



Steeple Chimes

May 2021

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

Join us in Person, Online or in the Church Parking Lot!

*Like us on Facebook at “Stockton United Methodist Church” to join us Online.

*Parking Lot service on 88.5 FM every Sunday morning at 10:45 a.m.

*If you have any questions, please contact the office at (417)276-4717



Pastor's Paragraph

Some Thoughts About Pastoring the Pastor

As most of you know, the past two months have been very difficult for me and Tebby with my health issues and now with the death of our grandson. I have been thinking about when the pastor needs a pastor. It has become very clear to me that this is extremely important for any church to encourage their pastors. I thank God that our church family is very supportive of us and you have all been an indispensable support system for us. In many ways, you have been our pastors!

I had thought about writing my article on transitions this month since I will be retiring in June and Pastor Bob and Donna Voels will be coming the first of July. The following article (used with permission) is from *NETWORK*, a publication of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. I believe this article speaks to both this time of transition and the need for pastors and churches to work together to help “pastor the pastor.”

“It’s Sunday morning. Nobody talked much on the way to church today. Mom and Dad had words. But the kids were quiet. They knew better than to speak up when the air was thick with the tension of an argument.

They got to church, parked the car, and put on their public faces. By the time they walked into the sanctuary,

they were warm and kind and no one could have known that behind the smiles were pockets of hurt. For the first while, worship was a challenge.

Scenes like this happen to all of us at one time or another and could easily describe a pastor's family. Sometimes with the extra tension of a not-quite-as-polished-as-I-had-hoped message adding to the madness of the morning dash, the last-minute details at home and the drive to church can be difficult. But then, once the car is parked, the public faces are set in place and yes, for the first while, worship—and leading worship—can be a challenge.

The point is that before anything else, it is the simple ordinariness, the honest humanness of a pastor which needs to be honored. Pastors are people. They have hopes and fears, and aches and pains, and hobbies and quirks, and their faith journeys are as wonky and real as any of our faith journeys—filling us now with comfort and joy, now with questions and doubts. Pastors are serious and silly both. And why not? Pastors are human beings who sometimes get it right and sometimes get it wrong.

*So that’s the first thing: pastors are utterly ordinary human beings who need to brush their teeth. **Pastors are persons.***

*And then there’s this other thing: the utterly extraordinary demands of their position within the community. **These persons are pastors.***

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Announcements

Church Council *Highlights*

Marvin Manring, Lay Leader

Council convened for a brief meeting at 11:45 a.m. April 18, 2021.

Attendance: Marvin Manring, chairman; Dwain Hammons; Susan Holt; Sherlene Netsch; Rick Spiker; Ellen Morris; Mitch Ross; Ted Woodrell; Laura Ronald; Elizabeth Erickson; Linda Hall.

Marvin opened the meeting with prayer. The March 17, 2021 minutes were approved. (Susan/Sherlene)

Finance: Ted reported the balance sheet is strong. There is adequate working capital. And the YTD budget is doing quite well. He proposed as a point of discussion doing some future parsonage planning by starting an account with some of the excess funds. Report approved. (Ted/Mitch)

Endowment: Dwain reported the Endowment Fund balance at the end of March was \$60,236.51, an increase of \$10,000 from July.

Crystal Kimmi Educational Funds: Susan questioned what to do with the balance of funds. Marvin will talk to Sue Webb.

Financial Secretary: Laura reported she needs a replacement as she is moving to El Paso, TX for a year. Ellen Morris will see what is involved this week.

Security: Rick reported the team met on March 30. A few requests for the Trustees: lock uniformity; emergency bell; camera system; training.

Rick can become a certified instructor with a two-day course in Olathe, KS at a cost of \$600. This would allow free training for our new team members.

The chief of police in El Dorado Springs is a certified trainer. He says we can hire off duty officers for less than \$20 an hour. Approved proceeding with the camera system up to \$400. (Dwain/Sherlene)

Trustees: Rex reported there is a major blockage in the sewer that needs dug up. The kitchen ovens are not operating. The stove in the parsonage is being replaced.

USDA: Marvin reported USDA pass out will be available through May at the high school on Saturday mornings.

