

Wednesday Night Youth Group



Growing in God

Summer is over and it's **BACK TO SCHOOL!** We hope that everyone had a blast this summer! Our Wednesday Night Youth Program, GIG (Growing in God), will kick-off on Wednesday, September 12th from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

We will have a bounce house and many fun carnival type games for the kids to play along with snacks and drinks.

We are looking forward to seeing the kids again on Wednesday Nights!! We are always looking for volunteers to make this program possible. Please contact April Rotramel if you are looking for an opportunity to get involved.

Wednesday Night Fellowship

Wednesday night Fellowship programming will resume on September 19th.

Join us at 5:30 for a delicious meal, followed by small groups and youth fellowship at 6:30 to help our young people grow in love with God, respect for each other, and knowledge of scripture. Nursery staff will be on hand to help watch little ones (through age 2) starting at 6:00.

Here is the Wednesday night schedule:

5:30-6:30 Fellowship Meal

6:30-7:30 Youth Programming (PreK-High School)

7:30-8:30 Sanctuary Choir



2018 Rally Day

Please join us on September 9th as we kick-off a new year of ministry at GCUMC! We will start the morning with a combined worship service at 10:00*. After the service we plan to eat! A congregational cookout! A variety

of grilled meats and drinks will be provided, so we invite you to bring your favorite side dish or dessert. We will have fun and games planned for all ages! This would be a great opportunity to invite your friends to introduce them to GCUMC!

Parents, we will also have a place set aside for you to register your children for the upcoming Sunday School Season, which will start the following Sunday, September 16th.

* Our Saturday Night Light Service will be held as scheduled, at 5:30pm on the 10th.

September Mission Socks - MMDC

Our Mission Socks Collection for September will take place the weekend of the 15th/16th. Money collected from that will benefit the Midwest Mission Distribution Center.

NAMES NEEDED FOR ALL SAINTS DAY

All Saints Sunday is November 4th. All church members who have died in the last year will be recognized. GCUMC extends this day of remembrance to any family who has lost a loved one in the last year. If you have a deceased loved one which you would like to have honored and remembered, please submit their name to the Church Office no later than Wednesday, October 17th.

Pastor—John Tennyson
Church Phone 217-784-5452
Church Email gcumc@sbcglobal.net

Saturday • 5:30pm—Casual Worship
Sunday • 8:45am—Traditional Worship
Sunday • 11:00am—Contemporary Worship
Sunday School—10:00am

Worship

SEPTEMBER NOMINATIONS SIGN-UP

Every Christian is a minister. God has a calling on each of our lives to serve. This year the Nominations Committee is asking you to pray and consider where God is calling you to serve. In September, there will be volunteer sign up sheets outside the sanctuary for all our committees and teams. Please pray. Consider where God wants you to serve and sign-up. None of the committees involve a huge time commitment. Most only meet for no more than 1 hour per meeting.

Covenant Council – meets 8-9 times/year

Presently, the Covenant Council meets on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. The Covenant Council is the main decision-making body of the church. It consists of the chair-people of the committees of the church. However, at-large congregational members are needed from the congregation.

SPRC – meets 5-6 times / year

Presently, SPRC meets on the second Monday of the month at 5:00. The primary goals of the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) are to encourage, strengthen, nurture, and support the pastors and staff and their families, and to promote unity in the church.

Finance – meets 5-6 times / year

Finance presently meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm. The Finance Committee oversees the expenditures, budget, and audit of the church finances.

Trustees – meets 6-7 times / year

Presently, the Trustees meet on the first Monday of the month at 7pm. The Trustees are mainly responsible for maintaining all church property. They also oversee memorials and endowments.

Worship Team – meets about 5 times / year

Presently, Worship usually meets on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. The Worship Committee oversees our weekly worship services and plans special services throughout the year.

Missions Team – meets 4-5 times / year

Presently, the Mission Team meets on the second Thursday of the month. The Mission Team oversees our outreach projects and missionaries. They help organize mission trips and projects, raise funds, and choose the recipients of the monthly mission socks offerings.

Connection Team – meets 10-11 times / year

Presently, the Connection Team meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 1:00pm. The Connection Team is concerned with the invitation, hospitality, and congregational care of new visitors and the members of the church.

Children's Ministries Team - reorganizing

The ministry towards our children needs individuals to volunteer as (1) teachers and helpers for our Sunday School and Wednesday night education; but also needs (2) individuals who would be willing to organize special nights and projects such as the SS and Wed. Night Kickoffs, the Wed. Night Fall Festival, the Wed. Night Luau, Christmas programs, and oversee the supply room.

