



The Open Door

a newsletter of

Memorial United Methodist Church

office@mccookumc.org

105 East E Street McCook, NE 69001

308-345-2445

MARCH 2015

New Sign Coming to MUMC

At its January meeting, the Administrative Council voted to move forward with the purchase of a new electronic sign for our church. The new sign will replace the existing message board on the southwest corner of our property. The new sign will be in the same location, and situated in the same direction as the current structure, but will be more flexible and more visible. Some of the benefits of the new sign will include:

- the ability to have more than one message at a time
- the ability to include images on the sign
- the ability to change the messages from inside the building
- a larger size, making it easier to read from the street

We invite you to consider that this sign is not only for the members of our church, but it is also intended for those who are not yet part of our community of faith. We feel this will be another great way for us to reach out into the community. The new sign will help us to share what's going on in and through our church.



*Volunteers
needed at the
church on*

*Saturday,
March 7, 2015
at 9:00 a.m.*

*to help disassemble the message
sign on the corner in preparation
for the installation of a new sign.*

FROM THE SPPRC

Last month, Chris Loft resigned from the position of Pastor of Children & Youth. We wish him well and hope that you will continue to lift him up in prayer regarding his future endeavors. The SPPRC is planning to begin the search process soon to fill the position. Throughout the process, we would appreciate your prayers as well.



In the year 325, the First Council of Nicaea established the date of Easter as the first Sunday after the full moon following the March equinox. This is why the date of Easter moves around every year. In some years Easter falls in late March, and some years it is celebrated in late April. The date for Ash Wednesday moves around in accordance with the date of Easter — counting backwards from Easter forty days, not including Sundays. If Easter will be in late April, Ash Wednesday will not be until March. Other years, like this one, with Easter in early April, Lent began in February. 2015 is one of those years where the month of March lands entirely within the season of Lent. Lent is seen as a time of repentance, reflection, and self-denial in an effort to grow closer to God. It seems appropriate that such a season should correspond with the beginning of Spring.

We've had flowers coming up in the yard for a few weeks — helped along by unseasonably warm weather. The appearance of flowers and the return of some birds remind us of the promise of new life that comes with Spring. New life also comes with honest repentance. The word 'repent' literally means to turn around. When we repent, we turn away from the direction we were heading, and turn back to God. Every time we turn back to God we are granted another opportunity for new life.

The flowers that are coming up at the parsonage are called 'Star of Bethlehem.' My mom has had these in their flowerbeds for years — having bought them along with their house in 1979. Last spring I dug up some 'volunteers' that had spread into the grass around the flowerbed and brought them back to McCook. The leaves are pushing up through the dirt, but I don't know yet if they will bloom this year or not — I hope so. I've not done any research into this particular flower, so I don't know if it's actually native to Bethlehem or not — my guess is that it's not. At any rate, seeing the flower serves as a reminder of Bethlehem, and by extension — the birth of Jesus.



The Star of Bethlehem

During the season of Lent we tend to focus upon the cross and the sacrifice Jesus made for all of us — and rightly so. That sacrifice allows us the opportunity for new life. At the same time, I like to be reminded of Christmas at every opportunity — whether it be a piece of tinsel that fell behind the couch, or finding a pine needle stuck deep in the carpet that the vacuum habitually misses. There are reminders all around of the gift we have received in Jesus — not just his birth, and not just his sacrifice and resurrection — the entirety of his life.

This March, we are squarely in the midst of Lent. Let us look for opportunities to reflect, remember, and repent — seeking a new life that only God can craft. See you at church!

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads 'Doug'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style and is enclosed within a faint, light-colored rectangular border.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Library: If a friend said to you... "wow, I wish I could play the piano" or "I've always wanted to get better at golf"... you would probably advise them to practice. Take lessons, practice at home, and study. How about if someone asked you how to feel closer to God, to really have a relationship with God? Same advice.....take lessons (Bible studies and church worship services), practice at home (pray), and study (daily reading and study of the Bible). One great way to start is a 40 day study guide called "Growing in Christ." Written by Arnie Cole and Michael Ross, this is a very easy-reading study with a daily Bible story, explanation, then tips on how to live out this message in our everyday lives, prayer, and a place for notes. What I have enjoyed most about this book is the "Work It Out" section after each story. It asks you how this relates to....or SHOULD relate to your day to day life. It really makes you think and apply the message that God is telling us. It is such an easy-reading book that I think it is an excellent place to start if you are just beginning your habit of daily time with God, but would be meaningful for even the most disciplined. Won't you start today? Check this out at our church library!



Game Night @ UMC

Come join us for a fun night of games!
Just bring a snack to share and your favorite game! We will provide coffee and Kool-aid.



Date: Saturday, March 21, 2015

Time: 7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.



