

Linden Letter

Linden Heights United Methodist Church

February 2020

Mission Statement: To be a community of prayer, love, and forgiveness committed to leading persons to a living relationship with Jesus Christ and reaching out in acts of compassion and service.

A Note from the Pastor

Psalm 46:10a (NRSV) “Be still, and know that I am God!”

Winter has never been my favorite season. I love snow and I love it when it snows. But cold temperatures and short days are not my favorite things. I much prefer the long, hot days of summer. However, winter has its own blessings. I think that winter is a reminder that we need to hibernate or go dormant in some ways. Now I am not suggesting that we sleep for the next few months, though there are days when that is an appealing thought! I am suggesting, however, that God speaks to us through the nature of this season, reminding us that we need to slow down some. We need to rest some more. We need to be a little more quiet. We, like nature, need a slower pace, some quiet, and some rest in order to build up our strength and prepare to blossom and grow. In slower, quieter moments we also have the chance to be still and know that God is God. We have the opportunity to dwell in the stillness of God’s presence and to hear God’s voice in a way that is much different than the ways that we experience God when we are busy and living at a frantic pace.

I invite you to join me in spending some time this winter season just being still. Rest some more. Slow down a little. Enjoy the quiet presence of God.

Peace to you all!

Pastor Alicia

Mission

Our **February collection** will be for the Parkville Precinct police officers. We will be providing comfort kits containing lip balm, hand sanitizer, pocket tissues, small packs of mint tic tacs, Hershey kisses and a printed message from Linden Heights. We need 50 comfort kits so we will provide a sign-up sheet where you can choose the item and number you would like to donate. A list of the requested items will also be provided.

Keep Sunday, April 26, 2020 open. We are planning a **DAY OF SERVICE** for our congregation to reach out to the community in a variety of ways. More details to follow.

Greetings Church,

Happy New Year. I wanted to take an opportunity and gracefully thank the Church for supporting my mission in Uganda. Here's a brief summary. In August 2015 I met a gentleman

via the UMC Facebook Page who was a teacher in Uganda. We became pen pals. Linden Heights collected bibles and we established a relationship with Lugala UMC located near the equator in SE Uganda. My mom passed in December 2015. In lieu of flowers, my family had a fund set up at church. With the funds, in January 2016 my friend Deacon Zalambi Joseph was able to purchase 167 mosquito nets. A little later my church family paid for 110 pairs of shoes & collected seeds. In late 2016, Lugala was renamed to Magooli.

In 2017, Child Crisis Center Uganda .Org was established by my son's friend Hanna Mueller. God answered many prayers. The 501c status made my mustard seed grow. Working with Hannah the non-profit has accomplished a great deal. We built a school and named it Magooli Academy For Children. On Feb. 4th, 2019 the school opened. We currently employ 5 full-time teachers and 2 cooks. We provide meals for approximately 70 orphaned students. Isaiah 6:8

On February 7th I will be part of the first team mission trip to Uganda. We will deliver medical supplies to a young woman whose education was sponsored & graduated from nursing school in December 2019. She has returned to help the Village of Magooli. I have 5 family members traveling as part of the team. The church will be with me in spirit. Please pray for our safe journey.

With peace,
Dan O'Neil

Grey Bin 2019 Summary

We would like to extend a huge Thank You to the congregation for your continued generosity!

Thanks!
YOU ARE JUST THE BEST!

Below is a summary of the 2019 grey bin donations. If you would like to join the team or just sit in on a meeting to see what we do, please speak with one of us or come to the next meeting on Monday, February 3rd at 5:30pm.

Pine Grove Elementary, Pine Grove Middle, Student Support Network – the donations below were collected in March, April, August, and September:

18 large bags of grab and go foods and a couple bags of clothing

Teacher's Supplies - 21 boxes of tissues, 7 bottles of hand sanitizer, 7 canisters of Clorox type wipes, 242 pencils, 7 packs of dry erase markers, 4 earbuds, 5 sketchbooks, 9 packs of dividers, 20 fidget/stress relievers

Food, snacks, personal care items - 38 toothbrushes/toothpaste, 14 Body Wash/soap, 20 deodorant, 11 lint rollers, 10 hair brushes, 6 pack of combs, 10 packs of body wipes, 24 daily hygiene packs, variety of hotel sample of shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, floss, lotion and soap, 22 microwavable dinners, 8 cans of tuna, 6 tuna snacks, 247 granola bars, 234 packs of crackers with cheese or peanut butter, 10 jars of peanut butter, 29 packs of fruit cups/snacks (6 cups/pack), 9 canned staples, 4 baby food items

