



Greenbrier FUMC focus

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GREENBRIER FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
JULY 24 – AUGUST 4, 2016

A Lifestyle of Prayer

24 Hour Prayer Vigil – August 5 & 6

Sign up for a spot for our 24 hour prayer vigil on the board in the lobby.

It is a call to prayer for the entire church to come to our sanctuary and be part of our 24 hour prayer vigil starting at noon on Friday, August 5 and continuing through noon on Saturday, August 6. There are so many reasons for us to be on our knees ... from terrorist attacks around the world, hatred and killings in our own country, those that are hungry and hurting, the struggles within the Methodist denomination and the needs in our community and local church family. Teachers and kids will be starting school in a few weeks and some of our kids will be heading off to college for the first time. They all need our prayers. I know there are dozens of other needs we need to be praying about just in our church family. We are hoping that this will not be a 24 hour event but also will kick start you to begin a lifestyle of daily

prayer.

John Wesley who would spend two hours every day in prayer, believed that “God does nothing except in response to believing prayer.” So let us gather together to pray on this first weekend of August expecting and believing that God will move and act.

We also want to pray for your specific needs during this time so we have placed a prayer box and prayer cards by the sign up board. Please take a moment over the next two weeks and fill out your prayer request on a card and place it in the prayer box. We will take those out during the prayer vigil and pray specifically for each need. Come join your church family and pray as part of our 24 hour vigil.

One Worship Service – Next Sunday

Don't forget that next Sunday, July 31st, is our Fifth Sunday. We will gather together for one worship service at 11:00 a.m. and afterwards have a Fifth Sunday Potluck with a 30 foot long banana split. That will also be the close to our Christmas in July emphasis for Operation Christmas Child. So be sure and bring any last minute items for our shoeboxes to place under the Chrismon tree. We will have the Communion service at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. followed by one big celebration of worship! Make plans to join us next Sunday!

Church Events

- **July 24th** - Celebration of the Life of Jean Humphrey at 4:00 p.m.
- **July 25th** – Youth head to Jr. High & Sr. High Assembly at 3:45 p.m.
- **July 25th** - Mary/Martha Circle (Adam Hamilton Study: Half Truths) at 1:00 p.m.
- **July 28th** – Bethlehem House Meal at 6:00 p.m. (Horizon Class)
- **July 31st** - Fifth Sunday Worship Service and Potluck with 30 ft long banana split for dessert. Worship begins at 11:00 a.m.
- **August 5 & 6th** – 24 hour Prayer Vigil at the church noon –noon
- **August 5th** – Youth Bridge Walk in North Little Rock

Youth News

Summer is winding down but there is still plenty of fun to come!

Hey gang, the big summer event is this week. Jr. High & Sr. High Assembly kicks off Monday, July 25th and runs through Friday the 29th at Hendrix College. We have 28 youth going! This is going to be a great time of spiritual renewal for our group. Meet up at the church on Monday at 3:45 p.m. and we will head down together.

We have finished up our Wednesday night summer 'Hunger Games' study. We will move back to Sunday evening youth time beginning in

August and then add Wednesday nights back to our youth schedule after Labor Day.

Don't forget Michelle needs the forms for the Methodist Family Health Bridge Walk turned in WITH \$10 by July 31 so we can get registered for the walk happening August 5th. Then we will attend ACCYMs got talent afterwards at St. James UMC. All 6th Graders are invited to attend this one with us!! We can't wait for you to be a part of our amazing youth!



Trip to Blanchard's Springs on the first Adventure Saturday

What's to Come of the United Methodist Church?

Two months ago, after the General Conference had completed their work, I sent out an email to our church family to share with you my thoughts and concerns about the proceedings at General Conference. I told you then that the Methodist Church that I was introduced to as a freshmen at Baylor University in 1974 was no more. The past two months have only hastened the process and the inevitability of a split within our denomination. I have had many of you come up and visit with me about what will happen and your concern for the witness of the church. With the advent of social media news travels extremely fast. Jurisdictional Conferences met this month with the primary purpose of electing bishops to fill the places of those bishops who were retiring. At the five Jurisdictional Conferences, fifteen new bishops were elected to serve as presiding officers of our churches in the United States. One of those bishops elected by the 88 delegates in the Western Jurisdiction, is a self avowed practicing lesbian who is married to another woman. This clearly is an act of disobedience and goes against the directives of our Book of Discipline. Put that into perspective88 Methodist of the more than 12 million United Methodist world-wide have made a decision that has thrown our denomination into turmoil. The smallest and fastest declining of our five regional jurisdictions has decided to break the covenant that we share with each other.

