John 6:35-40 NLT

PROMISE

Jesus replied, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But you haven’t believed in me even though you have seen me. However, those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them. For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will. And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. For it is my Father’s will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day.”
Do you remember the commercial where the guy rolls out of bed about 3:30 AM saying, “It’s time to make the donuts?” Well, sometimes I feel that way when it comes to the pastor’s article for the Circuit Rider especially when it comes to the stewardship time of year. “Oh dear, it’s time for me to write my Pastor’s article.” But, here it goes! 😊

“Take my life, and let it be… Consecrated Lord to Thee.” It is one of the most familiar Christian hymns. I call it to your attention this month in order to highlight something that has always struck me about the construction of this hymn. There is a slight pause between the words “be” and “consecrated.” “So what’s the big deal? Why is that significant,” you ask? If we are honest with ourselves, when things are going well, we are tempted to end the phrase at the pause, “Take my life and let it be” – period. “It’s okay, Lord. Everything is going fine, you can… uhhh…well Lord… just let me be. Things are comfortable right now and I would appreciate it if You would… ummm… not shake things up.” But the phrase does NOT end there, there is that pause! Perhaps it is meant to be used to make us step back and seriously consider the next part - which is a statement of commitment, “consecrated, Lord to Thee.” The rest of this special hymn underscores just what consecrated means: take our moments, days, hands, feet, voice, lips, silver, gold, intellect, will and love, then, Lord, use them as You choose.

In the back of our hymnals is a section called “Index of Topics and Categories.” This hymn is rightfully listed in the ‘Stewardship’ section. It gives us one of the best vehicles for expressing commitment to total life-style stewardship. Since everything that we have in this life is a gift from God, and since every aspect of this life will end when God takes us home (as the saying goes, “You can’t take it with you”), we are given
gifts to manage for a time. As we learn how to manage our time, talent, treasure and everything else that these encompass, we are being prepared for whatever God will give us to manage for eternity. (Matt. 25:21, 23).

I want to focus on stewardship, (that oft dreaded word!) but I want to look at it a little differently. September 9, 16, and 23 will be our Stewardship Sundays, with the 23rd being our “Commitment Sunday” at which time you will be asked to once again make a stewardship commitment to Lebanon First UMC. And remember - Stewardship isn’t just about the money! We are called to be good stewards in all that we have and do. Our United Methodist vows call us to be good stewards with our prayers, presence, gifts (usually thought of as money), service and witness.

In all honesty, though, God doesn’t benefit from our giving, and He doesn’t need it. But God does delight in us growing more and more like Him. He blesses us, and invites us to bless one another with our giving: so that the Gospel may be proclaimed, and God’s work through the Church may be done. As Christians in the 21st century, we need to embrace this larger biblical view of stewardship, which goes beyond church budgets or building projects, though important; it connects everything we do with what God is doing in the world. We need to be faithful stewards of all God has given us within the opportunities presented through his providence to glorify him, serve the common good and further his Kingdom.

So I am asking you to consider God’s priorities in comparison to your own. And be honest. Pray about where you are and where God is calling you to be. What percentage of your income do you give for the mission of the church: “Go and make disciples?” Look into your own bank statement. When I first made the commitment to a true tithe of 10% of my salary I really
did this and I saw much of it wasted on frivolous things. I didn’t think I could do a tithe – a tenth of my income, but you know, when I stepped out in faith and did it, I found out God blessed me, and I always had enough to do what I wanted.

All your works, even your monetary gifts, done in faith, please God now for Christ's sake. No matter how great or small, frequent or infrequent. They are all washed and cleansed by grace through faith on account of Christ. Whatever you do from faith in God pleases him for the sake of the Son. So reevaluate your generosity in the light of the grace of Christ. Freely you have received, freely give.

Pastor Kim

We never know the joy of self-sacrifice until we abandon in every particular. Self-surrender is the most difficult thing — “I will if...!” “Oh, well, I suppose I must devote my life to God.” There is none of the joy of self-sacrifice in that.

As soon as we do abandon, the Holy Ghost gives us an intimation of the joy of Jesus. The final aim of self-sacrifice is laying down our lives for our Friend. When the Holy Ghost comes in, the great desire is to lay down the life for Jesus, and the thought of sacrifice never touches us because sacrifice is the love passion of the Holy Ghost.

Quote from: Oswald Chambers  *My Utmost For His Highest*
By Joe Zimmerlee

The insurance company gave us $6,046 toward the repair of the hail damage on the parsonage in May. They claimed that only about ½ of the roof was damaged by hail.

