



GARDENDALE MT. VERNON UMC

# OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

*Ephesians 4:1-6: As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

Greetings Saints! After that presidential debate I need to read, over and over again, the above words. I need to engrain them in my heart: humble, gentle, patient, love, unity, peace, Lord, God, Father. Which brings me to my topic at hand: "In what direction do we see God leading the church?" Our on-line North Alabama Annual Conference this year, from my perspective, pretty much carried the same mood of the presidential debates. Our country is deeply divided. Our church is deeply divided. I could go on and on about the history, causes, and points of division within our denomination but I will save you from all that in this letter (we've been arguing them for a long time), and just get to the heart of it.

With General Conference and our own Annual Conference coming up in the summer of 2021 (Unless COVID-19 or some other malady again prevents it) we are probably going to see the denomination approve a "protocol for separation." The protocol may allow for entire Annual Conferences (all of the North Alabama Conference) to vote on whether or not they want to stay United Methodists or follow a path into a New Methodist Movement. Despite how this vote might turn out, or whether it is allowed, the protocol most likely will allow for individual churches to choose to stay United Methodist or follow a New Methodist Movement. A North Alabama Conference movement to "Stay UMC" has already begun, and a North Alabama Conference movement to support a "New Methodist Movement" has already begun. The time is quickly coming for GMV, and all individual churches, to answer the question already stated above: "In what direction do we see God leading the church?"

I mourn what is happening in our denomination. I have been mourning denominational issues for many years. This is not an amicable separation, in my opinion. It is a messy divorce. I am going to try to follow the advice of Paul to the church at Ephesus: "...be humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." Let's all try to do so.

Jesus Loves You! I Love You, Too!

Grace and Peace

*Pastor Steve*

## SAVE THE DATES

- Chancel Choir Rehearsals  
Wednesdays at 6:30p  
in the Fellowship Hall
- Holy Communion  
October 4
- Trustees Meeting  
October 7 at 6:30p
- SPRC Meeting  
October 14 at 6:30p
- Reverse Trick or Treat  
October 24

## WEEKLY PODCAST



Please join us weekly for our GMV Podcast featuring Pastor Steve & Katie Beth Lewey. The podcasts are available on our website, Spotify, Apple Podcast & Google Podcast.

<http://www.gmvumc.org/connect/gritty-hope-podcast>

## GMV STUDENTS

We are planning to have at least one event with our students every month from here on out until we can be back together again like normal so please keep an eye out for information on that! We are also moving forward with plans to have DNOW at Shocco Springs Camp in Talladega this coming January! Things will look a bit different but we are so excited to see what God will do with that weekend!

## MISSIONS UPDATE

Thanks to all that donated diapers, wipes and money to the 2020 Stuff The Bus Diaper Drive. GMV collected 9,963 diapers, 3,627 wipes and \$1,000 in cash donations.

Special thanks to Mrs. Shelby and Mrs. Crissti's Kindergarten classes and the CEC for collecting over 3,800 diapers for the drive.

Bundles Of Hope Diaper Bank is one of our mission partners that we support and their goal for this drive was 350,000 diapers. Thanks to our efforts and that of the Birmingham area they exceeded that goal collecting 363,269 diapers. These diapers will be distributed through their 50 partners to families that can not afford to purchase diapers for their babies. GMV is one of Bundles Of Hope partners supplying diapers to foster families in the North Jefferson area. For more information on Bundles Of Hope please visit their website and/or Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/BundlesDiapers%20/>

<https://www.bundlesdiaperbank.org/>



## GMV KIDS

Hey GMV Kids! This year we will bring the treats to YOU! On Saturday, October 24 be on the look out for a GMV church bus and some of your Children's team members. To make this event as successful as possible please let us know that you will be home by clicking "going" on GMV Kids Facebook page. Once we have an idea of our party list - we will come up with a route and keep everyone updated on this event page!

Click [HERE](#) to visit our event page



## CHILD ENRICHMENT CENTER

Our sweet Kindergartners brought in 3,801 diapers for Bundles of Hope the week of September 21-26 at CEC!

We are so proud of them and thankful for their families and teachers helping teach them to be the hands and feet of Jesus!

