



The Town Clock Church Times

The United Methodist Church of Mt. Pleasant

Summer 2024

From Pastor Bob's Desk...

My Dear Church Family,

The prophet Elijah came onto the scene when it appeared that God was in retreat. From a human perspective, God had been dethroned, and the false god, Baal, now reigned over Israel. Evil ran rampant throughout the nation, unchecked and unchallenged. Sound familiar?

But Elijah refused to despair. He knew God would never be defeated. Although it seemed that things could not get worse, God was not caught off guard nor was He surprised by the wickedness of the people. At just the right time, God raised up just the right person.

Elijah was not afraid to confront the prophets of Baal. But don't think that Elijah was some sort of spiritual superman. In the New Testament, James describes Elijah as, "a man with a nature like ours" (James 5:17). Elijah was an ordinary person who struggled with the same issues that you and I face. He experienced fatigue, got depressed, wrestled with temptation, and at times doubted the goodness of God. Yet, Elijah made an extraordinary impact on the world.

Elijah understood that it was God who set the direction of his life. It was God who called Elijah to proclaim the Word to the people. And it was God who would ultimately hold Elijah accountable for his faithfulness to that purpose.

Like Elijah, we too have been called to a purpose. Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples...baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). The Amplified Bible adds, "Help the people to learn of Me, believe in Me, and obey My words."

Courage comes from the certainty of our calling. Elijah – like all of us – had God-given work to do. And Elijah knew that no one, not even the thousands of false prophets of Baal, could change God's plans and purposes for him.

You and I are modern-day prophets with the same God-given call as Elijah. Where are the prophets of Baal? Well, they are still all around us. They just go by different names today. They are not hard to identify and their goal is the same; to draw us away from God.

But nothing has changed. And as was the case in Elijah's day, there is no evil, no force in the world today, that can stop the people of God from fulfilling the purpose and the calling that God places on our lives.

Blessings All,
Pastor Bob



**The United Women in Faith
meet @ 10am the 1st Tuesday of the month. (unless otherwise noted)**

We invite you to join us!

2024 Meeting/Event Schedule

- **May 4** - Mother/Daughter Brunch @ 11AM. Hosted by Jodi Evans
- **June 4** - Guest Speaker: Cassie Ellson
- **July 2** - Guest Speaker: Tina Whitehead, missionary in Israel/Pakistan
- **August 8** - Covered dish picnic at Mammoth Park
- **September 3** - Guest Speaker: Sarah Buzzard, librarian
- **October 1** - Guest speaker from Jumonville, call to prayer and self denial
- **November 5** - Thank Offering, an opportunity to respond to God's command.
- **December** - Christmas Luncheon (TBD)



On a recent Sunday, a long-time member of our church family commented on how many new faces she noticed in the congregation on a Sunday morning. The Lord has indeed blessed us with a number of folks who have chosen to become a part of our church family in recent years. But this long-time member also realized that she really didn't know many of these newer folks.

This is the vision and the purpose of Adventures with God.

Sunday worship provides very little opportunity to form relational bonds, especially with newer members. These close, relational bonds are formed in other settings such as study groups, music ministry and social gatherings. **Adventures with God** is one of those opportunities. The outdoor, activities-based nature of **Adventures with God** provides a very unique opportunity to be with each other.

Below is the **AWG** schedule for the coming season. Even if you cannot participate in the physical nature of the outing, there is ample opportunity provided to simply sit and share time together.

Please consider being a part of this important ministry in the life of our church family.

Mark the dates on your calendar and stay tuned for specific times and additional information as we get closer to each of the outings.

May 11- Walk at Mammoth Park

June 22- West Newton Bike trail with lunch at the Outpost

July 13- Bills Golfland, dinner after (5pm event)

August 10- kayaking (location TBD)

September 14- Ohiopyle with lunch at the sandwich shoppe

October 19- Cedar Creek

November 16- Bowling



Wednesday Bible Study Group Continues After a Short Break:

The Wednesday 10:30AM Genesis Class will meet through the month of May and then take a short break in the month of June.

Wednesday meetings will restart on July 5th.



