

# CONNECT To GOD

 **saintmark's**  
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November 2019



*This month I'm yielding my space to print the following letter from the South-Central Jurisdiction College of Bishops. This includes the states of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and New Mexico. ~ Paula*

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We continue to watch with increasing distress the unfolding immigration crisis taking place along our southern border. And while much of the debate centers on the states of Texas and New Mexico, the reality is that immigration policy impacts the lives of many thousands of undocumented immigrants and asylum-seekers throughout our South Central Jurisdiction. Many of our communities are blessed with the gifts and contributions of first-generation, nonwhite, foreign-born populations.

Christian teaching tells us that realities that forcibly displace and dehumanize people must spur us to practical concern and action. Our actions must be more than just words and prayers, but rather care that hospitably tends to their wounds, needs, fears and hopes.

As bishops of The United Methodist Church, we call on all people of goodwill to pray for and work toward:

- Ending policies that separate families;
- Ensuring compassionate care for the health and welfare of children;
- Providing safe and humane care for undocumented immigrants and asylum seekers fleeing violence in their native countries;
- A common solution that respects, cares for and offers tangible assistance to those immigrants and asylum seekers who are living in fear, hurting and homeless;
- Working with officials in other countries to address root causes of violence and poverty, which threaten the health and safety of their citizens and force our sisters and brothers to flee their countries of origin.

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Amid economic and national security concerns, we ask all who follow Christ to remember that our Savior was himself a homeless refugee fleeing violence (Matthew 2:13-14). As God's people of hope and light in the world, let us not succumb to the fear that hardens hearts; rather, transcend fear with love and generosity so that all people are cared for with compassion.

May the peace of Christ be with you and the immigrant and refugee children and families in our midst who are suffering in hope.

### Active:

W. Earl Bledsoe  
Robert Farr, SCJ President  
Cynthia Harvey  
Scott Jones  
Michael Lowry  
Mike McKee  
Gary E. Mueller  
James G. Nunn  
Ruben Saenz, Jr.  
Robert Schnase

### Retired:

Bruce P. Blake  
Charles N. Crutchfield  
Robert E. Hayes  
Woodrow J. Hearn  
Janice Riggie Huie  
William W. Hutchinson  
Joel N. Martinez  
Albert F. Mutti  
Alfred L. Norris  
John W. Russell  
Ann Sherer-Simpson  
Dan E. Solomon  
D. Max Whitfield  
Richard B. Wilke  
Joe A. Wilson

## Upcoming Events

- 11/2 ..... Turkey & Ham Dinner
- 11/3 ..... Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 11/3 ..... All Saints Sunday
- 11/3 ..... Communion
- 11/5 ..... Election Day
- 11/24 ..... Stewardship Sunday
- 11/28 ..... Thanksgiving

## Birthdays

### November

- |       |                 |       |             |
|-------|-----------------|-------|-------------|
| 11/3  | Yvonne Barbour  | 11/27 | Sandy Bower |
| 11/5  | Chris Yaegar    | 11/28 | Bob Buhrlé  |
| 11/12 | Jackie McMenemy | 11/29 | Carrie Geib |



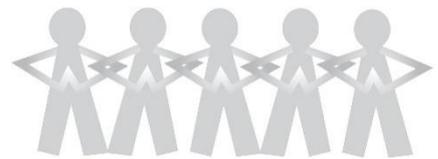
## Sunday Sermons

- 11/3.....Tackling Life With Confidence .....2 Corinthians 5:1-9
- 11/10.....Living Large: Seeking God's Perspective .....James 4:1-12
- 11/17.....Living Large: Do It Today.....James 4:13-18
- 11/24.....Living Large: Investing In God's Future .....Jeremiah 32:27, 37-43

## Phone Prayer Chain

If you know of a member going to the hospital, have a need, a concern, or a joy, please call someone on the following list, starting at the top, if possible. Call any time, day or night. If the person you call is not at home, leave a message or call the next person on the list.

## Prayer Chain



- Pat Townsend.....373-3915 or 225-9459
- Rosemary Garten.....427-5725 or 519-8500
- Carol Marcks .....427-5725 or 560-5627
- Marilyn Berry.....796-5789
- Lucille Bolen.....560-5131
- Mary Branstad .....796-9659 or 868-3752
- Ann Fiene .....257-5214
- Jackie Leffingwell.....257-1123
- Linda Roberts .....650-5131 or 853-3398

- Carol Buhrlé .....796-3630 or 225-8174
- Shirley Weaver.....461-9224 or 716-1184
- Chris Pauley .....571-3922
- Gayle Elliott.....257-9655
- Arletta Cahill.....600-9203
- Flora Costanza .....914-8034
- Sandy Bower .....373-5603
- Anna Inman .....(660) 232-1221
- Jackie McMenemy.....461-7577

## Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



## Bread Of Life Food Pantry

2019	FAMILIES	PEOPLE	ITEMS OUT	ITEMS IN
SEP	55	185	1733	856

The Food Pantry and Clothes Closet are open **Wednesday from 3-5pm and Saturday from 5-7pm**. No appointment needed!

