

New Consecration Sunday

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's Finance Committee has selected the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. New Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's mis-

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IT'S
COMING!
OCT. 28

sionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

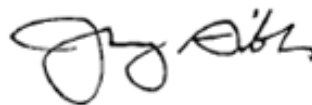
Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed

to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and Church Council members. Since we will make no follow up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.



Johnny Gibbs, Church Council Chairperson



**by Jill Barnett,
Director of Youth
Ministries**

Great Outlook for School Year!

Everything is still moving along well in the LOFT. Seven of our new 7th graders have been participating in the 3:30 Wednesday group and the 6:00 attendance has remained steady at around 20. The youth are busy working on projects and settling into a new school year.

Watch for our "Blessing Bags" Boxes in the narthex, by the office and at the Nursery building entrance. Please bring travel size toiletries, socks & lip balm to add to the bags. Monetary donations can be labeled and dropped in the collection plate to purchase snacks and additional items.

Guest Speakers

We are so excited to welcome several guest teachers in the LOFT over the coming months. Thank you so much Kathy Seward, Cathy Dingler, Mike & Lynda Samons, Brenda Purifoy and Deborah Rice. Being able to separate the youth into small groups really promotes their learning and participation.

Upcoming Service Projects

The LOFT Youth and UMKids are participating in several service projects this fall. Backpack hangers, including crosses, are being assembled to hand out at the local schools. We will soon start rolling silverware for the community meals and making fall treats for our local nursing home residents. We are particularly excited about a long term project of assembling blessings bags to be distributed in our community. The bags will be available in the office for the people who come in for assistance and available for our church members to keep in their cars to distribute as they encounter those in need. We will soon start collecting all kinds of travel size toiletries, socks, snacks and more. Watch for more details. Toothbrushes and toothpaste are being donated by Teale Dentistry (Matt was in youth with me years ago in Hot Springs and is a wonderful servant of God and the community! Thank you Matt!). If anyone has suggestions for other service projects or would like to lead the youth and children in a project, please contact Jill or Robbie.



**by Robbie Atkinson,
Director of UMKids Ministries**

UMKids Return!!

UMKids is off to a great start this Fall with 26 children ready for an exciting new year with some amazing people. We start with snacks as the children arrive from school, then a little playtime before the K-4th head off to music. The 5th & 6th at that time are working on different mission projects. At 4:30 everyone goes to lesson time with their class, pick up time is 5:00.

The 5th & 6th grade along with youth will be making Blessing Bags. I will be sending out a note with information about items we will be collecting.

Volunteers!!

Here are the amazing people helping with your children, Brittany Johnson, Candy Teague, Mary Ann Harper, Jill Barnett, Kay Lindsey, Penny Gassman, Gina Campbell, Roseann Clem, and yes the men are helping also: Brain Smith, Dennis Prince, Mark Hunt, John Jenkins, Phil Clem, Ralph Williams, Lew Waniewski, Steve Efird. A BIG PRAISE GOD FOR YOUR TIME & HELP!!!!

Third Graders get Bibles

Addison Beene and Parker Johnson were presented 3rd grade Bible on Sunday the 16th. It's Been a blessing watching them grow.

Save These Dates:

- October 7 Pet Blessing – Sunday afternoon 4:00
- October 28 Fall Fest – time TBA
- November Sunday school Food Drive – for ROSE
- December Mission Project – TBA
- December 13 Christmas Parade & Cookies with Santa – 7:30pm
- December 19 Christmas Carol & Party

September

Events Calendar

Sunday, Oct. 7

8:30am Alternative Service in Toler Chapel
9:30am Discipleship Classes
10:30am Traditional Service
5:30pm U.M.Y.F. meets

Monday, Oct. 8 - Columbus Day

Office Closed
10:00am Bible Study on Book of Isaiah

Tuesday, Oct. 9

10:00am Clem-West UMW Circle meets
6:00pm Pastor's Study group - What is a Methodist?

