

**FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN . . . . .**

What a joyful and joy-filled day we had on the last Sunday of September! This was the day that we welcomed four new members to the body of faith known as Paradise United Methodist Church.

Evan Williams has been attending for quite some time. He is a 2023 graduate of Smithville High School and he recently joined the U.S. Army. Evan will be headed for basic training in South Carolina next month. Siblings Reagan and Landon Ussery both attend Smithville High School. Reagan is a junior and Landon is a senior. Leela Myers is "Mom" to both.

What made the day even more special was Reagan's baptism. Evan and Landon were baptized as infants. Leela grew up and was baptized in the Catholic Church. Sunday, all three of their baptisms were confirmed and remembered, as they professed their faith in Jesus Christ.



Reagan had not been baptized so we were overjoyed to bestow that gift of God on her. It was our first baptism at PUMC in my tenure as pastor. Now, they are all Professing Members of Paradise United Methodist Church!

We praise God for the movement of the Holy Spirit at PUMC! I'm pretty sure there are others who have been stirred by the Spirit's presence with

us—maybe to be baptized and join the Body of Christ known as "the church." If so, please let me know.

I would be happy to talk with you about your journey of faith.

Blessings on your heads! Pastor Rob

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The Adult Sunday School group meets Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the fellowship hall. If you would like to join us, we will be starting a new study, "Parables From the Back Side, Bible Stories with a Twist," by J. Ellsworth Kalas on October 12th. Please join us, there is always room for more! Contact Angie if you need a book.

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

The council will meet on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the worship service. Please let Shay or Missy know if you have any items for the agenda. Committee Chairs please provide your written report to council members prior to the meeting.

**POTLUCK**

The next Potluck meal is October 26<sup>th</sup> immediately after church. It is a great opportunity to bring a neighbor or friend!

**PARADISE RUBIES**

The Rubies met on October 4<sup>th</sup> and listened to a presentation by Annette's granddaughter, Sloan, regarding her experience as a foreign-exchange student in Japan last year.

The next meeting of the Rubies will be a joint meeting held with the AMen on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. At the meeting, Larry and Dorothy Joiner's daughter, Debbie, will be speaking about Valor Ranch.

## **OUTREACH/MISSIONS**

Your continued support of our missions collections, as well as things you do outside the church for others, is so much appreciated.

### **September Recap**

Smithville Pantry: Pasta and Pasta Sauce: 64 pasta, 63 sauce, 4 rolls of TP, 2 packages of laundry strips (60 each) and 2 large oatmeal containers

Trimble Food Pantry: \$240

Plattsburg Pantry: \$25

Valor Ranch: \$25

Meals on Wheels: \$150

Christmas Gift Cards: \$120

240 dozen large eggs to the Trimble Pantry, as well as facilitating the distribution weekly of candy, chips, cookies and other confections totaling 800 pounds weekly to 4 pantries

A Turning Point: On September 20<sup>th</sup>, we had 9 folks from PUMC help in the pantry with shopping and loading of groceries.

### **October Collections**

Smithville Food Pantry: Bathroom tissue

Plattsburg Pantry: Monetary

PUMC Shut-Ins: Monetary

Each year we give our shut-ins a fruit basket and poinsettia, and this collection will be used for those gifts.

### **Unhoused Meals**

We will be providing one more meal for the unhoused through the Fishes & Loaves Ministry

that Darcy & Scott are involved with. We will be providing a meal on Saturday, December 6th.

We will be making leftover Turkey Shepherd's Pie, Bread, Fruit Cups and Pumpkin Dessert - It'll be a dump recipe for the main dish, so you will sign up for ingredients and we will assemble it the morning of December 6th. A signup sheet will be available soon.

## **MONTHLY REPORT**

The monthly report for September 2025 is as follows:

Beginning Balance:	\$34,299.41
General Offerings:	+\$8,078.50
Capital Improvement:	+\$1,238.55
Expenses:	-\$5,409.17
Final Balance:	\$38,207.29