~ Pastor John



Learning in Community—Sam's Update Dine – Fall 2018

It has been a busy time here in Boston, let me tell you! This last Spring, Spring of 2018, I completed my last full semester at Boston University's School of Theology. During this semester, I took three class. The first, at Boston College, was a seminar called Sacraments and the Arts. In this class, we looked at the sacraments as portrayed in art and learned more about their history and formation. Then, at Harvard, I enrolled in a class called the Tree at the Center of the World. This was a class that looked at how trees are referenced and experienced in multiple religions. It was a real BRANCHING out sort of class! Finally, I took a course at Boston University called Spirit, Space, and Science. This class examined the interplay between theology and science and was a mind opening course.

During the Spring semester of 2018, I also continued to work as the Operations Manager for the Marsh Chapel Choir. We recently released a commercial album, titled Kallembach: Most Sacred Body (check us out on iTunes, Spotify, or Gothic Records), and sang through several different Bach, Handel, and Bernstein pieces. You can hear us every Sunday morning at 10AM on WBUR online! I also worked as the manager of the Theology Library at Boston University through the end of the Spring.

As for this summer, I have been working a number of different jobs here in Boston. I have continued as the Operations Manager at Marsh Chapel and will remain in that position as we enter the Fall. I also have worked at the Veteran Affairs Hospital in Boston as a researcher in the pulmonary department and with a few different social work groups. This has been an eye-opening experience and it has been an honor to serve those that have done so much for our country.

This Fall, I intend to keep working and volunteering at the VA Hospital. Instead of pulmonary research, however, I will be working fully with social services groups helping to connect veterans to better care. Further, I will be helping with the My Life, My Story Project which seeks to preserve the stories of America's veterans. As for school, I will only be taking one course as that is all I need to finish my Master of Theological Studies. This course will be United Methodist History, and I am very interested to learn more about the history of our denomination!

Thanks for your continued prayers and support. It means a lot to have such a supportive community keeping me in mind as I'm out here in Boston. Blessings to all of you.



Dine is a special event that GCUMC held in the Spring and will be organizing again this fall to enable church members and friends to enjoy a meal with a small number of others, on a date that suits them.

How does Dine work? Everybody interested completes a Dine form and from this is allocated into a group with 8-10 others including some known friends and some new. Between them the group, choose a date to have a meal together and organize who will bring what. The meal need not be extravagant, it's the quality time which counts. (Look for these forms in upcoming weekly bulletins)

Who can join in Dine? Like our own families are made up of children, teenagers, adults and older people so is our Church family and we want Dine to reflect this - Dine is for everyone to join in together! The friendships strengthened through Dine will strengthen our whole church fellowship and help everyone to feel welcome.

The 2018 Fall Dine events will be held the months of September, October, and November. Each Dine group will meet once during those months to share a simple meal, devotion, and activity.

A sample evening may look like this:

- Date/Time: Meet on Sunday, September 16, 2018 at from 5 PM – 8 PM
- Location: Tom and Kathy Bennett's – Hosts for the months of Sept/Oct/Nov
- Devotions – Led by Tom
- Meal – Bennett's provide the meat (sloppy joes); others fill in with drinks/chips/dessert
- Game – PIT – a fast, fun card game for ALL ages

If you would like more information or would like to sign-up to be a host family, please contact the office.

The Illinois Great River Conference 2018 was both inspiring and motivational.

Early in the conference we heard from “John Wesley” personified the Rev. Bert Kite. His message brought the spirit of Wesley alive giving us a convicting and encouraging message. “He said”I’ve come to share God’s hope and love and to set you on fire!” In step with the conference theme “**LET’S GET Fired Up**”.

Our Conference Our Kids (OCOK) easily took center stage. OCOK is a campaign to raise \$2,500,000 to help finance the spiritual life programs of the children welfare agencies, namely, Baby Fold, Chaddock, Cunningham Children’s Home, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House and Spero Family services. This campaign was initiated to replace a portion of the funds that had been coming from the state budget.

Rev. Dr. J. Keith Zimmerman has accepted to lead the OCOK Steering Committee. He spoke about lying awake in bed one night thinking about this campaign and the programs of these agencies and the words of a song he learned as a child at east Bay Camp.

Rock a my soul in the bosom of Abraham,
Rock a my soul in the bosom of Abraham,
Rock a my soul in the bosom of Abraham,
O, rock a my soul.

