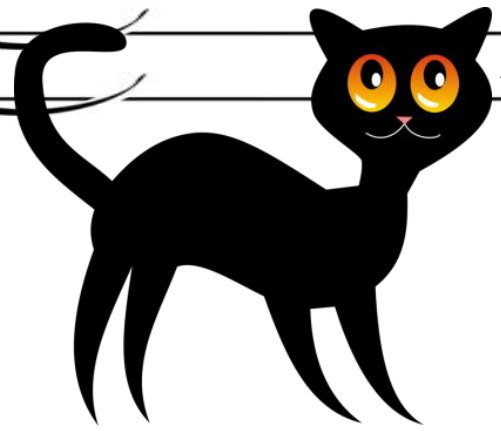


Jarrett's Jottings



Dear Friends,

Can I make a confession? As I sat down to write this column, I realized that I have “hit a wall”. To echo the sentiment, I’ve heard from many over the past few weeks (and months), “I’m over it”. I am over protocols, guidelines, and restrictions. I am over protocols, guidelines, and restrictions dictating how we worship and “do” church. I am over remote learning and Zoom meetings and packet pick-ups. I’m over having to remember if I have a mask every time, I leave the house. As if Covid weren’t enough to occupy us, we also have to deal with increasingly polarized and loud political rhetoric. Guess what...I’m over that too! I know...it might sound like I’m whining just a bit. If it’s a little overbearing, my apologies. I have to wonder, though — how often do we find ourselves in a place of being “over it”? “It”, in reality, can be any number of things...family dynamics or issues, an on-going issue with physical health, feelings of anxiety or depression, and so on. The list really could be endless. As we work through those feelings, we can be left asking, “what do we do?”.

It occurs to me that, when dealing with these feelings, we face two opposing temptations. The first temptation is to “press on”. This is the resolve to forge ahead in life and do what we need to do. Our culture appears to reward and even encourage this kind of resolve. The problem is this doesn’t allow us the space to truly acknowledge how we are feeling. As a result, emotions and feelings get buried beneath the surface and, after a while, pose the risk of an explosive release. The second temptation we face is the temptation to simply give up — to allow ourselves to fall into hopelessness or despair. We might feel as if there is no reason to press on, there is no hope for a brighter or better future, or there simply isn’t enough to which to cling. Perhaps we might find ourselves feeling like this these days. There doesn’t seem to be a discernible end in sight, and it can be really easy to allow ourselves to wallow in despair. It doesn’t take a whole lot to simply give up. I fear there are those around us — certainly in our community, perhaps even in our family — who have given up. I can empathize with those folks.

Yet, in the midst of what could seem to be a hopeless, never-ending season, God has a word for us: hope.

God invites us to hope. Now...I’m not sure that God necessarily invites us to hope that things will simply return to the way they were (my opinion — things will NEVER completely return to “as they were”). I do believe, though, that God invites us to hope in Him, who can redeem the crisis and chaos and can turn what seemed hopeless into a moment of experiencing God’s divine presence and grace. Allow me to offer three different ways we can regain our hope for tomorrow:

1. Lean in — So often, our tendency is to jerk back from God when things start to go awry. We want to know where God is in the midst of the crisis, and when it seems as if God doesn’t move quickly enough, we pull back. The invitation from God in these times is to lean into God, rather than pull back. I believe I said something to this way back in May or June, but I believe it’s just as true and relevant for us today as it was then. Leaning in can involve praying, engaging Scripture, worship, and other disciplines that we label “spiritual”. However, we do it, I believe that as we move toward God, God will move toward us and will meet us wherever we are.

2. “Be” — Allow ourselves the space to acknowledge how we are feeling and how what’s going is affecting us. We do not have to have everything completely figured out. Even in moments of crisis, the space and permission to breathe and just “be” allows us to regain perspective and composure.

3. Look for life — Look for signs of God’s presence and goodness around us. Just because we happen to be going through a rough patch doesn’t mean that God has left us or has stopped being good. Look for those things that remind you of who God is. If you find it difficult to do that, ask God to show you glimpses of what God is doing. My guess is that we might be astounded to see what God is doing all around us.

Dear ones, as we continue to live in these days, let us cling to hope; hope does not disappoint us, but gives us confidence for the future and in the abiding presence and goodness of God.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jarrett

The Mustard Seed

October

Ministry Team:

Pastor ~ Jarrett Wells

Office Manager ~

Maria Hymes

Pianist/Organist ~

Jill Roegge

Choral Director ~

Tim Bartholomew

Financial Secretary ~

Lynne O'Hara

Treasurer ~

Susan Treadway

Youth Director ~

Andrea Wells

Custodian ~

Tonya White

Sunday Services:

Worship Service ~

9:00 a.m.

Sunday School ~

10:30 a.m.

