



Steeple Chimes

Monthly Publication by Stockton United Methodist Church, Stockton, Mo.



Word From The Pastor

The Pastor's Paragraph

Everything we do is marked by the steady march of time. Seconds lead to minutes to hours to days to weeks to years to decades to centuries. The Latin phrase is "Tempus Fugit"—time flies. When we were kids time was relative. The time between the start of school and Christmas break seemed FOREVER! But summer vacation seemed to fly by too fast. Now we all know that there are 24 hours in a day, 7 days in a week, and 365 days in a year. But as we get older our concept of time is that there is never enough.

The problem for all of us is that the clock is always running the wrong way, and we simply cannot stop its precipitous crawl toward the next tick. We lose moments to the past, out of our reach, never to be regained. **Where did all the years go?**

The kids have grown and gone. We're muddling along in a career, making a living, just existing out of habit more than anything. **Did I miss out on my chance to make a difference?**

The Greek language has a couple of words that mean "time." The first is most familiar—*chronos*. It means the chronology of days, governed by the carefully calculated earth's sweep around the sun. God himself ordained this measurement of days on the fourth day of Creation, spinning the heavenly lights "for seasons, and for days and years."

Boy, do I know about time. The wrinkles etched on my face; the wrinkles etched on my heart are the visual reminders of chronos.

But another word for time is also used in the New Testament—*kairos*. This speaks more to specific,

God-ordained times throughout history, sometimes called the "right time" or "appointed season" ([Titus 1:3](#)). *Kairos* is God's dimension—one not marked by the past, the present, or the future.

When Jesus came, it was a fulfillment of promises past, a cosmic collision of the sacred and secular. It was an intersection of the holy will of God and the stubborn ways of man. It was a perfect moment. John the Baptist said in [Mark 1:15](#) that "time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand."

This godly *kairos* pierced its way into creation at just the right time, slicing through *chronos* with a cry of a baby in a manger.

The cross was another *kairos* moment. [Romans 5:6](#) says, "For while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly."

Kairos moments then—and now—allow us to get a glimpse of the "other side." We peek around the corner at eternity. We actually glimpse how God works.

As the omniscient, omnipresent Deity, God is not bound by the confines of space or time. That's why He flows into our existence when we least expect Him. When we ask for something right away, it might not always come. Or when we don't ask at all. But he shows up. It can be frustrating, "with the Lord one day is as a thousand years." It can also be surprising "a thousand years as one day." ([2 Peter 3:8](#)).

We should always live our days looking for those moments, those inexplicable times when His will and his way intersect with our daily walks.

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Announcements

Church Council Highlights

Linda Hall, *Recording Secretary*

Council convened for a brief meeting at 11:45 a.m. Dec. 16.

Attendance: Chairman Marvin Manning, Dwain Hammons, Rex and Susan Holt, Elizabeth Erickson, Mitch Ross, Stewart Thomson, Ted Woodrell, Pastor Jim Coffey, Doyle Fry, Don Levi, Linda Hall

Finance: It was decided to pay the full balance of the Southwest District apportionment, over \$2,000 (Ted, Don). The exact balance will be figured by the finance committee. The finance committee will meet to make a recommendation on how much of the MO Conference apportionment we are able to pay and still maintain working capital. The vote will be taken by e-mail. The apportionment is due January 7 (mail by January 1).

Pastor Jim closed the meeting with prayer.

Trustees Replaced Outdoor Lights with LEDs

Cheryl Y. Marcum, *Creation Care Ministry*

Our trustees made creation-respecting choices when they replaced and recycled all of the church's outdoor light bulbs and several large fixtures. The new LED bulbs consume about 90 percent less energy than the seven metal halide, seven T-8 fluorescent tubes, and seven CFLs they replaced.

All of the old fixtures and hardware were recycled at the Computer Recycling Center in Springfield at no charge. The metal halide bulbs were recycled for \$2.50 per bulb; the fluorescent

tubes for \$1 per tube. The CFLs were recycled at Lowe's at no cost. High intensity light bulbs, such as metal halide, typically contain between 50 and 1000 milligrams (mg) of vaporized mercury per lamp whereas fluorescent tubes and CFLs typically contain 12 mg and 4 mg, respectively.

