

2023

JULY

AUGUST

OAKWOOD / HEBRON UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

The Messenger



Ecclesiastes 3 (selected verses) "For everything, there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven... a time to build up, a time to embrace, and a time to seek."

The bishop fixed the appointments at Annual Conference, and I am excited to share with you that I get to stay with you as your pastor for another year. I am so grateful God has called me to be in ministry with you.

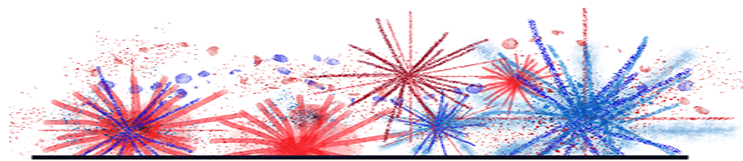
This year also brings about change and a new season of ministry. I am leaving Broadlands and adding Catlin to my spiritual family. While we will miss the people of God in Broadlands, God has another opportunity in store for us to build new relationships with the people of God in Catlin.

With a new charge of Oakwood/Catlin/Hebron comes some changes. The biggest change will be worship times, which are: Hebron 8:00AM, Oakwood 9:15AM, and Catlin 10:30AM. Thank you for your grace in these worship time changes. Thank you for your faithful participation in worship. My office hours will also change as I will be in Catlin on Mondays and Wednesdays and in Oakwood on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Thank you for your grace in these office hour changes.

In this new season, I pray that the new three-point charge of Oakwood/Catlin/Hebron would be built up. I am excited for the opportunities for our three churches to have fellowship with one another and to be able to do things together such as going to serve at Midwest Mission. I pray that each church would continue to embrace openness to the new opportunities and new possibilities that God has for us. I pray that each church would continue to seek God in its ministry and mission, that we all would magnify Christ in all that we say and do.

Change is hard. But change can be good too. Let us embrace the change God can do in us and through us when we are built up, when we embrace openness, and when we seek God. Let us build up one another, embrace God and one another, and seek God in this new season.

Peace,
Pastor Trevor



WORSHIP TIMES

Hebron — 8:00 am
Oakwood — 9:15 am
Catlin — 10:30 am

(on-line service at ohumc.weebly.com)



Message from Bishop Beard

(at Annual Conference)

THE NEW NORMAL: SCATTERING SEEDS (OF JOY)

Bishop Frank J. Beard elaborated on what he believed were the wrong questions being asked in a post-pandemic church and challenged those being commissioned and ordained to be about scattering joy.

“Your ministry will never be what God wants it to be if you are determined to be normal,” Bishop Beard said. “Normal is being happy with things staying as they are. Normal won’t compel you to seek the power of God. Normal won’t get you down on your knees praying and pleading for a fresh anointing. Normal won’t get you to stop waiting for folks to come to your church as visitors. Normal will not reach young people and cause them to want to be part of what you are doing. Normal is not coming back!”

Bishop Beard said that the call to follow Jesus has never been a call to be normal but a call to be different.

“We have a different way of walking. We have a different way of talking. We have a different way of living. We have a different way of acting. We have a different way of loving,” he said. “We get in trouble when we try being normal! Normal has nothing to do with being a Christian.”

Quoting a paraphrase of II Corinthians 5:17, Bishop Beard said, “When someone becomes a Christian, they become a brand new person inside. They are not the same anymore. A new life has begun.”

“New is not a return to the standard way of doing things,” Beard noted. “Normal does not have a mission mandate to go into all the world and to preach the gospel. Normal does not have a command to love, live and look like Jesus! Normal does not depend upon the direction, guidance, and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Normal does not look like the world or act like the world.”

Bishop Beard said the Church is commanded to go into the world. The world is not commanded to go into the church.

Our churches can and will only be filled as we are willing to go out and get them,” he said. “Building relationship outside of the church will attract people into the church as people see that the church cares.”

Growth is contingent upon change. “We don’t like change but the only thing that is guaranteed is change,” Bishop Beard said. “That should not surprise us because the church is called to be in the change business. ‘Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven!’

That’s a prayer for change.”

The key to change in a season of stormy weather is by scattering seed. The Greek word that is translated “scattered” is the same Greek word that means, “to sow.” Just like in Jesus’ parable, a Sower went out to sow, to broadcast and spread the seed.

“Over the last two years we have learned that all of us -- rich or poor, sophisticated or simple, white collar or hoodie, whether we are homeless or housed – we all have storms to face and the storms have produced fear, the storm has caused tears and the storm has caused us to seek shelter behind lock doors.”

“N.T. Wright reminds us that the Church always grows during seasons of adversity,” he said. “The storms never stop the Sower from sowing seeds. The harder Saul tried to stop the church, the more seed Jesus threw into the field. The more Saul persecuted Christians, the more God’s power was poured out upon them. The more Saul threw Christians into prison, or had them beaten or stoned, the more they clung to and proclaimed God’s WORD.”

Bishop Beard said God is still scattering seeds.

“Don’t be fooled by adverse winds, God is scattering seeds! Don’t let hard times make you quit, God is scattering seeds! Don’t let fear force you to stop, GOD IS SCATTERING SEEDS!

Don’t let the challenge of a storm cause you to silence your voice. God is scattering seeds!”

