



The LUMinary

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“Time, Talents, and other Stuff”

“As a member of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?”

Perhaps you recognize this question. It actually comes from our United Methodist Hymnal as part of the liturgy for welcoming new members into the church. While it is among a number of other questions about being faithful Christians in Christ’s holy church, it is actually the *only* question that we ask of new members who are joining Laingsburg United Methodist Church. Personally, I’d like to think it’s the *only* question we ask because it’s the one question that really gets at the heart of our expectations of what it means to be in Christian community with one another. In other words, yes...it’s part of our agenda. ☺

But what do I mean? Take a look at what is listed in this question: prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We already covered the financial asking and giving in October’s article, so we don’t have to look at “gifts” today, but there are still four others.

Prayers: We can never lose sight of why it is that prayer remains an important part of our lives together in Christian community. When we pray, not only for one another, but for the church, what we are doing is seeking to align our actions, decisions, ministries, programs, building usage, and so much more with God’s desire for our lives together, and for our work as the church. When you pray, you are faithfully participating in the ministries of this congregation.

Presence: Never underestimate the ministry of presence. Often, when I find myself talking with others about ministry, I’ll share that 90% of ministry is “just showing up.” Certainly, doing good ministry takes a lot of work – and it should take a lot of good work – but it also takes being present. Faithfully participating in the ministries of this church takes showing up. Now, that doesn’t mean that you have to sign up for every Bible study, bring your grandma’s meatloaf to every potluck, or sit on every committee. That’s not the point. A ministry of presence is about understanding that being part of a Christian community

requires more than just a pew presence, but a presence in the community. It requires presence when children are looking for a safe place to be after school. It requires presence when one of us is hurting and needs compassionate ears to hear us.

Service: Service can be done well in many different ways, but it always resembles the humility, compassion, passion, love and grace of Jesus. When you tutor a student, provide food for a funeral luncheon, cut the church grass in the summer, or participate in the work of a church committee, you are serving, so long as you serve for the sake of Christ and others, and not for your own gain. When you take time to go on mission trips, whether next door or around the world, and you serve like Christ on his knees washing the feet of another, you are serving. This, too, is part of being in authentic Christian community.

Witness: Sharing our story, not of how great we are, but of how great God is and of what God has done, and is doing in our lives, we are witnessing to the good news of God’s love (*gospel* actually means “good news”). But witnessing doesn’t take bullhorns and hand-painted signs on street corners. It takes relationship building (showing up), it takes humility and compassion (service), and it takes prayer to connect us with God’s will and desire for our lives. I often think of the words often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: “Preach the gospel always. If necessary, use words.”

So, here is the part of our agenda in this long series of articles on the (not so hidden) agenda of the church: we *want your time and talents*. There, I said it. We need your prayers, we need your presence, we need your service, and we need your witness.

May the work we do change the world,

Pastor Brian



What is a Grandparent? (according to 8 year olds)

Grandparents don't have to do anything except be there when we come to see them. They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run. It is good if they drive us to the store and have lots of quarters for us.

November Volunteers:



Coffee Hour:

- 4: Larry & Henrietta Sparkes
- 11: Tom & Sandy Turek
- 18: Helen Novak/Martha West
- 25: Jean Austin/Cathy Chubb

Head Usher: The Brewer Family

COMMITTEE CORNER

Trustees:

Our group of Trustees continue to make sure things are running smoothly in the church and the parsonage. Thank you!

Missions Work Area:

Missions has several opportunities for us to donate and help others now and before the end of the year. Watch for these opportunities.

Stewardship Story:

As the Finance Committee, we continue to be grateful for your continued financial support of the ministries of this church and of our greater connection as members of The United Methodist Church. On Sunday, October 28th, our treasurer, Katrina Hill, shared with the congregation a particular area of our finances where some bolstering would be of great help: our apportionment giving. She shared that, as of the end of September, we've only been able to pay \$5,700 of a total \$15,043 that is due throughout the year.

To report on that (as of Monday, October 29th), we continue to be blessed by the generosity of the congregation that gave a pink envelope offering of more than \$600 on the Sunday that this announcement was made. While there is still a ways to go to meet this obligation, as this church has done for years and years, there is some wonderful news to glean from this:

It is easy to focus on the challenges, but we should also name the successes! The finances of the church continue to be healthy, and work is being done to even improve our financial standing as we move into the future. Bills, utilities, and salaries are being paid; ministries are being funded; and generosity from the congregation, as well as from the community, continues to flow. Our apportionments just happen to be an area where we're currently struggling.

There are still two months left in the year. This means there are two more Pink Envelope Sundays, as well as opportunities for you to give additionally to the apportionment fund if you are able to and so choose. We hope that you will prayerfully consider this! Our apportionment dollars are a sign that we are a part of something that is much larger than ourselves. We have the benefit of being a connected denomination, meaning that we work together. We support ministries together, we engage the world together, and we share much in common! This is something that we ought to celebrate!

While much more could be shared, and will be shared in the coming months, our hope is that this snapshot of one area of our finances will help you to understand the good we can do, and will do, with the resources God has entrusted to us.

