



March 2020

Paula's Pondering

Recently the Bishop announced that Sarah Wimberly is his choice to replace me as pastor when I retire in June. Sarah and her husband, Andy, live in Independence, and she is currently the pastor at Northern Boulevard UMC. Sarah's first Sunday at St. Mark's will be June 28th.

She has sent a picture of her family and another of herself, as well as a short biography, which I have included below.

I know you will welcome Sarah and Andy, and will be praying for her and for the Northern Boulevard congregation during this time of transition.

Blessings,

Pastor Paula

Sarah Schofield Wimberley is the senior pastor of Northern Boulevard United Methodist Church in Independence. Ordained in 2011, she received her M. Div. from Saint Paul School of Theology in 2006. A resident of Independence since 1997, Rev. Wimberley is active in several social and business groups, including the Englewood Business Association, Junior Service League, the Independence Ministerial Alliance, Inspire (ISD volunteers), Clay County mediators, Lifeworks Family Treatment, and the Kansas City Workers' Rights Board and has pastored churches around the metro area while raising two children here, Sam and Abby. A former social worker and case manager, as well as professional grant writer and fundraiser, Rev. Wimberley has a M.A. in English also, is certified in group therapy and conflict mediation and has been working with the area marginalized. She is part of a large extended (mostly United Methodist) family, who all live on the same block right off the Independence Square.

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Upcoming Events

- 3/1 Communion
- 3/14 UMW St. Pat's Potato Bar

Sunday Sermons

- 3/1 Creed: I Believe John 3:16-18
- 3/8 Creed: The Father Almighty Exodus 3:13-14
- 3/15 Creed: His Only Son, Our Lord John 1:14
- 3/22 Creed: I Believe in the Holy Spirit Acts 1:8
- 3/29 Creed: Holy? Catholic? Church? Matthew 16:18



Birthdays

March

- 3/1 Carl Bell
- 3/2 Jackie Leffingwell
- 3/4 Neil Callahan
- 3/6 Mark Costanza
- 3/15 Chuck Townsend
- 3/17 Pat Prins
- 3/19 Adreal Bell
- 3/20 Carol Ann Buhrle
- 3/23 Shirley Westervelt
- 3/26 Hailey Geib
- 3/30 Ruth Crossley
- 3//31 Tom Stults

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.

- 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

Prayer Chain



- Carol Buhrle.....796-3630 or 225-8174
- Shirley Weaver461-9224 or 716-1184
- Chris Pauley.....571-3922
- Gayle Elliott257-9655
- Arletta Cahill.....600-9203
- Flora Costanza.....914-8034
- Sandy Bower373-5603
- Anna Inman(660) 232-1221
- Jackie McMenemy461-7577



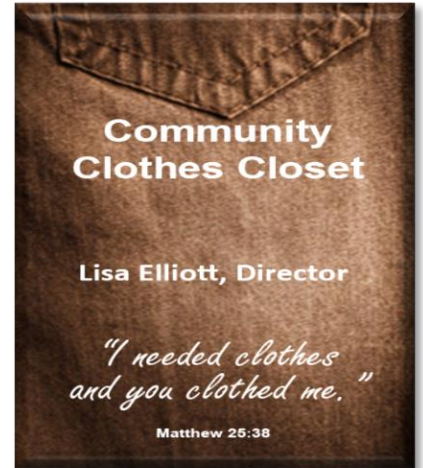
Bread Of Life Food Pantry

The Food Pantry and Clothes Closet are open:

Monday 9—NOON
 Wednesday 3—5:00pm

2020	FAMILIES	PEOPLE	ITEMS OUT	ITEMS IN
JAN	62	141	379	1125

Heidi Maurice, Director



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

UMM Minutes

Eight (8) in attendance for the **February 8** meeting. Last meeting minutes and treasury report were approved. Treasury balance is \$3,925.25.

Old Business: Sweetheart Dinner on February 29.

New Business: New ideas for outreach to church & community: Easter breakfast. Fireworks help for fund raising event. Saturday, April 4 for work day at church.

Next Meeting is March 14, 2020. Bolens are cooking biscuits and gravy, hash browns and scrambled eggs for next meeting. Tom Stults will give devotional. James Brison will give a testimony.

