



The Spreading Flame

Ellendale United Methodist Church



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May 2018

“Abide”

We have six students who are a part of our community that are graduating from high school this month. These six seniors are embarking on a new chapter of their lives; one in which they will increasingly ask a question that all of us ask from time to time even after we’ve “grown up” – that last phrase might be debatable to ascribe to some of us. The question is this: What is God’s will for my life?

The journey of discovering the answer to this is accompanied by all sorts of other smaller, though not insignificant, questions that ideally guide us in the pursuit of what overarching question. These questions might include: Should I go to this or that school? What should my major be? What should my career be? Where should I live? Should I marry this person? Should I eat that last donut? The list goes on and on. But they all (well, maybe except for that last one) are derived from that larger question of pursuit: What is God’s will?

Well, if I could put it in the simplest terms, I believe the right answer to that question is one word: abide. To qualify it a bit more – Abide in Christ and Christ will abide in you (John 15): and in so doing, you will be living in the will of God.

When John and Charles Wesley formed the Methodist societies in the 1700’s they centered their life together around three rules; 1. Do no harm; 2. Do good; 3. Attend upon all the ordinances of God. Around a decade ago, the late United Methodist Bishop Rueben Job updated the language of the third rule to this: 3. Stay in love with God. I believe this is another way of “Abide”.

This is a word of encouragement not only for our graduating seniors, but for all of us. “Stay in love with God.” Of course, it can be easy to distort this statement because of the way that the meaning of the word “love” has been so misconstrued in today’s world. Our concept and practice of abiding, or “staying in love with God”, ought not be sentimentalized or sensationalized in terms of mere romanticism. Indeed, staying in love with God is no cake walk, and may very well feel, at times, like you’re walking through a wilderness.

In Fyodor Dostoevsky’s novel *The Brothers Karamazov*, the youngest brother Alyosha is being mentored by a monk named Zosima, who gave a lesson that we would all do well to hear about this notion of staying in love with God. Zosima said this:

Never be frightened at your own faintheartedness in attaining love, and meanwhile do not even be very frightened by your own bad acts. I am sorry that I cannot say anything more comforting, for active love is a harsh and fearful thing compared with love in dreams. Love in dreams thirsts for immediate action, quickly performed, and with everyone watching. Indeed, it will go as far as the giving even of one’s life, provided it does not take long but is soon over, as on stage, and everyone is looking on and praising. Whereas active love is labor and perseverance, and for some people, perhaps, a whole science. But I predict that even in that very moment when you see with horror that despite all your efforts, you not only have not come nearer your goal but seem to have gotten farther from it, at that very moment—I predict this to you—you will suddenly reach your goal and You will clearly behold over you the wonder-working power of the Lord, who all the while has been loving you, and all the while has been mysteriously guiding you.

So, my dear friends, abide in Christ; stay in love with God, and behold God will bear great fruit wherever, whenever, and with whomever you find yourself.

Peace +
Pastor Jeff

CONNECTION YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Since it is already May, it's time to start preparing for our Seniors' graduations. Congratulations to all of our Seniors comprising the Class of 2018! May God richly bless you as you finish this stage of your life and begin a new journey!

It's been a good year so far for the Ellendale UMC Connection Youth as we introduced two new ministries: The Youth Prayer Ministry and the Bartlett Fire & Disaster Relief Ministry.

We are glad to report that the Prayer Ministry has grown. We are so blessed to have faithful youth prayer partners.

As for the Fire & Disaster Relief, we stand ready to help those in need, working with the Bartlett Fire Department, when the need arises.

Also, remember that the Memphis Conference offers several summer camps at Lakeshore. If you would like to attend one of these, please see Bro. Matt or Pastor Jeff.

We look forward to seeing each of you in Sunday School at 10:00am as well as at 4:00pm on Sunday afternoons.

GOD IS LOVE, JESUS IS LORD, and YOU ARE LOVED
in the Ellendale UMC Connection Youth.

Matthew Cooper



VBS is coming up!

Our VBS theme is **Game On!** It will center around 2 Peter 1:3. It will talk about what it really means to win in the game of life.

We are asking for you to pray about how you can get involved. We need some people to:

- pray for the volunteers, kids and families.
- put signs on their yards to let the neighbors know about VBS.
- contact last year's participants and invite them to come back.
- help spread the word through social media.
- hand out flyers to schools and sports groups.
- volunteers to help during VBS.

