

2020

September

October



OAKWOOD / HEBRON UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

The Messenger

Well, here we are in September. We've reached the final third of the year that, for any, just won't quit. Regardless of what has happened in our own individual lives, or how we personally feel about all that has occurred so far this year, I think we would all agree that it has been unprecedented. It's far too early to begin looking back for a recap of the year, and for most of us, it's not quite time to make plans for next year yet either. So let's take a look at right now, because, well, we're in it. And we've got some work to do in this moment right now.

There is much happening that divides us today and that is troubling. There will always be things that divide us on some level, but what is troubling is how often and how intensely we allow things to divide us. At the time of this writing, school has begun for the teachers and staff, but not yet for the students in the Oakwood school district; by the time you read this, everyone will have been back in school. That has certainly caused divisions - the discussions I've heard about whether teachers and/or students should be in school and what safety precautions to take have been far and wide. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused divisions too - discussions and opinions about what is necessary, or what is a bridge too far, as we try to navigate our way forward have been in abundant supply. And in case any of us were able to forget, we're in the thick of an election season that, if it hasn't already, threatens to divide us even at the family and household level. None of us is immune to this disease of division, and all of it is disappointing.

And it's not biblical. Although I am much more compelled to hang my hat on the words of Jesus instead of Paul, it is Paul's words in his letters to the Romans and the Ephesians that spring up in my heart when I think about the current state of our world. When we allow things of this world - pandemic and politics alike - to divide us into factions, we are disregarding Paul's encouragement in Romans 12:2: Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature. (CEB) Is it good or pleasing or mature to spew hate or derision about the "other" - no matter what "other" means in any given moment? I suggest, and I suspect Paul would agree, that it is not.

But Paul also talks about unity - as in, the opposite of division. Ephesians 4:2-3 say this: Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. (CEB) And I think that here we find some good and useful instructions for how we ought to be handling ourselves right now. Is your neighbor responding to COVID in a way that you don't agree with? Have humility - you may not know their entire situation. Is someone down the street promoting a political candidate you don't agree with? Be gentle - their situation may lead them to appreciate different policies than you. Is your family member sharing misleading or misinformed posts on social media? Be patient - they may not know that they have received inaccurate information.

Above all, in these situations and others, accept each other with love. We are all part of the one body in Christ, and we need to honor that by making a commitment every moment towards preserving our unity and peace. There is enough in the world that would seek to divide us; let us instead remember what ties us together.

In service to Christ,
Pastor Jess



Did You Know?

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Your church continues to function during this trying time....

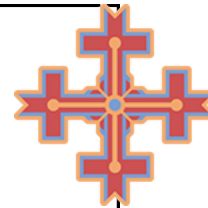
During this time we continue to need funds to pay salaries: electric, phone and water bills: postage; paper; computer support; copier maintenance; internet; insurance; programs that allows us to inform you by phone of the activities of the church; support of our missions; and disaster relief.

It is important to continue to support your church through your prayers, your attendance (in-person or on-line) and your tithes and offerings.

Your offering can be made in person, on line or through the mail.

Your continued support is appreciated.

God's surprises



Don't assume that God will always work in your life the way he always has. A sunset is proof that God colors outside the lines. He has no status quo. Even the laws of nature are his to interrupt. As many times as you've prayed before, today may be the day when God sends the answer so swiftly – so divinely – that you're windburned.
—Beth Moore

Pastor Jessica LeCrone's Office Hours

Tuesday —10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Wednesday—10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Friday —10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Oakwood 217-354-4950

**CONTACT
information**



Cell Phone: 217-637-2557

Email: jessicamlecrone@gmail.com

WEBSITE: ohumc.weebly.com

Facebook: [Oakwood United Methodist Church](https://www.facebook.com/OakwoodUnitedMethodistChurch)

Special news



Given the uncertainty of the present school situation, instead of collecting supplies this year, the NOW Committee has provided funds to our teachers and to the elementary school to help with necessary supplies. We thank all the teachers, school administrators, bus drivers and aides for their commitment to the children.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Let's Get Fired Up on Holy Ground

August 15, 2020

The 2020 Annual Conference was held virtually this year given the Pandemic. During this virtual conference clergy were appointed to their churches, retiring clergy were received, the list of retiring churches was accepted, reports were received from various Boards of the conference and finally the conference approved the budget for 2021.

