Sugar Creek United Methodist Church

June 2019

In Christ Jesus ...

Sharing Our Joy

PORK CHOP DINNER
Saturday, June 29
4pm—7pm

Adults ($9)
Marinated Pork Chop, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert & Drink

Kids Under 12 ($4)
Pork Burger, Green Beans, Potato Chips, Dessert & Drink

Pies for Guys
In honor of Father’s Day we will be serving slices of pie during the Fellowship Time (9:15) on Sunday, June 16th. Please help us honor our fathers by bringing in a pie/pies.

The Men’s & Ladies Group invite you to join them at the Pizza Ranch (1001 Lejune Dr, Spfld) on Monday, June 10th for a special evening with Kevin Corbin, a former bat boy for the St. Louis Cardinals (1995-2000). Kevin was working as the team’s batboy for the epic home run race between Mark McGuire and Sammy Sosa in 98, and for the Cardinal’s pennant race in 2000. During his years with the Cardinals, he saw many of baseball’s greats, including Carl Ripken, Jr., Ozzie Smith and Willie McGhee. Come take a walk down memory lane and hear his numerous colorful stories. The buffet is $12.38 per person (Senior 60+ $9.34).

Y.N.O.T. OUTDOORS

Sugar Creek is once again a drop off and pick up location for the YNOT Outdoors summer program. Please use caution driving through the parking lot if you plan to visit the church during the week. It’s exciting to see a church full of kids!
GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY
On Sunday, June 2nd we will honor our graduates. Cake will be served during the Fellowship Time (9:15). Make sure to stop by the fellowship hall and congratulate our graduates, and have a piece of cake.

EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Lily Frazee
Glenwood Middle School
Daughter of Joe & Sarah Frazee
Granddaughter of Chuck & Lois Frazee

Brælynn Finley
Glenwood Middle School
Daughter of Mike & Kerri Finley

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Hannah Brown
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Granddaughter of Dave & Lois Dickey

Ash Martinez
Lincoln Land Community College
Son of Carrie Martinez

Lauren Pickrell
University of Missouri
Daughter of Joe & Laura Frazee
Granddaughter of Chuck & Lois Frazee

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Bryce Cleeton
Southeast High School
Son of Richard & Donna Cleeton

Lucas Kincaid
Glenwood High School
Grandson of Dave & Lois Dickey

Ben Pickrell
Tri-City High School
Son of Joe & Laura Pickrell
Grandson of Chuck & Lois Frazee

Riley Ramsey
Pawnee High School
Daughter of Angie Ramsey

Kalyn Schable
Glenwood High School
Daughter of Edward & Melissa Schable

Drake Schable
Glenwood High School
Son of Edward & Melissa Schable

Graduation isn’t the end
Of a tough journey
It is the beginning
Of a beautiful one...
2nd  Gene Scott
3rd  Cathy Atchison
4th  Jessica Sharp
4th  Lance Perko
5th  Crystal Matthiesen
7th  John Anderson
7th  Peyton High
9th  Doug Kent
9th  Matthew Behl
10th Carl Kessler
11th Todd Lowary
12th Joe Pickrell
13th Cathy Gregory
15th Lauren Pickrell
16th Bob Gruen
16th Griffin Boblitt
17th Tom Stelte
17th Kevin High
18th John Halford
19th Larry Perko
22nd Louis Ealey
23rd Holly Taylor
29th Reagan King

Don’t see your name on the birthday or anniversary list? We don’t want to miss your special day! Please contact the Church Office to let us know!

**Altar Flowers Provided by:**

**Sunday, June 2nd**
Available

**Sunday, June 9th**
Chuck & Jessica Sharp
Celebrating family birthdays.

**Sunday, June 16th**
Jeff & Kathy Koch
In honor of their 37th wedding anniversary (6/19).

**Sunday, June 23rd**
Bob & Gayle Tegeler
In loving memory of their granddaughter Karly Pearce.

**Sunday, June 30th**
Tom & Karen Dozier
In honor of their 51st wedding anniversary (6/30).

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**June Anniversaries**

1st  John & Cathy Atchison
10th Rick & Diane Miles
11th Larry & Susan Perko
12th Ralph & Rose Baker
13th Galen & Marsha Johnson
15th Steven & Cindy Chase
19th Don & Vickie Henley
19th Jeff & Kathy Koch
21st Nathan & Erica King
24th Jesse & Jennie Ayers
30th Tom & Karen Dozier
Sugar Creek has been very active in 2018 – 2019 school year with the new outreach mission of “Neighbor Helping Neighbor”. Below are some of this year’s accomplishments.

