

The

Messenger



Greg Davis, Pastor

Mission Statement

McCutchanville Community Church's mission is to connect our community with

9505 Petersburg Road •
Evansville, IN 47725
(812) 867-5735 •

September 2022

*God's
power and hope through the love of Christ.*

*From the
Pastor*



Grace and peace to you from God our Father to my beloved friends at McCutchanville CC,

This might be the beginning of the way the Apostle Paul might have greeted us all if he were addressing a letter to us while sitting chained in a Roman prison. This is the way he greeted the church at Colossae (the Colossians). However, as he went more deeply into his writing, he undoubtedly would raise a concern about the Church of Jesus Christ that he loved so deeply.

So what would it be? Would he say we should have a praise band? Would he say we should have more potlucks? Would he say we should choose a brighter color to paint the fellowship area? Would he say we should greet one another with a hug, or just a plain old handshake? Would he say we should call ourselves Methodists, or Baptists, or Catholics, or independent? Would he say we should use wine instead of juice for Holy Communion, and by all means we should use better tasting bread? Would he say children should not run in the church? Would he say the church is too hot or too cold? Would he say the pastor preaches too long? Would he say we should have two services?

Well, he or someone could go and on with this, but really I'm not sure what he would actually write to us. However, I'm pretty sure it would somewhat resemble the Holy Spirit inspired writings recorded in the Bible called: Colossians, Ephesians, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Romans, Philippians, Philemon, 1 & 2 Thessaloonians or Titus (all widely attributed to Paul).

He would encourage us to put our faith in Christ above all else. He would remind us of the sacrificial death of Jesus for our sins and that we are saved by grace through faith, not by works so that we would not ever be prideful and boast of what we have done. He would remind us where our priorities should lie, and to take more seriously the words of Jesus and the Apostles who established the Church of Jesus Christ. There are many whom I'm sure he would commend for their discernment and charity (their gifts of being used for the glory of God).

Really, Paul's primary message was this: He preached the death, resurrection, and lordship of Jesus Christ, and he proclaimed that faith in Jesus guarantees a share in his life. And that we should be wary of outside distractions, those who speak of matters that do not align with the Holy Scriptures.

As you know I enjoy so much the Book of Philippians, primarily because it is great encouragement to rejoice and have joy in your life. Today so many, including Christians, lack joy – and because of that we are setting a bad example. Christians, we should rejoice because after all, we have assurance of God with us NOW and God with us FOREVER MORE! Paul might say: "Rejoice, McCutchanville, again I say rejoice!"

I close this "from the pastor" with the closing verses from the Book of Ephesians 6:23-24: *Peace be with you, dear brothers and sisters, and may God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you love with faithfulness. May God's grace be eternally upon all who love our Lord Jesus Christ.*

In Christ,
Pastor Greg

Dear Church Family,

By now you have likely heard that we have decided to end our ministry of service to our beloved friends of McCutchanville on June 30, 2023. This is ten months away so there is still much to be done and we assure you that even though we have announced this far in advance, we will continue to live out our calling.

Why now? I'm not sure that answer was completely up to us – up until this time, it just never seemed to be the right time. And now, that is where we are being led. And I have told many of you that I still think there is something more to be done in our future, but only after a pause.

The life as pastor and spouse was not chosen by us, after all, we spent 24 years of marriage prior to ministry, it was chosen for us. And even though the calling to become a pastor was something I struggled with for a while, it became clearly apparent that we should follow where the Lord was leading us.

Our first appointment was at Patoka for eleven years. This was a small rural community with children everywhere. They allowed me to go to seminary for eight summers (I'm a slow learner) – to learn to become a pastor and nurtured us in the process.

Next we were appointed to Loogootee and served there for six years. This town's priority might first be basketball, yet there was always a grounded foundation of faith and action. At Loogootee we fed the masses both spiritually and physically with a huge food pantry. In the middle of Amish country, we met so many differing persons and I loved going out in the country to visit some of my Amish friends. While at Loogootee I was ordained an elder in the UMC in 2011.

Then came retirement on June 30, 2016. Only to unretire on July 1, 2016 – serving as your Pastor. And as Gary Sprinkle would say, God had his hand on this one (and I believe God's hand was on all three churches that we served).

Friends, we have been blessed by your love, kindness, generosity, and encouragement. The past seven years have been joyful in hope, painful in Covid, sorrowful in the loss of too many saints, and faithful in service and love for the Lord Jesus Christ. A true blessing has been the many ways we have served others together.