We have a bid from Crown Roofing to replace the entire roof for $11,400. That leaves $5,354 for the church to pay. We have decided to proceed with the new roof and pay the $5,345 from Trust Funds.

By the time the Circuit Rider comes out, the organ repairs should be completed. The bellows have been repaired, the old electrical wiring replaced, and general repair has been done.

We have paid the Hatter’s Church Organ Company of Freeburg, IL, $16,000 for these repairs. $4,000 of the $16,000 came from the Ministries Fund, and the remainder from Trust Funds. We are accepting donations toward the organ repair to repay the Trust Funds. If you feel led to give toward the organ repairs, please mark your gift “Organ.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>July Summary Attendance &amp; Offering</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Worship Attendance: 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday School: Adults: 23     Children: 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday Offerings:</strong> General: $11,270 Ministries: $ 735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>On-Line Giving:</strong> General: $ 2,821 Ministries: $ 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July Totals: General: $ 14,091 Ministries: $ 935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018 Monthly Budget: General: $ 17,609</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

To get started today visit our church website: www.lebanonmethodist.org
Let’s Get Ready To Serve!

September is the beginning of new life in our church! More services, more meetings, more celebrations and more to do! Cranking off this season is a potluck to celebrate us! Then we must start looking at the Angel Tree, Fall Festival, Thanksgiving Dinner, Mitten Tree and other events that will not only keep us busy, but will give us the opportunity to serve others. Christ asks that we emulate Him by serving, telling others, exemplifying, praying and sacrificing. As we enter this season let’s all do everything we can to do what Christ asks us to do.

By Mike Bennett

**New! Prayer Ministry**

Increase your understanding of the power of prayer! Reach out to our community by adding your voice. Training will begin **Sunday, Sept. 16, 7 PM**, with Pastor Kim, Bob Homan and Jeff Thornton. More information to come in future Sunday bulletins.

**Holy Folders**

**Thursday, Sept 27**

**9:30 am**

**Fellowship Hall**

**Will you help?!**

**Allyn’s going on vacation!**

Assistance is needed in the church office the first week of October. To volunteer, you may contact Lynn Gale, Pastor Kim or Allyn.
NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS!

On Oct. 7th, we will be starting a NEW Adult Sunday school class. It will be meeting in Room 102 (across from the Sojourners class) and be led by Lisa Bennett Yearian. Lisa led a class once before, and this new class will follow a similar format – taking the scriptures from the sermon of that Sunday, looking at them and discussing them in a deeper or different way. If you are not in a Sunday school class already, you are invited to join us! Everyone is welcome!

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES!

Every Sunday morning, 11 am

† Preschool (1-5 yrs.) Children (Education Wing, Upstairs), Peg Gerdes.

† Elementary School age Children: Bible Adventure Club (Room #203, Upstairs), Nedra Godwin and Kim Vunesky.

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

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

† Wired Word Fellowship Hall, Jeff Thornton.

Beginning: Oct. 7, 2018...

† In A Nutshell Room #102 Downstairs near Fellowship Hall, Lisa Yearian

NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Children’s Bible Adventure Club

Nedra Godwin and Kim Vunesky will be presenting a Sunday school for school age children starting October 7th in Room 203 during Sunday school hour. The format of the class will be similar to a combination VBS, GSS, and traditional Sunday school. Songs, scripture lesson, and imagination station and other activities will be presented. Parent are invited to attend and participate but not required. The goal is for children to experience God together and learn about God’s Word.
“Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.” Genesis 2:3

There was a time, not too long ago, when we seniors were working full-time, and we looked forward to those holidays and vacations when we would be able to rest. Although most of us are retired, we still enjoy those times when we can rest, relax, visit friends and family, have a diversion from everyday living. Vacations fulfill that need.

In our August fellowship, Ellen Schilling shared the experiences she and Don had going by train to Montana. We enjoyed the good humor that accompanied her funny experiences. In our September fellowship, we all will have a time to tell our story. So, think of your best, worse, most frightening, funniest, etc. vacation experience, and be prepared to share it with us.

Reviewing the need for rest, both mental and physical, let us learn from our Bible verse. God, Himself, needed time to rest. “Come unto Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

Young at Heart will meet in the Fellowship Hall, Wednesday, September 12th, at 10 a.m. Shirley Malone and Ann Zimmerlee will be our hostesses.

