



MASSENA
First United Methodist Church
Serve Massena. Connect with Jesus. Journey in Faith.

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SUMMER 2024

Message from the Pastor

Massena First UMC exists to **Serve Massena, Connect with Jesus, and Journey in Faith.**

Jeremiah 29:11-12

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.

Greetings Church Family,

Three years ago, I spoke to the Reverend Mike Weeden, the District Superintendent for the Northern Flow District, concerning a new pastoral appointment with Massena First United Methodist Church. I had no idea where Massena was, yet I firmly believed it was the Lord's plan for me to move. I said yes, and my new adventure began as your pastor.

Three years later, I know with all my heart that I am in the right place, and it is my prayer that you also believe it. From the moment I stood on the altar that first Sunday till today, as I sit in my office writing this newsletter article, I have felt the love of this church. You have embraced me as your pastor, and I have strived to serve this position to the best of my ability with grace and enthusiasm. Thank you for allowing me to share the gospel with you on Sundays, lead a small group, and visit those who need pastoral care within their home.

Now, before you begin to panic, this is not a goodbye letter at all. I hope to make this appointment a tenure to continue doing what I love. I love being your pastor and can't picture myself doing anything else. As we enter into year four together, I want to remind each person that this is our church, and we are moving forward with hope! Church Council is taking on the task of visioning for our future, especially regarding our third mission statement, "Journey in Faith Together."

Within the next few weeks, we will ask everyone what Journey in Faith Together means for you. We will have a sheet of paper within the bulletin with that question, and we would love your feedback. As stated, Massena First is moving forward, and I'm excited for our future. Our church is thriving, and God blessed your faithfulness to hire a full-time pastor.

My friend, Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us that the Lord has a plan, which also goes for Massena First. The Lord called me here as your pastor, and we've begun to prosper back to life with our connection. I am excited to see how the Lord will continue to thrive as we serve faithfully as the body of Christ. Let us be excited as we journey in faith together and ask ourselves what that requires of us to do.

Blessed to be your pastor,





JULY BIRTHDAYS

- July 11 Greg Mockry
- July 15 Elaine Marschean
- July 20 Noah Stierheim

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- July 6 Eric/Hollie Ladison
- July 17 Greg/Sheila Mockry
- July 20 Matt/Liz Trego

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- Aug. 1 Nate Mockry
- Aug. 7 Vicki Connor
- Aug. 9 Connie Spencer; Rev. Gregg Stierheim
- Aug. 11 Sherry Barkley
- Aug. 14 Mike Spencer
- Aug. 18 Cheyenne Lanning
- Aug. 25 Sandra Smith
- Aug. 26 Sharon Smythe
- Aug. 29 Darcie Fregoe
- Aug. 30 Kaydence Ladison

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- Aug. 3 Ed/Karen Lalonde
- Aug. 13 John/Wendy Harvey
- Aug. 14 Randy/Betsy Stout; Tom/Carolyn Michels
- Aug. 15 Bruce/Charmaine Tusler

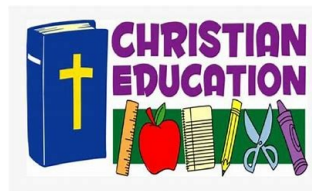


Christian Education

The Christian Education team has been meeting to plan for the remainder of the year and for the summer. The Sunday school rooms are clean and updated and the hallway looks clean and bright. If you haven't done so, please stop down and check it out.

We have had to change the dates for our Vacation Bible School (VBS). It will be held from July 29 through August 1. The theme is "Investigating Jesus" and revolves around exploring how we are all different. Games, activities, readings, and projects are all being planned for that week. It will be open to children from 5 to 14 broken into 3 groups.

Thank you to all of those who have agreed to help both teaching and assisting in Sunday School. We will be looking for lots of volunteers for VBS. Should be fun so if you can give us a few hours for those four days, we would definitely appreciate it.



We can always use more help. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact either Pastor Cori or Becky Glover.

Congregational Care

We met on June 10th for our regularly scheduled meeting. We will continue to send out cards to those in our congregation who we feel need to hear from us. Please let any member of the committee know if you become aware of someone who needs a card, a call or a visit.