Virtually all components of these light bulbs can be recycled in to new products: the metal end caps, other metal, glass tubing, and phosphor powder. Mercury recovery is 99.99 percent and can be recycled into new light bulbs and other mercury-containing devices. Phillips claims it manufactures all of its fluorescent tubes in the U.S. with recycled mercury.

In contrast, nationwide over 670 million mercury-containing bulbs are discarded each year. That adds up to a lot of mercury contaminating our environment and harming our health.



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And they can happen anytime! A friend calls you out of the blue to give a good word. A child's innocent joy pierces a long, hard day of struggle. A coworker takes a moment to lend a hand. God is always surprising us with his perfect, *kairos* timing.

Am I ready, waiting, and watching for him to move in my life? (from *The High Calling*)

Blessings and Happy New Year!
Pastor Jim

New Signs Differentiate Barrel for Recycling Aluminum Pet Food Cans

Cheryl Y. Marcum, *Creation Care Ministry*

For years on behalf of the United Methodist Men (UMM), Mark Mitchell has been helping to renew God's good creation by hauling loads of barrels full of aluminum beverage cans from the fenced area in our parking lot to Scott Salvage Yard, LLC, in Humansville. When pet owners expressed interest in recycling aluminum cat and dog food cans, Mark discovered Scott would buy that grade of aluminum, too, but at a different—and lower rate. Rates vary, but currently, beverage cans sell for 40¢ a pound and pet food cans sell for 38¢ a pound, due to the higher alloy content. The grades of aluminum must be separated. When people deposit comingled cans into our barrels, they impose a burden on Mark because he has to take more time to separate the two kinds of cans, in addition to removing other kinds of waste, such as plastic bottles and aluminum baking pans (Recycle food grade aluminum pans inside the church in the labeled black bin beside the recycling cabinet.) Typically, Mark takes a load of sorted aluminum cans to Scotts about two times each month; each trip takes about two hours. A recent trip of seven full barrels netted \$26.70, which the UMM spends on local missions.

To help direct cans to the correct barrels, Marcia Hornbeck recently created these two new signs.



This magnetic sign added to the front of our dumpster directs recyclers to deposit all cans inside the fenced area. We were routinely finding aluminum beverage cans and most surprising, clean pet food cans in the dumpster headed for the landfill.



Inside the fenced area, signs direct recyclers to the barrel in the far southwest corner for depositing clean pet food cans only; no beverage cans in that barrel.

If you generate empty aluminum beverage or pet food cans, please deposit them in the UMM's aluminum recycling center on the south side of our parking lot. Rinse beverage cans, if possible, and wash pet food cans.

Thank you!

A very big "thank you" to the members of the Comforter Project who made it possible to donate 11 quilts to DFS children for Christmas. Ages ranged from 2-14.

—Jacky Vincent

New Year's Resolution: Say NO to Junk Mail!

Cheryl Y. Marcum, *Creation Care Ministry*

We appreciate our Post Office setting out a paper recycling bin indoors next to the mail boxes. The new addition makes it easy for those who pick up their mail to deposit unwanted junk mail in the bin for recycling. More people now walk out of the Post Office empty-handed when they find only junk (marketing mail) in their box.

The average adult receives five to 10 pieces of junk mail a day = 150 to 300 pieces per month = 41 pounds of junk mail each year for one person or 8 billion pounds for the entire country. Nearly 12 billion paper catalogs are sent to U.S. homes every year, the majority of which end up in the trash without having ever been opened. The production and disposal of junk mail consumes more energy than 2.8 million cars; it is bad for God's good creation.

Recycling all of that paper is good. A better "creation respecting" choice is to deliberately **stop delivery** of unwanted catalogs, credit card and insurance applications, and other marketing materials. Imagine freedom from carrying all of that unwanted mail to your house, sorting it, and then hauling it to recycling or to the curb, or in too many instances, to the burn barrel!

