



Open Doors

United Methodist Church of Blue Eye

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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2024

Peg and I are heading out on July 30 for the north country. We have been planning this trip for over a year. It all got started when we thought we might retire and move to Minnesota. So, we went and looked at what was available to rent in the St. Cloud area. We were amazed at the cost of two and three bedroom apartments. When we looked at it realistically it didn't seem like a good idea. The cost was way too high and we were able to afford our home in Branson.

So, what do we do next, because we do want to spend more time with the kids and grandkids. We came up with the idea to retire last month. It sounded good on paper but there were some holes in our thinking. One problem was facing the fact that we could not totally retire, both of us would still need to work. The second part was trying to find a suitable replacement for the church and that was not looking too bright for this year. But, again, we had been planning to set out in August and September to visit our family. So, with God's guidance and church approval, we came up with another plan. The plan was to keep the two-month adventure alive and add a few more weeks so it sounded like pre-retirement.

This is where we are today, looking forward to keeping our promise to ourselves and our kids. We appreciate the opportunity you all have given us to do this new adventure.

God is always involved in any adventure and so He is in this one. We have four lay speakers covering eight Sundays. What a blessing to have such dedicated lay people in our area that God can use to fill the pulpit on Sundays. The hardest Sunday to fill was Labor Day weekend, so it might be a lay witness and hymn Sunday. All in all, God will provide and you all need come to support the speakers and our own laity.

God is also working with us , as Women's Group will continue on Monday afternoons, L.E.O.T.A. and Lunch/Cards will continue. The thrift store will be open in August and September and preparation will start for the Fall garage sale. I am not sure I will be missed at all and that is a good thing,. Sometimes too much emphasis is on the pastor. They are the leaders of the church, but the church is the people. My prayer will be that the lay people let God guide and support them in ministry as they continue in the faith.

Pastor Jack

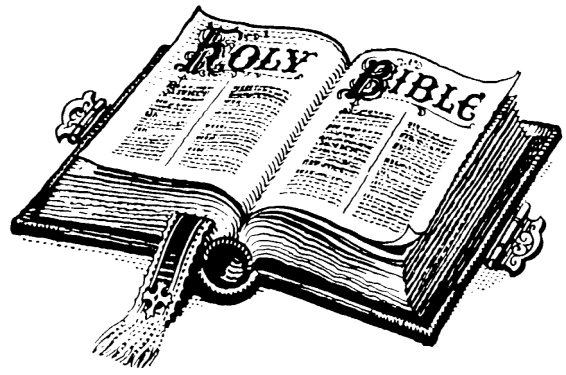
Lay Speakers to Fill in for

Pastor Jack

Lay people will be speaking during Sunday morning services for the next two months. We are very thankful for these lay people coming to our church to fill in while Pastor Jack is away.

August 4	Paul Reffitt
August 11	Dennis Givens
August 18	Paul Reffitt
August 25	Dennis Givens
September 1	OPEN
September 8	Dennis Givens
September 15	Kent Kiester
September 22	Dennis Givens
September 29	Tammy Stephens

"I'm so thankful for these lay speakers. Please come and join them for worship during August and September. There is a need to get out and support them in their ministry to you. I wish I could be there to hear them."
Pastor Jack



Bible Study & Prayer Time on Break Until October

Bible study will take its usual break while pastor is gone, but will start up again in October. In fact, the Monday, 10 AM study time will get back on track on Monday, October 7 with a new study. This would be an excellent time to start coming for study and fellowship. Also, October 7 will be prayer time at 11:00 AM. We gather the first Monday of the month to study at 10 AM and break at 11 AM for "Joys and Concerns" and prayer time. We then share a noon meal together before women's and men's ministry time. So, again, this would be an excellent time to start coming to Bible Study and to help in praying for our church family, our friends and neighbors and our state and world around us. Come join us on October 7 starting at 10 AM. You will find that it helps continue what we start on Sunday and then carry it out during the week.

Security Measures Taken With New Doorbell Installation

We have installed new doorbells for the upper and lower levels of the church. We should have done this a long time ago, but we have them now. The church needs to be locked if you are working here alone or even if a group of ladies are here working together, the church should be locked. If someone comes to the door they need to ring the bell if they see a car here. Then if you come to the door you can decide whether to open it. While Pastor Jack is gone, he suggests we only open it if we know the person and they are part of the church. This is a new security measure we are taking to safeguard those who are working in the church.

So, if you come to the church without a key and know someone is working in the church, ring the doorbell. The button outside the entry door only rings upstairs. Same for the lower back door button; it only rings on the lower level. We don't have signage yet but we will get it.



