



From the Pastor's Desk

October has seemed to arrive so quickly this year. We in the office find ourselves already filling in and checking the calendar for 2019 meetings and events. This brought to my attention how quickly the Special General Conference that will be held next year in February is approaching. Many of you have probably heard of this Special General Conference which will be held in St. Louis, MO and some may not. A General Conference is the highest level of gathering for our denomination with an equal number of lay and clergy delegates from all over the world attending. The special conference meeting in February has only one agenda item and it is the Churches stance concerning sexual orientation.

Historically the United Methodist church has held the position that gay and lesbian persons living in a same-sex relationship are not eligible for ordination in the UM Church. It has also held the stance that pastors serving in the UM Church are not permitted to perform same-sex marriages.

Our church has debated this issue for decades, but over the last several years tensions surrounding these two issues and a host of other related concerns around sexual orientation have risen to the point of splitting the denomination. This special conference is the church's way to address the complicated and emotional issues which surround the entire discussion of sexual orientation.

I am addressing this to all of you because it is very likely the decisions of this General Conference will directly impact every UM congregation. Of the three major plans for the denomination's future, two of them would require our church to make decisions concerning our stance on these issues possibly by a congregational vote.

For this reason, I will be hosting three informational meetings to discuss the General Conference and the current plans for the denominational structure which are being proposed. Dates have not been set at this time, but they will be soon with announcements going out to everyone. I strongly urge you to make an effort to attend one of these meetings in order to understand the issues and how the decisions of the General Conference may impact our congregation.

It is important to understand these are to be information meetings, not debate sessions on this topic. Most of us have an opinion on the subject of sexual orientation and many of us hold very strong opinions. These meetings are designed to help you understand what our denomination is doing, not to attempt to convince others of what is right or wrong. Please look for the date announcements which will be coming soon, and as always, please keep everyone involved in this process in your prayers.

Your servant in Christ,
Larry

1	6:00 PM	Mom's Group	11	4:00 PM	Stephen Ministries	23	9:00 AM	Precept
	7:00 PM	Men's Book Study		6:00 PM	GA		6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
	7:00 PM	AA Big Book	12	9:30 AM	Feeder of the Pack		6:30 PM	Praise Team
2	9:00 AM	Precept Class	13	7:30 AM	UMM Breakfast	24	9:00 AM	Holy Folders
	11:30 AM	A-Team		9:00 AM	Handbells		6:00 PM	Choir
	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts		10:00 AM	AA		6:00 PM	Boy Scouts
	6:30 PM	Praise Team	14	4:00 PM	Jr/Sr Youth Fellowship		7:00 PM	AA
3	6:00 PM	Choir	15		Meals on Wheels Week		7:00 PM	AI Anon
	6:00 PM	Boy Scouts		6:00 PM	Mom's Group	25	4:00 PM	Stephen Ministries
	7:00 PM	AA		7:00 PM	Men's Book Study		6:00 PM	GA
	7:00 PM	AL Anon		7:00 PM	AA Big Book	26	3:00 PM	Yard Sale
4	6:00 PM	GA	16	9:00 AM	Precept Class	27	8:00 AM	Yard Sale
	6:00 PM	Scouts Round Table		5:30 PM	Service & Missions		9:00 AM	Handbells
5	8:30 AM	Adult Spiritual Formation		6:00 PM	Cub Scouts		10:00 AM	AA
6	9:00 AM	Handbells		6:30 PM	Praise Team	28	Noon	Our Neighbor's Table
	10:00 AM	AA		6:30 PM	Hospitality		4:00 PM	Jr/Sr Youth Fellowship
7	4:00 PM	Blessing of Animals	17	9:00 AM	Nurture & Care		6:30 PM	Executive Council
	4:00 PM	Jr/Sr Youth Fellowship		6:00 PM	Choir	29	6:00 PM	Mom's Group
8		Office Closed		6:00 PM	Boy Scouts		7:00 PM	Men's Book Study
	6:00 PM	Mom's Group		7:00 PM	Staff Parrish		7:00 PM	AA Big Book
	7:00 PM	Men's Book Study		7:00 PM	AA	30	9:00 AM	Precept
	7:00 PM	AA Big Book		7:00 PM	AI Anon		6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
9	9:00 AM	Precept Class	18	6:00 PM	GA		6:30 PM	Praise Team
	Noon	Young At Heart		7:00 PM	Charge Conference	31	5:00 PM	Trunk or Treat
	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts	20	9:00 AM	Handbells	31	6:00 PM	Choir
	6:30 PM	Praise Team		10:00 AM	AA		6:00 PM	Boy Scouts
	7:00PM	Finance Committe		10:15 AM	Book Club		7:00 PM	AA
10	6:00 PM	Choir	21	6:00 PM	Men's Banquet		7:00 PM	AI Anon
	6:00 PM	Boy Scouts		4:00 PM	Jr/Sr Youth Fellowship		WEEKLY BULLETIN DEADLINE is Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.	
	6:30 PM	Publicity & Promotion	22	6:00 PM	Mom's Group			
	7:00 PM	AA		7:00 PM	Men's Book Study			
	7:00 PM	AI Anon		7:00 PM	AA Big Book			
	7:00 PM	Bible Journaling						

