

THUSE NEWS

OCTOBER 2018

SOUTH PARKERSBURG UMC

To KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN

Sr. Pastor – Reverend James Plyburn
DCE & Youth Ministries – Jennifer Plyburn
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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Like many of you, Autumn is my favorite season of the year. On the weather channel the other day they explained why the season of Autumn is also known as Fall. The term "Autumn" is a loose translation of the Latin phrase "the last harvest", while "Fall" is a shortened form of the phrase "the fall of the leaves". Both of these events take place in the months following the heat of Summer, as the days get shorter and cooler.

Yet, even as the seasons change according to God's timetable, I am reminded of Hebrews 13:8, which states, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever".

So remember, the weather will change, the seasons will change, but Jesus Christ, our Savior, Redeemer and Friend, will never change.

God Bless You and Happy Autumn! (or Happy Fall! If this is your preference).

Pastor Jim

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

SPARK – Children in **Kindergarten through 5th Grade** are learning about Old Testament Bible heroes on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 7:30 P.M.

YOUTH – Our **Middle School and High School Youth** are studying The Apostles' Creed during Sunday School and enjoying fellowship and Bible study on Sunday evenings from 6:30 – 7:30 P.M.

SWEETAPPLE FARM Sunday, October 21st 2:00 – 5:00 P.M.



*Bring your own snacks and drinks or purchase food items there. There's no charge to just come and enjoy an afternoon at the farm with your church family! We have the Machinery Shed rented for our group with our own fire pit and all the fixins for s'mores. Our SPUMC group **hayride** is scheduled at **3:30 P.M.** You may also purchase tickets for the Corn Maze (\$4/each), paint a pumpkin (\$4/each), make a scarecrow (\$15/each), or purchase pumpkins (prices vary). Sweetapple Farm is located at 149 Sweetapple Road in Vincent, Ohio, just 17 miles from our church. Those needing rides may meet at the church parking lot at 1:15 P.M. to carpool to the farm. Please come!*

FALL FESTIVAL

**Wednesday, October 31st
6:00 – 8:00 P.M. in the CFC**

Join your church family for an evening of good food, fun, and fellowship. Children of all ages are invited to dress up...as a Bible hero or modern day hero...or come as you are! *Please **NO SCARY** Halloween costumes or decorations.* There will be food available to purchase from our “Country Kitchen” and lots of games and activities featuring a Cake Walk, BINGO, costume parade, outdoor fire pit, and more. Adults may bring candy and treats to give to the children. Please contact Jennifer Plyburn (304-360-1373) to volunteer to help decorate a table and/or donate cakes for the Cake Walk.

Jennifer

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The next two months of programs will be our Prayer and Self Denial and in November will be the annual World Thank offering. Please consider going to the Annual meeting that will be held on October 26 and 27, at Mt Pleasant United Methodist Church. Since it is being hosted by the Little Kanawha District it would be nice if we could support this event.

Blessings to all,

Sandy

THE UNITED METHODIST MEN

Don't miss our Dinner/Movie Meeting on Friday, October 19th at 5:00 in the CFC. We will be providing a spaghetti dinner and inspirational movie for all the men of the church

Jerry

ACTION Steps of the Stewardship Committee

Mission – To use the Biblical principles of good stewardship to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, beginning now at 1813 Rayon Drive

Current Reality: For the past five years we have had expenses exceeding our revenue by about 6%, resulting in over \$60,000 more in expenses than revenue for that five-year period. There is at this date no indication of a change in that trend.

1. After weeks of prayerful consideration and research, the urgent need for a Stewardship Committee was identified
2. The idea was proposed to Church Council on Sept. 18, and unanimous approval was given
3. By Sept. 22, ten individuals had either volunteered or enthusiastically accepted the invitation to join this committee
4. On Sept. 24, at the first meeting, we studied the reality of our financial situation and the procedures for handling revenue and expenses.
5. Oct. 8, at our 2nd meeting, we will identify the largest expense category and give thorough attention on how to become better stewards of the tithes and offerings of our congregation.

However, ten people out of a church membership of nearly 300 (yes, 300 – this is not a typo and does not include faithful attendees who are in every service, so our number is far above 300) – we cannot accomplish the above task without the help of all our faithful attendees. Your new committee is working diligently on increasing revenue and cutting expense, but we need YOU who are the CHURCH to step forward and give us YOUR ideas and goals. We need measurable progress now, BEFORE setting our budget for 2019. Please email your ideas to Kay & Brent Wilhelm at kb@suddenlink.net or give a handwritten note to anyone on the Stewardship Committee. Your identity will be kept confidential unless you want it shared. However, EVERY suggestion will be brought before our new committee for consideration. Thank you in advance for your cooperation on this critical appeal.

