



ສະບາຍດີ (Saibaidee), Hello from Laos!
 I'm sitting here with our treasurer, Nang Nyai, who is proudly showing me the accumulation of funds coming in from the Advance for the Suntisouk Language and Vocational Center. With Marshall First UMC's sizable \$2,800, we are now able to start up the school year with a whole lot of "Amen!"s and "Hallelujah!"s.

Let me tell you how your generous giving is currently being used.

I recently hired a full-time caretaker of the Center for \$70 a month, a total of \$840 per year. Suher lives at the Center, in one of the empty classrooms. This income is now

helping him support his mother in the countryside and his brother, now attending college. He is also an active member of our Laos UMC praise team.

The Center enrollment is increasing! From September onward, we will be using more classrooms, which means more tables. I ordered 12 tables (\$60 each) and 1 metal cabinet (\$120) for textbook storage. These are being delivered the first week of September.

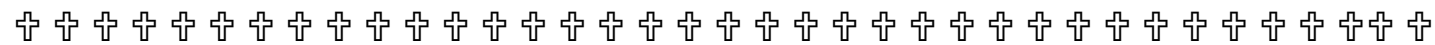
Celebrating my Laos staff's special events is important. The 7 here have families to support and many weekly church activities to lead, meaning they are very busy. To make our time together special, I celebrate birthdays (cake and outside meal), family members' special news (births, weddings, children's high test scores) and overcoming illness or financial difficulties. Having your funds available for planned or last-minute happenings is such a boost to our spirits.

Lastly, upkeep of the Center is paramount in keeping our students and ourselves safe. This is an old building complex that we rent. We are plagued by roof and ceiling repairs, leaking faucets, and electrical issues. With money readily available, there is no need for us to delay in taking care such things.

While you may never visit Laos, know that support for myself and the staff here through your Advance dollars is making a huge difference in our lives and our service to the Lord.

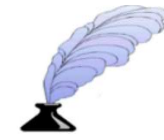
Blessings to you all!

Connie Wieck, serving in Laos as Director of the Suntisouk Language and Vocational Center.



MMA Thrift Shop is up and running in their new location at 143 Maple Street. Please consider volunteering a few hours or more each month. (There are many different jobs to be done, both food and distribution)- Tuesday's from 2PM-4PM (1:30-4:430 on the 4th Tuesday)- and for the Thrift Store operation – Monday's, Wednesday's, & Saturday's 8AM-12Noon. Stay for the entire shift or help the amount of time you have. This is a wonderful way to share the love of God to those less fortunate. And don't forget- EVERYONE can shop at the Thrift Shop!

THE MESSENGER



October 2024

From the Pastor's Pen

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As many of you know, I like to garden. Admittedly I am not all that good at it, but I find it interesting, relaxing, and satisfying when it all goes right, and I can enjoy the produce coming from plants that I planted and nurtured. But as with most things in life, no matter what method you use, gardening is not easy, it takes work and is not always successful. This year I did not get to plant everything I wanted to and even with a high tunnel greenhouse to protect my plants the pest pressure was extreme. Just when I thought I had dealt with one pest well and got my plants growing again, another would come along in full attack mode, and my plants would suffer a set back again. Just this last week I had finally found the magic formula, the pests where all gone, and I had an abundance of produce getting ready for harvest. But as you know, we had high winds, and my greenhouse took a direct hit. There I stood, assessing the damage, and wondering if I would ever get a break. It was in that moment that I was reminded of what I tell Becky all the time about my garden, "It is all an experiment" I will learn from this too. Becky and I then began to think of all the possibilities of how we could make the greenhouse and our growing systems better so that Grandpa's Garden could live up to its potential.

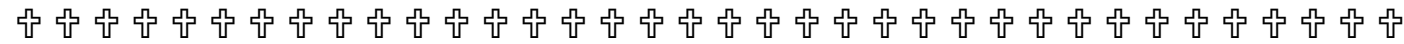
The truth is all the events, all the joyful and difficult situations of life, can be looked at through the lens of pessimism and defeat or they can be looked at with the lens of "what can I learn from this situation in order to make my life and the lives around me better, as I seek to bring glory and honor to God."

