



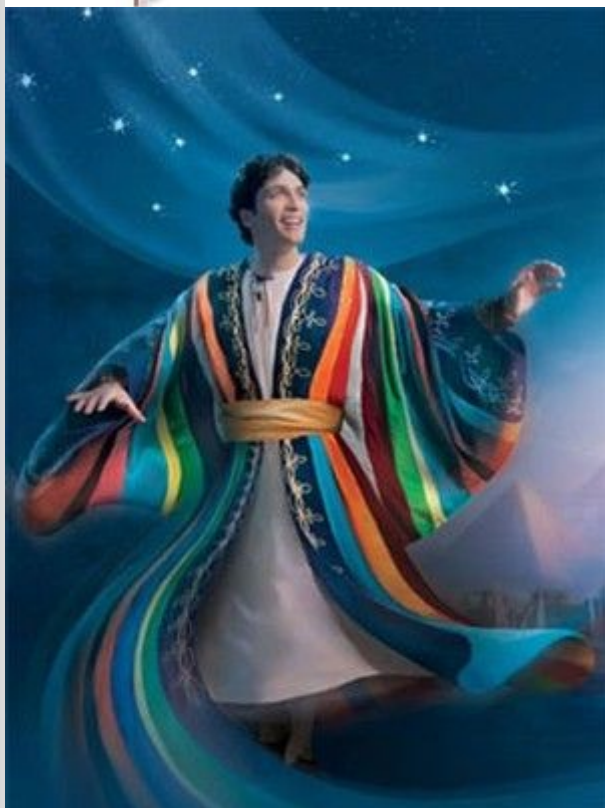
Echoes from the Heights

February 2019

Embracing God's Love. Responding with Love. Growing our faith. Serving others.

Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church

www.shawneeheightsumc.org



We all have a story.

How can we live a great one?

Join us for "What's Your Story?"

February 3rd – 24th

Starting February 3rd we will be exploring Genesis 37-50 as we focus on Joseph's life and the key features of every good story, or life. Rev. Sarah Heath, United Methodist clergy serving in Costa Mesa, California is the author of a newly released book that encourages us to, "...envision life as an adventure we are co-writing with God." We will be encouraged to see our lives as the grand adventure that they are, full of ups and downs, God with us through it all.

Each week the sermon will invite us to reflect and grow as we revisit Joseph and his challenges and gain a renewed understanding of who we are and whose we are.

Sunday, February 3rd: Communion Sunday focuses on Genesis 37: 1-18.

The sermon is "Our Call to Adventure."

Sunday, February 10th: Boy Scout Sunday focuses on Genesis 39: 1-6.

The sermon is "The Plot Thickens." The famous Potato Bar follows worship with an opportunity to support Troop 183 and enjoy fellowship.

Sunday, February 17th: The scripture leading us will be Genesis 41: 1-15.

The sermon is "Embracing Who We Are and Who We Hope to Become."

Sunday, February 24th: Genesis 42: 1-8 will guide us.

This is United Methodist Women Sunday.

Dong Son and Joo-Hwa Lee will be with us to share their musical gifts once again.

The sermon is titled, "Our Story Remains Unfinished."

A DVD and Leader's Study guide are available for any group interested. Contact the office to express your interest. Groups will be forming. Are you willing to facilitate? Running a DVD and a using a leader's guide will step you through the process.

As I remember it, Mother Teresa once said, "I know God will never give me more than I can handle. I just wish he didn't trust me so much." I always found those words comforting. It is comforting to know that even someone as faithful as Mother Teresa did at times feel a bit overwhelmed and even lost. Life does have challenges and often those challenges are unexpected and certainly not what we would ever choose.

There are times that we all wish we could just opt out...of just about everything. There are times that just about everything feels like it is going south and that we are trapped or stuck with no good plan for getting out of our mess. Michael Yaconelli, author of *Messy Spirituality* writes, "...getting stuck is the prerequisite to getting unstuck. Getting stuck is a great moment, a summons, a call from within, the glorious music of disaffection and dissatisfaction with our place in life. We get stuck when we want to change but can't, when we want to stop destructive behavior but don't, when the tug-o-war between God's will and ours stands still and we can't move."

