

A Note from Pastor Scott

Dear FUMC Friends,

As the Dog Days of summer simmer, it is easy to become complacent and believe that fall is a long way off. However, it is only a few short weeks before school begins and programming at First UMC shifts into overdrive. It has been an eventful summer full of many changes and new opportunities. Anne and I have felt the radical hospitality of the people of First UMC and the Kirksville community. We thank God for the new adventures that await us here. Thank you to those who have participated in the Listening Tours and those who plan to do so in the future. We will continue these as long as necessary to give everyone a chance to meet in a small group with Anne and me. These meetings are one of the best ways to get to know one another and to share your dreams and vision for the church here in Kirksville and beyond. If you are interested in joining or hosting one of these meetings, please contact Jeanne Harding.

Anne and I are pleased that many of you continue to wear your nametags. This is an essential part of being a hospitable church not only for us but primarily for the guests we have each week. As I discussed last week in worship, developing a personal relationship with someone is the only way to create an opportunity to share your faith. Witnessing to our faith is the commission of all disciples of Jesus. Remember that each person that walks through our doors is a child of God and should be warmly received with joy. Keep up the great work!

As always, please feel free to contact me with any visions, concerns, prayer requests and opportunities that God places on your heart.

In Christ's Love,

Scott

Worship and Mission

The Back to School fair will be on **August 2 from 11am-1pm** at the Primary School. Each year, this event helps distribute up to 600 kits of school supplies to families in our area. Please consider helping to make this outreach event possible.

Kit Assembly: Volunteers of all ages needed to help assemble kits in the First UMC annex building: **Monday, July 31, 9:00-11:00 a.m.** and Tuesday, Aug. 1, 1:00 p.m.

Supply Distribution: Shifts are available for setup at 10:15 a.m., distribution 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m., and cleanup at 1:00 p.m.

To sign up, contact Cheryl Dorrell.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers six week class series begins **Thursday, August 17** from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at NEMO Senior Citizens Nutrition Site, Village '76, 100 Valley Forge Drive in Kirksville. This educational program is designed to help family caregivers take care of themselves while caring for a relative or friend. To register, call (660) 665-4494.

Sunday Supper: Opportunity to serve

Each Sunday evening, college-age young adults gather at the Momentum House for a free home-cooked meal. This meal is the center of our campus ministry outreach and community life. You are invited to be a part of this vital mission of our church by **hosting a Sunday Supper** - Prepare and share a meal with 25-30 students. This is a wonderful opportunity for Sunday school classes, small groups, couples, or individuals. Dates are available in September, October, and November. Contact Rev. Jennifer to schedule a time for you, your family, or your group to serve.

Save the Date

Community Connection: Using Your Gifts for Others

Saturday, September 23, 9:00 a.m.-Noon.

Mark your calendars and plan to join together in using our gifts to serve others. Our morning will begin with a gathering time before we are sent to serve, and will conclude with a light meal.

Adult Ministries

Over Coffee: Thursdays, 7:45am, at Hardees.

Over Coffee is a great way to fellowship with other 50+ adults and to engage in Bible study. Lively discussion is based on the lectionary scripture for each week and facilitated by Rev. Jennifer.

50 Plus Lunch: August 1, Noon. Room 202

Share a meal and good fellowship with friends, new and old. Meat, drink, and table ware is provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Elizabeth Clark will present a brief program on the Imagination Library.

Cancer Support Group will meet on Wednesday, August 9 at 6 p.m. at Maxwell's for a dutch-treat meal.

Blueberries Bible Study will meet on Saturday, August 12, at 9:30 a.m. at Hardee's.

Fall Bible Study and mid-week activities will begin in early September. Watch for more information coming soon!

Notes from Rev. Jennifer

You are Invited: Momentum Welcome Back BBQ and Worship

Sunday August 20, 6pm @ the Momentum House (903 S. Davis)

Please join us as we welcome new and returning students. This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship with students, with our church family, and with fellow Methodists from Faith UMC. Meat and main dishes are provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Tuesday Night Worship

Tuesday night Worship is held each week at 7pm, in the Truman Student Union (lower level) beginning on **August 22**. This service is led by the Momentum Praise Band and Rev. Jennifer Finley. People of *all* ages, who enjoy a more informal and intimate worship experience, are welcome! Bring a friend and join us. For those driving to campus, public parking is available, without a permit, in all parking lots surrounding the student union building (red and blue lots).

Celebrations and Announcements

Announcement from Staff-Parish Relations Committee:

Lorri Landon will be joining the First United Methodist Church staff as our new Administrative Assistant. Some of you may know her from her previous work as a Pastoral Care and Grief Assistant here at FUMC. Lorri has experience in administration, education, and recently graduated from seminary. While you will see her in the church office full-time during the work week, on Sunday mornings Lorri preaches nearby at La Plata and Yarrow in her weekend role as a local pastor. Lorri has a heart for encouragement, listening, and helping people connect with God's transforming grace and healing love. She looks forward to seeing you and supporting the ministries and people who are part of First Church in Kirksville!

Parting Thoughts from Marla: This is the time when I can say how blessed I am to have been able to serve in this ministry for the past 21 years. Who would have thought when I was hired as Administrative Secretary when Beverly Kitts retired that I would retire 21 years later. I want to say thank you to the pastors, staff, and our church family for all your support for Steve and I. There have been many joys and sadness through the years both personally and in the congregation and you have helped us through these. Thanks to the many people that helped as volunteers through the years. There would be too many to list so if you have ever helped in the office, with the newsletter, or with anything when I have requested help, thank you.

We are excited that Lorri has been hired in this position and hope that she will enjoy serving the Lord in this position as much as I have. May God bless each of you.

Marla Gramling

Retirement Reception: July 30, 9:30 am

Marla Gramling has served as our Administrative Assistant for 21 years. We invite you to join us in the fellowship hall as we celebrate and give thanks for Marla's many years of service to our community.

Children and Youth Ministry

7/30 Youth Led Sunday

8/17 First Day of School at KV

8/18 Family Night at the Field - First KV Football Game

9/6 Club 3:16/Community Connect Kick Off

Youth Led Sunday

Youth will be leading worship on **July 30th**. We will also be sharing about the mission trip to Nashville, TN. If you would like to be a part of the youth led service, please contact Miss Theresa.

Blessing of the Backpacks: Sunday, August 13

All students and educators are invited to bring their school bags to service to be blessed during worship. Let's start this new school year in prayer!

Family Night at the Field

Join us as we fellowship and cheer on our Kirksville Tiger band members, dance team members, cheerleaders, and football players. Each home game we sit together at the south end of the home stands, behind the band section. See you there for the first game on Friday, August 18!!!

Children and Youth Fundraiser - Giving for His Glory

If you have not donated, please prayerfully consider supporting the children and youth ministry of our church. This board is planned to be our **ONLY** fundraiser for the year. Please pick your favorite number and fill the envelope to support our programming.

Mark your calendars! Club 3:16 & Connect will begin on Wednesday, September 6.