

*The "Son" still shines at Sunset Drive Church*  
**October 2020**

**Newsletter for Sunset Drive United Methodist Church**  
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**Rev. Dr. Thomas (Tom) Murphy**

**"TURNING ON THE LIGHT"**

It is said that the English preacher and song writer, Wendell P. Loveless, related this story: One evening a speaker who was visiting the United States wanted to make a telephone call. He entered a phone booth but found it to be different from those in his own country. It was beginning to get dark, so he had difficulty finding the number in the directory. He noticed that there was a **light** in the ceiling, but he didn't know how to turn it on. As he tried again to find the number in the fading twilight, a passerby noticed his plight and said, "*Sir, if you want to turn the **light on**, you have to shut the door.*" To the visitor's amazement and satisfaction, when he closed the door, the booth was filled with **light**. He soon located the number and completed the call.

This past Sunday at church, our door was opened and so was our parking lot, and the **light of the Lord was upon us** in the sanctuary and in cars in the parking lot. Of course, it was "the new normal" for those of us as we gathered in both places to worship as a church family. Expressions of gratitude were expressed before one another. Music was played, prayers uttered, the Word preached, and Holy Communion shared (all done in 35 minutes). It was a first attempt at worship in the sanctuary during the "new normal," and I am confident that, though we may have some adjustments to make, the Lord was with us. His **Light allowed our lights to shine in worship and fellowship**. Thanks be unto God for those who prepared the way for our first experience together. Safety was the Healthy Church Team's goal, and all efforts were made to make it so. Our prayer is that in the forthcoming Sundays, we will be able to continue our efforts to worship the Lord together, either in the sanctuary or continue broadcasting via FM radio 87.9 for those seated in cars in the parking area. If you are able, do join with us at 10 a.m. next Sunday and thereafter. As His **Light shines upon us, may our lights shine that others may see Him through us**.

Pastor Tom

## **Charge Conference Held**

Our Annual Charge Conference was held this past Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> via a Zoom. Our District Superintendent, Victor Gomez, called the meeting to order and

various leaders in our church made their yearly reports relative to our ministry and mission. Some reports were verbal; others were written and previously sent to our District Superintendent. Following all required reports, there was an anointing service before the conference concluded. Though Zooming from various locations, we put fingers to our foreheads, anointing ourselves with oil asking for God's continued blessing. Our District Lay Leader, Andy Harbick, pronounced the benediction to conclude our meeting, which lasted only thirty minutes (a record from what it normally has been). One wonderful note to make: Sunset Drive United Methodist Church has received Annual Conference recognition for paying our Apportionments 100% for the Conference year 2019. Praise God! Thank you all!

## From the Finance Committee

Submitted by Dennis Turner, Finance Chair

**Financial Update:** Sunset Drive finances have been truly blessed during this Coronavirus disruption. The decrease in offerings from not having traditional worship services has been about evenly matched by the decrease in expenses. For the year, through August, our income was \$113,927 and expenses were \$106,072 resulting in net income of \$7,885. The latest income and expense statement/budget report and the cash management report are posted on the hallway bulletin board for your review.

**Electronic Giving:** We want to remind you that we offer electronic giving to automate your offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members during vacations or viruses and provides much-needed donation consistency for our church ministries.

Electronic giving will automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account or even a credit card to the church's bank account. You determine the schedule: individual donations just as you write checks each Sunday, or recurring automatic donations that are made when you get paid.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Visit our website and click the DONATE button. Contact the Dennis Turner at 540-333-6410 for assistance.

## 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://sunsetdriveumc.com>

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

## Happy Birthday

### October

- 1 Alicia Proctor
- 2 Mandy Freds
- 3 Amanda Reeves
- 8 Tim Gilley, Joan Wenger
- 9 Allison Malloy
- 10 Ainsley Flora, Phyllis Fidler
- 12 Katie Almquist
- 13 Mickey Long
- 14 Sandy Gay, Tara Fulk
- 15 Charlene Gilley
- 16 Peggy Grandle, Katherine Malloy
- 19 Rachel Fulk, Drew Krantz
- 20 Sandy Turner
- 21 Ronnie Dove
- 24 Bill Campbell
- 25 Claire Fulk
- 27 Dale Cupp
- 29 Leon Miller
- 30 Robin Turner, Sarah Hoover
- 31 Ann Laughlin

## Happy Anniversary

### October

- 1 Glen and Tara Langston
- 5 William and Eleanor Campbell
- 18 Eric and Brenda Hoover
- 22 JR and Katie Almquist
- 23 Harold and Lisa Thacker
- 26 Michael and Melissa Kiniry

## Happy Birthday

### November

- 1 Jozelyn Kann
- 2 Robbie White, Jackson Freds
- 7 Tom Murphy,, Lois Dinges
- 8 Logan Jordan
- 9 Lowell Fulk
- 11 Sharon Krantz
- 12 Terry Bowman
- 13 Sheila Runion

16 Donna Belle Dove  
18 Micki Peoples  
19 Chris Hoover  
20 Preston Cupp  
22 William Freds, Angie Coffman  
24 Christie Sengul  
28 Sarah Fulk

## Happy Anniversary

### November

21 Chris and Karen Hoover  
25 Virgil and Rosemary Mumaw