



Mt. Ida & Joplin United Methodist News

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April



Vital Signs are here again!

"But what are *Vital Signs*?" I hear you ask!

Vital Signs is the name given to a day of workshops put on by the Arkansas Annual Conference each year. A keynote speaker is brought in, and workshop leaders are recruited from around the state with the goal that participating churches will come away from the day with tools and materials that will help them in their mission and ministry.

The brochure outlining the workshops for this year states: "Vital Signs provides annual training for pastors and laity searching for ways to grow their congregations both spiritually and physically. The keynote speaker and workshop leaders provide hands-on and practical training that participants can implement in their local settings, regardless of size."

Vital Signs will be held Saturday, April 18, at Lakewood UMC in North Little Rock. We'll start with worship at 9:30, and end at 3:45. Registration deadline is April 6.

Both churches have brochures in the office to guide you in choosing 2 workshops to attend. There are 15 choices! You can also find help online at arumc.org.

Let the church office know your choices and we'll register as a group. Then prepare to learn how to take the church's...

Vital Signs.

Brother Ted



- April 5 Palm Sunday worship**
- April 9 Maundy Thursday Service @ Joplin UMC, 6:00 p.m.**
- April 10 Good Friday Service @ Mt. Ida FUMC, 7:00 p.m.**
- April 12 Easter Sunrise Service @ Mt. Harbor Marina, 6:30 a.m.**
Easter Worship Service @ Mt. Ida FUMC, 11:00 a.m.

Hot Springs First UMC is organizing a mission trip to Rio Bravo, Mexico April 27- May 3. Mission work will include medical, dental, vision services and construction work. Participants must make their own plans to meet in McAllen, TX April 27. Cost is \$200 per person plus travel expenses. Interested parties may contact Linda Suite at 501-991-3838 for more information.

MUMC Flowers

A "Flower Calendar" has been hung in the stairway between Sunday School rooms to coordinate fresh flowers for the Sanctuary. If you would like to be responsible for providing fresh flowers, please sign up on the calendar.



JOPLIN UMC LADIES FELLOWSHIP

The Spring Festival and Craft Show planned for May 2nd is cancelled. But save the date of June 12! We are planning a BBQ dinner and silent auction for that evening. Details will be announced soon.

We hope to see you there!

The Intercessory Prayer Team had an emotional burning of the prayers on March 14th with prayers, songs, readings from Glenna Lybrand and Joan Irons that fit the occasion perfectly.



After the burning of the prayers, and while they were cooling down to be distributed on the church grounds Emma Wengert gave her testimonial, between the two the team left with a new understanding of the prayer team as well as the Susanna Group. Personally, I don't know what I would do without these ladies at my side. Sometimes we tend to forget to always say Thank You and I would like to take this time so say THANK YOU to each and everyone, you know who I'm talking about. We also wish to thank all of you for your continued support with your prayer team. Sometimes we don't get the answer that we are wanting, we sure do get the answer we need.

The next Circle will meet May 2nd.

All are Welcome!

Random Acts of Kindness

Boys in the Teen and Pre-teen Sunday School Classes at MIUMC have delighted some members of our church with special projects. Boys from Judy Crane's class, Anthony and Neal Appleby, and from Richard Ray's class, Phillip Appleby and Ryan McNabb, delivered "Comfort Baskets" to older people of our church and visited in their homes. In the pretty wooden baskets were not only practical articles such as stationery, Kleenex and tape, but also delicious Ghirardelli chocolates, a cinnamon candle and a cuddly little teddy bear. One Sunday we came out of church to find that Neal and Anthony had washed our car windows!

Perhaps you saw in our county paper the photo of the same boys who had given \$25 to support the Montgomery County Food Pantry, and then issued a challenge to others in the church to do likewise. The challenge has immediately stirred other classes and individuals to add their support.

The good works of these boys reminded us of one line from an old hymn: "By their love we will know they are Christians." God bless the boys and their teachers, Judy Crane and Richard.

Thank you from Recyclers

Recently the Wesleyan Sunday School Class at MIUMC sent St. Jude's Ranch for Children three boxes of trimmed greeting card fronts for the youth there to recycle and prepare for sale. The funds are used for youth activities.

We thank the Fishermen's Sunday School Class for sharing the cost of shipping 4,050 card fronts, and thank all who helped us collect them.

Dinners at First Church continue each Thursday night at 6:00 pm. Everyone, (do I need to say that again?); EVERYONE is invited! Each week, a small group plans and prepares a menu. *A cookbook with recipes to feed 50 is available for any group needing inspiration.* Donations collected each week are used to reimburse all expenses. Our goal is to keep the meals simple (and cheap!), with the emphasis on fellowship. Any night musicians and singers are present, we just may break out in an good ole hymn sing! And remember; the best meals are never those we keep to ourselves, but those we share with our neighbors. **So get out there and invite someone to come receive a blessing.**



Order
Easter
Lilies
Now!



To place a lily in honor or in memory of someone, please order ASAP!
For Joplin, contact Jo Krouse at 867-3090.
For Mt. Ida, contact Mary Black at 867-5243.
Also, bring a flower Easter morning to make the cross bloom!

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, May 3 6:00 p.m.
**Ministerial Alliance Prayer
Service @ Mt. Ida**

Sunday, May 10 6:00 p.m.
Mothers Day Concert @ Mt. Ida
Southern Plainsmen Quartet

Friday, May 15
Mt. Ida High School Graduation

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