



Meetings and Gatherings

Bible Study: Thursday, July 11 and 25, 6:00—7:30 PM

Bike the US for MS: July 4 arrives, July 5 day of rest, July 6 departs

Children's Church: Each Sunday following the Children's Message

Choir Rehearsal: Mondays, 5:15 PM

Church Council: Sunday, July 21, 12:30 PM

Finance Committee: Sunday, July 21, 11:45 AM

Hands of Hope Crafters: Mondays at 6:30 PM

Independence Day: Thursday, July 4, Church Office Closed

Jackson County Retired Teachers Meeting & Lunch: Wed, July 10

Korean Sunday School Class: Sundays at 9:30 AM

Praise & Prayer Small Group: Sundays at 9:30 AM

Staff Meeting: Tuesday, July 2 and 16, 9:00 AM

Trustees Meeting: Sunday, July 14, 11:45 AM

United Methodist Men: Saturday, July 13, 7:30 AM breakfast meeting, Murphysboro UMC fellowship hall

Young at Heart: Tuesday, July 9, 11:30 AM, Murphysboro UMC fellowship hall for BBQ lunch.

Women's Bible Study: Wednesday, July 17, 11 AM lunch, at Italian Village.

Worship: every Sunday at 10:30 AM

Grace Mission Statement

"Love God, love people, make disciples of Jesus Christ."



Grace Notes

News from Grace United Methodist Church
Carbondale, Illinois 618-457-8785

Web site: www.carbondalegrace.org

Veronica McMichael: Pastor of Christian Education & Discipleship

Michelle Parker-Clark: Pastor of Congregational Care

Marty McMichael: Sr. Pastor

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE BACK TO THE BASICS

As a nation, every year we commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence, which was ratified by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, establishing the United States of America. For most people, Independence Day means fireworks, parades, barbeques, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, political speeches, and ceremonies. However, in the midst of these various festivities I wonder how often (in 2024) that we really stop to consider the true purpose of Independence Day – celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States.

That also leads me to wonder how often we, as Methodists, think about our history and traditions. In *The Character of a Methodist*, written by John Wesley and originally published in 1742, Wesley answers the question of "Who is a Methodist." According to this own account: A Methodist is one who has "the love of God shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Ghost given unto him;" one who "loves the Lord his God with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his mind, and with all his strength. God is the joy of his heart, and the desire of his soul; which is constantly crying out, "Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee! My God and my all! Thou are the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever!"

When I think about Methodism, I think about *Three Simple Rules A Wesleyan Way of Living* written by Bishop Rueben P. Job in 2007 (a book with a succinct, but powerful message), in which he outlined a way of living that was given to John Wesley. In addressing the first rule - **Do No Harm**, Bishop Job states: "I have found that when this first simple rule was remembered, it often saved me from uttering a

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A Word from the Pastor of Congregational Care continued

wrong word or considering a wrong response.” Have you ever had the experience where you instantly regretted your response to a family member or friend because it was given in haste or in anger? Consider these words: “I will guard my lips, my mind and my heart so that my language will not disparage, injure or wound another child of God. I must do not harm, even while I seek a common good.”

Do Good: Do you find that you sometimes ask yourself what doing good looks like in our divided, hostile, and wounded world? John Wesley was confronted with the same challenging question, and he found a reasonable way to respond: . . . this commandment is written in his heart, “That he who loveth God, love his brother also.” And he accordingly loves his neighbour [sic] as himself; he loves every man as his own soul. His heart is full of love to all mankind, to every child of “the Father of the spirits of all flesh.” That a man is not personally known to him, is no bar to his love; no, nor that he is known to be such as he approves not, that he repays hatred for his good-will. For he “loves his enemies;” yea, and the enemies of God, “the evil and the unthankful.” And if it not be in his power to “do good to them that hate him,” yet he ceases not to pray for them. . . . Loving our family and friends is one thing, but loving and praying for our enemies, as well? Words straight from the heart and the mouth of Jesus!

Stay in Love With God: God created us in His own image, however we have been designed as unique individuals with special gifts and abilities which cause us to relate to one another (and to God) in different ways. “But there are some common essentials for all of us, such as a daily time of prayer; reflection upon and study of Scripture; regular participation in the life of a Christian community, including weekly worship and regular participation in the Lord’s Supper; doing some act of goodness or mercy; and taking opportunities to share and learn from others who also seek to follow the way of Jesus. It is through these practices that we find the courage, strength, and direction to walk faithfully and with integrity in the way of Jesus.”

My hope and prayer is that during the month of July we get **back to the basics** as we revisit the principles by which the United States of America was founded and the principles by which Methodism was founded - Do No Harm, Do Good, Stay in Love With God. If we – as followers of Christ – live by these principles, our nation, and our world as a whole, will be a better place for all. Amen.

Blessings!

