



NEWS, EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

August 2017 Newsletter

Our Vision: Sharing Our Joy in Christ Jesus by Reaching Out to Show God's Love.

Church Picnic

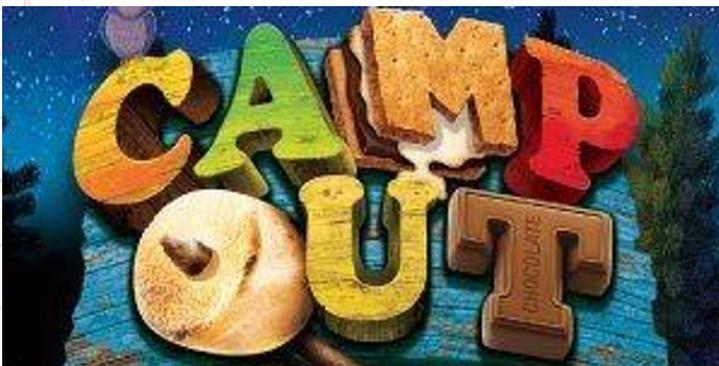


The Church Picnic will be held at Center Park (across from the Zoo on East Lake Shore Dr., areas 2-4) on **Sunday, August 27** at **12:30 PM**. Directions available at the Information Desk. Fried chicken, drinks and table service provided. Bring a side dish and/or a dessert to share, and your lawn chairs!



Promotion Sunday

On **Sunday, August 20** our children and youth will move up to their new classes. If you have questions about which grades promote, ask any of our Sunday school teachers, or contact the Church Office (697.4643/office@sugarcreek.org).



The Annual Family Campout will once again be at Ramsey State Park. Join us September 22—24 for three fun-filled days with other Sugar Creek Campers! You pay for a space when you arrive at the park. Please contact Shirley Rickman (217.691.5039) if you plan to attend, or have questions.



"You are the only Bible some unbelievers will ever read."

John MacArthur



Wonderful Wednesdays

Kick Off September 13

Meal—5:30pm

Classes—6:30pm





The men of Sugar Creek will meet Monday, August 14, at 6PM, at the Chatham Café in Chatham (414 N. Main). Dinner will be from the menu. All men of the church are invited.



**YOUR MONEY
FUNDING GOD'S MINISTRY**

June Stewardship Scripture: It's our way of encouraging everyone to become a better steward. Giving is an act of faith.



CHAIR YOGA
Mondays at 10 AM

Chair Yoga emphasizes on breathing, mild stretching and relaxation. The cost is \$10 a session, and you pay when you come. Open to everyone!

General Fund	June 2017	Year to Date
Contributions	\$15,435	\$118,086
Expense		
Missions & Benevolence	\$1,379	\$9,342
Conference Obligations	\$2,136	\$12,816
Program Expense	\$2,042	\$8,248
Salaries (Pastor/Staff)	\$10,075	\$63,561
Utilities, Cleaning, Moving	\$9,016	\$22,581
Total Expense	\$24,648	\$116,548
Net Income (-loss)	(\$9,213)	\$1,538

Building Fund

Contributions	\$1,497	\$6,234
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 **WE DON'T HAVE TO AGREE**
On anything
TO BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER.



"Give to those who ask, and don't refuse those who wish to borrow from you."
Matthew 5:42

Reaching out to show God's Love in 2017!

Tuesdays at 7AM
Edgar's Coffee House
Chatham



**SMALL
gr:up**

We're Saving a Seat for You...