Put a smile on your face and a song in your heart and enjoy YAH Fellowship.
To celebrate Senior Stretch entering into its second year, a party will be held on September 13th, at 12 noon. A light lunch will be served, as well as a cake and a program about the Methodist circuit riders who founded McKendree University and churches in this area.

We will continue our age-appropriate exercises with Scott Neill, who provides instruction for 30 minutes. Scott includes exercise we can do at home in order to strengthen specific areas of our bodies. He is not trying to make us “hunks” or Olympic contenders. He just wants us to be able to take care of ourselves by building muscle strength, balance, and an overall sense of well-being. We couldn’t ask for a kinder, more enthusiastic, or determined instructor.

In our program for September 27th, we include an hour of friendly Bingo. We do have fun and lots of excitement competing with each other for prizes.

Another project our group has discussed is a weekly Tai Chi class or a chair Yoga class at the church. I would like to open the enrollment to anyone who is interested. Please call the church office if you want to participate. Times will be discussed at a later date to accommodate all who express interest.

Sept./Oct. 2018 edition of the *Upper Room* now available!
The King’s Closet

The King’s Closet is a ministry of the First United Methodist Church. It began around 100 years ago and was first housed in the basement of the church. Around 2005, it moved to its present location at 507 W. St. Louis Street, just two doors down from the church. All items at King’s Closet are donated, and the monies made at the monthly sales go back into the community, as well as maintaining the building. Countless families are helped through the sales with inexpensively priced clothing, household items, toys and holiday décor. Additionally, each month a $400 donation is made to the Community Care Coalition which assists members of the community. The King’s Closet awards scholarships to students to assist with the ever-increasing cost of college. The Lebanon First UMC pastor also uses some of the money to assist in various needs of individuals, at her discretion. The money does not go to provide rent, utilities, or food as those needs are met through the Lebanon Matthew 25:40 Ministries: Food Pantry and Christian Care Coalition. The sale days are held the first Friday after the 3rd of the month. Volunteers at the King’s Closet are always appreciated. If you would like to be a part of this ministry/outreach, please contact the church office: 537-6622.
Time to Celebrate!

*Have you flipped the page on your calendar?

**Did you write down the all-church potluck celebration on Sunday, September 9th?

***Do you remember that worship will be 10:15 a.m. with no Sunday school?

****Have you given some thought to what you might bring?

It's hard to wait for something as special as burning a mortgage, isn't it? Our church has been blessed with a HUGE monetary gift to pay off the Accessibility Renovation Project debt. You're needed to make the celebration even more special.

A few more details: fried chicken and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish and a dessert.

Committee: Helen Renfro, Cheryl Henggeler & Kay Korte

Bread Booth, October 6

Bakers needed!
Volunteers needed!
Sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

Bake mini-loaves of bread.

♦ Please label and bag your own loaves.
♦ Labels and bags are in Fellowship Hall.
♦ Bring bread to church by Friday, Oct. 5.
♦ Loaves will be sorted and organized 2:00-4:00, Friday, Oct. 5

Contact Jane Novey for more information.
God's Super Saturday Children’s Festival
All Children Invited (OPEN HOUSE)
Saturday, September 22nd
10 am-11:30 am
Lebanon First United Methodist Church

Petting Zoo!
Bounce House!
Face Painting!
Children’s Carnival Games!
Treat Station!
What does Jesus promise us?

There is a poem I remember from my young adult days that stuck with me, and although I attributed to Marjorie Holmes—from what I can find it was written by Annie Johnson Flint. It is entitled “What God Hath Promised.”

Basically it says God hasn’t promised us an easy life – there won’t always be blue, sunny skies; we won’t have a life free of sorrow and pain; we aren’t guaranteed smooth paths and easy travels. However, God has promised “Strength for the day, rest for the labor, light for the way; grace for the trials, help from above, unfailing sympathy, undying love.”

Starting September 30, we will be looking at what we are promised. The series which will take us to Thanksgiving is “Jesus Promises…” Jesus promises hope, help, rest, peace and to return!

During this time, though, I will be on vacation and absent from the pulpit for two Sundays in October. You will have a guest preacher/speaker. I hope, nonetheless, you will be present each Sunday as we move from summer into fall and look to discover that God has everything under control, even though we sometimes doubt!

Pastor Kim

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
What is the Ministries Fund and what are we going to do with it?

