

The Courier



for the Orion United Methodist Church

November 2017

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When Truth Is Overstated

When I was in high school I had a poster in my room with a drawing of a teenage boy who had been contorted into a round ball. Upon closer look, it became clear that the ball was a picture of the world. It was accompanied by the admonition, "Be not conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." That quote comes from Romans 12:2.

Certainly teenagers face many temptations to conform to the world; however, those temptations do not disappear once they reach adulthood. If anything, the temptation to conform becomes more subtle and insidious.

Christ calls us to follow him. Yet we face a number of competing calls to conformity. Turn on the television or the computer and you'll be confronted by an endless parade of advertisements as Wall Street tries to conform you into nothing more than a consumer. This may have been most blatantly seen following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2011. President Bush named the attacks as attacks on our freedom. Then he proclaimed that the following day "America will be open for business." In other words, we Americans were urged to stand up to terrorism by continuing our consumer ways.

Another example of conforming to the world comes in the wake of the current controversy in the NFL. As athletes kneel during the National Anthem, society seems to be doubling down its efforts to conform us into patriots. Make no mistake about it: I'm proud to be an American and I thank God for our freedom, but my first love has to be for Jesus. Love of country cannot take the place of Christ and the American flag cannot be made into an idol.

In a similar vein, we Americans face the temptation to be good without being spiritual. When disaster strikes in Texas or Florida, give to the Red Cross and other organizations because that's what good people do. Thank God for the generosity of all those who've given millions of dollars to a myriad of relief agencies; however, giving to those agencies will only conform you into a good person. It will not transform you into a renewed follower of Jesus.

We live in a sensual society that increasingly strives to define its citizens by race or by gender identity. However, Galatians 3:28 affirms that "There is neither Jew nor Gentile,

neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." As followers of Christ, we must resist the temptation to define ourselves based solely on our sexual orientation or the color of our skin. When we do that, we are defining ourselves according to the flesh. Rather, we are to identify ourselves as followers of Jesus Christ.

We are called to constantly renew our minds. Through the renewal of our minds, we see the systems of this world the way God sees them. And God sees them as the worldly powers and influences which are vying for our hearts and our souls. Paul reminds us that "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 6:12). As Christians, we must be on guard lest consumerism, patriotism, godless goodness or sensuality come to us disguised as "powers of this dark world."

I've never forgotten what one of my college professors said, that truth overstated becomes truth invalidated. That applies here. Some consumerism is necessary and there is a place for love of country, for goodness and even for sensuality. But when those things draw us away from Christ, then we are being conformed to this world. Let us instead intentionally submit ourselves to the One who died to save us from ourselves and from the powers and influences of this world.

Yours for the mission,

Pastor Dave

All Saints Sunday November 5

Please join us at either our 8:00 or 10:30 worship service on November 5th as we remember those who have died this past year. We will also dedicate memorial gifts which have been placed into service in our church over the past year. We hope you will attend worship with us.

Eve Before You Leave

It's not too early to think about Christmas. Once again Orion UMC will offer two Christmas Eve services. The first will be our "Eve Before You Leave" at 6 p.m. Friday, December 22. The second will be our traditional 9 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Both services will feature plenty of Christmas carols as well as candlelight Communion. Please plan to attend!

Prepare Your Hearts for Sunday

We begin the month with All Saints' Day on Wednesday, November 1. We will not be having services that day, but I encourage you to read the lessons suggested by the lectionary: Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34; 1 John 3:1-13 and Matthew 5:1-12.

We will celebrate All Saints Sunday with Holy Communion on Sunday, November 5. This is always a special time to remember those who have entered into the Church Triumphant over the past twelve months. Scriptures include Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 and Matthew 23:1-12. Communion will be served.

Veteran's Day is Saturday, November 11; we will be recognizing our veterans on Sunday, November 12. Scriptures include Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and Matthew 25:1-13.

We'll be celebrating Christ as Prophet, Priest and King on Sunday, November 19, using Jeremiah 23:5-6; Hebrews 4:14-16; Matthew 25:14-30 and Luke 7:11-17.

We'll not have services on Thanksgiving Day; however, I encourage you to read the scriptures suggested for that day of gratitude. They include Deuteronomy 8:7-18; Psalm 65; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 and Luke 17:11-19.

