

# The Courier



for the Orion United Methodist Church

July 2018

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

## “Don’t Harm Yourself!”

The recent suicides of fashion designer Kate Spade and celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain shocked our nation and brought face-to-face with the sad epidemic of suicide. Their untimely deaths drew me to a fascinating story in Acts 16 where we find Paul and Silas in jail, praying and singing hymns at midnight. Suddenly, an earthquake shakes the foundations of the prison. The prison doors fly open and the chains fall away from all the prisoners. The earthquake also awakens the jailer from his sleep. He rushes to the jail where he finds the prison doors open. Knowing that he would be executed for allowing the prisoners to escape, the jailer draws his sword and is about to commit suicide when he hears a voice calling out to him from the depths of the dark prison.

“Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!” It was the voice of Paul.

I pray that if someone you know should ever draw a sword, as it were, to commit suicide, that you would be there to call out, “Don’t harm yourself! I’m right here with you! And I will sit with you in this dark prison until you put away your sword and come to the realization that there is no reason for you to take your life.”

Of course, professional help may come into play, but did you notice that Paul and Silas were free? Their chains had been broken, but they stayed in that prison anyway. I believe it’s because they knew they were needed there; they were there for the sake of the jailer. He had the keys to the jail, but he was not free, so he asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

And the answer was profoundly simple: “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” And in a matter of moments, the jailer went from the brink of death to being filled with joy because some called out to him from the darkness and said, “Don’t harm yourself! We are here with you and we are here for you!”

The flip side of that concerns those who may be contemplating suicide: you may think you have a good reason to end your life, but the reality is that you have a much better reason to live. God loved you so much that he sent his only Son to die for you, so you don’t have to die for

yourself. Please listen for the people who you may think have left you all alone: they’re still there for you. You may not see them because of the darkness that seems to be engulfing you, but they’re there. And they’re there for you. Please listen for them as they call out to you: “Don’t harm yourself! I’m here for you!”

Yours for the mission,  
*Pastor Dave*

## Summer Projects Update

Our parking lot has been paved, striped and paid for! With that, our Methodist Activity Center project is finished! There are still some things to be done, of course, but those things are either repairs or they are not critical to the operation of the MAC.

The project began in September 2012 and we completed it without incurring any debt. Phase one included the acquisition of two properties and the demolition of the house at a cost of \$103,360. Phase two involved the renovation of the MAC at a cost of \$276,340. Phase three involved the retaining wall, sidewalk, handrail and parking lot at a cost of \$123,130. Total cost for all three phases was \$502,830. Congregational giving and fundraising covered 40% of the project; endowment distributions, 43%; memorial and estate giving, 9%; and grants from the Wyman Coulter Trust and Main Street Orion accounted for 8% of the project.

Our next project is replacing our boiler; that will happen this summer. We have already raised or set aside over \$28,000 for this project; less than \$9,000 remains. You may invest in the future of our church by giving toward this project. When you give, please designate your gifts to the **Building Fund**.

Thank you in advance for your faithful support of these projects above and beyond your regular support of our church. Completing these projects will position our church for a blessed future for many years to come.

Yours for the Mission,  
*Pastor Dave*

## Prepare Your Hearts for Sunday

I encourage you to incorporate these scriptures into your daily devotions as you prepare your heart for Sunday...or Thursday. We will celebrate communion on Sunday, July 1 and again on Thursday evening, July 5. Scriptures include 1 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 and Mark 5:21-43.

On Sunday, July 8, Mike and Glenda Mann will return and bless us. Suggested scriptures include 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 and Mark 6:1-13.

Scriptures for Sunday, July 15 include 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24; Ephesians 1:3-14 and Mark 6:14-29.

On Sunday, July 22, we'll take a look at 2 Samuel 7:1-14a, Psalm 89; Ephesians 2:11-22 and Mark 6:30-34, 53-56.

We wrap up the month on July 29 with readings from 2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14; Ephesians 3:14-21 and John 6:1-21.

As always, scriptures for liturgists are underlined.

