



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

VOL. 181 · FEBRURARY 2020

Newsletter of the Mahomet United Methodist Church



ALL - CHURCH

# MARDI GRAS FEAST

Let's worship and feast together as we prepare for Lent. Join us for a meal and fellowship time. Games and fun for all ages!

Food and table service will be provided.

Open your phone camera and scan this code to RSVP



Sunday, February 23 following the combined Worship service at 10 am

## Upcoming Dates:

Music Sunday  
FEBRUARY 2ND

Scouts Sunday  
\*Communion Sunday  
FEBRUARY 9TH

One Service with  
Mardi Gras Feast  
Following  
FEBRUARY 23RD AT  
10AM

Ash Wednesday Service  
FEBRUARY 26TH AT  
5:30PM

Girl Scout Sunday  
MARCH 8TH

Easter Carnival  
APRIL 8TH



## Stained Glass Given Permanent Home

BY ELAINE JONES

Reverend Harold Q. Bodeen was Pastor here at Mahomet United Methodist Church (MUMC) from 1962-1967. He then was placed at the Casey UMC from 1972-1978. While serving there they built a new church building. He was gifted the stained glass from the original church. He was pleased they thought of him in such a way that they wanted him to have it. He built a stand for it and it hung in his living room as long as he lived, wherever he lived. He was very proud of it.

After he passed it was given to his daughter, Elaine Jones. She then gifted to MUMC so more people could enjoy it. It was in the Pastor's office here at MUMC for several years, but now it has been placed in the welcome center for everyone to appreciate.

Do all the good you  
can, by all the  
means you can,  
in all the ways you can,  
in all the places you  
can, at all the times  
you can, to all the  
people you can, as  
long as ever you  
can.

JOHN WESLEY





## Adult Study Opportunities

Reading Circle-

Meeting on February 13 at 1:30 pm.

We welcome anyone that loves to read a good book, and then discuss it, to join us each month

February-The Other Windsor Girl by Georgie Blaock. In a historical debut evoking the style of The Crown, the daughter of an impoverished noble is swept into the fame and notoriety of the royal family and Princess Margaret's second Lady-in-Waiting.

March: The Hidden Life Awakened by Kitty Crenshaw and Cathy Snapp

Discussion led by Sheryle Carpenter



Monday Night Study-

February 3rd through Mid May at 6:30PM

Fearless by Max Lucado

FEARLESS: IMAGINE YOUR LIFE WITHOUT FEAR! Each sunrise seems to bring fresh reasons for fear. They're talking layoffs at work, slowdowns in the economy, flare-ups in the Middle East, turnovers at headquarters, downturns in the housing market, upswings in global warming. The plague of our day, terrorism, begins with the word terror. Imagine your life, wholly untouched by angst. What if faith, not fear, was your default reaction to threats? If you could hover a fear magnet over your heart and extract every last shaving of dread, insecurity, or doubt, what would remain? Envision a day, just one day, where you could trust more and fear less. Can you imagine your life without fear?

Discussion Led by Gene Larson

Adult Sunday School-  
Meets at 9:30am

We have started a study called 'God's Messy Family: Finding Your Place When Life Isn't Perfect' Join us at any point along the way as we trace the ancestry of our faith family. Pastor and author Jacob Armstrong takes an in depth look at our faith lineage, focusing on messy family dynamics found in the book of Genesis. As we begin to understand the life stories of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob and Esua we find that their pattern looks a lot like ours—we are called, we mess up and God continues to redeem us.





WELCOME, KINDERGARTEN FRIENDS!

WONDERFUL OUTREACH WEDNESDAY'S

FEB
5
12
*19*
26

MAR
4
*11*
25

APR
1
8
*15*
22

MAY
6
*13*
20

W.O.W. IS AN AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR KIDS KINDERGARTEN-5TH GRADE. IN FEBRUARY THE KIDS WILL BE LEARNING BIBLE BASED LESSONS ON KINDNESS.





### February UMW Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 6 at 1 pm in the church library. Janet Thompson will present a program on Prayer & Self Denial and there will also be an installation of the new 2020 officers. Linda Meachum is hostess. We invite all women of the church to join us at our meetings and any of our events.

