

# The Courier



for the Orion United Methodist Church

September 2017

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**Church Staff:**  
David R. Schultz, Pastor  
Karl Bodenbender, Organist  
Andrea Cooper, Choir Carrie McCunn, Bell/Chime Choir  
Amy Killion, Office  
Peggy Crayne & Erin Herring, Custodians

## Perfect Love

On Sunday, August 6\* I preached a sermon about the "Sanctification of America." Little did I realize how timely that sermon would become just a few days later as race-based riots broke out in Charlottesville, Virginia. In the days which followed, pressure was placed on officials throughout the South to remove statues of Confederate soldiers and the like.

As Christians, we are engaged in a growth process called *sanctification*. This is a cooperative process between the believer and the Holy Spirit as we move toward "perfect love," which is how John Wesley described the goal of sanctification.

I don't think sanctification stops with the individual. We are "One Nation, Under God;" that motto was affirmed by the House of Representatives on November 2, 2011. If we are going to proclaim ourselves as "One Nation, Under God," then we as a nation should likewise expect to be engaged in the growth process of sanctification.

Many have pointed out the contradictions of our original U.S. Constitution: although it was rooted in freedom, it did not give freedom to slaves. Fortunately, our Founding Fathers included a way for the Constitution to be amended and in many cases, those amendments—as well as other actions enacted by our government—have led us as a nation on a path toward sanctification. It began in 1791 when the Bill of Rights was ratified and it continued as slavery was abolished; women gained the right to vote; child labor was reined in; and discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin or gender has been outlawed.

Those laws and amendments do not mean we're perfect as a nation; we're not. But we're better than we were.

How are we to address our somewhat sordid past? We may find a clue in the scriptures. The Bible tells us that God removes our sin from us "as far as the east is from the west" (Psalm 103:12). Yet the grievous sins of King David—adultery and murder among them—are still recorded in scripture. And remember, Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away" (Matthew 13:31). One of the mysteries of grace is that God remembers to forget our sin, even when reminders of our

sin are everywhere—in some cases, in the very pages of scripture.

We cannot change our history. But we can learn from our history and avoid the wickedness which was once so ingrained in the culture of our nation. We are called to grow in grace in cooperation with the Holy Spirit. I believe that can apply to individual believers as well as to our nation as a whole.

I don't know much more than you about the recent demonstrations and protests, but I am convinced of one thing: grace has been in short supply. Let us pray. And let us grow in grace.

Yours for the mission,  
*Pastor Dave*

*\*Can be viewed on my Facebook page at August 6, 2017.*

## The "method" in Methodism

Every year our District Superintendent holds an annual organizational meeting for the upcoming year. That annual meeting is called Charge Conference and this year it will be held at 6:30 pm on Thursday, October 19.

In anticipation of that meeting, we will prepare a budget as well as a slate of officers for the coming year. If you are interested in serving our church through a variety of avenues, please contact Pastor Dave. Obviously, the emphasis at this time of year is on filling our committees; however, there are many other ways in which you may serve both our church and the kingdom of God. Let us creatively discover new paths which will bring personal fulfillment to believers and will also bring new believers into the kingdom of God.

## The Chosen Ones

**at the Fall Festival Community Worship Service  
at Central Park – Sunday, Sept. 3, 8:00 a.m.**

Plan to attend this special worship service at Central Park as we welcome back *The Chosen Ones*. Their Southern Gospel music will entertain as well as inspire you. Invite a friend or neighbor to join you. Rain location is Orion UMC.

We hope to see you there!