Dead Electronics: Sponsored by the Go Green Team will be Saturday, April 24, at the church parking lot. Donations will be accepted to cover the cost of some appliances that require dismantling.

Administrative Assistant: We are well pleased with the very capable work done by Pamela.

Pastor: Pastor Jim and Tebby are needing support and prayers due to the sudden loss of their grandson.

Media: Mitch reported the rear projector is not working.

Bereavement Committee: Sherlene reported Rusty Maggard and Kim Chism Jasper are chairing the dinners.

Recognized Graduates: Sunday, May 16, recognize Stockton High School graduates and our soprano Connor Ewens who graduates from Missouri State.

Other Business: We support using the FLC for Red Cross Blood Drive in June.

Mitch closed the meeting with prayer.

Linda Hall, Recording Secretary

Next council meeting will be held May 16, 2021, following morning services.

Community Blood Drive

Marvin Manring, Lay Leader

SUMC is partnering with American Red Cross Blood Services to set up a community blood drive on June 25. Details are still being worked out so keep an eye out here and in email for more information.



What's New in the Library?

Rita Higley, Librarian

Work is still continuing in the cataloguing of all the materials. As more items find their place in the stacks, there will be legend signs placed in both rooms, in the coming month, to identify what is in that room. The sign out book will only be in the actual Library room.

During the first quarter, the following new—to—us books were added to the library:

- * *How Happiness Happens: Finding Lasting Joy In A World of Comparison, Disappointment And Unmet Expectations*—a nonfiction book by Max Lucado.
- * *Jesus in Me: Experiencing The Holy Spirit As A Constant Companion*—a nonfiction selection
- * *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach To Conservation That Starts In Your Own Back Yard*—a Go Green selection
- * *The Hate You Give*—a UMW 2021 Nurturing for Community selection
- * *Secrets of Harmony Grove* —a Christian fiction mystery
- * *When Mockingbirds Sing*—a Christian fiction
- * *Webster's Large Print Dictionary*—a reference addition
- * *Chicken Soup for Soul: My Very Good, Very Bad Dog: 101 Heartwarming Stories About Our Happy, Heroic And Hilarious Pets.*
- * *The Chosen*--Season 1—an 8 episode series that digs deeper into the backstories and context of the people and events of the gospels. Season 1 introduces people such as Simon Peter, Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene, Matthew, and Jesus in a way never before seen on film. A DVD selection (found in the Media Room).

We're still looking for metal bookends, so please keep your eyes out for them at garage sales if you enjoy that type of outing. If you have any ideas or suggestions for materials, there is a suggestion box in the Library for your comments or feel free to contact me directly.

USDA Produce Drop Information

Marvin Manring, Lay Leader

Well, the title says it all. We are guaranteed a delivery each Saturday in May.

I'm currently working on making sure that our delivery site is clear for the month. Dr. Crawford has given the go-ahead so as far as I know, we have the HS facilities

reserved. There might be some traffic as we deal with state track participants and other activities, but I'll work to keep it clear as possible.

As far as volunteers, the most significant conflict, so far is the Memorial Day weekend when the Lions Club is cooking on the square. We'll work around this somehow.

Tasks include working the line of cars in the west circle drive, feeding traffic into the student parking area, assisting with unloading the truck, setting up pickup stations, and loading each car as it comes through the line. Much of the unloading process involves our own labor with a pallet jack on the truck and a forklift spotting the pallets along the parking bumpers. This was set up to be as contactless as possible last summer and that practice will continue.

Masks are required of workers and we will ask people to stay in their cars. Delivery will take place each Saturday, rain, or shine, and while we've usually run out by 11 a.m., we keep at it until it's gone. Cleanup involves stacking pallets to be picked up the following week.

We don't know if this will extend past May, but any food security we can offer to the community makes a difference. This project had a regular group of helpers last summer, but more are welcome to lighten everyone's Saturday commitment. Please visit with me on a Sunday or call/email if you can pitch in.

This also extends the need for the forklift. Our #2 fork is probably not up to the task of getting the milk pallets off the truck.

Input welcome. I know this makes a big impact on the community but it's also a heavy commitment from volunteers. Looking for more people, and I invite you to do the same.