All together we will have served 24 years in the business world and now 24 years in ministry – and for the most part it has all been good. The one piece of advice that we received in the beginning of ministry was to love your people. And we do love you. Each of you has been a very special part of our lives and we are thankful,

Grace and peace,

Pastor Greg & Teresa



Prayer Requests: Ed Schiffer (being moved to hospice), Kristy Georgesen, Joe Hase-man, ,Linda Proctor, Brick Briscoe, Mary Moore, Jim Smith, Sara Dixon, David Elkins (friend of Pastor Greg), Silas (Jerry and Jane Bennet’s great grandson), Jenny Taylor, Debby Phares, Norm Koehler, Josette Higgins, Mary Lou Ellis, Our church, all area schools and universities, God’s Kids, Amy Dubber, Our Haitian children: Daphnica Noel and Richecarde Charitable Louissant, MCCutchanville Firefighters,

*Do you have a prayer request you would like listed in the Messenger?
Call the church office at 812-867-5735*



SEPTEMBER

Ron Gross	6
Maren Hubble	7
Barb Siegert	13
Don Skelton	13
Sidney Cagle	15
Teresa Davis	24
Alice Campbell	25
Cory Mills	27
Kyra Davis	27
Jane Bennett	27



September is anything goes! As you walk around the grocery store and see items on sale, pick some things up for Patchwork Central. Please bring your donations and put in the basket. EVERYTHING is appreciated!

Are you aware that Patchwork also accepts better used clothing? As the clients become employed, many need “better” used clothing for their newly found positions.



Food Pantry Donations Needed



September

Kemper & Martha Lease	10
Roger & Alice Campbell	13
Don & Sue Harris	15
Ashley & Derek Tapp	21

MENU TUESDAY

September 6: Potato & Ham Casserole

September 13: Vegetable Soup

September 20: Ham Sand

September 27: Chicken Fettucine

October 4: Potato Soup

October 11: Chicken Casserole



Choir will resume August 31, 2022 and will meet every WEDNESDAY evening at 6:00pm. Cory conducted choir try-outs last Sunday during worship and everyone qualified!! If you missed the tryouts, come Wednesday evening and enjoy the warm welcome!



We are currently collecting funds to support the Methodist build for Habit – any donations may be placed in the basket on the entry table. We have been asked to give \$1000 toward the current build.



The Food Trailer is ready to head down to Franklin Street on October 2nd!

We will be open for business October 3—8 and we need YOU to volunteer for available timeslots. Timeslots to volunteer are in 4 hour increments: 10:00 am-2:00 pm, 2:00pm-6:00 pm , and 6:00 pm-10:00 pm.

It is always a good time working next to old and new friends and watching the crowds as we sell the our famous Strawberry Shortcake with ice cream, chicken fried rice, eggs rolls and crab Rangoon.

Please put your phone number next to your name as you sign up!!

UNTO THE LEAST OF THESE – MINISTRY TO THE HOMELESS IN EVANSVILLE

Most importantly, prayer for the health of our team members AND the people we minister to.

I would like to make a request regarding the items we need for distribution to the homeless and others in need in our area. We DEFINITELY need the following:

- Used and clean Blankets
- Backpacks
- Sleeping bags
- Towels
- Washcloths
- T-shirts in adult sizes
- Women’s shorts
- Hygiene items: deodorant, menstrual items, toilet paper
- Clean bras, panties and briefs
- Men and women’s shoes
- Soap
- Dental supplies
- Kleenex

I hope the above information is helpful to you. This ministry is touching many lives in our area, INCLUDING MINE!! If any of you would like to go out on the streets with us sometime, please let me know. AND thank You, Dear Jesus, for being with us each step of the way. We can't do this without You!



Jennie Hiam 1-812-204-1190
 "Unto the Least of These", Matthew 25:40
 (Jesus speaking)
 Ministry to the homeless and anyone else in need
 Aldersgate UMC 1-812-477-7816
 5130 Lincoln Ave.

August 2022 Attendance and Giving

	Att	Building Fund	General Fund	Inter-net Giving	Tue Meals	Missions (Habitat)	Missions (Haiti)	UMYH Meals	Total Checking Deposit
7	57	1,285.00	\$3266.00		\$150.00	\$25.00			\$4,726.00
14	66	\$300.00	\$582.00			\$20.00			\$902.00
21	74	\$350.00	\$1,282.00			\$21.00			\$1,653.00
28	69	\$20.00	\$926.00		\$150.00	\$52.00			\$1,148.00

From
The Wall Street Journal
Friday, August 19, 2022

A Messy Methodist Schism

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

By Mark Tooley

Theological schisms are never pretty. The United Methodist Church—America’s third-largest religious body, with over 6.2 million members—is in the thick of its own over its teachings on sexuality. Hundreds of congregations have voted to leave the denomination, which had 13 million members worldwide as of 2020, and thousands more likely will. On Aug. 7, United Methodism’s second- and seventh-largest churches by attendance, both in the Houston area, voted to quit the denomination.

What brought United Methodism to this divide was its decision-making body’s 2019 “Traditional Plan”—a document that affirmed its ban on same-sex marriage and mandated that all clergy be celibate if single and monogamous if married. That sets the church apart from nearly every other mainline Protestant denomination. The traditionalists won thanks to votes from conservative African delegates, whose churches have grown by millions even as the U.S. has declined by nearly the same magnitude.

When liberal-leaning U.S. bishops and clergy chafed at complying with the plan, a compromise was born. In early 2020 conservative and liberal church leaders announced a “Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation.” The protocol allowed each congregation to vote its preference between a more traditional or more liberal denomination—and was expected to be approved at the General Conference’s quadrennial assembly in Minneapolis

that year. But then Covid arrived, and the convention was postponed three times, to 2024. The decision left many traditionalists feeling betrayed and exasperated. In May of this year, those who couldn’t wait any longer launched the Global Methodist Church—a traditionally conservative denomination, led by the Rev. Keith Boyette.

