

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

I enjoy preaching. It's like doing a new puzzle each time. Some think I pull up old files, but I've thrown away most of my old sermons. Each week is a new exploration for me. I try to find something in the scripture that I haven't found before.

I begin months ahead of time picking my scripture and a possible title. Then on the Sunday before I preach, I start reading the scripture. I try to read it from several points of view and place myself in the story. When I'm inside the story, I try to find how it speaks to the circumstances we face today. I also try to recall situations in my life in which this event was experienced.

I didn't know for many years that I was a "story teller." Now that I realize it, I try to be aware of the "stories" I have experienced. Jesus was a story teller and I try to take my lead from him. Stories are easier for the listener to remember through the week.

Most of all, I do all of this prayerfully. I ask God's Holy Spirit to be present with me and guide me as I prepare and as I deliver the sermon. It is a blessing to be called to this special vocation and I thank God for that blessing.

Pastor Larry

OUTREACH/MISSIONS

In July, we collected 65 rolls of paper towels, some cereal, and 5 containers of detergent for the Food Pantry. These items will be delivered on Tuesday. The August collection for the Food Pantry is toothbrushes and toothpaste. The monetary collection in August is for Meals on Wheels.

Thank you for your continued support of these mission projects. If you have questions or suggestions regarding any of the collections or mission projects, please contact Linda East or a member of the Outreach and Missions Committee.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The next Fellowship Sunday is August 10 at 10:00a.m. Please join us for breakfast, as well as an opportunity to meet and become better acquainted with fellow church members.

Come join us Sunday mornings at 10:00a.m. for a study on the book "God Will Use This For Good: Surviving the Mess of Life" by Max Lucado.

WORSHIP IN AUGUST

August 3 (Pastor Judy) – **"The Breaking of the Bread"** from Matthew 14:13-21;

August 10 (Pastor Larry) – **"Pretty Feet"** from Romans 10:5-15;

August 17 (Pastor Judy) – **"What Are We Speaking"** from Matthew 15:10-20;

August 24 (Pastor Larry) – **"Who Do You Say I Am"** from Matthew 16:13-20; and

August 31 – Laity Sunday.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

It's time for ice cream!! The Annual Ice Cream Social is rapidly approaching. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us on Sunday, August 24 from 4:00p.m. to 5:30p.m. for some wonderful home made ice cream. Sign up sheets will be available at the back of the sanctuary so you can sign up to bring homemade ice cream or a dessert. Please see Angie if you have any questions.

PRAYER REQUEST

The school year is rapidly approaching. Please keep the students and teachers in our church family in your prayers as they start back to school.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation class or classes will be held this fall for anyone 13 years of age or older who is interested in learning more about the Methodist faith and joining the church. Based on what works best for those involved, the class or classes will be held on Saturday, October 11, or 1:00 – 2:00p.m. on Sunday afternoons in October. If you are interested in participating in the class, please contact Angie by email, telephone, or at church.

SCAM ALERT

We want everyone to be aware of two different women approaching churches for assistance. Their names are Rosemary or Rosalee Simpson and Georgia Buckner, and they often come into the church asking for a specific dollar amount for a variety of reasons, i.e. car trouble, rent, etc. Either of the women may be accompanied by family members, an elderly person she is caring for, or children.

Some of the churches they have approached include: Kidder UMC, Pattonsburg UMC, Liberty UMC, Smithville UMC, Platte City UMC, First Excelsior Springs UMC, Platte Woods UMC, Lawson UMC, Good Shepherd UMC, Lexington UMC, Weston UMC, and the Assembly of God churches in Lawson and Kearney.

If approached by one of these women, please do not offer them any assistance, monetary or otherwise.

PRAYER PARTNER CONGREGATIONS

At Charge Conference, the churches present were paired up as prayer partners for 2014. We will be praying for Weston United Methodist Church and the church in Plattsburg will be praying for us. We are to send two individuals to Weston to worship with them and pray for them. Plattsburg will do the same for us. So, please plan to add the Weston church and its members to your prayers in 2014.

MONTHLY REPORT

The Monthly Report for July 2014, is as follows:

Beginning Balance:	\$11,680.23
Offering:	+\$4,385.00
Expenses:	- \$2548.28
Final Balance:	\$13,516.95