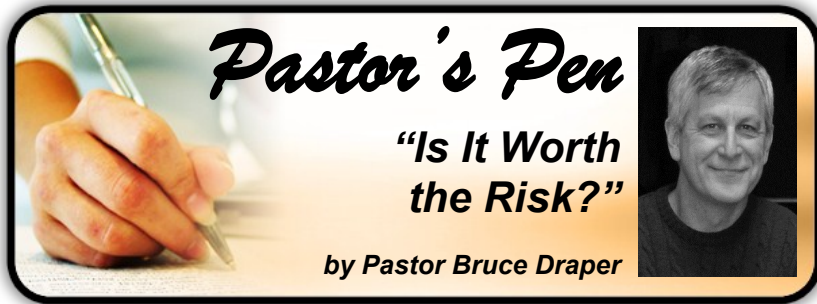


Sharing God's Love...





We don't hear that question spoken very often but we hear it almost every day. People with depression wonder if it is worth the risk to get out of bed. Alcoholics wonder if it is worth the risk to go to a party with friends or go out to eat. Parents wonder if it is worth the risk to leave their children in the care of another. Elderly wonder if it is worth the risk to drive after dark.

We face risk just driving to work but we have consciously or unconsciously assessed that risk and decided that the result is worth it. In this case, we more highly value a paycheck. But there are other types of risk. There are risks of faith and doubt. There are risks to being labeled a Christian and there are more risk to being a practicing disciple.

In February, we will be completing our sermon series "Picture This: Seeing with God's Eyes." That's an ambitious title but it's meant to serve a point. To develop and grow as a practicing Disciple (learning) of Jesus Christ, we are called to risk something, to leave behind something so we can move on to something better. Particularly this month, we are all risking and stretching to see all aspects of our life and religion through the picture frame that God gave us. It is called a biblical world view (or theology). We have been given an understanding of who God is, what God has done for us first, and how we can properly respond to that



Burrito Time!

The High School and Middle School Youth Groups are selling burritos starting February 16th through March 13th. We are rolling burritos on March 19th.

The youth are raising funds to go to the Youth 2011, which is the national youth gathering for the United Methodist Church. It is an event that only happens every four years and is the largest single gathering of UMC youth in existence. This four-day conference will bring together top United Methodist leaders as well as the best ecumenical speakers, bands and talent with thousands of youth from all around the nation for what is sure to be a life-changing event!

The dates of the conference are July 13th through July 17th. We will travel on a charter bus with the Kansas East Conference youth.

Any youth wanting to go can contact Don Schaeffer or Pam Farrant for more information. The deadline is April 1, 2011 to register.

loving God through the Holy Scriptures and by the example of God-in-the-flesh in Jesus Christ.

Come and hear as we risk changing our frame or perspective on life by trading in what we had for something better in God's eyes. God's perfect plan will then come into better focus as we risk: 1. loving God more; 2. loving our neighbor and ourselves more; and 3. making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

And all God's people say, AMEN!

FYI: www.meridenumc.org was viewed a new record-high 788 times in December and 537 times to-date in January. We now have 71 who "Like" our MUCM Facebook page!



Lenten Fish Fry

March 11th and March 18th
5:00 - 7:30pm

We've stocked up on fish from the Fishing Tournament held last fall and now it's time to fry it up and serve it to the community! This will be a freewill donation and is open to everyone. Proceeds will go to upgrading appliances in the kitchen and furniture in the classrooms.

Sign up sheets are on the landing to volunteer to work and/or to bring side dishes and desserts. Sign up to help and bring your family and friends for some tasty fish during Lent!

February News

It's cold outside, but it's warm in the Sanctuary on Wednesday evenings so come on in and get warmed up on some old and



new songs we are working on like, *"Savior, Healer, Friend, Resurrection Power, Soon and Very Soon,"* and our Easter music, *"Jesus the One and Only!"* This cantata tells the story of Christ's tragedy, the sorrow, suffering death and burial. Then, Christ's triumphant rise from the grave. Join us!

Keep those Best Choice labels coming too! :)

**Keep Singing,
Claudia**

UMW Meeting

Wednesday, February 2nd at 9:30am

The United Methodist Women will meet on Wednesday, February 2nd at 9:30am. Delores Porter will be the hostess and Marilyn Overstreet will be in charge of the program. All the women in the church are invited.



Mission Statement

"We share God's love through: committed worship and open fellowship; nurturing all to be ever better disciples of Jesus Christ; serving others from what God has given us."



- Snack or Sandwich sized zip top bags (for making project kits)
- Colored craft foam sheets
- Colored Styrofoam or paper plates
- Egg cartons

Currently the Sunday school teachers are providing treats each week for the students. We'd like to ask your help with this as well. If you can help out, we'd love to have you bring treats. We would like to have juice (Not grape or any that will stain the carpet) as a drink and cookies, donuts, cupcakes, etc. Please feel free to bring things that we can keep in the freezer for those times when we may be short. (Little Debbie snacks work well for this). There is a signup sheet just outside the basement conference room if you would like to sign up.

