

SPRING 2017

FIRST EDITION

PONTIAC FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

“Where there is no vision...” | A Pastoral Perspective

A PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

Where there is no vision, the people perish... Prov. 29:18



PASTOR TOM GOODELL

I shared in my sermon this past Sunday the woeful tale of my Scouting experience. I was a Scout for about six months before determining that what “roughing it” meant for me was that the pool at the Holiday Inn was not heated. Anyway, I went on a get-away to a camp with the Scouts, and to earn our merit badge we had to hike (*I think five miles*) to a nearby town. The day was hot and we (*the Scouts*) were all tired and complaining. After perhaps a mile or so we began to sit and argue with our leaders that this was “cruel and unusual punishment”. Finally, (*I am certain that our leaders were just as frustrated as we were*) one of them casually mentioned that the town we were hiking to had a Dairy Queen. All of a sudden the Scouts had plenty of energy and made “quick time” of the last few miles. It was the vision of a soft-serve cone that got us moving. We needed that vision.

King Solomon once wrote; “where there is no vision the people perish.” Not sure if he foresaw my Boy Scouts’ hike, but he certainly knew about leading people. We need a vision, a glimpse of something we are moving toward. We need a hint of who we are becoming.

Our governing body, the Coordinating Council, received this vision at our January meeting. The vision is the result of months of prayer and study by your pastor, your lay leadership and – hopefully- the Holy Spirit. That vision is that we, First United Methodist Church, will:

KNOW Jesus Christ.

We will know that He is our Savior and repent of walking any other paths in this world. Jesus reminds us that He is the Way to God.

(John 14)

GROW in that relationship with Jesus Christ.

We will read our Bibles and pray daily for direction. We will participate in small group life and engage in worship. We remember that Jesus taught us that when we claim His name, “Christian,” that we had to be learning from Him (a “disciple” is a learner) and then following Him as well.

(Matthew 16)

SHOW others who Jesus Christ is.

Our great commission as a church (Matthew 28) is to show Jesus to the people of Livingston County and the world. What does this mean for us individually? First, we need to assess the simple question, “do we know Jesus? Are we in a relationship with Jesus?” Then we need to intentionally grow in that relationship.

What does this mean for us as a church? We need to imbed and imbue everything we do as a church with this vision. To “live out” this vision requires that we commit ourselves to the vision.

After all, we know that this vision follows that of Jesus, and though there may not (or may) be a Dairy Queen at the end of this mission, we know that there is something far better, the promise of a life with Christ now and eternally. Amen.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tom

PONTIAC FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



KNOW



GROW



SHOW

MISSION MINISTRY NEWS

NEWS FROM LES AND DEBBIE DORNAN IN NEPAL

(The following are excerpts from the recent newsletter received from our missionary friends that Pontiac First UMC is in a covenant relationship with.)

The Dornans send their greetings to all from Tansen Hospital in Nepal. They are extremely grateful for the holiday and New Year's greetings and support they have received! Les and Debbie were able to spend some time in Kathmandu in December. They were able to observe their daughter Hannah as she conducted the KTM Chorale as they performed their Christmas concert. They are very proud of the accomplished musician and teacher that Hannah has become.

The Dornans have experienced travel difficulties in recent weeks due to strikes and road closures caused by political protests in the region. Les had to bicycle over 50 km to the Bhairahawa airport. He then flew to Kathmandu for a meeting, He experienced similar travel difficulties when he returned back to Tansen Hospital. Their celebrations of Christmas with their friends at Tansen Hospital were joyous. Last year, the supplies they could obtain to observe and celebrate Christmas were very limited due to border closings. The borders are now open again, and they were able to celebrate the holidays in a much more suitable fashion. Nepal celebrates its New Year in April, but they were also able to observe our New Year's arrival on Jan 1.

The hospital is currently experiencing good supplies of water and electricity. They ask for continued prayers though since they are now entering into the peak drought season. Having additional water storage facilities at the hospital now has been a blessing! They are experiencing a continuing shortage of needed medical supplies however. Les continues to work in the medical ward and is currently focusing on developing a new unit to serve the needs of patients who need long term care and rehabilitation.

Africa University Scholarship Reached!

The Illinois Great Rivers Conference reached its goal of raising \$1 million dollars to provide additional scholarships to assist students desiring to attend Africa University. This month a delegation from IGRC, including Bishop Jonathan and Beverly Keaton, will present the one million dollar gift to the university.

A big thanks to all who participated in our Africa University coin collection during the summer of 2016!! Your support and generosity will help many young people to receive a valued education and allow them to lead God filled productive lives.

