

The Methodist

Burnt Hills United Methodist Church News

September 2021

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.
- Romans 12:9-20 (NRSV)

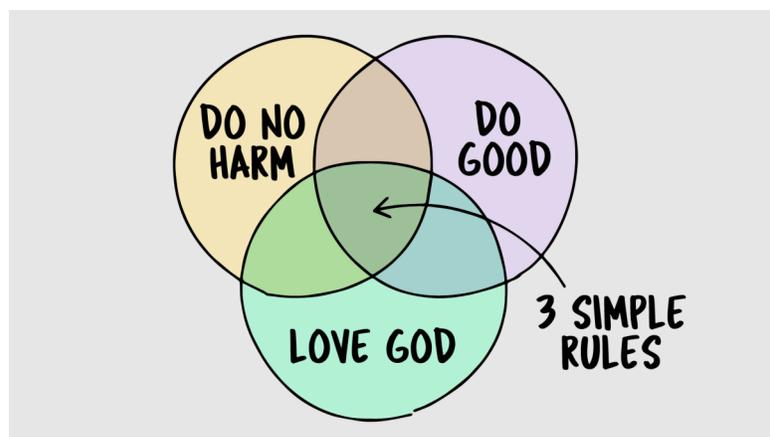
September! As I write this, busy volunteers are preparing the grounds for the start of the Lord's Acre Fair. Sunday School is planned to begin on September 19, and choirs are making plans for safe ways to resume their ministry of music. We look forward to being together! Please watch your email, our newsletters, and the church Facebook page for news, and please call the church office if you have any questions about church activities.

I wish we could say that the pandemic is past. Sadly, as summer turns to September, the U.S. is recording nearly 150,000 new COVID cases a day. The Delta and other new strains have disrupted what we had hoped would be a drop in new cases once vaccines were available. Still, we are not where we once were. At the moment, it seems we are in a space where we can, with care and hope, consider ways to move forward. We understand that different people may have different levels of comfort with gathering – we hope to see you at the times and occasions that work for you!

Your ReOpening Team will be convening weekly in September, to take up any questions or issues that arise in planning autumn activities. One principle this team has agreed upon: we will watch the local school district policies carefully, so that families can move comfortably between school and church activities, knowing that similar practices will be in place. Remember: children, who cannot be vaccinated, are among the most vulnerable in these days, and we will do all we can to extend a safe welcome. A second principle the team holds is flexibility: the willingness to respond to emergent situations to best serve and protect the people of our congregation and community.

This team truly leads in observing the Three General Rules: Do No Harm, Do Good, Stay In Love with God. The graphic below, borrowed from another United Methodist Church, reminds us to hold these practices in all that we do – together, and in our daily lives as Jesus' disciples in the world. May it be so!

Holly



MUSIC IS LIFE. THAT'S WHY OUR HEARTS HAVE BEATS!



Five reasons for joining a choir:

1. Musicality – singing in a choir improves the way you hear music and draws out your innate musical ability, intensifying your appreciation of melody and harmony.
2. Mental Health – studies show the benefits of choral singing on psychological well-being. “If we could engage more and more people in singing, we would have a healthier nation.”
3. Confidence – Anyone can learn to sing. Singing in a choir gives you permission to make noise as part of a group. Choir members often witness new members' confidence grow rapidly.
4. Belonging – Being part of a group working towards a shared endeavor can fulfill the human need for belonging and union. Singing has been central to religion and ritual as a way of worship and connecting people since ancient times.
5. Physical health - Proper singing is a wonderful workout for the lungs. Warming up, breathing deeply and opening the diaphragm all oxygenate blood, creating more white blood cells, which strengthens the whole body.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT'S FUN TO BE PART OF A FUN-LOVING GROUP OF INCREDIBLE PEOPLE WHILE WORSHIPING AND PRAISING THE LORD! THERE'S A CHAIR OPEN FOR YOU!

Student Choir Information

Hello students ages 3-18! Below are three different sign-up links for choir. Please select the choir your child fits into. All are welcome!