Phone ~ 217-323-1257

E-mail ~

beardsumc@sbcglobal.net

Website ~

beardstownfumc.com

"Like" us on Facebook ~

Beardstown First UMC

Birthdays

- 1 Greg Cordell
- 2 Megan Swan
- 3 Jacob Janssen
- 4 Jody Cowen
- 6 Owen O'Hara
- 10 Sheena Kight Garlisch
- 12 Lois White (100)
Bryan Cagle
Julie Taylor
William Spears
Chase Vermillion
- 14 Barb Walton
Randi Huey
- 15 Scott Vermillion
Jason Wells
- 16 Jared Rohn
Amber McClenning
Gwen Thomas
Sue Bonansinga
- 17 Tiffany Taylor
Brittany Paige Chrzanowski
- 18 Connie Starkey
- 20 Clayton Coleman
- 22 Karen Lerch
Chad Taylor
- 23 Morgan Davidsmeier Hankal
- 24 Matt Logsdon
- 25 Larry Kight
- 26 Wilbur Morrow
- 29 John Elam
Bill Trone
- 30 Nancy Dalpiaz



Anniversaries

- 2 Tom & Vicky Taylor
Scott & Jennifer Lamb Schaeffer
- 3 Wilbur & Ann Morrow
- 4 Paul & Amy Davidsmeyer
- 5 Bill & Tonya White
Bill & Jill Trone
- 6 Jerry & Donna Rohn
Bill & Patsy Barnhart
Eric & Lorie Chrzanowski
- 11 Michael & Jamie Park
- 13 Chris & Brittney Taylor
- 21 Roy & Danah Hurst
- 24 Sergio & Peggy Ruiz
- 27 John & Mita Elam





Christian Love In Action

Currently C.L.I.A. is in need of: **Rice, Spaghetti, Spaghetti Sauce.** You can bring your donated items to the church again. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CLIA hours are: Tuesdays from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Thank you for donations. If you would like to contribute but don't have time / remember to shop, you can give money to Lynne O'Hara and she will pick up the items.

Cass County Food Pantry

The Cass County Food Pantry is another place that helps Cass County residents in need of food. To help with their mission, they are asking churches for donations for the month of **OCTOBER: Stuffing Mix, Instant Massed Potatoes, Canned Pumpkin, Evaporated Milk, Cranberry Sauce.**

They are always in need of: **Peanut Butter, Jelly, Macaroni & Cheese, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Cereal, or Non-Perishable Food Items.** They have a walk in cooler or freezer to hold perishable items, and are able to take fresh produce items.

Worship Update

Over the past few months, I have been asked, on numerous occasions, when we will return to "normal" in worship — namely, when we will be allowed to sing and when we will be able to resume Communion. The short answer is...I don't know. I know we are all tired of following the guidelines that were set out for us to return to in-person worship. Believe me, I'm past ready to feast at the Lord's table and to belt out "How Great Thou Art"! I know there are other churches doing those things we would like to be doing, and it doesn't seem fair or it seems as if we are simply following the dictations of our Bishop. I understand your frustrations. I would simply ask that we hang in there: we will resume these parts of worship as soon as we possibly can.

Nuts Galore!

If you have not had a chance to order your nuts yet, there is a little time left. Contact a UMW member to place your order. Please turn your orders, including the money, in to the office by Sunday, October 11th. Thank you.



United
Methodist
Women

Tea Room

I know the first day of fall was just a few weeks ago, and it may seem early to be talking about Christmas but it will be here before you know it. The UMW has met and we have decided to host our annual Christmas Tea Room, with a few changes this year. With covid and social distancing restrictions, we will have tables spaced far enough apart for everyone to enjoy their delicious meal. We will have our Terry Lynn Nuts for sale as well as our bake sale, Rada cutlery and more. Last year we had a few vendors come in and this year we are expanding that. Currently we have space for 11 vendors. If you would like to reserve a spot the cost is \$20. Please contact the church if you are interested. Again we have limited space so first come first serve.

We are sticking with the same weekend as always which is the first Saturday in December the 5th. More details to come on this as well. Along with the Tea Room since it is called a "Tea Room" we are going to serve hot tea as well. If you have tea pots that the church could use that day it would be greatly appreciated. We want to have at least 50 tea pots to serve the hot water.

Also there will be a few more meetings to finalize the details and plans for the Tea Room etc. Please mark your calendar for the upcoming dates and plan to attend the meetings which will be right after church. Sundays, October 18th, November 8th and 22nd.

Confirmation

We have four young people who have recently begun the journey of Confirmation. Although we had a special moment in worship of praying over them, let us continue to pray for our confirmands — that they might grow in their knowledge of God and in the grace of Jesus Christ. Our confirmands this year are: Riley Booth, Natalie Looker, Addison McClenning, and Anna Wells.



Lois Jane White will be 100 Years Old On October 12, 2020!

