

Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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Our Mission

To be a transformed and transforming community in Christ.

Our Vision

Change lives, ours and others'.

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Through Cokesbury Windows

August 14, 2017

From the Office of Bishop Paul Leeland

August 14, 2017

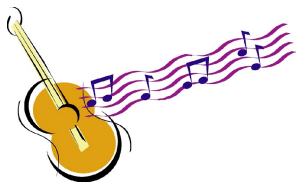
On Saturday, August 12, 2017, Heather Heyer was killed by James Fields after he drove a car into a crowd of people protesting a gathering of white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia. Our national leaders and church leaders quickly denounced the intent of a rally which undermined our community health, increased fear, and sought to divide us on racial issues. Virginia State Troopers, Berkeley Bates and Jay Cullen, who had committed their lives to protect and serve, also died in a helicopter crash at the event. As a result, the Virginia State Governor declared a state of emergency.

As clergy and lay leaders of our United Methodist Church we are preparing to meet with our congregations this coming Sunday in the urgency of the moment. Yes, we will worship, grieve, and pray for God's Presence at this moment. As moral leaders we are placed once more in a position where we must denounce the spirit of hostility and violence that is expressed too commonly as a response to our differences and fears. We must make clear how important it is to dismantle racism. Hopefully, this will be a time where our congregations begin to reflect on the importance of having people of faith acknowledge the place where the church intersects with the critical needs of our communities. What is our moral grounding? When does the church speak to the issues of our time? Where does our Christian voice intersect with community? We cannot allow silence and the lost opportunity to speak at this critical time to be interpreted as indifference on our part.

Our first response is to pray, and prayer for God's divine presence is essential. We must also act! We are driven not only by the urgency of the moment, but also as people who see the importance of the sacrament of the moment. As church leaders we can gather people together and begin to teach tolerance. We can speak up within our churches and communities to denounce hatred. We must work for a truly integrated society. We can offer healthy choices to replace the gatherings and rallies of hatred by offering alternative places of meeting to celebrate our uniqueness, diversity, and acceptance of others. In addition, like Jesus speaking to the Woman at the well or the Roman ruler, we form relationships of hope with people who come from different backgrounds and cultures. This is our true heritage. This is our true nature, saved from sin and transformed into the image of Christ. "For Christ is our peace...and has broken the dividing wall of hostility" Ephesians 2:14. *Paul L. Leeland*



- Rusellene Angel gave a gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Nancy Angel**.
- Floyd & Irma Fike and Martha Simpson gave gifts to the Budget Fund in memory of **Cecile Almond**.
- Sue Keene gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of her mother, **Eleanor Hampton**, and a gift to the Music Fund in honor of **Marty Gregory** and **John Moore**.



MUSIC AT COKESBURY
Presents
THE HINSON GIRLS
Thursday, August 17 at 7:00 p.m.
Hot Dog Supper at 6:00 p.m.

On Thursday, August 17 at 7:00 p.m. we are in for a real treat when we will be entertained by The Hinson Girls, an enthusiastic quartet who sing bluegrass, county style. Our monthly evening of music is a wonderful way for us to share music, food, and fellowship with our church friends and neighbors. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join you at Cokesbury! Come early and enjoy a delicious hot dog supper prepared by the UMM.

Prime Timers Update

By Kay Dumas

In July, the Prime Timers hosted a complimentary picnic lunch for our congregation and on August 10, they enjoyed another “cool” lunch ending with delicious homemade peach ice cream. The plan was to just enjoy a time of good food and fellowship. As usual, we remembered members who are not able to join us. Also, we remembered our neighbors who lost their homes in the Farm Pond fire by giving a generous gift to the Red Cross. Interesting programs are being planned for meetings beginning in September. If you are not a Prime Timer, you might want to check us out!

Back Pack Blessings

By Sara Joines

On **Sunday, August 27**, please have your children and youth bring their back packs to the worship service for a special blessing. Teachers and students will also be blessed and prayed for as we look forward to a new school year which starts August 28.



By Sara Joines

On August 23, we will be packing our boxes for the Starfish Ministry. We are in need of the following items: canned carrots, fruit, green beans, potatoes, peas, soup, jelly, peanut butter, rice, laundry detergent, and bar soap. Please bring your donations and place them in the box under the bulletin board.

Sunday School Teacher Needed

By Sara Joines

We are looking for a Sunday School teacher for our children. If you are interested, please contact Sara Joines.

Books for Urban Promise

By Etta Woodall

We look forward to being the east side site for Urban Promise in September. Children from Kindergarten through fifth grade will attend the after school program from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. The program is in need of books for these young children to read. Julia's Café and Bookstore, as well as the public library, have children's books for sale. Maybe there are some in your own library

you would like to donate. We will be collecting these books through the summer.

School Supplies for Urban Promise

By Etta Woodall

The Urban Promise program will begin on Monday, September 11 for the young students from Idlewild Elementary School (grades K-5). There will be several opportunities to serve: tutors and reading buddies for the younger children and also mentors and tutors for the teenagers. More information will be forthcoming.

School supplies are needed for Idlewild School and Urban Promise. The Urban Promise program needs general school supplies such as: pencils, pens, notebook paper, rulers, crayons, markers, color pencils, scissors, glue, folders, erasers, clip boards, highlighters, tissues, hand sanitizer, and Expo markers. (There will certainly be an ongoing need for these supplies throughout the school year.)

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, August 27 when we will bring these school supplies to the altar during the offering time. This program will be such a positive influence on the whole community!

United Methodist Men

By Ed Bolster

Calling all men! On August 24, we will have our first meeting since the summer break. We are looking forward to a large turnout at this first meeting. We need all the men of the church to attend. Supper is at 6:15 p.m. and is always a good meal, so come and join us!



By Tom DeVries

Mark your calendars now for the
United Methodist Men's
16th Annual Fish Fry!
Saturday, September 23
4:00-7:00 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall
Adults \$8
Ages 6-10 \$5
Children under 6 eat FREE

Tickets will be available from any
Methodist Men's Member.

United Methodist Women
Focus on Mission

By Kay Dumas

Each year Cokesbury's United Methodist Women support a variety of missions, both local and around the world. Recently, gifts totaling \$1,300 were given to the following:

Brooks Howell Home, Asheville, NC
UMAR
Crisis Assistance
Second Harvest Food Bank
Urban Ministries
Bright Beginnings
Henderson Settlement (scholarship)

These gifts were made possible by the generous support of our UMW members and church members who support our annual Attic Sale.