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 November *Compass*
 Deadline is October 15th
THANKS



**Noisy Mission
OFFERING
In October is
going to
FEEDER OF
THE PACK!**

Blessing of the Animals



The Murphysboro United Methodist Church and St. Frances CARE are joining together to offer the **7th Annual Blessing of the Animals** service open to all animals and their people.

The service will take place under the Murphysboro UMC pavilion on **Sunday, October 7, 2018 at 4p.m.** Following the short service each animal will receive an individual blessing.

There will be treats for animals and their humans, a blessing gift and an information bag to be given to those who attend. If your pet is unable to attend, we encourage you to bring a collar, favorite toy or a personal object to be blessed. All animals must either be on a leash or in a carrier.

MUMC and St. Francis CARE invite everyone to come out and join us for an afternoon of fun!

October 9th
12:00 - NOON
Fellowship Hall
Celebrating a Ghostly Lunch



friends, fellowship, faith.

MENU: Potato Bar w/Fixings Chili w/Crackers, and Brownies (no nuts)

PROGRAM: Randy Auxier, Professor of Philosophy and Communications Studies at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, will be speaking to Young at Heart about his campaign as a Congressional candidate for the 12th District of Illinois. Randy will be sharing the ten key values of the Green Party and the focus of his campaign that "We can do better."

Please sign up on the attendance pad. If plans change & you cannot attend, please contact the church office by the Monday before. Otherwise YAH members must pay for the meal that was ordered for you. Thanks.

Young at Heart is a group of senior adults, that meet monthly, on the second Tuesday, for food, fellowship and a program.

ALL SAINTS' DAY

On Sunday, November 4th we will celebrate All Saints' Day in our morning worship services. We want to honor those loved ones who have passed on between November 2017 and now. We traditionally celebrate that life with a lighted candle and the ringing of a bell. If you have a friend or family member whose name you would like included during this service of remembrance, please contact the church office (murphysboroumc@gmail.com or call 687-2317) by noon on Friday, October 26th with that name and the date of death.

Save the Date!

Annual Men's Banquet
October 21, 6pm



This years' speaker will be former Saluki & Big Ten football coach **Jerry Kill**. Tickets on sale soon, watch the church bulletin for more information. Space is limited.



Saturday, October 13th at 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, men of the church will gather for breakfast, devotional, and maybe a work project.

All men of the church are invited to attend.

LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH



**Winter Yard Sale to Benefit
Murphysboro Food Pantry
Friday, October 26, 3 to 6 pm
Saturday, October 27, 8am to noon**

This sale focuses mainly on winter items (clothing, bedding, fall and Christmas décor). Kitchen items, lamps, towels, bed linens and blankets are specific items needed. Bring your donations to the Fellowship Hall, Sunday-Thursday (Oct. 21-25) during regular church office hours.

Work hours are, 9 am to noon, 1 pm to 4 pm, and 6 pm to 8 pm October 24 & 25 as well as Friday, October 26, 9 am to 6 pm and Saturday, October 27, 8 am to noon. All help is appreciated.



