



Volume 6, Issue 8

September 2017

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The Stone Column

I've entered a new era of life. It's a precursor to another era. I've observed others navigate through these times and I'm fairly confident I'll make it through relatively unscathed. I call this new stage of life "the beginning of lasts."

Our youngest child is now a senior in high school. A few weeks ago I attended the last band camp closing performance, next week I'll take my last first day of school photo. There will be many "lasts" in the weeks and months ahead. Some might think of these moments as bitter, others as sweet, still others as... a combination of the two. I'm not sure any of those describe my feeling toward these "lasts." The famous words from my friend, colleague, and former pastor of St. Luke's Rev. Duane Harris sums it up for me, "It is what it is."

The same is true for one year from now when we transition into empty nesters. We adjust to the changes and challenges of living. Sometime transition is smooth and other times it's difficult and most of the time it's a combination of both.

It's now (as I write this) nearly a week since Hurricane Harvey made its first landfall. I can hardly comprehend the devastation. The greater Houston area is larger than New Jersey. 50 counties have been declared as state disaster areas. (Michigan has 83 counties, Texas 254). Imagine a latitudinal line from the southern border of Bay County continuing across the state. Everything north of that line – that's 35 counties in the lower peninsula and 15 in the upper peninsula.

I have led service learning teams to Mississippi and Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina. I know that recovery will take years. The challenges the people of the storm affected areas dwarf whatever I might experience in the immediate and even short term. There are things we can do immediately and much more that we will need to do once the reporters and cameras leave.

UMCOR is of course already on top of relief efforts. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find their recommendation of ["Five Ways You Can Respond to Harvey."](#) Storm survivors now displaced by Harvey will soon experience a "beginning of firsts" as they struggle to get their lives in order; first day after the flood subsides, first day of cleaning up, first day of rebuilding, first day back to work or school. We will be with them, offering support along the difficult journey. That's what the body of Christ does – it is what it is – serving one another, loving tenderly, acting with justice, walking humbly with God.

peace & blessings

Eric



September Birthdays

September Anniversaries

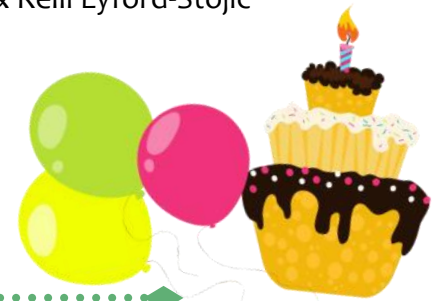
- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Alice Kosik | 17 Elizabeth Jackson |
| 4 Carol O'Neil | 18 Brian Scramlin |
| 5 Hailey Dowd | 19 Joe Fleming |
| 6 Eric Lewandowski | 20 Ida Emerson |
| Brandon Shank | Kaylee VanTol |
| David Sommer | 21 Maria Jezierski |
| 7 Sam Huiskens | 24 Matthew Tacey |
| 8 Jim McCarty | 28 Bruce Gunther |
| Drew Hilger | 29 Kelly Jezierski |
| 9 Mackenzie Jean-Marcoux | Courtney Shank |
| 11 Angie Lewis | 30 Cheryl Jezierski |
| 13 Gerald Willett | Jason Lewis |
| 15 Alexander Tacey | Beverly Walker |

September 5
Eugene & Joye Kramer

September 7
Drew & Janessa Hilger

September 15
Jeff & Maureen Jump

September 27
Philip & Maria Jezierski
Perry & Kelli Lyford-Stojic



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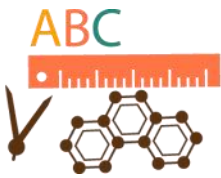
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Christian Education News

Church School Resumes

September 10th at 11:00 a.m. We have classes for all ages, from preschool to adult. The preschool and elementary classes will be continuing with the Deep Blue curriculum. This year the kids will be getting passports that will be “stamped” with all the locations they visit during the year. The leaders for the Preschool thru 1st grade will be Sue Lind, Cheri Jezierski. The teachers for the 2nd through 5th grade class will be Missy Campanaro and Edythe Juve. Junior/Senior High class will be doing LINC (Living in Christ) a weekly series especially for youth connecting their faith and daily living. The Faith Walk class will begin the year with a Chuck Knows Church series entitles, The Committee. This will be facilitated by Gloria Gonzales. We are going to also have the Journey class for those people who are seeking to continue to live the questions on their journey of faith. This class will be lead by Pastor Eric Stone. They will be beginning with a Faith and Reason series from Father Richard Rohr which explores the change that changes everything to help us recognize the way we view people, ourselves, and the world.