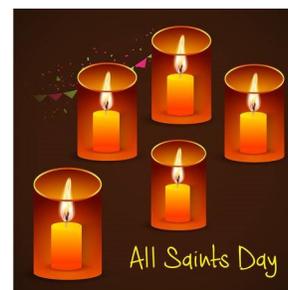


- 1: Sandy Bird
- 9: Pat Hibbard
- 9: Carl Hill
- 11: Floyd Koerner
- 16: Carrie Rathbun Hawks
- 16: Clint Hawks
- 18: Mary Walker
- 19: Lloyd Plont
- 21: Emalee Hobbs



November 4

Remembering the Saints



On this All Saints Sunday, we have a special 10:00 am worship service to name and remember all of the loved ones who are no longer with us in this life. This is a very meaningful service, and everyone is invited to come and have your loved ones named.

We always love new people, but on BIG Invite Sundays, all of us will make extra sure to invite new people to come and experience what we're about here at Laingsburg UMC!

Laingsburg Annual Charge Conference

Tuesday, November 13 at 7:00 pm

We will worship together with our Missional Hub churches then break out for individual Charge Conferences. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Jerry DeVine, will be here to lead us. Come and celebrate all that we're doing here at Laingsburg United Methodist Church!



Chili Cookoff

Sunday, November 11 after worship we will all enjoy a chili lunch. Please bring chili to share. This is not really a contest, so everyone is a winner! A free-will offering will be taken for missions, specifically Red Bird Mission, missionary Sonya Luna, and UMCOR.

Tuesday Tutoring

Our "Tuesday Tutoring" at the Church, in cooperation with the Laingsburg Elementary School, is well underway. Beginning with a snack provided by volunteers at 3:15, students (1st-5th grade) arrive and stay for tutoring from 3:30-4:30pm. We still need your help. If you are interested in learning more about being a "Tuesday Tutoring" volunteer, please call or email the Church. We are set for now with snacks, but during the year we will need donations of non-perishable snacks (i.e. Goldfish Crackers, juice boxes, etc.).

Christmas Dinner Theater

Calling all musicians, singers, actors, comedians, dancers and bell ringers! We are looking for everyone to share their talents for our First Annual Christmas Dinner Theater at Laingsburg UMC on **December 8** at 5pm. If interested in participating, sign up on the clip board. There will be a potluck during the show, so don't forget to bring a dish to pass!



Classical Bells are returning!

December 15 at 7:00 pm

No pre-sale of tickets this year.

Save the date! More details to come.

The Core Youth Group will be serving a **pasta dinner** from 5:30-6:30 pm before the concert. Cost for both events is by donation.



"THE CORE" YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Core gets ready for busy end of year!

The 2018 Rake-and-Run is in the books thanks to our annual partnership with other area youth groups. We gathered Oct. 21 and raked (or blew) leaves from yards along Crum Street. The kids and adults had a blast! Afterward, there were games, food and fun.



The group has kicked off its new study and discussion program, aptly named "Core." We'll keep you updated on how this is going. At our meeting on Nov. 11, Veterans' Day, we hope to have a military chaplain visit with the kids to talk about his experiences being a witness to our soldiers. Thanks to Pastor Brian for suggesting this idea to the kids, who jumped on it!

Pasta, Popcorn & Bells Fundraiser

Exciting news! The Classical Bells will again be coming to perform at LUMC, this time as part of the Pasta, Popcorn & Bells Fundraiser for The Core. We're jingling with excitement! The money raised will help our students who want to go to the National Methodist Youth Conference coming up in July in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Dec. 15 at 5:30 pm when the youth will offer a pasta dinner in the Fellowship Hall just before the Classical Bells concert. They'll also be selling cash-and-carry Wooden Crate Popcorn Dec. 9-16, including the night of the show. Wooden Crate is based in Owosso and offers a fresh, delicious, locally made assortment of popped goodies.

If you've heard the Bells group play here before (Pastor's mom, Darcie, is a member), you know how amazing, entertaining and humorous this talented group of ringers is. If you haven't seen them yet, you're in for a big treat! Bring family, friends and neighbors. **We are not selling tickets in advance, so seats will go quickly!** Instead, a free-will offering will be taken by the youth. We're thankful to have an anonymous donor who has paid the group's fee so 100 percent of the profits go to Core!



More details about the Pasta, Popcorn and Bells Fundraiser will be announced soon. In the meantime, plan for a wonderful evening of dinner and a show...all for a good cause!



November 4, 2018 - Remembering the Saints

December 2, 2018 - The start of Advent and preparing for Christmas

This first Sunday of December is also the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is the time when we prepare for Christmas by thinking about all of the preparation, thinking, and even waiting that Joseph, Mary, and others did just before Jesus was born. Be sure to come and see all of the Christmas decorations, fresh greens, and sing the traditional hymns of Christmas.

New people are *always* welcome, but on these "BIG INVITE SUNDAYS," all of us will make extra sure to invite new people to come and experience what we're about here at Laingsburg United Methodist Church!



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