

# OSCEOLA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Your Church at a Glance

July 2018

## Upcoming Calendar

July 5—7 am—Women's Bible Study	Sun. July 15—10 am Osceola & Shelby UMC worship together in Osceola Park 11 a.m. Covered dish dinner	Wed—Sun—We operate lunch stand at the fair
Sun. July 8—9:30 am Adult Sunday School	Mon, July 16—7 am—Administrative board meets	Wed July 25 1-7 Shelby UMC Ice Cream Social at Sr. Center in Shelby
9:45 am Pray with mission team	Thurs. July 19—7 am Women's Bible Study	Sun. July 29—10:45 Worship service
10:00 Mission team leaves	Fri. July 20—noon—Pastor has lunch at Good Samaritan Center	Late afternoon—wind up the lunch stand and bring things back to the church
10:30 am—Coffee in Gathering Place	Sun. July 22—9:30 am Adult Sunday School	Thank you to Kendra, Fran, Penny and Jenni for your hours of work involved in chairing the lunch stand project! This is not an easy job. You are appreciated!!
10:45 am—Worship. Denise Dietz speaking	Fri. July 13—evening- Mission team returns from trip	

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## County Fair Lunch Stand

**Yes, it is our turn to serve breakfast, lunch, supper and a snack in-between to hungry people at the Polk County Fair ~ July 26—29**

**Watch your mail in the next two weeks for the work schedule, pie schedule, etc.**

**Empty ice cream buckets are needed. Please bring them to the church entry or take to the kitchen.**

*With questions please contact:*

*Kendra Gustafson—402-366-6274*

*Jenni Erhart—402-276-7629*

*Penny Rathjen—402-440-1837*

*Fran Wieseman—402-750-9582*

## PIES for the FAIR

Many, many pies are needed to serve the hungry customers at the county fair lunch stand. If you are not a pie baker, there are two other options. Village Pie Maker pies will be acceptable. Otherwise Fran and Penny have made arrangements with two pie bakers to bake pies for you. They are \$16.00 each. We are each asked to furnish three pies. Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary.

Greetings to all!

It seems that many of us are struggling with the many burdens that weigh us down and other trials that seem to take our breath away. It's so true that 'life happens' and we can either bitterly complain or seek the grace and peace of God to guide us through each valley of darkness. I was with my husband, Tom, on Monday a few weeks ago as he prepared to write his newsletter article for Central City UMC. He e-mailed it to me to look at which he does often. It is so beautifully written that I asked his permission to use it in place of the article I had planned to write. I believe his words will resonate with many of us so please receive them as a gift and may they bless you as they did me.

In God's loving mercy and grace,  
Pastor Teri

Sometimes it hurts. Sometimes things happen over which we have no control. Sometimes change is so abrupt and painful it feels like a spear of flame has been thrust into one's heart. Sometimes the fragile illusion of this world is so thoroughly shattered it drives me to my knees seeking the reality of God.

Recently, a Saturday evening phone call did just that. My younger sister, Tery, had died in a freak accident. It broke my heart. My flakey, fearless, funny little sister was gone without even a good bye. I wasn't concerned about her belief in God. I wasn't worried about her place in the hereafter. I just hurt. Wandering the house and shouting "WHY!" at the ceiling did no good. Sobbing in self pity did not mend the break. But kneeling before my Lord and saying "PLEASE" over and over brought a peace I did not expect.

It did not bring my sister back from the dead. It did not give me even a single moment to share that final good bye. But it did remind me that I am not alone. That there is one greater than me. There is one who welcomes us home when the tents in which we live are no longer habitable. And, that One is God almighty, the great I AM. Solace in God is especially made for grief and pain we cannot handle alone. That moment when our defenses are broken down and the deepest part of our souls are exposed in excruciating detail.

I knew I wasn't worthy to call upon God. But I knew I had to ask Jesus to receive her into His kingdom. I don't know what relationship she had with the Lord, that wasn't the point. I needed to voice my sorrow to someone who could make a difference, an eternal difference. On my knees, broken and defeated, I asked Him to accept my little sister home; to greet her as the father greeted his prodigal son. On my knees, I felt the very real presence of peace in Christ.