This song came to him decades after hearing them at East Bay Camp and he took it as a sign for how he should go about giving this message about the Our Conference Our Kids (OCOK) endowment.

“This African-American spiritual was born out of a time of slavery,” he said, “Out of a time of torment for an oppressed people that were seeking hope and assurance in the bosom of Abraham—in God’s loving arms. It was the singer’s desire to be moved to a place of refuge and safety.” “In the same way, **it is the church’s desire and purpose of OCOK, to embrace and rock children who are frightened of hurt.**”

These agencies literally teach young mothers how to rock their children. They fulfill this figuratively by rocking children and teens that have never experienced the loving arms of a parent around them. “These ministries rock children and parents in the bosom of Abraham” Zimmerman said.

“ARMS,” Rev. Zimmerman showed this fitting acronym for the goals OCOK strives to achieve:

Aligning ministries that meet children and families “Where they are”
Restoring hope and bringing healing to broken lives
Moving children and families to love themselves and others
Supporting children and families to become all that God has created them to be

We heard from chaplains and representatives of each of the five family services agencies.

- Chaplain Gay Crede of **Cunningham Children’s Home** came forward to tell the story of a teenage boy who played Joseph in Cunningham’s annual Christmas story plays. He asked to keep the Jesus doll with him until the night of the Christmas Eve service.

Crede said she was reluctant to say yes; afraid the boys who lived in his unit would play roughly with the doll. The boy wore her down and she relented. He ended up getting a stroller to carry Jesus, and all of the boys in the unit took turns taking of him. On the night of the service, the same boy who played Joseph walked up and took the microphone to say a few words to the people there.

“As far back as you can remember, God has been with you,” he said. “So before you all rush to open your

presents tomorrow morning, stop and say a prayer to thank Jesus for all he has done.”

- **Chaddock Chaplain** Gary Livesay told a story of a child learning to trust others after coming from a negative family situation.
- **Spero Family Services** Chaplain Deborah Pollex told a story of teenagers who evaded staff aiming to have a disciplinary conversation with them one Sunday morning so they could attend church with the rest of the youth.
- Lorie Bultemeier of **The Baby Fold** told a story of healing for a young girl who told a volunteer she was “too dirty to go to chapel because she had been abused.
- From **Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House** came the story about how the spiritual life program spoke about how it helped minority children strive for greatness through a “We have a dream “ event during Black History Month.

These stories are samples of how OCOK has influenced lives for God’s glory. To follow the theme of OCOK Zimmerman came up with modified lyrics to “Rock a My Soul,” just like East Bay did when he went to camp:

Rock these children in the bosom of Abraham.
Rock them, heal them in the bosom of Abraham.
Rock these families in the bosom of Abraham...
O, Rock a my soul.

It is the church’s desire, and the purpose of OCOK, to embrace and rock children who are frightened or hurt.

For the OCOK campaign, \$51, 906.21 was collected during the Friday Morning Manna, pushing the campaign to nearly \$400,000. This campaign was approved during the 2016 annual conference and launched at the 2017 annual conference.

Other special offerings collected included:

- \$6,396.69 for the Kofi Asmah School in Liberia,
- \$7,165.24 for the Tom Brown Scholarship at Wiley University
- \$8113.79 for the Bishop’s Ordinand Trip to England that will benefit 2017 and 2018 ordinands experiencing the Wesley Heritage pilgrimage.

The conference approved the closing of 6 congregations. 30 pastors with a combined 933 years of service retired and four elders and a deacon were ordained. Seven provisional elders and one provisional deacon were commissioned. Legislative activity was light for the annual conference.

In regard to the annual conference Bishop Beard wrote for the July issue of “The Current” “I leave this year’s annual conference feeling better equipped, empowered, and enabled by the Holy Spirit to tackle the tasks ahead of us. I leave with the belief that as we continue to commit ourselves to the Lord’s work, to seek God’s guidance through intentional discernment and prayer, that as we covenant to offer grace and space to one another as sisters and brothers, God will use us as conduits of mercy, grace and love, offering hope to the communities across our great Conference.”

IGRC 2019 will be held June 6—8 at the Peoria Civic Center in Peoria, Ill

Thank you the opportunity to serve!

Virgil Rosendale

PRAYERS, BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday!

