

Sunset Rays  
*The "Son" still shines at Sunset Church*

**August 2018**

**Newsletter for: SUNSET DRIVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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**Rev. Dr. Thomas (Tom) Murphy**



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### **Vision for Sunset Drive UMC**

In the fall of 2016 the Transition Team was formed with the purpose of discerning God's vision for Sunset Drive United Methodist Church for the next 1 to 3 years. The group was selected by the pastor and has met monthly for the past 21 months. During this process the team has read, studied, and prayed together.

- We began with a book by Michael W. Foss entitled From Members to Disciples. This book focused on using lessons from the book of Acts to make disciples for Jesus Christ by trusting in the presence of God through the Holy Spirit and using our gifts and talents to become bold disciples.
- Pastor Tom led the group through the study of the book of Acts as we explored the Jesus model for making disciples.
- In the fall of 2017, we began viewing a series of videos entitled 24 to Double. This program gives examples and instructions for building teams and whole church discipleship.
- In October 2017 we presented a report to the congregation on our work to that point. This presentation looked at our history, our identity, our empowerment of lay leadership, our denominational connection to the United Methodist Church and our future. (A copy of this presentation can be found on our church website under the sermon heading.)
- We received input from church members through a survey as well as verbal input. (The survey and results are on our church website.) As a result of congregational input, we identified three areas of focus for our church: Evangelism/ Outreach, Worship, and Christian Education/Spiritual Growth.
- In the spring of 2018 the Transition Team read and studied a book entitled Simple Church by Thom Rainer and Eric Geiger. This book looked at churches that are currently growing and those that are stagnating or declining. The focus of the book served to provide a process to guide Christians back to the simple gospel-sharing methods of Jesus. The book also focused on having a simple vision that everyone could remember.

- In May 2018 the Transition Team spent a day retreat praying, discussing, and planning our next steps. During the retreat, we developed a vision for our church based on our prayerful study, discussion, input from the congregation, and previously identified focus areas. Our vision for Sunset Drive UMC is **Connecting, Growing, Serving**.
- We shared the vision with the Administrative Board in July 2018 and received approval to move forward.

Our next steps include:

- Sharing a presentation of our church vision with the congregation during the worship service on August 26, 2018
- Providing follow up messages and opportunities for discussion through fellowship meetings, Sunday School discussions, and small group sessions in homes
- Developing a process for following up with visitors and members who need our care
- Helping members identify their gifts and talents and providing them with opportunities to serve God through serving others

We ask for your continued prayers and feedback as we journey together as disciples of Jesus Christ!

### *Transition Team*

Barry Davis	Bev Thompson	Dennis Turner	Dixie Miller	Pastor Tom Murphy
Jacque Roach	Lacey Roberts	Mike Dick	Sue Olson	Donna Belle Dove
Sandy Cupp	Judy Rhodes	Ellie Roach		

## **New Security Process**

submitted by Dwayne Runion

In response to the horrific events that have taken place in houses of worship across our nation, the Trustees in conjunction with all other committees feel the need to protect the congregation to the best of their ability and within the bounding limits of the UMC church. Beginning **September 2<sup>nd</sup>**, the back entrance to the church next to the fellowship hall will be locked at **10 am** with a sign asking guest whom arrive after 10 am to please use the front red doors. While we know this may be an inconvenience in the beginning we would rather be criticized for being over cautious than have to be in remorse if something were to happen.

# Upcoming Church Events

- Following Communion Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, there will be time for a ***Service of Healing and Anointing***. If you would like to be a part of the experience. Plan to stay after Worship Service and be a part of this special service.
- ***Worship Committee*** will meet on Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the conference room.
- The ***"Out to Lunch Bunch"*** will be going to Olive Garden on Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30am. We will leave the church parking lot at 11am. If you plan to go, please let Kay Bowman know at 896-7665.
- ***24 to Double Meeting*** on Thursday, August 9<sup>t</sup> at 7pm
- ***Prayer Shawl Ministry*** will meet on Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, from 1pm to 3pm. We supply the yarn, needles, and lessons. New members are welcome.
- ***Administrative Council Meeting*** on Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm.
- ***September 2018 Newsletter Deadline***: Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. Please have all information to church office.
- ***Trustee*** will meet on Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the conference room.
- ***Sunset Ladies Lunch*** will be on Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am Please bring a covered dish to share in some wonderful fellowship.



