

Sugar Creek United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER 2017

# News Events & Happenings



## 23rd ANNUAL FRIED CHICKEN DINNER

*(See page 2 for details)*



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

**Adults—\$9 Kids under 12—\$4**

Fried chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn or green beans, coleslaw, and your choice of dessert and drink



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.

Happy Fall,  
Y'all!

**FALL BEGINS**  
**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**



Please keep the families that lost loved ones on September 11, 2001 in your prayers. This month is especially hard for them, and they need our prayers!

**Wonderful**  
**WEDNESDAYS**

**Kick Off September 13**  
**Meal—5:30pm**  
**Classes—6:30pm**  
*(class details on page 4)*



**It's Almost Rummage Sale Time!**

The sale is set for Saturday, October 14 from 8 AM—Noon. We will be accepting donations AFTER the Chicken Dinner (September 9), since storage is very limited.

We will not be able to transport large items for anyone. Profits will go to various missions.



**Fried Chicken Dinner  
September 9**

**JOIN THE FUN AND FELLOWSHIP!**

We are in need of volunteers who would like to help with the following:

**COLE SLAW DAY**

**Wednesday, September 6 at 9AM.**

**SET UP**

**Saturday, September 9 at 10AM.**

Clean chicken, setup tables (*dining room and Bazaar*), chairs, serving lines, run dishes through the dishwasher.

**PREP**

**Saturday, September 9 at 1PM**

Set up tents, flouring tables and chicken cooker. Prepare drinks, wrap silverware, cut and slice



The United Methodist Women will have a Bake Sale in the Foyer during the dinner. Please help out by providing baked goods for the sale. All proceeds benefit UMW mission projects.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN**

**Monday, September 11 at 6pm**

**Chatham Cafe**

The men of Sugar Creek will meet Monday, September 11, at 6:00pm in at the Chatham Café (414 N. Main). Pastor Paul will be the speaker for the evening. All men of the church are invited and encouraged to come. Dinner will be from the menu. Hope to see you there!

**Donations Needed for Dinner**

- 25—Cakes
- 120—Pies
- 100 lbs—Sugar
- 50 lbs—Flour
- 8 lbs—Bacon
- 10—Loaves of Rye Bread
- 20—Gallons of Whole Kernel Corn
- 8—Gallons of Brown Vinegar
- 10 lbs—Coffee
- 20—Cans of Kool-Aid
- 15—Loaves of White Bread
- 10—Loaves of Wheat Bread
- 30—Gallons of Cut Green Beans
- 5—Large Onions
- 5 lbs—Decaf Coffee
- 30 lbs—Stick Butter



The Church Office will be closed Monday, September 4 in observance of Labor Day. Enjoy the holiday!

*And people should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labor, for these are gifts from God.*

*Ecclesiastes 3:13*



**THIS HOPE**

**Thursday, November 9**

**7:00 PM**

This is a FREE concert at Sugar Creek (A love offering for the group will be taken). Look for more info coming soon!

To listen to their music, and learn more about This Hope, check out their website at [www.thishope.org](http://www.thishope.org).



- |      |                    |      |                   |
|------|--------------------|------|-------------------|
| 1st  | Kristen Patterson  | 19th | Henley Brown      |
| 2nd  | Barb Hedinger      | 20th | Karen Dozier      |
| 3rd  | Phyllis Fairchild  | 20th | Mimi Horn         |
| 3rd  | Carolyn Allen      | 21st | Tom Hale          |
| 4th  | Marsha Johnson     | 21st | Milt Miner        |
| 4th  | Alaina Brockway    | 22nd | Mason Kaylor      |
| 6th  | Barry Smith        | 22nd | Marshall Kaylor   |
| 6th  | Virginia Daugherty | 24th | Richard Fanning   |
| 6th  | Lindsey Koch       | 24th | Kathy Simmons     |
| 9th  | Caden Forbes       | 25th | Mason Brockway    |
| 13th | Steven Chase       | 26th | Carole Finchum    |
| 15th | Jean McClure       | 26th | Clara Lowary      |
| 15th | Adam Chase         | 27th | Susan Perko       |
| 16th | Dave Dickey        | 28th | Rick Miles        |
| 18th | Diann Gragg        | 29th | Carol Koch        |
| 18th | Lynn Bale          | 30th | Kara (Mobley) Cox |
| 18th | Laikyn McGuire     | 30th | Lauren Godfrey    |

**Christmas at Sugar Creek  
VENDOR FAIR**  
Saturday, November 25  
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.