### **Sunday School Teachers**

2, 3, 4 yr. olds – Michelle Faulkner

Pre-K & Kindergarten – Mandy Browning

1st & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – Erin Herring

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade – Peggy Crayne

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade – Rachel Bollinger & Jon Ditzman

Confirmation – Diane McCunn & Greg McCunn

High School – Tara Miller

Generation XYZ – Self-led by Group Members

The Seekers – Don Berns, Sandy McCreedy

Ladies Small Group – Rachel Girotti

Factory Bible Study Group Leader – Pastor Dave Schultz

Children's Music, Bell/Chime Choirs – Carrie McCunn

Sunday School Secretary – Barb Cooper

*Pastor Dave will also rotate between all Sunday school classes throughout the year.*

### **It's Back! It's Exciting! It's Fun! It's a Quarter Auction & Pasta Dinner!**

Join us Saturday, October 14 in the MAC for our second Quarter Auction & Pasta Dinner. Mark your calendar, and tell friends. There will be many great youth and adult items to bid on. *It's a great, fun way to shop early for Christmas!* If you went last year, you know how much fun it was! Invite others!

### **Pastor Dave's Sunday School Schedule**

Sept. 10 – 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Sept. 17 & 24 – TBD

### **YOUTH NEWS**

**Sun., Sept. 10** – Sunday school for all ages at 9:15 a.m.  
**Sunday, Sept. 10** – Confirmation class begins at 9:15 a.m. and meets at the bottom of the ramp in Fellowship Hall. Parents or a responsible adult are requested to attend this initial meeting with their child.

## Prepare Your Hearts for Sunday

We begin the month with The Chosen Ones who will be ministering at 8 am, Sunday, September 3 in the Band Shell of Orion's Central Park. They will be featured during our Orion Fall Festival community-wide worship service. There will be no services at Orion UMC. However, you may still read Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105; Romans 12:9-21; and Matthew 16:21-28.

I'll be serving Communion on Sunday, September 10. Please read Exodus 12:1-4; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14 and Matthew 18:15-20.

Scriptures for Sunday, September 17 include Exodus 14:19-15:11; 20:21; Romans 14:1-2 and Matthew 18:21-35.

We wrap the month up on September 24 with readings from Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105; Philippians 1:21-30 and Matthew 20:1-16.

Unless otherwise announced, scriptures for the day's liturgist will be underlined.

I'll see you in church  
*Pastor Dave*

### Consecration Sunday

Mark your calendars for our Consecration Sunday to be held October 15. Following the 10:30 service, please plan to attend our Celebration luncheon. A free, catered meal will be served. More details will be in the October *Courier*.

### Adult Bells and Sanctuary Choir News

Rehearsals for the Adult Bell Choir and Sanctuary Choir will begin September 7. The Sanctuary Choir will practice at 7 pm in the sanctuary. Adult Bells will practice in the upstairs Sunday school room at 8 pm. New members are welcome!

### Bell and Chime Choir News

**Youth Chime Choir** is for children in grades 3-5 and will practice about twice a month on Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. This choir plays in church 3-4 times per year. Practice times to be announced.

**Youth Bell Choir** is for students in grades 6-12. Practices are Sunday mornings from 8:30 – 9:15 about twice a month and will play in church about four times per year. Practice times to be announced. You don't need to read music to play bells – we will teach you how!

**Adult Bell Choir** practice will be every Thursday at 8 p.m. New ringers are welcome! Practice begins Sept. 7.

### Orion UMC & the Fall Festival

Fri., Sept. 1, 9:30-11:30 pm – High school party in the MAC

Sat., Sept. 2, 8:30-11 pm – Middle school party in the MAC

Sun., Sept. 3 at 8:00 a.m. – Community-wide worship service at Central Park with *The Chosen Ones*.

Sun., Sept. 3 at 5:30 p.m. – Fall Fiesta at Orion UMC. Our youth will serve walking tacos; TLC Preschool will serve dessert.

Sun., Sept. 3 at 6:30 p.m. – *Guys with Ties* from Comedy Sportz will perform. The show is free!

### MISSION OF THE MONTH

Several years ago, our Illinois Great Rivers Conference (IGRC) adopted the Liberia Annual Conference as its partner conference.

Liberia is still slowly rebuilding after 20 years of civil war which ended in October, 2003. Since that time, the nation has been beset by poverty and disease and a host of other problems.