Place: Fellowship Hall (downstairs)



*This year, in addition to the Youth Dessert Auction, which will be held March 29th, we are also having a Dinner Auction! We are looking for folks who would be willing to cook and host a dinner in their home. You decide the menu and how **many people you're willing to serve. The highest bidder at the auction will work with you to determine the date of the dinner, and will invite the correct number of people to your home. All of the proceeds will benefit your youth group. If you would like to help in this way, please contact Pastor Doug. Thanks!***

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

March Birthdays:

Delores Abbey	Dianne Kugler	Alex Smith
Don Abbey	Kali Kurkowski	Kelcie Vette
David Anthony	Mika Lentz	Lane Vette
Kay Clesson	Kathy Lorentz	Garrett Wagner
Shayne Coleman	Marvin Lorentz	Colleen Walter
Wanda Conley	Merlin Messinger	Thelma Walter
Gladys Crocker	Roger Nelms	Deb Wilcox
Marilu Delano	Laura Olson	Lyle Wilcox
Donna DeVaughn	Ed Overton	Terri Winder
Sarah Dixon	Gage Overton	Randy Woitaszewski
Janet Fritsche	Brian Payton	Shannon Woitaszewski
DeWayne Goodenberger	Ethan Poore	Shelby Woitaszewski
Jamey Hansen	Dee Premer	Pam Wolford
Ivan Hunt	Trevor Premer	Alex Wolvin
Jace Jensen	Gerri Rasser	Nick Wolvin
Jason Johnson	Glenn Ruggles	
Jillian Johnson	Doris Ruppert	
Willis Jones	Russ Schlager	
Pam Klug	Bev Schliefert	
	Pat Schmid	
	Pat Sitzman	

March Anniversaries:

Dan & Marilyn Funk
 Roger & Rose Nelms
 Jeff & Kelcy Ruggles
 Garrett & Ashley Wagner
 Dale & Phyllis Wilcox

www.mccookumc.org
office@mccookumc.org
 (308) 345-2445
 Office Hours are
 Monday-Thursday
 8:00-3:00 p.m.

If the McCook Public Schools close due to inclement weather, the church office will also be closed and all activities for that day/night are cancelled. If the schools have a late start due to inclement weather, the church office will follow the same schedule.

YEAR-TO-DATE PENNY MARCH TOTAL

as of February 8, 2015

\$581.54



Spring Ahead

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 8th.



Pantry collection
item for March

Pork and Beans



FEED HIS FLOCK - COMMUNITY SUPPER

There have been many God-winks ---just when you wonder if all will get done someone pops in to help! That's a great welcome God-wink!!!! That's how Community Supper works. What wonderful people and bless all and anyone who feels they may have a couple of hours to donate in helping in anyway with Community Supper. That's a God-wink! Is God Winking at you??? Check us **out!!!!**

MARCH 2015

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

8:15/10:30 am Worship
 9:15 am Coffee
 9:15 am Sunday School, YC
 6:00 pm Significant Light, S
 6:00 pm Jr. High UMYF
 7:00 pm Sr. High UMYF

MONDAY

TUESDAY

9:30 am Prayer Class, Adult SS Rm

WEDNESDAY

6:15 pm CHIPS, Adult SS Room
 6:15 pm Faith Weavers, FH
 6:15 pm Confirmation, YC
 6:15 pm WORD (9-10th), YC
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir, S
 7:30 pm WORD (11-12th)
 8:00 pm Master Ringers, S

THURSDAY

5:30 pm Community Supper, FH

FRIDAY

12:05 pm Lenten Service, St.
 Alban's Church

SATURDAY



Spring begins March 20th

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5 6:30pm Trustees, L	6	7 6pm Singles
8 6pm Flex Your Faith Yoga, FH	9	10 6pm Care Team	11 10am Willow Ridge 2:30pm Hillcrest 8pm Ad Council	12 UMYF Ski 12pm UMW Exec, FR 1:30pm UMW General, FH	13 UMYF Ski 1pm Wings of Hope, FR	14 UMYF Ski
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 7 pm Game Night, FH 6pm Singles
22 6pm Flex Your Faith Yoga, FH	23	24 2:30pm UMW Bingo, Hillcrest	25 1:30pm Sarah Circle	26 1:30pm Esther Circle, FH	27	28
29 UMYF Dinner/ Dessert Auction, FH	30 7pm NOW, L	31				

newsletter/calendar info online at mccookumc.org



We enjoyed celebrating Valentine's Day with our friends and learning about God's love. In March we will be having fun with Dr Seuss books. If you would like to read to our class anytime during the month of March we would enjoy your visit. We have a few openings in our morning classes for the next school year. These classes are for children two years away from kindergarten. Our afternoon class is currently full for the next school year. We thank you for your prayers and support of our "Little Blessings"! In His Service, Traci.



MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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308-345-2445

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ATTENTION SENIORS

APPLY NOW FOR CHURCH SCHOLARSHIPS!

The Memorial United Methodist Church Endowment Committee, Significant Light and the Youth Advisory Board will be awarding scholarships to qualified scholarship applicants. To be eligible, the graduating senior must submit applications to the church by **April 10th**. Applications are available at the church office. The following scholarships may be awarded:

- Hanthorn Scholarship** – upper 1/3 of class, active in church, demonstrate superior leadership, and high moral character.
- Val Pullen Scholarship** – regular church attendee, community & volunteer activities.
- Significant Light Scholarship** – must be a graduating band member.
- Endowment Scholarship** – two scholarships will be awarded at the committee’s discretion, for academic, leadership, and Christian activities.
- UMYF Scholarships** - two scholarships will be awarded by the Youth Advisory Board.