Now some congregations are weighing whether to join this Global Methodist Church. Local church properties are owned by the denomination through state-level conferences. The 2019 General Conference approved a temporary policy allowing congregations to leave with property by paying two years’ worth of “apportionments” to the national church, plus clergy pension liabilities. Those exits must happen by December 2023.

Between 2019 and 2021, 167 congregations exited. When the 53 local annual conferences met this spring, they ratified 305 additional exits from 24 conferences. At least 11 conferences will host special sessions later this year to ratify reportedly 1,000 more. Additional thousands are expected next year as congregations scramble to meet the 2023 deadline. (There are about 30,000 United Methodist churches nationwide.) Complicating the process are more firmly liberal conferences that are adding extra payments to churches’ exits. Some conferences with more sympathetic conservative leadership have reduced payments by applying millions of dollars in their reserves toward the exit fees.

The messiest departure so far has been in the Florida conference, where 106 congregations

(roughly 20% of the state’s membership) are jointly suing the bishop for charging exorbitant exit fees. They believe they’re being held for “ransom.” Their litigation also alleges that their bishop isn’t upholding denominational law about sexuality. One Florida minister, the congregations point out, has openly conducted six same-sex weddings. The bishop himself attempted to ratify two openly gay clergy in June but failed to achieve the 75%

Hundreds of local congregations have left the church over teachings on sex.

threshold needed from Florida clergy. This litigation complains of wider defiance of church law, citing the 2016 election of an openly lesbian bishop in the church’s western jurisdiction and a drag queen candidate for ordination in Illinois.

Meanwhile, United Methodist leaders in Africa remain committed to the church’s conservative teachings. They are waiting for the General Conference’s convention in 2024, which they hope will ratify the church’s protocol for separating the denomination into liberal and conservative branches. It’s unlikely many of them would stay in a denomination that liberalizes on sex. While most of Africa’s Methodists will likely join the Global Methodist Church, some may be tempted by autonomy.

That temptation could apply to many congregations in the U.S. fed up with denominational

bureaucracy. Congregationalism defies Methodism’s more connectional tradition, which has typically featured bishops’ appointing pastors to churches.

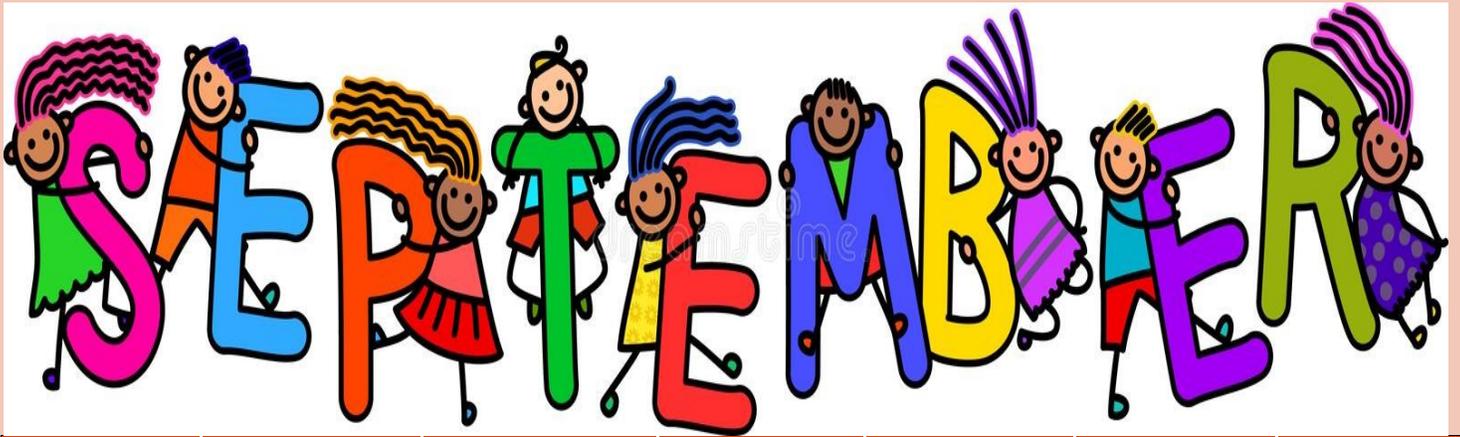
Challenging both United Methodism and the Global Methodist Church are declining denominational interests among American Christians. While most historical denominations are declining, nondenominational churches in the U.S. are growing.

Working against this drift are 60 traditionalist theologians who met in Alexandria, Va., in January to craft a 25,000-word articulation of “classic” Methodist doctrine. Rooted in the teachings of 18th-century founder John Wesley, their statement (“The Faith Once Delivered”) is broken into six sections and addresses the nature of God, creation, revelation, salvation, the church and eschatology.

