

THE ALBURNETT CHURCH CHATTERER AND THE PRAIRIE CHAPEL CHIPS

COMBINED NEWSLETTER OF
THE ALBURNETT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND
PRAIRIE CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

VOLUME XXII NO. 8

AUGUST 2018

Alburnett United Methodist Church
319-842-2388
E-MAIL: alburnettumc@fmtcs.com
SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:00AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00AM

Prairie Chapel United Methodist Church
319-377-7506
E-MAIL office@prairiechapelmarion.org
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30AM

REV. JON MOSS, PASTOR
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GOD'S GRACE IN THE WESLEYAN TRADITION

Coming from the Wesleyan Tradition, we are set apart by our understanding of God's grace. While we understand it is manifested in various ways, there is only one grace. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, defined *grace* as God's bounty, or favor: his free, undeserved favor. But how is that grace expressed to us? Wesley understood God's grace to be

active or working in three distinctive ways: Prevenient Grace, Justifying Grace, and Sanctifying Grace.

Wesley compares salvation and God's grace to a house. Each of the movements of God's grace (prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying) corresponds to a different part of the house. In this article we will look at Prevenient Grace.

Wesley compared prevenient grace to the **porch** in front of the house. When we experience prevenient grace, God has invited us into the house, but we haven't yet accepted the invitation. We are still standing just outside the door, on the porch.

PREVENIENT GRACE - "Prevenient" comes to us from two Latin roots, "pre" (before) and "venio" (that which goes). Thus, prevenient grace is the divine love of God that "goes before," preceding any and all of our conscious impulses and actions. This is the initiative of God pursuing a relationship with us, urging us to turn towards God (to repent) so that we may be delivered from the bondage of sin and death in order to have abundant life here and now. We need God's initiative, as



our human state prevents us from being able to turn to God on our own.

Robert Tuttle, Jr. puts it this way in his book, "Sanctity without Starch." *Prevenient grace is the Holy Spirit at work in everyone between conception and conversion. The Holy Spirit woos or prevents us from moving so far toward disobedience, that when we finally understand the claims of the gospel upon our lives, we are guaranteed the freedom to say yes*".¹

Just like when we are invited to someone's home, we first step onto the porch, but we are not yet on the inside of the house. The porch is that first place where we are welcomed and invited in. In that sense God's prevenient Grace is God's gracious

Continued on page 3 → 2

acts by which God is inviting us into a relationship with him. Sometimes we may not even be fully aware or recognize that it is God's grace inviting us in, but we feel an inclination to enter, to accept the invitation. God's love is at work in us, even before we realize it. When I think of this, I'm amazed at God's Grace. Here are some scriptures that reflect the idea of God's Prevenient Grace.

Ephesians 2:4-10: But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us *even when we were dead through our trespasses*, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For *we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life*. (NRSV, italics to show emphasis of Prevenient Grace)

Psalms 136: Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever. (NLT, italics to show emphasis of Prevenient Grace)

Romans 5:8: But God proves his love for us in that *while we still were sinners Christ died for us*. (NRSV, italics to show emphasis of Prevenient Grace)

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Jon

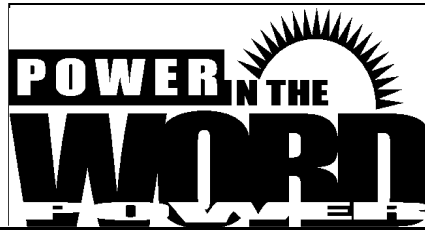
¹ Robert G. Tuttle, *Sanctity Without Starch: a Layperson's Guide to a Wesleyan Theology of Grace* (Lexington, KY: Bristol Books, 1992), 40.

CONFIRMATION ANNOUNCEMENT

The confirmation class at Alburnett/Prairie Chapel Parish is an intensive program taught by the pastor and a number of Confirmation leaders to seventh graders and others as appropriate.