Lois was born in 1920 on the family farm near Beardstown, IL to parents Olga & Edwin Treadway. She was the oldest of seven children followed by Junior, Steve Maude, Mary, Chris and Phyllis. Lois and her husband Berlyn White were married for 59 years, parents of Jill White Moore and grandparents of Allison Hardwick-Meyer. She is an aunt to many nieces and nephews. Beryl worked as a postal carrier in town and later at Huss' Menswear Store. Lois worked at the Merrie Shoppe ladies dress shop and as a teller at First State Bank of Beardstown. She belongs to the Cass Co. Home Extension, participates with the Elks Emblem Club and also a ladies book group. She is also the oldest living member of the First United Methodist Church of Beardstown.

Family will remember many holiday meals in the basements of their homes both in town and at her current locale where as many as 30 people would attend. Good times and wonderful food!

Originally we had planned to invite family and friends to attend a celebration dinner for Lois at a local restaurant in Beardstown. However, with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, regrettably we cannot ask people to travel or gather safely. We are disappointed about this but feel it is the right thing to do for Lois' sake. Lois has been home during these times and limiting her outings to stay safe. She is not allowing visitors into her house, has been staying home from church and very much misses seeing all of the people she would normally interact with. Although she had a computer in the past, the internet was not reliable at her location and it became too challenging for her to keep up with, so she can no longer communicate this way.

We would like to ask for family and friends to please send her a birthday card or note in lieu of any visits to celebrate her special day. Our goal is to "surprise" her with receiving at least 100 cards! If you choose to include any remembrances or stories about her from the past as well as update her about your own family news, we know she would greatly enjoy hearing from you.

Please mail all correspondences to:

Lois White
11386 S. Beardstown Drainage Road
Beardstown, IL 62618-8086

Thank you so much and we hope everyone stays safe and healthy,

*Allison Hardwick-Meyer
Jill White Moore*



There is a time for everything...

*a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,*

*a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to embrace and a time*

to refrain from embracing,

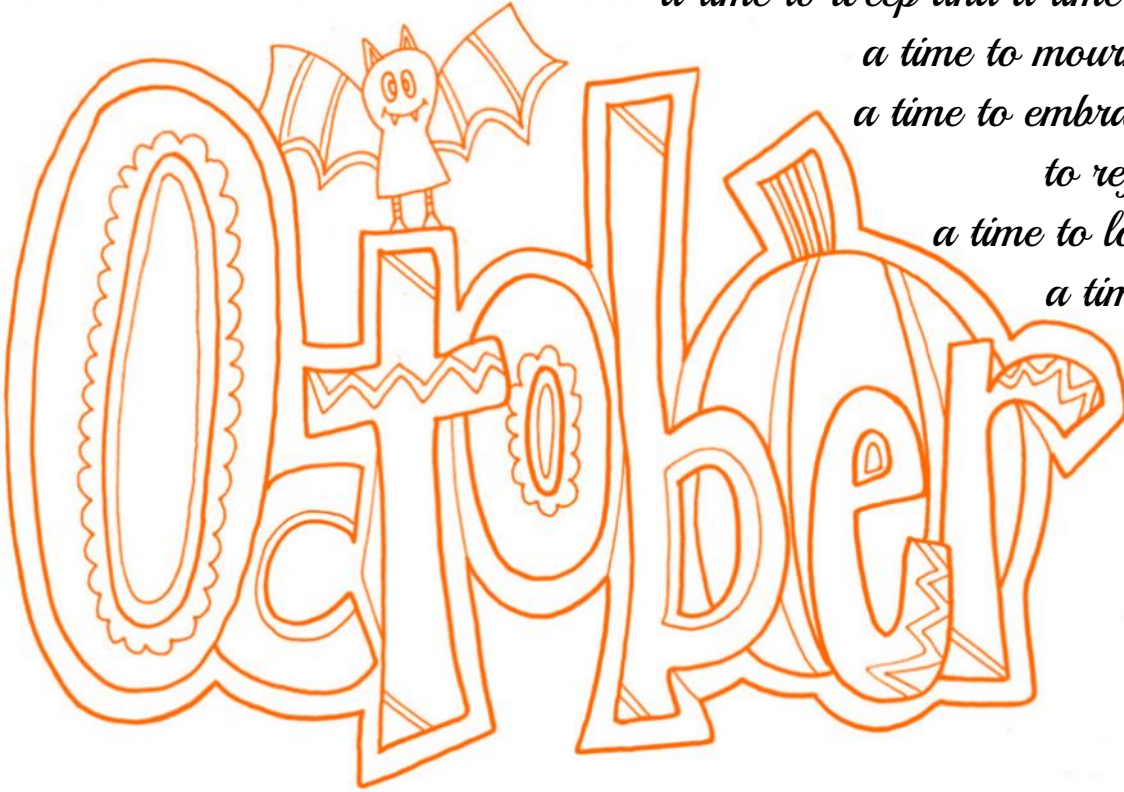
a time to love and a time to hate,

a time for war and

a time for peace.

~ Ecclesiastes

3:1a, 3-4, 5b, 8



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The Mustard Seed

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