



THE BEACON

SEPTEMBER 2021

IN WORSHIP

Summer Inside Out

Sunday, September 5: One-Anothering Retrospective



This summer we spent several weeks looking at personal spiritual practices (how we love God on the inside) followed by social spiritual practices (how we love God outside). This Sunday Pastor David and Pastor Greg will share personal reflections.

IN THIS ISSUE:

PASTOR'S PEN
PAGE 2

MESSAGE FROM THE HEART
PAGE 3

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
PAGE 4

PRAYER REQUESTS &
CHURCH FAMILY NEWS
PAGE 5

WORSHIP ARTS
PAGE 6

CHILDREN & YOUTH
PAGE 7

LAUNCH CELEBRATION
SUNDAY
PAGE 8

UPCOMING EVENTS AT
LIVING WORD
PAGE 9

FOLLOW US:



iCare

Sunday, September 12 - October 24

Loving others doesn't mean they have to be people we currently know or will ever meet. Christ calls us to offer God's care beyond ourselves. This series will feature a scriptural reflection on the six practices from Matthew 25: 31-46 after which Jesus tells us, "Whatever you have done for the least of these, you have done it for me." Included with this series will be several opportunities for our church and community to get personally involved in caring for the needs of others.

Worship Online

Missed a Worship Service? How do I watch worship online?

Want to replay a Worship service?

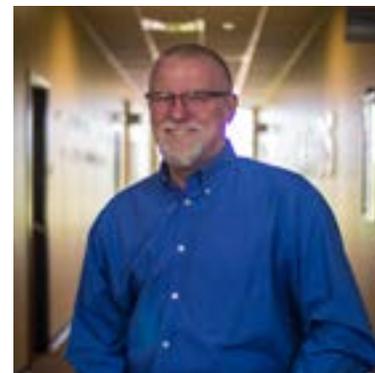
* Watch worship livestream on Sunday at 9:00 am and 10:30 am at livingwordumc.online.church.

* View the recording of worship after 5:00 pm Sunday at livingwordumc.org/worship.

* View live or on delay through Facebook at facebook.com/LivingWordUMC.

PASTOR'S PEN

It usually happens around the beginning of November when people start commenting, "You're about to begin the busy time of the church year!" Of course, they are referring to the Christmas season. This makes sense, because it's the time that people think more about church than any other time of the year. However, I haven't quite figured out when a slow time of the year comes. The summer slows down as far as adult ministries but it's busy with children and youth ministries, camps, mission trips, and the like. January is usually a time some new things start up, as well as around February and March with the season of Lent which leads up to Easter. I suppose May is slow, unless you're planning for those summer events I mentioned. In my experience, there really is no "slow time." There are just some times that aren't quite as busy as others.



Fall is a very busy time at church. A couple of weeks ago we had a fun "Launch Sunday" to celebrate all the fall events and studies coming up. I encourage you to look through this issue of the Beacon with an eye toward all the events, activities, groups, and studies which are launching. I can't imagine another time of year when I can say with absolute conviction, there is a place for you in the ministries of Living Word. Whether you attend as a learner or volunteer, a runner, golfer, blood donor, singer or musician; there's a place for you. So find an activity that piques your interest and get involved. I can't guarantee that your faith will grow for sure, but I can guarantee that sitting on the sidelines won't get you very far.

I look forward to joining with you in many of these offerings. Blessings as autumnal changes open you up to renewal of your faith.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Dave

disrael@livingwordumc.org



MESSAGE FROM THE HEART—

How Do Grief Support Groups Help?

Grief is very difficult to put into words and even more difficult to manage. That is because there is no "right" way to grieve a loss. Each person's loss is unique. It can be the loss of a loved one, a job, a marriage, your health. The nature of relationships, conditions of a job loss, and various medical diagnoses add another layer of uniqueness to our losses.



Today's culture tends to pressure those who are grieving to "simply get over it" and to "move on." Burying the grief and staying busy is another tactic many try to use.

However, grief left unattended can create problems later on down the road, much like a wound that is left untreated. Managing grief is actually a journey that we take. If we can be informed on what grief is about and how God is with us every step of the way, then this journey will be one of emotional and spiritual healing.

Being part of a support group to manage this journey together has helped so many grieving a loss. Living Word is getting ready to host its sixth session of GriefShare on September 13 for those who have lost a loved one.