An informational meeting for parents will be held on Wednesday, August 8 at 7:00PM in the Fellowship Hall of the Alburnett UMC. The confirmation students are welcome to attend if they would like. It will be a brief meeting about the confirmation student and parent's involvement in the confirmation process.

This coming September 5, 2018, we will start classes and the Confirmation class will then be confirmed in September 2019.



AUGUST LECTIONARY READINGS

August 5 11th Sunday after Pentecost	2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a; Psalm 51:1-12; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35
August 12 12th Sunday after Pentecost	2 Samuel 18:5-9,15,31-33; Psalm 130; Ephesians 4:25--5:2; John 6:35,41-51
August 19 13th Sunday after Pentecost	1 Kings 2:10-12,3:3-14; Psalms 111; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58
August 26 14th Sunday after Pentecost	1 Kings 8:1,6,10-11,22-30,41-43; Psalms 84; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

SECRETARY'S NEW OFFICE HOURS: Beginning **September 1**, Virginia will be at the Alburnett Office on Wednesday and Fridays from 9:00AM-12:00NOON, and at Prairie Chapel on Tuesday and Thursdays from 9:00AM-12:00NOON. If you need copies, please call several days ahead to schedule during my office hours.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHURCH? I would love to talk with you about Church Membership. If you would like to learn more about church membership and what it means to be a member, please let me know or call the church office, leave your name, contact information, and say "I'm interested in membership" and we'll take it from there! ~Pastor Jon

CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

ARE YOU MOVING? GOING AWAY TO COLLEGE?

Please let us know your new address, so we can keep sending you the newsletter! Would you prefer to receive the Newsletter by email? Fill out the back of a prayer card, drop a note to the office or leave a message or email. Thanks!!

Alburnett: alburnettumc@fmtcs.com or 319-842-2388

Prairie Chapel: office@prairiechapelmarion.org or 319-377-7506.

Newsletter Deadline for August 2018 Newsletter
Newsletter Articles due in Office Wednesday, August 15
Newsletter Folding Party Thursday, August 23



THE ALBURNETT CHURCH CHATTERER

Visit our Web Site at

<http://www.alburnettumc.org>

FINANCIAL FACTS

Fact: 2017 Expenses Budget: \$85,000

Fact: needed per Month for Expenses: \$7,083

Fact: needed per Week for Expenses: \$1,635

Contributions		Attendance	
7/1	\$1080.00	7/1	38
7/8	\$684.00	7/8	40
7/15	\$795.00	7/15	41
7/22	\$1545.00	7/22	43
7/29	n/a	7/29	n/a

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2 KATIE JOHNSON LEFEBURE
3 ADAM SLOAN
3 KRISTI CAVES
4 ROBERT MIELL
5 HUNTER CAVES
9 JENNIFER SLOAN
10 FREIDA HITE
10 SHIRLEY ANDREWS
10 TOMMY MOORE
11 KELLY KIRK
15 MICHAEL KADLEC
17 DAVE MACHACEK
17 NEVA LANNING
18 GREELY SLOAN
18 KASSIE LAWRENCE
23 CYNTHIA SMITH



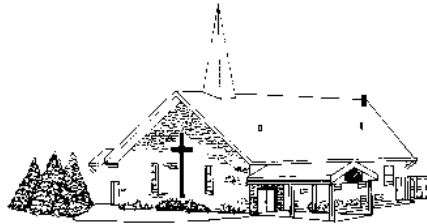
23 CHRIS SARGENT
23 WENDY WIEBOLD
25 BELINDA HENLE
27 ERIC SLOAN
28 KRISTEN MACHACEK BAKER
30 KATIE GRITTON

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

3 KEVIN & TERI JOHNSON
17 JOSH & KRISTI CAVES
21 RANDY & ROBIN MORRISON
31 RONALD & JULIE HOOVER
31 BECKY & KARRYL ANDERSON

If your special day is not listed here, please contact Virginia Lyttle at the church office.