*Pastor Dave*

## Walk to Emmaus

If you've never been on a Walk to Emmaus, I strongly encourage you to participate in one of our upcoming events. Walk to Emmaus is many things. It is often billed as a weekend course in the basics of the Christian faith, I found it to be a celebration of God's love. As a "mature Christian," I didn't think I needed a course in the fundamentals of the faith, but what I did need was the opportunity to experience God's love in a way unlike anything I had ever experienced before. If you would like that experience for yourself, please contact me or any of our Emmaus pilgrims. Upcoming dates are:

Men's Walk, Thurs., Sept. 20 through Sun., Sept. 23

Women's Walk, Thurs., Sept. 27 through Sun., Sept. 30

For teen boys, I also recommend Boys' Chrysalis, Thursday, July 19 through Sunday, July 22.

*Pastor Dave*

There is a **basket filled with bears** on the information table that have been prayed over by our church members. Please take one whenever you like and give to someone who needs cheering up or encouragement, or to celebrate a joyous occasion.

## Thank You

We would like to thank our church family from Pastor Dave for his words, Jane for playing for the service, and of course to Andrea for her beautiful voice during the service. Thank you, also, to the Methodist Women for providing the lunch after the service; especially to Julie Bosold and Janet Marshall for serving during the visitation the night before. Also, a special thank you to Pastor Stacie Fidlar for her words during Kathy's service.

*The Family of Kathy Anderson  
Larry & David*

## Mission of the Month

When you became a United Methodist, you had to learn some new words and one important one was "UMCOR." It's important because when disaster strikes, UMCOR will almost certainly be there.

UMCOR stands for "United Methodist Committee On Relief." It is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to alleviating human suffering around the globe. UMCOR's work includes programs and projects in disaster response, health, sustainable agriculture, food security, relief supplies, and more.

UMCOR is our July Mission of the Month. The Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham, Illinois, is an arm of UMCOR and is included in our July Mission of the Month.

The goal of UMCOR is to assist the most vulnerable persons affected by crisis or chronic need without regard to their race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. They believe—as does the United Methodist Church believes—that all people have God-given worth and dignity.

UMCOR's work reaches people in more than 80 countries, including the United States. It provides humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupt life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own. UMCOR works globally to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing.

While UMCOR cooperates with other aid organizations to extend its reach, its most important partners are the people they serve. Consequently, UMCOR provides survivors not only temporary relief but with long-term education, training, and support.

UMCOR has received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest and most-utilized independent evaluator of charities. Every dollar you give will go directly to relief efforts and follow-up ministry. Overhead costs are covered by our apportionments, so they do not come out of your special gifts. Please remember that your mission giving should be above your regular support of Orion UMC.

The family of Dan Combites would like to thank our church family for all the cards, phone calls, flowers, and visits during the past several months while Dan was a resident at New Perspectives in Silvis. They meant a lot to him and the family that so many people thought of him, especially in these last challenging months.

Thank you also for the many memorial contributions to the OUMC and to a variety of other charities and organizations in his name. The family has decided on The Orion Library (Dan was a dedicated reader); the Honor Flight of the QCA and the Disabled Vets (Dan was a veteran); and Habitat for Humanity and Salvation Army (Dan did volunteer work).

Thank you to all who came to the Visitation or the Funeral services too. Thank you to the ladies that served the luncheon and to Karl for the beautiful music that filled all of us with emotion! Pastor Dave gave a eulogy that will be remembered by all of us who knew and loved Dan.

The final thank you comes from Dan himself that Pastor Dave used in his eulogy, "Before my first craniotomy, I realized a peace in my heart that was born out of my relationship with God."

*Jean, Andy, & Tim Combites*

### ***Orion UMC Helps to Celebrate Illinois' Bicentennial***

Main Street Orion and Village of Orion have a fun-filled weekend planned Aug. 4 & 5 celebrating Illinois' Bicentennial.