Join the Fun of Women's Ministry

While Pastor Jack and Peg are gone, the Women's Group will continue to meet at 1:00 PM on Mondays. It is important that this ministry continues because there are nursing homes and assisted living places in the Blue Eye/Branson area that need the lap quilts the women put together.

There is also the need to keep the birthday/ anniversary cards going out to our church family. The group is always looking for others to help with their ministry.

Women's Group meets from 1:00 PM to around 4:00 PM each Monday. Not only is it a good ministry, it is good fellowship.

Ladies, come join in even if you have never sewed a stitch. The group will gladly show you how, for the machines do a lot of the work. There is also the job of putting the top quilt with a bottom sheet and then tying the quilt so it stays together.

Come join the fun!



Thrift Shop Ministry

The Thrift Store is another ministry of Open Doors Church. The thrift store will be open on August 17 and September 14 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM in anticipation of our fall garage sale which will be on October 10, 11 and 12.

If you have donations or could volunteer, let Debbie Lyon know. We can always use donations, and volunteers are always welcome!

Let's Eat Out Together, Amen!

(L.E.O.T.A.)

L.E.O.T.A. meets the third Tuesday of the month at 11:30 AM. For August and September that would be:

August 20 @ Mezcal Mexican (across from Aldi @ 1232 Branson Hills Parkway)

September 17 @ Famous Dave's BBQ

Again, you need to let Debbie Hermann know if you are coming, as she lets the restaurant know how many to expect. Debbie tries to find places people don't go to, so you have a new experience each Tuesday.

Put this ministry on your calendar!

Meet for Lunch and Cards

Every second Tuesday of the month is your chance to gather for lunch and play cards. It is a great opportunity to get together for a meal and fellowship. Debbie Hermann prepares the meal, so she does need to know how many are coming.

All you need to do is let her know you're coming, show up for a great meal, and then the card fellowship time begins.

Mark the second Tuesdays on your schedule, August 13th and September 10th. The fun starts at noon!

Church-wide Garage Sale Set for Fall

The Fall Sale is set for October 10, 11, and 12. Volunteers are needed. There will be a sign up sheet on the table in the church entryway. Please specify what time you will be at the sale. Of course, many hands make light work and fun fellowship.

We are accepting donations until Monday, Oct. 7th. We will need to cut it off then to get ready for the sale. Set up starts in the basement on Monday, Oct. 7 at 1 PM. Volunteers needed!

Dates/Times:	Thursday, Oct. 10	8 AM—5 PM
	Friday, Oct. 11	8 AM—1 PM
	Saturday, Oct.12	8 AM—Noon

Springfield Cardinals

Extend Baseball Invitation

Open Doors Methodist Church received the following invitation from the Springfield Cardinals:

“Bring your family and join us for a fun-filled, summer baseball game on August 23rd at 7:00 PM! If you have a group from your church that wants to attend, register how many tickets you need or you can register as individuals. We can’t wait to see you!”

Register online using the attached QR code or contact Teresa at tdavis@moumethodist.org by Wednesday, August 7th. Take advantage of this offer and go have some fun at the baseball game!!



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Here is what has happened in the last two months:

- 1) Ministry House \$3,207.61 to \$3,557.61
- 2) Loan Payments are now available throughout January
- 3) Memorial fund—Same at \$4,030.00
- 4) General Fund—\$6,040.37 to \$6,335.33
- 5) Building Fund—\$964.59 to \$1,244.59

General budget is holding its own, but we have a huge increase in insurance starting Oct. 1, 2024 (from \$9,360 to \$16,633—not quite double). All insurance has gone up dramatically. So, it is a concern and we are looking into other companies. Please keep this all in your prayers as we worship and praise God together.

Craft Fair Set for Fall

Our annual craft fair is coming in October. The dates are October 3, 4, and 5 with the contact person being Karen Pizzurro. There are a number of crafters signed up but we still have space. Our church provides the space for a nominal fee and we bring in crafters from around our area. This year’s fair is Friday, October 4 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Saturday, October 5 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Set up day will be on October 3. Volunteers are needed and if you are a crafter within the church, call Karen for a space.

Welcome, New Members!

Mark and Maureen Schroeder joined our fellowship on Sunday, July 14, 2024. They have a home here and in Omaha, Nebraska. When they are down here, they wanted a church home and so they chose to be members of our community of faith. We welcome them into our midst and look forward to their participation at worship and other events of the church.

New Directory Coming Soon

We had hoped to have a new directory done by this newsletter, but have not found the time to do so. So, let’s hope we can put one together by November or December. It may sound fairly easy, but to make sure it is correct with all the information does take time. Every time you go into a doctor’s office they want to update the information so they have it right. That is the drawback here—just getting everybody’s directory information right. We will keep working at it!!