Recently, I watched a video about the giant sequoia tree. The tree is planted from the seeds inside a two-inch pinecone. There is a problem though, the little pinecone will only fulfill its potential through fire. The pinecone takes two years to mature and then waits for a forest fire. The fire melts the resin, releasing the seeds and allowing them to be planted in the ground with the potential of growing to three hundred feet tall and producing thousands of pinecones over its 5000 year life. With fire comes growth, sure for a while it looks like the price is too high, but without the fire growth simply won't come.

Our church is currently going through the fire. We are in conflict; it is tempting to simply give up and quit. We think why did this have to happen in our church? Why can't we just go back to the way we were? Conflict is a fact of life. Each of us deal with little conflicts daily. Some are so small that we just laugh them off and say O well. Others are big and thorny and we say, "I don't want to even think about it." But when we don't deal with conflict it doesn't just go away. It burns under the surface waiting to break out again. It is much the same way with fire. An unharnessed fire is a danger, while a harnessed fire is productive.



The Family of Peggy Trudeau, Gilbert Clark (Gordon Clark's Brother), Candace Painter, Frederick Shaw (friend of Linda James), Brian Winkleman (brother-in-law of Eric Murphy), Bev Smith, Molly Macke (Patty & John's daughter-in-law), Angie Broncano (Laos missionary with cancer), Eddie Gutierrez, Mike Delp (friend of John & Linda James), Unspoken, Tim Bronkie (Pastor's friend), Gale Glick, Diana Bailey, Tiffany Macke, Millie Swalls (Nora & Brad Swalls' granddaughter), Kinley Nash (Lois & David Nash's granddaughter), Bishop Frank Beard, D.S. Angie Lee, Peg Hintz (Tom Hintz's mother), Julie Krietemeier (Beth Macke's sister), Israel, All Long-term Healthcare Facilities in Clark County, Natural Disaster Victims, Our Missionaries



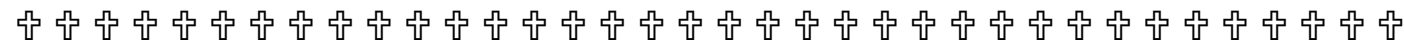
Our Military Personnel:

Our Nation, Our Nation's Leaders, and Armed Forces

Chris Bradford	John Flowers	Daniel Gard
Michael Holmes	John Kuhn	Shelby Sanborn
Lewis Sanborn	Jake Hoalt	Chaplain Jonathon Maloney

Our Homebound & Health Care Facility Residents

Violet Cook	JoAnn Donehue	Ray King
Mary E. Koutsoumpas	Phyllis Boatright	Dan Flowers
Ron Hicks	Sharon Miller	

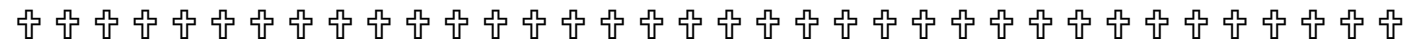


Seniors



Holy Grounds Coffee Group meets every Tuesday. All are welcome to join!

- 1st - Marshall Family Restaurant 9AM
- 8th - Hollybrook 2PM
- 15th - Gypsy Queen 9AM
- 22nd - Lunch at Betty Jan's Kitchen, Paris
11:30. Meet at church 11:00 to ride in the van.
- 29th - Marshall FUMC Fellowship Hall



Thank you all for being so good to us during our recent time of grief as we laid to rest a wonderful mother. Your cards, flowers, gifts, calls, messages, and prayers were appreciated more than words can express. God's love was felt through your care for us, and we felt comfort in His presence.



Pastor Bill & Becky
and the whole Wiggs family



Prayer Focus for the month:
Farming Families



"Breaking Bread Together" - All the women of the church are invited to lunch after Sun. school on Sun., Oct. 13. This is UWF Sunday, & the circles will be hosting the meal. We hope you will put it on your calendar and plan on joining us.

Our Summer reading Program has ended but you can still keep reading! Our Reading Challenge Celebration will be Monday October 7 at Richard's Farm Restaurant. Meet at the church at 5: 30 or meet at 6:00 at the restaurant. Please let Alta know by Friday, October 4 for your reservation.

A total of 130 books were read. The Bluebells read the most in August. Angie Setzer read the most books overall. A big Thank You to all who participated.

