



Grand AveNews

September 2021

Let's Go Back-to-School

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Love one
 ANOTHER
 as I have
 LOVED
 you
 -JOHN 15:12

As I've been sitting in my study these past few days, delving into the New Testament letter of James, I have often been interrupted by a sound that, through the long summer, has become foreign. Pausing to gaze out the window, however, I am greeted by familiar yellow buses and am reminded that this month we've gone "back to school." In one of the most popular articles ever printed in Reader's Digest, Robert Fulghum observes "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." We need to be reminded of simple lessons sometimes. Lessons such as "share everything; play fair; don't hit people; and when you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together."

I guess, in a way, you could say the Letter of James, too, is an appropriate text for going back-to-school. In the coming weeks he will admonish us to "be quick to listen, be slow to anger...be doers of the word and not hearers only...draw near to God and God will draw near to you." Friends, there is no better way to get back to the basics, there is no better way to draw near to God, than to be intentional about worship. Whether you join us in-person or online, I hope that you will join us each Sunday. (And remember, if you have missed a message in this series, you can always view it on our YouTube channel or Facebook page!)

~ Pastor David

September 5 — "Dirtiness is Next to Godliness" — James 2:1-17

Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?

September 12 — "Taming the Tongue" — James 3:1-12

This is scary: You can tame a tiger, but you can't tame a tongue—it's never been done. The tongue runs wild, a wanton killer. With our tongues we bless God our Father; with the same tongues we curse the very men and women he made in his image. Curses and blessings out of the same mouth! My friends, this can't go on.

September 19 — "Living The Good Life" — James 3: 13– 4: 3, 7– 8

Do you want to be counted wise, to build a reputation for wisdom? Here's what you do: Live well, live wisely, live humbly. It's the way you live, not the way you talk, that counts.

September 26 — "The Power of Prayer" — James 5: 13– 20

Are you hurting? Pray. Do you feel great? Sing. Are you sick? Call the church leaders together to pray and anoint you with oil in the name of the Master. Believing-prayer will heal you, and Jesus will put you on your feet. And if you've sinned, you'll be forgiven—healed inside and out.

Building Faith,
 Bringing Hope,
 Reaching Out in
 Love

Grand Avenue
 United Methodist Church
 Hot Springs, AR
 501-623-5626

Endowment Fund

We are coming around Summer's final turn and entering the final stretch. Labor Day is upon us and soon we may receive a much-needed rain. Our church endowment fund is entering the last stretch of the year. My hope is that we can all pull together and have an outstanding run in the last half of the year. I told a relative Sunday the I am starting to get hopeful. Martha Dale and I will get our booster shot for covid-19 in October. As strange as it may seem, the holiday season will be upon us soon. Before things get hectic, take a few minutes to think about your church's Endowment Fund. Try to be a regular giver or make a contribution to honor someone. Your church's Endowment Fund is an important part of your church. Let's make an effort to support it.

Dickey Cooley

UMCOR Annual Mission Trip



UMCOR is the United Methodist Committee on Relief. This organization of our church is responsible for our collective response to community trauma situations all over the world. Emergency supplies are packed and sent in bulk to areas that have dealt with floods, draught, fire damage, earthquakes and other natural disasters. Additionally health, school, and layette kits are made for communities that lack the ability to provide these everyday needs for their families.

The staging area for creating these kits in the south is Sager Brown Depot, located in Baldwin, Louisiana. Volunteers from churches in Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Tennessee, and Oklahoma annually take teams of church members to live in the dorms and work in the depot for a week. Often others from far away states including Georgia, Washington, North and South Dakota will also bring teams of workers.

GAUMC has been involved in various stages of UMCOR work for many years. Current Team Leader Bill Kratz has gone for a week of camp for the past 7 years. But the Covid-19 pandemic caused Sager Brown to close down in March 2020. It remains closed until the UMC Global Ministries Commission determines it safe to invite churches to come again. This commission will meet after Labor Day 2021 to determine the appropriate course of action.