Marvin Manring
276-9456
marvin.manring@gmail.com

Go Green Show and Tell: Taco Seasoning Mix Recipe

Cheryl Y. Marcum, Creation Care Ministry

The last item on every Go Green Team meeting agenda is Go Green Show and Tell. Members love to share new products, ideas, and actions that align with God's direction in the second creation story, Genesis 2:15. "The Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." The Greek word for keep here is *shamar*; it means guard, protect, preserve, keep watch, have charge of. That means our primary vocation is to take care of—to keep—what belongs to God for the mutual flourishing of all life. God entrusted the care of our planet to us.

Our United Methodist Council of Bishops wrote in 2009, "We must begin the work of renewing creation by being renewed in our own hearts and minds. We cannot help the world until we change our way of being in it." They called out our culturally acceptable, environmentally irresponsible habits, and they challenged us to make different, creation—respecting choices. As a tiny example, accept the inconvenience of washing a reusable cup instead of throwing a disposable one "away."

Our Go Green Team is always on the lookout for ways we can replace our mindless environmentally irresponsible habits with intentional creation respecting habits.

We send excessive amounts of waste to our landfills, including much waste that could be recycled, if we disciplined ourselves to do it. One creation respecting habit is to avoid purchasing over-packaged goods, especially ones packaged with co-mingled bonded materials which cannot be recycled, such as foil, paper, and plastic. Think about the products you purchase that fall in this category and consider how to avoid them.

If you make tacos at home, stop sending those non-recyclable foil-lined-paper taco seasoning mix envelopes to the landfill. Make your own seasoning mix and store it in sealed, pre-used glass McCormick spice jars with new labels.

Mix the following ingredients to make your own taco seasoning mix and control salt intake.

Taco Seasoning Mix Recipe

- 4 T. chili powder
- 2 T. cumin
- 1 T. paprika
- 1 T. salt (or less for low sodium diet)
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. minced onion (dried) optional
- 1 tsp. oregano
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 1 T. corn starch optional

Substitute 2-3 tablespoons of this seasoning mix for one commercially packaged envelope to season one pound of cooked ground beef or chicken. Add a little water, as necessary.

Enjoy taking this tiny step toward keeping God's good creation. Think what else you can do, try it, and share it!

Recipe source:

<https://gimmedelicious.com/2018/03/16/the-best-homemade-taco-seasoning/>



United Methodist Women Spring Rummage Sale

Darlene Barker, Rummage Sale Coordinator

The United Methodist Women hope to see you at their fall rummage sale at these days and times in the Family Life Center:

- ✓ **Monday, May 3, 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. Donation's welcome, workers set up sale.**
- ✓ **Tuesday, May 4, 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. Donation's welcome**
- ✓ **Wednesday, May 5, 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. SALE**
- ✓ **Thursday, May 6, 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. SALE**
- ✓ **Friday, May 7, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. SALE**
- ✓ **Saturday, May 8, 9 a.m.- noon BAG SALE**

Cleanup help needed after Saturday sale, all hands-on board. Box or bag leftover items, no heavy lifting.

Note: We cannot accept picture frames with glass, mattresses, box springs, heavy exercise equipment, heavy metal desks, CRT or TV.



