



2021

## Pastor's Column

**Pastor on Vacation!** Peg and Jack are taking Bev and Dwane to Gatlinburg, TN for a week in May. We have not done one of these getaways for awhile. The trip is scheduled for May 6 to the 13. Gatlinburg is far enough away that we will stop in Paducah, KY each way. We have been there before and enjoy the Smokie Mountain area. Being there just 5 nights gives us time to enjoy the sites but not stay too long. Susan Winston will be in charge while we are gone and will do the worship service on May 9. She will know how to contact pastoral care if needed.

Last year in May, my article dealt with how different and strange the month of April had been. We were going to ease back into normal by having drive-in worship services which worked out quite well. We will have to try a couple of drive-in worships before fall! I kept thinking there was a light at the end of the tunnel but that tunnel has been a long voyage with many ups and downs. But one thing has remained strong and confident which is our spirit. The spirit of the church never wained. That spiritual depth even translated into our offerings which keep our church strong and healthy. So, my conclusion after 16 months is: it's our spiritual beliefs in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that has kept us together. Our commitment to God shows as we continue to be the church of Jesus Christ.

Are we at the end of the tunnel? No, we are still heading towards the light of Jesus Christ. We may never be at the end and back to the old normal but what really matters is we are going forward with our Father. We have not put our ministries on hold but have tried to be in ministry to one another throughout this time. We are not going backwards at all but forward in the knowledge that God goes with us always. On November 13, 2011, we made a rededication to be the church alive in Jesus Christ. At that time we put in our bulletin a scripture from Phillipians 3:13b-14 and it has been there ever since. You may not always be aware of it or read it every Sunday but it remains the focus of Open Doors United Methodist Church of Blue Eye. "Forgetting what was behind and straining forward to what was ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Phil 3:13b-14

One part we can really witness to is the "straining forward". It has not been easy and it has been stressful but it is worth the effort by far. Now that things seem brighter we must not fall back and rest because we are weary of the journey but press on towards the goal of the upward call of God to be the Church!

We give thanks to God for being with us in the past, encouraging us in the present, and guiding us in the future. I ended last May's article with "Be safe and may God's Blessing be with you!" That never grows old - Amen!!!

*Pastor Jack*



# Scriptures for the Month of



Sunday May 2: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

Sunday May 9: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

Sunday May 16: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

Sunday May 23: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-35; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Sunday May 30: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

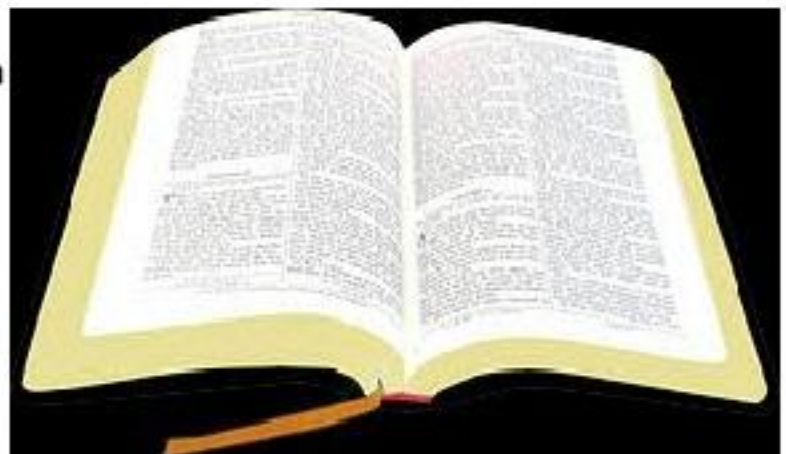
## Sunday May 9 - Happy Mother's Day!



Susan Winston will be presenting a special Mother's Day lesson on "Sarah - Mother of a Nation". Come and hear about the joys and struggles of Sarah - Jesus' 42nd Great Grandmother!

## PRAYER BREAKFAST

Prayer Breakfast is at 8:15 am Saturday, May 1 in the Welcome Center. This is a time we share what is happening in our church and find areas and people we need to pray for. It is one of the foundation stones that keeps our church going in the right direction. Prayer is an extremely important part of who we are and what we do as a church of Jesus Christ. Please plan to attend from 8:15 to 10:30 am the first Saturday of the month. You will be glad you did!



## Bible Study

Monday mornings will remain Bible Study times throughout the summer. Pastor Jack plans to be gone one Monday in May and three Mondays in August.

May 3 we will finish Max Lucado's "He Chose the Nails" and then explore which direction we would like to study next. Pastor Jack will be gone May 10 so Susan Winston will lead you that day. Please explore Right Now Media at home to see what you would recommend to study. Most of the group is back so let's pick a study we can all get behind. There will be no Bible study on May 31 (Memorial Day).

## 40th Anniversary

Our church is celebrating 40 years of ministry this year (1981-2021)! The Church Council has chosen to celebrate on Oct 24 our 40th Anniversary. We are just in the planning stage but we want everyone to SAVE-THE-DATE! Our hope is to make it a very special day in the life of Open Doors UMC of Blue Eye. We need to celebrate the past, present, and future ministry that God has so graciously allowed us to continue in this beautiful spot in the Ozarks. We have been involved in many outreach programs and ministries over the years. Over 350 people have been a part of this church at one time or another. There is a lot to be thankful for and to celebrate!!!

**SAVE-THE-DATE - OCTOBER 24, 2021**

## Thrift Store

The Thrift Store will be open again this year:

May - Not open due to Garage Sale

June 10 Thurs 1:00-5:00 pm

June 12 Sat 8:00am - noon

Please let us know if you can help!  
Donations for the Thrift Store are always  
welcome!