CHILI DAY - 2024

Tuesday, November 5th, Election Day!! Please consider helping with our big fundraiser. There will be signup sheets posted at the information desk. We will be serving lunch from 11:00 am till 1:00 pm and dinner from 5:00 pm till 6:30 pm. Take out will be available. We will be in need of many pies, cakes, and desserts. Also, if you would like to support the food booth, all donations are appreciated. We need everyone's help to make this day a success and to enable UWF to support our missions. Thank you. United Women in Faith

Mark Your Calendar:

- UWF Board Meeting - Tues., Oct. 1, 4:00 pm
- IGRC UWF Annual Meeting - Sat., Oct. 5, Springfield, IL
- Reading Challenge Eat Out - Mon., Oct. 7, 5:30 pm Richards Farm Restaurant
- UWF Sunday - Oct. 13, Lori, from Midwest Mission Distribution Center will be our speaker.
- "Breaking Bread Together" - Sun., Oct. 13, 11:00 am
- East District Spiritual Growth Seminar - Sat., Oct. 19, 9:30 - 12, Villa Grove UMC
- CHILI DAY - Tues., Nov. 5**

Weekly Events

- Weaving - Wednesdays from 10 to noon
- Quiet Prayer Time - Wednesdays from 5 to 6 pm

Circles:

- Esther - Thurs., Oct. 10, 7:00 pm
- Faith - Thurs., Oct. 17, 9:00 am Chapel
- Susannah Wesley - Mon., Oct. 21, 6:30 pm
- Sisters In Faith - Thurs., Oct. 24, 6:00 pm



I would like to thank everyone for your prayers for my daughter and son-in-law. They are both doing well. I would also like to thank you for your continued prayers for my sister, Karen Torbeck who will be going thru treatment for lung cancer.

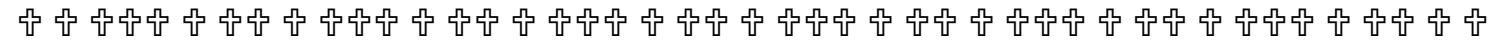
Diana Bailey

October Mission-Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House

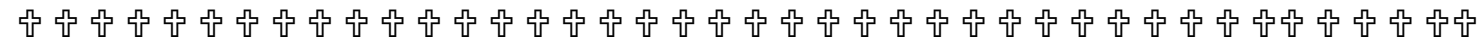
Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House ,located in East St Louis, is an outreach mission supported by the United Methodist Church. The agency is registered as a multipurpose faith-based community center. Its stated mission is "to empower individuals and families to move out of poverty in order to achieve self-sufficiency." A summary of some of the many services provided by Lessie Bates (as it is affectionally called) are listed here:

1. Early childhood intervention programs through the Family Resource Center including childcare facilities.
2. Early childhood education for children ages 3 through pre-kindergarten.
3. After school services with youth development programs to help to at risk youth from age 6 to 17.
4. Job readiness and job placement services including computer lab access.
5. Senior services including a food pantry, Meals on Wheels and a fairly priced cafe and gathering place.
6. Sponsor of Americorps Volunteers (the domestic Peace Corps).
7. Family support services including counseling, emergency cash availability for help with utility, rental and medical needs and clothing and shelter assistance.
8. This past year Lessie Bates has provided services to 15,000 residents in the area. It's outreach has impacted 350 families enrolled in its pre-kindergarten programs. 1,000 meals weekly are provided to seniors. 150 youth are provided employment .

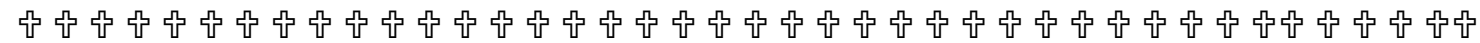
Lessie Bates Neighborhood House is truly making a difference in this poverty stricken and largely forgotten and neglected area. It is a national mission of the United Methodist Church :your mission dollars at work. If you choose to contribute to Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House use the pew envelopes or drop off at the church office. Be sure to designate the agency in your giving.



Keep those hangers coming!! We are still collecting store clothing hangers for the new Thrift Shop. We only need the plastic ones that have the metal hook. Please no wire or rounded plastic hangers. A collection box is in the office hallway. Thank you!



Monday's Pickleball time has changed. It is now at 5PM for the remainder of the season.