Kindergarten Academy:
Sugar Creek has eight members that have been trained and worked throughout the school year as Kindergarten Academy volunteers. Volunteers could sign up to do as many or as few of the sessions that they were available to do. This program was started two years ago to help kindergarteners that have been identified as needing extra assistance with reading. This program ended in mid-May for the school year. Teachers reported that many of the children in this program have benefited significantly with their reading and letter identification skills. Volunteers spend twenty minutes with two to three children working on letter identification, pronunciation, etc. There are plans to continue this beneficial program again next fall.

Child Care for Pre-K Support Group Meetings:
Another wonderful mission opportunity that Sugar Creek participated in this past year was to provide child care for the monthly support group meetings for any Pre-K parent that brought small children along to the meetings. Meetings were held in two separate sessions. One session was 9:30 to 10:30 and the other was 1:30 to 2:30 every month. Two Sugar Creek volunteers were present at for each meeting, once a month through April. Even though there were minimal numbers of small children present, the appreciation for being there was made evident by both the parents and the school.

Volunteer Breakfast:
On April 25th an appreciation breakfast was held at Ball Elementary School for all volunteers. Seven Sugar Creek volunteers attended.

Ball Chatham Family - Summer Assistance:
The Mission and Care Giving Teams have decided that more families could be supported with food and other household items during the summer months. The Prevention Coordinator, Homeless Liaison for Ball Chatham School District was notified that Sugar Creek would be able to assist four families in need of food for the summer. So far, two family names have been given to us. We are waiting for potentially two more. One family includes parents with four children, ages: high school, junior high and twins in kindergarten. The other family includes parents and two children (elementary and junior high ages).

These families were invited and came to the Rummage Sale early. They obtained clothing, bedding, shoes, and other household items they were in need of. Both families expressed a huge appreciation that they were given the opportunity to do this.

Food collections and deliveries for the families will begin soon!

Thanks to everyone who has supported “Neighbor Helping Neighbor” by volunteering, making monetary, food or clothing donations, and with your prayers.
Thanks to everyone who helped make the rummage sale a HUGE success. The sale on Saturday, May 18th made $1,088, with more money expected to come in.

In addition to the charity that the United Methodist Women support, we also helped other groups by donating our surplus. They included two families that the church is helping by letting them choose clothing and household goods. In addition, we were able to give them a bed so that one child no longer has to sleep on the floor.

Midwest Mission Distribution Center is outfitting a trailer to house extra volunteers. They were able to find items to complete that task.

One of our shoppers shared that she worked for Inner City Mission in Springfield. We were able to give them a lot of clothing, linens, and household goods. The remainder of the items were given to the Salvation Army.

It’s amazing to realize how far and wide the impact of your donations have made in our community. Once more Sugar Creek is being recognized for our outreach.

Thanks Again!
The United Methodist Women of Sugar Creek

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**SUMMER BREAK**

Children’s Church will not meet over the summer beginning Sunday, June 2nd. Sunday School will continue to meet at 9:30 am.

There will be a Congregational meeting on Tuesday, June 18th at 6:30 pm to discuss Children & Family Ministries (see page 6).

Don’t forget that Wonderful Wednesdays doesn’t meet over the summer months. Small groups along with meals will resume on September 11th.

Enjoy your summer!

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Sue & I would like to thank you all for the prayers you said, the cards you sent, the meals you brought and the blessing you extended our way! My knee replacement surgery went well and the rehab is helping my recovery. Hopefully it won’t be long until I’m driving & back to church on Sundays. We are grateful for you all!

Butch Moroney
On Tuesday, June 18th, at 6:30 pm, everyone in the congregation is invited to a meeting in the fellowship hall to discuss the best course of action for ministries to the children and young families of our church. This meeting is not about commitment, it’s about gathering ideas. If you have questions or comments, please contact Pastor Paul (pdinges@sugarsreek.org or 217-697-4652) or Bill Allbright (ballbright76@gmail.com or 651-252-8989) otherwise, we will look forward to seeing you there.

DARE TO STAND OUT
Don’t forget the Healthy Holy Habits Challenge kicked off Memorial Day. If you haven’t had the opportunity to sign up, make sure to stop by the table next to the Church Office to sign up!

GIVING
YOUR MONEY
FUNDING GOD’S MINISTRY
June stewardship message: Our tithes and offerings are an expression of gratitude, worship and praise. Giving is an act of faith.

