

Pastor's Column

Love makes the world go around. Each of the world's religions point to the power of love as central to what it means to be alive. Love is essential in life because every human needs to know they are loved. Yet it is so easy to "over look" the opportunities to say; "I love you." Heads up everyone, Valentine's Day is February 14th, and so it is traditional to celebrate love this month. Someone said "Falling in love is magical, and we do it again, again and again." Another said: "It is heady stuff that launches ships and makes the world go round. But real love is a powerful taste of the divine as we experience it in another." [Proverbs 3:3](#) "Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart." In our modern world, love and lust often get all mixed up. Then too love can become so watered down it offers little comfort or security. But the love God offers to each of us, and the love we are to offer to others is most unique. It is a love without expectations, or conditions. It's "I love you, for who you are." Then too, it's love ourselves for who we are, as we realize we are children of God. So look around – who could you bless by allowing God's love to flow through you. I'm not referring to "TV love" but rather God's version of love, that helps a spouse, or family member to know security, appreciation and comfort, through your love.

Pastor Julius

Children & Youth Team Meeting

The Children & Youth Team will meet Wednesday, February 1st at 6:30 p.m. in the Cornerstone Conference Room.

Men's Breakfast

The United Methodist Men will be meeting Sunday, February 5th at 7:15 a.m. in the multi-purpose building for breakfast.

Gift of Presence Support Group

The Gift of Presence Support Group will meet Monday, February 6th and Monday, February 20th at 6:00 p.m. in the Library.

Serving Team Meeting

The Serving Team will meet Monday, February 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the Cornerstone Conference Room.

Sharing Team Meeting

The Sharing Team will meet Wednesday, February 8th at 6:30 p.m. in the Cornerstone Conference Room.

Praise Dance

Praise Dance practice will begin February 6th and will be held on Mondays from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. If you're interested or have questions, contact Megan Pollard 385-1499 or 676-5445.

Ad Council Meeting

Ad Council will meet Wednesday, February 15th at 6:00 p.m. in the Cornerstone Conference Room.

Commodities Distribution

Commodities Distribution will be held Tuesday, February 21st from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Volunteers needed for the afternoon shift!

Help Wanted

There is a paid part-time cook position available at Camp Jo-Ota. For more information, contact Mike Leonard at 660-346-8834.

Ash Wednesday Service

An Ash Wednesday Service will be held on February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Mary Mechlin and Lance Olson | 14 Ryan Brown, Russell Kohl,
Aletha Luther and Tom Nelson |
| 3 Josh Seward | 17 Rheeann Linsley |
| 4 Bill Figg | 18 Rylan Truitt |
| 5 Thomas Lane and Michael Trumper | 19 Jim Cole |
| 6 Eddie Brown and Susan Kohl | 20 Matthew Meisner, Rona Nelson
and Bettye Rector |
| 8 Allen Faught and Olin Gottman | 21 Betty Vancil |
| 9 Bailey Baker, David Johnson
and Dorothy Krueel | 22 Betty Buster, Dr. Mark Maddox |
| 10 Scott Coleman | 23 Dana Bagley, Hugh Dunn, Jr.
and Sherry Robertson |
| 11 Caleb Butner, Roger Kohl, Kattie Peyton,
Judy Wilson | 25 Wanda Grimm, Patricia Halley
and Arnie Shearer |
| 12 Mary Haverfield and
Charlie & Marianne Burkhardt Anniv. | 26 Anthony Ferguson, Benjamin Kauffman
and Martha Luzader |
| 13 Tucker Ferguson and Jacque Schmidt | |

Family Ministries Team Meeting

The Family Ministries Team will meet Tuesday, February 28th at 6:30 p.m. in the Cornerstone Conference Room.



Save this Date! Saturday, March 31st at Macon UMC Easter Pageant by Sonlight Players of the Kansas City Area

With grateful cooperation with the Macon United Methodist Church and the Mt. Zion Church of Redman, the SonLight Players present to the community of Macon County

Missouri, Moments in Time, The Truth of the Christ Revealed with Living scripture and songs. Witness the events of the last days of our Savior. Be there from the Last Supper, through the events that led to the crucifixion. There is no charge for admission and everyone is welcome to come at 3:00 p.m. on March 31st, 2012. The Pageant will be hosted by Macon United Methodist at 208 Pearl St., Macon, MO. Phone number is 385 -2156. Go to www.sonlightplayers.com. Scroll down to Gallery, then click on Videos to see some samples of their ministry.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Kim Cross (*friend of Allyson Bramer, the passing of Kim's mother*)