**FALL 2018 WOMEN'S
BUS TRIP
NOV 8TH - 10TH
TO P. ALLEN SMITH'S MOSS
MOUNTAIN FARM ROLAND,
AR (NEAR LITTLE ROCK)**

Ladies, there is still plenty of time to sign up for our Fall 2018 Bus Trip to Moss Mountain Farm. Leaving Thursday morning November 8. We will tour Moss Mountain Farm Friday & return home Saturday, November 10. Lodging is at the Rosemont Inn's Barkley-Hayward cottages in Little Rock. The total cost of the tour and lodging is \$194.29 (based upon a group of 10). Other costs will be donations toward gas for the bus, food (breakfast on Friday & Saturday included with lodging) and your individual purchases. **Please contact Michelle Parker-Clark (618/922-3587 or mpclark@siu.edu) or Rosie Wece (618/559-8167 or rwece50@gmail.com) for more information.**



WHAT ARE THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES UP TO?

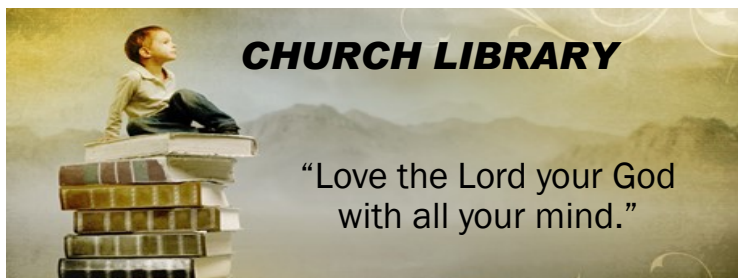
Faithful Friends, a class for women of all ages with rotating leaders, is continuing their 12-session video based study, *Twelve Women of the Bible*, featuring life changing stories for women today by Lisa TerKeurst, Elisa Morgan, Amena Brown, Jonalyn Grace Fincher, Jeanne Stevens, and Naomi Zacharias.

Helping Hands, led by Donna Horniacek, is a traditional Bible Study Class for men and women. The Fall 2018 lessons come from the Book of Genesis, the book of beginnings. Through its pages, God is revealed as the Creator, Sustainer, Judge, and Redeemer who brought all things into being. The lessons survey God's creation of the universe, earth, and people through (3) units: God Created the World, God Destroys and Re-Creates, and God Blesses and Re-Creates Regardless.

Pathfinders, led by Terri Twenhafel, will be studying the book, "Everybody, Always: Becoming Love in a World Full of Setbacks and Difficult People" by Bob Goff. In this inspiring follow-up to the New York Times bestselling phenomenon, *Love Does*, Bob Goff takes readers on a life-altering journey into the secret of living without fear, care, constraint, or worry. *Everybody, Always* reveals the lessons the author learned – often the hard way – about what it means to love without inhibition, insecurity, or restriction.

Seekers, led by Susan Patterson, will be reading and discussing the book "I Bought a House on Gratitude Street" by J. Ellsworth Kalas. In this book, Kalas shares life-lessons on matters of friendship, prayer, sin, and success all through the lens of scripture. In the words of the author, "Some...have come to me by my seeking, some have been shared with me by people of wider experience, and some have been thrust upon me by my mistakes."

Trailblazers, led by Rick and Scarlett Pierson, are studying *Christian: It's Not What You Think*. What does it mean to be a Christian? Ask 100 people that question and you are likely to get 100 different answers. In this eight-session study, pastor and bestselling author Andy Stanley explores the message Jesus gave his followers to define and empower them. Sessions include Brand Recognition; Quitters; Insiders, Outsiders; Showing Up; When Gracie Met Truthy; Angry Birds; Loopholes; and Working It Out.



The Library Corner: Blessing Our Blessings

Then God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it." (Genesis 8:15-17)

People and animals--from the very beginning we have been companions. And we are all "creatures"—people and animals— part of the creation of God. If sometimes the relationship is difficult, it is still true that in many ways we are essential to one another. Some animals on this planet we call home need us to save them, and some animals save us, at least figuratively, if not literally.

On October 7th, we will celebrate some these beloved animals at our annual Blessing of the Animals. It is a simple and heartfelt event – a tribute to the animal companions who claim our hearts— by needing us to care for them, and by loving us unconditionally.

It's fun to read about animals also! There are such a variety of animals – each with their own personality-- and their stories are fascinating. Here are a few of those stories in the church library:

Anna Quindlen gives us **Good Dog. Stay.** It is her memoir about the black Labrador retriever, Beau, (shortened from Bristol's Beauregard Buchanan!) who shared her family's life, and the lessons she learned from him. She tells the story with love and a sense of humor.

