



Open Doors

United Methodist Church of Blue Eye

Volume 13 Issue 11/12

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024

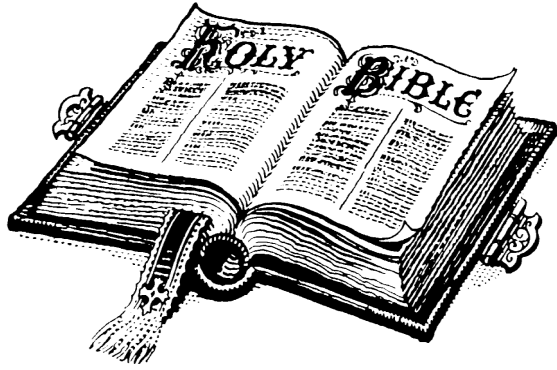
It has been three months since my last article. There is some catching up to do. First of all, we had a great trip to Minnesota. The weather was up and down but mostly up and nice out. The kids kept us really busy in August. There was a Twins game and what a beautiful stadium. We also went to a local baseball game called the St. Cloud Rocks. It was quite an experience as well. Also on the agenda was the Iowa State Fair. There was a lot of extra stuff besides the state fair that weekend, but suffice it to say we got a lot of walking in that weekend. The third big event was a trip to the lake cabin over Labor day weekend. Peg and I both caught fish for the big fish fry. It was fun for we had not done that ever in our married life. The fish fry was fantastic and so it, too, was a great weekend. September slowed down quite a bit. Our main task was to help our grandkids get used to getting off the bus and home and then checking with their mom that all was well. This was all new for everyone: parents, kids and grandparents.

We did get to stay at the RV Park some, could have had more time. The RV Park was great and the fifth-wheel worked fine. We made it to a few different churches for Sunday worship and yes, we did skip some and slept in!! All in all it was a great trip. We got to spend time with our whole family. Wish we could have had more time with the Iowa folks. If we were to live closer to all three it would be somewhere around Albert Lea, Minnesota or over to Blue Earth, Minnesota.

So, now we are back and ready for the November/December agenda. Peg now has a full time job at Silver Dollar City which might require that she miss a few Sundays as she will have Tuesday/Wednesday off. My schedule might change some to work with her schedule.

As I put the newsletter together, there are a lot of the same events, programs and ministries as every other year. The only difference I can see is the intentional ministry to help one on one with our ministry. Bibles for FCA—one on one ministry. Toys for Stone County Kids—one on one ministry. Even our own fellowships—one on one ministry. Jesus stopped to help individuals who were in need. The crowds were okay but could wait if Jesus needed to heal, to help or just talk to someone one-on-one. So, the focus of our ministry needs to be on how we can help one another. It has always been that way so not a huge change at all but maybe more intentional about bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those we have an opportunity to touch their lives. Where in your family, neighborhood or church could you minister one on one? May God bless that outreach ministry. Amen.

Pastor Jack



Weekly Bible Study

On Hold Until Advent

At the moment we do not have an ongoing Bible study, but come Advent we will have a special study. The study will last four weeks and it is hoped that both women and men of the church will take advantage of this short but meaningful study as we prepare for the baby Jesus. It will be a special time for us to look at the coming of Christ into the world. Once we choose a study we will have a sign-up to get the material we need. Please consider this short term study and come join us for Bible study!!

These Bible study sessions will be held on Mondays at 10:00: December 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd. Mark your calendars!

Garage Sale Report



Our fall garage sale went quite well. We had plenty of items for sale which are now other people's treasures. Like the Craft sale, it was slower than usual, with most likely the same reason—the economy. People just don't have the money to spend. Put that aside and we were able to make a grand total of \$1786.50. We are thankful for that extra money for our ministry. This allows us to pay loan payments until at least next July. Thanks to Debbie and Bob Lyon for heading up the event with Neva Mielke working side by side during the prep time, sale time and thrift store. There were many volunteers to help it all go smoothly. Thanks to all who helped. It was a great event as usual.

Join for Prayer Time

Even though we do not have a regular Bible study on Mondays until December, we will still have Prayer Time once a month. For November, it will be on Monday, the 11th, and for December, it is on the 9th. Please note that these are on the second Mondays of the month, rather than the first Monday as was previously done.

Prayer Monday will start with prayer time from 11:00 to noon. Then we will have a lunch together provided by either Pastor Jack or Dave and Sharon Gilliam. Peg will in all reality be at work at Silver Dollar City.

