

The Messenger



Pastor's Pondering

As the rain has been falling throughout the month of April, my mind has been recalling the old adage, "April showers bring May flowers." By the looks of it outside as I write this article, there are going to be a lot of beautiful flowers this May!

I've enjoyed watching the seasons change this year. I watched with anticipation for the buds to appear on the trees at the parsonage. Once I saw them, it was only a couple of days and the leaves were forming. As I age, I notice myself finding comfort in the rhythms God has established; and I thank Him for them much more than I did as a child.

There are rhythms in the Church as well. Mother's Day is May 8th this year! In addition to a children's choir singing, and honoring the moms of the congregation, I will be preaching the Book of Esther that day. Special thanks goes to Kelly Austin and Nancy Schaljo for working up a special children's church around the story of Esther for that day as well!

The first Sunday of May I will be preaching from Colossians 1: 21 – 29. The sermon will be entitled, "What's It All About?" and we will be looking at where God has been and continues to lead us as a congregation.

And then on Sundays, May 15 & 22, we will find ourselves in the very beginning of our study on the Book of Revelation. I am very excited about our journeying together as we delve into John's 'crowning' work.

As I'm sure you are aware, there are many theories and interpretations put forth about the Revelation of John. While I don't expect that to be to address everything you've heard and read; nor do I think I will be able to answer all of your questions . . . nevertheless, I am confident that we will learn a great deal and I hope we are able to experience the same hope found by this book's original audience. I want to highly encourage you to invite friends, neighbors, co-workers, family members who are not a part of another body of believers to join us for this sermon series. It should be well worth their and your investment!

Lastly, Sunday, May 22nd has been set as the day that we will be honoring the graduates from our congregation. If you are graduating from high school, college, or with a post-graduate degree, please contact the church office by Monday, May 9th. We'd love to celebrate with you . . . and hopefully enjoy those May flowers together as well!

--Pastor Renner

United Methodist Women

The 25th Year of Egg Making has been accomplished with only a few eggs left to be picked-up. The number of eggs made to fill the orders was approximately 1500 about the same as last year. The total number of eggs made has not yet been calculated. We want to thank all those who help make and sell the eggs. We especially want to thank the Young family for the meat, cheese, and veggie trays, along with all the fixings that goes with them, for our lunch every day. We appreciate the men who came in to set up the tables and chairs as well as Mike Berner for cleaning up after us. It was a project well done.

We are now looking forward to the Mothers and Daughters Banquet Saturday May 7th at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. This years Banquet is entitled “ An Evening of Magic”. The program will be a Magic Show by Justin Dudley of Decatur known as “The Amazing Dudley”. The evening meal will be made and served by the men of the church. Tickets will be on sale starting after Easter thru the 5th of May. Adult tickets are \$7.00; Youth 4 to 10 \$5.00; under 4 Free.

MAY CIRCLE MEETINGS

MARY CIRCLE

Tuesday, May 17th 1:00 pm
Hostess: Joyce Shellabarger
Lesson: Bernice Obrecht

MARTHA CIRCLE

Monday May 16th. 7:00 pm
Hostess: Lola Horn: 415 East Jackson
Co-Hostess: Hyllis Rhoades
Devotions: Judy Ozier
Lesson: Joan Highland



Mothers-Daughters Banquet



Mothers & Daughters Banquet

Saturday, May 7 at 6:30pm

Friendship & Fellowship Halls

An Evening of Magic

*“The Amazing Dudley” performance by magician Justin Dudley
Meal is prepared and served by the men of the Methodist Church*

Adults & Children 11 & up: \$7

Children 4—10: \$5

Under 4: free



Library Update



The following books have been purchased for our library during the last month:

Leaving by Karen Kingsbury (Bailey Flanigan Series, Book One)

Creating a Habitat for Humanity by Jonathan T. M. Reckford (Education for Mission)

Following God's Call by Walter Whitehurst and Betty Whitehurst (Education for Mission)

Slant by Laura E. Williams (Nurturing for Community)

Same Kind of Different As Me by Ron Hall and Denver Moore (Nurturing for Community) **Large Print**

Please make sure you return books within a reasonable time so they can stay in circulation. Thanks.

Lois Shuman



Thank you to our church family for everything during the last 6 months of roller coaster rides of surgeries and recovery. We have been overwhelmed with the generosity of this church with prayers, cards, gifts, and words of encouragement and concern. We want to give a special thank you to Pastor Renner for all of the hospital visits and prayers. You are all a gift from God.
Cathy & Tim

The family of Mary E. Naughtin wishes to express sincere gratitude for those of you who welcomed her into the life of the UMC and offered kindness, or a helping hand or in some way made her life here in Sullivan a wonderful, unexpected change in her life. There were so many that offered encouragement and kind words that meant so much to her. Mary enjoyed her church family and friends. Her family appreciated a memorial service that truly reflected Mary and her life and the luncheon provided by the UMW.

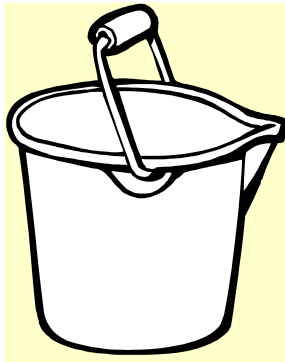
Warmest regards,
Karen Noffke

Pastor Charliam Renner, We thank you for the beautiful tribute to Joe Mitchell's life and for being there for our family. United Methodist Women, thank you for the wonderful dinner you served. Our church family, for all the prayers and concerns showed to us during our loss.

May God bless you,

Love,

Sheri Eberhardt; Rich, Cortni, & Max McCabe



The Yellow Bucket offering for May will go to support the Food Pantry.

The Yellow Bucket for April was \$486.75 and will go to Church Camp Scholarships.



“Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ’s holy Church. We are incorporated into God’s mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit”

(The United Methodist Hymnal)

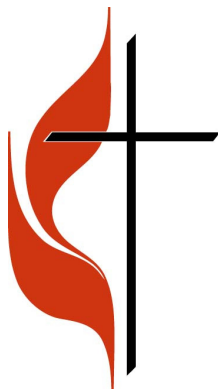
We rejoice with those who have received the Sacrament of Baptism

Kent David Lehman

The church will recognize their graduates on May 22. Please notify the church office by May 9 of any church member who will graduate from college this spring.



The deadline for the June Newsletter is Monday, May 16.



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**Visit us on the web:
www.sullivanfirstumc.com**