Promoting a specific Protestant tradition over generic nondenominational evangelicalism in America will be difficult. United Methodism has lost five million members in the U.S. since 1968 and will lose millions more. Mainline Protestantism has been sidelined—and it will take years for United Methodism’s schism to resolve.

The hope of traditional American Methodists is that once freed from denominational bureaucracy, they’ll be able to grow anew—as their peers in Africa are doing, and as America’s early Methodists did. Americans hoping for revived spirituality and civil society ought to wish them well.

Mr. Tooley, a United Methodist member, is president of the Institute on Religion and Democracy.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
August 28	August 29 Gym reserved 1:30-3:00 Fellowship Hall Feserved 6:00-8:00	August 30 1:30 Gym Reserved	August 31 Choir 6:00 pm Gym reserved 1:30-3:00 3:00 Gym Reserved 6:00 Gym Reserved	September 1 1:30 Gym Reserved Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	2 1:30 Gym Reserved	3
4 Communion Sunday	5 Labor Day God's Kids Closed 1:30 Gym Reserved Fellowship Hall Feserved 6:00-	6 1:30 Gym Reserved	7 Choir 6:00 pm 1:30 Gym Reserved 3:00 Gym Reserved	8 1:30 Gym Reserved Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	9 1:30 Gym Reserved	10
11	12 Gym reserved 1:30-3:00 Fellowship Hall Feserved 6:00-8:00	13 1:30 Gym Reserved	14 Choir 6:00 pm Gym reserved 1:30-3:00 3:00 Gym Reserved	15 1:30 Gym Reserved Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	16 1:30 Gym Reserved	17
18	19 Gym reserved 1:30-3:00 Fellowship Hall Feserved 6:00-8:00	20 1:30 Gym Reserved	21 Choir 6:00 pm 1:00 Women's Meeting 1Gym reserved 1:30-3:00	22 1:30 Gym Reserved Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	23 1:30 Gym Reserved	24
25	26 Gym reserved 1:30 Fellowship Hall Feserved 6:00-8:00	27 1:30 Gym Reserved	28 Choir 6:00 pm Gym reserved 1:30-3:00 3:00 Gym Reserved	29 1:30 Gym Reserved Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	30 1:30 Gym Reserved	October 1
October 2 Communion Sunday	October 3 Gym reserved 1:30 Fellowship Hall Feserved 6:00-8:00 Fall Festival	October 4 1:30 Gym Reserved Fall Festival	October 5 Choir 6:00 pm Fall Festival Gym reserved 1:30 3:00 Gym Re-	October 6 Gym reserved 1:30 Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00 Fall Festival	October 7 1:30 Gym Reserved Fall Festival	October 8 Fall Festival

STREET TALK

Unto the Least of These Ministry to Homeless in Evansville

August 6, 2022
Hello everyone!

Hope all of you are doing well. I know we have some illness among our team members but we are continuing to pray for you and your families. Please let me know if we can be of any further help to you. I have some interesting things to report to you today. Last Sunday afternoon, I had the opportunity of taking some beautiful things downtown to Ruth's House that were made by a friend of mine who is a member of the Santa Claus UMC. She does a lot of sewing and craft work. She made brand new pillow cases, one for each of the dear women at this shelter. They were beautiful! Also, she made some small purses and a couple larger ones out of sofa material. Our friends at the shelter VERY MUCH appreciated those gifts you made for them, Dillis! Thank you for all of your love and care for these dear women. Just as an FYI-this shelter CONTINUES to be FULL-a maximum of 22 constantly. The majority of these women have been abused in every way. They have alcohol, drug problems and numerous mental health issues going on in their lives. Please continue to pray for them. Those in charge do permit outside women's groups to provide cookouts in the backyard of this shelter so if anyone would be interested in providing this for these dear ladies, please let me know and I can get you in contact with those in charge. Thank you!

I had a nice surprise last Sunday! The pastor of the McCutchanville UMC brought us 50 (FIFTY) quilts to distribute to our dear people! Yes, you read that CORRECTLY!! I am still overwhelmed!! And then, just yesterday, I had lunch with my dear sister-in-law (Debbie) in Louisville, KY., who works diligently to provide items for our ministry from what I call our "Cincinnati Connection". (This is where she lives!) Her elderly mother had been a member of this group of faithful workers (in a retirement home) for the last couple of years. They have worked diligently to make smaller quilts for children, but ones that can also be used as "lap covers". Debbie's Mom was 94--95 years old. This wonderful woman and her fellow workers had made a minimum of 10 beautiful quilts just in the last 2-3 months (MANY before that!) before she passed away 4 weeks or so ago. Needless to say, I hold these quilts along with all of the others that were given to us as mentioned above in very HIGH regard! EVERY ONE of them will be given to a dear person or child on the street or in a shelter here locally within the next 3-4 weeks. Debbie continues to bring me OR send me many other clothing and hygiene items for our ministry. We owe a BIG thank-you to our "Cincinnati Connection"! Love you HEAPS!