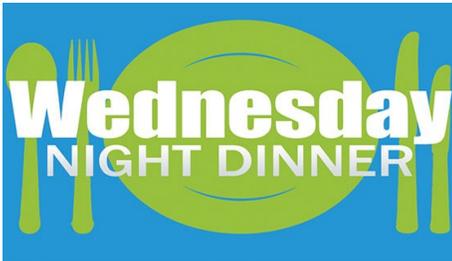
*Don't see your name on the birthday or anniversary list? We don't want to miss your special day! Please contact the Church Office ([office@sugarcreek.org](mailto:office@sugarcreek.org)/217.697.4643) to let us know!*



- |      |                        |      |                           |
|------|------------------------|------|---------------------------|
| 5th  | Joe & Jean McClure     | 20th | Lynn & Cathy Bale         |
| 6th  | Bill & Lovell Legg     | 23rd | Wayne & Debbie Sisk       |
| 6th  | Dale & Mary Elenberger | 28th | Richard & Carolyn Halford |
| 17th | Mark & Dolores Mobley  | 28th | Bill & Rachel Shea        |



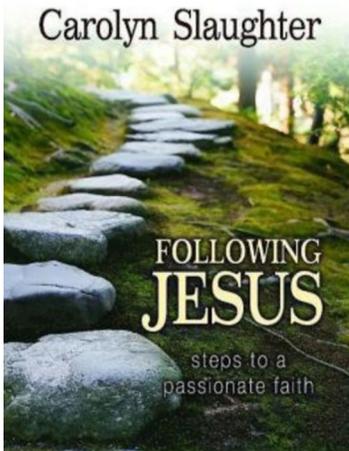
**Wonderful Wednesdays are Back!  
Beginning September 13**



Join us at 5:30 PM on Wednesday nights for a delicious meal prepared by our Wonderful Wednesday Kitchen Crew. Look for a weekly email, letting you know what's on the menu, or follow us on Facebook (Sugar Creek).

**Come for dinner and stay for a study at 6:30 PM!**

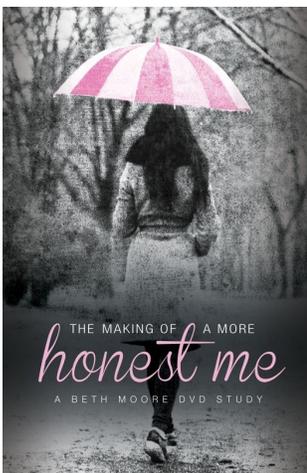
Carolyn Slaughter



**Following Jesus: Steps to a Passionate Faith  
Led by: Pastor Paul**

Pastor Paul is leading a study on Carolyn Slaughter's book titled, *Following Jesus: Steps to a Passionate Faith*. *Following Jesus* leads adults to rediscover Jesus, grow in the spirit and learn to live in faith and in service to the church, community and world. The study is taking place in the Conference Room.

Crystal Matthiesen will be leading two Beth Moore studies (back to back) for a total of 9 weeks. The two studies are *The Making of a More Honest Me* and *The Law of Love*. They are both dvd series with no homework. These back to back studies will meet in the Youth Room.

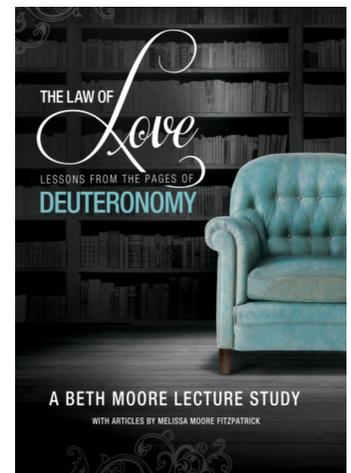


**The Making of a More Honest Me**

Wrestling with God? Wrestling with people? Need a new identity? This study is based on Genesis 32.

**The Law of Love**

Looking for your promised land? Asking, "What's the point?" This study is based on the book of Deuteronomy.



Contact the Church Office ([office@sugarcreek.org](mailto:office@sugarcreek.org)/217.697.4643), or sign up on the back of a Sunday morning connection card if you would like to join one of the book studies.



## VISION FOR OUR JOURNEY

*Then the LORD answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay.” - Habakkuk 2:2-3 NRSV*

“Some people have asked me what I thought our church needs to rise above our difficulties, and to be the church God calls us to be. The short answer is this: “Our church needs a clear vision.” Vision enables us to move forward into the future on our faith journey as a church. Vision provides the spark we need to ignite our passion and potential to be a Christ-centered church - reaching out and making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

What is vision and why is it so important? To answer the last part of the question first, Proverbs 29:18 emphasizes the importance of vision: *Where there is no vision, the people perish. . . .* - KJV. It is that simple; it is that important. No business or organization expects to survive, grow and prosper without a clear vision. It is also true regarding our church. We will not grow in numbers and in faith, or accomplish God’s work and will, if we do not have a clear vision to lead us forward.

