

Sunset Rays

The "Son" still shines at Sunset Church

October 2016

Newsletter for: SUNSET DRIVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. Dr. Thomas (Tom) Murphy



Experiencing the Joy of Generosity

In a few weeks, we will begin a three-week stewardship emphasis titled *Experiencing the Joy of Generosity*. This will be an exciting and beneficial three weeks of sermon messages and lay presentations. We believe this program will be a blessing to those who already are experiencing the joy of being generous with the gifts God has given them, and we hope and pray that this effort will help many more experience the joy that comes from giving faithfully and generously.

When we give to God through giving to our church and others, we experiencing one of the true joys of being Christians. Jesus said, *"It is more blessed to give than receive"* (Acts 20:35). God doesn't need our gifts, but he ask us to give them. God accepts and uses them and gives us joy in sharing them. As we respond to God's love for us by giving back to him part of what he's given to us, he reacts by giving us even more. *"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you"* (Luke 6:38). Although we don't give so that we will receive God's blessings, God's Word promises us that, when we give faithfully and willingly, we will receive an abundance of spiritual blessings and , for some, material blessing as well.

Have you ever wondered why you are left with such a joyful feeling when you are able to give a gift to your church or to help a person in need? The answer to that question may be rooted in use as Christians who are being recreated in the image of God. To be made in God's image means we are made to be like him whose nature is to give. Giving helps us feel fulfilled as we reflect God's nature. Although the image of God was lost by sin, as those converted by faith in Jesus, we *"have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator"* (Colossians 3:10). Our creator empowers us to give joyfully to our church and others according to his will. With this attitude of joyful gratitude, God keeps us close to him, and others see his image through us.

Our pursuit for fulfillment and joy culminates in the discovery that we receive those things when, by God's grace, we respond with eagerness to God's directive to give. Like David, we exclaim, *"But who [are we] ... that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we give you"* (1 Chronicles 29:14).

We hope and pray that the emphasis Experiencing the Joy of Generosity will be a blessing to you and your family!

Dennis Turner
Finance Chair

Tom Murphy
Pastor

In Sympathy

- We extend **Christian sympathy** and prayers to **Dixie Miller, Erica Kann, and Family**. Dixie's mom and Erica's grandmother, Nora Funk passed away, Monday, September 26th.

Congratulations

- **Congratulations** to **Kris and Erica Kann** on the arrival of their daughter, **Sadie Jomai Kann**. She was born on Monday, September 12th. She weighed 9.5 lb and 19.75 inches long. We rejoice in this birth with the parents, siblings Jozelyn and Huck, and grandparents Leon and Dixie Miller.

Thank you

- Thank you for all the cards, calls, birthday remembrances', and especially your prayers. From: Doris Emswiler
- To Pastor Tom and My Awesome Sunset Church Family, Thank you for all the calls, visits, prayers, flowers, gifts, and yes, beautiful notes. Each one was very special. My progress is slow, but coming along. I thank God for his healing. God Bless you all. Jean Dove

Upcoming Church Events

- **UMM Community Breakfast** on Saturday, October 8th, from 7:30am to 9am. Meal includes- Turner ham, Bacon, pancakes, sausage gravy, scrambled eggs, hot and cold drinks. Donations to be used for United Methodist Men's projects. The breakfast is opened to the Community, so spread the word.
- The **"Out To Lunch Bunch"** will be going to the Mimslyn, Luray on Friday, October 14th. We will leave from the church parking lot at 11 am. Please let Kay know if you would like to attend 896-7665. We welcome new attendees.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry** will meet on Tuesday, October 11th and Tuesday, October 25th from 1pm to 3pm. New members are welcome.
- **SPRC** will meet on Monday, October 17th at 7pm.
- **November 2016 Newsletter Deadline:** Tuesday, October 18th. Please have all information to church office.
- **Administrative Council Meeting** on Monday, October 24th at 7pm, in preparation for Charge Conference on Sunday, November 22nd.
- **Sunset Ladies Luncheon** will be on Tuesday, October 25th, at 11:30am.