I suspect we have all felt those moments of being stuck, trapped, paralyzed. It is often scary. Yaconelli continues saying, "Getting stuck can be the best thing that could happen to us, because it forces us to stop. It halts the momentum of our lives. ...we end up searching for Jesus. When we are stuck we are much more likely to pay attention to our hunger for God and the longings and yearnings we have stifled. Sometimes, being stuck is the low point and we then say, 'Okay, I give up.'"

Because life is wonderful and at the same time so often disappointing, or at least frustrating, it is essential for our physical, mental and spiritual health to remain fully connected to one another and God. It is then we grow...out of our stuckness. To do so, it helps to learn about those who faithfully overcame times that could have gotten the best of them. That's why I do hope you will join me each week for worship during February. We will be doing some self-reflection as we grow to understand our individual stories, our life adventures that we write, or create, with God. And, we will each hopefully come to understand that our stories continue. We need not remain stuck. Each of us and all of us together have the opportunity to reinvent who we are, rededicate our lives, find renewed purpose, and make a lasting positive impact on our friends and family and people we may not yet know.

What an adventure life is. Let's embrace it.
Let's do this...together, with God's help.

Blessings,
Barb

Youth News

The youth will be traveling to Florida this summer for a mission trip to help clean up after Hurricane Irma. This will be a wonderful service opportunity for our youth 14 and older to help out in rebuilding some devastated areas. The trip is just in the planning stages but you will hear more about it as we pin down the details! There will be no meeting February 3rd as you are all off to Super Bowl celebrations but plan to join us on the 10th, 17th, and 24th at 6 p.m. each evening. Great things are in the works and you will want to be a part of it!



Shawnee Heights UMW

Please join us for brunch on Saturday morning, February 16, at 9:30! Diann Dennison and Jo Emerson are hostesses. Agenda items are:

- Call to Prayer and Self-Denial
- Update on budget
- Update on Angel House & Neema sponsorship
- Agenda items for monthly brunches

UMW Sunday

UMW SUNDAY is February 24th! Please plan to attend!

I Care Food Pantry suggested donations for February: chili beans and pork & beans.

Thank you for supporting UMW missions!

Good Grief Group Meeting

Thursday, February 7. at 6pm the Good Grief Group will be meeting for a potluck dinner at the home of **Bob Clelland**

925 SE 42nd Terr., Topeka, KS 66609

The Good Grief Group is for anyone that has lost a loved one or is having a difficult time. All are welcome and we would love to see you there!

Pastor Barb blessed military quilts on Veteran's Day 2018 and the Quilt group was proud to honor four of our veterans. Those presented with Quilts of Honor were Doug Bennett, Ray Haywood, Bill Patterson, and Garry Scott. Other quilts were given to the VA Hospital and Stormont-Vail's Surgical Intensive Care Unit.



Doug Bennett:

Doug graduated in 1978 from the University of Maine ROTC program and completed the Infantry Officer's Basic Course at Ft. Benning, GA. He served on as an infantry officer at Ft. Riley from 1979-1981. From 1982 -1985 he served as an aviation officer in Germany, and later was stationed in Ft. Hood, Texas. He was discharged in 1990 with the rank of Captain.

Doug's wife Marlys was busy setting up Fellowship when this photo was taken!



Ray Haywood:

Ray began his 24 year career in ROTC at Pittsburg State. He served in Germany. After active duty he served in the National Guard and Army Reserves, retiring with the rank of major.

Ray is shown with his wife Mina (who designed his quilt and enlisted the Quilt Group to assist!) and his sons Josh and Mathew.



Bill Patterson:

Bill is shown with his wife Cathy.