This past week, we had a dear new friend (Kristin) go with us in the van around to all of our sites. She found out about this ministry through other people around town and wanted to join us if she could. She herself has MANY of the same past issues in her life that the majority of our people that we see have experienced. She felt she could be a definite asset to this ministry by sharing her life with whoever wanted to listen to her. My buddy this week, Pat, commented to me when we were done that we were fortunate to have her with us. While he and I were talking with people and were busy distributing needed items, clothing, etc., Kristin was walking around talking privately with individuals AND praying with anyone who felt they needed prayer. She identified with MANY of our people. They were SO VERY appreciative of her kindness and her prayers. Depending on her work situation, she plans to go with us on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. Thank You, Dear Father, for this wonderful addition to our team.

We made stops at all of our regular sites to help our people. One man came up to me and asked if we had any Narcan he could have. He didn't seem to be under the influence of any specific drug at the moment, for which he would need the Narcan as an antidote, BUT it was apparent he was anticipating his "need" perhaps even yet that day. I tried to get him referred ASAP for help but he VERY quickly left us! Oh, Dear Father, I continually bow in prayer and ask for Your Mercy and Care for this dear man AND for ALL the people we see out on the streets and/or at the shelters. EVERYONE on this team, please continue to pray, pray, and pray some more for ALL of them AND FOR EVERYONE who is working in this ministry one way or the other! Thank You, Dear Jesus!

The Salvation Army continues to donate box lunches for our ministry to distribute to people on the street AND at the Mets Bus Station downtown. We used to take only 10 BUT we are now taking 20 of the lunches with us! The S.A. has been SO VERY helpful in this regard! Thank you to the staff at that site. Just as an FYI, we have been seeing 4-5 of our people sitting in the shelter or lying on the tables at the park close by the S.A., on Fulton St. so we always stop there and provide for their needs as much as we can. They are always MOST appreciative.

When we are parked at the Salvation Army, we provide items to anyone who has a special need or request. We are generally pretty busy there, as we are at EVERY site we go to. By the way, we will be working with the staff at the S.A. to hopefully start a women's Bible study there over the lunch hour. Sue Moore and Sue Kincaid will be in charge of this endeavor. We won't be starting this until early Fall because our leaders are very busy with other projects at the moment. However, we will be meeting with the staff at the S.A. shortly to make arrangements for the above. Will keep you posted regarding this.....

One additional stop for us this last Thursday was at the "Safe Haven", on the corner of Franklin and 2nd Street. We have been there before. There are generally 7-10 women there who have recently been released from prison but also are there for many psychosocial needs they have. These women are ALWAYS MOST appreciative of the care we provide for them. They particularly need the very items we make available to everyone else on the street. PLUS, Kristin (as mentioned earlier), was able to pray with several of these women individually. She has INDEED been in their footsteps many times over the years. Thank You, again, for Kristin being in this ministry, dear Father.

One note I wanted to add here-I read the prayer by the author of the article on Thursday of this week, August 4th, in the devotional, the Upper Room. I would like to repeat that prayer here for all of us:

"Dear God, help us to have our spiritual antennae up at all times. Show us the people in our paths who especially need our love. Amen". (Rick Stockwell, Conn., USA)

Thank you everyone for being of such GREAT help in this ministry. Please call me at any time with any questions you may have. I love you!

Jennie Hiam 1-812-204-1190

August 13, 2022

Hello everyone!

I honestly don't know how to start this "editorial"! I have been so distressed this week regarding the plight of the homeless and underserved in our community. On Tuesday, I made an extra trip downtown to see what was happening on the streets regarding those we care for, as well as stopping in at the United Caring Shelter to see what I could do to help those dear souls there. Just seeing our people lying and sitting around doing nothing with their lives was very upsetting to me. Then, the meeting of the Mayor's Commission on the Homeless that Pat and I were invited to was canceled this week. This was likewise very distressing. However, I am VERY GRATEFUL for the various agencies and church groups around town who are trying their best to help these dear souls. I pray the latter will continue.

While at the UCS, I saw MANY lonely, distressed people doing absolutely nothing other than smoking, lying on the pavement and the sidewalks, and walking up and down the alley. When I went inside the UCS to distribute some more mandarin oranges and other items to our people, the majority of them were simply asleep, laying their heads on the tables. Oh, Dear God, what more can we do to redirect their lives in a positive manner in order to restore Divine Purpose for them and to show them YOUR LOVE?? Let's ALL keep praying that this will happen!! Please direct any of your thoughts/ideas to me. They are VERY MUCH appreciated!

I did want to mention one thing to you regarding the United Caring Shelter. The management will be having some work done in the night shelter area over the next 2-3 weeks or so. This will mean that the individuals who sleep there ordinarily OR who just come in off the street at night will have to sleep on the floor in

the dining area until this work is completed. ALSO, the shelter will NOT have enough space available to accommodate other people who just come in off of the street for a brief stay. Let's be praying for these dear people PLUS the management so that the right decisions will be made for housing other individuals who are there for just a short stay. Please watch over all involved, Dear Father.....

I made a stop over at the YWCA to see how we could be of help to them. Presently, they have approximately 30 women there who have suffered physical abuse, alcohol and drug related problems, homelessness, etc. The day I was there, I was told that they had 10 children housed there, also. Our dear "Cincinnati Connection" team had made some quilts (mostly child-size) for our ministry so I promptly gave those to these dear children. We also gave them other needed supplies such as towels, hot pads, and even some Christmas items for their use later in the year. All was VERY much appreciated.