MISSIONS: Our missions project for the month of August will be continuing to collect non-perishable food items for the Veterans Outreach Center Food Pantry. They are needing items such as soups, chili, mac and cheese, spaghetti, and other canned goods. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated. Please support our local veterans during this month. Thank you.



THE PRAIRIE CHAPEL CHIPS

Visit our Web Site at www.prairiechapelmarion.org

STEWARDSHIP

When I became a member of Prairie Chapel United Methodist Church I promised to be faithful with my...

PRAYERS: Pray for Peace. Pray for those recovering from illness and surgery, and undergoing treatments or in hospice care. Pray for the safety of all military, police, firefighters and EMT personnel. Pray for our elected officials, that God may give them wisdom.

PRESENCE:

Bring a Friend!!

Weekly Attendance:

7/1	30
7/8	39
7/15	57
7/22	39
7/29	n/a

GIFTS: Weekly budget needs approximately \$1485.

Weekly Offerings:

7/1	\$1470.00
7/8	\$2106.50
7/15	\$1431.50
7/22	\$760.85
7/29	n/a

SERVICE: BIG THANKS.....to all who helped with the Ice Cream Social! And to everyone who helped with VBS, teachers, workers, leaders, and those who donated money & supplies!

UMW: No Meeting in August. The Nominating Committee will meet. Our next meeting is Thursday, September 20 @ 6:30PM.

AUGUST MISSION PROJECT: School Kits Items - ●One pair blunt scissors (Round tips only. No plastic scissors). ●One box of 24 crayons (Only 24-count boxes are accepted). ●Three one-subject notebooks (No marble composition books, No 3 or 5-subject notebooks). ●One pack of loose-leaf paper (100-200 page packets are acceptable. Wide or college rule accepted). ●One hand-held pencil sharpener (1-inch or longer, Remove from packaging). ●One ruler (12 inches or 30 centimeters long. Sturdy or flexible material accepted). ●Six unsharpened pencils ●One eraser (Two inches or larger) ●One two-gallon re-sealable plastic bag

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

3 Barbara Trumm
7 Sabra Ehler
8 Angie Kisling Bach
10 Becky Sejkora Miller
11 Matt Wittenburg
13 Karen Martin
14 Michael Seibert
17 Heidi Clemens
17 Logan Blackford
17 Casey Robertson
18 Alexis Marie Dietiker
19 Allison Beckner
20 Logan Mason
21 Nick Ritze
23 Debra Beckham
23 Whitney Thompson
25 Sharon Sejkora



26 Kevin Banasik
26 Megan Banasik
26 Brett Blackford
27 Travis Robertson
29 Julie Miller
29 Jayda Bowman
31 Twyla Hutchins

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

1 Anthony & Stacy Mason
6 Chip & Holly Kohl
7 Kevin & Allison Beckner
10 Tim & Kathy Clemens
26 Becky & Steve Miller

If your special day is not listed here, please contact Virginia Lyttle at the church office.

COMMUNITY CLUB will meet on Thursday, August 1 at 6:30PM at the church. Everyone is welcome for this monthly potluck supper. We have lots of conversation and laughs and would love for you to join us!. See you there!

**The 39th Annual Thanksgiving Ingathering
will be held on Saturday, November 3, 2018**

UMCOR is no longer accepting cloth school bags.

UMCOR is now asking that school kits be placed in 2-gallon resealable plastic bags.

Assembly Instructions

- Use a 2-gallon size resealable bag instead of cloth bag.
- Stack all paper items on top of each other. Place in 2-gallon bag.
- Place all loose items in smaller resealable bags and place on top of paper and seal 2-gallon bag.

The UMCOR School Kit list, Hygiene Kit list and Cleaning Bucket list are available at the church.

Those who wish to continue sewing school bags can make them for Midwest Mission Distribution Center. A pattern for the bags is available at the church.