Janet Florence (*friend of Brenda Cole, cancer*)

Lewis (Buddy) Graham (*Sarah Grinder's brother, health issues*)

Connie Grinder (*friend of Kathy Vivian, triple by-pass*)

Jen Haverfield (*in Samaritan Hospital*)

Nation of Israel

Those in Joplin, MO

Sara Kidd (*health issues*)

Joyce Lake (*relative of Sara Kidd, recovering from surgery*)

Law Enforcement

Darlene Meisner (*recovering from surgery*)

Harry Moehle

Hubert Moehle

All our Military

Those in Prison

Evelyn Wellborn (*in Loch Haven with health issues*)



Above is the theme, The Commission on the General Conference for The United Methodist Church's 2012 General Conference, scheduled for **April 24th - May 4th in Tampa, Florida**. It is encouraging to see the General Conference of the UMC, put out front the desire to "Make Disciples of Jesus Christ, to Transform the World." A committee of representatives from the Commission on the General Conference and the Council of Bishops was charged with making recommendations for a theme and logo. An official statement reads: "We sensed that people across the church are longing for clarity about our mission, and we believe that the theme of the General Conference should reinforce and celebrate that mission," said Jim Harnish, a member of the commission and chair of the committee. "We hope that the Spirit of God will use this theme to unite and energize our people to fulfill this mission and enable us to set clear priorities for the use of our resources." **Your prayers for General Conference are requested.**

NOTES OF SHARING

Thank you for the scholarship money you provided me with while attending Maryville University. I greatly appreciate it and it has been very helpful.
Thanks, Sasha Spencer

Family Ministry Team Activities for 2012

The Family Ministry Team has been working on activities for 2012. *Our vision is to create an environment where Christian love and friendship exists within our church family.* We plan to do this by *offering fun activities and times of devotion to God creating an atmosphere of a supportive family of faith.*

Our first scheduled event is **Saturday, March 24th**, when we will have a dinner theater showing of the movie, ***Courageous***, in the multi-purpose room of the church. Since this movie is for youth (suggested age 12 and up) and adults, we leave it up to the discretion of parents to decide on whether or not to bring their older children. Mark your calendar now and watch the bulletin for further details.

On **Sunday, July 1st** we are having a Church Family Day at Camp Jo-Ota. We are planning an afternoon of games and activities for families including a short music and devotional program and concluding with a carry-in meal.

On **Sunday, September 30th** we will have our usual 5th Sunday Unity Service. This will be followed by an interlude of musical entertainment while a carry-in meal is made ready for all of us to enjoy as we fellowship with each other.

Our final activity of this year is a hayride at the Hackman's farm. This event was enjoyed last year, so we have decided to do it again. The exact date is not yet determined, but it will be a **Saturday in October**.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us as we worship and play together as a church family.

Betty Vancil

COMING TO YOUR CHURCH SOON!

Coplen/Wright & Associates will be at Macon UMC, on May 19, 2012, and everyone is encourage to attend. It's going to be a day long exercise that will stir your soul and turn our eyes to God. ALL leaders and future leaders in the church are called upon to be present Saturday, May 19th; 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Macon UMC. What you will be offered during this time, would cost \$100 per hour if you were to go to their office. Cost to attend here will be far less than that and some scholarships may be available to those who attend the full day.

Ushers & Greeters Needed!