God allows our paths to cross with other participants of a group for a reason. The facilitators of the group and myself have witnessed beautiful friendships evolve and healing take place as personal experiences have been shared with each other. Participants share ideas on how they cope with various situations.

Setting distractions and time aside to be a part of the group is a gift you can give yourself as you manage your grief journey. Managing the loneliness that comes from a loss is easier when you have a group to rely on. We also learn that "normal" takes on a new meaning for each individual. It doesn't matter if you have been grieving for a few weeks or for many years.

The pandemic has certainly challenged how support groups can continue to offer the best care for each group. Although meeting in-person is typically the best way to connect as a group, Living Word has the technology to allow participants of a group to choose to meet in-person or virtually.

Our next session of GriefShare will be held both in-person and virtually beginning Monday, September 13. If you would like to join us, let me know and we can help you get set up to join us virtually, if that is what you are most comfortable with.

If you feel that you may not be ready for a support group but still need grief support, feel free to ask me to help you with your grief journey in other ways. I have Stephen Ministers that can help one-on-one with your journey and I have written resources and names of professionals that can assist you, too.

You are not alone on your grief journey. God is with you every step of the way.

Valerie Novatny
Director of Congregational Care
vnovatny@livingwordumc.org
636-821-2823



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Celebrate Wildwood September 25

Living Word is a participating sponsor in the Celebrate Wildwood event on September 25 at the Wildwood Town Center on Main Street. Celebrate Wildwood kicks off with a parade at 10:00 am and ends with fireworks at 9:15 pm with kids activities, food and drinks, artist displays, and more. Stop by the Living Word booth! For more information or to volunteer at the Living Word booth, visit livingwordumc.org/news.



Coffee with the Pastor

Would you like to learn more about Living Word? Come to Coffee with the Pastor Sunday, September 19, at 10 am in Room 217. This casual get-together with Pastor Dave allows you to ask any questions you might have. Coffee and donuts are provided.

Senior Adult Bible Study

Join the Senior Adult Bible Study! The current study is The Epic of Eden, a twelve-week study of the Old Testament on Tuesdays at 10:30 am led by Pastor Greg. This class is meeting in Room 205/207. Feel free to bring your friend, neighbor, or anyone to join us. If you have any questions, please email Pastor Greg Finfrock at gfinfrock@livingwordumc.org or contact the church office at 636-821-2800.

September Senior Social Luncheon and Trivia Day September 14, Noon - 2:00 pm

September 14 is the Senior Social Luncheon and Trivia Day! Test your knowledge of history, movies, and pop culture of the 1950's and 1960's. The lunch menu is spaghetti and salad. No need to RSVP. Just grab your friends or neighbors and show up. If you have any questions, please contact Val Novatny at vnovatny@livingwordumc.org or at 636-821-2823.

Living Word Golf Tournament September 19

The Living Word Golf Tournament sponsored by the Men's Club is on Sunday, September 19, at the Fore Honor Golf and Event Center with a 1:30 pm tee off. The event will provide an opportunity to honor Ken Mann by funding the 2nd Annual Ken Mann Memorial Scholarship. Even if you are not a golfer, please consider contributing to this special scholarship. The cost to play is \$125 per participant, which includes golf, cart, dinner, and mulligans. The teams are 4-person scramble teams. Men's Club is also looking for hole sponsors of \$100 or \$200 with a sign for your support. Visit livingwordumc.org/golf or contact Steve Ernst at sbevetteman@live.com for more information or to volunteer.



2021-2022 Early Childhood Center (ECC) Registration

ECC registration for the 2021-2022 school year is now open for children ages 15 months to 6 years of age. We strive to provide a safe and nurturing environment where children are provided with developmentally appropriate experiences to help them learn and grow together. Check out ECC at livingwordumc.org/ecc.org. Contact Becky Miller, ECC Director, at bmiller@livingwordumc.org or 636-821-2861 for more information on enrollment.