Name tags seem to be working well and the feedback from the congregation has been positive. If there are any suggestions, please let us know. We are working hard to get to know each other.

We then discussed our lunches and birthdays during the summer months. With worship in the Fellowship Hall, we will discontinue the lunches for the months of June through August. However, we will have coffee and snacks available before church every week. Also, we will continue to recognize birthdays with cakes on the first Sunday of every month

Our prayer wall is fully functional. Located outside the choir room, there is paper and pencils for anyone who wishes to put in a prayer request for that week and a member of our committee will take it to the pastor before the service.

Also, we are looking for new members of our team. If you are interested in being part of the team, please contact either Fae Colby in the church office or Karen Lalonde to let them know.

Members of the team are: Karen Lalonde, Shirley Lamb, Betsy Stout, Debbie Moody, Sandy Donaldson, Marilyn Weathers, Kathy Perry, Pastor Cori.



Community Meal News

June has been a busy month for our community meal volunteers. With the implementation of a no to goes policy we have seen an increase in the number of persons who are coming to our meals. Prior to COVID this is how we operated and returning to that made sense because our mission is to serve food for the body and fellowship for the soul. We will, however, continue to do to goes for our homebound members and those who would normally come to our meals but because of illness are not able to.

The "We Care About You" Program has seen an increase in the number of requests we receive every month. This program allows us to provide support through personal care items, cleaning and paper products for our meal guests as needed. Donations for this program are accepted at all times. If you wish to see what we have available and how the program works, stop over on a Thursday and we will walk you through it.

We are looking for more help with all of the meals. If you can give a few hours, please let us know and we can get you on a team. We work hard together but it is really a very enjoyable venture.

Community Meal team: Sandy Donaldson, Laura McGrath, Debbie Moody, Marilyn Weathers, Darcy Sharpe, Greg and Sheila Mockry, Karen Murray, plus many other volunteers.



COMMUNITY DINNER



MISSIONAL OUTREACH

Missions

We met on June 10th with the purpose to review our Summer Carnival which will be held on August 10th from 11-2. Last year it rained and we had almost 300 people attend. This year we are planning for sun and the same number of people. Lots of games and activities and food, all of which are free. We will be looking for volunteers to help out on that day. We hope you can come and enjoy a few hours of fun, food and Jesus. We plan on meeting on July 9th at 9:00 if you want to attend. Like with any team, the more people involved the better. We have fun and we come up with ideas both for outreach into the community but things we can do to serve. If you wish to join our team, please come to our next meeting or let Kathy Perry or Pastor Cori know of your interest. Currently our members are retired but if we have interest from those who are currently employed, we will change our meeting times to the evening.

Committee members: Judy Wanke, Karen Lalonde, Debbie Moody, Jessica Arnold, Pastor Cori, Kathy Perry, Karen Murray, Becky Glover, Kathy Barclay, Shirley Lamb, Carole Norman, Laura McGrath, Betsy Stout, Nancy Manley and Marilyn Weathers.



Bells and Choir

We want to welcome back Nora and Mike Darling to our choir ranks and to thank Sandy Donaldson for her leadership of the choir over the winter months. Nora and Sandy will share responsibilities for the choir.

As you can tell, we have added new members to our choir. This has been such a joy and has allowed us to sing more and different types of music. However, if you have a desire to sing, please join us. We have a lot of fun but also work hard to be prepared for the Sunday worship.

We are beginning rehearsals again for bell choir. We know that many of you had said how you missed hearing those bells in church. There are currently five of us practicing but we would love more. All you have to be able to do is read music. We can teach you the rest.

Our rehearsal schedule is Tuesdays at 4 for bells and 4:45 for choir. However, we also rehearse on Sunday mornings at 10 if Tuesday evenings do not work. Come join in the fun.

If you are interested in joining the choir or playing bells, please see Sandy Donaldson or join us in the choir room on Sunday mornings.



Church Council News

It is an exciting time for the Church Council, and with it comes some changes.

