid cleaner or
solvent
Batteries
Propane tanks, gas cans
BBQ, lawn mower, trimmer
Mattresses, box springs
Hide-a-bed, waterbed
Carpet, flooring tile
Lumber, windows, doors
Child's car or booster seat
Crib, swing set
Televisions
Any large appliances
Washer, stove, refrigerator
Boat, canoes, kayak
Weapons, ammunition
Paintball equipment

For more information,
contact Jane Cotts
jincotts@aol.com
618 558 2839



DONATION DRIVE 2018

Donate your clothing and household items to help raise money for Lebanon Matthew Ministries
All items will be sold to SAVERS'S. The proceeds will help fund the food pantry and community care.

City Hall Parking Lot
Saturday April 14
8 am-12noon

Donations will be received in advance inside City Hall from April 2nd– April 13th during normal business hours.

The list of acceptable items is on the back of this sheet.



The *Circuit Rider* is a monthly publication of Lebanon First UMC, Lebanon, IL

Reverend Kim Hagedorn

Content: Those who look to Jesus Christ as our Savior
Production & Information Manager: Allyn Wiechert
Content and Story Coordinator: Kim Vunesky
Assembly: Holy Folders
Proofs and Consultation: Kay Korte

For more information, call 618-537-6622

office@lebanonmethodist.org
www.lebanonmethodist.org
www.facebook.com/LebanonFirstUMC



See you Sunday!

9:30 am Worship

10:30 am Fellowship

11:00 am Sunday School



First United Methodist Church
603 West St. Louis St.
Lebanon, IL 62254
(618) 537-6622
office@lebanonmethodist.org
www.lebanonmethodist.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #19
Lebanon, IL 62254

Label