The 2021 budget is a reduction from the 2020 budget by a little over 7% , reflecting the struggle many churches are having as a result of Covid 19.

It is also interesting to note that the conference has provided grants to churches to ease their apportionments and our charge also received a gift of \$500 to provide support to the Oakwood Area Food Pantry.

Conference was a totally different experience and I must admit that I am looking forward to being able to meet in person with over 1000 fellow Christian delegates next year.

Finally, but most important.....Pastor Jess LeCrone has been appointed to our charge for another year.

Your Lay Delegate, Marilyn Elrod

WANTED—OAKWOOD, HEBRON SECRETARY

After being able to rely on Kendra Westfall for many years, she has finally decided to leave our employment and spend more time with family.

We thank her for all her assistance and dedication to our churches.

We are now looking for a replacement. If you are interested, or know someone who might be interested, please contact Pastor Jess or Deb Clow.

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



MAY BE A DRIVE-BY TO PICK UP TREATS

ERIC is again thinking of sponsoring the annual Trunk or Treat on Halloween, October 31...5pm to 7 pm

The new location will be in the parking lot of the Oakwood evangelical Methodist Church..

Bags of treats will be handed to those in their cars as they drive through the parking lot.

Stay tuned for more information as the village decides how Halloween will be celebrated.

BIBLE'S COOL RETURNS

Plans are being made to see how Bible's Cool can return this school year. Information will be provided as decisions are reached.

Stay Tuned !!!!

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU !!!



ASP 2020

ADULT ASP 2020..... Deb is staying in touch with the ASP staff to determine if a mission trip is possible this fall. She will let us know as soon as decisions have been made.

If you are interested in this year or next, please contact Deb at 217-799-0594.

YOUTH ASP 2021...Plans are still progressing for a 2021 ASP trip. Deb is staying in contact with the ASP staff to make arrangements for next summer. If you are interested in the 2021 mission trip, stay in touch with Deb as plans take shape.

Please keep ASP and all involved in your prayers as they work through this trying time.

Upcoming events



Confirmation CLASSES

Get ready for Confirmation Class!

We will meet on Sundays from 4:00-5:00pm at Oakwood UMC starting Sunday, September 20 - parents should plan to attend the first meeting as well.

We will wrap up at the end of March and celebrate our confirmands on Easter Sunday 2021!

If you or someone you know is going into 6th, 7th, or 8th grade and would like to participate, please contact Pastor Jess by Sunday, September 13.

Oakwood Area Food Pantry Update

After years of establishing and single handedly making the Backpack Program a part of the mission of the Hebron UMC, Debbie Huddleson has made the difficult decision to retire. We applaud Debbie for her years of service and bringing this program to our children.

As a result, **The Oakwood Area Food Pantry** has agreed to take over the Backpack Program. If you are interested in supporting this program, you can make your checks out to the Oakwood UMC or Heb-

CHARGE CONFERENCE

November 14th

2:30 pm

This year we will meet at the church for the virtual conference with District Superintendent Angie Lee. At that time next year's budget and church officers will be approved.

Mark your calendar and join us.

Pancake Breakfast



PANCAKE/SAUSAGE BREAKFAST

There will be no Pancake Sausage Breakfast this year due to COVID 19.

Since an indoor breakfast will not be possible, that means no pancakes, biscuit, sausage gravy, bake sale or craft faire.

However we are considering about being able to provide our **grilled sausage** and maybe **noodles** if there is a demand.

