

Church Staff

Arkansas Area Bishop, Rev. Gary
Mueller

Central District Superintendent, Rev.
Richard Lancaster

Rev David Hoffman

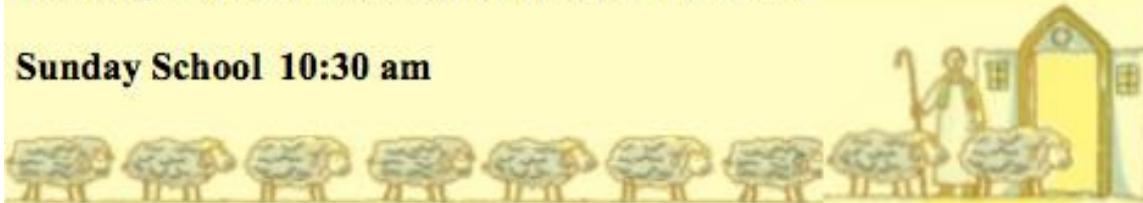
Phone: (501) 475-6397

Email: PastorDavid@GeyerSpringsUMC.org
geyersprings.umc@comcast.net

Please join us for

Worship in the Sanctuary 9:30 am to 10:30 am

Sunday School 10:30 am



The Informer

Geyer Springs United Methodist Church

501-565-3175 • geyersprings.umc@comcast.net • www.geyerspringsumc.org

Our Message Lived Out

We frequently talk about what has happened in our churches in the recent past. We get to remember successes and occasionally what might have gone better. I want our focus to shift to the future. Careful, this is not a question for leaders, it is a question for doers.

Remember, the function of the church is to reach others. Our needs come after. Here is the primary question: What should we be doing to serve our neighborhood? Followed closely by "How will we do it?" and "Who will do it?" Here comes the thorn on the rose. All members of the church should be involved at some level, so I am forming a very purposeful plan to achieve this goal.

I ask you to become involved in a small group. A small group may form around any topic or interest, provided that it promotes personal faith development, accountability and service. Such groups might be a study group, a Sunday School class, a sewing circle or anything of similar type. If your interests are not currently served by an existing small group, we will create it. A group of this type is not restricted to the Sunday School hour, to Sundays or to the church building.

In the early formation of the Methodism, small groups were the single reason for the booming success of the movement. The social interaction and personal accountability ethic promoted by the small groups deeply engaged people who previously only participated in worship. When we laid aside the small group, we began our decline. As proof of my point, a number of successful churches today, United Methodist and otherwise, utilize small groups as their primary engagement tools.

Just as the church asks for your annual financial pledge, I am asking for a pledge of your time. A simple way to remember your pledge is to use what we will call the "Rule of 3's and 8's."

Plan to give a minimum of 3 hours per week to your personal faith development, consisting of 1 hour of worship, 1 hour of small group and 1 hour of personal devotion and prayer. This is the easy part, as many of you are doing this right now to some extent.

For the 8's, I ask you to give 8 hours per month to serve others, either through the church or other avenue. If the church is hosting or participating in a service project or mission, please include this time as part of your 8. As in the description of small groups, if you do not see a ministry you would be involved in,



Oct 2 Jeremy Rodgers
 Oct 5 Jeremy Pressgrove
 Oct 5 Leslie Templeton
 Oct 11 Martin Nutt
 Oct 12 Rick Shelton
 Oct 18 Henry Nutt
 Oct 23 Dan Shelton
 Oct 24 Anne-Marie Swafford
 Oct 24 Zoe Watson

Treatment and Concerns:

Please continue to let us know of your prayer, joys, and concerns:
 Rev. David Hoffman, (501) 475-6397
 PastorDavid@GeyerSpringsUMC.org

Grief:

Hazel Wilson and the Wilson Family

Rehab & Nursing Centers:**Home Bound:**

Mildred Chenault
 Carol Haskins
 Charles Turley Brookdale on Napa Valley
 Betty Stout Col. Glenn Rehab on Lawson

Treatment and Concerns:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| John Bencick | Hildegard May |
| Marie Brown | Debbie Morehart |
| Mildred Chenault | Fay O'Donnell |
| Allyson Cheyene | Kathy Rodgers |
| Glenda Clay | Betty Ross |
| Kelly Cook | Tony Tompkins |
| Skip Gardner | Rita Williams |
| Rose Kelly | |
| Tom Kelly | |

**Wednesday Night Fellowship
 Wednesday Evenings
 at 5:30 pm**

Adults: \$3 Children: \$1 Any of the host groups welcomes your help.

