

Grace Notes

May 2018



We ain't never done it that way before

From Pastor Scott Wilks

No words have ever hurt the Christianity more than "We ain't never done it that way before". Innovation has always been the hallmark of growing organizations. Jesus was the innovator of truth. "You've heard is said... but I say..." He took twelve students and developed a new incarnation of faith which now reaches billions.

Saint Francis was just such an innovator. He took the symbols of a pagan culture and co-opted them to have new meanings. Because of his thinking outside the established box, a whole culture was transformed. His teachings resonate with us today. Who remembers that the Trinity can be thought of as a clover with thee leaves, but one clover?

This year we are innovating a program formerly called vacation bible school. We are re-branding it as Creative Arts Camp. We will during our five evenings together teach children how to sing in a choir. Nancy Davis and Carol Huff will be leading the choirs. We will have crafts, activities, and snacks. Yes, there will be a lesson. But, we are marketing the idea in such a way as to draw in a different group of kids.

It is our hope that the children will be exposed to worship in a different way. If you think about it, all the elements are the same as VBS, but the expectations are different. Hopefully and prayerfully, God who is also known as the Lord of the Harvest will bless our efforts with a something special.



Helpers are needed in the kitchen, in activities, and moving kids from place to place. If you are interested, see Wanda Payne. She will be ecstatic to hear from you. And hopefully, we will say when it is all over. We ain't never done it that way before. I'm glad we did!"

Opportunities and Blessings:

Giving Opportunities

- FUMC - Please remember our monthly chancel rail offering which benefits the pantry fund. Your offering makes a difference as it helps to care for people in need in our community. Please give so others might not face needs for food, power, or medicine.
- Trade UMC - We will be gathering blessings of food and clothing on this week for the shelter in Mountain City. A little goes a long way, and you have been so generous. Let's live out the Gospel command to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and shelter the homeless. Way to go, way to give!
- The United Methodist Women will be sponsoring a **baby shower** to benefit the Pregnancy Support Center of Johnson County. This is a faith based non-profit organization which provides educational material, emotional and spiritual support during and after pregnancy. In Johnson County, many of our new mothers get little or no medical help. Pregnancy Support Center offers assistance to a venerable segment of our community. See Sharon Holder or the collection point near the sanctuary for more information.

Every **Sunday** is an opportunity. Seize the moment and invite someone to church.

The **Unique Boutique** is open Wednesdays from 10am until 2pm and the first Saturday of each month. Monies made benefit our mission and ministry within our surrounding community!

There are **two new bible studies** opening up at FUMC. There is a Tuesday afternoon group that meets at 1pm led by Rev. Warren Stewart. We are covering Adam Hamilton's "Making Sense of the Bible." Later this month, a class start and will be led by Rev. Ron Drake on prayer. That group is planning to meet Sunday afternoons. See Sean Fagan if you are interested.

If you have a young person in your family who needs a **confirmation class**, let Pastor Scott know. Confirmation is the opportunity to learn about our faith, our church, and profess that faith.

If you would like to add to the "Grace Notes" email or have corrections please make them in writing either written or email before the end of each month. A word shared in the hallway or during worship might get forgotten or misplaced!

Serving Our Military

Trade UMC

- Jonathan Adams
- Caleb Courtner
- Matthew Danner
- Amanda Dougherty
- Matthew Forester
- Austin Pardue
- Zane Penley
- Colton Phillips
- Ian Prudhomme
- Scott Wallace

First UMC

- Timothy West Bellamy (Air Force-Montana)
- Daniel J. Herman (Navy ENS, Helicopter Training-Milton, FL)
- Dr. Ian Prudhomme (Air Force CAPT-Ft. Sam Houston, TX)