Christ the King Sunday is November 26 which marks the end of the Christian calendar. Scripture lessons include Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23 and Matthew 25:31-46.

As always, scriptures for lector/liturgists are underlined.

I'll see you in Church,

Pastor Dave

Festival for Missions – Dec. 3 at Noon

You are invited to design and donate a small Christmas item of your choosing which will be sold by silent auction on Dec. 3. A catered meal will be held following the 10:30 worship service. Cost for the meal is \$5. Proceeds from the sale of each item will be directed to a mission of the donor's choice. Mission suggestions are available at the church. Items may be brought to the church Sat., Nov. 25.

Ladies Luncheon – January 28 at Noon

Our Ladies Luncheon will be Sunday, January 28th following the 10:30 service. The theme is "My Favorite Things". Table decorators are needed, and decorations can be anything you love – quilting, knitting, your family, favorite vacation spot or hobby, job, candy, treat, or meal. The sky is the limit! It will be a fun afternoon for all ladies. Ask your friends to join you. After all, this is a great outreach, evangelism tool. Those who may feel uncomfortable in a worship service may find it easier to come with a friend to a social event, see the church's beautiful facilities, and meet the fun ladies of the church. As always, there will be games and prizes along with some fun surprises.

Please contact me with any questions and to volunteer to decorate a table. ~ *Candice Schultz*

Hanging of the Greens

Following the late service on November 26, we will decorate the church and church yard for the Christmas season. All are invited to join in this activity. The Worship Committee will provide a light lunch for helpers.

November Mission of the Month

Our November Mission of the Month focuses on ministries to Haiti and Latin America and features a number of close connections to our congregation.

Over the past several years we've supported Woodhull natives Ted and Kim Treadway, ecumenical missionaries who had been serving in the Peten Jungle of Guatemala. We have been blessed to have Kim speak during worship and to learn about the work they are doing; especially how they are working to adopt Daniel. To follow them, search "The World Is Yours Ministries" or "Ted and Kim Treadway" on Facebook.

Some years ago, I read an article in the *Moline Dispatch* about the horrific hunger children were facing in Haiti. Our congregation has responded by supporting a ministry to Haiti called Waves of Mercy with an annual gift of \$500. You can visit Waves of Mercy on Facebook or by logging on to www.wavesofmercy.wordpress.com.

Thanks to several short-term mission trips made by our own Beth Carlson, we've also become supporters of Midwives for Haiti which provides healthcare to mothers in need. You may visit them on Facebook or at www.midwivesforhaiti.org.

Yet another personal connection to that impoverished nation has been provided by Bernice Stropes who, over the years, has sewn hundreds of garments which have been sent to the children of Grace Children's Hospital in Port au Prince, Haiti.

This month, we hope to continue with financial support for that Grace Children's Hospital as well as our other mission partners in Latin America and the Caribbean. Remember your support of missions should be above and beyond your regular tithes and offerings.

We are collecting hats, mittens, scarves & socks to be given to those in need. Collection starts November 5. Place your donation on the Christmas tree near Pastor Dave's office. Thanks for helping!

Thank you

Main Street Orion appreciates the help that Orion UMC gives as we strengthen our church and community through our events. We hope you'll attend our many, family-friendly events throughout the year. If you want to be involved, please call me at 526-8299. Thank you for all your support!

Candice Schultz, MSO Director

Thank you to everyone who helped with our rummage and bake sale! It was a huge success.

Thank you, Mary Wigant, for providing the beautiful flowers from your garden for the altar. *We appreciate it!*

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2nd Annual OUMC Quarter Auction. We had 70 people attend with 145 raffle baskets to bid on. \$2,020 was raised to help complete our MAC project. Thank you to our local area businesses and everyone who donated or baked items for the auction, pasta dinner, and bake sale.