Bill enlisted in the Army in 1970. He served as an enlisted man and then attended Officer Candidate School, receiving his commission in 1979. He taught at the Army School for Personnel and Administration and went on to Germany where he commanded the 4th largest military postal unit in Europe and a Regional Personnel Center. Bill returned stateside to the Army Personnel Command in Virginia where he met Cathy, a civilian War Planner. Bill retired in 1993.



Garry Scott:

Garry is shown with his wife Jo.

Garry enlisted in the Air Force in 1974 and graduated from Officer Training School in San Antonio, Texas. He was deployed in Germany and later in Florida where he was an Instruction Pilot for the F-16 fighter. He moved to Wichita to train pilots on the F-4 Phantom and to Topeka in 1990 to fly the KC-135 tanker. He served during Desert Shield/Desert Storm, receiving air medals and commendations for his actions. Garry retired in 1997 as a Lt. Colonel.

Joys and Concerns

February Birthdays



4 th	Rusty Simerl	17 th	Vicky Cochran
9 th	Andrea Simerl	20 th	Diann Dennison
10 th	Ladonna Grindol	23 rd	Jo Emerson
14 th	Carrie Rutherford	21 st	Kaitlyn Scott
16 th	Kelsey Robinett	26 th	Vicki Claassen

We are in prayer as a church family for:

Laurie Ford, daughter of Scarlett and Rex Ford

Sharla Cooper and Family

Rex Ford

Tom Naylor, family of Mary Naylor

The family of Asland Lemon, family of Paul & Cloeva Idol

Lost and Found

On the coat rack in the Gathering Area we have 2 coats and a reusable bag of wet wipes. Please check when you are here and pick these item up if they belong to you.

Ornaments

Ornaments left from the Memory Tree from 2017 and 2018 will be in a container on the Gathering Area coat rack shelf. Please pick up your ornaments if you have not done so already.

HOL Children's Church—Mondays, 10:30am in the Sanctuary

Boy Scouts—Mondays, 7pm

Bookmobile— Tuesdays, 2:15-7:30pm in the church parking lot

Choir Practice— Wednesdays, 6:30pm in the Sanctuary

First Saturday Breakfast— Saturday, February 2nd 7:30-10:00am in the Aldersgate Room.

Good Grief Potluck—Thursday, February 7th 6:00pm, Bob Clelland's home

Boy Scout Sunday and Potato Bar— Sunday, February 10th. Potato Bar following worship in the Gym

HOL Staff Meeting— Tuesday, February 12th 6:00pm in the Aldersgate Room

UMW Brunch— Saturday, February 16th 9:30am in the Aldersgate Room

Church Council— Sunday, February 17th following worship

HOL Library Story Time— Tuesday, February 19th 9:30-10:30am in the Sanctuary

Echoes Deadline— Wednesday, February 20th

Mission's Team Meeting— Sunday, February 24th 11:00am in the Parlor



**PLEASE
JOIN US!**

**Sunday,
February 10,
2019.**

Scout Sunday Service at 10 am

Annual Scout Sunday Lunch at 11 am

You won't want to miss out on the traditional
Super Size Baked Potato & Salad Bar with all
the fixings, and Hotdogs, Homemade Chili,
Drinks and Dessert!

Freewill offering will be collected with the
proceeds going to support Scout Troop 183.

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST BUFFET AT CHURCH ON
SATURDAY, February 2
7:30-10:00 A.M!**

Join us for a delicious breakfast and time of fellowship.

Menu: Belgian Waffles, Biscuits & Gravy, Bacon, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs, Breakfast Casseroles, Fruit, Pastries, Beverages. Donations appreciated. A portion of proceeds goes to I Care Food Pantry. There will be a craft table with Valentine Crafts and Sweets for sale along with quart size bags of noodles for sale by the UMW. Andrea and Rusty Simerl will be providing an activity/children's craft in the youth room.

**Shawnee Heights
United Methodist Church
6020 SE 44th St.
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