The South Central Jurisdiction (of which Arkansas is a part) asked the Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church, our version of the Supreme Court, for a ruling as to the legality of the election and their response will be coming in the months to come. The Council on Bishops will be meeting as well to discuss this. Our Bishop has assured us that he will continue to uphold our current Book of Discipline. If you would like to read the Bishops letter you can read it online at <http://arumc.org/2016/07/a-message-from-bishop-gary-e-mueller/>

I will be attending the New Room Conference in September in Tennessee and a meeting in Chicago on October 6th of the newly formed Wesley Covenant Association that will be a network of orthodox United Methodist congregations, clergy and laity committed to our rich heritage as United Methodist. As I have said before, nothing will change here at GreenbrierFUMC but you may read some things on Facebook or other media about this issue. At this point no one knows what the future holds for our denomination but I can assure you it will look different than the past 50 years. Please be in prayer for our Bishop and our denomination in the months to come. If you have questions please feel free to come and see me.

Kevin

70%

The percentage of people that said they would try visiting a church if a friend personally invited them.



The Class Meeting

John Wesley formed the first network of class meetings in 1742 to facilitate the service of a "meeting house" debt – not unlike modern home meetings many of us have participated in related to building/capital campaigns. However, under the guidance of committed layperson class leaders and the shepherding of John Wesley, class meetings evolved into settings where members "watched over one another in love" and where lives were transformed. Over the next century-and-a-half, hundreds of thousands of people across Europe and North America explored, experienced, and expressed faith as a result of relationships they experienced in class meetings and bands.

Greenbrier FUMC is looking to form a number of these class meetings this fall for spiritual growth and to encourage each other in our walk with Christ. If you are interested in being part of one of our initial class meeting please see Bro. Kevin for more information.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.” Matthew 24:35

The food pantry has given out food 225 times this year and about \$4,500.00 has been spent from the food pantry fund. This year 24 new people have come from Conway indicating that word is spreading far and wide. Clients have commented that: we give a lot, give good stuff, are excited to get hamburger and are open more than other food pantries.

Donations of food have been way down since the Quarters for Food drive. Among the most needed items are: peanut butter, luncheon loaf (spam), 1# hamburger packages, cereal, dry beans, and broth..... but anything and everything is welcomed!

A third of Arkansans 60 and older don't always know where they will get their next meal, according to the Arkansas Division of Aging and Adult Services. The need in our state is very great and we see people of all ages coming to our food pantry for assistance. Thanks for all you do to help us minister to the people of Faulkner County.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:

Our children's Sunday School attendance has been low during the summer months. If you have young children consider having them here during the 10:00 a.m. hour. Our kids need to be learning the Word. Our elementary (age 5 through 5th grade) Sunday School class is continuing in the Deep Blue One Room Sunday School program. During July and August they are learning about a "fruit of the Spirit" each Sunday. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23)

DISCOVERY CLUB For Kids Starts in September!

We are looking for some additional leaders for our Discovery Club, Wednesday night program (6:30 -7:30 p.m.) for our kids. Dianna Prout heads this up and all the lesson plans and prep are done by Claire Welch building on the Deep Blue lesson that they learn on Sunday morning. If you would like to take a one month tour of duty through Discovery Club and lead this wonderful group of Wednesday Night kids let Dianna Prout know this week.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH PROGRAM ON SUNDAYS AT 11:00 WORSHIP

Our young kids worship with us during the 11:00 a.m. worship service but then leave the sanctuary during the sermon time and have their own lesson time. We use the Sharefaith lesson material which walks the kids through the Bible in 52 weeks touching on the major Bible stories and lessons. The lesson is a 30 minute program and the material includes video, Scripture memorization, worksheets, crossword puzzles and mazes to reinforce the Bible lesson. If you would like to coordinate this program or be added to the teaching rotation please contact Bro. Kevin. We could sure use a coordinator this fall for this program!