If Sager Brown Depot is open and running again by summer 2022, we have requested reservations for the week of May 1-6. If you are interested in participating in this exciting mission outreach work, please contact Bill Kratz at 501-293-6138 or talk with him at church.

Table of Grace Update

Thank you for your continued support of the Table of Grace feeding ministry. During 2021 alone we have provided more than 10,000 meals to our guests. Our food costs rose dramatically during the summer due to the price of meat and other food. Our commitment to eco-friendly practices also raises our expenses, but we have been able to cover our costs thanks to your generosity.

An important thank you should go to our dedicated team leaders and volunteers who continue to produce 300 delicious, hot meals every Sunday night. They have been faithful throughout the pandemic.

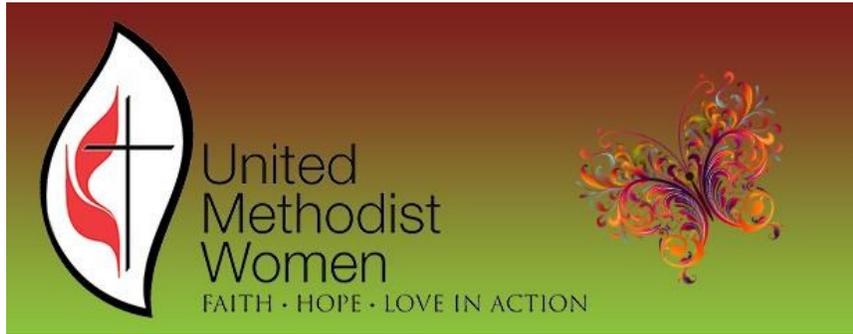
If anyone would be able to serve as a substitute volunteer when the regulars have to be away, please contact Shari Coston, Mary Tom Taylor or the church office.

Administrative Council, Mark Your Calendars

Administrative Council will meet on September 20 at 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. 2021 Charge Conference reports are due in the church office by September 27. Our church members serving on the Administrative Council are much appreciated!

**Table of Grace needs plastic grocery bags.
Bring your bags to Fellowship Hall.**

**Outreach is collecting crackers
during the month of September.**



UMW SOUTHWEST DISTRICT FALL MEETING

Saturday September 18, 2020, 10:00 A.M.

Hybrid Meeting on Zoom and in person at

Grand Avenue UMC, 841 Quapaw Avenue, Hot Springs

Due to continuing Covid Concerns, our District Fall Meeting will be a hybrid event this year. Those who wish to attend in person may do so as long as masks are worn and safe distancing is followed. Others may attend via Zoom. Please complete the registration form below to let us know how you want to participate. Zoom registrants will be contacted by email on how to connect by using your computer or tablet or smart phone. No food will be served at the meeting.

Featured Speaker:

Sam Meadors, Deacon

Community Coordinator Delta Project and 200K More Reasons

Speaking on: Literacy Initiative of 200K Reasons

REGISTRATION DUE BY SEPTEMBER 14

NAME _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

Local Church _____

Former Conference President Missionary/Deaconess Former District President

MAIL OR EMAIL TO:

CAROL DICKINSON

841 QUAPAW AVENUE, HOT SPRINGS, AR 71901

dickinson45@sbcglobal.net Phone 501-545-5824

There is no charge to attend this meeting. The Program Book will be emailed or distributed to all who attend or participate. Normally, the cost to attend the Fall Meeting would be \$15, plus any contribution to the offering. We ask that you prayerfully consider making a donation to Southwest District United Methodist Women so that we may contribute to the Imagination Library. \$25 will provide a child with an Imagination Library book every month for one year.



Grand Avenue
United Methodist Church
841 Quapaw Avenue
Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901

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We're Here to Serve You

Senior Pastor - Rev. David M. Fleming
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It's Coming!
Commitment Sunday
October 24, 2021



Building Faith, Bringing Hope, Reaching Out in Love

Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, Witness