Thanks in advance for any assistance you might share. God Bless!

Education Committee Chairpersons

Pat Welborn – 484-2445 / patcatbacker@yahoo.com

Casey Woodward

Committee Members / Teachers

Pat Scott

Betty Majors

Scott Davids

Nancy Lord

Nicole Welborn

Charisse Powell

Jill Tuck

Blanche Wulfekoetter

KS East/West Walking Challenge

Keep filling out those forms! We're doing great! Everyone, at any age, is encouraged to submit their miles walked each week. 2000 steps = 1 mile. 15 minutes of moderate aerobic exercise also equals 1 mile. Forms can be found at the back of the sanctuary. Fill one out each week and put them in the basket provided. You can also email the church secretary your mileage each week.

Education Committee Needs Your Help!

We are making some changes to our Sunday school that we hope will help to increase our Sunday school attendance. This article is the first in what we hope will be ongoing communication with you. We all hope to help children grow in faith and knowledge of the church and our religion. We will be trying many new and different ideas to encourage all children and help peak their interest in what faith is all about. If you have a particular idea you would like to share, please let us know and we will find a way to use it.

We will be having a theme each month that will help to enhance the lessons and hopefully will help the kids to make connections to the sermons and their daily lives. For February, our theme will be LOVE. This will include love between family, friends, and fellow man as well as the Lord. For March, it will have something to do with Spring and the awakening of the Earth. March and April will also be devoted to the Lenten season.

As part of our plan, we will be expanding the craft projects done in conjunction with the lessons taught. As this will require additional resources, we would like to ask you to save and share things that you may have around your house. To start with, we can use the following:

- Old CD's
- Clothes pins
- Shoe box sized plastic storage boxes with lids
- Scrapbook or heavy colored paper (like scrapbooking or construction)
- Scraps of ribbon or fabric trims
- Small flower pots
- Small paint brushes

February Birthdays

2/03	Linda Hassler	2/15	Carol Wilson
2/05	Andy Bell	2/17	Joe Lopez II
2/05	Myron Murphy	2/20	Kenny Stiles
2/06	Leah Sidener	2/21	Isabel Adams
2/07	Jill Tuck	2/21	Grant Greene
2/08	Joye Mullins	2/21	Margie Payne
2/09	Justin Bramlett	2/23	Nicole Picotte
2/09	Doyle Pollom	2/23	Christopher Monhollon
2/12	Melody Monthey		
2/13	Elizabeth Shenk		
2/15	Scott Davids		

February Anniversaries

2/06	Don & Aldiene Myers
2/10	Robert & Twila Stapel
2/26	Bob & Shirley Ketchem



To add birthdays and anniversaries please notify the church office.



Coffee with the Pastor

Every 4th Sunday after church, please join the Pastor for coffee and chat with him if you are interested in joining the Meriden UMC or have questions about baptism. If you know of anyone who is thinking about baptism or becoming a member of our congregation, please encourage them to attend "Coffee with the Pastor."

Sunday School

We have classes for 3-4 year olds, Kindergarten-1st grades, 2nd-3rd grades, 4th-5th grades, 6th-8th grades, and high school. Our classrooms have been renovated with lots of color! Sunday School is from 9:00 to 9:45. Come join us and bring a friend!



Children's classes:

- Pre-K – 6th grade meet in the basement of the church
- High School meets in the conference room
- Middle School meets in the SW Sunday School area

Adult classes:

- "First Place 4 Health" meets in the parsonage.
- "Growing in Faith" meets in the gym.

Nursery is available during worship for 0-5 years of age.

Date	Greeters	Liturgist	Ushers
Feb 6th	Bob Stapel Twila Stapel	Frankie Farrant	Bob Stapel Twila Stapel Frankie Farrant
Feb 13th	Kris Tuck Jill Tuck	Karolyn Conaway	Kris Tuck Jill Tuck Karolyn Conaway
Feb 20th	John Welborn Pat Welborn Nicole Welborn	Norm Bramlett	John Welborn Pat Welborn Nicole Welborn Norm Bramlett
Feb 27th	Lucia McKeithan Sharon Wellman	Laura Anderson	Lucia McKeithan Sharon Wellman Laura Anderson

Basketball Clinic Continues to be a Success!

MUMC hosted 85 Jeff West area 1st-4th grade boys, girls, and parents on January 22nd as they learned fundamentals and put them into action under MUMC Athletic Director John Olson.

To celebrate this success, John Olson is working to put together an appreciation time during worship service on Sunday, February 27th. He hopes to have the kids and parents come and maybe even a guest speaker! We have had at least 120 kids in this program at one time or another since it started and we are using MUMC's church gym for both the 1st and 2nd grade clinics as well as some of the games for the 3rd and 4th graders. The last Saturday of the programs will be February 26th.

