

2021

MAY

JUNE



Change is in the air! The seasons are changing - although late April snow always reminds me that the calendar does not dictate the weather. Hope continues to shine brightly on the horizon as we shift ever closer to the day that we can say the pandemic is behind us. Our membership has changed with the blessing of seven newly confirmed members of Oakwood UMC. And the change that so many of us were looking forward to for so long - we have begun to sing in our worship services again. ♪Hallelujah!♪

There's one particular change that also occurs around this time of year. Spring has traditionally been appointment season in the United Methodist Church, and this spring, it is with mixed emotions that I announced my own reappointment. As of July 1, I will be appointed to serve as the associate pastor for Urbana Wesley United Methodist Church. As I write this, the details of the new pastoral appointment to Oakwood and Hebron are still being worked out. However, I want to assure you that our process of transition is in place and serves us all well. With prayerful confidence, I trust that your next pastor will be well-equipped to lead you forward from here with love and grace.

Although this is the first time that I will be leaving a church for a new appointment, I have been in your shoes as a member of a congregation receiving a new pastor. And most, if not all, of you know how this works. The new pastor comes in, everyone builds relationships with each other, and then, often too soon it seems, it is time to say goodbye. For those who have become attached, the process of detaching can be a painful process for everybody involved. But although it may be hard for some of us to find benefits in the itinerant system that moves pastors from place to place, we've learned that this kind of change can be good. Change introduces new energy, new vision, and - just like spring - inevitably new life.

We have ample time to prepare for the changes ahead, whatever they will bring. And, even as we get ourselves ready to receive new pastoral leadership, the here-and-now needs and goals of our Christian community will continue to be important and addressed. In my last newsletter article, I mentioned all of the work that we have done over the past year, and - despite many changes and challenges - the great things that we have been able to accomplish together. I do not expect that to change over these next two months, and I continue to look forward to what we can and will do as a charge to further God's mission of love in the world.

Most of all, I want you to know how much I have loved being your pastor. Oakwood and Hebron have been such a phenomenal first appointment, and you all should be proud of the way that you welcome and support student pastors. You have set the bar pretty high and for that, you have my great appreciation. As I depart, I will need to love and care for you in new ways as you develop a relationship with your new pastor. But you will remain in my prayers and I will always look forward to seeing what you're up to in the newsletter and supporting you in non-pastoral roles. I am always your friend and sister in the faith, and will remember our time together fondly.

In the midst of chaos and change, one thing remains the same: Jesus Christ. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is at the helm of this ship we call the church. He is able to lead us safely through storms into calmer seas and to get us where we need to go. Let us all lean into him for our direction and care in this time of change.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Jess

*Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy.*

- Philippians 1:3-4 NLT

OAKWOOD / HEBRON UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

# The Messenger

# Did You Know?

## Oakwood UMC has a Prayer



This ministry provides shawls or lap blankets that we give to those in need when a little comfort, hope and peace is needed at a special time in their lives. It is a way to show loved ones that God, their family and their friends are with them as they feel the warmth of these gifts around them. It is like God is holding them in his arms to comfort and enfold them in his love. He is always present.

Shortly after we started the ministry, one of the first prayer shawls was given to my sister-in-law (Bev) after she had suffered a heart attack. After her recovery she passed it on to a friend suffering from serious health problems.

After this friend was feeling better, she returned it to my sister-in-law and it was passed on to another friend who had just been diagnosed with breast cancer. After treatment she went into remission.

She returned it to Bev and once again it was passed on to provide love and comfort to another friend who was in her 80s. She had been a long time worker in Bev's home church. She was seriously ill and after she passed, her family returned the shawl to Bev telling her how much it had meant to her. She asked for it every night and slept with it in bed to give her comfort. As they returned it they thanked Bev for what it had meant to her.

After that Bev sewed a label in the shawl with the names of those who had received it and again it went on its journey to bring comfort to another friend in her 80s

I relate this story as she wanted us to know how one shawl had provided so much comfort and love to so many. (You may keep the shawl or pass it on, the decision is yours.)

We started this ministry a few years ago and have provided shawls to several in our congregation. As the shawls are knitted or crocheted, we pray over the work and when finished we pray for the person receiving it as we hope it will bring peace, love and comfort to them.

If you know anyone who you would like to receive a shawl or lap blanket, please let us know. We would love to provide one to you. Feel free to contact Pastor Jess, Laura Wittig or me.