My next stop was over at the Ozanam Family Shelter on Read St. (near Deaconess). They presently have close to 65-70 people there. We gave some of the pediatric size quilts to these children. When leaving, I noticed a young Mom sitting over in the grass with two small children who appeared to me to be twins. They were probably a year old or thereabouts. Oh, Dear Father-please watch over this dear Mom and those babies you have entrusted to her care.....

We always enjoy stopping at Patchwork Central every other Thursday morning to assist any of our people who are in need at that site. One that I want to mention to you is Matthew. I have known this dear man for several years now, having met him at other locations around town. He formerly lived on Skid Row out in San Francisco, CA. In fact, he was there for many years, he told me. He had some problems with the law that required him to leave the area so he "hopped" a bus and came all the way across the country to Evansville. He lives out in the woods on the West side of town at this time. He has been here for at least 7 years. We have talked a lot together over the years I have known him. We always give each other a hug. Please stay with Matthew, Dear Father, and protect him from the evil one. Please join me in prayer, everyone, for this dear man. No matter what all he has done, let him know that YOU love him dearly. Thank You, Father!

We continue to stop and see the dear women at the Safe Haven on Franklin St. as well as on 3rd St. downtown. They, too, have been in prison and have long histories of alcohol, drugs, abuse-you name it! The majority of them have suffered from it!

Sue Moore and I will be meeting with a couple of the staff members at the Salvation Army this week regarding our starting a women's Bible Study at that site, probably in the Fall. Our new team member, Kristin, is interested in helping with this endeavor, too. Perhaps Linda P. will join in with this ministry, too. We will keep you posted regarding the outcome of this meeting on Wednesday.

Well, the above will give you enough to read for now! We are SO VERY grateful for your prayers, your interest, and your participation in this ministry-"Unto the Least of These". Please keep us posted regarding any new ideas you might have for us to initiate into this program. Any different sites we should visit, etc. ALL of you are VERY much appreciated! We LOVE ALL of you! AND thank You, Dear Father, for being the "Commander in Chief" of everything we do. ALL of this is for YOU and for YOUR PEOPLE who are in need.

We thank You for your Guidance and Protection.
Jennie Hiam 1-812-204-1190

August 20, 2022

Hello everyone!

Hope all of you are well! We have been VERY busy in our ministry to the homeless and underserved here in Evansville. I have to say that it appears to us that we are seeing more and more people out on the streets and at the various shelters around town. I am SO VERY GLAD we have various community agencies that are working diligently to help these people. We will continue to do our part by going out on the streets on Mondays and Thursdays in our church van. Other days, I will go to these sites independently as the opportunity presents itself. When I do, I take clothing items as well as food items, etc. and distribute them where needed.

Last Monday, Terri and I took some children's blankets over to the Ozanam Family Shelter on Read St. At

the moment, they have 10 children there as well as 35 adults, both male and female. The staff there is always VERY appreciative of the items we bring to them. We want to continue doing this.

We also frequently go to the House of Bread and Peace on Chandler Ave. to help there as we can and as the need arises. Every site we stop at seems VERY appreciative of our help.

Just as an FYI, the United Caring Shelter is doing some repair work on their night shelter floor which hampers the use of that area for overnight stays by our people. I understand from those in charge that they can provide sleeping accommodations for those individuals on the first floor of their building but there is still not enough room for approximately 15 or so individuals who come in off the street. Hopefully, this work will be done in 1-2 weeks so they can resume their normal housing assistance.

We saw our long-time friend, Matthew, at the UCS this past week. I have mentioned him and his life situation to you in the past. I have known him for several years. When I saw him this past week, I noticed that his shoes were VERY torn and ragged in appearance. He had a lot of plastic wrapped around his shoes as well as large strips of tape to keep them from falling off AND to protect his feet. I asked him about this situation. Matthew lives out in the woods on the West side of town and, consequently walks a LOT to get to various sites that can help him. I promised him that I would work on getting him a pair of decent shoes to wear. Right now, we have a limited number of men's shoes in our Mission Room at church. HOWEVER, I was able to find ONE pair in his size-12 or 13. I have them in the van and will take them to him on Monday. As you may recall, Matthew has quite a criminal history and was on skid row in San Francisco for several years. However, Jesus loves him, NO MATTER what his past has been. And we love him, too. He is an old friend to our ministry.

I saw Michelle on Tuesday of this past week. I have mentioned her to you before. She has quite a mental health/abuse history in her past. I NEVER know what mood she will be in when we see her. I saw her at the deli on Monday and could tell she was very upset. She wished she was "not living", per her statement to me. I bought her some lunch which seemed to calm her down temporarily, but not for long. She became quite agitated and ran out the door before I could help her any further. I called a friend of mine who is on the staff at Aurora. She gave me some telephone numbers I could call for her as needed (or at least give those numbers to her so she could call if she wanted to). This behavior is very typical of Michelle. We have had contact with her for almost 2 years now. Once she gets settled down in her mind, then she moves on to another site downtown. Oh, Jesus, please be with this dear woman. Everyone-let's all continue to pray for her and her situation. In my judgment, she is in desperate need of long-term psychiatric care. I am sure we will see her again in our ministry.