To answer the first part of the question next, I rely on the words and wisdom of others who are better able to define *vision*. Lovett H. Weems, Jr. describes vision this way:

*It is a dream. It is a picture of what is possible. Perhaps the best way to think of it is “a picture of a preferred future.”*

*In a recent speech, Bishop Rueben P. Job defines and describes a vision in this way: “Vision is a gift of God. It is the reward of disciplined, faithful, and patient listening to God. Vision allows us to see beyond the visible, beyond the barriers and obstacles to our mission. Vision ‘catches us up,’ captivates and compels us to act. Vision is the gift of eyes of faith to see the invisible, to know the unknowable, to think the unthinkable, to experience the not yet. Vision allows us to see signs of the kingdom now, in our midst. Vision gives us focus, energy, and a willingness to risk. It is our vision that draws us forward.*

*My friend and mentor, Dr. Ted Snyder (a retired ordained elder in the IGRC), talks about the meaning and importance of vision, and how it differs from mission with these words:*

*People never grow beyond their vision. No church will ever grow any larger than its vision. . . . The bigger the vision, the more we will be able to accomplish for God.*

*A vision is the ability to see those things that are not visible. . . . Vision rests on faith. With a vision people not only tackle the impossible, but also accomplish it. Without a vision, nothing worthwhile ever happens.*

*The church, then, must have both a mission and a vision. A mission instills both the passion and the patience for the long journey. Vision inspires that passion and provides us with a roadmap to accomplish the mission.*

Thus, knowing the importance of a vision and mission, one of my priorities as pastor of SCUMC is to lead our church to understand, support and live our new vision (Sharing Our Joy in Christ Jesus by Reaching Out to Show God’s Love) and unique mission (To Bring People to Jesus Christ through Worship, Connection and Service). I have already begun this process by holding a series of “listening sessions” in which we spent valuable time telling our stories, and sharing our thoughts and feelings about our church, including our joys and successes, concerns and disappointments, and vision and mission.

I will use the thoughts and ideas shared, along with helpful information I have been gathering from individual church members and leaders during my first few weeks at SCUMC, prayerfully to discern the best way to live our vision and fulfill our mission as we move forward in our faith journey. It is important to note that during the discernment process, how we live our vision and fulfill our mission may become clear rather quickly and with little effort, or it may take some time and considerable effort. Regardless, it is imperative we, as a church and as members, make ourselves vulnerable before God and one another, and open ourselves fully to the movement of the Holy Spirit during this time.

I feel Rev. Snider's remarks are most appropriate to remember as we seek to discern how to live our vision and fulfill our mission: *Mission instills both the passion and the patience for the long journey. Vision inspires that passion and provides us with a roadmap to accomplish the mission.* It's time, then, that we take out our roadmap to see what's on the horizon for our church. Then, let's move forward with passion and patience on the long journey ahead. If we have our vision before us and remain focused on Jesus Christ, I am confident we will move boldly forward into the future, and we will live and grow in body and spirit as Christ's holy church is called to be and do. Just a thought . . .

Pastor Paul



**YOUR MONEY  
FUNDING GOD'S MINISTRY**

*Those who are generous are blessed for they share their bread with the poor.*  
*Proverbs 22:9*

The Stewardship Scripture for September is our way of encouraging everyone to become a better steward. Giving is an act of faith.

**September Meetings**

**Education Team**  
Monday, September 11 at 6 PM

**Trustees**  
Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30 PM

**Leadership Team**  
Tuesday, September 19 at 6:30 PM

**Missions Team**  
Tuesday, September 26 at 6:30 PM

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>July 2017</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Contributions	\$24,350	\$142,437
Expense		
Missions & Benevolence	\$1,404	\$10,746
Conference Obligations	\$2,136	\$14,952
Program Expense	\$1,304	\$9,552
Salaries (Pastor & Staff)	\$13,206	\$76,767
Utilities, Cleaning, Moving	\$1,927	\$24,508
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$19,977</b>	<b>\$136,525</b>
Net Income (-loss)	\$4,373	\$5,912
Building Fund		
Contributions	\$6,996	\$13,230

*Sharing our joy in Christ Jesus by Reaching out to show God's Love.*

**Wonderful Wednesday  
SPOOKTACULAR DINNER**

**October 25 at 5:30pm**



What a beautiful day for a picnic! We had over fifty people attend the Church Picnic on Sunday, August 27 at Center Park. Special thanks to the Nurture Team for providing the fried chicken, drinks, table service, and location. Also, when you see Dale Elenberger, please let him know how much we appreciate his photography skills! Dale always has his camera ready for our church activities.