Anniversaries

Keith & Diane Lindgren	10/07
Jack & Lisa Davidson	10/12
Daniel & Kaylee DeLisle	10/22
David & Kim Macke	10/22
Michael & Jenn Smitley	10/22
Riley & Ashley Maurer	10/28

Birthdays

Riley Maurer	10/1	Karen Haenig	10/19
Alta Youngdahl	10/2	Ben Macke	10/20
Dianne Rardin	10/3	Clinton Oberlee	10/20
Kathy Brown	10/4	Adam Crumrin	10/21
Max Schneider	10/4	Morgan Macke	10/21
Isabel Arthur	10/7	Lindsay Welsh	10/21
Jacob Cannady	10/7	Steve Macke	10/23
Sara Heighton	10/9	Jan Ridgway	10/23
Chelsey Trudeau	10/9	Chase Paulsen	10/24
Ty Bullock	10/10	Jayci Green	10/25
Wayne Heighton, Jr.	10/10	Turner Graham	10/26
Carole Henderson	10/11	Lexi Mason	10/26
Larry King	10/11	Cory King	10/29
Kayte Macke	10/12	Nis Lovstad	10/29
Carrigan Crumrin	10/13	Larry Rasner	10/30
Jaseigh Veach	10/18	Daisy Bloodworth	10/31

October Volunteers

Greeters- 6th -
 13th - UWF
 20th -
 27th - Jim & Jo Vadas

Ushers - 6th -
 13th - UWF
 20th -
 27th -

Nursery- 6th - Adrienne & Evangeline Hutson
 13th - Erica & Caroline Crumrin
 20th - Amy Canady & Nancy Crumrin
 27th - Tara & Sadie Claypool

Lobby Watch- 6th - Rick Manuell
 13th -
 20th -
 27th -










Altar Flowers

6th -
 13th - Kobe Brannan & Family
 20th - Haley King & Sherri Jordan
 27th -



OCTOBER 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1. Holy Grounds-9AM @ Marshall Family Restaurant  UWF Board Mtg 4PM	2. Power Lunch KFC - 3PM Choir Practice - 5:30PM Prayer Time 5-6PM UWF Choir 6:30PM Nat'l Custodian Appreciation	3. Pickleball 8:30AM	4. Exercise – 8: 30 AM  World Animal Day	5. IRGC: UWF Springfield
6. World Communion Sunday Confirmation Class YF	7. Exercise- 8:30 AM Yoga- 9AM Pickleball 5PM Reading Challenge Eat Out	8. Holy Grounds-2PM @ Hollybrook	9. Power Lunch KFC - 3PM Choir Practice-5:30PM Prayer Time 5-6PM UWF Choir 6:30PM	10. Esther Cir – 7PM Pickleball 8:30AM	11. Exercise – 8:30 AM	12.  Thank a Farmer
13. UWF Sunday Confirmation -4PM Charge Conference @ Paris UMC – 4:30PM Nat'l M&M Day Pastor Appreciation Day	14. Exercise- 8:30 AM Yoga- 9AM  Pickleball 5PM	15. Holy Grounds- 9AM @Gypsy Queen Trustees @ 6PM	16. Power Lunch KFC - 3PM Choir Practice - 5:30PM Prayer Time 5-6PM	17. Faith Circle 9AM Pickleball 8:30AM	18. Exercise – 8:30 AM	19. Come volunteer at the Food & Clothing Bank from 8:30-12
20. Confirmation -4PM	21. Exercise- 8:30 AM Yoga- 9AM  Pickleball 5PM Susannah Wesley 6:30PM	22. Holy Grounds- Marshall FUMC Fellowship Hall – 9AM Come volunteer @ the Food & Clothing Bank from 12-4:30PM Church Council @ 6PM	23. Power Lunch KFC - 3PM Choir Practice-5:30PM Prayer Time 5-6PM	24. Sisters in Faith 6PM Pickleball 8:30AM	25. Exercise – 8:30 AM	26. Nat'l Day of the Deployed
27. Noisy Offering Sunday Confirmation -4PM Jr. & Sr. YF @ 5PM	28. Exercise- 8:30 AM Yoga- 9AM  Pickleball 5PM	29.	30. Power Lunch KFC - 3PM  Choir Practice-5:30PM Prayer Time 5-6PM	31. Pickleball 8:30AM		