1st	Sally Behl	18th	Bill Legg	2nd	Bill & Audrey Moore
1st	Terry House	18th	Jay Davis	4th	Jerry & Linda Suchomski
2nd	Mindi Tuxhorn	18th	Jerry Suchomski	5th	John & Lucy Anderson
3rd	Becky Lucas	19th	Joe Frazee	6th	Keith & Corinna (Kurth) Baker
3rd	Jason Sharp	19th	Jason Henry	18th	Barry & Jennifer Smith
3rd	Brad Johnson	21st	Charlotte Clark	19th	Harry & Barbara Deffley
4th	Brian Cowgur	21st	Ray Lytle	20th	Keith & Bonnie Horn
5th	Lovell Legg	22nd	Jenna Horn	23rd	Ted & Jean Chase
6th	Charlotte House	23rd	Jeff Ondrey	23rd	Bill & Lisa Brockway
10th	Chuck Sharp	24th	Angel Lael	24th	John & Charse Kessler
12th	Mike Barnard	27th	Megan Brown	29th	Chuck & Lois Frazee
14th	Marcia Mackay	28th	Rosa Bryan		
14th	Rustin Godfrey	29th	Melissa Osborne		
14th	Cole Craven	30th	Kerry McDonald		
14th	Olivia Craven	31st	Linda Davis		

Don't see your name on the birthday or anniversary list? Please contact the Church Office. We don't want to miss your special day!

Thank You

Thank you Sugar Creek Family, for your cards and kind words. Thank you for your phone calls and notes on Facebook. Thank you to those who helped us pack. But most of all we want to thank you for your thoughts and prayers, which comforted and surrounded us with God's peace as we mourn the death and loss of our Grandson, Kyle.

Butch and Sue Moroney

AUGUST MEETINGS

Trustees

Tuesday, August 8 at 6:30 PM

Education Team

Monday, August 14 at 6:00 PM

Leadership Team

Tuesday, August 15 at 6:30 PM

Missions Team

Tuesday, August 22 at 6:30 PM

Worship Team

Thursday, August 24 at 6:30 PM



Pastor Paul will be attending the Transitional International Interim Ministry Seminar (TIIMS) in Lake Junaluska, N.C. from August 14–19. Please keep Pastor Paul & Nancy in your prayers for safe travel to and from North Carolina.



How would we live if we always believed Christ lived in us?

Have you signed up for one of the “Listening Sessions”? We have four opportunities available this month:



Listening Sessions

The Listening Sessions are limited to 10-12 people for each session.

Tuesday, August 1 at 2:00 PM

Sugar Creek United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

Thursday, August 3 at 6:30 PM

Home of Jeff & Robyn McDonald—82 Covered Bridge Acres, Glenarm

Monday, August 7 at 6:30 PM

Home of Clark & Barb Germann—10477 Gordon Dr., Chatham

Thursday, August 10 at 6:30 PM

Home of Don & Reta Jones—18 Maplehurst Dr., Rochester

These sessions provide a safe and casual opportunity to share the history and future, joys and concerns, struggles and successes, dreams and desires of our church; giving Pastor Paul a valuable opportunity to listen to what is on our hearts and minds.

Contact the Church Office to sign up!
office@sugarcreek.org/217.697.4643



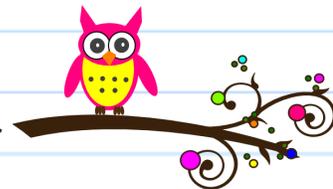
The Church has to replace the heating/cooling unit in the Sanctuary, which has thankfully lasted us over twenty years. Unfortunately, the unit we have is a discontinued model, so parts are obsolete. To make a donation towards the purchase of a new unit, please make checks payable to Sugar Creek with “Sanctuary unit” in the memo section of your check. The cost is a little over \$16,000 (including installation).



Jim Lund will be riding with a team, comprised of Illinois military members, from Cairo to Chicago to raise funds and awareness for the families of the 34 fallen Illinois Air and Army National Guard members killed since September 11, 2001. The endurance ride is 500 miles over 4 days (Sept. 20-23). Jim's goal is to raise \$1,000 toward the effort. The website offers more insight into the endeavor and offers an electronic method for contributing. Checks can also be made out to "Gold Star Mission" and given to

Jim. The Gold Star Mission is a nonprofit organization that seeks to honor and support Gold Star Families by preserving the memory of our Fallen Heroes through service to others in need. Check out their website at www.goldstarmission.org.

Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts.





- Auburn Schools August 19
- Chatham SchoolsAugust 16
- Pawnee SchoolsAugust 15
- Rochester SchoolsAugust 23
- Springfield SchoolsAugust 21

GET INVOLVED

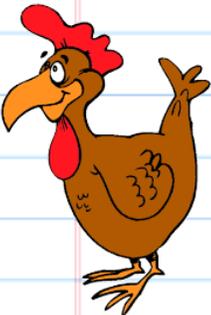
Be a volunteer and reap the rewards

**Volunteer Day at Midwest Mission Distribution Center
Friday, August 18 from 9am—Noon**

The third Friday of every month Sugar Creek volunteers at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center, located next door to the church. Everyone is welcome to come and take part in this mission experience. Want to learn more about the MMDC? Check them out on the web:

www.midwestmissiondc.org





**23rd Annual
Fried Chicken Dinner**

Saturday, September 9, 2017
Serving from 4pm—8pm

~TICKETS~
Adults—\$9 (Under 12—\$4)

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR DINNER

- 25—Cakes
 - 120—Pies
 - 100 lbs—Sugar
 - 50 lbs—Flour
 - 8 lbs—Bacon
 - 15—Loaves of White Bread
 - 10—Loaves of Rye Bread
 - 10—Loaves of Wheat Bread
 - 20—Gallons of Whole Kernel Corn
 - 30—Gallons of Cut Green Beans
 - 8—Gallons of Brown Vinegar
 - 5—Large Onions
 - 10 lbs—Coffee
 - 5 lbs—Decaf Coffee
 - 20—Cans of Kool-Aid
 - 30 lbs—Stick Butter
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Sunday, August 6
Provided by Keith & Corinna (Kurth) Baker.
In honor of their 34th wedding anniversary.

Sunday, August 13
Provided by Mike & Pat Freitag. In celebration of Kelli Spaniel.

Sunday, August 20
Provided by the Tuxhorn family. In loving memory of Levi Tuxhorn.

Sunday, August 27
Provided by Chuck & Lois Frazee. In honor of their 52nd wedding anniversary.

Be somebody who makes everybody feel like somebody.




Just a THOUGHT

A CHALLENGE TO LISTEN

“Listen dear ones – get this straight; O Israel, don’t take this lightly. Don’t take up with strange gods. I’m God your God, the very God who rescued you from doom in Egypt, then fed you all you could eat, filled your hungry stomachs. But my people didn’t listen. . . .” – Psalm 81: 8-11

It’s hard to listen, isn’t it? Let me say it again in case you weren’t listening. It’s hard to really listen. I’m not talking about it being hard to hear, but hard to listen. You see, there’s a distinct difference between hearing and listening, as most wives would be quick to agree regarding their husbands. Deserved or not, most wives accuse their husbands of having selective hearing – that is, they hear only what they want to hear. (By the way, I plead the Fifth Amendment here.)

Another way to describe “selective hearing” is that sometimes persons hear what the other is saying but they fail to listen to what’s being said. We’ve all experienced that a time or two in our lives haven’t we? We hear perfectly well what a person standing right in front of us is saying, but our mind wanders off or we’re preoccupied with something else at the time. Thus, as soon as we walk away we think to ourselves, “I have no idea what he/she just said to me.” This is because, although we heard the words, we didn’t listen to the message. This leaves us with a dilemma. Do we try to figure out what we heard on our own and make the best of it? Or do we go back to the person and admit we weren’t listening? (Here’s a little advice for any husband reading this. Always . . . always go back and admit your sin of not listening. It will save you a lot of misery in the end.)