Financial News

Online giving available at
www.greenbrierfumc.org/online-giving

It is so great to see so many Facebook post of our people getting to relax on the beach, travel to visit family, taking some time this summer to reconnect with their kids at the lake and just unwind together. Give thanks to God for this time to be renewed. But while we are away from church this summer don't forget to give God thanks for your church family and remember to be faithful in your giving during these hot summer months. So please continue to support your church in prayer and giving during the summer months. We have made it easy for you to give while you are away. Please try out our online giving at www.greenbrierfumc.org or you can continue to give through the old fashion way of mailing the church a check.

Here is where we stand at the middle of July:

OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2016	
	\$193,796.00
NEEDED TO DATE	\$108,078.54
GIVING AS OF JULY 17, 2016	\$102,303.58
DEFICIT TO DATE	-\$5,774.96

We are also getting excitingly close to paying off the new parsonage. As of the first of August we will owe about \$1400. We should have the parsonage paid off the first of October! We are so thankful for your faithfulness!

Long Range Planning Committee

The long-range planning committee used the input we received to draft vision and mission statements and to identify five goal areas. The goal areas we currently are working on are worship, outreach, educational programs, fellowship, and facilities & property. We will share drafts and gather feedback from the congregation within the next month; we are still on track to present a plan for consideration to the Administrative Council at its October meeting. Please share any thoughts or ideas that you have with the committee; we want to create a plan that reflects ideas from the congregation and that provides guidance for decision-making over the next five years. We appreciate all who have contributed to this effort. If you have thoughts to share or questions to ask, feel free to contact Rebecca Mills, Brother Kevin, or any committee member.

Miscellaneous Announcements

- **The United Methodist Women** still have a few GFUMC t-shirts available for sale. They are blue and have the cross and flame logo. Sizes include two large and four X large. The shirts are now selling for half-price ... \$6.00 Bargain! You can see them at the Welcome Center but this is the last of the shirts so act fast!
- **GreenbrierFUMC** will be a collection point this year (November) for **Operation Christmas Child boxes**. John Welch is the coordinator for our collection site. He will need four people to work on Wednesday, November 16 from 4-7 p.m. and four people to work on Saturday, November 19 from 3:30-6:30 p.m. at our church as people bring their boxes in. The work is simple and John will be glad to give you all the necessary instructions. I know this is a five months away but if you are interested in helping John by filling one of these time slots, go ahead and let him know you will be willing to help.
- **Lacey Crosby** is back from her mission trip with the Hendrix Youth Institute. She spent a week in Guatemala doing mission and ministry. She will share some of her experience with us on Sunday, July 31. **Jamie Ward** will also be sharing with the church on that Sunday of the work we did as part of the Red Bird Mission team this summer. We are so thankful for those who have a passion for ministry in our church!
- Don't forget our **BLESSING BAG program** during the summer months. This could be a great activity for a Sunday School class or a family to help out with. If one class would supply the Ziplock bags or a family would supply the bottled water or juice boxes...another group could supply granola bars and so on, it would make things a lot easier. If your family or group would be willing to do that, contact Cassidy Broadway. It will help keep our blessing bag ministry going strong.

The Yahmas Sunday School class is having a get together and potluck at Randy and Rhonda Garrett's house on Sunday, August 14 after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Randy and Rhonda live at 31 North Cadron Drive in Greenbrier. For more information contact Rhonda at 679-1769. Anyone is invited to come and fellowship with the Yahmas.

- **New Sermon Series: Revelation: Glimpses of What's to Come.** A few years ago, we focused on the first three chapters of the book of Revelation which dealt with the messages to the seven churches.... but we stopped there. There have been a few of you who have wanted to go further on Sunday mornings into this perplexing book of the Bible. Starting on Sunday, August 21st, we will begin a seven week sermon series that will lead us through Chapters 4 – 22. You can use these summer months to be reading through Revelation and asking God to begin to speak to you about some of the key images and how Christ is revealed throughout this book.
- We are looking for 3 good women and 3 good men from GreenbrierFUMC to be part of the **Walk to Emmaus** spiritual retreat this fall. The dates for the fall walks are: **Men's Walk - September 22-25** and the **Women's Walk on October 20-23**. The cost of the weekend is \$160.00 but we can find scholarship money to offset a good portion of that fee if necessary. We need to send in the applications by the end of this month. If you are interested in going please talk to the pastor or Carolyn Baker this week.

Coming Soon – 30 feet of Banana Split

Sunday
July 31



For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

–Romans 8:38

Did You Know?

You can find tons of information about our church, and an updated calendar of church events on our church website.

*Visit our website for more information :
www.greenbrierfumc.org*