Pictorial Directory

submitted by Lee Jackson

GREAT NEWS! Sunset Drive UMC will be creating a new pictorial directory and we hope that everyone will participate. Pictures will be taken on Thursday, November 17th, Friday, November 18th, and Saturday, November 19th at the church. Save those dates and more information will be coming soon.



Keep current with News & Events

submitted by Barry Davis

Our church website has been updated with new content and is ready for you to visit. The calendar is up to date, all of the newsletters from this year are available, and our most recent sermons and bulletins are available.

The website provides a great source of information for all the hard work you are doing for the church and our community.

If you have any comments or suggestions about how we can improve our website or our Facebook page, please feel free to contact me at barry8360@yahoo.com

Our website: <http://www.sunsetdriveumc.com>

Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/sunsetdriveumc>

Our Transition Team at Work

Over the last couple of months we have been prayerfully at work selecting, from across the church, our Transition Team members to assist Pastor Murphy as we make some transitional decisions for our future ministry. The task of the Team will be to explore our **History**, discover and seek a new congregational **Identity**, empower lay **Leadership**, rethink and renew denominational **Connection**, and enable the leadership/congregation to prepare for the **Future**. In the process, in the years ahead, we will keep the SDUMC family informed of our progress, and will be seeking the congregation's insights via surveys, etc. as we do our work together. Please keep the Team in your prayers as we seek to fulfill our ministry seeking to do the Lord's will.

WRE : *Weekday Religious Education*

submitted by Heidi Bunn

Greetings to Sunset Drive Church! My name is Heidi Bunn and I am the Weekday Religious Education teacher for John C Myers. Thanks to you my lovely classroom is in your basement! This is my 2nd year teaching WRE and I am thrilled to be back at JCM while also continuing to teach at Peak View and River Bend. Before teaching WRE I was the Coordinator of Children's Ministries at Harrisonburg First Church of the Brethren for 8 years. I have a lovely family that includes my husband, Norris and 4 children – Arabella, 12, Nathaniel, 10, Matilda, 8, and Nicholas, 6, a dog named Cinnamon, and a chicken named Ninja. Teaching WRE last year was an amazing experience and I am looking forward to another great year! Last year I was able to teach 425 students a week and 160 of them were from JCM! I will once again be teaching at JCM on Tuesday afternoons and Fridays. Thanks to your help, I am able to teach the Word of God and the love of Jesus to these kids during the school day! So many kids that I see need WRE as this is their only opportunity to learn about their Savior. Thank you so much for the use of your church and for your support of this program.

Prayer Chain

submitted by Bev Thompson

If you have any prayer requests, joys or concerns, please call Bev at 896-2643. You can also email your requests to: sdumcprayerchain@gmail.com. If you would like to be added to the prayer chain, please call Bev or email the prayer chain. Thank you

DO YOU GIVE ELECTRONICALLY?

If you would like to give electronically:

- Visit our website, www.SunsetDriveUMC.com, click on **Donate** or
- Text “\$xx.00” to 540-642-1459, or
- Complete a paper form from the narthex.

No check writing. Use checking, debit card or credit card. Same process as buying online. Set it and forget it! Set up recurring donation on same date you get paid. Pay GOD first. Automating your donations permits uninterrupted giving in event of illness, vacations, or snow.

Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoeboxes

submitted by Bev Thompson



We are continuing what Jesus started

It's time again to fill a shoebox for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Shoebox. Every shoebox gift delivered by Operation Christmas Child is a tangible expression of God's amazing love. But a shoebox is just the beginning. It also presents an opportunity in more than 100 countries for you to invite a child into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Shoeboxes are available in both the front and back narthex. Instructions on packing a shoebox are included in the box. The collection day here at Sunset Drive UMC is Sunday, November, 13th. Imagine the results if every one of us filled at least one shoebox! Thank you for making a child's life a little brighter and for help spreading the Word around the world. If you have any questions, please call Bev. (896-2643)

Cub Scout Pack 1

submitted by Rick White

2016 – 2017 is shaping up to be just an awesome year for our Pack 1 Cub Scouts! So far we've signed up 17 new boys bringing our total of active Scouts to 47! September and October are very busy months for us. Besides having our Den meetings on the first and third Tuesdays and our Pack meeting on the last Tuesday of each month, we're selling popcorn and peanuts as we do each year to raise money for our program, we've taken part in the annual Council Cub Fun Day at Camp Shenandoah. We're also gleaning apples at Ryan's Apple Orchard for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and taking part in the Scouting for Food Drive again this year by dropping off bags around the neighborhood on October 22nd and picking them up on October 29th. With Thanksgiving just around the corner (yikes, where did this year go?), it's awesome having the boys to participate in these great service projects.

