

2019

November

December



OAKWOOD / HEBRON UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

The Messenger

As of this writing, we are in the thick of the annual leaf color-change season, and this year is shaping up to be a gorgeous display. I regularly travel to Indianapolis for seminary, and seeing the brilliant red, orange, and yellow trees along the interstate just about makes up for the miles-long stretches of construction. I encourage you to make some time to head out for a walk around your neighborhood, or Kickapoo if you can, or to take a drive around Vermilion County and check out the trees before all the leaves fall. I wish the trees would stay this beautiful for a long time, but I know that pretty soon all it will take is a big wind or rainstorm for the trees to be bare - then we will wait for months before fresh green leaves start to appear.

I met someone once who talked about how much she liked the “naked” trees of late fall and winter. I admit that I don’t remember what her reason was because I was too busy thinking about how much I do not like the trees when they look like this. Even though I know that the leaves will be back soon enough, bare branches make me feel kind of sad, and they remind me that the wind is about to become frigid and sharp, instead of feeling soft and alive. The stark branches of fall and winter have always been something that I felt had to simply be endured. In recent weeks, though, I’ve seen this anonymous quote come across my Facebook feed several times: “The trees are about to show us how lovely it is to let things go.” Perhaps you’ve seen this, or something like it, too. I thought this was an interesting idea, but I didn’t think much about it until the idea of letting go came up in a congregational renewal conference I attended at the end of October.

One of the main messages of the conference was that you have to let something go in order to become something new. The presenters talked about congregations they worked with who had experienced renewal and growth once they were able to discern what they needed to let go of. This is not just a church development tactic - this is biblical. Sarah and Abraham had to let go of their family and homeland, not to mention their belief that they could not become parents past a certain age; Esther had to let go of fear of retribution for her Jewish heritage; James and John had to let go of their family and fishing career; and Jesus had to let go of His earthly life among us. But something new was born from all of these instances of letting go: Abraham and Sarah became the parents of many nations, Esther became the rescuer of her people, James and John became fishers of men, and Jesus became the embodiment of the Way, the Truth, and the Life. And that is lovely.

I wonder how this can be applied to our lives. Is there anything we can let go of at church or at home in order to become something new? Maybe it’s an idea that never came to fruition, or a policy that no longer serves us well. Possibly it’s a habit or relationship that is no longer healthy for us that we need to let go of. Or perhaps what we need to let go of is something that we do because it’s the way we’ve always done it. As we watch the trees fulfill their purpose in a dazzling way, including letting go of their beauty, I invite you to consider what in your world is ready to become something new. May Christ’s blessings go with you.

Peace,

Pastor Jess

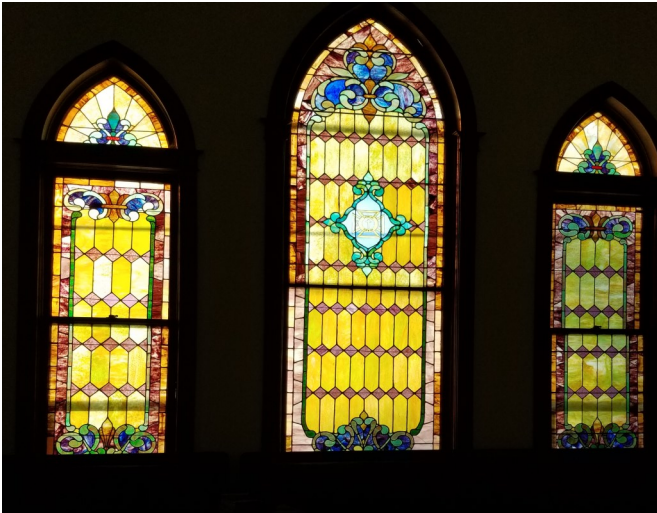
Oakwood —9:00 am
 Hebron —10:30 am

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Did You Know?

Stained Glass Window Restoration and Preservation



(As we prepare to raise funds to restore and preserve our stained-glass windows, I thought it would be interesting to learn a little about the history of these windows.)

In 1906 our church was renovated from the original church that was built at this location in 1884. It was built from materials saved from the original Oakwood Methodist Church built on the SE corner of Oakwood and Rt. 150. In 1906 the north side of the church was added. It included a Sunday school room, vestibule and bell tower. Although there was no bell at that time. The brick veneer was added to the outside, the stained-glass windows were chosen and the basement was dug out. The basement was finished in 1909.

In 1973 a tornado touched down near Oakwood and the high winds associated with this tornado blew out the west side of the church breaking the stained glass windows, tearing open the roof and leaving the sanctuary covered with debris, mud and water. As a result the church trustees went to work repairing the windows, the roof, the walls, the flooring and the furniture. There were stained-glass windows above the altar. They were used to help repair the windows that were damaged. The cost to repair the stained glass windows at that time was around \$2,200.00 (The total damage repair was over \$16,500)

We presently have 6 large stained-glass windows on the South and West side of the sanctuary and 5 regular sized windows. It is estimated that the cost to replace these windows today would be about \$250,000.