## Keep current with News & Events

submitted by Barry Davis

A friendly reminder that you can find an up-to-date calendar, bulletins, sermons, newsletters, upcoming events and online giving information on our website. Please take a few minutes and browse the site to see what's there. You'll be surprised at how much information is right at your fingertips.

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](mailto:barry8360@yahoo.com)

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

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

## Announcements from Pastor Tom

- A New Church School Class forming! Come join with us as we begin a new Adult Sunday School Class. It will meet in the Church Annex beginning September 2nd at 9 am. The curriculum will center around contemporary issues and call upon Biblical insights to nourish our thinking. The class will be presentation and discussion. Pastor Tom will be the teacher/moderator.
- Our Bible Study Class will resume Wednesday, September 5th at 6:30 pm, in the Faith Sunday School Room. Our topic will be "A Crazy Holy Grace" by Frederick Buechner. With his book and our Bibles, we will explore "The Healing Power of Pain and Memory." Plan to join with us in the study.

# Christian Education at Sunset Drive UMC submitted by Sandy Cupp

Our Sunday School classes provide an opportunity for Bible study and connecting with others as we read, study, and discuss God's word and its meaning for our lives. This experience helps build and strengthen our faith in a supportive atmosphere!

- We will be offering two new Sunday School classes beginning **September 2, 2018**.
  - **Book Study / Topical Study** - Pastor Tom Murphy will facilitate this class in the Annex Conference Room. Members of the class will choose the topic or book for study and discussion. This class is for adults of all ages.
  - **Intermediate Youth Class** – This class is designed for 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth. Bible lessons will be shared in a fun, meaningful way suited for this age group.
- **During the 10:00 a.m. worship service on August 26, we will recognize our children.** Children will go to their new classes on Sunday, September 2nd.

## Children and Youth Sunday School Classes (9:00 – 9:45 A.M.)

**Nursery:** Ages Birth - 3 Years Old

Location: Nursery

**Primary Class:** Preschool and Kindergarten

Location: Across the hall from the nursery

**Elementary Class:** 1<sup>st</sup> Grade – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Location: Downstairs – Last classroom to the left

**\*Intermediate Youth Class: (New Class)** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Location: Downstairs - 1<sup>st</sup> classroom to the left

**Youth Class:** 9<sup>th</sup> Grade – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Location: Downstairs multi-purpose room

## Adult Sunday School Classes (9:00 – 9:45 A.M.)

**\*Book Study / Topical Study: (New Class)**

Location: Annex Conference room

**Faith Class:**

Location: Conference room

**Forever Young Adult Class:**

Location: Across from the nursery

**Dorcas Class:**

Location: Adjacent to the narthex

**Men's Class:**

Location: Adjacent to the narthex

**Please join us!**

## ***Fully Funded Ministries***

Our Contribution Statements for the Second Quarter were distributed beginning Sunday, July 29. A letter was included with the statements that discussed our Stewardship status through mid-year. Several times in that letter we note that ministries were fully funded, such as: "Your financial support fully funds our VBS ministry ...." I'd like to further explain 'fully funded ministries'.

A few years ago in 2016 the General Fund Budget for Vacation Bible School was \$400 and \$422 was spent. But that was hardly enough to run VBS for a week. Separately that same year \$298 was spent from a Restricted Fund into which some individuals had made donations, i.e., a check payable to Sunset Drive UMC but with 'VBS' on the memo line, a donation that can only be used to pay for VBS expenses, hence a 'Restricted' donation. We were blessed that those individuals had made those donations, but suppose they had not made them? VBS Restricted Fund donations from 2014 to 2018 have been \$675, \$75, \$705, \$0, \$80 – a very unpredictable pattern. With a \$400 budget and unpredictable Restricted Funds, how could Erica Kann make reasonable plans for a successful VBS??

In 2017 Sunset Drive increased its commitment to VBS with a \$1000 budget from the General Fund and this year, in 2018, it was increased to \$1200. These increases provided VBS leaders assurance that this money was available to plan their ministry activities so they did not need to rely on unpredictable donations from individuals. A tremendous amount of work from many individuals contributed to the overwhelming success of this year's VBS (twice as many children were served compared to prior years) and full funding from the General Fund helped in their planning.

The budget also fully funds other ministries to the level requested by leaders – Missions has \$2000, Children's Ministries has \$500, Children's Literature \$1600, Youth \$4300, Adult Sunday School \$2400, and Music expenses too. We also have budgets for Camp Registration Assistance \$250 and Confirmation Classes \$600.

