

The Messenger

September

Pastor's Pondering

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Summer is typically a "slow" time in the Church world. A lot of the ministries and activities that happen throughout the year often take a break during the summer. Attendance often slips during the summer as our routines are disrupted with vacations and other various activities. And yet, this summer has flown by even more quickly than usual.

This has not been a traditional 'slow' summer! In June, I accompanied our youth and sponsors to Omaha, NE on a mission trip. In July, I accompanied another group of youth and a sponsor to Purdue University for Youth2011 (a United Methodist Youth conference which happens every 4 years). And now, school is already in session!

In addition, Nancy Craig has taken on greater responsibility going from Choir Director to Worship Director. She is meeting with several adults and youth as they prepare to help lead the congregation in worship and eventually allow us to offer more than one worship style. And as you may have noticed, after 12-13 years of talking about it, the sanctuary is now multi-media capable—thereby increasing our potential effectiveness in reaching out and presenting the Good News!

In other areas of our congregation, the Outreach Committee has held two events that were well attended. The Nurture Committee is continuing to develop new ministries to help the congregation care and support one another. And the Education Committee has done some great work in preparing for the Wednesday Evening Program and making available many Adult Christian Education opportunities! No wonder the summer did not seem 'slow'!

As the Fall begins, we continue seeking to live into our Mission Statement:

Sullivan First UMC exists to produce fully-devoted followers of Jesus the Christ.

And as you know we've taken the extra step of describing/defining a fully-devoted follower (the 5 aspects parallel our membership vows):

A fully-devoted follower is:

- an avid worshipper of God in public & private (presence)*
- a loyal friend who is spiritually-connected with other believers (prayers)*
- a credible Christian witness in the eyes of nameable pre-Christians (witness)*
- a spirit-gifted servant who meets specific human needs (service)*
- a generous giver of energy & resources to God's mission (gifts)*

Your leadership and I firmly believe that as we gather for worship; meet in smaller-group settings for learning and prayer; allow God's light to shine through us before others; put our spiritual gifts into practice ministering in Jesus' name; and generously present our resources to God with thankful hearts . . . such spiritual practices will produce a harvest for God that will one day allow each person to hear "Well done, good and faithful servants!" The congregation is making multiple opportunities available . . . my hope and prayer is that we take advantage of the opportunities being offered.

--Pastor Renner

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

I hope our hot summer is over as we welcome the fall season. Things are beginning to get busy with planning sessions for the fall. Our Kitchen clean up had to be cancelled due to illness, people being gone and etc. Another date is being planned for later this fall. Our first meeting in September will be our General Meeting Wednesday the 7th at 1:00 p.m. Plans will be made for the United Methodist Women's Sunday as well as other meetings for the fall season.

Lou Ann Banks of Decatur will give a talk about the S.A.I. L. organization. Hostess will be Valee Selby and Virginia Darnell.

September 11 is United Methodist Women's Sunday. All officers will be installed at that time. A Special Recognition Pin will be given. More information will be given at the September General Meeting. We will need Greeters and ushers for both services.

Monday September 19, 7:00 pm Martha Circle will be hold their first fall meeting at the home of Valee Selby, 9 Hedgewood Ests. Co Hostess and Devotions will be by Cathy Nichols, and Lesson: Linda Grose. Tuesday September 20, 1:00 pm Mary Circle will meet at the home of Linda Lambdin, 15 E. Donty St. and Lesson by Ann Wheeler.

September 24, 9:30 to 2:p.m will be the Iroquois District Annual Fall meeting at the Villa Grove Methodist Church. Check your calendars if you would like to go so we can make plans at the General meeting. Reservations will need to be made for lunch. Lessie Bates neighborhood house is asking that we bring Coloring Books, 24 pk. Crayons, and loose leaf paper to the District meeting. Cunningham Children's home is asking that we bring Twin Sheet Sets in solid colors, Gift Certificate to McDonalds, Subway, or Walmart. Boxes will be place in the back of the sanctuary.

COME JOIN OUR FELLOWSHIP

Library Update

The following books have been purchased or donated to our church library:

The Dead Saint by Marilyn Brown Oden

Under the Maui Moon by Robin Jones Gunn

Secrets by Robin Jones Gunn (The Glenbrooke Series - Book 1)

Predator by Terri Blackstock

These books are all on the New Book shelf on the east wall.

Keep on reading and using our library!

Lois Shuman





Annual First UMC

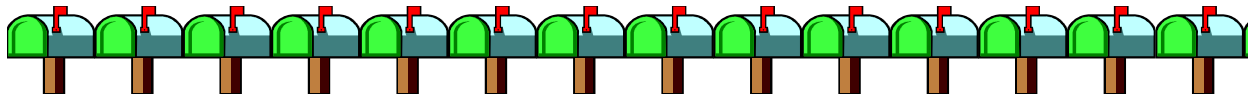
Fish Outing and Wiener Roast!

For young, old, friends, family - everybody!

At Obrecht's pond (Directions available)

Sunday, September 25

More information will be in upcoming bulletins.



Thanks everyone for the Greeting Cards you sent me after my operation. Things are going very well and I appreciate all your calls, prayers and concerns as well as the cards you sent. Hyllis

Thanks so very much to my wonderful church family for all the cards, calls, and prayers at the time of my brother's death.

Also a big "Thank you" to the UMW ladies for the delicious meal It meant so very much to me and my family.

Thanks, Lola

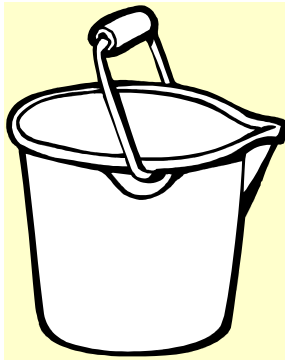
I'm so thankful for the cards and notes received from members of church. They mean so much and help with my recovery. I share them with my daughter who is my helping hand here at Pekin.

All of this was such a surprise to me, my memory fails me and maybe that is for the good.

I do hope all is super with each of you. Stay well and my best to you.
Ida May Bragg

To My Mom's treasured friends at First Methodist - my mother's recovery has been amazing- we are so thankful. God bless you all

Sue Renner



The Yellow Bucket offering for September will go to Autism Awareness.

The Yellow Bucket offering for August was \$76 and went to support Habitat.

Church Finances

Needed each month to meet budget: \$23,304

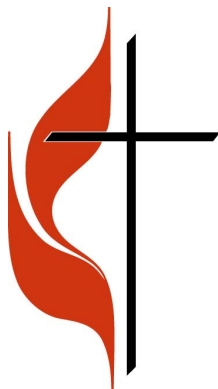
July receipts: \$24,374.36

July Disbursements: \$22,403.12

Campus Balance: \$0

Mortgage Balance: \$106,299.78

*The deadline for the October Newsletter is
Thursday, September 15.*



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