

## Whenever there's a

significant change in life, it often brings about a significant reaction in our lives. And that can be wonderfully positive, like the birth of a baby or a wedding celebrating a new life together. But it can also be dangerously negative, too, like the loss of a loved one or a disastrous diagnosis. But, too, a significant change can also bring about a lot of fear because we simply do not know how that will impact us moving forward. It feels like the recent political change we've encountered is more significant than some of the previous years for some reason. And, honestly, I'm not sure if that's positive or negative...yet. And the reason I'm not sure is because I'm confident that we do not have all the information as to what is being decided and how things are being handled but even more, we certainly don't know how this will all play out in the coming months and years. There are definitely parts of what I see being done that are good and they fit in line with what God wants for our world but, again, I'm sure there's plenty of details that we simply don't know and we certainly can't know how it will all end. And, to me, I continue to go back to this idea of control. I am never going to be a significant person in politics that helps make decisions that impact an entire nation. I barely feel like I have the power to make decisions for my own household at this point. But I just keep going back to what I can control and what is out of my control. Those big, nation-wide and even international decisions that are being made are well outside of any control I have. And though we are given the opportunity to vote on our leaders in this country, often my vote doesn't seem to matter too much in the big picture. And, in the end, whoever gets leadership roles and power is

ultimately not my personal decision. And, so, I simply have to live with what happens. It's the same with so many factors in this world, including the weather and economy and the choices of those around me. I can promise that the temperature would never get below 20 degrees or above 80 if I had my vote and eggs definitely wouldn't cost \$5 (or more) a dozen! (And everyone around me would cater to my every whim if I was in charge...just kidding). And, so, I am reminded of the command in Proverbs 3.5-6, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."* And this verse is such a good reminder to not get too worked up about policies and changes that might be coming, because honestly, we simply don't possess all the information or know all the factors for how it will play out. And even if it is awful (as we usually assume and fear) life will continue to go on. And even if life does not go on, our hope in Jesus is absolute and secure. But, too, when we truly trust and focus on what Jesus has done and promises to do in our future, we know that the path we walk on, though possibly difficult and challenging at times, leads us to the most beautiful ending and perfect peace. And, as our anxiety tries to get the best of us in these tumultuous times, I pray we continue to seek God's plan, purposes and ultimately presence so that we walk down the path he desires for us. He never promised it be easy but he did promise something even better: to go with us. Serving Him and you, Matthew

## Lenten Service

On **Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm** we will be having a Community Lenten Service. The location will be determined soon but you can mark your calendars now. This begins the season of Lent and will lead us up to Easter. This will be a simple, traditional service with hymns and a brief message. There will also be an Ash Wednesday Service at the UMC on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am that is worth attending.

## Adult Night Out

We will be going to Los Charros in Rushville for another Adult Night Out on **Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**. There will be a signup sheet in the sanctuary so we can let them know how many are coming.

## OCC ShoeBoxes

The shoeboxes we packed in November have made it to Benin in West Africa. I encourage us to say a special prayer for the people of that country.

## Directory Updates

We are updating our directories again. Anyone who wants to update their information/picture as well as anyone who is not currently in the directory should fill out a form found at the back of the sanctuary. We hope to have this finalized by the end of February.

## Prayer List

Kirsta Anderson-colon cancer spread to liver  
Jerry Armbruster - hospice

Roy Atwood (Angela Thomas' dad) - health issues  
Steve Bailey - pancreatic cancer, chemo  
Tina Batterton – lots of pain  
Denny Belville – in Springfield  
Pat Breiland - congestive heart failure  
Cooper Davis – cancer treatments  
Steve Derry – home, skin graft in future  
Lacey France (Gunter) - significant health issues  
Bruce Hocker - family health issues  
Rita Herrin – breast cancer, other health issues  
Gary Hulett – tests at Mayo  
Bob Kagle - heart attack, father passed away  
Wendy Kahler – back in hospital  
Anthony Klinebough - masses found, more tests  
Butch Maloney  
Sally McQuellon (Amy's mom) - tumors, radiation  
Shaunea Nichols – health issues  
Rosemary Prather - knee surgery  
Al Rennert (Amanda's FIL) – recovery, heart surgery  
Joyce Robertson (Sandy's friend) - medical issues  
Pam Shaw - blood disorder  
Tom Stine - continued complications  
Carolina Silva (friend of Mary) - brain surgery  
Tom Stevens – cancer treatments, at Mayo soon  
Tom Stine – some recovery from complications  
Mark Stoneking – cancer  
Terry Stower – continued health issues  
**Condolences**  
CW Trone family  
Linda Lieb family  
Becky Watson family  
Randy Bollinger family  
Kiki Kapraun family

## January Financials

	<b>Weekly Actual</b>	<b>Year-to-date Actual</b>	<b>Year-to-date Budget</b>
Jan 5	\$503.00	\$503.00	\$931.54
Jan 12	\$1,220.00	\$1,723.00	\$1,863.08
Jan 19	\$560.00	\$2,283.00	\$2,794.62
Jan 26	\$1,124.00	\$3,407.00	\$3,726.16

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You Are Welcome At  
Our Services!

**Sunday**

Morning Worship.....9 a.m.

Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.

**Wednesday**

Family Night.....6:00 p.m.

**Events:**

**Sun. Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Special Prayer Time  
for D.R. Trip during  
morning service

**Weds. Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>** – Family Night @6pm

**Weds. Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>** – Family Night  
@6pm

**Thurs. Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>** – Adult Night Out,  
Los Charros @6pm

**Sun. Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>** – Board Meeting  
@6pm

**Weds. Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>** – Family Night  
@6pm

**Sun. Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Worship & Prayer  
@6pm

**Weds. Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>** – Family Night  
@6pm

All events are subject to change. Please  
keep up to date by checking the bulletin,  
Facebook page or website.



*“People will come from east and west and  
north and south, and will take their places  
at the feast in the kingdom of God.”*

*Luke 13:29*