

Tunnel Hill United Methodist Church

The Messenger

Volume 9-Issue 19

October 28, 2015

“All Hallow’s Eve”

Did you know that Halloween actually received its name from a Christian tradition? It’s true. Here’s how it happened. For centuries, the Roman Catholic Church celebrated the saints of the church by assigning them a certain Sunday of the year. However, in the 8th century, the Catholic Church decided to select one Sunday each year to celebrate the saints instead of celebrating them throughout the year. This is when November 1st was designated as *“All Saints Day”*.

It wasn’t long before Protestants followed suit and also began to celebrate *“All Saints Day”*. So in many United Methodist churches, *“All Saints Day”* has become is a time to remember the saints of the ancient church as well as the friends and loved ones that passed away during the year. In fact, we’ll be doing that very thing in worship this Sunday here at THUMC.

“All Saints Day” has always been considered a holy day and so the night before All Saints, October 31st, became known as *“Holy Eve”*. *“Hallow”* is simply another word for the word *“holy”* so the name was soon changed to *“All Hallow’s Eve”*. Over time, people shortened that phrase even more and started to call it *“Halloween”*.

The origins of dressing up in costumes may also surprise you. In Medieval times, many people didn’t want evil spirits interfering with their worship on *“All Saints Day”* so they decided to dress up as ghosts and goblins on *“All Hallow’s Eve”* to lead the unwanted spirits out of town. I’m not saying this tactic worked. I’m simply saying that was the idea.

Now to be fair, dressing up in costumes to drive out unwanted spirits wasn’t something that Christians came up with on their own. This was something that Christians picked up from the Celts in Ireland and Scotland during Medieval times. The Celts had been dressing up in costumes on October 31st for centuries but for a slightly different reason. November 1st was their New Year’s day and so, even though they weren’t Christian, they believed in evil spirits and so they dressed up to scare the spirits off during their new year’s celebrations.

The Celts also carved lanterns out of vegetables and lined the roads with baskets of treats in an effort to lure the spirits away. As a result, some Christians started doing the same things on *“All Hallow’s Eve”*. The point is, dressing up and putting out treats was done by both the Celts and Christians in an attempt to lure evil spirits out of town.

Now, obviously along with that those traditions there are also other darker traditions that have been attached to All Hallow’s Eve and it needs to be said that there’s nothing good or redeeming about them. Long before All Saints Day and All Hallow’s Eve was established by the church in the 8th century, pagans and atheists celebrated the Black Sabbath or the Witch’s New Year on October 31st. Without going into all of the details here, it’s safe to say that’s where most of the dark and gory Halloween traditions originate.

The point is, Halloween is like many other holidays, you have Christian and secular traditions taking place on the same day. On one hand, in the church, you have All Hallow’s Eve, the day before All Saints and on the other hand, you have the darker, pagan traditions, that grew out of the Black Sabbath or the Witch’s new year.

I’m not suggesting that we try to make Halloween a Christian holiday but I do believe it’s important to let people know that some of the traditions and even the name itself originated in the ancient church. So instead of banishing everything to do with Halloween, why not teach our children that some of the traditions associated with it actually have Christian origins? Why not teach young people that a long time ago some people dressed up in costumes on Halloween because they were trying to get rid of the evil stuff that had come into their communities and into their lives?

Of course, we would also need to let them know that strategy didn’t work because Jesus Christ is the only way to deal with any evil and sin that exists in the world. We can’t dress up and scare it out of our lives. We can’t lure it out of town with food and candy like people in ancient times tried to do. The only way for us to deal with it is to go to God and ask Him to deal with it for us.

So is Halloween dark and gory and pagan? Unfortunately some people make it that way. The truth is, like so many things in our world, it’s what you make of it. And, in my opinion, as long as you don’t make it dark and gory or ascribe to any of the pagan traditions, it can be a great time to dress up, eat candy, and have fun.

If you’re out and about on *“All Hallow’s Eve”*, please watch out for all the little ones who will be out. Then I hope to see you Sunday as we celebrate All Saints together.