Eastern Family Resource Center – May / June, November:

15 packages of diapers (587), 4 packs of pull ups (97), 32 bars of soap, 25 pack of wipes, 14 towels, 48 washcloths

9 bath towels, 30 washcloths, 2 blankets, 5 sets of sheets, 5 bags of soap, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste. Also (excess from the Cleaning Bucket collection) - 7 bottles of laundry detergent, 6 bottles of dish detergent, 2 cans of air freshener, and miscellaneous sponges and brushes

Magooli Academy for Children, Uganda – June- 325 seed packets

Parkville Police Precinct – July- 50 - \$5.00 Rita's gift cards

Christus Victor Food Pantry - January / February, December

Hats, gloves, scarves and socks

Food – 3 grocery bags

Cleaning Buckets – October

Cleaning supplies were donated by the congregation and the community. Those donations, combined with some supplies that needed to be purchased, provided the contents for 17 Cleaning Buckets.

Operation Christmas Child – October- 50 boxes were assembled and sent

Trunk or Treat – October- Multiple bags of candy

Children/Youth

“Save the Date” for VBS June 29- July 3!! We are looking forward to another exciting VBS experience as we share God's love with children! If you would like to help plan VBS, or would like to help that week, please contact the church office!

Worship

Handbell Bake Sale: Greetings all! **Sunday, February 2nd**, the Joyful Sounds bell choir is having their annual bake sale. We will also be playing “*I will arise and go to Jesus*” during the service. The music is one of this year's exciting pieces that we will be playing at the beach for our Area III Handbell Festival in March. So on February 2nd, come hungry for baked goodies and hungry for music that will excite your spirit!!

Peace!

The Joyful Sounds Handbell Choir

Ash Wednesday is February 26th. We will have worship service at Linden Heights at noon. We will have a combined worship service with Arnolia UMC at 7:30 pm. We hope that you will join us for one of these services as we mark the beginning of our season of Lent.

Lent Worship Series: We will be exploring the last week of Jesus' life throughout the Lenten season. We will look at the events of the week from several different points of view. The sermons will tie loosely into the Bible study class that the pastor is offering. (See below for more information.) **We need people to carry a candle at the beginning of worship and speak**

a few words at each of the services. If you or your family would like to participate, please talk to the pastor.

Family Ministries

Food and Fellowship today, immediately after our 10 am worship service. We have coffee, juice, donut holes, and some fresh fruit in the preschool classroom. We hope you will join us for some food and some time to talk with one another! (Children are welcome!)

Save the Date for Game Day: March 1st following the combined 10 am worship service. This event is perfect for all ages! We will have games for everyone and hope that you will join us for some fun. Details will be coming soon!

Pastor Alicia's Doctoral Project

Greetings beloved church! As many of you know, I have been a part of a Doctor of Ministry program for the past two years. I have received approval for my final project, research, and thesis paper (like a dissertation). In the Doctor of Ministry program, the goal is to incorporate learning into our context, for me that is the local church setting, as quickly as possible. Because of this, our projects are supposed to be done in our setting. That means I will be doing my project here at our church, and then doing the same project at two other churches.

My project is a 6-week Bible study class that I have created. The class is designed to look for the missing voices of scripture. This study is loosely grounded in the Jewish tradition of Midrash and draws up on the work of Peter Pitzele in his explanation of “white fire,” the space between the words of scripture. For example, we hear a lot from Peter, but we don’t hear from Bartholomew. This class will explore what he may or may not have thought as he traveled with Jesus. We hear Abraham’s thoughts as he goes up the mountain with Isaac to offer a sacrifice (thinking that the sacrifice may well be Isaac!), but we don’t hear from Isaac or Sarah. This class will contemplate what they may have thought. The goal of the class is to open ourselves to new ideas, insights, and perhaps even discover ourselves in some of the hidden characters of the text.

The classes will utilize poetry to look for these missing voices. I have written most of the poetry, but there will be a few poems from other authors as well. Each poem is written in a way that is intended to be easily understood. I am inviting each of you to participate in the classes and the research if you would like. If you are interested in participating, please let me know and I will give you more specific information on the research component and what that means for each of you. Classes are on Sunday afternoons from 2-3:30 beginning February 23rd, and on Monday evenings at 7 pm beginning February 24th. A third component is available for youth if they would like to participate. If you would like to attend but need childcare, please let me know.

I want to thank you all for your encouragement and support as I have moved through this program! I couldn’t have done this without all of you!

God’s peace be with you,
Pastor Alicia