After over 45 years these windows are in need of major preservation. The frames need to be scrapped, caulked, seals, primed and painted. The old storm windows need to be replaced with ones that will allow air circulation and with aluminum frames that will not need painting. Tim Cunningham has estimates for the repairs could cost around \$30,000. We already have over \$6000 committed to this project.

The congregation is being asked to help us raise the money needed to restore and preserve these priceless stained-glass windows. Please give whatever you can. Make your check payable to the Oakwood United Methodist Church with **“Windows”** on the memo line of your check. We hope to start the process this coming spring of 2020.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENERIOUS CONTRIBUTIONS!!!!

CONTACT information



Pastor Jessica LeCrone's Office Hours

Tuesday —9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Thursday—Noon to 6 pm

Friday —11:30 am to 2:30 pm

Cell Phone: 217-637-2557

Email: jessicamlecrone@gmail.com

We can be found on Facebook at: [Oakwood United Methodist Church](#)

We are working on a new Web Page

Special news



Working and visiting at the breakfast

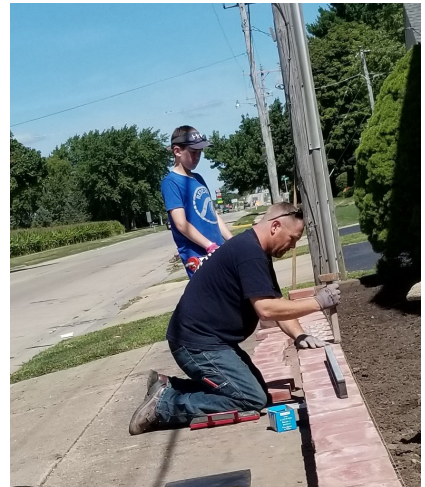
PANCAKE / SAUSAGE BREAKFAST UPDATE

The Pancake/Sausage Breakfast brought in over \$2,000. This money will be used to support our missions throughout the year and would not have been possible without those who donated, provided baked goods and/or craft items and helped prepare and serve the breakfast. THANK YOU

HAVE YOU NOTICED THE NEW BORDERS AROUND THE FLOWER BEDS IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH??

It took a village to design, order and complete this border, A big thank you to Brett, Laura, Nancy, Jason, Riley, Tim , Carlos, Nathan, Marilyn, Tom T. and all the scouts who lent a hand to get these built. We continue to get comments from our neighbors on how nice it looks.

(I understand that the Fellowship of the Trowel is now looking at adding a border to the bed on the parking lot side. More information in the spring.)



Nate and Carlos at work on the borders



Joan Crawford
1927-2019

Our Prayers are with
Vicki (Cooper) Trask and
Judy Steffen at the passing of their
mother.



NEWSLETTER UPDATE

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, thereby getting it immediately and in color. Please let me know.

Contact — Marilyn at (217) 474-3260 or
email at melrodmae@gmail.com

Youth News

COMETLAND YOUTH NEWS

Grades 7-12

Sunday 6:00 –7:15 pm

Stay in touch with Josh Hunsberger to learn about upcoming activities.

Cell: 814-969-1766

BIBLE'S COOL CONTINUES

Thursdays

youth grades 3 to 6

3:15 pm-4:45 pm

Oakwood UMC

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU
!!!

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

Where did the child Jesus and his parents flee for safety?

- A. Ethiopia
- B. Syria
- C. Rome
- D. Egypt



Answer: D (See Matthew 2:13.)



BOOKS FOR PRE-K

We are collecting books for Pre-K students at Oakwood Elementary School. We need 51 books.

Please bring your books to church by December 8th



ASP 2019 Adults

ASP adults will be on their trip Nov. 3 – 9, 2019. They will be traveling to Jonesville, VA, a year round center, to work on housing in the area.

Please keep them in your prayers for a safe and rewarding trip as they become Jesus's hands and feet .

ASP 2020 Youth

Plans are underway for ASP 2020. This summer, two groups will head for Central Appalachia on June 6. A junior high school group (grades 6th – 8th) will be serving in Jonesville, Lee County, Virginia. The high school group will be serving in a nearby county. We have started our 1st fund raiser – Beef House rolls, strawberry jam and apple butter – all \$8.50 each - for Thanksgiving. Orders will be taken until Nov. 10 and products will be delivered on Saturday, Nov. 23.

Anyone interested in participating in either trip or the fund raiser should contact Deb Clow, 217-799-0594.

Upcoming events

Thanksgiving Worship Service

Tuesday, November 26th
7:00 pm
Hope United Church of Christ

Pastor Darla Holden
Preaching

Thanks for your Support

Another year of providing Back Packs has begun. This is our biggest year yet with 15 families to include 36 students. Our cabinets are stocked and we are ready to go. In addition to monetary donations, we also have need for individual fruit/pudding cups and instant oatmeal packages.