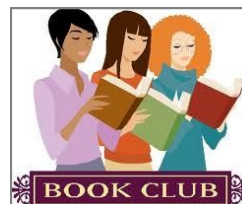
Judy: The Unforgettable Story of the Dog Who Went to War and Became a True Hero by

Damien Lewis, tells the story of an English Pointer who saved countless lives during World War II. Before the war began, while still a puppy, Judy became a mascot on a British gunboat. By 1942 she had become the only animal to ever be named a Japanese prisoner of war, and the author says "perhaps one of the most extraordinary of our canine companions ever to grace this earth." (p. xiii)

Seabiscuit: An American Legend by Laura Hillenbrand is a book we have featured before, but it is well worth mentioning again. It is a great story about a racehorse who overcomes terrible difficulties to win race after race, ultimately becoming a racing legend and much needed cultural inspiration during the latter half of the depression.

You can find these and other books about animals, both non-fiction and fiction, plus DVDS, and children and youth books on display during the month of October. Whether you have pets, or you don't—these stories can capture your heart.

MUMC
Saturday
Morning



**Join the Discussion on
One True Thing
by Anna Quindlen
Saturday, October 20th
10:15 a.m.**



When Ellen Gulden's mother Kate is diagnosed with terminal cancer, Ellen leaves the career she loves to become a caregiver for Kate. Their interactions bring surprises and insights to Ellen as she learns more in her short time with her mother than she had ever understood in the past. But it is after her mother's death that Ellen faces the toughest challenge of all.

YOUTH GROUPS

Questions? Contact a leader for your group:

JYF: Junior Youth Fellowship (6th - 8th grade)

Leaders: Diane Schingel 618-303-3757

Meets every Sunday from 4-6pm in Room 100.

SYF: Senior High Youth Fellowship (9th - 12th grade)

Leaders: Stephanie Finke 618-713-4059

Meets every Sunday from 4-6pm in Room 100.

Pumpkin Painting/Carving

October 14, 4pm

Join the CYF/JYF/SYF to carve & paint pumpkins October 14 in the Fellowship Hall.

The JYF/SYF will meet from 4-7pm.

The CYF will meet from 4pm-6pm.

Youth are asked to bring their own pumpkin.

A meal will be provided.



Trunk or Treat

October 31st, 5-8pm

MUMC Parking Lot &

DeSoto Parking Lot

Donations of candy and small toys or trinkets will be collected now through October 31st. A drop off bin can be found near the Welcome Center.

Also needed are people to host trunks! Park your vehicle, decorate it if you wish, fill it with candy and treats and have fun! Watch for trunk sign ups on the youth bulletin board.

Questions - call Lacey Brown at 618-525-5106.



BOO



Volunteer Opportunity!

An opportunity exists for a volunteer or volunteers wishing to teach junior high age students. This may be an opportunity to teach weekly, or if multiple volunteers express interest, an opportunity to rotate teaching. Please consider whether the time is right for you to either singly or partner with a friend in Christ to contribute to the spiritual growth of our young people.

-Breezy Hill Farm-



Agape House welcomes youth for fellowship, study and a light meal every Wednesday from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

Agape House is a ministry of DeSoto United Methodist Church.



OCTOBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

TRADITIONAL		PRAISE	
<u>Worship Leader</u>			
<u>Jennifer Watson</u>		<u>Kristi Miller or</u>	
<u>Choir/Music Leader</u>			
Brianna Sitton		Lacey Brown	
OCT	<u>Prayer Request Reader & Liturgist</u>		
7	Nancy Fager	Kristi Miller	
14	Gaye Auxier	Ed O'Donnell	
21	Wilma Westerfield	Ed O'Donnell	
28	Gene Schwebel	Kristi Miller	
OCT	<u>Children's Church Leaders</u>		
7	Sage Lintner	Julie Wachtel	
14	Cheryl Smith	Scarlett Pierson	
21	Lacey Brown/Rene Doody	Ben Snyder	
28	Diane Schingel	Patti Thrailkill	
<u>Ushers</u>			
Scott Ballard, Sandy Herring, Mason Schingel, Dick Graff, Vanessa Lirely		Rick Pierson and Brant Wingerter	