Worship Attendance

August 1: in-person - 260, online - 244
August 8: in-person - 223, online - 306
August 15: in-person - 231, online - 314
August 22: in-person - 182, online - 160
August 29: in-person - 259, online - 141

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please hold the following individuals in your personal prayers. To add a prayer to the list below or to stay on the prayer list for more than two weeks, please complete the online form at livingwordumc.org/mylw, or email Val Novatny, Director of Congregational Care, at vnovatny@livingwordumc.org. For pre-surgery prayer, please contact Val Novatny at vnovatny@livingwordumc.org or 636-821-2823. Emergency Congregational Care 24/7 On-Call Phone: 636-821-2888.

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Helen Rager
Taylor & Baby Finley
Ruck Family
Clella Malloy
Alyssa Kellhofer
McKay Family
Beverly McIntosh
Mitch Mitchell
Karen Patton

Josh Luter
Charlotte Ottley
Delaney Digman
Bill Reichter
Bob Vincent
Sophia Miller
Judy Hoffman
Nini Schneider
Larry & Kathy

The Brown family on the loss of Cindy Brown's sister, Tina

The Sizemore and Steele families on the loss of Priscilla Steele's mother, Elinor "Ilene" Sizemore

The Hughes family on the loss of Liz Hughes father, Walter Hughes

The Fuller family on the loss of Anna Jane

The Brannum family on the loss of Cathy Brannum

Victims of Hurricane Ida

Victims and their families suffering from the violence in Afghanistan

FOR MORE PRAYER INFORMATION:

livingwordumc.org/care

TO HAVE CARDS SENT:

livingwordumc.org/care

TO ADD A PERSON TO THE PRAYER LIST:

livingwordumc.org/mylw

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



Graham David Sommerfeld

On August 8 we celebrated the baptism of Graham David Sommerfeld. Graham is the son of Scott and Madison Sommerfeld and the grandson of Mark and Dana Mazzier.

Shea Lee McClung

On August 29 we celebrated the baptism of Shea Lee McClung. Shea is the daughter of Heath and Ali McClung, grandson of Jody Sloan, and great-grandson of Loy and Darlene Sloan.



Bill and Sally Blackburn

On August 29 we celebrated new members Bill and Sally Blackburn. Welcome Bill and Sally!



WORSHIP ARTS



LW Kids and Youth Choirs Return September 12

LW Kids Choir at 10am
FBI Choir at 2pm
Great Awakening at 2pm

LIVING WORD

LW Kids Choir

LW Kids Choir is open to all children, Kindergarten – grade 5, and sings periodically throughout the school year at the 10:30 am contemporary service, as well as in the annual Christmas Concert. LW Kids Choir rehearses on Sunday from 10:00 – 10:30 am, after the morning programming, in Rooms 205/207. All children are encouraged to be a part of the LW Kids Choir! Contact Maggie Olson at maggie522@hotmail.com for information.

Kids and Youth Choirs Begin September 12

Beginning Sunday, September 12, LW Kids Choir, FBI Choir and Great Awakening Choir begin rehearsals!

F.B.I. (FAITH BEYOND IMAGINATION)

F.B.I. is open to all middle school youth, grades 6 – 8, and sings periodically throughout the school year during the 9:00 am traditional worship service. In addition, the middle school youth choir participates in the annual Christmas Concert and sings at local nursing homes. F.B.I. rehearses on Sunday from 2:00 – 3:00 pm, followed by LW Youth Group. All middle school youth are encouraged to be a part of F.B.I.! Contact Donna Baker at dbaker@livingwordumc.org for information.

Great Awakening Choir

Great Awakening is open to all high school youth, grades 9 – 12, and sings periodically throughout the school year at the 10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service. Great Awakening rehearses on Sunday from 2:00 – 3:00 pm, followed by LW Youth Group. In addition, Great Awakening participates in the annual Christmas Concert and goes on the road for a weeklong tour each summer. This year's tour will encompass a loop of several Midwestern states. Over the years, Great Awakening has taken their message in song to nearly the entire country! Additional rehearsals may be scheduled prior to the tour. All high school youth are encouraged to be a part of Great Awakening! Contact Mark Turner at mturner@livingwordumc.org for information.

F.B.I. and Great Awakening Kickoff BBQ and Kickball Tournament

After the F.B.I. and Great Awakening first rehearsal on September 12, there will be an All-Youth Kickoff Barbecue (Ted Drewes' ice cream!) and kickball tournament from 3:00 – 4:00 pm. Each month following, we will go off campus after rehearsal and enjoy some fun and fellowship with all LW Youth! Stay tuned for those upcoming activities! For more information or to sign-up for either choir or the All-Youth Kickoff Barbecue, visit livingwordumc.org/youth.