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<tr>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>April 2019</th>
<th>Year to Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$22,418</td>
<td>$97,270</td>
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<td>Expense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missions &amp; Benevolence</td>
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<td>Conference Obligations</td>
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<td>Program Expense</td>
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<td>Salaries (Pastor &amp; Staff)</td>
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<td>Utilities &amp; Cleaning</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
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<td>Net Income (-loss)</td>
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<th>Building Fund</th>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>$9,424</td>
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“What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?”
Mark 8:36

Material things come and go, but spiritual wealth lasts forever.

Sharing our joy in Christ Jesus by Reaching out to show God’s Love.

June Meetings
- Caregiving Team
  Tuesday, June 4th @ 6:30 pm
- Hospitality Team
  Thursday, June 6th @ 6:30 pm
- Finance Team
  Thursday, June 13th @ 6:30 pm
- Missions Team
  Tuesday, June 25th @ 6:30 pm
- Worship Team
  Thursday, June 27th @ 6:30 pm

Loose change offering
Sunday, June 23rd
In July, I will begin my third year of pastoral ministry here at Sugar Creek UMC. During these past two years, I believe we have made real progress in healing from past hurts and setting a firm foundation for future ministries; but we have only just begun to move forward into the future God has for us and in support of our vision and mission as a church. Therefore, my priority for the year(s) ahead is to lead Sugar Creek on an exciting, new missional journey – one that will, no doubt, be filled with many challenges (e.g., revitalized Children and Family Ministry) but also (I pray) great triumphs (e.g., Neighbor Helping Neighbor).

Before starting on any journey, it’s vital that we get an accurate reading of our current position. It’s important because we must know where we are before we can understand where we want to go. So, as a church, we need to establish our current bearings in order to discern where our God-ordained journey will commence and eventually take us.

With my extremely poor sense of direction, I rely heavily on those mall directories. The directories list the various stores, along with the corresponding store numbers. There’s also a map of the mall with each store number clearly marked. Another piece of important information the directories provide is the arrow or star that points out, “you are here.” We need that bit of information if the directory is to be of any use to us. That’s because we need to know where we are in the mall in order to plot a correct course to our desired store (destination). The same is true for the spiritual journeys we embark on, both individually as Christ’s disciples and together as Christ’s church.

One tool that’s quite useful in helping us establish our current bearings is a compass. We have such a compass in God our North Star. God helps us understand what our current position is on our faith journey. If our spiritual ears are tuned in to God’s voice, we will always know where we are, as we hear God point out to us, “you are here.”

The key, of course, is always being open and receptive to God’s guiding voice in our lives and the life of our church. How do we ensure we are tuned in to God’s voice? We maintain an open communication channel and a growing personal relationship with God through the practice of spiritual disciplines like reading the Bible, doing devotions, praying, participating in covenant and small groups, doing ministry and mission work, etc.

Another important assurance of a successful journey is our faithful diligence in checking out the course ahead. We never know for sure what lies before us on our journey. But, if we carefully look forward and check out the course before we move ahead, we will be prepared for any bumps, bends, dangers and detours that await us.

The perfect tool to help check out the course ahead is a map. Maps are invaluable sources of information that enable us to look up the road for long distances. As Christian travelers on our spiritual journey, we have such a map that charts the road ahead. Our map is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. He became our (always-accurate, never-outdated) map when He suffered, died and rose again, thereby finishing the course we are all called to travel, and showing us both what lies ahead on our journey and what awaits us at the end.

We need Jesus to be our map if we are to journey with faith and assurance. Without Jesus, we quickly become lost, confused, turned around, and overwhelmed by the difficulties and dangers that are our constant companions along the way. We need Jesus to be our loyal, trustworthy travel guide (or, in twenty-first Century terms, our G.P.S. Buddy). How do we come to rely on Jesus in this way? We study God’s Word and spend time in prayer, while always striving to become more like Christ every day in our thoughts, words and actions.

Together, let’s embark on the exciting, new journey God has for us here at Sugar Creek UMC! However, before we leave and as we journey together, let’s remain faithful as individuals and as a church in establishing our current position with God as our true compass and checking out the course ahead with Jesus as our reliable map.

One final thought: a compass and a map are excellent tools only when we start the journey and stay the course. In other words, a compass and a map are only useful if we are, in fact, taking a journey and moving forward toward our destination. So, with compass and map in hand, let’s get started! Let’s journey together, overcoming the challenges we will face and celebrating the triumphs we will achieve – all while enjoying the wonderful scenes along the way and the fabulous destination God has prepared for us at the end. Just a thought...

Pastor Paul