Pastor Michelle

July Birthdays

7/1 Charlie Sanders
7/6 Herb Russell
7/7 Jessica Pease
7/9 Nina Morti
7/12 Heather Davis
7/15 Lee McNealy
7/16 Izaak Berkel
7/17 Rev. Sally Hamon
7/19 Jill Escue
7/25 Norah Pease
7/30 Becky Brewer



7/2 Rev. Jungil and M.A.Y. Rhee
7/4 Ray & Anne Forby

Early August Birthdays

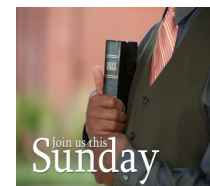
8/5 Thyra Russell
8/6 Marilyn Black
8/6 Meungguk Park

**Join Us for
In-Person Worship or
Online**

Worship on Sundays 10:30AM

To watch the recorded service through
Facebook video visit our website at

<https://www.facebook.com/CarbondaleGraceUMC>





Young at Heart on the Road

Young at Heart will be staying close to home for the month of July. Tuesday, July 9 @11:30 AM, we will be enjoying a delicious meal in the Murphysboro Church Fellowship Hall including pulled pork sandwiches, hashbrown casserole, and green beans catered by Pat's Barbeque, and an assortment of Rosie Wece's famous pies. Including drinks, the meal will cost approximately \$10.00. After lunch we will travel a short distance to Ron Kiser's house for a tour of his farm which includes his collection of antique cars and other interesting vintage items. Just a reminder that you don't always have to venture far from home to have a great time. Please join us for another fun outing with YAH on the Road, and don't forget to invite a friend!

United Methodist Men

Saturday, July 13, 2024
7:30 AM Breakfast Meeting
Murphysboro UMC



The Wednesday morning Women's Small Group is meeting for **lunch on July 17th at 11 A.M.** Although they are taking a break this summer, they will meet at Italian Village to enjoy

each other's company and maybe discuss their next topic of study. The group usually plans a Bible study, but they have also read historical fiction books, watched video series, read books about women in the Bible, discussed devotional readings, read books focused on a woman's heart and God, and even a book about facing life with humor.

If you are a woman looking for a closer walk with God and friends to walk along that path with you, you are invited to join this group. Friends who go to other churches are often a part of the group; one does not have to attend Grace Church.

All are welcome to join the group for lunch on July 17 and share ideas for the next topic. Contact Rosemary Hubenthal for more information.



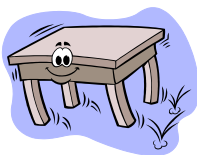
June 24-27, Grace UM Church was blessed to host Vacation Bible School during the evening hours. "Along the Shores of Galilee: Miracles of Jesus" was the experience offered to kids of ages 3 through 5th grade. The church auditorium became a village of shops offering a marketplace of activities and crafts relating to the Bible stories each night and life during Jesus's time. By God's grace, 36-41 adult volunteers and children attended during the week. Thirteen children were enrolled. Each night featured a telling of a miracle by Jesus: "The Big Picnic", "Weather, Behave", "Lazarus, Come Out", and "Your Faith Has Healed You". We learned about Jesus's acts through song, drama, retelling, and activities. Shops included carpentry, jewelry, clay, wind, fish, weaving, carving, rock painting, and metalwork. Our featured mission was GUM Drops, a local mission that provides food for children in area towns.

Dedicated adults served a light meal of pizza, fresh veggies, and fruit each night. We appreciate the work of all the adult volunteers and our two teen helpers, Kaden Langin and Joaah Lee! Special appreciation goes to our faithful pastors Marty, Veronica, Michelle, and their family members. Thank you, everyone, for preparing food, working the registration table, serving as shopkeepers and group leaders, acting in skits, planning and providing music, setting up tents and decor, and helping to clean up and tear down. We appreciate those who made donations of supplies and money and those who made contributions to the mission project. **THANK YOU, EVERYONE!** It is all worth our efforts to bring Jesus's message to children!



MaTT Club -

a place for kids and adults to gather with friends, old and new, at the table with Jesus.



MaTT Club could not function without its volunteers. Thank you... Jamie Biggs, Matt and Lauren Brickner, Debbie Ditch, Kay Eckiss, Kenny and Phyllis Fisher, Rosemary Hubenthal, Natalie Kohli, Jennifer, Kaden and Kierra Langin, Jen Marony, Pastor Veronica McMichael, Sunhee Park, Pastor Michelle Parker-Clark, Mike Clark, Renee Schwartz, Merit Sullivan, Jane Swanson, Roberta Williams, and Amy Wyatt. If you helped in any way and I missed your name I truly apologize.

Looking ahead to the fall... MaTT Club's kickoff event will be a swimming party. Kenny and Phyllis Fisher have graciously offered to allow us to swim in their pool. Watch the August newsletter for more details.

This year we may be welcoming in-coming kindergartener students Kinley and Miley Shade, and Jolie Brickner. The children are always welcome to bring a friend. I encourage you to join me in praying for the growth of our church.

Our 2024-25 theme will be Fruit of the Spirit- Living Healthy. Looking forward to another great year at MaTT Club!
Flossie



THANK YOU'S

Thank you, VBS helpers! You offered invaluable support and volunteer time. We love you all!

"And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me."- Jesus (Matthew 18:5)

We offer our gratitude to: Moonchan Bae, Muengguk Park, Flossie Langin, Debbie Ditch, Brenda Davis, Joyce Craven, Janice Lambert, Alice Berry, Roberta Williams, Eric and Nina Morti, Jennifer Langin, Kay Eckiss, Karen Downey, Shaleigh Shade, Kaden Langin, Kamma Langin, Amy Park, Karrie Renninger, Shirley Smith, Rosemary Hubenthal, Dorothy Frailey, Kenny and Phyllis Fisher, Soojin Lee, Danie Williams, Natalie Kohli, Sunhee Park, Timothy Park, Orville and Lena Hake, Mike and Michelle Parker-Clark, Nadia McMichael, Bill Crain, Greg Kupiec, Sylvester Yirenkyi, Magdalene Adjei, Jan Williams, Marty and Veronica McMichael, Thyra Russell, Kali Langin, Tricia Rochman, Journee Hall.



VBS June 24-27

Look for more pictures scattered throughout the newsletter.