Summer Recess for the Women's Ministry Group and the Men's Bible Study Group:

The Women's Ministry and Men's Bible Study groups will meet in May and then take a summer break for the months of June, July, and August. *Check the May calendar for dates and times...especially for the women. Your meeting dates have been changed for the month of May.*



New Summer Bible Study Series:

The Old Testament contains a group of twelve writings known as the "Minor Prophets." The books are not "minor" in terms of what they have to say...they're just rather short compared to other books in the Bible.

We are going to start a new Bible study series this summer on the Minor Prophets. This will be an **all-church** study that will meet on Sunday mornings at 10:00AM.

"But wait," you say. Isn't that when we meet for church? Yep...glad you picked up on that. This Bible study will be a part of our weekly worship service.

Throughout the summer, we will study the books of the Minor Prophets...one each week. By the end of the summer, you will have the opportunity to become familiar with this very important, very relevant, yet seldom studied, part of God's world.

More to come on this in the weeks ahead, but get ready to do some reading, some thinking and don't forget to bring your Bible to church.



May marks the end of the chancel choir and bell choir season. And a busy season it has been! As both choirs go on summer hiatus at the end of the month, I ask you to prayerfully



consider if God is calling you to be a part of one or both of these music ministries when they resume in September. Both groups rehearse weekly and the chancel choir provides special music for each Sunday morning worship service and some of the seasonal evening services. The bells perform for 10-12 services each season. Debbie Piper, the bell choir director, is especially interested in meeting with players who may not be able to commit to the weekly rehearsal but would be available to fill in at rehearsals and services in the absence of a regular ringer. A knowledge of note reading would be necessary for this. And, of course, there is always room for more singers in the choir loft. If you're interested in being a bell ringer, please see Debbie Piper. If you're interested in raising your voice in praise please see Sue Ann Herd.

We really would love to have you be a part of the music ministry of our church.

Sue Ann Herd, Director of Music



Donations Needed!

The Good Samaritan Center is in need of some items to supplement the small food bank. It would be greatly appreciated if you could help by donating any of the following items:

- Cereal
- Instant oatmeal
- Pancake Mix & Syrup
- Jelly
- Pasta Sauce
- Soup/Soda Crackers
- Beef or Chicken Broth
- Canned Meats/Spam/Chicken/Tuna
- Side Dishes/Instant Potatoes
NO vegetables are needed at this time, as they have an abundance of them)
- Canned Meals - i.e. Spaghetti O's, Chili, Beef Stew, Chicken & Dumplings, Ravioli, Beefaroni
- Desserts: Cake Mix & Icing, Brownie Mix, Pudding, Jell-o, Packaged Cookies
- Snack Items: Peanut Butter & Cheese Crackers, Protein & Granola Bars
- Individual Rolls of Paper Towels
- 4 Roll Package of Toilet Paper

MOUNT PLEASANT FOOD BANK FOOD DELIVERY

As the summer months approach and other ministries of the church go on hiatus, the food delivery team stays actively engaged delivering much needed food to our neighbors in need. Boxes of food are delivered on the last Tuesday of each month to the high rise apartments in our community. Your help is needed! We meet in the parking lot of the Ridgeview Apartments at 10:00 AM and for the next 2 - 2.5 hours we deliver food to 45 - 50 individuals residing at the Ridgeview, Independence, and Greenwood Apartments. The task does involve walking and lifting moderately heavy boxes. Part time substitute workers are always needed to fill in, and if you're available to help each month that's even better. We work in pairs and right now we have 4 full time pairs of workers. If you are led to be a part of this vital ministry in our community, please see Sue Ann Herd for more information. Many "thanks" to the loyal workers who have already committed to this work, and to those who may become members of the team.



Marriage Advice Across the Ages

June is the beginning of a popular wedding season. So here's some marriage advice from across the centuries. Clearly, sometimes it depends on context.