There was a contingency fund, named ARP, in place to cover the monthly payment if the offering didn’t cover the payment. When the generous donor paid off the mortgage, the ARP fund was no longer needed. The balance was $18,000.

We had a church conference that approved renaming the ARP fund to Ministries Fund and gave the Finance, Trustees and Admin Council the authority to determine the use of the funds. After some discussion, the decision was to use $4,000 for the organ repair. The total repair cost was $16,000. Trust Funds will cover the remaining $12,000.

The rest of the Ministries fund, $14,000, will be used to buy a bus. This coincides with our city-wide survey results: senior fellowship and transportation. We have Senior Stretch for fellowship, the bus will help with transportation. The 15-passenger van we have now is not accessible by most adults. It will be retained for use with kids’ programs.

The bus will be easily accessed with a low step and will have a wheelchair lift for flexibility. What would we use it for?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Our Church Benefit</th>
<th>Community Outreach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pickup of persons without transport: Church Services, Community Dinners, Children for Sunday School</td>
<td>Weekly? Trips to Schnucks, Target, and/or Aldi’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trips by Young at Heart</td>
<td>Pickup for The Hett or Looking Glass Playhouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trips by Senior Stretch</td>
<td>Pickup for town events: Mayfest, Fall Festival, Victorian Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trips to functions at other churches</td>
<td>Pickup for Food Pantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maybe even pickups for other church events</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A good used bus will be about $40,000. We have previously received $18,000 in donations and grants for a bus. We will add the Ministries Fund’s $14,000 to have $32,000 available, in hand. If you’re giving to ARP now and wish to continue, please do. Money received for ARP will be moved to the Ministries/Bus fund. If you do not want to contribute, please add that money to the General Fund. We are JUST getting by paying our bills monthly.

If you have questions or comments, please address them to Bob Homan, Mike Bennett or any member of the Admin Council, Trustees or Finance Committees.

Bottle Concern Ministry

If your family is anything like me, over the course of a month several empty medication/prescription bottles begin showing up on the kitchen table or bathroom counter or, God forbid, land in your trash can. It seems such a waste of energy and plastic just to toss the bottles.

When organizations such as church mission medical groups or Doctors Without Borders provide medical care and disperse meds, many times there are no container’s so pills are dispensed into hands, placed in pockets, wrapped in leaves. None of those options insure the medication will be protected to consume properly. What can you do to help?

Save your prescription bottles. And if you want to take it a step or two further, remove the labels and wash in hot, soapy water, rinse, dry, and place them in bags marked "clean." If the labels and washing are an issue, I will do that for you, but it will slow the process. Anyone wanting to assist in defraying the cost of shipment, I will put a jar to collect change for that purpose.

For those wanting to be a part of this ministry, there is a bright green box in the Fellowship Hall to collect these prescription bottles. Thank you for any donations and assistance.

By Maggie Bergmark
A United Methodist Prayer for Animals

The book of Genesis tells us that God created the fish and birds on day five and on day six land-dwelling animals and man. From the beginning, God has given us dominion over the creatures of the earth and a responsibility to care for all creation. This short reflection is perfect to share with friends or groups, especially at worship time or Sunday school.

Prayer: The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth and the sea.

They share in the fortunes of human existence and have a part in human life. God, who confers gifts on all living things, has often used the service of animals or made them reminders of the gifts of salvation.

Animals were saved from the flood and afterwards made a part of the covenant with Noah. (Genesis 9:9–10)

The Paschal Lamb recalls the Passover sacrifice and the deliverance from slavery in Egypt. (Exodus 12:3–14)

A giant fish saved Jonah; (Jonah 2:1–10) ravens brought bread to Elijah; (1 Kings 17:6)

Animals were included in the repentance of Nineveh; (Jonah 3:7) and animals share in Christ's redemption of all God's creation.

We, therefore, invoke God's blessing on these animals. As we do so, let us praise the Creator and thank God for setting us as stewards over all the creatures of the earth.

UMC.ORG
WANTED: VOLUNTEERS
Wednesday Nights.

We are in dire need of a baby sitter for the Ryckman clan! This won't be needed until October, or whenever Jamie is able to get back to the choir. The time would be from a few minutes before 7 to 8 or 8:30, each Wednesday evening.

This will be such a help! Please consider! Contact Dick Boyd at 830-3953, or the church office. Your reward will be in Heaven!

The Circuit Rider is a monthly publication of Lebanon First UMC, Lebanon, IL
Reverend Kim Hagedorn

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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