



Paradise United Methodist Church

THE GREETER

September 2022

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Fall is on its way! Must be, because a few leaves are letting go of their branches, footballs are flying, and—the most telling example for pastors like me--Charge Conference forms have arrived!

For the newbies, here is the simple definition of Charge Conference from UMC.org: “The charge conference is the basic governing body of each United Methodist local church and is composed of all members of the church council. All members of the charge conference must be members of the local church. The charge conference must meet at least once per year. The charge conference directs the work of the church and gives general oversight to the church council, reviews and evaluates the mission and ministry of the church, sets salaries for the pastor and staff, elects the members of the church council, and recommends candidates for ordained ministry.”

At Paradise UMC, we do charge conference work in what is known as the “Simplified Structure” whereby its 9-15 members fulfill the Disciplinary functions of Church Council, Trustees, Finance, and Pastor-Parish Relations Committee. Members of the Church Council are designated certain administrative duties such as Council chair, Trustees representative, Pastor/Parish contact, Lay Leader, Finance chair, Treasurer, and at-large members, among others. Each member is asked to serve for a designated period, usually three years.

At this time each year, the Nominations committee—which is the only UMC committee chaired by the pastor—is tasked with selecting successors to the Church Council whose terms have expired or who wish to step away. To that end, you are invited to place your name, or the name of someone you think might be an asset, in nomination for a leadership role at Paradise UMC. The deadline for submission of Charge Conference

forms is October 17, so let me know your thoughts as soon as possible.

We will have the option this year of attending one of two in-person district Charge Conferences. The first is at Ashland UMC in St. Joseph on Saturday, January 14, 2023, from noon-2:00p.m. The second Charge Conference will be at The Summit UMC in Lee’s Summit on Sunday, January 15, 2023, from 2:00-4p.m.

We have been blessed in this past year with new members and constituents who have provided an influx of ideas and excitement into an already passionate body of faith. It is an exciting time to be at PUMC as we look forward to a bright future and celebrate the past, all while making disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world!

Blessings on your head! Pastor Rob Ernest

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Adult Sunday School group will be taking off Sept 4th and returning Sept 11th at 9:45a.m. to start a new study, “Why? Making sense of God’s Will” by Adam Hamilton. If you would like to join us, please contact Angie for a book or get one from the table in the fellowship hall.

OUTREACH/MISSIONS

Giving Summary for August 2022:

Smithville Food Pantry: 99 toothbrushes and 80 tubes of toothpaste

Plattsburg Food Pantry: \$680

Paradise Cemetery: \$325

Ice Cream Social to be split between Plattsburg & Smithville Meals on Wheels: \$618

Areas to serve:

We have an ongoing opportunity to help at the Smithville Food Pantry on the first Tuesday of every month at the Christian Church in Smithville. The times are from 830-11am and duties include sacking groceries, assisting clients out with the items they have selected etc. There is a sign-up sheet on the back counter in the sanctuary.

On the table in the family center where we collect items for the Smithville Food Pantry there is a white container for a monetary collection for the Plattsburg Food Pantry. They are connected with a food bank in St. Joseph and prefer cash donations. For the month of September, the Smithville Food Pantry collection will be pasta and pasta sauce.

Winter weather gear:

Ken Vanderpool is our lead for this project. Here's what he says: "For this particular trip I am focusing on winter weather gear – primarily for school age children. However, adult winter gear would be equally welcomed. The tribe/Reservation is "The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe," their Tribal Headquarters is located in Eagle Butte, SD. I intentionally try not to use the name "Sioux" as it originated from the early French Trappers/Traders. It was intended to be a derogatory name, meaning little snakes or snakes in the grass. Instead, I try to always say Lakota. I intend to ensure that the winter gear is given to the School District Superintendent – Cherri Farley, a Lakota Tribal member. Through her, the gifts will be distributed to children who have the greatest need. Any remaining will be distributed as needed. You may bring in your gently used and laundered winter weather gear through the month of September and put it in the pew that is in the Family Center next to the table for the food pantry collection (under the big tv on the far wall).

WOMEN'S GROUP

Calling all women of PUMC! Please mark your calendars for Saturday, September 24th, from 10:30a.m. to noon, for brunch and an organizational meeting to discuss how the group will function going forward. Tammy Krause is organizing things and will be sending out more information soon. But please feel free to seek her out via email (taluvia@gmail.com) or phone (719-235-6411) if you have questions or need additional information.

POTLUCKS ARE BACK!

Potluck Sundays return Sept 25th right after church. Bring a friend or neighbor and join us for some great fellowship!