First, Pastor Cori is currently the advisor till we have someone who would like to become the chair of the committee.

Second, we welcome Scott Marschean and Kate Connor as new members at large with our church council.

Third, the meeting format is currently being adjusted because our Church Council wants to embrace the visioning side of our church. It is exciting to see how our church is growing, and because it's been seven years since the church has done a visioning project, we feel it's the perfect time. Thus, the plan is for the Church Council to meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 6pm like it always has; however, the meeting will only last an hour, from 6pm to 7pm. The plan is to focus on vision from 6pm to 6:40pm, giving us twenty minutes to review reports.

Our pastor shared more about the visioning in her pastor's corner of the newsletter, but the council will be reaching out to ask those in our church family...What does Journey In Faith Together mean for you? That will be a crucial part of our next step in our visioning plan. Thank you.



Mission Trip Info

We are going on a Missions trip. We will be taking a team to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky in August 2025. It's not too late if you wish to join us. Please see Kathy Perry. While we realize that not everyone can participate in the actual trip, we will need support teams from our congregation to pray for our trip and our mission work, to help raise money for the trip, and to collect additional supplies that are needed. If you wish to be part of the support teams, please see Pastor Cori or Kathy as they make plans to ensure a meaningful trip for everyone in our congregation.

For more information about the Red Bird Mission, a copy of their brochure is enclosed with this newsletter.





Notes to Ponder

The Bible

"We are living in a confusion of tongues; many men are offering many contradictory solutions of the world's ills. We need to hear God speak. And the Bible gives us God's voice. In His own words, with His own divine and infallible solution for the world's ills as no other book ever possessed by men."

—American Bible Society

Kind Words

"Kind words produce their own image in men's souls, and a beautiful image it is. They soothe and quiet and comfort the hearer. We have not yet begun to use kind words in such abundance as they ought to be used."

—Pascal

The Privilege

"The longer I live the more I am convinced that the one thing worth living for and dying for is the privilege of making someone more happy and more useful. No man who ever does anything to lift his fellows ever makes a sacrifice."

—Booker T. Washington

Faith

"Faith draws the poison from every grief; takes the sting from every loss; and quenches the fire of every pain; and only faith can do it."

—J. G. Holland

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

JULY

May the month ahead be filled with an abundance of magnificent miracles, blissful blessings and splendid surprises!

AUGUST

Bright sunlit skies, nature's warm colors, the smell of seasons about to change. The hint of new beginnings knowing something wonderful is around the bend.

Bible Quiz

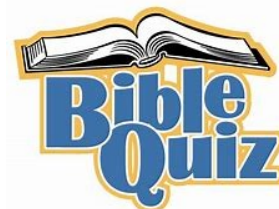
God waits upon people to fulfill his conditions. Match each "if" with the way it is fulfilled according to God.

- 1.) "If ye know these things, (John 13:17)
- 2.) "If I wash thee not, (John 13:8)
- 3.) "If ye love me, (John 14:15)
- 4.) "If ye had known me, (John 14:7)
- 5.) "If you shall ask any thing in my name, (John 14:14)
- 6.) "If ye keep my commandments, (John 15:10)
- 7.) "For if I go not away, (John 16:7)
- 8.) "But if ye believe not his writings, (John 5:47)
- 9.) "If any man will do his will, (John 7:17)
- 10.) "If any man thirst, (John 7:37)
- 11.) "If this man were not of God, (John 9:33)
- 12.) "If I do not the works of my Father, (John 10:37)
- 13.) "If I will that he tarry till I come, (John 21:22)

- A. "I will do it."
- B. he shall now of the doctrine."
- C. he could do nothing."
- D. believe me not."
- E. happy are ye if ye do them."
- F. how shall ye believe my words?"
- G. keep my commandments."
- H. let him come unto me.
- I. "the Comforter will not come unto you."
- J. ye should have know my Father also."
- K. ye shall abide in my love."
- L. what is that to thee? Follow thou me."
- M. thou has not part of me."

13. L
12. D
11. C
10. H
9. B
8. F
7. I
6. K
5. A
4. J
3. G
2. M
1. E

Answers





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