- "It is impossible to keep peace between man and woman in family life if they do not condone and overlook each other's faults but watch everything to the smallest point. For who does not at times offend?" (Martin Luther, 16th century)
- "Watch yourself, be the first to ask pardon if you both err, and guard against the little piques, misunderstandings, and hasty words that often pave the way for bitter sorrow and regret." (Louisa May Alcott, 19th century)
- "The ear is the center of all relationships. It's not the heart, it's not the mind, it's the ear. Listening is the beginning and the end." (Henry Winkler, 21st century)



On the other hand ...

- "In every good marriage, it helps sometimes to be a little deaf." (Evelyn Ginsburg, mother-in-law of a Supreme Court justice, 20th century)

And above all:

- Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. (St. Paul, 1st century, in 1 Corinthians 13:4-6, ESV)



Thank
You

Candy/Nut Fundraiser:

Thanks so much for supporting the **UWF/UMW** nut & candy fundraisers throughout the holidays. Your purchases help us to support the many mission projects and missionaries in the **United States** and other countries.

With heartfelt gratitude,

UWF/UMW

Choir and Bell Choir:

Shortly after this newsletter is published, the **Chancel Choir** and the **Bell Choir** will be taking a much-deserved summer break. We are so very blessed, as a church, to have these wonderful music ministry teams.

At a time when other churches are turning to “canned” music and are trying to sell the beautiful bells that we are part of their worship for so many years, we continue to be blessed by this dedicated and committed group of musicians.

Please reach out and express your thanks to these individuals, and to **Sue Ann** and **Debbie**, for the work that they put in to provide this blessing to us.

Thank you, choir(s)!!

The Power of Personal Invitation:

It is not uncommon for us to often feel discouraged when fewer than we would anticipate, or expect, choose to attend an event or gathering for which we have invested time and energy, and for which we feel is important to the life of the church. Jesus said, “Where two or three are gathered...I am there among them.” But that does not stop us from wishing for a greater response to church related activities.

This is a challenging issue, especially for smaller congregations, like ours.

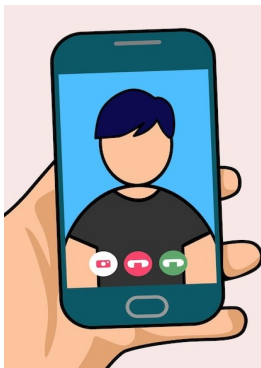
What do we need to remember...

First, what Jesus says is both true and powerful. Jesus was not concerned with numbers. He is with the few that meet in his name...or the many. It does not matter. When we come together, whether in Bible studies, social gatherings, or the like, we must remember that there is no gathering too small for which the Lord is not present. And when the Lord is present, true worship and fellowship can take place.

Second, if we want more people...we have to invite them. Personal, direct invitation is, by far, the most successful means by which we bring people into

the church and/or into church activities. Simply hoping, wishing, or expecting more people to attend certain events and activities only leads to discouragement. Church announcements have little impact on those who are not already inclined to come, and direct appeal by the pastor typically carries little weight.

Do you want more people to be there? Then you have to invite them! You have to “pick up” the phone and call them directly. No texts, no emails, no broad, social media invitations. People can hide behind all of that. But they cannot hide from you when you are on the other end of the phone.



There is no magic formula in all of this. No way to accomplish the desired goal without personal, direct involvement in making it happen. People no longer have the natural tendency to come to church or to church related activities. Those days are gone.

The burden is on each of us. In an age of increasing separation and isolation from each other, we are called to a greater level of direct engagement in the lives of those who God places in our path.

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 Mother/ Daughter Tea
5 Communion Prayer Ministry 9:00AM Sunday Worship 10:00AM	6 Women's Ministry 6:30pm	7 Men's Bible Study 6:30PM	8 Genesis Class 10:30AM	9	10	11
12 Mother's Day Prayer Ministry 9:00AM Sunday Worship 10:00AM	13	14	15 Genesis Class 10:30AM	16	17	18
19 Prayer Ministry 9:00AM Sunday Worship 10:00AM	20 Women's Ministry 6:30pm	21 Men's Bible Study 6:30PM	22 Genesis Class 10:30AM	23	24	25
26 Prayer Ministry 9:00AM Sunday Worship 10:00AM	27 MEMORIAL DAY  Church Office Closed	28 Food Delivery	29 Genesis Class 10:30AM	30	31	