	Samantha Endsley	16
	Danielle Jones	16
	Patrick Morris	16
	Kevin Knerr	17
	Rick Ertel	18
	Karleigh Kietzman	18
Joan Bedel	2 Merle Jones	19
Bob Link	3 Todd Littell	19
David Littlefield	3 Libby Shields	19
Austin Rotramel	4 Fran Davis	20
Joel Hood	5 Lauren Blackford	20
Lynne Severson	5 Kathy Bennett	21
Ashley Morris	6 Tim Shields	21
Katie Quinley	8 Avery Baird	23
Jared Clark	9 Glenn Riddle	24
Kay Bell	10 Roger Arends	24
Mark Sauer	10 Melissa Jamison	25
Zander Wier	10 Mary Rhodes	25
Ember Minard	10 Wes Leenerman	26
Roger Main	11 Bonnie Dewey	27
Chad Rosendahl	11 Patricia Goembel	27
Aleka Seneca	11 Kent Steinman	28
Tom Borton	12 Doug Schultz	28
Gail Anliker	13 Brandon Boma	29
Carey Davis	13 Jordan Nagle	29
Megan Moody	13 Craig Kummerow	30
Kaitlyn Whitehouse	13 Carl Dewey	30
Lucas Clinton		14
Susie Dueringer		14
Ethan Freehill		14
Wayne Snyder		14
Gage Minard		15

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

	Day	Years
Doug & Rhonda Eckerty	10	30
Ty & Kara Royal	12	26
Tom & Sue Briggs	15	55
Kenneth & Bonnie Farmer	20	4
Gary & Debra McCullough	27	44
Kent & Julie Steinman	28	22
Patrick & Ashley Morris	29	5

Fall Choir Practice

The Sanctuary Choir will resume weekly practices on Wednesday, September 12th. They will join in Sunday's Traditional Worship Services starting on September 16th.

Food Pantry Help

Our next Saturday to help at the Food Pantry at the Hospital is September 22nd. Please contact the office to sign-up.

Thank You

A big Thank You to our church family for all the prayers, concern, and cards you sent our way during my heart attack and recovery. You are all very special to us. A special thanks to John for being with Mary Jo and Stephanie during surgery. ~Mick & Mary Jo Kingsley

Offering & Attendance

Jan—July 2018 Offering for Budget	\$173,091.29
Jan—July 2018 Operating Expenses	\$187,490.33

Weekend	Sat 5:30	Sun 8:45	Sun 11:00
July 28th & 29th	17	113	22
August 4th & 5th	19	89	10
August 11th & 12th	11	112	25
August 18th & 19th	15	145	24

Pray 1 Thess. 5:17 without Ceasing

Servicemen and women

SSG Colton Young
AB Cody McCoy
PFC Glenn Mehl III

Health Concerns

Delmar Bedel
Edith Christensen
Nancy Davis
Ruth Fisher
Bob Hill
Phil Lutz

Nursing Home Residents

Manor
Ruth Fisher
Judy Peters
Carol Hari
Bob Hill
Jane Hill
Phil Lutz
Annex
Mary Rosebraugh
Doug Hager
Paxton Health Care
Bill Dueringer



September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2018/2019 Wednesday Night Fellowship 5:30-6:30 Fellowship Meal 6:30-7:30 God's Treehouse (Pre-K/5th Grade) 6:30-7:30 Youth Groups (MS/HS) 7:30-8:30 Sanctuary Choir						1 Communion 5:30 PM Saturday Night Light Worship
2 Communion 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 8:45 AM Traditional Worship 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship	3 OFFICE CLOSED— LABOR DAY	4 9:00 AM Prayers 1:00 PM Communion Manor/Annex	5 1:00 PM Connection Team	6 7:00 PM Finance	7	8 5:30 PM Saturday Night Light Worship
9 10:00 AM Combined Worship 11:00 AM Congregational Cook-Out/Potluck Sunday School Kick-Off	10 9:00 AM Prayers 5:30 PM SPRC 7:00 PM Covenant Council	11	12 7:00 PM Pie Night/Manor 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir	13	14	15 Mission Socks 5:30 PM Saturday Night Light Worship
16 Mission Socks 8:45 AM Traditional Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship	17 9:00 AM Prayers	18 Newsletter Articles Due	19 WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP KICK-OFF	20 6:00 PM Worship Committee	21	22 8:00 AM Food Pantry Help 5:30 PM Saturday Night Light Worship
23 8:45 AM Traditional Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship	24 9:00 AM Prayers	25 10:00 AM Communion/ Holly Brook	26 WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP 9:00 AM Newsletter Prep	27	28	29 5:30 PM Saturday Night Light Worship
30 8:45 AM Traditional Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship						