Wednesday, Oct. 10

3:15pm UMKids Playtime & Snacks
4:00pm WOW Kids Choir Rehearsal
4:00pm L.O.F.T. Youth Outreach 7th Graders
4:30pm UMKids lesson
5:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal resumes
6:00pm L.O.F.T. Dinner
6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
6:30pm LOFT Youth Outreach 8th - 12th Graders

Sunday, October 14

8:30am Alternative Service in Toler Chapel
9:30am Discipleship Classes
10:30am Traditional Service
2:00pm Ann's Sole Purpose
5:00pm Arnold-Jones UMW Circle meets
5:30pm U.M.Y.F. meets
6:30pm L.O.F.T. Youth Outreach

Monday, Oct. 15

10:00am Bible Study on Book of Isaiah
5:30pm Board of Trustees
6:00pm Third Monday Dinner

Tuesday, Oct. 16

6:00pm Pastor's Study group - What is a Methodist?

Wednesday, Oct. 17

3:15pm UMKids Playtime & Snacks
4:00pm WOW Kids Choir Rehearsal
4:00pm L.O.F.T. Youth Outreach 7th Graders
4:30pm UMKids lesson
5:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
6:00pm L.O.F.T. Dinner
6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
6:30pm L.O.F.T. Youth Outreach 8th - 12th Graders

Sunday, Oct. 21

8:30am Alternative Service in Toler Chapel
9:30am Discipleship Classes
10:30am Traditional Service - 3rd Grade Bible Presentations
5:30pm United Methodist Youth Fellowship meets
6:30pm L.O.F.T. Youth Outreach

Monday, Oct. 22

10:00am Bible Study on Book of Isaiah
5:30pm Board of Trustees
6:00pm Third Monday Dinner for homeless & needy

Tuesday, Oct. 23

6:00pm Pastor's Study group - What is a Methodist?

Wednesday, Oct. 24

3:15pm UMKids Playtime & Snacks
4:00pm WOW Kids Choir Rehearsal
4:00pm L.O.F.T. Youth Outreach 7th Graders
4:30pm UMKids lesson
5:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
6:00pm L.O.F.T. Dinner
6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
6:30pm L.O.F.T. Youth Outreach 8th - 12th Graders

Sunday, Oct. 28 - New Consecration Sunday

8:30am Alternative Service
9:30am Discipleship Classes
10:30am Traditional Service
11:30am Church Dinner in Fellowship Hall
5:00pm Trunk or Treat

Monday, Oct. 29

10:00am Bible Study on Book of Isaiah

Tuesday, Oct. 30

6:00pm Pastor's Study group - What is a Methodist?

Wednesday, Oct. 31

3:15pm UMKids Playtime & Snacks
4:00pm WOW Kids Choir Rehearsal
4:00pm L.O.F.T. Youth Outreach 7th Graders
4:30pm UMKids lesson
5:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
6:00pm L.O.F.T. Dinner
6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
6:30pm L.O.F.T. Youth Outreach 8th - 12th Graders

**PLEASE Remember
Your Prayer Partner.**



It's time to start planning your trunk or booth for Trunk or Treat. Tractor Supply is on board again this year to close Ash Street give us more room for an evening of fun and fellowship. This event is open to the community for children 12 and under.



On Sunday, October 14th, The Missions Committee will be sponsoring the 2nd Annual Sole Purpose where needy children each receive a new pair of shoes and socks.

This year the event takes on a new name, "Ann's Sole Purpose" in memory of Ann Exall who loved all children. The Missions Committee is in dire need of donations for shoes as they'd like to put shoes on 250 children from Malvern Elementary School this year. If you would like to make a donation please drop it by the church office or place it in the collection plate at services and please mark your check for "Ann's Sole Purpose".



The 2018 Harvest of Hope campaign is underway. It raises money each year to provide food for the "Food for Kids Backpack Program" through

the Arkansas Food Bank. The backpacks are distributed to the hungry children in all the schools in Hot Spring County. Over the past 8 years, Harvest of Hope has raised \$146,015.00. Our goal this year is \$25,000. If you would like to make a donation please drop it by the church office or place it in the collection plate at services and please mark your check for "Harvest of Hope".

The Echo is published monthly by First United Methodist Church of Malvern, Arkansas except in the Summer when it is published bi-monthly. Deadline for each issue is the first day of the month.

In order to place a church-related article in the Echo for the next month, please email it to: info@firstmethodistmalvern.org by 10:00am on the first of the month. Suggestions can also be emailed to the same address and we encourage your input.

This edition of The Echo is also available at our website: FirstMethodistMalvern.org/newsletter.html

FIRST METHODIST
Malvern

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