Grace & Peace, Jay

PRAYER LIST



Al Nuckolls, Kathryn Middleton, Carol Houston, Ray Anderson, Jane Griffin, Margaret Doyle, Linda Reed, Lamont Nuckolls, Ernest Edwards, Shirley Gribble, Denton Nuckolls, Gene Adamson, Margie Hedrick, David Clark, Veda Nuckolls, Judy Lusk, Steve Reed, Jan Reed, Dottie Griffin, Toppi Griffin, Macoy Griffin, *Cathy Griffin Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts

Brooks Lansing-Jim Lansing's brother
Kathy Hedrick-Margie Hedrick's daughter-in-law
Scott Hudson-Tara Hudson's brother-in-law
Sue & David Broome-Friends of Janice Helton
Judy Yarbrough-Mother of John Yarbrough
Terry Corcoran-Erin Middleton's dad
C.H. Tindall-Tarah Horne's stepfather
Andrea Walters - Kathy Watts' sister
Sandy Clark-Anne Monk's Sister
Sammy Jackson-Gene Henderson's brother
Betty Cagle-Kay Henderson's aunt
Lee Hogan-Friend of David Clark
Dana Bragg-Friend of Janice Helton
Agnes Sutton-Kay Henderson's mother
Rose Reinhardt -Dawn LaChapelle's mother
Kenneth Tatum-Veda Nuckolls' Brother
Butch Edwards-friend of Norma Griffin
Ricky Ervin-brother of Ann Finlay
Steve Payne-friend of Dawn LaChapelle
Ricky Houston-Ron Houston's brother
Jerry (Cooter) Hartness-Kimberly Amos' father
Gene & Edna Blevens-JoAnna Wells' aunt & uncle
Scott LaChapelle-Dawn LaChapelle's brother
Rick Fehrenhach - friend of Dawn LaChapelle
Linda Corn-friend of Susie Webb
Carrie Chambers-Friend of Justin Barton
Tommy Akers-Friend of Ken Gowin
Raya Owens-Friend of Jada Barton
Jeremy McMahon-Brenda & Mike Hampton's son
Susan Wells-Chris Wells' aunt
Amber Cantrell-Friend of Butch Middleton
Marianne & Sandy Christison-Mary Wood's mother & father
Sarah Brindle-Friend of Jo Anna Davenport Wells
Robert Green-friend of Jo Anna Davenport Wells
Joshua Huff-Judy Lusk's Nephew in Kentucky
Gladys Henderson-Norma Griffin's Sister-in-law
Gabarb Vaughn Summers
Doris Masters - Judy Middleton's aunt
Breanne Locklear - Jo Anna Wells' niece
Talan Williams - Friend of Debbie Griffin
Jim Middleton-Butch Middleton's uncle
Don Gribble
Margie Bruner
Tina Taylor - Val Cleaver's sister & Marilyn Martin's daughter
Crystal Watts Grishaw-Ben Watts' Sister
*The Family of Rana Mashburn
*Gladys & Jasper Rogers-Friends of Gwen Maddox
*Joe & Margaret Cargal-Friends of Gwen Maddox
*Marge Fox-Cindy Fehd's mother
*Genieve (Tiny) King-Vicki Kauffman's sister

(*Denotes new additions)

Please contact the church office at 706- 673-4022 or thumc@optilink.us to add/remove a friend or loved one from the Prayer List. - Thanks!



Thursday, October 29

5:30 PM Daisies (FR. CL.)

Saturday, October 31

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS - Set your clocks back one hour before going to bed.

Sunday, November 1

9:30 AM Prayer Group (Library)
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship Service / Communion
5:00 PM Choir Practice

Tuesday, November 3

5:30 PM Daisies (CB Rooms)
6:30 PM Cub Scouts (CB Rooms)
7:00 PM Boy Scouts (FH)

Wednesday, November 4

5:45 PM Family Night Meal
6:30 PM B&B Club, God Followers, Oasis (FH),
Adult Bible Study (S)

Thursday, November 5

5:30 PM Daisies (FR. CL.)

Sunday, November 8

9:30 AM Prayer Group (Library)
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship Service
5:00 PM Choir Practice
6:00 PM Oasis (FH)

Tuesday, November 10

5:30 PM Daisies (CB Rooms)
6:30 PM Cub Scouts (CB Rooms)
7:00 PM Boy Scouts (CB)

Wednesday, November 11 - VETERAN'S DAY

5:45 PM Family Night Meal
6:30 PM B&B Club, God Followers, Oasis (FH),
Adult Bible Study (S)

Thursday, November 12

5:30 PM Daisies (FR. CL.)

FH-Fellowship Hall

S-Sanctuary

CB-Church Bldg.

Classroom

FC-Friendship Classroom

YR-Youth Room

FEL CL-Fellowship



Daylight Savings Time ends this weekend so be sure to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed this Saturday evening.