UMW Minutes

Six (6) in attendance for the **February 5** meeting. They opened with reciting the Purpose of the United Methodist Women. Last meeting minutes were approved. There was no Treasurer's report.

Old Business: It was unanimous to combine a check from UMW for \$80.04 with the current amount in the church designated fund for Heifer International for a Milk Menagerie (four milk-providing animals).

New Business: UMW will hold its annual St. Pat's Potato Bar on Saturday, March 14, from 11am to 2pm. Linda Roberts Will chair this event. Carol Marks will speak with Richard Cash of Little Richard's Family Restaurant about preparing 100 white and 25 sweet potatoes for sale that day. Adults will be \$5 and children ten and under will be \$3. Set up and decoration will be on Friday, March 13 at 4pm.

It was unanimous to hold the annual cookie baking for making Chuck Wagon Cookies this year. Funds will be dedicated to Apportionments. Assignment of responsibilities will begin in early May.

Next Meeting is March 4, 2020.



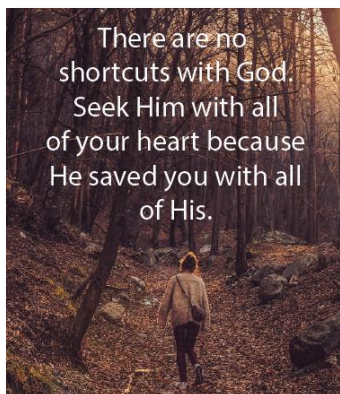


**ST. PATRICK'S
BAKED POTATO BAR**



**Saturday
March 14
11-2pm**

**Adults.....\$5
10 & under.....\$3**



Shortcutting the Will of God

Genesis 16:1–6

We live in a fast-paced culture and are accustomed to quick results. Waiting appears to be an activity of past generations.

It's no surprise, then, that we have a hard time if God doesn't answer a prayer right away. But when we refuse to be patient, our only option is to step out of His plan. Today's passage tells how Abram and Sarai (later Abraham and Sarah) took matters into their own hands because they did not like the Lord's timetable.

Ten years had passed since God promised them a son, and Sarai was aging. So she and Abram decided to let her servant Hagar bear a child for them. Sarah eventually did give birth in her old age, but that lack of patience led to great strife—for their family and for us today. Much of the tension in the Middle East can be traced to two people groups: the descendants of Hagar and of Sarah.

Why would a godly couple choose a path of self-sufficiency? First, their intense desire for a child clouded their thinking. Sarah desperately wanted a son—which was a basis of women's worth in that culture. Next, they succumbed to wrong thinking. After years of childlessness and longing, they began to think that perhaps the Lord needed human help. Finally, they believed this faulty reasoning, and both gave in to impatience.

These traps still pose a danger today. We're not immune to strong desire, human reasoning, or the influence of others. Impatient by nature, we could easily justify taking action in our own strength. The best advice is to listen, obey, and wait. God's timing is perfect, and we don't want to miss His best.

Praying in a Crisis

Psalms 86:1–13

When life is moving along smoothly, it's easy to say, "God answers prayer." But a crisis can bring doubt, especially if the Lord is not responding as quickly as we might like. That's when we may be tempted to bargain with God as if He could be manipulated into acting on our behalf. However, the goal of prayer is not to get God to do what we want but to bring our concerns to Him, trusting that He will answer in His own way and time.



Waiting on the Lord is fairly easy when we're not facing anything urgent. But difficulties and suffering tend to make us impatient. We may even begin to find fault with God, thinking that if He truly loved us, He would intervene and bring relief.

As we seek the Lord for help, David's prayers in the Psalms provide wonderful patterns for us to follow. He faced many dire situations and continued to turn to God. Today's passage from Psalm 86 starts with an urgent cry for help, followed by a reminder to the heavenly Father that David belongs to Him. Then he recounts God's character—gracious, good, ready to forgive, and abundant in lovingkindness to all who call on Him (vv. 3–5). These characteristics are the basis for trust.

Knowing who God is enables us to trust Him through the crises of life. Because He is faithful, we know that He will keep His promises. His holiness causes us to examine our life and repent of any sins that are hindering our prayers. And His mercy, grace, and love give us the comfort we need to endure hardship.