Your Quarter Auction Committee,
Bettyjo, Tara, Autumn, Beth, Michelle, Rachel,
Lanie and Jill

September Sunday School Perfect Attendance

Erin Herring, Sophia Seys, Dylan Nelson, Riley Knox, Peggy Crayne, Dylan Manning, Thea Seys, Derek Nelson, Rachel Bollinger, Greg McCunn, Hope Seys, Leah Manning, Amaya Versluis, Devin Nelson, Noah Seys, Tara Miller, Shelley Atkinson, Barb Cooper, Pastor Dave Schultz, Carrie McCunn, Rob Manning, Autumn Manning, Lanie Nelson, Joy Seys, Kelli Knox, Damon Seys, Jane Meyer, Sandy McCready, Margaret Johnson

MOTHER/SON EVENT – Orion Girl Scout Troop 8917 & Main Street Orion are hosting an afternoon of fun for moms and sons Nov. 12 from 3-4:30 in the MAC. All ages are welcome. Cost is \$15 per couple; additional sons are \$5 each. Pre-registration is required. Contact Autumn Manning with questions at 738-6515 or autumnmanning@hotmail.com.

Orion Community Veteran's Day Service will be held at Central Park on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 1:00 p.m. Please bring lawn chairs. Refreshments will be served in the MAC following the service. *Rain location is the MAC.*

All veterans and their families are invited to the annual chili & oyster stew supper held at the American Legion Home Post #255 (across from the Baptist Church) on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 6 p.m. Please join us that night.

Main Street Orion presents "Easy as Pie" with Stephanie Moen & Sarah Nevded Nov. 11th from 9-11 am in the MAC. Instruction will be given on making a pie from scratch. Cost is \$10 per person. This is a MSO fundraiser, and everyone will go home with a pie ready to bake. Bring a can of your favorite pie filling, a bowl, rolling pin, tablespoon, teaspoon, 2/3 cup measure, & one cup measure. Register by email at director@mainstreetorion.com or fill out form in lower narthex. Coffee & coffee cake will be served. There will be door prizes, too!

MSO will hold "**Christmas in Orion**" Dec. 1 with a cookie walk & soup supper in the MAC from 5-7 pm. Stephanie Moen's music program students will perform.

Volunteers are needed to bake cookies and deliver to Fellowship Hall by noon Dec. 1. If you can provide a crock pot of soup & help serve, it is appreciated.

Saturday with Santa is Dec. 2 from 2-4 pm at the middle school. Main Street Orion invites all families to come and visit with Santa.



Multimedia Trivia Night!

Saturday, Nov. 11 at Orion United Methodist Church

Doors open at 5:00 pm Trivia begins at 6:00 pm

Tables of 8 for \$80, \$1 mulligans, \$5 for double-downs

First place prize \$120, second \$80, third \$40

Walking Tacos, soft drinks, water available to purchase.

To reserve your table, call the church office, mark the attendance pad or email orionumc@frontiernet.net

Proceeds will benefit next summer's youth mission trips

Middle School Game Night

Friday, November 3 – 7-10 pm in the MAC

All middle school youth and friends are invited for an evening of games and a digital scavenger hunt. Pizza, snacks, and beverages will be served. A collection will be taken for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. Items needed are: toothbrushes, card games, board games, puzzles, small balls, crayons, and inexpensive water bottles. Monetary donations are also needed to help with shipping costs. Invite your friends and join us!

OUMC Veteran's Recognition is November 12

Plan to attend our Veteran's Day worship service as we honor Orion United Methodist Church members who are veterans. Thank you to Betsy Catour for her work in making this worship service so special.

Blessings on your Birthday!

11/01	Joyce Schoemaker	11/14	Bruce Lough
11/02	Zach Zwirlein		Diane McCunn
11/03	Tom Gainey		Devin Nelson
11/04	Ian Smith	11/15	Debra Wright
	Steve Wright		Adam Browning
11/05	Jim Eccher	11/16	Tyler Wright
	Amaya Versluis		Rachel Streeter
11/07	Taylor McCunn	11/17	Julie Bosold
	Ashlie McCunn	11/18	Marge Schenk
	Shonna Gainey	11/19	Damon Seys
11/08	Tiffani Smith	11/21	Barb Pasmore
	Steph Langley		Barb Newman
11/09	Alec Mason	11/22	Karsyn Johnson
11/10	Linda Wells	11/23	Dave Doy
11/12	Larry Anderson	11/26	Kathleen Bingham
11/13	Mary Wigant	11/27	Emily Hickerson
			Cherie Mason



*Please notify the church office
if your name should be added*