***What can you do?
Let us know!***

Action Kids:

We are starting a brand new class for our 9-12 year olds during our Children's Church time on Sundays. We will be using the Action Bible curriculum. This class will prepare our older kids to make the transition to our youth group. If you would like to help, please let us know! We meet every Sunday, except the 1st when we invite the older kids to join their families for worship.

Lakeshore

If you would like to send your child to a camp this summer or attend it with them, please let us know asap. Some dates fill up quickly and we want to make sure our kids are included. Due to the generosity of our church, the cost of the camp will be covered. For

more information on available dates, please visit:

Lakeshorecamp.org

Important Dates to remember:

May 12: Volunteers and Parents Meeting at Victor and Tricia Foster's home at 2p.m.

May 16: Last day for Lighthouse Kids

July 16-20: VBS

Acolyte Schedule:

1st Sunday:

Sam and Julianne Rudy

2nd Sunday:

Julianne Taylor and Josh Kuhstoss

3rd Sunday:

Hope and Kendall Hayes

4th Sunday:

Alan Foster and Emma Bruno

5th Sunday:

Elijah Gilliam and Josiah Gray

Children's Church Schedule:

May

6 – Angie Taylor
13 – Victor Foster
20 – Heather Summerhill
27 – Robin Bruno

June

3 – Dennis Foster
10 – Angie Taylor
17 – Victor Foster
24 – Heather Summerhill

Action Kids Schedule

1st Sunday : Kids stay in service
2nd Sunday: Matt Cooper
3rd Sunday: ***Need a volunteer***
4th Sunday: Tricia Foster

*We are counting on your prayers, and we ask you to please spread the word about all of the great things God is doing with our children here at EUMC.

May 6

Acts 10:44-48
 Psalm 98
 1 John 5:1-6
 John 12:9-17

May 13

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
 Psalm 1
 1 John 5:9-13
 John 17:6-19

May 20

Acts 2:1-21
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
 Romans 8:22-27
 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 27

Isaiah 6:1-8
 Psalm 29
 Romans 8:12-17
 John 3:1-17



YouthVillages
MobilityWorldwide
20/20
Forgiveness House
Kairos



To all our church family. I cannot begin to tell you what you all have meant to Melinda & I during my illness. Your cards, your calls, the food, the passing comments that we were in your thoughts and especially your prayers. We were constantly humbled by the phone calls we would get from friends and family letting us know that their church or prayer group had put us on their prayer list from all over the country. Prayer has no boundary and has no limit to its power. Again, just saying thank you, always seems like so little in times like this.

So, from Melinda & I both –
 THANK YOU and WE LOVE YOU.

Jim & Melinda Nance



Thank you for the cards and letters in the death of my son Roy. God bless each and every one of you.

Dalton Parker

Dear Ellendale Church Family,
 The Barker family would like to say thank you so much for all your thoughts and prayers while we continue to recuperate from our various ailments.

We sincerely appreciate your cards, visits, and get well wishes. We want to especially thank Regina Geno for organizing the Meal Train as we enjoyed the many delicious foods delivered to us. What a blessing to have such a caring and loving church family!

In God's Love,
 Cathy, Jim, and Wendy Barker



Hope Hayes
Sam Rudy
Elise Summerhill
Emma Summerhill
Julianne Taylor

Retirement Celebration

Rev. Doctor Stephen C. Shapard is retiring this year after 43 years and we would like to invite all to a Celebration of his service in ministry on May 20th at Bartlett United Methodist Church at 5676 Stage Road in Oaks Hall as a come and go between 2-5pm. All are welcome and encouraged to come. If you are unable to attend and have cards or congratulations you would like to send, please send to his daughter to bring to the reception table on that day.

Rev. Doctor Stephen C. Shapard
 c/o Alecia Sanford
 920 Huntersville-Denmark Rd.
 Denmark, TN 38391

Schedule

Sundays

8:45am Worship Service
 9:30-10:00am Meet & Greet
 10:00am Sunday School
 11:00am Worship Service
 4:00 PM Connection Youth

Tuesdays

6:30pm Cub Scouts
 7:00pm Boy Scouts

Wednesdays

10:00am A.C.T.S. Prayer Service
 5:30pm Lighthouse Kids
 5:30pm Bells Practice
 6:30pm Choir Practice

Special Dates for May

May 1 Voting Day
 May 13 Mother's Day
 May 25 Ellendale Movie Night
 May 28 Office Closed Memorial Day
 May 31 Last Day to accept Scholarship applications

The next scheduled meeting of the United Methodist Men is May 13 at 6:00 pm. All men are urged to attend.