John Olson had this to say about the program. "The response to the program has been wonderful! The help we have had makes me smile. The kids are doing great. This is the TOY DEPT and we get to effect attitudes and effort of both the kids as well as we are having an impact on the parents of the children."



Go Tigers! Roar!



Vision Statement

"Sharing God's love within our community and into the world community."

Looking Ahead to March...

Here are some upcoming events in March you might want to remember...



- Saturday, March 5th the Quilter's Group will meet in the Gym all day
- Tuesday, March 8th and March 22nd the Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging will meet at 10:00am.
- On Wednesday, March 9th, the Senior Luncheon will begin at 12:00pm.
- On Wednesday, March 9th, the church will hold Ash Wednesday Services.
- Sunday, March 13th will be the final day to order burritos from the Youth Group. They will roll the burritos on Saturday, March 19th.
- On Friday, March 11th and March 18th, the church will hold it's annual Lenten Fish Fry.
- On Sunday, March 13th the Outreach and Trustee Committees will meet after worship services.
- On Sunday, March 20th, the Administrative Council will meet at noon, after the potluck.
- On Monday, March 21st, the Men's Breakfast will be served at 8:30am.

The Women's Exercise Group meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00am to 10:00am.

Youth Groups meet every Wednesday at 6:00pm and Choir has practice every Wednesday at 7:00pm.

Please check out our online calendar at www.meridenumc.org to see all of the activities going on at our church in March and beyond!

Celebrate Love



Visit your local zoo!...or botanical garden or nature conservancy or museum or a local show. This is a romantic and playful date option or an amusing activity for the whole family to love. From animals to exotic plants to hiking trails, Mother Nature

will help you in celebrating this day of love and affection.

Make a date to help out with a garden. This can be your garden, your significant other's garden, a family garden, community garden—any type of garden. Even in winter in the coldest of climates, try and find a green space in need of a little help. Share your love with everything green. Maybe even plant some indoor herbs to celebrate and use in a romantic dinner.

Serve a meal. Instead of going out to a fancy meal, volunteer at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter. Helping feed people who are truly hungry will feel and taste better than any meal you will eat at a five star restaurant.

Make it a double- or group-date. Team up with a couple friends to make the holiday more memorable. If the weather allows, meet for a brunch in the park or a picnic at the side of the skating rink. Have every couple bring a different beverage and food and the event will exponentially be more engaging and fun.

Give your friends a breather. Maybe you don't have a Valentine's Day date? Maybe your loved one is out of town? If you truly want to give someone a gift, baby sit for your friends or family with children. Let them go out on a date and you watch the children. Help someone else's Valentine's Day this year.

Homemade gifts. Many people shy away from crafty gifts. Don't forget that [baking cookies](#), making homemade chocolate and dipping fruit in sugar is an affordable and enjoyable activity. Plus, it can be eaten; therefore, avoiding any need for storage of additional junk.

Just spend time with someone. It is free and can never be replaced. Valentine's Day is about being with the person you love and taking that extra moment to truly appreciate your relationship. There is no cost attached and no limits.

February 2011




Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:30pm Softball 5:00pm Boy Scouts	2 4:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Y Groups 7:00pm Choir	3 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:30pm Softball 6:00pm BB Clinic	4	5 8:00am BB Clinic
Communion 6 1:30pm Disciple I 4:00pm Volleyball	7 5:00pm Boy Scouts	8 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 10:00am Jayhawk Area Agency 4:30pm Softball 5:00pm Boy Scouts	9 12:00pm Senior Luncheon 4:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Y Groups 7:00pm Choir	10 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:30pm Softball 6:00pm BB Clinic	11	12 8:00am BB Clinic
Choir 13 11:15am Outreach 11:15am Staff Parish 11:15am Trustees 1:30pm Disciple I 4:00pm Volleyball	14 5:00pm Boy Scouts Happy Valentine's Day ♥♥♥♥	15 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:30pm Softball 5:00pm Boy Scouts	16 4:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Y Groups 7:00pm Choir	17 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:30pm Softball 6:00pm BB Clinic	18 Newsletter Deadline	19 11:00am Blue & Gold Banquet
Potluck 20 12:00pm Ad Council 1:30pm Disciple I 4:00pm Volleyball	21 8:30am Men's Breakfast 5:00pm Boy Scouts	22 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 10:00am Jayhawk Area Agency 4:30pm Softball 5:00pm Boy Scouts	23 4:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Y Groups 7:00pm Choir	24 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:30pm Softball 6:00pm BB Clinic Fold/Mail Newsletter	25	26 8:00am BB Clinic
27 11:00am Coffee with the Pastor 1:30pm Disciple I 4:00pm Volleyball	28 5:00pm Boy Scouts	For a full view of the calendar including what parts of the church are being utilized, please visit us at www.meridenumc.org and click on Church Calendar. Then click on the event for locations and times.			9:00am: Sunday School 9:45am: Welcoming Time 10:00am: Worship Service 11:00am: Fellowship Time	