Lenten Season Giving

"Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to." Deuteronomy 15:10

This Lenten season (March 1- April 15) we invite you to consider adding something to your preparation for Easter. That addition is a special offering for missions. This offering is sacrificial, that is additional to what we normally give. You may consider giving up a cup of coffee daily and then giving that dollar to the missions offering. Or consider giving up your daily chocolate fix and give a dollar per day to the missions offering. Your missions offering may be returned during Holy Week, either at Maundy

Thursday or Good Friday services, or directly to the church office, in the envelope found in the pews. Please take home one of these envelopes.

One hundred percent of these gifts will be given to our Missions Team for distribution to missions locally (Livingston County Food Pantry, Heart to Heart, Hope Pregnancy Center are examples), state wide (Chaddock School, Evenglow Lodge and The Baby Fold are examples) and internationally (the Dornans our missionaries to Nepal and Africa University are examples).

We will share an update on seven of these ministries during worship in Lent. Thank you for your gift as we prepare for Easter!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY

April 9th

8:15am & 10:45am

Celebrating the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, and the passion of Jesus for the world culminating in his arrest, trial and crucifixion.

MAUNDY (Holy) THURSDAY

April 13th

7:00pm

Communion Served

Remembering the last supper shared by Jesus with his followers. Following the meal, and Jesus' prayer in the garden, he was arrested. His followers feared for their lives and fled. The meal reminds us of Jesus' presence and our work to share the Good News of Jesus with the world.

GOOD FRIDAY

April 14th

7:00pm

Remembering the cross of Jesus, the loneliness of the crucifixion, and the specter of death and emptiness.

EASTER SUNDAY

April 16th

8:15am & 10:45am

Celebrating the resurrection of Jesus at the empty tomb.



Holy Week

UPDATED WEBSITE: We are still at Pontiacfumc.org, but we have a new look and some new (& old) features: You can sign-up for studies, see our monthly calendar of events, contact us directly, see a pdf version of the First Edition Newsletter or subscribe to the online version, connect with community resources, view information about individual ministries, listen to archived Sermons, and inform us about moves, name changes, status changes, and contact information.

PFUMC HISTORY - Gleaners Sunday School Class

The picture is from the Gleaners Sunday School class from 1967. They met at Evenglow Lodge every Sunday morning for many years, at least into the 1980's. The class was one of several that met on Sunday morning, part of our Wesleyan heritage. The Sunday school movement began in England in the 1800's. For the Wesley brothers (who founded Methodism) being part of a small group (classes) was an essential part of Christian growth. Wesleyan classes met at various times but the busy lives of Brits, most worked six days a week including children, meant that Sunday morning was really the only available time for education. As classes moved to Sunday mornings, and focused on spiritual as well as basic education, the name "Sunday school" was applied.

After the Civil War many Methodist churches featured larger attendance at their Sunday school than even at their worship services. Our history, First United Methodist, reveals many large classes of adults, as well as children and youth, often with membership roles and dues, as well as prizes for attendance, social outings and pastoral care offered through the Sunday school.

Great care was taken in choosing the names of Sunday school classes. Classes took the name of Christian or Methodist leaders; "Asbury" for Francis Asbury the first bishop of the American Methodist church, "Wesley", and "McKendree" for a famous bishop in early Illinois. Classes were named after Biblical terms such as "Gleaners" (someone given permission to pick grain or fruits after a harvest had begun), "Yokefellows" (a rendering of Philippians 4:3 meaning persons engaged together in ministry), and "Agape" (the Greek word for divine love, see First Corinthians 13). Classes had secretaries to take notes, we have old notebooks with the records of several classes that met here. Classes often had membership care teams who would follow up on sick or missing members.



Identification of the photo is as correctly as possible after a number of years. Picture taken in 1967. Gleaners Sunday School Class that met at Evenglow Lodge every Sunday morning. Identification in 1984.

Glenn Ioder in front.

L. to R. seated: Adelene Holmes, Ella Mourne, Mrs. Van Allen, Myrtle Mitchell, Clara Gardner, Mrs. Hamm, John Briggs' sister, Jennie Miller, Addie Russell.

Standing (zig-zag) L. to R.

Effie Small, Mrs. Heller, Harriet Shepherd, Grace Verry, Lucille Bentley, Dorothy Bailey, Helen Schott Taylor, Gertrude Spafford, Olga Brunskill, Frances Neitzel, Mrs. Henry Grush, "?", Rita Gaylord, Mae Gruber, Agnes Winters, Mabel Stahl, "?", Ada Dix, Emma Bennett, Sylvia Warren.

Classes awarded pins for attendance or behavior. These pins were proudly worn on Sunday mornings. A ceremony usually accompanied the awarding of pins.

This is a pin from the early Methodist Sunday school movement.

What was the attraction of Sunday school for adults? Probably several aspects including a sense of belonging. In Sunday school, to borrow the theme song from "Cheers", "everybody knew your name and were always glad you came". In Sunday school you could interrupt the speaker and ask questions or gain clarification (don't try this with your preacher during Sunday morning sermons!). Finally, in Sunday school you can more fully engage in personal and sometimes controversial topics of discussion.

