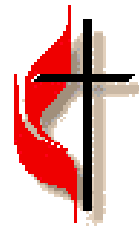


Memphis United Methodist Church
 220 W. Jefferson
 Memphis, MO 63555
Return Service Requested

Office Hours:
 Monday, Wednesday & Thursday
 8:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Office Phone: 660-465-8935
 Parsonage Phone: 660-465-2082

mempumc@nemr.net
 RevPRSmith@aol.com



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Memphis, MO 63555
Permit No. 4

Memphis United Methodist Church

Memphis UMC Newsletter

Volume 14 Issue 01

January 2015

January 2015

Inside this issue:

<i>Birthday & Anniversary Lists</i>	2
<i>Prayer List and Shut-ins and Care Center Lists</i>	2
<i>Introducing the New Liturgist Rotation Schedule</i>	2
<i>Sunday, January 18 Israel: Journey of a Lifetime And a Carry In Dinner</i>	3
<i>WOW 2015 Springfield MO</i>	3
<i>December Calendar of Events</i>	3
<i>Church Contact Information Apportionments Update</i>	4
<i>Mission ~ Vision ~ Values</i>	4

They're just a young couple. These mice have built a nest under a pile of firewood. At the bottom of the woodpile their nest would be dry and warm in all but the wettest of storms, ready for the young ones that would surely be coming soon. So excited, so optimistic. These are tiny mice, equipped with miniature jumping legs, their little bodies only 2-1/2 inches long, not count the tail. I feel sorry for them as I watch a customer begin to dismantle their safe home and load it into his truck. Such cute little mice, so hopeful for the future, yet so filled with terror at what is happening to them. "What's going on?" the mouse bride cries. "I don't know," her husband answers. "Nothing like this has ever happened before."

He's wrong, of course. Change happens — constantly. But, thankfully, it's not too often that our entire lives are altered forever by external events. Our carefully constructed lives suddenly taking a sharp turn. You've had some of those turns... Death of someone close ~ Divorce ~ Job loss ~ Business failure ~ Illness or injury. Suddenly, life is not the same and never will be again. Everything's different. We try to cope, sometimes in healthy ways, sometimes being self-destructive.

Finally, the man see the mice clinging to a piece of firewood. Another few seconds and they would have been crushed. He picks them up by their long tails, set them on the ground, and goes back to get more logs. The mice just sit there — stunned by these events, barely able to get out of harm's way. We're so mouse-like sometimes, so attached to the accouterments of the past that it's impossible for us to move into the future. Change requires courage, great helpings of it.

Joshua comes to mind. For 40 years he has been an understudy to Moses. Now, Moses is dead and leadership is thrust fully upon Joshua. Ahead is the Jordan River, and beyond that the cities of the "Promised Land" that seems so elusive. Talk about change? Joshua has change swirling all around him. And God speaks to him a word: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified, do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

One by one the logs that comprise the mouse shelter are disappearing, and soon only open sky is above. What do you do? Do you cling to the firewood and risk being crushed by it? Or do you cling to God's promise to you? God has promised to be with you wherever you go. He has promised never to leave you or forsake you. What he asks of you is faith to overcome your terror. Courage to meet your discouragement. And confidence to draw on his strength.

I think of the mice. My heart goes out to them. I've been where they are, and so have you. And I hope that, even as I am writing these words, they are dragging their nest into another shelter that will keep them dry and warm this winter. I hope the mice have finally got over their shock and got with the program. Older now, and wiser they are. And if I could offer just one word of advice for them, for you, and for me — it would be this: Don't just cling to the old firewood.

**"Yesterday
 is gone.
 Tomorrow
 has not
 yet come.
 We have
 only today.
 Let us
 begin."
 Mother Teresa**

Apportionment Update...

2014 Conference	\$ 13,912
Pd to date	7,507
Due	\$ 6,405

2014 District	\$ 2,559
Pd to date	\$ 2,559
<i>District Paid in Full</i>	

"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."
 Luke 6:38

Thank You For Your Generosity!

Our Mission... Why Do We Exist...

"...to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World."

Our Vision... Where Are We Going...

"...on the greatest journey of our lives – The Journey of Knowing, Loving and Serving God – as we strive to become a Community of deeply committed Christians."

Our Values... What's Our Boundaries...