Starting **Monday, December 3**, new Food Pantry hours will be:

Monday ..... 9—NOON  
 Wednesday ..... 3—5:00pm



Website: <http://stmumc.net/outreach-ministries/food-pantry-clothes-closet/>

## UMM Minutes

Twelve (12) in attendance for **October 12** meeting. Last meeting minutes were approved. Treasury balance is \$5,550.24. Treasury report was approved.

Old Business was approved: Harvester’s Work Day on 9/14 was a big hit.

New Business was approved: UMM needs to take a closer look at supporting Randall School Lunch Program. UMM needs to look for a time and place for the Salvation Army Christmas Bell. There are no new ideas for outreach programs. It was approved for \$1000 to be given Apportionments. UMW will be challenged to match this.

Next meeting is November 9, 2019. The Brisons will cook and the devotional will be given by Tom Stultz.

# Turkey & Ham Dinner

Saturday, November 2 from 4-7pm

**Adults..... \$9**  
**Children 10 & under .... \$5**

For questions, call either Pat (225-9459) or Shirley (461-9224).

## Accepting Your Feelings

“There is a time for everything ... a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.”  
–Ecclesiastes 3:1,4

God wired us with emotions and we need to allow them to accompany us on the road of life instead of pretending they don't exist or really matter.

His Word provides the bounce of perspective we need. It picks us up. Takes our hand and urges us forward. Leads us to His presence. Gives us permission to feel, to be sad. His grace gives the strength we need to handle the hard emotions. His compassion calmly covers our aches as we go to Him in prayer.

The Bible tells us to give thanks in everything. And that God has treasures hidden in dark places that can be found when we search for them. We should thank God in the midst of our grieving. There's a power in praise that doesn't negate sorrow, but does soothe and soften it.

As we lift our weary heart to His, we are held by a loving Comforter who catches tears and willingly shares in sadness. The Lord is compassionate and loving. He knows the details of our life and the burdens of our heart. We should bring them to Him now and give Him thanks. Choose to trust Him in the good and the bad. Ask Him to help you rely on Him and not on yourself.

## Can We Trust Our Conscience?

2 Corinthians 1:12

The conscience looks at thoughts and actions to determine if they are in line with a person's principles. It is important to keep our internal monitoring system well maintained so it will be trustworthy. For our moral alarm to sound at the right time and for the right reason, we must:

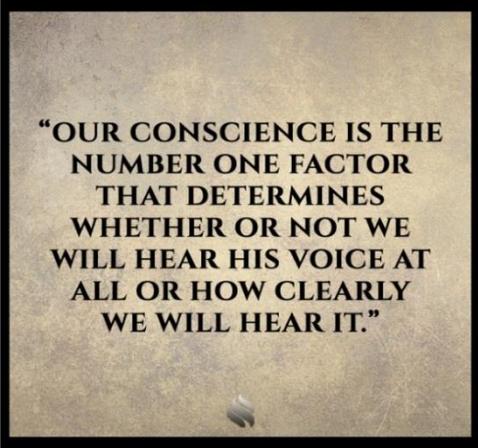
Accept Scripture as our standard for behavior. 2 Timothy 3:16 says, “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.” If we choose to adopt our culture's values, which are often at odds with the Lord's, our conscience will be unreliable. Instead, we want our radar to alert us to the possibility of going off course.

Align our thinking with the Lord's. Romans 12:2 says to renew our minds. It is necessary and ongoing work to combat what this unbelieving world accepts as true and right.

Apply God's Word to daily living. When our habits reflect godly values, our conscience will become more sensitive to what is right and wrong.

In addition, it is essential that we rely on the Holy Spirit for understanding. Our conscience by itself is of some usefulness, but it becomes indispensable when accompanied by the Spirit's guidance (John 16:13).

The Scriptures teach us how to live—with regard to our thought life, conduct, and emotions. As we fill our mind with the Lord's standards and wisdom, our conscience will become increasingly trustworthy because it is based on what's important to our heavenly Father.



**“OUR CONSCIENCE IS THE  
NUMBER ONE FACTOR  
THAT DETERMINES  
WHETHER OR NOT WE  
WILL HEAR HIS VOICE AT  
ALL OR HOW CLEARLY  
WE WILL HEAR IT.”**