Stockton United Methodist Church

May Calendar of Special Events

Current as April 30, 2021. For updates, visit www.stocktonumc.org/calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:45a.m. SS 10:45a.m WC/S 11:45a.m. FLC-RS Set Up, Donations	9-10 a.m. Yoga Rm 100 9-10 a.m. Exercise TBA 9a.m.-6p.m. FLC-RS Set Up, Donations	<i>Anniversary of Stock Tornado</i> 9a.m.-6p.m. FLC-RS Donations	9-10 a.m. Yoga Rm 100 9a.m.-6p.m. FLC-RS Sale 6-10p. Rm. 100	7 a.m-5 p.m. WIC-Rm. 100 9-10 a.m. Exercise TBA 9a.m.-6p.m. FLC-RS Sale	9a.m.-6p.m. FLC-RS Sale Pastor's Personal Day Office Closed	9-11 a.m. USDA Food/Stockton HS 6-10p Rm. 100
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<i>Mother's Day</i> 9:45a.m. SS 10:45a.m WC/S HAPPY Mother's Day	9-10 a.m. Yoga Rm 100 9-10 a.m. Exercise FLC 1:30 p.m. CP Rm. 100		9-10 a.m. Yoga Rm FLC 6-10p. Rm. 100	7 a.m-5 p.m. WIC-Rm. 100 9-10 a.m. Exercise FLC	Pastor's Personal Day Office Closed 6:30 p.m. Connor Ewens Recital/S	<i>Armed Forces Day</i> 9-11 a.m. USDA Food/Stockton HS 6-10p Rm. 100
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<i>Senior Recognition</i> 9:45a.m. SS 10:45a.m WC/S 11:45a.m. CCM/Rm 203	SC Deadline 9-10 a.m. Yoga Rm 100 9-10 a.m. Exercise FLC		9-10 a.m. Yoga Rm FLC 9a-2p.TT/100 6-10p. Rm. 100	7 a.m-5 p.m. WIC-Rm. 100 9-10 a.m. Exercise FLC	Pastor's Personal Day Office Closed	9-11 a.m. USDA Food/Stockton HS 6-10p Rm. 100
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:45a.m. SS 10:45a.m WC/S Noon-7p.m. Farwell Res FLC	9-10 a.m. Yoga Rm 100 9-10 a.m. Exercise FLC 1:30 p.m. CP Rm. 100		9-10 a.m. Yoga Rm FLC 6-10p. Rm. 100	7 a.m-5 p.m. WIC-Rm. 100 9-10 a.m. Exercise FLC	Pastor's Personal Day Office Closed	9-11 a.m. USDA Food/Stockton HS 6-10p Rm. 100
30	31	<p>KEY: USDA-produce crate distribution SS-Sunday School WC-Worship Celebration S-Sanctuary W-Welcome Area E-Education Wing CCM-Church Council Meeting FLC-Family Life Center CP-Comforter Project TT-Tomorrow's Treasures SC-Steeple Chimes RS-Rummage Sale</p>				
9:45a.m. SS 10:45a.m WC/S 	<i>Memorial Day</i> Office Closed					



Stockton United Methodist Church

May Calendar of Events

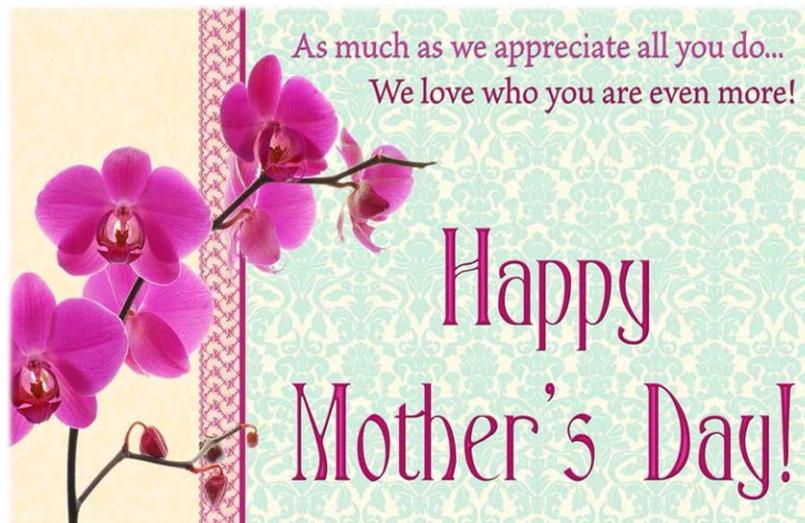
Current as of April 30, 2021. For updates visit www.stocktonumc.org/calendar