### We Want You!

Although we have monthly meetings we do so much more. Not a meeting person? You can still get involved with our mission focus (improving the lives of women, children and youth through our prayers, volunteer and advocacy efforts, and financial gifts) through some of our established events. Your support with funeral dinners by providing food or helping in the kitchen is greatly appreciated. Perhaps you'd like to help with the May Breakfast. There are also serving opportunities during the fall when we have our fundraisers for Cunningham Children's Home and during the Cookie Walk and Bazaar held in early December. There's a reading program that you are welcome to be a part of which meets the second Thursday of the month at 1:30 pm. M & Ms meet on Monday afternoons at the church with sewing, knitting/crocheting projects and more. Feel free to plug in where you feel comfortable. We'd love to have you be a part of our unit. For more information contact any of the UMW officers.

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN OFFICERS

President..... Janet Thompson  
 Vice-President..... Cindy Dodd  
 Treasurer.....Carolyn Scott  
 Secretary ..... Karen Wilkinson

### MISSION COORDINATORS

Spiritual Growth ..... Cindy Dodd  
 Courtesy ..... Evelyn Epperson  
 Student Work..... Janet Thompson  
 Nursing Home Favors.....Gerry Drake  
 Resources/Reading Program ..... Sheryle Carpenter  
 Rose on the Altar ..... Janet Thompson

### COMMITTEES

<b>Nominating</b>	<b>Local UMW Activities</b>
Evelyn Epperson	Gerry White
Cindy Dodd	Carmileta Clark
<b>Funeral Dinner Coordinator</b>	Joyce Herriott
Gerry White	Eileen Noone
<b>Funeral Dinner Team Leaders</b>	Linda Meachum
Cindy Dodd & Janet Thompson	
Linda Meachum	
Margaret White	

## May Breakfast

Friday, May 1, 9 am

Coffee cakes, casseroles, fruit & drinks

**Guest Speaker, the Rev Dr Keith Zimmerman,**  
 Co-Chair of *Our Conference, Our Kids*

*Our Conference, Our Kids* is a campaign for the spiritual care programs of the five child welfare agencies in the conference – The Baby Fold, Chaddock, Cunningham Children's Home, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House and Spero Family Services (formerly the United Methodist Children's Home).

Save the Date!

# STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (SPRC) UPDATE

BY DAVE BYERS

It's a new year and I want to first say that SPRC appreciates the new members who have joined our team: Jeff Bunting and Laurel Mathews, as well values those who have already been serving: Kari Couch, Terry Dodd, Lin Hambleton, Reba Karr, and Ex-Officio members Rob Parker, Lay Leader and Craig Sweet, Pastor. Gene Larson is our Lay Member of our Annual Conference. Dave Byers is the current chair.

You can think of SPRC as the human resources department for our church. Our role is to help meet the staffing needs of MUMC, which involves creating job descriptions, hiring staff, supporting the minister in his charge, and handling occasional personnel issues that occur. This charge of handling personnel issues requires all SPRC members to keep all conversations confidential so challenges can be handled appropriately and our staff is treated with respect and their privacy is maintained.

For the last two months we have focused on finding a minister to replace Craig Sweet who retires June 30, 2020. The committee first provided some background information through a survey on our church: membership numbers, demographics, programs, outreach, the dynamics of Mahomet, the skills and talents we were looking for in a new minister, etc. This survey was then provided to our District Superintendent, Angie Lee in December. We met with Angie in January to further discuss our needs and provided her with more insight into our church and the type of minister we would like to see at MUMC. We provided a significant amount of information and a primary trait we expressed our new minister must have is an ability to unite people.

Once a minister has been arranged, Angie will call Dave Byers and let him know. Then a meeting will be set so all SPRC can meet the new minister and conduct an interview to confirm that this is the person we feel would best serve MUMC. Once confirmed, we will communicate this news in a variety of ways: our newsletter, church bulletins, and announcements during our services, etc. For Dave, this is the second time going through the process as he was chair when Craig was hired and brought on board in July 2018.

Dave plans to use this experience to help both our church members get to know our new minister as well as successfully transition to a new minister. Part of SPRC's role will also be to help the new minister feel welcomed and get to know MUMC. SPRC feels fortunate that MUMC conducted a recent Appreciative Inquiry (article mentioned in this newsletter) and will be able to share the results with our new minister in order to help him/her better understand our church. More news to come on the transition and thank you all for your support of our staff and minister!

# FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

BY SCOTT YEAZEL

This is the season of new beginnings in our church and the Finance Committee wanted to say THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Mahomet United Methodist Church in 2019. We are happy to report that the bills are paid and we have a positive balance in the Operating Fund accounts in the bank as we start the New Year. December Unrestricted Offerings were \$65,376 for our church and total expenses were \$48,958 for a net of \$16,418 for the month.

For 2019, Unrestricted Offerings were \$416,814 and total expenses for the year were \$429,499 for a negative net of \$12,685. Compared to 2018 Unrestricted Offerings were \$411,826 and total expenses for the year were \$431,952 for a negative net of \$20,126.

The Christmas offering came at \$2,232 and will be disbursed to the MAYC, Helping Hands and Habitat for Humanity. Designated offerings totaled \$15,362 for 2019.

The 2019 statements of giving have been sent. If you haven't receive yours please contact the office or email Kay Williams at [finsecretary@mumc.org](mailto:finsecretary@mumc.org). The congregation's generosity and faithfulness continues to support the work of the church. As always, we are a transparent organization. The reports are always available on request.

Sincerely,  
Scott Yeazel  
Chairman, Finance Committee

# SURVEY

## Appreciative Inquiry Update

BY DAVE BYERS

The MUMC AI Team is getting closer to completing their charge of collecting information on the strengths MUMC has in order to determine how to leverage those strengths for driving positive change. As you might recall from previous articles, an AI is a change methodology based on the main principle that every organization has many aspects that work very well, things that give it life when it is most alive, effective, successful, and connected in healthy ways to its stakeholders. In other words, people succeed most when they look for what's right, instead of what's wrong. Dave Byers offered to lead the AI and a call for volunteers was made last summer. Once we had 15 volunteers in the fall of 2019 for the AI Team, the team met to design the interview guide and plan which team members would interview which people who attended MUMC, both members and non-members. The AI Team Members are: Chris Bunting, Jeff Bunting, Cindy Dodd, Alice Dollahon, Warren Drake, Valerie Goodwin, Sherri Kenner, Gary Kling, Gene Larson, Rob Parker, Kristina Robinson, Stacy Schroder, Janet Thompson, Gerry White, and Margaret White. Over 80 from MUMC were interviewed and their responses were recorded anonymously so they would feel free to speak their mind in the interviews. The AI Team met on January 18 to assemble all the notes and begin to create a final summary of findings. The team still has a small number of interview notes to collect. Once a final summary is complete, the plan is to share the MUMC AI Final Summary in February with MUMC Council and all in MUMC. The summary will also be shared with the new minister once that decision has been made. Thanks to all of you who were interviewed, The AI Team, and Nancy Strunk who helped with data analysis. It does take a "village" to change our world.

"It does take  
a village to  
change our  
world."

DAVE BYERS





# THANK YOU

Words can not express how grateful I am to my church family for all they have done to support me during this past year. Dave's health problems took me away from the church for most of 2019, however I never felt alone. All of the cards and texts made it possible for me to keep going. Knowing that so many were praying for Dave and me helped us even at the lowest points. Thank you to all for everything from the smallest pat on the back to the meals you provided after Dave's death and after the funeral. I am truly blessed to have such a wonderful church family. It is great to be home.

SHERYLE CARPENTER

Thank you for the Christmas bag filled with useful things and cards. We both had fun finding the goodies and reading the cards signed by familiar names. We appreciate being remembered by all of you. Again, thank you and God bless you.  
Your friends,

DANNIE & NORMA  
THARP

Happy New Year & belated Merry Christmas! Mom got a huge batch of cards and I enjoyed them as well. From Mom, Thank you for the Christmas cards. They were appreciated and enjoyed.

JULIE & THELMA  
LABHART

We want to say a special "thanks" to all of the people who participated in the Christmas bags project. Also, thanks for Wileen Waters for delivery! The goodies were appreciated, and it was delightful to open all the cards  
Thanks to all!

MARILYN & JOHN MOHR

Thank you to all of those who donated so many wonderful gifts and cards to the home bound church members...and so many that volunteered their time to let the members know they are not forgotten. We have the most kind and generous members who love our Church family.

EILEEN WATERS

The family of Dennis Ash would like to thank you for the support, condolences, cards and especially the prayers for our family during the 8 year battle he so courageously fought. They have meant so much to us. I would like to share a short verse, author unknown, that has lifted me so often.