By Paul Black

Special News



WHAT A VBS WE HAD!!!!

This year's VBS was held jointly with Muncie Baptist Church, June 20-24. We had 62 different kids during the week, with 57 there one day. We also had 19 youth and 18 adult volunteers leading the groups and providing the activities. It was busy on day one when 16 extra kids showed up who had not preregistered, but we got through it and everyone got assigned to a group. We praise God for such a wonder week!!!!



YARD SALE UPDATE



Our Yard Sale this year provided a chance to take part in the Oakwood Yard Sale and to visit with our neighbors. Beside the "treasurers" for sale, we also offered hot dogs and snacks which were a real treat.

Thanks to all who provided the "treasurers" and those who helped with the sale and the food..

We cleared over \$350 that will go to the Back Pack program this fall.

Coming events



MIDWEST MISSION
DISTRIBUTION CENTER
midwestmission.org

We are planning a trip to the MMDC this summer.

If you are interested in joining us, please let Pastor Trevor or Marilyn Elrod know and they can give you more information and details.

It is a lot of fun and provides a chance to help those in the States and around the world who have experienced disasters.

ERIC ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Sunday, July 16th

2-4 pm

(Obie's)

Join your friends for some fellowship and cool refreshments.

ERIC (Eastern Rural Illinois Churches) provides aid to travelers who pass through our community and need help.



Ice Cream Social



**Oakwood, Hebron and Catlin
Combined Service**

**Sunday, July 30th
At Catlin UMC 10:00am**

Blessing of the Backpacks

**Sunday, August 13th
9:15am**



Youth News



COMETLAND YOUTH

NEW TIME AND PLACE FOR THE SUMMER

Grades 7-12

WEDNESDAYS: Noon to 1:15 pm

At: Oakwood UMC

Stay in touch with Josh Hunsberger to learn about upcoming activities and any change in meeting location.

Cell: 814-969-1766



– ASP 2023 –

Rooted in Love

The 2023 ASP group had a successful week serving in Breathitt County, KY.

Our theme was based on Luke 10:27 “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and Love your neighbor as yourself” (NIV)

This year all the youth went above and beyond what each leader could ever expect. We were able to take 3 teams and each site had challenges we had to face. This scripture challenged everyone of us and we were able to reflect each night on how we were loving our neighbors as ourselves. We look forward to sharing our stories with you so keep an eye out for the date! We appreciate all the support, thoughts and prayers as we prepared and served those in need.



Calendar

July 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JULY—Special Dates

Sunday, 2nd

Communion

Tuesday, 4th

Independence Day



Sunday, 23th

Eric Ice Cream Social
2-4 at Obie's

Sunday, 30th

Joint Service at Catlin UMC (10:30am)

August 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST—Special Dates

Sunday, 6th

Communion

Sunday, 13th

Blessing of the Backpacks
Ad. Council (Oakwood) 1 pm

Week of 13th

School Starts



CONTACT information



Pastor Trevor Oetting's Office Hours

Monday — 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (Catlin)

Tuesday — 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm (Oakwood)

Wednesday — 2:00 pm to 5:00 PM (Catlin)

Thursday — 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (Oakland)

Cell Phone: 309-371-7661

Email: toetting95@gmail.com

Facebook at: Oakwood United Methodist Church

Website: ohumc.weebly.com

Birthdays & Anniversaries

OAKWOOD

July

Birthdays:

- 1 Jan McFarland
- 4 Ben Westfall
Kelly Hobbs
- 5 Kyle McFarland
- 6 Patrick Rouse
Claire Trask
- 8 Quinn Sperry
- 9 Amanda Sperry
- 11 Bailey Westfall
- 16 Amy McFarland
- 21 Nancy Tyler
- 29 Damon Shareef
- 30 Vicki Trask
- 31 Lara Conklin

Anniversaries:

- 1 Tim & Dawn Lee
- 10 Amy & Patrick Rouse
- 14 Tim & Linda Cunningham
- 27 John & Courtney Dudley

August

Birthdays:

- 2 Laura Lomax
- 5 Reed Plawer Sperry
- 9 Kira Conklin
- 10 Bennett James Sprague
- 12 Jason Whaling
- 13 Tim Lee
Hailey Tellier
- 19 Mallory Meade
- 21 Eric Hobbs
- 26 Jameson Lee Sprague

Anniversaries:

- 2 Todd & Sonna Lee
- 7 Dennis & Kendra Westfall
- 10 Greg & Amanda Sperry
- 22 Marty & Jan McFarland



HEBRON

July

Birthdays:

- 20 Ryan Parker
- 24 Connor Morton

Anniversaries:

- 18 Leslie & Mike Pouilliard

August

Birthdays:

- 26 Dan Grimes

**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

Pat Razatis
Liberty Village
3222 Independence
Avenue, #609
Danville, IL 61832

Remember those in the Military

Capt. Toby Neal
Stationed at Ft. Hood, Texas



Corrections

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



CHANGES IN WORSHIP TIMES!!!!

**OUR CHARGE IS NOW
CATLIN, HEBRON AND OAKWOOD**

**Hebron UMC.....8:00 am
Oakwood UMC.....9:15 am
Catlin UMC.....10:30 am**



*See You
Sunday!*