Marilyn Elrod

## CONTACT information



Pastor Jess LeCrone's Virtual Office Hours  
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday —2:00pm to 5:00pm  
Friday —1:00pm to 4:00 pm

Cell Phone: 217-637-2557  
Email: [jessicamlecone@gmail.com](mailto:jessicamlecone@gmail.com)

We can be found on Facebook at: Oakwood United Methodist Church  
And on the Web at: [ohumc.weebly.com](http://ohumc.weebly.com)  
**WORSHIP SERVICES:** Oakwood UMC —9:00 am  
Hebron UMC —10:30 am

# Special News



Pastor Jess LeCrone has a new appointment.

Jess will be going to the Urbana Wesley United Methodist Church where she will be the associate pastor and working with the students. Her last Sunday with us will be June 27th.

We hate to see her go but know the new appointment is going to be a great move for her continued growth in her ministry.

We will miss Pastor Jess, but our prayers go with her as she takes this next step.

## BIBLE STUDY

Sundays, 4:00 to 5:30 pm

Join us as we read and discuss C. S. Lewis', *The Great Divorce*.

It is not too late to join us.

It is a short book and challenges us to rethink some our assumptions about heaven and hell.



Basic Job description and duties to run  
Oakwood UMC computer and TV screens.

User must have basic knowledge of how a computer works.

- A. Turn computer and monitor off and on, use the mouse. (left and right click)
- B. Knowledge of Microsoft Office. (PowerPoint, Word)
- C. Use of different web browsers. How to search for needed items on the web and where they will be saved for future retrieval.
- D. Open up an email client to retrieve Sunday program.

Sunday morning: Have announcements on screens as congregation enters.

Run power point for service.

Start date: June 6

Pay: \$15 per Sunday

Contact: Deb Clow – 217-799-0594

# Coming events

*Congratulations to our new members !*



## Confirmation

Class of  
2021

Carsen Dudley  
Connor Smith  
Jackson Dudley  
Josiah Hull  
Lilly Berner  
Madi McFarland  
Quinn Sperry



We are hopeful that VBS will be held again this year.

**Time:** as the newsletter goes to press, we are still looking at dates for either later June or July

Please stay in touch through our web page and Facebook for more information and updates as the time draws closer.

## FELLOWSHIP OF THE TROWEL

We are presently working on the flower beds around the church and finishing up on the Memorial Garden out front.

Please feel free to join us any Thursday, 9 am to 11 am, (weather permitting) to plant, weed, prune, and care for our flowers around the church.

Input is always welcome as to what can be done differently or if another time is better for you.

Everyone is welcome.



# Youth News



**Special recognition  
of our graduates on  
Sunday, 22nd.  
See you all there!!!**



**– ASP 2021 –  
ONWARD**

*“Let’s not get tired of doing good, because in time we’ll  
have a harvest if we don’t give up.”*

*Galatians 6:9*

*June 12-19, 2021*

*Junior High and High School*

## *SEMINARY:*

**Jess LeCrone** graduates from Christian Theological Seminary and will start as the associate pastor at Urban Wesley UMC in July.

## *HIGH SCHOOL:*

**Reed Sperry**, will graduate from Oakwood HS with plans to go to DACC for his first two years and then transfer to a 4 year college. He is interested in environmental science.

**Arav Jagroop**, will graduate from Uni HS and will be attending Princeton University in the fall majoring in politics and public policy.

**Jamison Sprague**, will graduate from Seeger HS in Indiana and will attend the U of I majoring in technical system management.

## *JUNIOR HIGH:*

**Lilly Berner**  
**Jackson Dudley**  
**Connor Smith**  
**Quinn Sperry**

## *Keep moving!*

As they proudly processed across the stage to receive their diplomas, each graduate heard two messages from the principal: “Congratulations!” (in a loud voice) and “Keep moving” (in a whisper). Although the administrator was merely trying to facilitate the flow, she was actually offering sound advice to the young adults: Don’t stop or stagnate! Proceed from here and continue learning. This is the beginning, not the end, of a journey. Keep moving!

3 teams are registered (15 youth ad 6 adults)  
Stock order forms are attached for those wishing to help defray the cost for the youth,  
ASP has been working very hard putting together COVID-19 protocols to keep volunteers, staff, and homeowners as safe as possible.

