

SLB don't forget our Annual Visioning and Goal Setting Retreat!

Friday, Sept. 19 5-8pm and Saturday, Sept. 20 8am-4pm

At the Fusch Center (watch for email with more info)

*Overarching all goals: increase **innovation** and **creativity** in our church life and ministries*

Goal: Relational Connections: *To create opportunities for **intergenerational** relationships through activities, worship, and ministries that purposefully connect different generations in our church and community to make disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Mary Beth is about halfway through Discipleship Coach training which will be used to partner with members of all ages to grow in their discipleship path. She will also be attending Leadership Institute at the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City at the end of September. She will be attending several sessions on intergenerational ministry.

Our church has been selected to be part of a small church cohort of Growing in Grace. This training over 2 years of participation will focus on enhancing children's experience in worship. The initial training session will be in October.

Goal: Outward Focus: *Create a culture of outward focus beyond the walls of the church that nurtures relationships with our neighbors, guests and community.*

Webb Care Closet continues to be staffed by several of our congregation with much work to do providing clothing to students and families. This is a great example of our congregation joining with a worthy ministry meeting needs in our community. We have become aware that Laurie Rose may be retiring after this year and will need help in sustaining this ministry. Our church's role will be discussed at our next Mission Team meeting

Pastor Liz leads worship monthly at local nursing homes and Mary Beth continues to teach weekly bible studies at RASLC assisted living throughout the year.

We received a phone call from Nick, director of Pine Lake Camp while the 4 boys from Boys and Girls Club were at camp last week. He just wanted to let us know how much fun those boys were having and that they were already talking about coming back to camp next year. Nick had given each of them a Bible as well. Nick also put an article in the UMC newsletter about our church identifying and sponsoring these boys being able to attend camp. Praise God!!!

Update on the Lucien family. They had their hearing with the immigration judge virtually on Monday, Aug. 18. "The request to stop deportation was denied. However, they still are here legally until their asylum application is heard or until February 3 when the TPS (temporary protective status) expires. Please continue to keep this family in your prayers.

Goal: Energizing Congregational Participation: *Creating ways the congregation can actively participate in worship and ministries both within the church and in our community.*

Pastor Liz continues to attend cottage meetings to get to know members and friends of our congregation and for them to meet and get to know her as well. Sign up to attend one of these gatherings or host one if you haven't already done so.

Congregation continues collecting medication bottles for St. John's Green Team. Jim Shear will be helping with this collection.

Tina Straw, one of our SLB trustee reps, has been keeping the congregation apprised of our options in replacing the AC unit in the sanctuary. A survey of the congregation was taken and members are encouraged to attend the next SLB meeting to give their input.

Our "outdoor" worship and picnic was held indoors due to inclement weather, but was enjoyed by all. We will continue to look for opportunities to get out in nature and beyond the walls of the church for worship, fellowship and service.

Several of our lay speakers have been and will be preaching at Lime Ridge and Sandusky UMC's in July and August as these congregations are waiting to be supplied with a pastor. (A new pastor has been identified and should be moving to their parsonage soon!) We are happy to support our sister congregations in ministry.

What a lot of work, love and care went into a very successful Youth Rummage Sale held last week! Youth and adults put in many hours preparing for and running the sale, including church bakers. Our community was blessed with low cost clothing and household items and invitations to be a part of our church family. This annual ministry has become an RUMC tradition in our community.