Let us know if you are interested in sausage or noodles!!!!!!

Email: melrodmae@gmail.com or leave a message on the church phone...217-354-4950

We will let you know the logistics by our phone calls.

Calendar



A special **Thank You** to Pastor Jess for all the extra work she has done to continue to bring worship to us during this time, from on-line service to again providing in-church service while following the guidelines laid out by our Bishop. She has certainly put in more time than a part time pastor and we thank her for this effort. When conditions allow us to gather again, we will celebrate her and her ministry to us.

You are appreciated!!!!

September 2020						
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			

October 2020						
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

SEPTEMBER

- 6th Sunday Communion
- 7th Monday Labor Day
- 13th Sunday Administrative Council
7:30 am (OUMC)
- 22nd Tuesday First Day of Autumn



COMMUNION

(in-person or drive-thru)

Until our region has received the all-clear in pandemic mitigation, we will celebrate communion in two different ways on the first Sunday of each month.

If you are attending the in-person service, we will bless the elements and then you will take them with you to consume after you have left the church building.

Communion will also be served in a drive-through format at Hebron from 5:30-6:00pm. Please enter the south side of the driveway and drive up towards the church. You will stay in your car and be served communion to take with you.

OCTOBER

- 4th Sunday Communion
- 11th Sunday Administrative Council
7:30 am (OUMC)
- 31st Thursday Trunk or Treat Halloween
Oakwood Evangelical Methodist Church parking lot
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Birthdays & Anniversaries

OAKWOOD

September

Birthdays:

- 4 Dorothy Harrison
5 Marilyn Hockett
Benjamin Sudlow
Tim Cunningham
7 Janis Dunn
9 Dawn Lee
Ron Lee
19 Laura Wittig
20 Riley Whaling
26 Benjamin Volmerding
28 Marty McFarland
Wanda Plawer

Anniversaries:

- 22 Randy & Farrah Smith

October

Birthdays:

- 3 Matt Trask
9 Patti Wise
10 Malachi Johnson
11 Nathaniel Volmerding
13 Matt Volmerding
15 Debi Cronin
16 Barbara Whaling
30 Mikayla Whaling

Anniversaries:

- 4 Jason & Barbara Whaling
7 Kyle & Robin Durand
8 Adam & Lauren Plawer
11 Kyle & Natalie Snyders
15 Carlos & Jennifer Stewart
20 Brett & Laura Wittig

HEBRON

September

Birthdays:

- 6 Leslie Pouilliard
14 Janet Grove
John Covington
17 Debbie Huddleson
19 Thelma Spencer
26 David Trowbridge

Anniversaries:

- 9 John & Heather Covington
12 Lori & Dave Parker

October

Birthdays:

- 3 Darrin Fletcher
5 Matt Morton
6 Sloan Morton
12 Bo Hayne
20 Connie Covington
22 Preslie Fletcher
Molly Parker

Anniversaries:

- 12 Daryl & Janet Grove
20 Chuck & Melissa Graves

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

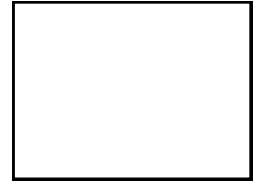
If you have any additions or corrections to the
Birthday/Anniversary list, please let me know.

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

OAKWOOD/HEBRON U.M.C.

P.O. Box 218

Oakwood, IL 61858



Return Service Requested



—STAYING—
CONNECTED



If you are still uncomfortable joining us to worship in church, please feel free to continue worshipping from home.

Join us on line at ohumc.weebly.com
Sundays at 9:00 am or anything during the day.

Click “sermons” at the top of the page.
You are now connected to hear Pastor Jess lead us in worship

We are gathering for in-church worship, practicing social distancing and wearing masks. It is a different experience but great to be back with our church family. Thank God for bringing us back together.

Join us in person every Sunday.
Oakwood at 9:00 am
Hebron at 10:30 am