Contact Deb for more information. 217-799-0594



## **COMETLAND YOUTH NEWS**

**Grades 7-12**

**Sunday 5:30 to 6:30pm**

**At: Muncie Baptist Church**

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

**Cell: 814-969-1766**

# Calendar

May 2021						
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					

## MAY—Special Dates

Mother's Day	May 9th
Ascension Day	May 13th
HS/JH Graduation	May 22nd
Pentecost/Graduates	May 23rd
Trinity Sunday	May 30th
Memorial Day	May 31th



June 2021						
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			

## JUNE—Special Dates

Flag Day	June 14th
First Sunday of Summer	June 20th
Father's Day	June 20th
Pastor Jess's last Sunday	June 27th



A **big thank you** to all our teachers, school administration and support personnel for their special attention to their students during this trying time.

We appreciate all you do all year long for your students and the extra work it took this year as students studied both at home and in the class room. We can never thank you enough.

A special shout out to: Courtney Dudley, Deb Clow, Beth Sudlow, Kyle and Natalie Snyders, Amanda Sperry, Tim and Dawn Lee, Ryan McFarland, Tiffany Johnson, Johnnie Hull, David Calkins and John Sudlow.

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## OAKWOOD

### May

#### Birthdays:

- 3 Amanda Shareef
- 6 John D. Montgomery
- 11 Lauren Plawer
- 24 Madison McFarland
- 26 Luca Shareef

#### Anniversaries:

- 7 Shawn & Lara Conklin

### June

#### Birthdays:

- 1 Brenda Ludwig  
Tom Goodwin  
Courtney Linn Dudley
- 23 Robin Linn Durand
- 27 Janice Lee

#### Anniversaries:

- 9 Ryan & Amy McFarland
- 10 Ron & Janice Lee
- 21 Matthew & Heather Trask
- 26 John & Beth Sudlow



## HEBRON

### May

#### Birthdays:

- 1 Sue Fletcher
- 5 Dave Parker
- 6 Dennis Divan

### June

#### Birthdays:

- 6 Lauren Covington  
Xander Draper
- 17 Shelia Fletcher
- 28 Jane Sprague

### Remember our Church Family

61821

### 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

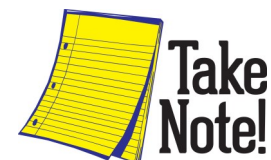


Capt. Toby Neal  
CMR 414 Box 225  
APO AE 09173

Stationed— in Germany

### Corrections

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



### 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](mailto:melrodmae@gmail.com)

OAKWOOD/HEBRON U.M.C.

P.O. Box 218

Oakwood, IL 61858



## OAKWOOD UMC YARD SALE

*Saturday, June 12th*

*8:00 am to 2:00 pm*

**The Yard Sale is back on this year.**

We will be also be selling hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, water and cookies at the sale.  
(Hint...we need the congregation to provide home made cookies for the sale.)

Please bring any items to the church by Thursday, June 10th. (No clothing )

Please price all items.

If you can help with the Yard Sale or with the cooking, etc., please contact Marilyn Elrod or Laura Wittig.



Oakwood / Hebron United Methodist Churches

Oakwood, IL 61858

March 14, 2021

Dear

This summer, from June 12 through June 19, youth from Oakwood/Hebron UMC and the Oakwood area will participate in the summer home repair program called Appalachia Service Project, Inc. (ASP). Since 1969, ASP has coordinated the ministries of volunteers and staff through programs of home repair, major housing rehabilitation, and new home construction. Our group will give our time, resources, and skills to improve the living conditions of people in Appalachia who are caught in economic distress. (All projects are done at no charge to the recipients.) ASP's theme this summer is "Onward".

Our youth and adults are busy learning "how" to work on a construction site, as well as "how" to interact with those who are from a different culture. In order to participate in this service project, we are also busy raising money. Each individual has made a personal financial commitment of \$175. Today we are beginning our stock sales. For just \$10 per share of stock in the Appalachian Service Project, you can help us help members of two families in Appalachia. When stock is sold, we are able to defray most of the costs of the trip, building supplies, and a fee, which goes directly to ASP. If you contribute \$30 or more, you can expect a post card from the youth while we are in Appalachia.

We appreciate your support of service in Christ's name, your faith in the youth of our church and community, and your commitment to this outreach mission. Please consider purchasing stock to help fund our trip. **Make the check payable to Oakwood Methodist Youth Group (put the youth's name on memo line) and mail to Deb Clow, P.O. Box 263, Oakwood, IL 61858.** Please keep us in your prayers for a safe trip and accident-free work site.

Onward

"Let's not get tired of doing good, because in time we'll have a harvest if we don't give up."

Galatians 6:9

Sincerely,

Jameson Sprague

Titus Berner

Zane Trimmell

Gage Warren

Trevor McCall

Mady Nicoson

Lily Berner

Blake Trimmell

Deb Clow

Tony Wantland

Sherris Berner