Good Stewardship is about all aspects of our lives, but the above **Current Reality** is what has to become a focus now. We MUST be in obedience to God's word with our finances in order to do ministry. And we need YOUR HELP to identify avenues for better stewardship in all facets of our finances and our ministries. We are a blessed congregation. Enhancing our stewardship strategy will take time. It is not about raising money, but about changing people's mindsets! We serve a God of abundance! As God's people accept the abundance of His gifts to us, we grow in Joy as we share with others. It is all about Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known!

<u>Let's celebrate recent gifts:</u>	A fundraiser to support our general operating fund	\$1,200
	A Sunday School Class donating to the gen op fund	300
	A donation to repair the damaged stained-glass window	375
	Second Mile giving to fund a special project at the CFC	<u>4,450</u>
		\$ 6,325

Stewardship Committee Members

Jerry Baum, Jim Braden, Anna Deem, Stephanie Gibbs, Michaela Hupp,
Pastor Jim Plyburn, Sam Sams, Larry Sexauer, Kay & Brent Wilhelm

Submitted by Kay Wilhelm

PRECIOUS MEMORIES



Below is an article sharing “Precious Memories” when Bonnie’s mother was at the Willows Center and became friends with Owel & Willa Spencer (pictured left)

Owel Spencer has been a blessing to South Parkersburg United Methodist Church for many years. He has been a part of this church for a long time, longer than most of us, and has represented the church and our God in a way we should all emulate.

As life has changed his circumstances, he no longer is able to attend our services. Even though he is not here physically, he is most definitely here in Spirit and has not lost his love and interest in our church!!! He is, however, in church every Sunday at The Willows and continues to live out his faith in a wonderful and positive way.

When my mother was at The Willows, she became friends with Owel. It meant a lot to her just to see his smile, his wave, and his trademark “Hello There”. She laughed at his competitive spirit and enthusiasm and enjoyed participating in some of the games with him. We will always be grateful for his friendship with her.

When he returned to The Willows after being hospitalized for a few days, you could hear the warm greetings welcoming him back. The love the residents and the staff have for him was evident, as he has been and continues to be, a blessing to them as well.

While Owel would most likely desire living back at his apartment, he has “bloomed where he is planted” and is spreading God’s love at his current home. He is such a beautiful example to show us that we are never too old, too young, too sick, or too anything to allow God to use us to be a blessing to others. What a lesson for all of us!!!

Thank you Owel.

Bonnie & Jim Dennis

ICE CREAM SOCIAL



Cooking, Eating, & Listening to great music... A fun time was had by all who attended the Ice Cream Social in September... And over \$1,200 was raised for the General Operating Fund! Thank you Michaela and all the volunteers who made this event such a great success...

“LOADS OF LOVE”

A reminder that we have a ministry which provides quarters for our “Backyard Friends” to use at the nearby laundromat. Each plastic container holds approximately \$6.00 in quarters. That is enough to do two large loads of laundry. The mother of the five children who attend our church services, Sunday School, SPARK, and Youth Group regularly, is very grateful for this gesture of love. Please help! You will find the empty plastic containers on the counter in the Gathering Area. Please take one and return it filled with quarters. Let's fill the washing machine with “Loads of Love”!



BRICK GARDEN

There have been several additions to the Brick Garden. If you are interested in adding a brick, please contact the church secretary.



FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Below are the monthly revenue and expense figures through the end of August this year. At the end of July we had a deficit of approximately \$11,600 dollars. That deficit grew in August to just under \$14,300. General church giving continues to lag expenses for the year.

	Expenses			Revenue	
	-- Includes 2nd mile events + Other			-- Includes 2nd mile events + Other	
Jan	\$	16,334.26	Jan	\$	12,579.15
Feb	\$	21,356.44	Feb	\$	13,608.46
Mar	\$	17,718.46	Mar	\$	20,956.33
Apr	\$	16,639.97	Apr	\$	20,418.38
May	\$	16,508.02	May	\$	15,066.55
Jun	\$	17,399.38	Jun	\$	12,784.00
Jul	\$	20,791.75	Jul	\$	19,689.82
Aug	\$	16,676.81	Aug	\$	14,027.16
YTD Total	\$	143,425.09		\$	129,129.85
					\$ (14,295.24)

Larry

THUSE NEWS DISTRIBUTION

In an effort to reduce the costs associated with printing copies of the monthly THUSE News, we are encouraging everyone to receive the newsletter electronically. If you currently do not receive a copy via email, please send me your email address as soon as possible and I will add it to one of our distribution lists. You can send your email address to larrysexauer@suddenlink.net.

If you do need a printed copy of the newsletter, I will be sure to get you one. Please provide me your name if you need a hard copy. Plans are being made to provide the Shut-Ins copies of the newsletter, and there may be others who need printed copies as well to read. Our intent is to continue to provide everyone with the THUSE News each and every month. Thanks...

