

# THE DEXTER CONNECTION



## Thoughts On Thanksgiving

This may come as a surprise to some, but Thanksgiving is not technically a Christian holiday; it's an American one. If you take a close look at the church calendar you will not find Thanksgiving mentioned. You will not find Christians in Ethiopia celebrating Thanksgiving. Most school children can tell you that Thanksgiving is a day to remember when in 1621 the continent's natives and the European settlers came together in Plymouth, Massachusetts and gave thanks for a bounteous harvest.

Despite the grand holiday being a civil one, one cannot ignore the religious underpinnings of Thanksgiving Day. The imagery of early settlers thanking God for their harvest, health, and friendships in the New World is something that Christians in the United States can learn from and rally around.

Over the past few years Face-

book has become a way for people to publicly share things for which they are thankful each day. Looking back at October, our congregation could certainly make our fair share of posts! We could give thanks for our FCA Breakfast, chili supper, women's retreat, Growth Group ministry, blessing of the pets, advent to our Bethany ministry, weddings, children's ministry, music ministry, funeral dinner ministry, prayer ministries, and the list could continue.

There is a sense in which every Sunday is to be a Thanksgiving. It's to be a day where we thank God for the gift of creation, the prophets, the saints of the church, and most importantly the redemption of the world through Jesus Christ. This is why the prayer surrounding Holy Communion is called "The Great Thanksgiving."

In a region of the country



where agriculture is the dominant industry, I'm sure our life together will resonate with the early settlers. So when we break bread this month at the table of our Lord, and when we break bread together with our friends and family on the 23, let's remember to give thanks for God's bounteous harvest and for the bread of life and cup of salvation. Let's celebrate Thanksgiving.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Ron

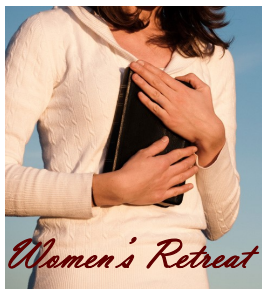
## All Hallows Eve

October 31 @ 9:00 p.m.

*Remembering and Celebrating*



Contact the church if you would like to remember someone in the service who has died in the last year.



## Women's Retreat

Women of all ages are invited to a retreat on Saturday, October 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (registration & breakfast served at 8:30 a.m.) We will have a guest speaker, worship,

food, and fun! The cost is \$10 per person.

Our guest speaker will be Sara Snyder who is an author, teacher, speaker, mom, and wife of a United Methodist pastor.

Lunch will be served and child care will be provided. We will be collecting feminine products for our new Bethany Ministry.

Bring your friends and neighbors! Please register ahead with Kasey Beaton.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

#### **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

It is almost time to start working on our annual Christmas Play. I need people to decorate and people to help during practices. This will be a combined youth and children's play.

I also need a helper for Kingdom Kids for the month of October.

Please contact me if you can help.

## In Our Mailbox

Thank you so much to Mark Snider, Tom Holt, & Scott Renken for your hard work transforming the parsonage landscape. These men spent several long hours digging, arranging, and planting a beautiful set of plants in front of the parsonage. Their work will be appreciated for years to come!

Pastor Ron, Please give our sincerest thanks to your members for the continuous prayers, kind notes, and encouragement they and you provided to us during Phil's illness and through the surgery. He is 4 weeks

into his recovery and doing very well. Sincerely, Phil & Beverly Wilburn

Thanks to everyone who worked at the chili supper, sent a dessert, or purchased a ticket. It was a great success. The United Methodist Men

Church family, Thank you so much for the kindness and sympathy at this time. It was much needed and deeply appreciated. The dinner, cards, phone calls, email messages, prayers, and visits mean a great deal to us as we struggle with the loss of our wife/mother/grandmother, Peggy

Polsgrove. To Pastor Ron-you are our rock and we will forever be grateful for your strength and the beautiful words during her service. Thanks again and may God bless each and everyone of you. Sincerely, Floyd, Kent, Karen, Kay, and families

I am so glad to be a part of FUMC. Thank you for the prayers, cards, visits, and other kindnesses extended to Ted and me during my disability. May God bless each of you, Barbara Mills

### **Pick Up Your Dishes**



Our church kitchen is filled with dishes that have been left from funeral dinners, pot-lucks, and fund raisers. Please check to see if any of them belong to you. Dishes that have not been claimed by November 4 will be donated to the Stoddard County Gospel Mission.