Maybe some of you remember my mentioning Christy to you over the past couple of years. She was pregnant the last time we had contact with her, but had since delivered that baby boy, Jimmy. He has been living with her Mother (his grandmother) ever since his birth. I asked Christy how he was doing. She didn't sound very positive about it at all. HOWEVER, the issue now is that she is pregnant again by some other "man"!! The child is a baby girl. Christy told me she is 7 months along in this pregnancy BUT, in my nursing opinion, she does NOT look that gestational size. She looks much smaller. Of course, she smokes constantly! She told me she has received "some" prenatal care and that she had an appt. for later this past week. I will continue to monitor this situation and see what else we can do to help this young woman and her unborn child. Oh, Dear Jesus! HELP!!

On Wednesday of this past week, Sue Moore and I went to the Salvation Army to discuss our starting a Bible study at their site over the lunch hour for any of their people who would like to attend. Sue Kincaid would be helping with this as well as our new friend to this ministry, Kristin Hardiman. The start date would be on Thursday, Sept. 29th. The time would be from 12:30-2 p.m. Apparently, there are two women who have already expressed an interest in participating. We will keep you posted on how this progresses.

Participation in our van ministry at the Salvation Army is REALLY progressing! We continue to see Miguel, the young teenager who suffers from autism. Whenever he is not in school, he comes with his Mom over to the van to see us. He always has a HUGE smile on his face! He knows that we love him AND we tell him about how Jesus loves him, too. Miguel loves "cool" T-shirts! A couple of weeks ago we gave him one with a large American flag on it. I asked his Mom what other kind he would like. She said they are from the Chicago area AND he LOVES the Cubs! So, this week, we bought him a new "Cubby" T-shirt. He dearly loves it AND wears it proudly! His mother was MOST appreciative of our doing this, too! We will continue to help this dear Mom and her son as much as we can. We are their friends AND vice versa!

We SO VERY MUCH appreciate the box lunches the Salvation Army provides for us to distribute out on the streets and at the Mets Bus Station downtown. We are continually seeing our people in the park on the Fulton St./Franklin St. corner. We always stop there and give them lunch and cold water. Then, on we go downtown to the bus station. Occasionally, we will see 1-2 individuals standing on one of the street corners underneath the expressway. We always give them each a healthy treat bag and water (if needed) which they really appreciate.

We conclude our trip around town at the bus station. The number of people there appears to be growing! People are getting to know us so generally they immediately head over our way for some lunch. Everyone is MOST appreciative!

This last Thursday, a young man (very nicely dressed, clean, and cordial) came over to us to see what was going on. We talked with him a short while and offered him lunch and water. He had just been released from a prison in KY. He had been locked up for almost 2 years. Don't know what his offense was. None of our business. Anyway, we offered him some of the items we had to distribute which he very much appreciated. We offered to pray with him if he wanted us to, but he declined at the moment. He did take some of our Christian pamphlets with him as well as a small Bible. Our personal prayers for him are that he continues on the RIGHT path in life and receives the Divine and personal help he needs and deserves NO MATTER what his offense was. Thank You, Dear Father, for putting us in the paths of people truly in need of Your Help. What an honor!!

I want to mention one more thing to you that was brought to our attention this past week. We have been made aware of the fact that spiritual warfare is going on out on the streets of Evansville. We're speaking of devil worship, witches, etc. I am asking that ALL of you be in EARNEST prayer about this problem and ask for Divine Guidance and Protection in all areas of your lives as well as the lives of our public officers, and population in general. AND thank YOU, DEAR FATHER, for protecting us and for loving us. Amen!

Jennie Hiam

August 27, 2022

Hello everyone!

Hope all of you are doing well. Continued prayers for everyone who is ill. We are talking to THE GREAT PHYSICIAN when we say the latter. Thank You, Dear Father, for Your Presence with all of us AND with our people on the streets.

I wanted to mention to you first that all of the women at Ruth's House are now required to be OUT of their shelter AND out on the streets (or at one of the other local shelters) EVERY day now. They can ONLY be in the shelter from 7 p.m.-7 a.m. each day. They have new administration in charge now so this is the way it has to be until other arrangements are made for them. We do see a lot of these women over at the United Caring Shelter so we are thankful for that. We just want them to be safe. They still have 22 women housed there. Thankfully, they are able to get meals at the UCS and/or other shelters around town. Our continued prayers are with them in their personal lives. Will keep you posted on this situation.

Last Saturday, I was out on the streets downtown and I observed 3 men and one woman standing behind the Central Public Library. One young man came up to me, appearing to be crippled for some reason. I talked with him and found that he had been shot in previous days by some woman out on the street and had

suffered severe abdominal wounds. He now had an ileostomy bag attached to his abdomen for excretion purposes which, in turn, was attached to his lower leg, down by his shoe. I'm an ol' time nurse but I have never seen one like that draining into a bag in his shoe! THANKFULLY, he had an appt. with his Dr. early this past week so I am hoping he is doing better now. My goodness!! I'm also hoping he is able to stay in one of the local shelters and is NOT sleeping out on the streets OR in back of the library where some of our people do sleep!