"...everything must relate to the Core Value of making Disciples of Jesus Christ Through:

- 1) Strengthening our Commitment to God;
- 2) Deepening our Relationships; and,
- 3) Living Out the Compassion of Jesus Christ for All."

Birthday & Anniversary Lists:

Birthdays:

- 1 Diana Koontz
Lois Smith
Margaret Robeson
Brenda Eckland
- 2 Shirley Snyder
- 4 Matthew Tinkle
- 7 Megan Trueblood
- 10 John Dodge
- 13 Kathy Stone
Tayler Davis
- 14 Sarah Baker
Sharon Triplett
Alaynna Whitaker
Jordyn Simerl
- 15 Sean Huff
Phillip Kirkpatrick
Michael Romore
- 16 Joyce Aylward
- 19 Chris Tinkle
- 20 Cali Romore
- 21 Kevin Fromm
- 25 Jeff Dyer
- 26 Bryn Aylward
- 27 Sarah Myers
- 28 Anna Duley
- 31 Steve Kirkpatrick



Anniversaries:

- 4- Jason & Heather Goodwin
- 15 David & Mary Ann Kirkpatrick



Introducing Our New Liturgists Schedule (for 10 AM Service Only) January, February, March 2015

- January 4: Kathy Gardner
- January 11: Kyle Aldridge
- January 18: Special Guests
- January 25: Ron Gardner
- February 1: Teresa Cotton
- February 8: Karen Biggs
- February 15: Abbie Huff
- February 22: Larry Howell
- March 1: Adam Slayton
- March 8: Ilene Howell
- March 15: Jeannie Childress
- March 22: Audrey Nimo
- March 29: Jessica Huff

If you are unable to be at Church on the Sunday you are scheduled, please find someone to trade with you.
Thank you for being a liturgist. If you have any questions my phone # is 660-379-2743.
Elizabeth Reel.

Prayer List and Shut-ins and Care Center Lists:

Prayer List: Alan Kiddoo, Sandy King, Don and Mildred Pence, Dottie Yoder, Bruce Childress, Elizabeth Reel, Phil Struble, Sharon Gottschalk

Military Service: Logan Remley, David Miller, Steven Kraus

Shut Ins & Care Centers: Opal Emel, Dedie Priebe, John Johnson, Ardell Arnold, Charles Bradley, Nancy Clatt, Audrie Steeples, Joan Ferguson, Lorraine Rush, Arlene Stone



Israel: Journey of a Lifetime
Special Guest Speakers
Sunday Morning Worship
8 a.m. & 10 a.m.

January 18, 2015
Special Carry-In Dinner
Following Morning Services



WOW 2015

When: Jan 24 - 25, 2015.
Registration begins at 10 am. Event concludes on Sunday at 11:30 am.
Where: Springfield, Mo, Expo Center, 635 E. St. Louis Street.

What: Wow is the single largest weekend event for youth-age ministries in the state of Missouri. With passionate worship and contextualized faith development sessions, both Jr high and Sr high students find this event serves as a catalyst for their faith journey.

Who: Youth, grades 6 through 12th, and adult mentors who are safe sanctuary certified.

Performances include Slap Happy Comedy, Rhett Walker Band, & a DJ Hying the Crowd



Calendar of Events for JANUARY 2015

Every Sunday:

- Worship 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday School classes (children, youth, & adult) 9:00 a.m.
- Confirmation Class for grades 7th and Up, at the Parsonage, 9:00 a.m.
- Older Youth (7th-12th) Lunch & Group Meeting 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Every Wednesday:

- Men's Breakfast 5:30 a.m.
- Adult Bells Practice 6:00 p.m.
- Adult Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.

Every Thursday:

- Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Thursday Jan. 1 OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday Jan. 6, 7:00 p.m. Martha Circle

Wednesday Jan. 7, 7:00 p.m. 4H Meeting

Monday Jan. 12, 7:00 p.m. Administration Church Council

Sunday Jan. 18, 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Israel: Journey of a Lifetime—Special Guest Speakers

Sunday Jan. 18 Special Carry In Dinner—Informal Time to Visit with Guest Speakers

Sunday Jan. 24-25 WOW 2015, Conference-Wide Youth Gathering, Springfield, MO

Tuesday Jan. 27, 1:30 p.m. Moving On