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|---------------|-----------------------|
| Oct 3 | UMM |
| Oct 10 | New Beginnings |
| Oct 17 | Myers |
| Oct 24 | UMW |
| Oct 31 | Blackwell |



The Food Pantry continues to feed the hungry in our neighborhood. This would not be possible without the generous support of our congregation. Donations to the Food Pantry may be given directly to Terri Hammond or to the office with a designation "Food Pantry" on your envelope.



Oct 26 Scott & Vernetta Grizzelle

we will create it with you. I also encourage mixing and matching between Faith and Geyer Springs congregations to promote opportunities for service.

Where do your interests lie? What gifts and graces do you bring to the table? If you are unsure, I have a plan for that as well. First UMC Cabot has been revitalized and shown growth in almost everything they touch. Their pastor, Rev. Steven Dickinson, uses a 6-week study called "*Serving from the Heart*," (Cartmill, Carol and Gentile, Yvonne; Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN, 2011) to help identify gifts and graces for service in the church. I would like to introduce this study in both churches. Who knows, you might discover something new about yourself!

I ask this of you to show our faith through our work. Our ability to make disciples depends on the credibility and relevance of our message. Many people will only pay attention when they see us living out our message. As Wesley said, "Light yourself on fire for Christ and others will come from miles around to watch you burn." I believe this with all my heart and passion.

I hope you don't view this message as making too many demands on you. I do this because I believe in the God who brought us together, the work we do as the church in God's name and the possibilities that exist in our churches and you.

Shalom, David

OUTREACH NEWS

We all know about our wonderful food pantry, but did you know we have an even wider impact? I attended the El Zocalo Open House last week. I have always been impressed by what they do, but I learned HOW important they are to our community at this meeting. I saw a leader teaching parents about 504 (the modifications program for exceptional children). This is NOT to get money. It is strictly to help children find the best way to learn.

I saw a parents group where two parents were explaining to other parents about PTA and how they could help their children.

I listened as Kelsey, the Director, explained each program they do to Board members who were there and other community members who had come to see how they could help. One was an attorney who attends Argenta Methodist Church who wanted to get involved helping with legal difficulties. Their goal is to provide a dignified life for immigrants in Arkansas, to build bridges, to foster understanding, and to provide a network of support for small groups of people who really need it one group at a time.

They offer a limited twice a month and on demand pantry. They offer counseling sessions. They offer ESL classes. They offer cooking classes. They offer financial classes. They offer classes in how to fit in here in America. They help clients sign up for SNAP and

health services using the same resource people who help our clients do this! They have a clothes closet.

They have a hot line and refer emergencies to the appropriate agencies. They have legal counseling and how to prepare if your green card cannot be extended.

The classes in all categories last about 14 weeks twice a week and usually have 8-12 people in them.

These are mostly low income folks trying to better themselves. Those of you who read their stories and saw their pictures last year in the gym know what a heartbreaking situation they left and how grateful they are to be in America. I have to have a translator but I feel the warmth of their smiles. They want to learn English. They want to fit in. We are doing God's work letting EL Zocalo have the use of our building.

They are helping us with utilities and twice they have paid half of having the Air fixed.

I am very very proud of our church. I know none of these people come to our services. They are mostly Catholic and don't speak English.

But many came to our Easter community meal and I was told they pray for us and are so thankful to have this safe place.

So maybe our food pantry clients, and our El Zocalo folks and our 4-H children under Kathy Kline's fabulous leadership and programs don't come to church...

BUT GEYER SPRINGS CHURCH FAMILY, WE ARE IMPACTING PEOPLE! WE

ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLES' LIVES. THANKS BE TO GOD!!!!

NEXT FREE COMMUNITY MEAL
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10 AT NOON
HOT DOGS, CHILI, CHEESE DIP,
CHIPS YUMMY DESSERTS
LIVE MUSIC CHRISTMAS CRAFTS
PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR AND
COME!

Thanks to Everybody

Thanks to all my church family for all the much needed call, cards, visits, and prayer for Lloyd and me.

A special thanks to Rev. David for being there for us—and for the wonderful service for Lloyd.

A big, big, thank you to all who prepared the delicious meal after the funeral for my family and friends. It was enjoyed by so many.

Love and hugs,

Hazel Wilson