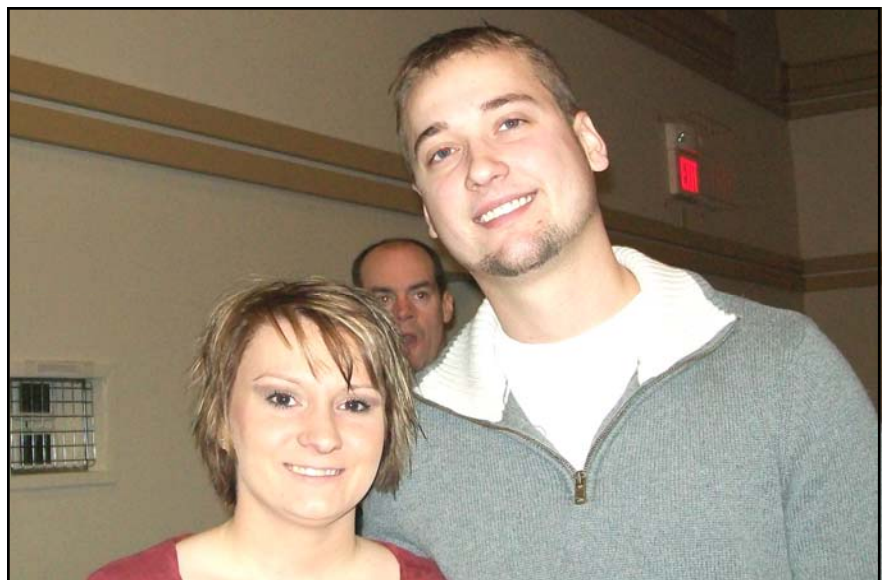
Ushers and Greeters are needed for the 10:45 a.m. Sunday morning worship service. Please contact Justin or JoVaughn Kelly at 395-3929.

Camp Scholarships from the District

Once again the District Finance Committee has made it possible for the District to offer camp scholarships for the 2012 Camping season. There are 50 scholarships available for the entire District on a first come first serve basis, and they will be \$50 scholarships. Last year, our church received 5 of the 50. If you would like to receive a District Scholarship, you **MUST** send to Rhonda the following information before the voucher code will be given out: Camper's full name, Church Membership/Relation and Camp Code.



Seth Butner



Katie Prewett & Mike Rudder

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome into the membership of Macon UMC. Seth Butner, Mike Rudder and Katie Prewett. We pray they continue to grow with us.

Lay Ministry/Speaking

Saturday, March 3rd at Camp Jo-Ota, Clarence, MO. Basic and advance courses are being offered. You can pick up your application in the church office. The cost is \$35.

- **Basic Course - For first time participants: “Mark Twain District Lay Ministries Basic Class:** How to hear God’s call and proclaim the Good News through: Personal Faith and Lifestyle, Service, Leadership, Teaching, Witnessing, Preaching and Worship Leadership. This course will give participants hands-on experience in many aspects of lay learning ministries. No sermon required. Send a two page review of the book by February 25th to: jkets1949@gmail.com. The class leaders: Pastor Julius Ketsenburg & Monty Montgomery
- **Advanced Classes - For students who previously completed the basic class:**
Lead in Stewardship. This course helps participants develop a holistic understanding of the “S” word Stewardship. Based on the text “Afire with God” by Betsy Schwarzentraub. Send a 2 page review of the book by February 25th to: richnorthcutt@yahoo.com.
- **Lay Speakers Preach**
Each participant will receive a copy of the text, “GO Preach” by Jack Gilbert. The course offers help for: sermon preparation including presentation and practice; finding stories; using the hymnal; reading the Bible aloud and good oral communication. Read the book after receipt. A sermon is required. Send the sermon preview to: Pastor Eric by March 24th pastor.eric.missouri@gmail.com. **Follow up class to present written sermons on March 31st at location TBD.** The class leader: Pastor Eric Anderson.

For more information, contact Pastor Julius. Deadline to register is January 31st. This year there will be no exceptions due to the material getting to the leaders for evaluation. **Tom Bannon, District Lay Leader/registrar**

“Mark Twain District Leaders Making a Difference”

District Leadership Training Event

A District Leadership Training Event will be held Sunday, February 12 from 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. One will be held at the First United Methodist Church in Kirksville and the other will be held at Monroe City United Methodist Church. Listed below are the training opportunities:

First Kirksville United Methodist Church

- **“The Ministry of Finance and Administration”** - Leader, Rev. Kendall Waller
An opportunity for Trustees, Treasurers, Finance Committees and any leaders interested in financial decision making training.
- **“Now What? I am on the PPR Committee!”** - Leader, Rev. Dale Stone, District Superintendent
Ministry for pastors and churches in the 21st century is challenging-can I get an “Amen!” We will look how this critical committee serves as a connecting point between pastor/staff and laity. There will be time for sharing questions, responses and ideas.
- **“What Does a Lay Leader Lead Anyway?”** - Leader, Ms. Shannon Meister, Asso. Conference Lay Leader
So, you are a lay leader, but have no idea what you are supposed to be doing. Learn your “job description” and how to be the best lay leader you can be.
- **“The Life of a General Conf. Delegate”** - Leader, Ms. Shannon Meister, Asso. Conference Lay Leader
What is a General Conference Delegate? What do they do and why do we need them? Learn the answers to these questions and hot topics that will affect the future of the UMC in the next few months.
- **“Helping Hands/District VIM”** - Leaders, Mrs. Barbara Stone & Mr. Carlos Coy
Mission Volunteers. This is a two fold effort to locate mission minded persons in the Mark Twain District. First those people who would volunteer to be a part of a team to help their neighboring churches in our district; neighbor helping neighbor kind of projects. Serving those needs close to home and helping our neighboring churches who may not have the resources to help themselves. Secondly, discussion on becoming a VIM team member that might serve throughout Missouri and into neighboring states, as well a discussion meant to guide those interested to further learning about being a leader of a VIM team.
- **“2G2BT: Celebrating Twentysomethings”** - Leader, Ms. Karen Hayden, Office of Pastoral Excellence
Rather than name all of the reasons why we do not have more young people in our midst, how might we celebrate their gifts? What do we matter to college age person’s stories?

(District Leadership Training Event continued to next page)

- **“The Attentiveness of Spiritual Leadership” - Exodus 3:2-4**
Leaders, Rev. Sherry Habben, Conf. Dir. Of Connectional Ministries
Mrs. Mary Hudelson, Mark Twain District Lay Leader
What makes a spiritual leader – how do we become one? In her book “Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership”, Ruth Haley Barton asks the question; “What difference does...spiritual seeking make in the life of a leader?” This workshop will explore the intentional practices, attitudes and actions that have the potential to ground our leadership in our connection with God. This will be an interactive workshop where we will not only learn about the topic, but also experience some ways of spiritual seeking.
- **“Reaching People Through Worship” -**
Leaders, Mr. Cory Combs, Arch UMC Musician & Rev. David Scott, Arch UMC
Facilitators will explore various methods of worship with a particularly emphasis on music and enabling contemporary worship to reach a broader audience. Pastor David will explore biblical aspects of offering various music and worships styles. Cory will discuss practical steps that churches can take to provide new worship opportunities.
- **“Helping Hands/District VIM” -**
Leaders, Mr. Jeff Baker, Office of Creative Ministries & Rev. Steve Martin, Mt. Olivet Charge
Have you ever thought about getting more involved with missions? Have you ever thought you would like to do more than just write a check? Do you like to work with your hands and be a part of a team? If so, then you are a candidate for a VIM team. This workshop will explore the numerous ways you can be involved in VIM from starting your own group to joining an existing one. Come see what VIM is all about!
- **“Get Real! It’s a Different World” -**
Leaders, Rev. Helen McFarland, First Hydesburg UMC & Rev. Linda Spaun, Scott’s Chapel UMC
In our rapidly changing cultural environment, the local church is faced with many challenges, Learn new ways to invigorate your missional opportunities and to combine action and learning in your church. Ideas for single digit youth ministry, storytelling, evangelism and mission outreach will enable each of us to embrace the changes needed to move in to the future. We will be sharing and learning together for Jesus Christ. Smaller churches still continue to be a vital part of our connectional United Methodist system.

Kid stuff

By Rhonda Linsley

K-5 Alive

K-5 Alive started back up January 4 after the Christmas break. The children are excited about memorizing their scriptures and learning about how God wants us to take care of our bodies...the temple that He has given each of us. This Sunday, January 29, the children will be singing “Galatians 5:22” and reciting three of the scriptures we have been learning in the Unity Service in the sanctuary. These verses are very helpful in teaching us to take care of ourselves and to live our lives in a way that is pleasing to God.

- ◆ Whatever you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (*1 Corinthians 10:31*)
- ◆ Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you? (*1 Corinthians 3:16*)
- ◆ When the Holy Spirit controls our lives, He will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (*Galatians 5:22-23*)

January 11, the children spent part of their day double bagging the large supply of plastic bags that had been collected in Rhonda’s office. **Please continue to leave your plastic bags at her office door for this ongoing missions project.** Rhonda delivered the bags to the Food Pantry, and they greatly appreciated our efforts.

The K-5 Alive children will be going out to Loch Haven Nursing Home and Macon Health Care on February 8 and 15, to bring some Valentines wishes to the residents. The children are making a craft to hand out or hang on doorknobs and will be singing a couple of songs while they are there.