Special Events

- ★ **May 1** (Saturday) 9-11 a.m. **USDA Food Distribution**/*Stockton High School*
- ★ **May 4** (Tuesday) **Anniversary of Stockton Tornado**
- ★ **May 5-8** (Wednesday-Saturday) **Spring Rummage Sale**/*Family Life Center*
9 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday- Friday; 9 a.m.-Noon Saturday.
- ★ **May 8** (Saturday) 9-11 a.m. **USDA Food Distribution**/*Stockton High School*
- ★ **May 9** (Sunday) **Mother's Day**
- ★ **May 14** (Friday) 6:30 p.m. **Connor Ewens Senior Recital**/*Sanctuary*
- ★ **May 15** (Saturday) **Armed Forces Day**
- ★ **May 15** (Saturday) 9-11 a.m. **USDA Food Distribution**/*Stockton High School*
- ★ **May 16** (Sunday) 10:45 a.m. **Senior Recognition**/*Sanctuary*
- ★ **May 16** (Sunday) 11:45 a.m. **Church Council Meeting**/*Parlor-room 203*
- ★ **May 19** (Wednesday) 6:30-8 p.m. **SHS Baccalaureate Service**/*Stockton Assembly of God*
- ★ **May 22** (Saturday) 9-11 a.m. **USDA Food Distribution**/*Stockton High School*
- ★ **May 23** (Sunday) **Pentecost**
- ★ **May 29** (Saturday) 9-11 a.m. **USDA Food Distribution**/*Stockton High School*
- ★ **May 31** (Monday) 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **Office Closed**/*Memorial Day*

Mark Your Calendar Beyond January . . .

- ★ **June 25** TBA **Community Blood Drive**/*Family Life Center*
- ★ **June 1** (Tuesday) 1 p.m. **United Methodist Women's Meeting**/*Parlor-room 203*
- ★ **June 13** (Sunday) **United Methodist Women Sunday**/*Sanctuary*
- ★ **June 20** (Sunday) **Father's Day**



★ If you need prayers or to add someone to our Prayer List, please contact the office via phone, email, or mail.

Pastor's Paragraph

Some Thoughts About Pastoring the Pastor

Continued from page 1

Part of the challenge of caring for pastors is trying to understand what it is like to walk in a pastor's shoes. If we can gain some appreciation for the dynamics which are part and parcel of a pastor's place in the community, we may be better able to care for them appropriately. Let me suggest at least seven ways in which the pastoral role carries extraordinary demands. And it's not that each or that any of these seven is overwhelming on its own, but together, they add up like straws on a camel's back.

- 1. The rhythm of a pastor's weekly schedule is at odds with the rhythm of most of the rest of the congregation, and certainly at odds with the rest of his/her family! When others are winding down towards the weekend, pastors are winding up. On the weekend, when the family has the most time to be together for visiting and play and errands, a pastor generally has the least time available.*
- 2. Pastors participate in every major moment of the church community—not just some of them. Whether it is grief, anxiety, conflict or celebration, the work of pastoral care can be very draining. And how does one measure emotional drain? When combined with the challenge of preaching, and the vulnerability which honest preaching requires, the stress on overall health and vitality is significant.*
- 3. Just passin' through? This is a challenging point. For their own mental health, pastors need to settle into their church community as though they are at home. But it is also true that pastors are not entirely at home in the way that many others are. There is an unusual tension that exists for a pastor and family: they need to live as though they are at home in a community which will one day not be home.*
- 4. While a pastor is one of the people and lives among the people, he/she is also by virtue of ordination, set apart for service—and that very role, of calling attention to the presence of the Other, sets a pastor apart. There is a certain*

“otherness” that a pastor wears as part of his/her ordination.

- 5. Pastors and their families live in the public eye. This reality is part and parcel of being a public leader. And there are often unwritten expectations which pastors and their families discover along the way.*
- 6. Special holiday seasons such as Christmas and Easter can be challenging. These feast days in the church seem to call for the regular presence of the pastor, while congregants are free to join with distant family and friends. I know a pastor who “worked” Christmas Day for 25 consecutive years without ever considering that it might be an option to ask for the day off. Nor did the suggestion ever occur to anyone in the church.*
- 7. Pastors find themselves in the odd position of seeming to be accountable to many—as in, to the entire congregation, and at the same time seeming to be accountable to no one. Job descriptions do not exist for many pastors, and matters surrounding reporting, evaluation and the setting of short-term and long-term goals at the council level are often underdeveloped.*

It is difficult for any of us to understand what it is to walk in another's shoes, and this is certainly true when it comes to understanding what it's like to walk in the shoes of a pastor. As much as possible, we do well to honor the pastor as an ordinary human being whose role carries extraordinary demands.

Ordinary and extraordinary both. We may not forget that a pastor is a person. And we may not forget that this person is a pastor. These two realities are mysteriously distinct and true at the same time.

The question comes—given the unique position that pastors and their families occupy within a church community—how can they be given appropriate care, and what shape might such care take?