I don't spend enough time on my knees before God. My dad used to call them his "prayer bones". Too often I say good morning to the creator of the universe over coffee. And, I say good night with a quick thank you as I turn out the lights. It's a shallow, frivolous way to live. It treats the day as something to 'get through' rather than the precious gift of life it is.

You see, we are only granted the greatest of all gifts one breath at a time. The next is not guaranteed. When we focus on the past, we miss the grace of today. And when we focus only on the future, we cast our pearls before swine. My sister was expected to die from a failed liver three years ago. But a miracle surgery saved her. And for these past years she chose to live every day into the gift of life she had received. She recognized how very precious each moment was and did her best to fill it with joy. She loved her husband and family harder than ever before and spoke truth to all.

I will miss her very much. Yet her passing seems temporary to me. There will come a time when we can once again greet each other with a hug. And until that moment, I choose to live a life filled with todays.

God Bless You

Pastor Tom Lucas



You are invited to be at the church this coming Sunday, July 8th, at 9:45 a.m. to pray with and for our youth mission team and sponsors. They will be leaving at 10:00 a.m. with their destination being the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Team members are Mollie Rathjen, Calli Carlson, Calvin Novak, Blaike Bryan, Baili Kumpf and Sydney Roberts. Three members of Calvary Lutheran church are also team members. Sponsors are Pastor Teri Lucas, Pastor Kim Belken and Pastor Kim's father. The team will be part of a sixty member team which will serve through painting, yard work or other simple work projects. They will plan and lead kids programming for children in the community, including Bible lessons, games, crafts and reading. The team will return to Osceola sometime Friday evening. Thanks team and sponsors!!

### *Worship in the Park!*



**What:** Osceola & Shelby U.M.C.s will worship together on July 15th

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Where:** The shelter at the Osceola City Park

Come to worship and hear about the mission team's experiences on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

Following the joint worship service on July 15, everyone is invited to share in a pot luck dinner at the park. Please bring your favorite main dish, salad, vegetable or dessert to share. Beverages and table service will be provided. You may also want to bring lawn chairs. In the event of rain, the worship service and dinner will be held at the church.



Chuck Reichwein attended the Great Plains Annual Conference in Wichita, KS as the delegate from our church. He presented his report to the congregation on June 24. Thank you Chuck for attending and for your interesting report.



This quartet of barbershop singers, “Four on the Floor” was a big hit with the ladies who attended the guest night salad supper on June 20th! They are members of the “Chorus on the Plains” barbershop chorus from Hastings.



By Jane

I am going to share a true story that, when it happened, I told myself I would take this untold story to my grave. That all changed when Charles was washing our new vehicle and discovered a, shall I say, slight crease in the rear bumper. I played dumb for an hour or so and then I came clean.

This is my story: I parked our vehicle at the local grocery store not in the handicapped space or even the empty space next to it. I always figure someone may need this closer parking spot much more than I do. As I recall the parking lot was empty of any other vehicles with the exception of those belonging to the employees. I purchased five or six bags of groceries and as the employee assisted me to my car with the filled bags, I noticed that my vehicle wasn't where I had parked it. It was on the opposite side of the parking lot backed into a parking spot.

The kind employee was looking for someone who was playing a joke on me by moving the vehicle while I was shopping. Trust me there was no one else around. This is where I know that God was watching after me once again. It's like this---

The vehicle doesn't have a key, it has a fob. I'm not certain that I should be entrusted with a fob! One of two things happened: 1) I didn't get the car into 'park' or 2) I just plain didn't hit the stop button to shut the car off. While I was shopping the vehicle coasted across the parking lot and came to rest against the curb. Had I parked one space to the south, the curb would not have stopped the car. It would have continued out the driveway of the parking lot and down the hill and onto the highway. As I said the parking lot was empty. No one pulled in to the parking lot while my driverless car was changing parking spots; no one walked behind the moving abandoned vehicle.

I tremble at the thoughts of what might have, what could have happened had God not been in control. How often does He protect us from dangers we don't even recognize? Thank you Lord walking beside us daily as we fumble through life!

## FOR THOSE USING E-GIVING

Several weeks ago the e-giving process changed. To log into your account or to set up a new account use this

personal URL:

**[giving.ncsservices.org/osceolaumc](https://giving.ncsservices.org/osceolaumc)**

**The website is:**

**<https://giving.ncsservices.org/dl/?uid=ncs-3305>**