Fully Funded Ministries means everyone that makes an offering helps to fund these ministries and it means the leaders of these ministries can make plans based on the budget approved by the Church. This is an awesome improvement that helps these ministries thrive to bring folks to Christ. Thank you for your offerings to the General Fund.

## **Congratulations**

***Congratulations*** to ***Thomas and Tiffany Moxley*** on the arrival of their son ***Jaxon Thomas Moxley***. Jaxon was born on Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. We rejoice in this birth with the parents, grandparents Melinda Lohr, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Moxley, and great grandparents Jack and Penny Lohr.

# Choir

submitted by James Kiser



## **The Choir rehearsal schedule:**

The choir rehearses [*\*currently*] on Wednesday evenings @ 7pm from [*mid*] July thru May. Any adjustments to the rehearsal schedule [*i.e. weather*] will be announced.

*\* If this day/time is a concern or hindrance for someone, please reach out to James.*

## **The Choir's [general] commitment:**

The choir is currently slated to lead music on the first, fourth [*and sometimes fifth*] Sundays of each month; August thru May. The choir is requested to be present in the choir loft on the first, third, fourth/fifth Sundays of each month.

## **Experience:**

All are welcome to come and join the choir. Do you like to sing? We are an opportunity where you can use your God-given joy of singing to *serve in your home church!* No previous choral experience needed. Come, see if the SDUMC choir is a fit for you! Contact James Kiser if you have questions: [lyricbaritonejames@gmail.com](mailto:lyricbaritonejames@gmail.com)

## **2018 Christmas Program**

With such a small choir [*currently*], a *full* cantata might not be likely. TBD. However, I am exploring the possibilities for a chorally lead Christmas program [*of some kind*] for 2018. Details regarding and potential rehearsal schedule(s) to be announced.

## **The Praise Band**

The Praise Band is led by Kyle Flora, and meets as can be scheduled. The Praise Band provides music leadership on the second Sundays of each month [*year 'round*]. Contact Kyle Flora if you have questions: [kpflo78@gmail.com](mailto:kpflo78@gmail.com)

## **The Children's Choir**

The Children's choir is led by Erica Kann, and meets on Wednesday from 630 to 730pm [*see her prior email for details*]. The children provide music leadership on the third Sundays of each month [*year 'round*].

Contact Erica Kann if you have questions: [ekann292@gmail.com](mailto:ekann292@gmail.com)

## **Other Music opportunities:**

The Choir(s) is (are) not the only way(s) to be involved. There are always opportunities for anyone to provide special music, on any Sunday. Do you play an instrument? We'd love to hear it! Do you know someone who sings/plays? Please update James with contact information for outreach.

Contact James Kiser if you have questions: [lyricbaritonejames@gmail.com](mailto:lyricbaritonejames@gmail.com)

# Youth

submitted by Lacey Roberts

Here is the schedule for August.

Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> - youth group (lesson and go over youth Sunday)

Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup> - Sunday school (downstairs with youth only)

Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> - youth group (pool party TBA)

Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup> - Sunday school 9am

Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> - Visit Timberview and get Pack's

Sunday August 19<sup>th</sup> - Sunday school 9am YOUTH SUNDAY (Youth will wear our shirts and do the entire sermon on mission)

Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> - *NO YOUTH*

Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup> - Sunday school 9AM (Youth to usher and greet)

Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> - youth group (lesson and snacks)

## Happy Birthday

### August

2	John Daniels		
3	Christine Harris		
4	Zane Turner		
5	Erika Dick, Dorothy Gladden, Huck Kann, Bob Hahn		
7	Helen Thomas		
8	Tanner Fulk, Tyler Rhodes		
9	Kay Bowman, Leigh Ann Bowles		
10	Joanna Thompson, Rylan Formica		
12	Joan Shifflett		
13	Ryan Long		
15	Abigail Long	21	Eli Flora
17	John Crist	22	Ann Hoover, Tammy Wenger
18	Tom Hoover, Doris Emswiler	24	Ashley Hoover
19	Eva Rellins, Jody Jones	25	Wendy Packard
20	Merteen Arbogast	27	Melinda Bynum
		28	Alan Laughlin
		30	Jeremy Rhodes



## Happy Anniversary

### August

1	Wayne and Donna Arbogast, Ronnie and Donna Belle Dove
4	Kyle and Meghan Flora
5	Lowell and Sandy Turner, Scott and Becky Harris,
9	Tim and Shelia Proctor
15	Barry and Bonny Davis
17	George and Janet Hadley
20	Tim and Robin Turner
21	Tom and Dreanna Murphy