**My mind still looks for you.  
My heart still speaks to you.  
My soul knows you are at peace.**

JUDY ASH AND FAMILY



# KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please join us the first Sunday of each month 9:30 - 10:30am.



## February 2nd 9:30AM

Please have your child bring a family picture with them. We will use the picture to make a kindness flag for each member of your family. Over the course of the day, when a family member practices kindness, their flag gets placed in the flag pole holder. Parents, meet in the Wesley room for casual discussion. Sometimes it is nice to be in conversation among people in the same season of life as you.

## March 1st 9:30AM

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!  
Stay tuned for more information.



## April 5th 9:30AM

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!  
Stay tuned for more information.

Parents, to enroll in text reminders regarding Sunday School and other events for KIDS: MUMC KIDS text @mahometu to the number 81010.

# YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please join us the first Sunday of each month 9:30 - 10:30am.



## February 2nd 9:30AM

Recent news stories highlight the efforts of teens helping one another and taking care of creation. This week we'll talk about the good we can accomplish through cooperation. Key Scriptures: Mark 2:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7;

## March 1st 9:30AM

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!  
Stay tuned for more information.



## April 5th 9:30AM

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!  
Stay tuned for more information.

Parents, to enroll in text reminders regarding Sunday School and other events for YOUTH: MUMC YOUTH text @mumc2018 to the number 81010.



## TOGETHER IN WORSHIP

*Please consider volunteering, your efforts are needed and appreciated.*

### GREETERS

- February 2nd - Olivia and Abby Bunting
- February 9th -
- February 16th - Steve and Sherri Orenic
- February 23rd - 10AM Lance and Eileen Noone

### USHERS

- February 2nd - Jeff and Chris Bunting
- February 9th - Gene Larson and Christel Seyfert
- February 16th - Gene Larson and Christel Seyfert
- February 23rd -10AM Gene Larson and Christel Seyfert

### COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

- February 2nd - 8:30 Scott and Lynne Yeazel /10:45 Margaret and Ron White
- February 9th - 8:30 Karen Wilkenson and Bonnie Vaughn/10:45 Warren and Gerry Drake
- February 16th -
- February 23rd - SET UP Lance and Eileen Noone/CLEAN UP Doug and Stacy Schroeder

### COMMUNION STEWARDS

- February 9th - 8:30 Joyce Herriott, Janet Thompson /10:45 Ron and Margaret White

### Altar Flowers

- February 2nd -
- February 9th -
- February 16th - Cramer family
- February 23rd - Sherri & Steve Orenic in honor of Kaiti Kenner's 12th Birthday

## January Attendance

January 5th Worship  
8:30 73/10:45 49

January 8th W.O.W.  
60 KIDS/12 HELPERS

January 12th Worship  
8:30 71/10:45 47

January 15th W.O.W.  
58 KIDS/ 12 HELPERS

January 19th Worship  
8:30 69/ 10:45 65

January 22nd W.O.W.  
57 KIDS/14 HELPERS

January 26th Worship  
8:30 67/10:45 34

January 29th W.O.W.  
49 KIDS/10 HELPERS



## COMMUNICATION

### Bulletin

Follow the weekly announcements and calendar reminders in the bulletins at our Worship services.

### Newsletter

Read through our monthly newsletter publication "The Circuit Rider". It can be found electronically on the News Page of our Website. Paper copies can be picked up at the church or we are happy to add you to the list of people that receive the newsletter in the mail.

### Website

[www.mumc.org](http://www.mumc.org)

There is so much to see on our website. Take the time to look through all of tabs. You can find the prayer list and the newsletter on the news page. Also, there is a calendar of events tab that is updated regularly.

### E-mail

If you are not added to our church e-mail listing please send an e-mail to [mumc@mumc.org](mailto:mumc@mumc.org) and we will get you added. We send 1-2 emails a week.

### Phone & Voicemail

217-586-2147

Our office hours are Monday-Friday 9AM-1PM or by appointment.

## TEXT ALERTS



Remind App:

Want a new way to stay connected to events happening at MUMC? Use your smartphone or cellphone to receive notifications with important updates and events.

Smartphones: Open your browser and go to the following link [rmd.at/fd2h62](http://rmd.at/fd2h62). Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.

Cell phone (non smartphone): Text the message @fd2h62 to the number 81010. If you are having trouble with 81010 try texting @fd2h62 to (972) 776-2460.