



COURTLAND-OAKFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GOOD NEWS FROM THE HILL

Delivering Hope, Healing & Hospitality to our Community

NOVEMBER 2017

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Dear Friends,

Stewardship encompasses so much more than just finances. I've been thinking about that a lot lately. A bird's eye view sees all of life as an exercise in the care of the gifts God has given us. That includes the gifts the Church holds, both physical and spiritual. How do we care for what we "have?" As followers of Jesus, we hold on to earthly possessions lightly, always thinking about how they may be used for the advancement of the kingdom of God.

Are we living into the calling God has for Courtland-Oakfield UMC to be the Church where we are at? Do we know what that calling is? Courtland-Oakfield has a wonderful mission and vision statement which should be the focus of our calling as we have heard God whisper it in our hearts. Are we focusing our time, energy and resources in accomplishing that vision and mission? What do we need to let go of in order to accomplish it? What do we need to embrace? What do we need to reach toward?

Part of that consideration is whether or not it makes sense to sell the parsonage. How will holding on to it accomplish our mission? How would selling it accomplish our mission?

On **November 7**, we will be holding a Town Hall meeting to discuss the possible sale of the parsonage. This meeting is informational only. The Governance Board has put together a short Power Point presentation that will hopefully answer most of your questions. The Trustees and the Governance Board will be present to answer any other questions you may have.

A vote will not be taken until the Church Conference on **Thursday, December 7 @ 7 pm**. The Church Conference will happen in conjunction with Wyoming Park (No, they don't get to vote on the sale of our parsonage!) at Wyoming Park UMC. You will need to be present to vote.

Let's all be praying for our church. We have an abundance of resources—faithful people, a wonderful facility, a healthy budget and willing hands. Pray that we may discern how best to be good stewards of all which God has blessed us.

*God's Peace to You,
Pastor Kim*

A SEASON OF SAINTS

A new sermon series begins on Nov. 5, the day we will celebrate All Saint's Day. The service will be an "all ages" service, which means the children will not be excused for Sunday School but will be included in leadership and much more of the service will be geared toward them.

You'll hear during our series that saints are those who share God's love. Paul often referred to his fellow disciples as saints. We are imperfect, sinners to be sure, each one of us, but also saints. The more we share God's love, the more our saint-li-ness shines through. Recently I was made aware that Derek Wedge had to complete a homework assignment that included interviewing people he admired. Derek chose two God Squad leaders, Don and Carol Bailey, to be his subjects along with others from this congregation.

Derek was willing to share the outline for his speech, and I have included it below. I think you'll see that Derek considers the Baileys and others who have assisted with leading God Squad saints in his life. Keep on sharing the love, saints of Courtland-Oakfield!

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

In other news, "Not a Silent Night" will be our Advent Bible study that will most likely be held on Tuesday beginning Nov. 28 for four weeks. There will be a sign-up sheet at Guest Central to determine whether we hold the study during the day or in the evening. The books have arrived. The cost is \$11.49, but don't let the cost prevent you from taking one and attending. Whatever you can or cannot donate is fine.

"Not a Silent Night" is a study where we "imagine Jesus from Mary's point of view—proud of her son, in awe of his gifts and mission, guided by love for him as a person and so much more. In this book, Adam Hamilton begins at the end, with Mary at the crucifixion and resurrection; travels back in time as she witnesses his life and ministry; and ends at the beginning, with the Christ child born in a stable, Mary's beautiful baby."

I hope you'll join me in this study while we prepare our hearts for celebrating the birth of Jesus.

*Open hearts,
open minds,
open doors.*

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Sunday Service at 11:00 am

GOD SQUAD ACTIVITIES

November 5: Meeting & Lunch @ Bailey's with Carol leading a lesson / discussion about the life / faith of Jesus' Mom - Mary followed by a road trip to watch the Griffins' 4:00 pm hockey game.

November 19: No Meeting scheduled at this time.

December 2: Cutting Down & Decoration of the COUMC Advent Sanctuary Tree starting @ 1:00 pm + GS worker treats.

December 3: GS Christmas party & holiday dinner @ Baileys with secret Santa gift exchange.

December 17: No Meeting scheduled at this time.

December 31: No Meeting - New Years Eve - Baileys fleeing to CCR.



GOD SQUAD IN FOCUS: DEREK WEDGE

People have had experiences of all kinds and some are very important to them. An experience that is important to me is going camping with my youth group.

Three main reasons why is because they are such good people, it's a week away from everything back home, and there are countless activities.

First, because I really like being around them. They are really nice. There aren't a lot of kids so I am very close to them. It makes camping with them way easier.



Next, I can forget everything back home. Sometimes it's nice to just get away. It gives you time to do things you normally wouldn't.

Third, there are countless activities. Some of my favorites were: Elk hunting, paddle boarding and tennis

Finally, the reasons why camping with my youth group is one of my favorite memories are because they are great people, it is a way to get out of the house, and there are so many things to do.

NEW SMALL GROUP! GLAD 2

Deb Galloway has started a new small group on Sunday mornings before worship.

This is an informal group who is Glad 2 to give, learn, and, devote ourselves to God. **Time 9:45 - 10:30 am.**

OUR NEXT BLOOD DRIVE!

Sunday, November 12: Have you signed up yet for our next blood drive?

Kary Scheiern will be gifting to one successful donor a beautiful crocheted blanket made by her mother, and another successful donor will receive a frozen turkey!

Don't miss another opportunity to save lives. Breakfast will again be served by David Harding and the breakfast gang. Sign-up in the narthex, at our church website, or at https://donate.miblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/95411

Wedding Anniversaries

- 12 Fred and Deb Galloway
- 14 Lou and Diane Harvey



Happy Birthday!

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Jacqueline Pederson | 21 Marilyn Reeb |
| 2 Dorothy Wiest | 22 Kenna Allen |
| 5 Dawna Ames | 23 Scott Fuller |
| 7 Steve Allen | 24 Amanda Postema |
| 7 Jack Vande Bunte | 25 Orma Pleyter |
| 11 James Streeter | 27 Thelma Hemmerly |
| 13 Kim DeLong | 29 Sarah Chertos |
| 15 Jack Mata | 30 Jeanne Bowser |
| 19 Don Chandler | |



A prehistoric visitor in Fellowship Hall during the Trunk R Treat



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