## Church Women United

Church Women United will meet in Wesley Hall on Friday, November 3. Brunch will be served at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Ron Beaton will give a short

program on the Bethany Ministry. Our service project is to collect canned pumpkin, canned fruit, canned milk, boxes of jello, and stove top stuff-

ing mix. The food will be taken to the local mission to fill baskets for Thanksgiving. All ladies are invited to attend.

## Marriages

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Travis Sanders who were united in marriage at Dexter First UMC on October 2. We wish Travis, Sandy, and their children great happiness in the future and pray God's blessing on their new blended family.

## Births

Congratulations to Katelyn and Jake Schneider upon the birth of their son, Cash Jacob Schneider. Proud grandparents are Dan & Connie Heil.

*Lynda Lovins*  
and  
*Mel Jones*

invite you to share in the joy of their wedding day

Saturday, November 4, 2017  
at 7:00 p.m. in the evening

First United Methodist Church  
Dexter, Missouri

Reception to follow at Cox's Corner

*Everyone is welcome!*



**Pastor Ron Beaton, Patty Shell, Dee Wamble**

## Bethany Ministry Begins

Our Bethany Ministry got off to a great start on Tuesday, October 10. Fifty seven people were provided with personal hygiene and household items. Our next distribution date is Tuesday, October 24 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

During the month of November we will be collecting shampoo, body lotion, and liquid laundry detergent for the ministry. Collection bins will be located in Wesley Hall and outside the sanctuary. Monetary donations are always welcome as well.

## Our Prayer Ministry

### Current Prayer Requests

Barbara Mills, Jason Summers, Fred & Alberta Zmarzly, Susan Cox, Lexi Sielert, Rick Doles, Patty Williams, Mark Williams, Beth Weber, Tori Ross, Carolyn Carroll, Vicky McRee, family of Peggy Polsgrove, Donna Becker, family of Nancy Abernathy, family of Karen Hampton, family of Wanda Cope, Bill Boone, Jerry Darby, Harold Barks, Linda Gibbs. Becky Barbour Wilson

### Our Sympathy

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to: Floyd Polsgrove and his family upon the death of his wife, Peggy Polsgrove; James Hampton and his family upon the death of his mother, Karen Hampton.

### Special Giving

In memory of Karen Hampton - Joe Weber, Don & Deana Jones, Tim & Lana Temples, Kitty Kandalaff, Don & Patti Gard, Thelma Niehaus, Paul & Glenda Niehaus, Don Ross, the Lanpher family, John & Ruth Pruitt, Tom & Mary Probst, B.G. Sides & Susan Marner-Sides. In memory of Peggy Polsgrove - Don & Deana Jones, Mike & Kristi Williams, Bruce & Kay Plummer,

## First United Methodist Church

Ron Beaton, Pastor  
P.O. Box 156  
501 South Walnut Street  
Dexter MO 63841

Nonprofit Org.  
Postage Paid By  
Permit #31  
Dexter MO 63841

### Sunday Worship Services

Morning Grace           8:15 a.m.  
The CrossOver           9:15 a.m.  
Traditions                10:30 a.m.

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[www.umc-dexter.org](http://www.umc-dexter.org)

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## Trunk or Treat

October 29 @ 5:00 p.m.

We need lots of people to decorate their trunks and come to hand out candy. We need 2 volunteers to judge the kids costume contest and a volunteer to run the registration table. Donations of candy are needed. Please plan on joining us and helping out. This is a great opportunity to reach people in our community.

Costume Contest  
Trunk Decorating Contest  
Prizes, Candy, & Treats

## Blessing of the Animals



Sunday, October 22  
3:00 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate  
the gift of animals and  
seek God's blessing upon them.