Some of the women from my church (AUMC) who have a sewing group there ("Stitchin' with Joyce") made us some baby blankets using pieces of different colored flannel (I think I'm saying this correctly) which are absolutely beautiful! So, I stopped by the House of Bread and Peace shelter to see if they had any babies currently. They don't at the moment, so, after distributing some other items there, I went on over to the Ozanom Family shelter and discovered that they have one new little girl in their midst who is 2 months old. I gave the mother one of the blankets of her choosing-she was THRILLED!!

Then, we discovered over the past two weeks that there are two young women who are pregnant among the people who are served meals over at the UCS. One of them was new to me-Amanda. By her outward appearance, she MUST have a long history of drug abuse AND smoking. Her teeth were virtually all rotten! Many of them are long since gone!! This young woman is NOT receiving prenatal care that I could determine anyway. However, she did say she had an appt. coming up over at ECHO, so I hope that is the case. She is now 5 months along in this pregnancy. I also plan to get her some free baby clothing, diapers, etc. from either the Trotter House on West Morgan St. or at Birthright over on Read St., close to Deaconess.

The second pregnant young woman that we are seeing now is Christy. You may remember her from a couple of years ago. She had a baby boy at that time (Jimmy) who is living with her Mom. From what she told me this week, this is not working out very well. I'm not sure what all of this is about, but please be assured that we will follow up on this quickly. I understand that she is being seen for prenatal care over at ECHO. I will check this out further. Christy told me she was 7 months pregnant (by a different father than Jimmy's) but honestly doesn't look that large to me. I think her smoking and drug habits by history are taking a toll on this little one she is carrying now. Will keep you posted.....

One other site I like to stop at regarding children, baby items, etc., is the YWCA on Vine St. downtown. I will stop by there either tomorrow or sometime next week. They generally have a fairly large number of women and children there.

This past Wednesday, Pastor Greg Davis from the McCutchanville Church, brought us a large supply of men's work clothes to distribute as needed. This was WONDERFUL!! Our men over at Hope Hall can use these for their work assignments they are given. As I have mentioned to you before, Hope Hall is owned and operated by the Volunteers of America, a great philanthropic organization which helps recently incarcerated men and women to get a new start in life. They house approximately 60+ men (just a few women) at their facility on East Franklin St. BUT also have about 1/2 of that number living in homes around town who are on house-arrest. These work clothing items that the MCC provided are PERFECT for the individuals at this site. When Pat and I pulled the van up to the parking area at Hope Hall, we saw several men out in what appeared to be a "prison yard" right next to the building. I am telling you about this because we now have a NEW location to add to our street ministry! We offered several items to these men from our supply in the van which they VERY MUCH appreciated. One 40'ish year old guy began to tell us about his family past (which was NOT "purty")!

We will continue to go to this site probably at least once a month. Thank You, Dear Jesus, for directing us to this site. Help us to do ALL WE CAN to help these dear souls!

Every other Thursday, we are continuing to go to Patchwork Central which is located downtown on West Wash. St. This is a wonderful site to visit! John Rich and his staff do GREAT WORK with the people they see. Check it out on the internet. There's too much to even begin to mention here!!

At the Salvation Army, we are continuing to be quite busy. We are there over their lunch hour when they serve lunch to the people in their neighborhood. We have made some VERY GOOD friendships with the staff and with the people we serve there. The teenager, Miguel, who is autistic, is doing reasonably well in school, his mother tells us. PLUS, he LOVES the special T-shirts we have provided for him (both patriotic and sports alike). Also, the woman who is a recovering alcoholic and is now a Christian, comes up to us smiling ALL the time. She ALWAYS wants to tell us about what God is doing for her in her life. She is SO VERY grateful! Thank You, Dear Heavenly Father!

Just as an FYI-we will be starting a Bible Study for all interested men and women at the S.A. over the lunch hour at the end of September. Sue Moore and Sue Kincaid will be leading this group. There are already two women who want to participate. Thank You, Dear Jesus!

I do have two announcements for you:

Terri White, our van driver on Mondays, has created an Amazon Wish List for all of us to use if you want to order select items at very reasonable cost for our Homeless Ministry ("Unto the Least of These"). Terri will be monitoring the list, keeping track of purchases made, and updating the list as needed. The Amazon address for you to use is:

<https://a.co/bBRUAMg>

You can have your purchases sent directly to our church at the following address:

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
5130 Lincoln Ave.
Evansville, IN. 47715

Also, the following is a website you can go to in order to review an article that is VERY relevant to our ministry: thestreetsweremyfather.com
The author is Lee Habeeb.

I hope I got these two announcements correct. Please let me know otherwise.

Thank you EVERYONE for your love and concern for our people out on the streets of Evansville. AND thank YOU, Dear Jesus, for being with us absolutely EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!!

Jennie Hiam
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