1	Jaylah Maynor	15	Maya Jenkins
2	W. Rosella Young		MaryJane Williams
5	Ken Cline	18	Andy McNitt
	Jamie Stuck	19	Adam Barringer
7	Jennifer Watson	21	Larry Gilbert
8	Allison Vandenberg		Jennie Snyder
	Ellen McNitt	22	Gary Wece
9	Lora Bitner	24	Mary Ann Hinchcliff
	Carolyn Ozburn	25	Julie Peterson
	Hanna Wece	26	Cheri Grover
	Susan Wirth		Nicci Steele
10	Robert Morefield	28	Brandon Miller
11	Amber Smith		Ben Snyder
12	Elizabeth Lovell		Margie Stilley
	Rick Runge		Barbara Zimmerman
13	Braden Miller	30	Kyle Quigley
14	Blake Niesporek		London Watson

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

OCT	<u>Welcome Hostesses & Greeter</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
7	Michelle Parker-Clark Arlene Bitner	Justin Maynor Harper Ellermeyer
14	Susan Patterson Adrienne Will	Eli Guthman Caroline Guthman
21	Susan Patterson Adrienne Will	Landrie Green Jaylah Maynor
28	Kay Bozarth Marica Butler	Charlie Pierson Brianna Carnes
<u>Stewards</u>		
Dick Graff, Todd Lirely, Richard Pierson, Gene Schwebel		



5	Emily & Kyle Hargraves	12	Bethany & JT Jenkins
	Lynn & Richard Pierson	15	Carla & Bill Quigley
	Sheila & James Stewart	16	Marlene & Harold Gibbs
9	Brooke & Ryan Guthman	25	Sandra & Earl Renshaw
11	Robin & Todd Sievert	26	Sharon & Roger Medlen



CROSS & FLAME
MINISTRIES
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United Methodist Church

September 26, 2018

To the Congregation of the Murphysboro United Methodist Church;

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is requesting some information from the congregation concerning the upcoming change in pastoral leadership. They have put together a very brief questionnaire, which they would like everyone to complete. Those eligible to take the survey include any adult over the age of 18 years old involved in the life of the church and any youth under 18 years who have completed the Confirmation process and been Confirmed in the Methodist church.

Hard copies of the questionnaire will be available on Sunday, October 7th and 14th in the sanctuary and in the church office during regular office hours. An on-line version of this survey will also be available at the church's website: www.murphysboro.crossandflameministries.com.

The survey deadline will be October 15th.

Completed questionnaires can be placed in the provided collection boxes in the church's Welcome Center and in the Annex or mailed to the church office prior to the deadline.

Please help the SPRC by sharing your input and completing a survey.

With regards,

Staff Parish Relations Committee

**MURPHYSBORO
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
1500 Pine Street
Murphysboro, IL 62966



**CROSS & FLAME
MINISTRIES**
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**DESOTO
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
211 W Lincoln St
DeSoto, IL 62924

OFFICE HOURS at MUMC

Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Phone: 618-687-2317 Fax: 618-687-2604
E-Mail: murphysboroumc@gmail.com
Website: www.crossandflameministries.com



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

MUMC:

Traditional Service: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:10 a.m.
Praise Service: 11:15 a.m.

DeUMC:

Agape House: 5:30 p.m. Each Wednesday

Cross and Flame Staff

Ministers..... The Congregations
Pastor..... Larry A. Gilbert
Minister of Visitation Michelle Parker-Clark
Financial Secretary..... Christine Nolan
Technology Coord Anne Johnson
Webmaster..... Amanda Wingerter
Custodian..... Pat Sullivan

MUMC Site Staff

Ministry Director Michelle Parker-Clark
Church Secretary Melba Ziegler
Ministry Support Asst Lacey Brown
Children/Youth Coord..... Sage Lintner
Pianist/Organist.....
Choir Director Brianna Sitton
Nursery Attendant Ashlee Sander and Caitlyn Boyd

DeSoto Site Staff:

Children/Youth Ministry Sage Lintner
..... Jennifer O'Donnell
Mike & Casey Johnstone..... Caretakers

Return Service Requested

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**Cross and Flame Ministries
Desoto & Murphysboro
United Methodist Churches**
1500 Pine Street
Murphysboro, IL 62966