Will Hair, UMM

The next scheduled meeting of the United Methodist Women is Wednesday, May 2, at 1:00pm in the Church office conference room.

Love,
Cindy

Ellendale



“The Incredibles”
May 25, 2018

<u>To</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>On</u>
Mike McKean		01
Diane Lane		02
Kary Goetzka		03
Mike Goetzka		03
Angie Taylor		03
Charles Lord		04
Nancy Melton		05
Donna Pearson		05
David Shepherd		05
Mary Belle Cunningham		09
Debra Prestage		09
Edith Palmer		10
Bobby Baker		10
Amy Batson		11
David Evans		12
Bill Fuller		13
John Lane		13
Renee Burford		14
Ina Abel		14
Daniel Davis		15
Terry Green, Jr.		15
Phillip Ford		16
Christopher Moranville		16
Lee Fisher		17
Noah Lawrence		20
Grace Lawrence		20
Lee Palmer		21
Joseph Strickland		21
Christian Bast		21
Mark Bogan		22
Duane Klink		23
Britt Linder		23
Brenda Wehrly		25
Galen Lapka		29
Bobby Benson		29
Daniel Ison		29
Abigail Palmer		29
Christine Moranville		31

<u>To</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>On</u>
Ron & Gail Collins		01
Tommy & Pam Temple		02
Terry & Marie Green		03
Roger & Lois Knight		04
Mike & Teresa Kohn		09
Victor & Tricia Foster		10
Lenny & JoEllen Winters		11
Joe & Linda Morris		12
Jeff & Melinda Brown		12
Britt & Holly Linder		15
Charles & Mary Fay Moore		15
Mark & Lynda Bogan		17
Danny & Cindy Ison		18
Mike & Kari McKean		20
Jerrel & Ginger Reasons		23
Mike & Barbara Roper		29



Ellendale offers a college scholarship as a help and incentive for furthering education.

If you are a graduating high school senior this Scholarship is a onetime offering. All applicants must meet the requirements per the application.

Time frame for applying is April 15 thru May 31 and will be awarded by the end of June.

For application and list of requirements, please contact the church office at 386-0205 or the Pastor.



In the past few months, Congregational Care has been busy implementing new programs and modifying existing ones.

Mending Hearts

is a team of those who are committed to offering love and fellowship to those members of our congregation who have recently lost a spouse. Their work is special and I want to thank them for their dedication.

The Card Ministry

has had a change of leadership. Linda Johnson has agreed to become chairperson. I want to wish her well as she begins a new calling. Thank you Linda!

Home Communion

I am grateful for all who have become part of this ministry.

Watching the growth of the Congregational Care Team has been a joy and, to all, your willingness to serve is appreciated.

I am in need of your help. The Home Visitation Group is looking for volunteers. Please call me if you have questions about this opportunity to serve.

Barbara Stevens
Congregational Care Chairperson



The Worship Committee has many members and friends that are always doing a wonderful job decorating for Ellendale!!!

Cindy Foster,
Leader Worship Committee



Jay Melton by:
Mary Prince
Charles & Carol Lord

Frank Eidson by:
Harold & Sue White
Linda Strickland
Bernie Lewis
Flora Eidson

Greta Thompson by:
Marjorie Simmons
Lee & Kay Fisher
James Walker
Mary Prince
Jim & Shirley Dorsey
Kathleen Webb
Charles & Carol Lord
Linda Strickland
EDCO Title & Closing Services

Dewey & Wanda Sandage by:
Jerry & Rosie Langham
Wilfred & Dianne Broxterman



Clyde & Linda Johnson by:
Bernie Lewis



Angie Taylor & family in the
death of her uncle, Mike
Shannon

E-mail Prayer Chain
To put a pray request on E-mail send
it to:
EUMCprayerlist@googlegroups.com
Prayer Room combination 1-5-2

If you would like to have flowers placed on the altar in honor or in memory of a loved one, please call Anabel Copeland at 373-9130 to place your order. Please pay Anabel Copeland in advance. Also, please call the church office to let us know the date you wish to have Altar Flowers. If you have any question, please call Anabel or Edra in the church office.

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