We are happy to host a few of the events. The events which will be held here at Orion UMC on Sat., Aug. 4 include:

- **Quilt Show** in our sanctuary from 10 am to 2 pm
- **Tea with Mrs. Lincoln** in Fellowship Hall from noon to 3 pm (Chicago-area actress Debra Ann Miller performs; tickets are \$10; available at Village Hall)
- **One-Man Play** with teaching artist Dan Haughey as General Ulysses S. Grant in the MAC from 3-4:30 pm

Sunday, Aug. 5 – **Historic Ball** featuring The Tony Hamilton Orchestra and Quad Cities Social Dance Club in the MAC. The dance is from 6-8 pm with tickets for \$10 per person or \$15 per couple. They are available at Village Hall. **Free dance instructions** at 5 pm. Outfits from your favorite historic era are welcome.

Other events will be held in Central Park plus there will be a narrated historic walking tour in uptown Orion. Come, enjoy, and help to support activities in our community!

*More information is available through MSO.*

### **May Sunday School Perfect Attendance**

Devin Nelson, Derek Nelson, Dylan Nelson, Dylan Manning, Lena Haars, Annmarie Haars, Rosalee Haars, Noah Seys, Cullen Langley, Amaya Versluis, Leah Manning, Margaret Johnson, Jill Kosek, Diane McCunn, Barb Cooper, Pastor Dave Schultz

Please check the kitchen for dishes from recent lunches. They are missing their family and want to return home!

Thank you to the ladies of the church for taking care of our flower gardens. Come for some quiet time in our prayer garden and enjoy the view. It's very relaxing!

**Rally Day** will be August 26 at 9:15 a.m. with children in 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade receiving Bibles. All children will receive promotion certificates.

**The All-Church Potluck** will be held in Fellowship Hall following the late service on August 26. Education will provide the meat, drinks, and table service. Please bring a dish or two to pass.

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**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Cancer Awareness Salad Luncheon  
in Memory of Kathy Anderson  
Saturday, July 21, Noon at OUMC**

Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased by calling Karen (Bloomberg) Myers at 309-738-3412. Reservations are required by July 14. Guest speaker is Pastor Stacie Fidler. Proceeds will be divided between Camp Kesem and Gilda's Club.

There will be door prizes, and tickets may be purchased for giveaways which include gift baskets and other prizes.  
*Wear pink to support the cause!*

Mark your calendar for **Orion's Fall Festival weekend** especially its activities on Sunday, Sept. 2.

Plan to begin your day with the **Orion Area Church's community worship in Central Park**. The service begins at 8:00 a.m., and *The Chosen Ones* will be our special guests. Rain location is the Orion United Methodist Church.

Our annual **Fall Fiesta** will begin at 5:30 p.m. in our **Methodist Activity Center** with walking tacos on the menu. This meal is sponsored by our youth with proceeds from the meal going to help fund their mission trips next summer.

Closing out the Orion Fall Festival is **Guys with Ties** at 6:30 p.m. in our MAC. This comedy/improv show is always a huge hit! Their act is for families of all ages, and there is no charge. The show is our gift to the community.

Please come and spend some time with us this upcoming Labor Day weekend!

*Blessings on Your Birthday!*

- |      |                 |      |                 |
|------|-----------------|------|-----------------|
| 7/1  | Sue DeDecker    | 7/23 | Shelley Ditzman |
| 7/4  | Amy Green       | 7/25 | Adam Bohland    |
| 7/5  | Sherry McCarty  | 7/26 | Ty Dykeman      |
| 7/6  | Sharon Cashman  | 7/27 | Cindy Walker    |
|      | Dorothy Manecke | 7/28 | Ty Bingham      |
| 7/8  | Toni Carlson    | 7/30 | Erika Beeks     |
|      | Ty Gainey       |      | Thad Bielema    |
|      | Leah Manning    |      | Diane Edmund    |
|      | Pam Schroeder   | 7/31 | Colton Kausal   |
| 7/9  | Charles Wigant  |      |                 |
| 7/11 | Nathan Atkinson |      |                 |
| 7/12 | Roman Lee       |      |                 |
| 7/14 | Autumn Manning  |      |                 |
| 7/15 | Sharon Shinn    |      |                 |
| 7/17 | Abigail Downing |      |                 |
|      | Scott Faulkner  |      |                 |
| 7/21 | Brian Magee     |      |                 |

*Contact the church office  
if your name should be added.*



The church office will be closed Wednesday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