All of this is still true today and we offer three excellent Sunday morning, adult classes. A class meets in our library in the basement. The class is topical and attracts a number of younger adults. A class meets in the Friendship room at the end of second floor. Troy Williamson leads this class and they focus on current events. A class meets in the Pastor's study and is a book study, currently reading Jim Moore's "Giving up something bad for Lent".

Sunday school for adults is still strong and on any given Sunday here 30-40 adults





MOPS Mother's of Preschoolers

Garage SALE

APRIL 8th
9:00am-1:00pm

Your treasure awaits.....

INFANT
TO SCHOOL
AGE
ITEMS

Baby & Kids stuff wanted
Call 815-842-1157

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
219 N. Chicago St. Pontiac, IL.

This is our BIG ANNUAL FUNDRAISER....

We are accepting donations of baby, children's and maternity items (clothing, toys, shoes, books, strollers, etc.) Items may be left in the basement Cartwright Room clearly marked "MOPS."

All proceeds benefit our MOPS and Teen MOPS Ministries.



Vacation Bible School

It is hard to believe but it is already that time of year! VBS has been being planned by the Children and Family Ministry Team since last fall. Our theme this year is "Maker Fun Factory."



We will spark imagination with Faith-Building Fun! Imagine a world where curious kids become hands-on inventors who discover they're lovingly crafted by God. Spark creativity with interactive decoration and experiences. Maker Fun Factory Vacation Bible School will transform our church into a place buzzing with excitement!



The dates for VBS this year are June 26-30 from 8 am – 11:30 am. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Tracy Bromley at the church office. Please also watch your bulletin for registration information and volunteer opportunities!

Children and Family Ministry Newsletter Reminder

The Children and Family Ministry team is still creating their own newsletter on a quarterly basis. Please feel free to check the Welcome Desk in January, April, July, and October to keep up to date on what the children of our church are up to!



Mary Lauher, Parish Nurse

HEALTH NEWS

Eating Meals as a Family: Fun and Good For You!

Sitting down for family meals seems harder to do these days when everyone is running in different directions. But a recent study published in the Journal of Pediatrics found young adults who ate just one or two family meals a week as kids were 45 percent less likely to be overweight as compared to those who had never eaten with their families.

Some of the thinking behind this is that when we eat as a family we eat more slowly and intentionally. Parents may be more careful about the kinds of foods they serve. Portion sizes or how much we actually consume tends to be less.

But eating together can also promote connection and a sense of love and belonging which helps reduce the impact of stress on the body. We know that stress can stimulate the production of hormones that can affect our metabolism, or our ability to burn fat. Caring, supportive interaction with other people is one of the most powerful ways to help our bodies release stress.

Eating as a family is fun and doesn't take as much time as you might think. Give it a try!

Prayer: Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, king of the world, who brings forth bread from the earth.
(Ancient Jewish blessing)

If you have any questions that I can help you with, please contact me.

Mary

This is a copy of the Sept 2016 Advocate BroMenn Delegate Church Association Delegate Church Health Tips



**Food tastes better when you
eat it with your family.**



First United Methodist Church
 "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ"
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 Pontiac, IL. 61764

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"The Mission of our church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of Pontiac and the world!"

AWANA Going Strong!

Our first year of AWANA Clubs is quickly coming to an end. The children are working hard to complete their handbooks and memorize Bible verses! Children truly enjoy AWANA, which can be seen here in the building on any AWANA Sunday night and they enjoy learning about God and how much God loves them. Our AWANA volunteers and High School helpers all have positive remarks about AWANA and how much the children enjoy it. We plan to continue AWANA next fall and add another Club of Cubbies for 3 & 4 year olds.

We will end our AWANA year on May 7 with an award banquet. We will be having a good old fashioned picnic style dinner with grilled hots dogs and hamburgers. We will follow up the dinner with a presentation of the awards that the children earned for the year. You are invited to join us for this meal and presentation. We would love to have as many from our congregation as possible present. Please watch your bulletin for more information.

AWANA Needs your help!

On April 30th we will have an AWANA store. An AWANA store will be where the children will be able to "spend" points that they have been earning all year at AWANA. They earn points for attending club, bringing a Bible to club, bringing their handbook to club, wearing their uniform, bringing a friend to club, and also for positive behavior at club. The kids have worked hard to earn these points to "spend" and we need your help to stock the AWANA store.

Coming soon there will be an "AWANA Tree" in the Narthex, similar to the Angel Tree at Christmas. On this tree will be items that can be purchased for the AWANA store. We are going to ask the congregation to take an "AWANA Card" off the tree. On that card will be a picture of the needed item as well as the dollar value. Knowing that many people are busy, the opportunity to donate the dollar value will be an option so that everyone can participate. Watch your bulletin and the Narthex for more information about the "AWANA Tree."



AWANA Clubs Playing "Follow Me"