

Koinonia *focus*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | THUMC |

OCTOBER 2020

A REMINDER THAT OUR GOD STILL WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS!

Late in this past month of September, I was returning to the church office from running a few errands in preparation for this year's pumpkin patch. It was early afternoon with a glimpse of Fall in the air. As I exited my vehicle I noticed a young man approaching me from the chapel area. He greeted me by asking "Hey pastor do you remember me?" My personal rolodex began scanning with no file to be found quickly. He said he just wanted to come by again and ask you something and tell you the rest of my story. Because the young man was wearing a mask I struggled to see his full face clearly. I almost asked did his name start with the letter "K".

He said I'm here to tell you, that you saved my life a year ago now. Without knowing what he was referring to and any details, I quickly suggested curiously that we might should give God credit for that not me. He said I'll tell you the rest of the story. He began to share that last year he met me as we were unloading the first load of pumpkins, He shared he was walking down the Mahan sidewalk. As we were unloading with the help of a Teen Challenge crew, he

approached me to ask if he could help out. He shared that I replied quickly, "absolutely, you look more than able." He then stayed for the duration of our task and talked and listened to some of the teen challenge guys as they continued unloading.

He shared he did not tell me his hope was to be given a nice pumpkin after helping. Because he had no cash, his drug dealer had told him to bring a large pumpkin in exchange for his bag of weed. After listening and talking with the guys, he decided he did not need to follow through with the transaction. He also felt led to make a change in his lifestyle and habits. He proudly shared that he had. He was also celebrating having been drug free for a year that week. Praise the Lord! Who new God's mysterious ways included rehab through a pumpkin patch moment. He quickly asked when the pumpkins were coming this year and if he could help the people that saved his life. To God be the Glory-GREAT things he still does!

In His Grip Together, Pastor Ken .

Upcoming Events

- **Oct 1-31 - Pumpkin Patch**
- **Oct 24 & 31 – Pumpkin Patch Food Tent Open (Limited Menu)**
- **Oct 30 - Movie Night in the Patch**
- **Nov 1 - Thank you cards for Veterans are due.**
- **Nov 3 - Election Day**
- **Nov 11 - Veterans Day**

WHATTA YA DO WHEN THE WHALE EXPLODES...?

In January, 2004, a 50+ ton sperm whale, 17 meters (55.8 feet) long, was observed washed up on the beach in Tainan City, Taiwan. It had beached itself and died on or about January 17th. News spread about the huge whale and people crowded the beach to see the monstrosity. After two weeks, researchers at the National Cheng Kung University in Tainan determined that enough of the whale remained to allow an examination by marine biologists. They planned to move the record sized carcass on a flat-bed trailer truck to the research location.

A huge crowd (200 or more) gathered to watch as 50 workers labored to move the whale onto the truck. Vendors sold hot foods and drinks as curiosity seekers braved the cold to watch. It took 13 hours and 3 big lifting cranes to get that whale loaded onto the truck. It then began the journey to the research station. Through the town it went, attracting more attention as people followed in its' wake. Shoppers stopped to watch, shop owners came out to stand on the walkways and visitors waited to observe as the truck slowly made its' way inland. That's when it happened!

That huge whale exploded!

Reports say that gases from internal decay caused the leviathan's entrails to erupt. It splattered sidewalks, vehicles, workers, curiosity seekers...anything and anyone within 100 (a guess) yards. I'll leave the gory details to your imagination. Suffice it to say, it wasn't pretty. Didn't smell too good either.

Let me ask you again, "What do you do when the whale explodes?"

We haven't exactly had a whale explode all over us but, we HAVE had events that covered us with foul residue. COVID 19, job loss, divorce, kidnappings, deaths; we have all had to experience our own baptism by (for want of more descriptive wording) whale guts.

We sometimes think: "Look at this mess! God doesn't know what He is doing; God made a mistake; God doesn't really love me; God doesn't have my best interest at heart; I don't like who I am or who God made me; I am resentful of God's plan for me and what He has NOT given me." We think, "Where is God when I need Him?"

But the Bible gives us a better perspective. Success and riches are not always a sign of God's blessing and lack of success and riches is NOT a sign of God's disfavor. Regardless of our circumstances, God **IS** good all the time and we should look to God for answers to our problems. There is no security without God. Experiencing God's presence is the most important thing in this life. God gives the believer strength to deal with the world as it is, even when the world doesn't conform to personal wishes. How do we master our insecurities? How do we access that strength? We read the Bible, a lot. We pray, a lot. And yes, sometimes we scream out at God asking, "Why?" To win this race, we must continue the journey! We must trust Him! We must give Him a chance to show us the good that He has in store for us.

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:13 "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart". NIV

*msnbc.com staff and news report

PUMPKIN PATCH FOOD TENT

This year we will be selling food in the patch on Saturday October 24th and 31st from 10am - 2pm. We will have a limited menu including canned drinks, chips and Capri Suns.

If you would like to donate any items please bring to the church office:

- ♦ Name brand canned sodas including Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite & Pepsi.
- ♦ 1 oz bags of chips
- ♦ 16 ounce bottles of water
- ♦ Capri Suns



North West District United Methodist Women Annual Meeting 2020



Catch the Fire Pass It on, Keep on Going

Scripture: They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them

Acts 2:3

Virtual 9:30 AM- 12 PM

October 24, 2020



**Our Honored speaker will be the Senior Pastor of
Good Samaritan UMC in Tallahassee, FL**

Rev. Michelle Shrader

Please click on the link below to register for this meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErduCtqT0iHNw69daYAugYhCm4YKnYP_vS

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about how to receive your program book as well as how to join the meeting.

DON'T FORGET...

To turn in your thank you notes to our veterans by November 1st.

There is a box in the narthex.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Laurel Parido 10/01

Dan Papka 10/02

Gayle Harley 10/03

Judy Cochrane 10/04

Amy Clark 10/04

J'Miracle James 10/05

Matthew Lafollette 10/07

Carol Kerzan 10/09

Beth Spradley 10/09

Debbie James 10/10

Carolyn Dean 10/11

Lyndsey Bell 10/11

Betsey Kim 10/12

Patt Freedman 10/13

Madge Fell 10/14

Jeff Hibbert 10/14

Jordan Jackson 10/14

James Hough 10/15

Kelley Smith 10/17

Chris Swick 10/18

Pam Harman 10/21

Harold Palmer 10/22

Amy Jones 10/26

Liz Glass 10/27

John Trotman 10/28

Connie Palmer 10/29

Nora Drewek 10/29

Curt Milner 10/29

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

James & Selina Hough, 10/8

Donald & Cindy Milner, 10/19

HOW TO JOIN THE 2020 VIRTUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

North West District is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting for Charge Conference. Completed forms should be in the district office one week prior to your meeting. The meeting is expected to last no more than 45 minutes. Please provide the below link to any of your congregation members who wish to attend and finally, please designate a recording secretary for attendance and voting. Voting will be by show of hands so those wishing to participate must have a computer with video and audio capabilities. If you have any questions, please call our office at 850/386-2154.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98129603590?pwd=NWxvZ0dVVjNEWHhHZG1JaFptcmY5UT09>

Meeting ID: 981 2960 3590

Passcode: 550281