VBS – Hometown Nazareth... Where Jesus Was a Kid.

Rhonda has started to read through the director’s guide for this summer’s VBS. Please mark your calendars for July 23-27. We will soon be pulling in some volunteers to help prepare for this exciting ministry outreach for our community. The ages will be Age 4 through 5th Grade (the grade they just finished).

Rhonda’s Ministry Mission Statement

*To teach the children to
love God, love others and
share that love with the world.*

*To teach the children to
memorize scripture
that will affect the way
they live their lives.*

M.U.M.Y. CONNECTION

By Karen Butner



Snow Day!

Snow Day 2012 was an epic event! We spent the day having fun, learning in the breakout & main sessions & experiencing dynamic worship led by Amber Element!

The first breakout session “Fire” was led by Billy Glosson. We all encounter trials in life. Will they break us down and destroy us, or will we allow trials to refine us, helping us become the people God designed us to be? Billy shared his personal testimony and spoke right into the youth’s hearts, showing them God is enough to get us through anything life throws at us.

The second breakout session “Earth” was lead by Trent Schake. We’re on this earth for a reason. Jesus has entrusted us, the Church, to be His body on earth, to accomplish His mission. What does it look like when we commit everything we are to loving, serving, and being the Church? As the Church, don’t lose sight of our purpose- share the message, mingle with other Christians & make disciples (not attendees!) Our job is to make disciples who make disciples.

The speaker for the main session was Josh Henges of Kansas City. We were challenged to train daily for the Kingdom of God. Without spiritual disciplines, we are worthless for the Kingdom. We can’t ride the wave of past success, but must train daily if we are going to spread the gospel, help the hurt and lay hands on the sick. He stressed to the youth that this is their training- their parents & youth leaders can’t do it for them. If they are going to win this generation, they must train. Train in the gospel and word of God. Be ready for the Kingdom!

Middle School Outreach!

Friday, February 3rd - 9:00 to 11:00 p.m. (after the Macon basketball game)

The band “*Never Blue Avenue*” will be performing.

Please call or e-mail Karen if you would be willing to be an adult sponsor for this event!

Youth Outreach! (Middle School & High School!)

Friday, February 24th - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The band “*Overshadow*” will be performing.

Please call or e-mail Karen if you would be willing to be an adult sponsor for this event!

All Church Skate Party!

Sunday, February 26th - 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Macon Skate Center

Admission: Canned meat for the Macon County Food Pantry

**There will be NO YOUTH GROUP on Sunday, February 12th
so that Jon & Karen can attend a leadership class sponsored by the Mark Twain District.**

Attendance and Offering Summary

Weekly Average for Jan.	2011	2012	Year To Date Average	2011	2012
Worship Attendance	<u>181</u>	<u>211</u>	Worship Attendance	<u>181</u>	<u>211</u>
Sunday School	<u>64</u>	<u>74</u>	Sunday School	<u>64</u>	<u>74</u>
Offering	<u>\$4,993.62</u>	<u>\$5,110.11</u>	Offering	<u>\$4,993.62</u>	<u>\$5,110.11</u>



Valentine's Day with Jesus

Jesus does not send perfume to linger in the air
Instead He sends salvation, sweet to show how much He cares.

He doesn't bring me candy hearts in boxes of delight
Instead He always lets me know I'm precious in His sight.

He doesn't pass out pretty cards trimmed in shades of red
His precious blood was shed.

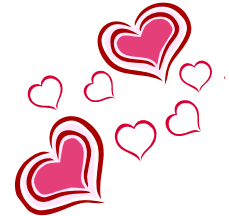
He doesn't hand out fancy gifts like we would send to mother
Instead He sends a message clear to always love each other.

He doesn't give me teddy bears that whimper, "Please be mine"

Instead He gave His heart to me I wear it all the time.

He doesn't give me roses, pink for all the world to see
instead He gave eternal life that's good enough for me.

Author/Written By: Marilyn Ferguson



Macon UMC Staff: Julius Ketsenburg, Pastor; Dawn Masten, Administrative Assistant; Rhonda Linsley, Director of Children's Ministries; Karen Butner, Director of Youth Ministries; Beth Dixon, Organist; Annie Faught, Toddler Room Attendant.

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
Permit No. 23
Macon, MO

Macon United Methodist Church
208 Pearl Street
Macon, MO 63552-1516
660-385-2156