Cherub Choir (ages 3-7)

<https://jillzygo.wufoo.com/forms/ml40kip112yl3m5/>

Youth Choir (Ages 7-11)

<https://jillzygo.wufoo.com/forms/qqqlszrln83bpn/>

Voices Of Hope Choir (Ages 12-18)

<https://jillzygo.wufoo.com/forms/r10wmsmc1781b2z/>

There is room to be flexible and we will meet the needs of your family and your child. For example, if you are the parent of an 8-year old and a 6-year old and you want both to be in youth choir, we can make that work. Please just let us know.

You will see that **Cherub Choir may just be using sign language this year. Youth Choir might just be using bells** and little instruments. We are going to be taking things slowly and safely this year. This is a chance for our kids to have fun participating in faith and fellowship!

The **Voices of Hope Choir will be singing**. This group is 12 and older. While the weather is nice we may try rehearsing outside, otherwise we will be in the Sanctuary and spread out, with the wonderful new HVAC system.

Please click on the links above to register, or email Jill Zygo at jillnyhan@yahoo.com for more info.

Grow Team Updates

During this last week of August, Grow Teamers met to share their excitement and plans for the coming year, as well as to thoughtfully consider how we can make some adjustments and new routines. We are all in agreement that FELLOWSHIP and transitioning to “being” together after a year of isolating in a variety of ways for safety is the overarching goal.

Curriculum updates have occurred at all levels as well! We are so thankful for the talented, creative and inspired members in our church who have created things from scratch, as well as pulled things together from new Cokesbury materials, to have offerings at all grade levels that will help our youth learn and grow in Christ!

***Volunteers are still needed to help teach Pre-k and Middle School levels.

On the BHUMC Preschool front, Stephanie Tope shared with resolve that while the numbers are lower than previous years, the program will continue! See their news on the last page of this newsletter.

Special thanks to our Sunday School superintendent Jodi Facticeau -St.Gelais for her leadership for K-12 Sunday School, Stacy Herbage & Stephanie Tope for our vibrant Preschool Program, and all of our teachers for their dedication and hard work. It is really coming together. The first day of Sunday School is September 19. To register, go to <https://forms.gle/PQnPgCZUrvLjshSv7> or call/email Jodi for assistance at jafstgelais@gmail.com

Something new this fall is that families are asked to go to Knight Hall first (not dismissed from Sanctuary), so that they can all join their teachers and move to the classrooms together after a short Opening Assembly. Also, this gives some time for any group announcements, as well as a feeling of connectedness between grade levels.

On September 19, after the first Sunday School/service ends, we are having a Welcome Back celebration for Sunday School students: an ice cream social and church building scavenger hunt activity to re-acclimate to the building!

A special shout out in thanks to Meg/Caleb Farrell for their youth group leadership over the past two years! Pastor Doug will help us with the transition to the coming year. And also to Jen Robbins for co-facilitating as Sunday School superintendent. We **SO APPRECIATE** your time and talents! We will miss you in these roles.

Special and fun activities to look forward to include: Trunk or Treat on Oct 31, possibly an experiential nativity outdoors during the Christmas season, and the Easter Egg hunt on Palm Sunday. If you can help plan or offer support during these activities, please reach out to Cathy Bryson or any member of Grow Team.

Submitted by Cathy Bryson,
Grow Team Facilitator



United Methodist Women



Tuesday, September 14 UMW Tuesday Connection Circle invites you to join us in Fireside at 9:30 AM for a morning of fellowship.

Monday, September 27 UMW Special K Circle invites you to our first monthly meeting of the year at 7 PM in Fireside.

Community Lunch

With the increase in our area of the Delta variant of COVID and the need to try to have people social distance, the “community” part of the community lunch has been difficult. Last month we had more workers than attendees. We have decided to suspend our monthly luncheon until the infection rates come back down again. Thank you for your support and we will keep you posted.

Preschool News

As summer comes to an end, Mrs. Herbage and Mrs. Tope are gearing up and getting excited to go back to school! We still have a couple of openings in both the 3's and 4's classes if you or anyone you know is interested. Please contact us for more information: Bhumpreschool@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page and/or our website.

