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THE GOOD NEWS LETTER First United Methodist Church

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Learn the story. Live the story. Tell the story.



March 2016

Br Scott's Scrawling's

I have always believed that part of my responsibility as a God follower, a disciple of Jesus Christ, is to help make the world a better place. I know there are times where God's grace has helped me do that, but I must also confess to you that there are times I have not done so well. That confession is part of what Lent is about, our learning from our mistakes and making them right! I was reading one of my favorite devotionals the other day and they shared a story that I remembered from my younger days. It was 16 years ago when Father Daniel Egan died. What I remember most was his 'name.' He was known as "The Junkie Priest." Daniel joined the Franciscan Friars (think Robin Hood) in the 30's and was ordained a priest not long after that. One time he was preaching and noticed a woman in distress making her way through the church. Come to find out, she was a drug addict, confessing that she was trying to kick the habit. After much research, Fr Egan couldn't find a hospital that would take her because she had been there and done that so many times before. The Spirit moved in him at that exact moment and he felt led to open a home for women, a half-way house, if you will. Village Haven was opened, directly across the street from the women's correctional facility. Fr Egan later discovered that most of the incarcerated women were drug addicts and there were basically no resources dedicated to recovery from addiction. He realized that most authorities, even medical folk, sort 'wrote off' addicts as hopeless. Fr Egan believed differently. He received permission from the Franciscans to go into fulltime ministry working with addicts and became an expert in the field... and the "Junkie Priest" was born! He loved his new title. God called The Junkie Priest home on February 10, 2000 and I can hear God say, "Well done my good and faithful servant, enter into your eternal home!" Let me close with this quote "If we had the vision of faith, we would see beneath every behavior – no matter how repulsive – beneath every bodily appearance – no matter how dirty or deformed – a priceless dignity and value that makes all material facts and scientific technologies fade into insignificance." – The Junkie Priest

What are you doing to make the world a better place?

Loving, Learning, Leading,

Br. Scott

The Unseen: Treasure or Trap

Recently I discovered a bird's nest perched high up in the limbs of a tree that in this season is stripped bare of its leaves. I had not known it was there.

Oftentimes in life hidden things are revealed when we are laid bare by the circumstances we encounter. New ways of thinking and acting may result from being challenged by an experience of loss or threat. A new opportunity may summon to the surface new resolves or may uncover unknown weaknesses.

There is always another level behind what can be seen with the naked eye. This is true not only on the physical level but also in the spiritual dimension.

For instance, think about Eve in the garden. She knew what God had said about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, yet she listened to the serpent and chose to eat. She saw the luscious fruit and discounted God's warning when the serpent presented an alternate view. Physically Eve saw a beautiful tree with delicious looking fruit and a beguiling creature who spoke to her. Spiritually this encounter was a trap set by the arch enemy of God to destroy the heavenly destiny of man. This disobedience resulted in Adam and Eve being cast out of the garden to preserve their lives; yet God's plan was still in play and would eventually triumph in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Genesis 3:1-24)

Let us then view life with a two lens approach. We see the problem, the opportunity or the experience as it presents itself to us. Next we follow-up that first look by searching God's Word in order to uncover what He has put there for us to discover.

Is this problem, opportunity, or experience before us a treasure or a trap? If it is a treasure, we can rejoice and move ahead. If it is a trap, we must turn away and obey God's Word. Jesus did and He was victorious. Hallelujah!

Youth News: Dustin Horne and the teenagers are making plans for an active summer which includes trips and Attala county mission work. In the next few months events are scheduled to help defer the costs of plans.

Also, all youth will be helping with the Passion play, from acting to set up. Their participation and excitement is always a blessing.

The annual Easter Egg hunt is scheduled for March 26, at 10:00 am. Watch bulletins for further information.

Children News With the growing number of children Sunday morning and Wednesday nights, more help is needed. This is a very fulfilling position from teaching to children message. Ask Whitney, Christy, or Terry, for they will tell you how rewarding it is.

His Last Days: The Passion Play

8:00 pm March 24-26

March 13 2:00 pm set up

March 20 2:00 rehearsal

March 21-22 6:00 pm rehearsal

Every member of the congregation can be involved in this production from performing, costumes, food, set up, and take down. Everyone is needed and the blessing you receive more rewarding than the time you gave.

Thank you

Thank you so much for the food, the memorials, and the love you have shown our family during our recent loss of Bobbie Gressett. She will be greatly missed, but through your love and support we will be okay.

Vic, Michael, Jolene, Charlene and Mark Gressett

Thanks to all the church families that helped make it possible for the children of FUMC to come by my home to deliver to me cookies, a flower, and sing a Valentine song. Thank you also for the lovely Valentine card that I received in the mail.

May God's blessings be with each of you always.
Catherine Crout

"A Big Thank You to all the church family who gave to the church in memory of my Mother, Elizabeth Wiseman. She would be truly honored."

Gib and Ann Reid.



Want to Praise God for the talent He gave You? Join the Sanctuary Choir for practice on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm in the choir room. We need you and want you to join us.

As we read in the 12th chapter of 1st Corinthians, the Apostle Paul tells us that each one of us is given spiritual gifts or abilities from God. There are many different kinds of gifts, but the same spirit gives them.

Perhaps the Lord is CALLING YOU NOW to use your talents in the service of your church. Singing in the choir or playing could be one special way for you to be a witness for the Lord right here in Kosciusko!

The only pre-requisites are that you enjoy singing/music, want to learn more about music, and serve His Kingdom in this special ministry.

The choir members would love to see you on Wednesday evening in the choir room for rehearsal at 7:00 pm. We close out with prayer and sharing at 8:10 pm. Come join us!

A special "Thank You" is given to our children's choir for leading us in worship on February 21st. Your message in music was a blessing. Thanks also to Ernie Flint and Thad Harrell for playing guitar for Communion and to Steve Russell for playing Bongos.

Our Church Children will be participating in the Palm Procession during morning worship on March 20th. We will meet to line up after Sunday School at 9:30. Whitney Pettit and Christy Cheek will be helping co-ordinate our precious children.

Spring is approaching, and several in our congregation are getting “itchy” feet to be on the road for short day trips. If you have an idea and will help make plans for such an event, call Terry and let’s go.



If you would like to place an Easter Lily in the Sanctuary in honor or memory of someone for Easter Sunday, have the florist use gold paper (outside) and white bow. Call Trisha by March 21-13 for the information for the bulletin.

Did you know?

The church has an abundance of home health supplies from walkers, crutches, potty chairs, canes and wheel chairs. Also there is a member who would like to donate a stationary bicycle. If you have a health need and would like to use any of these supplies, please call Trisha or Terry.

Also there are several wonderful cooks in our congregation that readily fill the freezer with casseroles and other goodies to share with ill or homebound. All members are encouraged to help with this by distribution of the goodies. This is just another way we can participate in the “Custom Care” Ministry.

March 7—Patent for the Telephone (Celebrate or not)

March 22----First Book Printed in 1457

March 28 Respect Your Cat Day

Now throughout this month, with the approaching of many things in the schedule of our wonderful church, remember “It’s hard to feel stressed when you’re feeling so blessed. Count those blessings everyday.”