We have an amazing group of truly dedicated adult volunteers that are focused on helping the boys have fun while teaching them lessons about service, character, and responsibility (we sneak that stuff in so please don't tell the boys). All of this would be impossible without the amazing generosity you have shown us by allowing us to meet at the church. You've not only opened your facility; it's very easy to see you've opened your hearts as well. With your help, we're building tomorrow's leaders.

As a final thought, if you have a son, grandson, nephew, or a neighbor that would benefit being a part of our program, we'd love to have them. We work with boys ages 5 through 10 (Kindergarten through 5th grade). If you do know someone, please feel free to pass on my contact info below and I'll be happy to speak to them in depth about this amazing program.

Yours in Scouting,
Rick White, Cubmaster Pack 1

Mission Team

submitted by Pastor Glen Langston

Here are some pictures from the Mission Team working in Waverly, Virginia.



Youth

submitted by Lacey Roberts

Here is the calendar of events for youth group this month. Please know that if something is to be cancelled or added on, I will let you know as soon as possible.

October

Sunday, October 9th- 9am: Sunday school will be led by Pastor Murphy.

Wednesday, October 12th- Visit local shut ins and deliver cookies and cards.

Sunday, October 16th- 9am: Sunday school breakfast *We would like each kid to bring either a juice or finger food.

Wednesday, October 19th - NO YOUTH

Sunday, October 23rd - 9am: Sunday school

Wednesday, October 26th - Youth group \$2 for a pumpkin We will be decorating pumpkins and eating snacks!

Sunday, October 30th- 9am: Sunday school

Sunset Drive youth are now on Instagram at sdtruth3_16

Children's Group

submitted by Erica Kann

Children's Schedule for October

Wednesday, October 12th : 6:30 pm-7:15pm: Children's Choir

Wednesday, October 19th : 6:30pm-7:15pm: Activity- How to be a Super Hero: Ephesians 6:1-3

Sunday, October 23rd: 11 am-12pm: Christmas Play Practice

Wednesday, October 26th: 6:30pm-7:15pm: Activity- Armor of God: Ephesians 6:10-17

Sunday, October 30th: 11am-12pm: Christmas Play Practice

Happy Birthday

October Birthdays

- 1 Alicia Proctor
- 2 Mandy Freds
- 3 Amanda Reeves, Chris Herndon, Nathan Billhimer
- 5 Brittany Stroop
- 6 Chelsea Ellington, Katie Turner
- 7 Amanda Williams
- 8 Joan Wenger, Mary Jo Hulvey
- 9 Alison Malloy
- 10 Ainsley Flora, Phyllis Fidler
- 12 Katie Almquist
- 13 Jimmy Lee, Mickey Long
- 14 Sandy Gay, Tara Fulk
- 15 Cathy Crist
- 16 Katherine Malloy, Peggy Grandle
- 18 Amanda Mills, Jennifer Beahm
- 19 Rachel Fulk
- 20 Lori Turner, Sandy Turner
- 21 Ronnie Dove
- 22 Anna Lea Moore
- 23 Tracey Long
- 24 Dawn Hensley, William Campbell
- 25 Claire Fulk, Jeremy Fulk
- 26 Dale Hulvey
- 27 Dale Cupp
- 28 Billie Gentry, Felicia Glick
- 29 D.W. Gay, Jeff Lohr, Leon Miller
- 30 Robin Turner, Sarah Hoover
- 31 Susie Crider



Happy Anniversary

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October Anniversaries

- 5 William and Eleanor Campbell
- 6 Jim and Linda Zweigler
- 18 Eric and Brenda Hoover
- 22 JR and Katie Almquist
- 23 Harold and Lisa Thacker