Contemporary Worship Band

Love to sing or play an instrument? The Contemporary Worship Band is seeking vocalists and instrumentalists! If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member of our Worship Band please consider joining us for our fall auditions.

All instruments and vocal parts needed and welcomed!! Auditions will be held for the band on four different dates to allow options for people to choose from. Here are the selected dates for auditions:

Thursday, Sept. 16, 6:00-7:30 pm

Sunday, Sept. 19, 12:00- 1:00 pm

Thursday, Sept. 23, 6:00-7:30 pm

Sunday, Sept. 26, 12:00-1:00 pm

LW Youth Band ideas are also being discussed and will be decided at a future date. Stay tuned!

Contact Alyssa Kellhofer, Director of Contemporary Worship, at akellhofer@livingwordumc.org or 314-604-0060 for more information.



CHILDREN & YOUTH



BAM: Bible and Me

LW Kids is excited to host BAM: Bible and Me for current 3rd-5th grade students starting September 12th. We will explore the Bible, learn all the books, and give kids the knowledge they need in order to properly understand the Bible. The class will be held on Sundays in Room 205/207 from 2:00 – 3:00 pm.

Week 1: September 12

Week 2: September 19

Week 3: October 3

Week 4: October 10

Register by September 8 at
livingwordumc.org/children

Family Worship on September 5

On Sunday, September 5, you are invited to bring your children to worship! Worship activities will be provided for students ages three – twelfth grade. This gives parents the opportunity to show their children how to worship and gives our Sunday morning volunteers the opportunity to take a holiday weekend off. The nursery is available for children during both worship services.



"The Big Questions" Begins September 12

Teenagers are asking big questions right now, "Who am I? Where do I fit in? Who are my real friends?" This study is designed for youth grades 6 – 12, to help them understand what God has created them for and answer some of their own questions. Doors open at 8:45 am. Study begins at 9:30 am in the youth room. For more information contact Pastor Greg Finrock at gfinrock@livingwordumc.org.

All-Youth BBQ on September 12

On September 12, there will be an All-Youth (grades 6 - 12) Kickoff Barbecue, including Ted Drewes' ice cream, and a kickball tournament from 3:00 – 4:00 pm. Each month following, we will go off campus and enjoy some fun and fellowship with all LW Youth! Stay tuned for those upcoming activities! For more information or to sign-up visit livingwordumc.org/youth.



LAUNCH CELEBRATION SUNDAY



Launch Celebration Sunday on August 22, began with one worship service with close to 200 in attendance. After worship, the Living Word community enjoyed a wonderful lunch of BBQ, pizza, snow cones, popcorn (and much more!). We enjoyed games, a petting zoo, a special show by Trixie, and visiting with each other.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT LIVING WORD



ONE NIGHT • 3 HOURS • 3 NATIONAL SPEAKERS / COMEDY / WORSHIP

Author & Bible Teacher
MELISSA SPOELSTRA

Comedy by
SALLY BAUCKE

Music by
LINDSAY McCAUL

Aspire

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

HERE AT LIVING WORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WWW.ASPIREWOMENSEVENTS.COM

Aspire Women's Event – October 24 Live at Living Word

Aspire is a one-night women's event full of laughter, learning, stories, and music with three ladies taking the stage, 1 Bible Teacher – 1 Comedian – 1 Musician. The show begins at 5:00 pm. VIP doors open at 4:00 pm, general admission doors open at 4:30 pm. So grab a friend or two and join us for a great ladies night out at Living Word. Tickets and info available at AspireWomensEvents.com or by calling 480-812-1100. For more information, contact Connie Davidson at cmd0217@aol.com.



Run Circles Around Hunger 5K

Strap on your sneakers to Run Circles Around Hunger with Circle of Concern and Living Word Church on October 9! The 5K will be held at Living Word Church. Check-in begins at 7:00 am. A t-shirt is provided to the first 250 registrants. All skill levels from competitive to casual are invited to participate. Awards will be given for each category. All proceeds benefit Circle of Concern. To register or for more information visit livingwordumc.org/circle5k or contact Steve Ernst at sbevetteman@live.com.