◆.....◆

Blessing of the Backpacks

The Blessing of the Backpacks will be done during the worship service on September 10th. All students, elementary through College, should bring their backpacks to church that day to have them blessed and dedicated to God’s glory for the upcoming year.

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Attention 3rd Graders

If you will be going into 3rd grade this year please contact the office. We want to make sure to include all 3rd graders when we present them bibles on September 10th during the worship service.

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Women’s Study

We will be having a women's bible study entitled *Uninvited: Living Loved When You Feel Less Than, Left Out, and Lonely* by Lysa TerKeurst. Classes will meet beginning Sunday, September 17 at 8:00 a.m. or at 6:00 p.m. Leader will be Brenda Scramlin. This study will dig deep into God's Word to help you explore the roots of rejection, the way that other relationships get tainted by past rejection and the truth about what it looks like to live loved. This will be a very personal study to help you enter a place of healing and new perspective and to find new experiences with Jesus. If you would like more information or to sign up, please talk to Brenda Scramlin or Gloria Gonzales.

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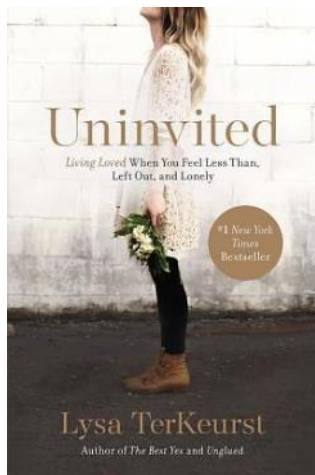


5 Ways You Can Respond To Harvey

1. Pray–Bathe in prayer those who have lost loved ones, homes and property, and for the first responders who are risking their own lives to get others to safety.
2. Give-A donation to the United Methodist Committee of Relief UMCOR guarantees that 100% of your gift will go directly to disaster relief.
3. Send-Recovery efforts will require Cleaning Buckets and Hygiene Kits for weeks, months and years to come.
4. Volunteer-Michigan Area Volunteers in Mission and our Disaster Response Team coordinators will send team information to district offices as soon as first responders have completed their rescue mission. Follow news.michiganumc.org for announcements or emails from your district office.
5. Share-United Methodist respond best when we all work together. Please share this information with members of your church and community. Together, we can serve as the hands and feet of Jesus of Christ for those impacted by these terrible storms.



Uninvited Study



The enemy wants us to feel rejected . . . left out, lonely, and less than. When we allow him to speak lies through our rejection, he pickpockets our purpose. Cripples our courage. Dismantles our dreams. And blinds us to the beauty of Christ's powerful love.

In *Uninvited*, Lysa shares her own deeply personal experiences with rejection from the incredibly painful childhood abandonment by her father to the perceived judgment of the perfectly toned woman one elliptical over.

In this study we will delve to biblical depths, gut-honest vulnerability, and refreshing wit, in order to:

- Release the desire to fall apart or control the actions of others by embracing God-honoring ways to process their hurt.
- Know exactly what to pray for the next ten days to steady their soul and restore their confidence.
- Overcome the two core fears that feed our insecurities by understanding the secret of belonging.
- Stop feeling left out and start believing that "set apart" does not mean "set aside."

End the cycle of perceived rejection by refusing to turn a small incident into a full blown issue.





United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting will be on September 13 at 6:30 p.m. The nominating committee is beginning to work on putting together a slate of officers and committee chairpersons for the upcoming year. Please give some thought to how you can contribute to the ongoing missions of our local unit if you are approached about being an officer or committee chairperson. Some important upcoming dates for United Methodist Women include the following:

Saginaw Bay District Celebration at Ossineke UMC on October 7

Mission U of the North at Gaylord First UMC on October 16-17

Detroit Conference Annual Celebration and Business Meeting at First UMC in Brighton on October 28

United Methodist Women Assembly in Columbus, Ohio on May 17-20, 2018

Wouldn't it be fun for a group of us to attend these events. If you are interested, contact Gloria Gonzales to arrange for car pooling.