## Spring Garage Sale May 21-22

Our Spring Sale will be May 21 & 22. We are taking in items to be sold until Monday May 17. Please have those items brought to the large garage by the church and let people know they can bring those items at anytime. We hope that not too many items come in after May 17 as it makes it harder to get ready for the sale.

The sale this year is just 2 days instead of three. Friday, May 21 the sale will start at 8 am and close around 5 pm. Saturday, May 22 the sale will start at 8 am and close around noon. The closings have some flexibility due to people already shopping or someone who has said they would be right back, but went to get a larger vehicle!!

The sale is divided into three areas:

- 1) Clothing, linens, blankets, books, videos will be in the basement of the church
- 2) Small items will be at the Ministry House garage
- 3) Large items will be at the main garage

There will be food provided in the Welcome Center for the workers and snacks for our guests if they would like a break from their shopping or time to think of making a purchase!

We are relying on the leads to have workers there throughout the day. Any questions, please contact the church and if you are new to the church please join the fun and fellowship for your volunteering will be appreciated!

The funds raised go towards our loan!! Thanks again! Lots of fun!!!

# Financial Update

### General Budget 4/18/21

Balance from 2020	\$ 3,405.00
Income thru 4/18/21	\$21,960.00
Expenses thru 4/18/21	\$19,964.00
Balance as of 4/18/21	\$ <u>5,401.00</u>

Loan Balance: \$51,160.53

### Building Fund 4/18/21

Designation (Amount available)	
Monthly Loan	\$4,507.30
Women's Ministry	\$ 281.34
Ministry House Construct.	\$1,367.50
Debt Retirement	\$1,000.00
Ministry House Reserve	\$ 986.15
Ministry House Roof	\$ 780.00
General Reserve	\$11,060.15
Memorials	\$ <u>275.00</u>
Total	\$20,257.44

L.E.O.T.A.

Let's Eat Out Together Amen

L.E.O.T.A. Let's Eat Out Together Amen - started up in March. Come join for a fun time of food and fellowship!

May 18, Tuesday - Billy Galls 5291 Hwy 265

June 26, Saturday - Gettin Basted 2845 W Country Blvd

July 20, Tuesday - Pizza Ranch 1464 Highway 248

All lunch times will be at 11:30 a.m. PLEASE R.S.V.P. to Debbie Herman 281-460-2038 by phone or text message by noon the day before each luncheon if you will be attending. Thanks! Hope to see you there!

Movie Night  
Wednesday

May 19 at 6 p.m.

Join us in  
fellowship!

Movie-  
"Overcomer"

## Ministry House/Gazebo

Ministry House has begun the process of updating the flooring on the main level. With great volunteers (J.D. Settles, Dave Gilliam, Bob Lyon, and Dennis Goings) we have been able to put down new laminate flooring in the kitchen (waterproof), dining room, Hallway, Hall Bathroom (water resistant) and the master bathroom (waterproof). This leaves the living room and three bedrooms which will need new carpet sometime soon plus the laundry room and half bath (waterproof laminate). One of the nice things about the new flooring is that we were able to fix the squeaky floors.

Also, we received funds from donations to put a fiberglass roof over the back deck. This will help save the wood deck itself plus it will provide a nice place to sit during the day out of the sun.



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### Gazebo Ministry

On Easter we began our new Gazebo Ministry as 17 people attended the outdoor sunrise (8:30) service. It was also a time to test our new portable sound system which worked quite well. The new system is a memorial to Betty Frazier and Janice Settles. They both enjoyed worship and the gazebo.

Every month we will have an outing at the gazebo. In May the date is Wednesday, May 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. There will be a light supper of hotdogs, chips, drinks and cookies. After supper there will be a program where Paul Reffitt is going to provide music. We are very glad to have him! Paul has been to our church many times and we look forward to his program that evening. In order to plan for this event we need to know who is coming. A sign up sheet will be available so we can plan the evening. We hope this ministry will grow beyond our church into the community at large.

April

June

# May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1  <b>Prayer Breakfast 8:15</b>
2  9:30 Coffee and Fellowship in Welcome Center  10:30 Worship	3  Office Hours 1-5  10:30 Bible Study  1:00 Women's Ministry	4	5  Office Hours 10-5	6  Church Office closed	7	8
9  Happy Mother's Day!  9:30 Welcome Center  10:30 Worship	10  Office Hours 1-5  10:30 Bible Study  1:00 Women's Ministry	11	12  Office Hours 10-5	13  Church Office closed	14	15
<b>BLUE SUNDAY</b> 6  9:30 Welcome Center  10:30 Worship  Church Council	17  Office Hours 1-5  10:30 Bible Study  1:00 Women's Ministry	18	19  Office Hours 10-5  6:00 pm Movie Night "Overcomer"	20  Office Hours 10-5	21  8-5 Garage Sale	22  8-noon Garage Sale
23  9:30 Welcome Center  10:30 Worship	24  Office Hours 1-5  10:30 Bible Study  1:00 Women's Ministry	25	26  Office Hours 10-5  6:00 pm Gazebo Hotdogs and music by Paul	27  Office Hours 10-5	28	29
30  9:30 Welcome Center  10:30 Worship	31  Memorial Day Church Office Closed					



# May 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 
2	3	4 Monica Bennett	5	6	7 Randy Wagner	8
9 Jane Fentress	10 Sean Phillips	11	12 Beverly Gunther  Art & Sue Cella	13	14 Cole Riggs  Ben Johnson  Alex & Katie Williams  Jerry & Frankie Oldani	15 Dave Schroeder
16 Jerry Oldani	17 Sybil Mitchell	18 Bob & Debbie Lyon	19 Becky Babler	20	21	22 Cody West
23	24 Dwane Smith	25	26	27	28 Tammy Walker  Mike & Shelly Fransen	29 Jonathan & Makayla Blake
30 Neva Mielke	31					