Liberia Ministries are our September Mission of the Month. Orion UMC has a covenant relationship with Rev. Priscilla Jaiah, a missionary serving at the Ganta Mission.

Just as our conference has partnered with the Liberia Annual Conference, so our Spoon River District has adopted two districts in Liberia: the Cape Palmas District and the Garaway District.

Your support of Liberian ministries—above and beyond your regular support of our church—will help us to reach out in love and compassion to the people of Liberia.

### Festival for Missions Sunday, December 3 at Noon

It's not too early to think about Christmas and our Festival for Missions! "Designer's Choice" is the theme. You may design anything with a Christmas theme, and the donated items will be sold by silent auction at a catered fellowship meal to be held on Sun., Dec. 3.

### Walk to Emmaus

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program, comprised of talks on various Christian themes. Men and women attend separate weekends. In our area, the next Men's Walk is Sept. 14-17. The Women's Walk is the following weekend, Sept. 21-24.

If you would like to participate in an upcoming Walk to Emmaus, contact Marilyn Berns, Sandy McCready, or Pastor Dave. You may also visit online at [www.qcemmas.org](http://www.qcemmas.org).

### Ladies Small Group

Our Ladies Small Group will begin meeting again on Tuesday, Sept. 5 at 7 pm in the high school room. All ladies and friends are invited!

### NEW MEMBER OPPORTUNITY

Anyone interested in becoming a member of Orion UMC should contact Pastor Dave. All new members will meet with Pastor Dave during the Sunday school hour Sept. 24.

We look forward to Membership Sunday this fall and welcoming new members into our church family!

### Fashion Show & Salad Luncheon

Sat., Sept. 16 at Orion UMC, Fellowship Hall

Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

Tickets \$10 – See Sharon Schnowske

Sponsored by Orion American Legion Auxiliary

*All proceeds go toward helping local area veterans*

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## YouthWorks Missions 2018

On Sunday, August 20 we heard reports from our youth and adults on their mission trips to Toronto and Louisville. These have truly been life-changing experiences for all involved and your support of our youth in mission is greatly appreciated.

Two youth mission trips have been slated for 2018. The first will be Saturday, June 16 through Friday, June 22 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This trip is for middle or high school youths.

The second trip will be Saturday, July 7 through Friday, July 13 in Kansas City, Kansas. This trip is for high school youths.

Each trip costs \$565 and includes one ticket to either Six Flags Great America or Six Flags St. Louis.

A \$25 deposit is required by Monday, October 9 which will qualify missionaries for an additional \$25 "early bird" credit to their accounts for a total deposit of \$50. After that date, the total price increases to \$595 and the deposit increases to \$50 with no early bird credit.

See Pastor Dave for more information. Fundraising opportunities will be provided. One way our missionaries raise money is by helping others. Those interested in hiring a youth missionary for lawn care or babysitting or other such tasks may pick up a list of youth missionaries at the church and contact the youth directly.

## Blessings on your Birthday!

9/03	Donna Boehm Kurt Nelson Maryn Bollinger	9/20	Justin Catour Dustin Ditzman
9/05	Nancy Poust	9/21	Roy Ator Tom Patton
9/06	Mason Magee	9/22	Jim Coe
9/09	Anthony Killion Andy Combites Tony Kosek Owen Bollinger	9/24	Ian Bollinger Pat Cooper
9/10	Bonnie Knowles Chuck Stone Tess Herring	9/25	Kathleen Etheridge Darrell Muhleman Darrin Nelson
9/12	Jonathan Schultz	9/26	Gene Boehm
9/13	Carolyn Ator Dawn Pasmore	9/28	Mary Jane Griffin
9/16	Jon Ditzman Andrew Haars	9/29	Taylor Bingham
9/17	Dan Combites Donna Peterson	9/30	Stu Etheridge Breanna Carr Payton Weaver
9/18	Rylin Smith Aidan Pasmore Cindy Gladkin		

*Please contact the church office  
to add your name.*