Check out the online mail suppression service, DMA Choice (Direct Marketing Association) which has been available for decades. If you haven't used it, make it a priority for the New Year. In your computer browser, key in <https://www.dmachoice.org/register.php> and follow the prompts. It enables you to stop multiple categories of junk mail: catalogs; credit offers; magazine offers; charity, bank and retail mailings. A nominal administrative fee of \$2 paid with your credit card stops (1) selected, or (2) all unwanted direct marketing mail for five years or 10 years, your choice. After completing registration at this link, you will see another link to a separate registration site to register to stop all unwanted insurance and credit card applications.

The Fair Credit Reporting Act gives the big credit reporting agencies (Equifax, Experian, Innovis and TransUnion) the right to share our credit histories with businesses that may want to offer us financial products. These agencies created this mechanism for people to opt out of preapproved credit card offers and insurance offers. This service is free, though you will have to provide your Social Security number to verify your identity. (Don't worry. The credit agencies already have it.) You can opt out online for five years or print out a form that you mail in to opt out permanently.

Taking deliberate actions to help renew God's good creation feels good and strengthens our faith. If you need help registering to stop unwanted junk mail, talk to me, Cheryl, at church, or renew.creation@gmail.com. If you don't have computer, we can use the church's computers. Let's all say NO to unwanted junk mail!

Recycle Christmas Lights

Now through January 20



- Bundle each string
- Wrap end of cord to secure
- Deposit in white bin beside SUMC recycling cabinet

Please, NO PLASTIC BAGS!



Stockton United Methodist Church

January 2019 Calendar of Events

January Current as of December 24. For updates visit www.stocktonumc.org/calendar

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day Office Closed</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>10:30 AM SUMC Leads Worship/LSHF</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30-8:30 PM/FLC*</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Pastor's Personal Day Office Closed</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7-9 PM/Rm 100*</p>
<p>6</p> <p>8:45-9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:45-10:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Celebration/S 11:45 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:30 PM Ministry Team Mtg/Rm 203 6:30-8 PM Cubs/Rm 100 & FLC</p>	<p>8</p> <p>3:30 PM Jail Ministry (Willinger, Stevens) 4-6 PM KIDZ Connection</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7-9 PM/Rm 100*</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30-8:30 PM/FLC*</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Pastor's Personal Day Office Closed</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7-9 PM/Rm 100*</p>
<p>13</p> <p>8:45-9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:45-10:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Celebration/S 11:45 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30-11:30 AM Comforter Project/Rm 100 6:30-8 PM Cubs/Rm 100 & FLC</p>	<p>15</p> <p>3:30 PM Jail Ministry (Johnston, Anthony) 4-6 PM KIDZ Connection</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7-9 PM/Rm 100* 9 AM-1 PM Quilters/Rm 100</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30-8:30 PM/FLC*</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Pastor's Personal Day Office Closed Cubs Klondike Derby/FLC</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30am-9am UMM Mtg/Rm 100 8 AM-1 PM Cubs Klondike Derby/FLC 7-9 PM/Rm 100*</p>
<p>20</p> <p>8:45-9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:45-10:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Celebration/S 11:45 AM Church Council Mtg/Rm 203</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30-8 PM Cubs/Rm 100 & FLC</p>	<p>22</p> <p>3:30 PM Jail Ministry (Ballenger, Beck, Jarvis) 4-6 PM KIDZ Connection</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7-9 PM/Rm 100*</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30-8:30 PM/FLC*</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Pastor's Personal Day Office Closed</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7-9 PM/Rm 100*</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Noisy Offering for Bus Ministry 8:45-9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:45-10:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Celebration/S 11:45 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:30-11:30 AM Comforter Project/Rm 100 6:30-8 PM Cubs/Rm 100 & FLC</p>	<p>29</p> <p>3:30 PM Jail Ministry (Trudell, Sullivan) 4-6 PM KIDZ Connection</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7-9 PM/Rm 100*</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:30-8:30 PM/FLC*</p>	<p>Key FLC – Family Life Center S – Sanctuary LSHF – Lake Stockton Healthcare Facility * Community/individual event</p>	

Go Green Team *Picked Up Trash While Praying for City Residents*

Cheryl Y. Marcum, *Creation Care Ministry*

Some residents of neighborhoods all over Stockton noticed pairs of Go Green stewards walking through their neighborhoods Saturday morning, December 1, picking up trash and praying for God's blessings on residents. Participating in this third community prayer walk, including those who prayed from home, is an act of faith—of love for our neighbors shining forth in action.