In Psalm 81, the writer is proclaiming a message to the people from Yahweh God. God’s message begins with the directive to “listen.” Then God warns the chosen people not to “take up with strange gods,” that the God who saved them from slavery in Egypt and fed their empty stomachs in the desert with manna from heaven is their God. God then declares “my people didn’t listen.” Isn’t that just like us? It’s not that the people didn’t hear God’s words spoken to them by the prophets; it’s that they were so preoccupied with worshiping their false gods to really *listen* to God’s message.

Why didn’t the Israelites, and why don’t we, listen to God? We don’t listen because it’s a challenge to listen. Also, why do we struggle as Christians and as Christ’s Church to fulfill the Great Commandment (to love God and neighbor) and the Great Commission (to make disciples of Christ)? We struggle because, as we become distracted with worshiping false gods, although we hear God’s call, we fail to listen to God’s message. I know what you’re thinking, “Pastor Paul I don’t worship golden calves or sacred statues.” Perhaps not, but we all have idols we worship, which is anything we place above our worship of the one true God (money, careers, possessions, even church, for example).

Since it’s so difficult to listen, I offer you a challenge to listen. In the next few months, I challenge us, as Christians and as Christ’s Church, to go beyond merely hearing to truly listening. Let’s begin by intently listening to God speaking to us and then faithfully responding to His call. Then, let’s start earnestly listening to one another at home, at work, at school, and at church. Let’s not stop there, however. We as a church need to listen compassionately to the least and the lost in our community and reach out to them with the love of God, be a blessing to them, provide for their needs, and offer them the hope that only comes from the Good News of Jesus Christ.

To help us conquer our challenge to listen at Sugar Creek, we are holding several “listening sessions” in July and August as opportunities for us to gather in the comfort and safety of person’s homes, and to share our joys and concerns, successes and failures, passions and gifts, hopes and vision, celebrations and challenges, etc. for our personal faith journeys as Christians, and for our common divine calling as Christ’s Church. They also provide an important opportunity for me, not only to hear, but also to listen earnestly to each of you who are willing to share your personal story and your church’s story. Thank you! (By the way, the listening sessions end Aug. 10! So, sign up today and participate if you haven’t already, because it’s important that I “listen” to you.)

I encourage you to begin the challenge to listen sincerely and compassionately today. A good place to start is where you are right now – at your home and church! Just a thought . . .

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE



Sugar Creek is pleased to announce that we have hired a new Youth Pastor. James Furlong will be joining our staff the first week of September. Please give James a warm Sugar Creek welcome, and let him know how excited we are to have him join our Church Family.



Hello Sugar Creek United Methodist Church!

My name is James Furlong, I grew up in the great state of Colorado for most of my life. My entire family currently lives in the hot state of Arizona, so if I ever talk about going home that's where I am heading.

I love being outside, if there is ever a chance to be out in nature I am usually there. I connect with God more when I am surrounded by nature and I can embrace what He has created all around me. I am 26 years old, I am working on getting a bachelor's degree in Youth Ministry at Greenville University. I will be able to graduate in December of 2018.

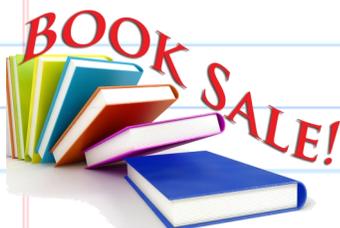
I love sports, my two teams are the Green Bay Packers and the St. Louis Blues and I am always willing to go watch the game with anyone, just know that I do get crazy! I am very excited to serve this church and to come and love each student that comes to Sugar Creek.

James Furlong



Christmas at Sugar Creek Vendor Fair

Saturday, November 25, 2017
10 AM—3 PM



Once again, the Sugar Creek Youth will be collecting gently used books, and CDS for the Vendor Fair. Do you have books or CDS you would like to donate? If so, please drop them off at the Church. We will be accepting donations through November 19. All proceeds benefit the Sugar Creek Student Ministry.