50th Anniversary

St. Luke's is celebrating our 50th anniversary with activities from now through next May. Our theme is "50 years and moving forward." Here are some dates for you to put on your calendar:

Beginning in October we will be showing movies monthly (dates to be determined). Each movie will be from a decade between 1960's and 2000's. These are family events, and we hope you will want to participate.

On December 10, 2017 we plan to have a Merry Tuba Christmas concert (time to be determined).

On April 22, 2018, our Bishop, Rev. David Bard, will be our guest speaker.

On Saturday, May 5, 2018, we plan to have a catered celebration dinner, followed by an organ concert by Leon Beaudin. Leon is a former member of St. Luke's and is the music minister at Christian Celebration Center in Midland.

A car show in our parking lot is planned for May 19, 2018.

There are other events being planned, such as potlucks, chili cook-off, Sunday school activities, etc. Watch your worship bulletins and newsletters for details.



September 2017



Sun

Mon

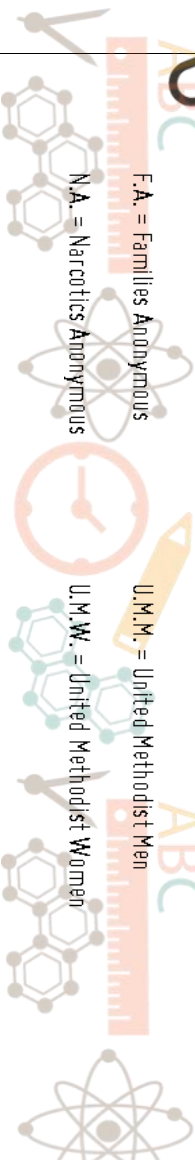
Tue









Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



3	9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship	4 Labor Day Do-All Cleaning Day Golden Friends-	5 10:00 a.m. Stampers & Scrappers 5:00 p.m. Open Prayer 7:00 p.m. Taizé F.A.	6 	7 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice N.A.	8	9	2 9:00 a.m. U.M.M. Breakfast @ Krzysiak's 7:00 p.m. N.A.
10	9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 11:00 a.m. Church School 	11 Do-All Cleaning Day 12:00 p.m. Golden Friends -Linwood Corners	12 10:00 a.m. Stampers & Scrappers 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:00 p.m. Open Prayer 7:00 p.m. F.A.	13 	14 7:00 a.m. Choir Practice N.A.	15 	16 8:00 a.m. Saginaw Bay Dist. Conf. @ Tawas UMW 9:00 a.m. U.M.M. Breakfast @ Krzysiak's 7:00 p.m. N.A.	
17	8:00 a.m. Women's Study 9:00 a.m. Worship - Invitation Sunday 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 11:00 a.m. Church School 6:00 p.m. Women's Study	18 Do-All Cleaning Day Newsletter Deadline	19 10:00 a.m. Stampers & Scrappers 4:00 p.m. Valley Scribes 5:00 p.m. Open Prayer 7:00 p.m. F.A.	20 7:00 p.m. Community Education Planning Committee 	21 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice N.A.	22 	23 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use 7:00 p.m. N.A.	
24	8:00 a.m. Women's Study 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 11:00 a.m. Church School 6:00 p.m. Women's Study	25 Do-All Cleaning Day	26 10:00 a.m. Stampers & Scrappers 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:00 p.m. Open Prayer 7:00 p.m. F.A.	27 	28 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice N.A.	29 	30 7:00 p.m. N.A.	

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STLUKESUMCMI.ORG

*Our Vision – Nurturing the world with God's love.
Our Mission – Called by God to reach out and welcome all.*



Harvey Disaster Relief

Donations may be made through UMCOR for Harvey disaster relief. You may use the envelopes in the pews or give at the church office. Please write UMCOR Advance #901670 on your check or envelope. UMCOR donations go directly to the needs of victims. Please see page 4 for more information on other ways to help