Prayer walkers were impressed with how little trash they found on most streets. However, in less than two hours, eight walkers collected three bags of comingled plastic bottles, tin cans, paper, corrugated cardboard, and glass, recycled at the city recycling center; one-half bag of aluminum cans recycled at our United Methodist Men's bins in the parking lot; and over four trash bags of waste headed for the landfill.

Afterward, prayer walkers enjoyed lunch at the church while sharing their experiences. Walkers commented how satisfying it was to see members of our community where they live, pray for them, clean up our community, and see immediate results.

Our Go Green Team exists to take all kinds of actions to help renew God's good creation. Please join us as we strive to live out our faith as good

stewards of this "pale blue dot" we call home. All are welcome.



Joyful prayer walkers captured in our first ever "selfie-collage:" Rear from left: Susan Holt, Cheryl Marcum, Sharon Cross, Kim Jasper, Diedre Senecal. Front from left: Janice Dunne, Kathryn Lackey, Mary Anne Manning (selfie credit)

Prayer for Our Pastor

Lord, may Pastor Jim walk with you so that his soul and spirit are nourished and strengthened into the new year. As he prepares his sermons, encourages discipleship, and ministers to those in need, I pray he also cares for himself and his family. I pray that he will spend time in the Word and envision how our church will become light and salt in the community.

—contributed

The Mailbox



We sincerely want to thank everyone in the church for your prayers and kind expressions of love for Donna, with all the food, the cards and memorials. We especially thank Marvin Manring, Jacky Vincent, Rose Mary Owens and the choirs for the excellent music. The service conducted by Pastor Jim Coffey was comforting, and will always be remembered. And the fine luncheon served by the UMW ladies was also much appreciated by all of us. Thank you so much!

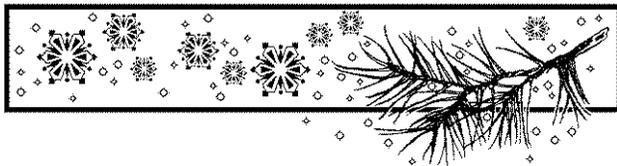
Sincerely,

Dwain, Brian, Kim, Lori, Jeff, and the entire Hammons Family



January Birthdays and Anniversaries
Happy Birthday! Blessed Anniversary!

(Personal information not included
in Steeple Chimes Web Version)



SUMC's Inclement Weather Policy

Sunday mornings. We are unlikely to cancel Sunday school and worship. However, in the event of severe inclement weather, the pastor will consult the chairs of board of trustees and church council to assess the risks and decide as early as possible whether to cancel. A decision will be announced immediately on SUMC answering machine (276-4717) and SUMC Facebook page.

Small groups. Class or group leaders and event organizers will notify class members and registered event participants of cancellations as soon as possible.



Greatest needs: shampoo, dish, laundry detergent (small sizes). Soups: tomato, cream of mushroom, chicken noodle. Please place donations in the south hall collection bin.

January Servants

Liturgist: Doyle Fry

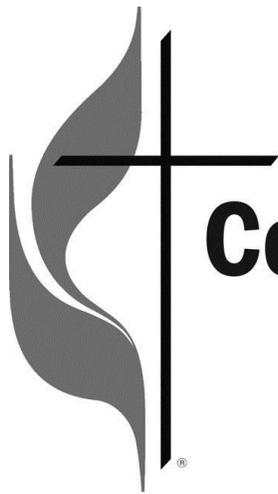
Sunday Morning Greeters:

John and Ellen Morris

Madeleine Scott

Jan Severson

J. R. Williamson



People
Connecting with
Jesus Christ

STOCKTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



January
Steeple Chimes

Stockton United Methodist Church

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Worship 10:45 a.m. **Sunday School** 9:45-10:30 a.m.

Jim Coffey, Pastor Rose Mary Owens, *Director of Music*

Jacky Vincent, *Organist* Mary Anne Manring, *Pianist*

Return Service Requested