I would suggest thinking about this on three levels.

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Pastor's Paragraph

Some Thoughts About Pastoring the Pastor

Continued from page 7

1) *Each and every member of a congregation participates in the pastor's care by virtue of personal interaction. This is a call to engagement—not as a silent partner but as a communicant. Speak a word of appreciation, ask a question, raise a concern—simply acknowledge the pastor's presence as real. Words of encouragement are always welcome, and prayers are the baptismal obligation which bless every child in the Christian community, pastors included! And do take an interest in the pastor and spouse which goes beyond their role, and honors the reality of their persons, families, and social needs.*

2) *At the level of a council, there are several things which can be especially helpful:*

- *View the pastor as a partner in ministry.*
- *Ensure healthy conversation around matters of expectation, purpose, and accomplishment. A well-defined job description can assist in setting goals, offering feedback, and providing regular evaluation. It can also be helpful in monitoring whether a pastor is overachieving or underachieving and help to focus his/her energies.*
- *Build on the areas of a pastor's strengths, and then complement with staff or volunteers in areas of lesser strength.*
- *Be generous in the area of continuing education. Continuing to learn is essential to a pastor's well-being, and a clear way for a council to nurture the pastor's health, growth, and creativity.*
- *Institute a sabbatical policy. The long-term health of pastors in this demanding work makes extended periods of rest and renewal vital. Rested, respected, and loved pastors—those who receive sabbaticals!—make for pastors better able to respect and love their congregations.*
- *Encourage the pastor to participate in some form of mentoring with peers. These are people who know what it is to walk in a pastor's*

shoes—both the joy of it and the burden. The opportunity for healthy vulnerability can be immensely refreshing.

- *When it comes to “pastor-appreciation” be cautious about splashy public moments. These may be awkward for members of the congregation, for the pastor personally, and for the pastor's family.*
- *Encourage the pastor to spend time with the full range of congregation members, from those who are distressed and needy to those who are soaring, and the many walkers in between.*
- *Know what your pastor considers to be play and encourage it!*

3) *Beyond the care given by a council and the leading of congregation, pastors and pastor couples need to take some responsibility for their own care—which is another conversation altogether.*

One last note—a bonus point, if you will—we can show care to pastor couples by the way we care for their children. Treat them not as pastor's children, but as children.”

<https://network.crcna.org/church-admin-finance/some-thoughts-about-pastoring-pastor>

Cecil Van Niejenhuis is a pastor and is a pastor/congregation consultant for the CRCNA's Office of Pastor-Church Relations.

New Touchless Soap Dispensers

Kim Chism Jasper

Thanks to the trustees for the touchless soap dispensers in the bathrooms! Thanks also to Pamela Griffis for finding a great bargain and ordering them.





Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday! Blessed Anniversary!

(Personal information not included in Steeple Chimes Web Version)



The Mail

A letter from Betty Spiker:

Receiving your prayers, cards, and phone calls were really appreciated while recuperating from recent surgery. Your thoughtfulness during this time was especially helpful.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Betty Spiker

Financial Report *Church Financial Information*

★ Full financial reports are in the church office and are available to any church member or constituent upon request (in person or by mail)



For showering me with emails, cards, gifts, and all the appreciation on Administrative Assistant Day! I'm truly blessed to work for the loving people of SUMC! © Blessings!

Pamela Griffis



SAMA Food Pantry

May Needs: Toilet paper, peanut butter, cereal, and laundry soap.

Servants

Liturgist: Harold Beck

Sunday Morning Greeters: John/Ellen Morris;
Doyle Fry; J.R. Williamson



People Connecting with Jesus Christ

STOCKTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 2021 Edition



Steeple Chimes

Stockton United Methodist Church

708 E. Hwy 32, Post Office Box 329, Stockton, MO 65785

Telephone (417) 276-4717

E-mail stocktonumc@windstream.net

www.stocktonumc.org

Worship 10:45 a.m.

Jim Coffer, Pastor

Jacky Vincent, *Organist*

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

Rose Mary Owens, *Director of Music*

Mary Anne Manring, *Pianist*

Parking Lot 88.5 FM

Facebook Live 10:45 a.m.

Return Service Requested