New
Bible
Study

Soul Reset

By Junius B. Dotson

Wednesdays

7:00 pm

It is a 6 week study for both Hebron and
Oakwood

You are welcome to join at any time.

Contact Information: Debbie Huddleston 217-453-2333 or PackagesofHope@hotmail.com

Oakwood Area Food Pantry News

TURKEY TROT FUND RAISER AT KICKAPOO SP
9:00 Thanksgiving morning, 5K run/walk

Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets

THANKSGIVING

Oakwood and Hebron — Pie crust

CHRISTMAS

Hebron — Marshmallows

Oakwood — Cake Icing

Calendar

Sunday, December 1st



Join us to decorate the church during and after the worship service.

BRUNCH will be served immediately afterwards



**JOIN US
for Holiday Fun**

Cookie Making on Saturday
December 7th

Cookies and Caroling
Sunday, Dec. 8th
5:00 to 6:30 pm

Longest Night Service

December 21st...5:00 pm, OUMC

Join us for a service that is reflective, accepting where we really are, and holding out healing and hope to those who may be struggling with darkness or grief. This is the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year.



**JOINT
CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICE**

Tuesday, Dec. 24th

7:00 pm

OUMC

NOVEMBER

3rd	Sunday	All Saints Sunday Communion
11th	Monday	Veterans Day
17th	Sunday	Administrative Council 7:30 am (OUMC)
26th	Tuesday	ERIC Thanksgiving Service 7:00 pm, Hope UCC
28th	Thursday	Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

1st	Sunday	Advent Begins Communion Hanging of the Greens
21st	Saturday	Longest Night Service 5:00 pm OUMC
24th	Tuesday	Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm at Oakwood (Joint with Hebron)
25th	Wednesday	Christmas
29th	Sunday	Joint Worship Service with Hebron at Oakwood 9:00 worship 10:00 breakfast



Let Nancy Tyler know if you need an annual giving statement for tax purposes. (354-4787)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

OAKWOOD

November

Birthdays:

- 2 Todd Lee
- 3 Chad Sprague
- 5 Mark Leverenz
- 7 Bob Linn
- 9 Katelyn Tellier
- 10 Carlos Stewart
- 14 Parker Lee
- 15 Caroline Culp
- 22 Jackson Dudley
- 23 Linda Cunningham
- 30 Nancy Linn

Anniversaries:

- 13 Wayne & Debi Cronin
- 19 David & Julie Calkins

December

Birthdays:

- 10 Heather Trask
- 12 Connor Smith
- 13 Debbie Clow
- 16 Ryan McFarland
- 21 Meredith Steffen Culp
- 23 Shane Meade
Linda Preston
- 25 Tracie Jones
- 26 Katie Lee
Dennis Westfall
- 27 Brett Wittig
- 28 Cameron Lee
- 30 Kendra Westfall

Anniversaries:

- 13 Tom & Melanie Goodwin
- 28 Bob & Nancy Linn



HEBRON

November

Birthdays:

- 3 Dean Grimes
- 9 Mike Pouilliard
- 26 Christopher Johnson
- 30 Allie Covington

Anniversaries:

- 23 Matt & Deanna Morton

December

Birthdays:

- 8 Katherine Huddleston
- 22 Pat Razatis

**Remember our Church
Family Living Away
from their Homes**

Laura Lomax
Pleasant Meadows Christian
Village
400 W. Washington Ave.
Chrisman, IL 61924
(217)269-2369

Joyce Okeli
2000 W. John Street. #309
Champaign, IL 61821
(217) 403-0235

**Remember those
in the Military**

Capt. Toby Neil
Stationed—
somewhere in Germany

If you have any additions or corrections to the
Birthday/Anniversary list, please let me know.

melrodmae@gmail.com
Cell: (217) 474-3260

OAKWOOD/HEBRON U.M.C.

P.O. Box 218

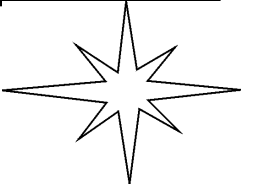
Oakwood, IL 61858



Sunday, Nov. 3rd



Christmas Stars



This year the Oakwood United Methodist Church will adorn the sanctuary Christmas tree with star ornaments during the Advent and Christmas season. These star ornaments can be purchased for a donation of \$6:00 in memory or honor of a loved one. We will display the angels during the holiday season, list the names in whose memory or honor they were purchased, and then you may take them home after our Christmas season services. Four out of every six dollars of your donation will support the Oakwood UMC Missions. If you would like a star in memory or honor of a loved one, please complete the form below and return it with \$6.00 for each angel to Wanda Plawer or Laura Wittig by Dec. 15th

Additional donations are welcome to support these projects.

In Memory Of (Please print)

1. _____
2. _____

In Honor Of (Please print)

1. _____
2. _____

Given by (Please print)

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Additional Amount: \$ _____