Prayer Time Dates:

Monday, November 11 @ 11:00 AM

Monday, December 9 @ 11:00 AM

Fifth Annual Craft Fair Bigger Than Ever



The annual craft fair, held this year on October 4 and 5, was bigger than ever with more craft vendors. There were vendors in the basement, the fellowship hall, the entry hallway and even outside! All in all it went quite well. Some vendors thought it was slower than some previous years, but seeing as the economy is slow as well, we did alright providing vendors the space to show their crafts. It was also Pastor Jack's opportunity to start his Christmas shopping. He says that he has 85% of his shopping done already!! Thanks to Karen Pizzurro for heading up the event and all who volunteered to help. It is always a good time for fellowship between shoppers and other vendors. Karen reports that a number of vendors said they will be back next year!!



Thanksgiving/Christmas Missions:

Provide Bibles for FCA

At the moment, we have two missions that will take us through November and December. The first is Bibles for FCA. Brian Mitchell gave a great message to the congregation on what FCA is doing in this area. It is a big challenge to provide Bibles for young athletes and coaches. We have helped Brian in the past and we need to do it again. Bibles are a one on one ministry that these students use in their groups. The coaches also need the Bibles for direction and how to talk with the students about God, Jesus Christ and the Holy spirit. The Bibles make a huge difference. We will take an offering during November and possibly December to help reach out with the Word of God. Look in your bulletin as there will be a way for you to donate. Thank you!

Collect Toys for Stone Co. Youth

The second mission will be Toys for Stone County Kids and Youth. We will have a collection space at church to bring your gifts unwrapped. We will also take donations of money and do the shopping. Again, this is a one on one ministry to help show God's love by our helping to make children and youth have a good Christmas. We have done this for the past couple of years and because the need is so great our help makes a difference. Watch the bulletin for directions and the Narthex for the collection space.

THANKS for helping with these local ministries where we can see with our own eyes and ears what a difference we can make in Jesus' name. Thanks!!

Hanging of the Greens

Hanging of the Greens is a great tradition of this church. On November 24, we will gather after church to decorate mainly the sanctuary, but other parts of the church as well. We need many volunteers to make the transition as we create a warm and inviting atmosphere for the Christmas season. It is also the last Sunday of the month, so it will be potluck Sunday. Put Sunday, November 24 on the calendar for decorating and potluck!!



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

On December 24 at 7:00 PM, we will gather for another tradition of the church. It is our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. It is a beautiful service of lights, candles, scriptures, prayers and, of course, Christmas carols! We also reaffirm our Advent symbols of Love, Hope, Joy, Peace. The service ends with another tradition—lighting our personal candle while we sing “Silent Night” and concluding the service with “Joy to the World.” Last year we added a new dimension to the personal candles; they are LED lights so no flames and even the youngest can hold the personal candle of Christmas. Christmas comes in the middle of the week, Wednesday, so put Tuesday, Dec. 24, 7:00 PM for Candlelight Service!!

Christmas/New Years Eve Party

December 31 6:30 PM to Midnight

What better time to get together to celebrate the season than New Year's Eve?! This year it might be a little different as we may need to be at the church instead of the ministry house. One way or the other, we will come together for fellowship and of course, food. We need to bring party/finger foods. We will also have our traditional gift game so bring a gift under \$10 to share. There will be other games and maybe movies for the night as well. Please plan to attend the “party” at 6:30 PM on New Year's Eve. Let's bring the new year in together!!

Trunk-or-Treat Provides a Fun and Safe Event

Our Trunk-or-Treat event on October 31 went very well. We set up nine trunks with 15 participants. The event lasted from 5:30 to 8:00 pm with around 80 trick-or-treaters showing up. Even though it got a little chilly as the evening went on, everyone seemed to have a really good time. It is such a meaningful ministry to provide a safe place to trick or treat. Thanks to the 15 people and their nine trunks; we had more trunks than we thought we would! Thanks!!

L.E.O.T.A. Scheduled for November

The monthly lunch gathering will be on Tuesday, November 19 at 11:30 AM at the Sugar Leaf Bakery. Sugar Leaf is located in the Grand Village Shoppes. There is a variety of salads, sandwiches, quiche and soups on the menu. Come join us! Please let Debbie Hermann know if you will be coming.



Fellowship Opportunities

On every upcoming Tuesday there is a chance for you to gather with fellow card players and have some fun! There will be dessert and cards on November 5, November 26 and December 3. Meet at the church at 1:00 on these days. On November 12 come a little earlier, at noon, for lunch and then stay for some card playing!

December 3 will be the last gathering until next April.



Pregnancy Life Line

Baby bottle time has come and gone. We dedicated twelve bottles full of money on Sunday, October 27. On Thursday, they made their way to Pregnancy Life Line (PLL). We collected the money to help minister to ladies that are pregnant and have questions about their pregnancy and whether they should, could or want to keep their baby. PLL provides a one-on-one basis help for these women. This is a critical ministry to people who think maybe an abortion solves all problems. PLL shows the positive side of carrying a baby and giving it a chance to live and become one of God's loving children. Thanks for helping with this ministry. If you were unable to be around for the filling of the baby bottles, PLL is always open for donations.