Larry

BIBLE QUIZ

The questions in this month's newsletter are again from the Gospel of John. After each question is the Chapter and Verse in parenthesis showing you where you can find, or check, your answers. Good Luck!!!

1. How do sheep recognize the shepherd? (John 10:3-4)
2. What is the difference between a shepherd and a hired hand? (John 10:12)
3. What village was Lazarus from? (John 11:1)
4. Who did the Chief Priests want to kill because by reason of him many of the Jews believed in Jesus? (John 12:10-11)
5. By what did Jesus say others would know who were his disciples? (John 13:35)
6. How did Jesus reply to Philip's request "Lord, show us the Father"? (John 14:8-9)
7. What did Jesus say we would do if we loved Him? (John 14:15)
8. What illustration did Jesus use to show that we must be connected to Him? (John 15:4-5)
9. What is the greatest love a man can demonstrate? (John 15-13)
10. Whose ear did Peter cut off in the Garden? (John 18:10)

I WILL LIVE FOREVER

The day will come when my body will lie upon a white sheet neatly tucked under four corners of a mattress located in a hospital busily occupied with the living and the dying. At a certain moment, a doctor will determine that my brain has ceased to function and that, for all intents and purposes, my life has stopped. When that happens, do not attempt to instill artificial life into my body by the use of a machine. And don't call this my deathbed. Let it be called the Bed of Life, and let my body be taken from it to help others lead fuller lives.

Give my sight to the man who has never seen a sunrise, a baby's face, or love in the eyes of a woman. Give my heart to a person whose own heart has caused nothing but endless days of pain. Give my blood to the teenager who was pulled from the wreckage of his car, so that he might live to see his grandchildren play. Give my kidneys to one who depends on a machine to exist. Take my bones, every muscle, every fiber and nerve in my body, and find a way to make a crippled child walk.

Explore every corner of my brain. Take my cells, if necessary, and let them grow so that, someday, a speechless boy will shout at the crack of a bat, and a deaf girl will hear the sound of rain against her window.

Burn what is left of me and scatter the ashes to the winds to help the flowers grow. If you must bury something, let it be my faults, my weaknesses, and all my prejudices against my fellow man. If, by chance, you wish to remember me, do it with a kind deed or word to someone who needs you. If you do all I have asked, I will live forever...

Written By: *Robert N. Test*

A STRANGER IN OUR HOUSE

A few years after I was born, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our small town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around from then on. As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind he had a special niche. My parents were complementary instructors: Mom taught me good from evil, and Dad taught me to obey.

But the stranger... He was our storyteller. He would keep us spellbound for hours on end with adventures, mysteries, and comedies. If you wanted to know anything about politics, history, or science, he always knew the answers about the past, understood the present, and even seemed to be able to predict the future! He took my family to our first major league ball game. He made me laugh, and he made me cry. The stranger never stopped talking, but Dad didn't seem to mind. Sometimes, Mom would get up quietly while the rest of us were "shushing" each other to listen to what he had to say, and she would go to the kitchen for peace and quiet (I wondered now if she ever prayed for the stranger to leave).

Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions, the stranger never felt obliged to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our home – not from us, our friends, or any visitors. Our long-time visitor, however, got away with four-letter words that burned my ears and made my Dad squirm and my Mother blush. My Dad did not permit the liberal use of alcohol, but the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular basis. He made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly, and pipes distinguished. He talked freely (much to freely!) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing. I now know that my early concepts about relationships were influenced strongly by the stranger. Time after time, he opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked... And NEVER asked to leave.

More than 50 years have passed since the stranger moved in with our family. He has blended right in and is not nearly as fascinating as he was at first. Still, if you could walk into my parents' den today, you would still see him sitting over in the corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures. His name?... We call him Television... He has a wife now – we call her "Internet" ... Their 1st child is "Cell Phone" ... The 2nd child was "IPAD" ... And born just a few years ago was a grandchild, "Smart Phone" ...

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

UNDIE SUNDAY for the entire month... Place your gifts in the downstairs totes

- Monday, Oct 1st – Worship team meeting at 6:30PM...
- Tuesday, Oct 2nd – SPRC team meeting at 6:30PM...
- Sunday, Oct 7th – World Communion Sunday -Boy Scouts Spaghetti Dinner – 11:00
- Monday, Oct 8th – Stewardship team meeting at 6:30PM...
- Tuesday, Oct 9th – UMW & UMM meetings in the CFC at 6:30PM...
- Sunday, Oct 14th – Sweet Apple Farm Trip from 2:00-5:00PM...
- Tuesday, Oct 16th – Christian Education meeting at 6:30PM...
- Friday, Oct 19th – UMM Spaghetti/Movie in the CFC at 5:00PM...
- Tuesday, Oct 23rd – Church Council meeting at 6:30PM...
- Wednesday, Oct 31st – FALL FESTIVAL in the CFC... 6:00-8:00PM