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S BREAKFAST

All men of the church are invited to please join the United Methodist Men on Sunday, November 8th, at 7:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall for a breakfast meeting. If you've never attended, we hope that you will join us so you can find out what a great group of men we have here at THUMC!



The United Methodist denomination does not have a system whereby people are elected to sainthood.

We do not pray to saints, nor do we believe they serve as mediators to God.

United Methodist believe that "*there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human who gave himself a ransom for all*" (1 Timothy 2:5-6a).

United Methodists call people "saints" when they exemplified the Christian life.

In this sense, every Christian can be considered a saint.

This Sunday, November 1st is All Saints' Sunday. This is a day to remember Christians of every time and place, honoring those who lived faithfully and shared their faith with us.

With this in mind, this Sunday in worship, we will honor those who have passed away this year by reading the names of THUMC members who died during the last year.

They are: Robert (Bob) Davidson, Peggy Barnes, and James (Sandy) Stephens.

We hope that you will be able to join us!



Beginning November 25th and ending January 6th, THUMC's Wednesday Night Meals will not be served in order to give those who prepare our meals a well deserved break.

Please note that all groups (B&B, God Followers, Oasis and the Adult Bible Study) will continue to meet at 6:30 pm through December 9th.

THANK YOU

Many, many thanks to my church family! Thanks for the countless prayers, cards, flowers, food, calls and concern during my illness. I am so blessed. Toppi Griffin

The prayers, calls, food, and cards were very much appreciated following my surgery and during my recovery. Sincerely, Bill Watkins

Tunnel Hill United Methodist Church

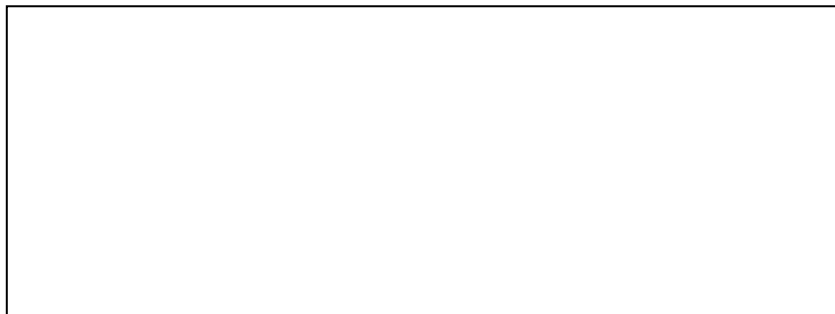
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SERVING ON SUNDAYS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

ACOLYTE: Katie Bollwerk

USHERS: Blake Griffin, Butch Middleton,
Todd Middleton & Grant Middleton

NURSERY: Brenda Hampton

NOV. OFFERING TEAM: Becky Gowin &
Lee Grimmatt

JOURNEY LAND:

Debbie Griffin - (Pre K-2nd Grade)

Liz Dennis - (3rd - 5th Grades)

GREETERS: Evelyn & Larry DeFoor

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

ACOLYTE: See Sunday, Nov. 1st

USHERS: See Sunday, Nov. 1st

NURSERY: Mary Wood

NOV. OFFERING TEAM: See Nov. 1st

JOURNEY LAND:

Tammy Horne - (Pre K-2nd Grade)

Ben & Kathy Watts - (3rd - 5th Grades)

GREETERS: Janice & David Helton

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

ACOLYTE: See Sunday, Nov. 1st

USHERS: See Sunday, Nov. 1st

NURSERY: Nancy Hampton

NOV. OFFERING TEAM: See, Nov. 1st

JOURNEY LAND:

Stephanie Cameron - (Pre K-2nd Grade);

David & Jeanine Clark - (3rd - 5th Grades)

GREETERS: Lee & Vi Grimmatt

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Weekly Budget Needed: \$4,978

Operating Budget Report thru 10/25/2015

Amount Needed Yr. to Date: \$214,054.00

Amount Rec'd Yr. to Date: \$204,444.79

-\$9,609.21

GIVING FOR OCTOBER 18

GENERAL BUDGET:

\$4,590

DESIGNATED GIVING:

\$309

GIVING FOR OCTOBER 25

GENERAL BUDGET:

\$5,757

DESIGNATED GIVING:

\$647

ATTENDANCE FOR OCTOBER 18

Sunday School - 65

Worship Service - 124

ATTENDANCE FOR OCTOBER 25

Sunday School - 62

Worship Service - 131