



Sunset Rays

The "Son" still shines at Sunset Drive Church

November 2020

Newsletter for SUNSET DRIVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. Dr. Thomas (Tom) Murphy

"Remember and be Thankful"

It's November already! It is a time when we traditionally focus on the coming of Thanksgiving. It is a month reminding us that there is much for which we can be grateful, thankful. I recall a story shared by Charles Swindoll, Christian Evangelist, author and preacher, that seems apropos for this 2020 season. He writes, "I recall, as a little barefoot boy with a cowlick of snow-white hair on my forehead, standing erect in my classroom and repeating the 'Pledge of Allegiance' one Thanksgiving season. Our nation was at war and times were hard. My teacher had lost her husband on the blood washed shores of Normandy. As we later bowed our heads for prayer, she wept aloud. I did too. All the class joined in. She stumbled through one of the most moving expressions of gratitude and praise that ever emerged from a soul plunged in pain. At that time in my young life, I fell strangely in love with Thanksgiving. Lost in sympathy with a boy's pity for his teacher, I walked home very slowly that afternoon. Although only a child, I had profound feelings of gratitude for my country...my friends...my school...my church...my family. I swore before God that I would fight to the end to keep this land free from foes who would want to take away America's distinctive qualities and the joys of living in this good land. I have never forgotten my childhood promise. I never shall." Even as a child, Charles experienced strong feelings for Thanksgiving as he pondered the blessings of God, nation, family, friends, and church. As you anticipate ways to celebrate Thanksgiving this year, in what ways will you do so? You may not have family gathered around a table with turkey and the trimmings. You may not be riding to grandma's or grandad's house; but whatever circumstance in which you find yourself, can you give thanks for all the Good Lord has bestowed upon our nation and its peoples? Can you humbly bow in prayer during these days, trying and difficult though they may be, and acknowledge with thankfulness what the Lord God has provided?

Join with me in remembering Martin Rinkart's words that he penned to paper:

"Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices,
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today."

And let us also ponder these words shared by William Arthur Ward:

"Gratitude can transform common days into Thanksgivings,
turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities
into blessings." Indeed, let us Remember and be Thankful!

Pastor Tom

District Charge Conference

The Harrisonburg District will hold its District Conference via Zoom on Sunday, November 15th at 3pm. Our speaker this year will be Rev. Courtney Joyner and special music by Rev. Laura Douglass as we celebrate Deacons in the United Methodist Church.

From the Finance Committee

Submitted by Dennis Turner, Finance Chair

Financial Update: Sunset Drive finances continue to be blessed during this Coronavirus disruption. For the year, through October, our income was \$141,551 and expenses were \$133,055 resulting in net income of \$8,680. We can expect our expenses to increase some from past months with Worship in our Sanctuary and perhaps as other Ministries also begin to re-group. 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 Sunset Drive offers electronic giving to automate your offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for 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. For greatest convenience schedule a recurring automatic donation such as one that is made when you get paid. As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Visit our website and click the DONATE button. Contact Dennis Turner at 540-333-6410 for further information.

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

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

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

In Sympathy

We extend Christian sympathy and prayers to ***The Jack Lohr Family***. ***Jack*** passed away on Sunday, October 25th. He will be missed by his Sunset Drive Family.

Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoeboxes submitted by Bev Thompson

Even Christmas events will be affected this year by the COVID-19 pandemic, including the upcoming Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. The international drive will go on but will see a few differences this year. One casualty of the COVID pandemic is a partnership with Chick-fil-A restaurants. In the past, Chick-fil-A handed out boxes and gave customers a free chicken sandwich for each box that was returned filled with gifts. Unfortunately, this year they will not be doing this. As a result of the pandemic, Sunset Drive UMC will not be collecting the shoeboxes at church but hopes that you will still participate in the ministry. All the information you need to pack and send a shoebox to a child is included here.



This year there will be an emphasis on packing shoeboxes online. This option has been available in the past but is being emphasized this year due to COVID-19.

As in the past, physical boxes can still be packed this year. They can be standard cardboard shoeboxes, plastic shoeboxes, or ones provided by Operation Christmas Child, which is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse. (these boxes can be purchased on their website)

If a box is packed online, suggestions are given for what to include. For lists of acceptable and unacceptable gifts for physical shoeboxes, go to www.samaritanspurserg.org and click on Operation Christmas Child under "What We Do."

Samaritan's Purse wants boys and girls around the world to know that God loves them and has not forgotten them during this time of fear and uncertainty. Children need great joy now more than ever. Most of all, they need the hope found only in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Millions of people worldwide have been packing Christmas shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse for many years. Hopefully, this tradition will continue this year despite the pandemic.

Samaritan's Purse appreciates your support in packing traditional boxes, building a shoebox online, or both. Modifications have been made to the ministry in order to ensure that children around the world are still blessed with great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ. **National Collection Week is November, 16th-23rd.**

What to Expect When Dropping Off Shoeboxes

When you arrive at your drop-off location, follow the signs for curbside drop off. A volunteer wearing a mask will greet you and direct you to an outside area where they will retrieve your shoeboxes. Volunteers will also present you with a touchless way to leave your contact information and the number of shoeboxes that you are dropping off.

The closest drop-off location for Sunset Drive UMC is **First Church of the Nazarene**, 1871 Boyers Road in **Harrisonburg**

Date and Collection hours:

Monday, November. 16th : 9am -12pm

Tuesday, November. 17th : 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Wednesday, November.18th : 9 am - 11am

Thursday November 19th: 5:30 pm - 7:30pm

Friday, November: 20th : 9am -12pm

Saturday, November. 21st : 9am - 11am

Sunday, November. 22nd : 12pm - 3pm

Monday, November 23rd : 9am -12pm

“Let all that you do be done with love.” 1 Corinthians 16:14

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
- 27 Dale Cupp
- 29 Leon Miller
- 30 Robin Turner, Sarah Hoover
- 31 Ann Laughlin



Happy Anniversary

November

- 21 Chris and Karen Hoover
- 25 Virgil and Rosemary Mumaw

*~HAPPY~
Anniversary*

Happy Birthday

December

- 1 Dawn Murray
- 2 Elizabeth Reeves
- 3 Ken Reeves
- 5 Becky Hoover Harris
- 7 Phyllis Mason
- 8 Hilda Runion
- 10 Brian Craig
- 12 Jaxen Phillips
- 13 David Lee
- 15 Kay Powell
- 17 Gavin Halterman
- 18 Matt Clarke, Natalie Craig, Richard Sharpe, Jess Coffman
- 19 Steve Shifflett
- 20 Will Freds
- 22 Cricket Driver
- 23 Dianne Fulk, Heidi Jordan
- 27 Grayson Hawkins, Bruce Price
- 28 Jeremy Turner, Zach Roberts
- 30 Donna Tinsley
- 31 Lowell Turner



Happy Anniversary

December

- 16 Wilton and Helen Thomas
- 17 Larry and Kay Bowman
- 20 Wayne and Betty Turner
- 23 Sterling and Meridith Peele
- 31 Dave and Micki Peoples

