



The Messenger

Volume XVII, Issue 4

September 2017



SAVORY SUNDAYS IS GOING MONTHLY!

Savory Sundays has been a great success! We've had hundreds of folks from College Park and beyond come out to enjoy food trucks, fellowship, and fun. It's been so successful, we've decided to continue it on a monthly basis into the fall. So mark your calendars for the next two *Savory Sundays* – September 17th and October 15th– and plan to join us for more community fun!

GRANDPARENTS' DAY AT TLACP!

Please join us as our honored guest for Grandparents' and Grandfriends' Day! We will have activities, food and fun and everyone is welcome!

Friday, September 8, 2017 from 10am - 12 noon

1805 Harvard Avenue,
College Park, GA 30337

(404)766-9252
www.tlaccp.org

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



Blessing of the Pets

Join us in Barrett Park at 5pm on Sunday, October 1 as we celebrate our animal companions!

All people and their pets are welcome!

Pets must on a leash or in a carrier. Stuffed animals & photos of your pet are also welcome.

There will be activities for kids, snacks for people and pets, and an opportunity to have your picture taken with your pet.



A NEW FAMILY IN THE OLD PARSONAGE

Our old parsonage on Washington Street has undergone a makeover so that we can provide a home for a family in need in our community. Huge thanks to Scott Ivey for spearheading this effort and for all of those from College Park First UMC as well as St. John's Episcopal and College Park Presbyterian who have put their time, talent, and treasure to work to make the house ready for a new family!

Please join us after worship on Sunday, September 10th as we bless the house!

SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERING AMAZING GRACE OFFERING - 2017 SEPTEMBER 17TH

This special offering is taken once a year across churches in The North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church to provide funding to support and expand The Children's Home mission and four programs: Foster Care, Family Housing, Independent Living, and Transitional Living. The Children's Home envisions a world where every child is raised in a loving, compassionate, and nurturing home.

Giving to The Children's Home Amazing Grace Offering enables us to recruit and train new foster parents' to house and support youth and young adults entrusted to our care and to provide transitional housing for families facing homelessness. We are able to demonstrate the love and discipleship of Jesus Christ thanks to the generosity of this offering.

Please help us share *God's Amazing Grace* with the children and families we serve by making a donation today!



A WORD FROM REV. HINMAN

REAL-LIFE HEROES

We are halfway through our “Gospel According to Superheroes” series and so far it’s been a lot of fun. We’ve been talking about the ways that the modern stories of superheroes help us think about strength, weakness, good, and evil. And we’ve been looking at some of the superheroes of the Bible and how their stories can inspire us as we seek to live into our own super-mission as children of God.

But as great as superhero stories, comics, and movies are, they are fiction. We cannot count on Superman to come defeat the bad guys or Wonder Woman to bring peace to areas of conflict and war. No superhuman or alien with enormous powers is going to come fix all our problems. Maybe all these stories do is raise our expectations and then dash them when we remember that they aren’t true.

Except...There are real heroes in our world today. They may not be the superpowered variety, but they are willing to use their strength, gifts, courage, and compassion to reach out to those in need.

You don’t need to look any farther than Houston, Texas. As I write this, Hurricane Harvey (now Tropical Storm Harvey) continues to dump water on southeast Texas, with more rainfall expected and Louisiana threatened as well. What is being dubbed as a 500 year flood event is trapping people in their homes and cars, making roads impassable, and shutting down the city. It is an unprecedented disaster.

And in the middle of it all, superheroes are coming out of the woodwork. Police, fire departments, rescue workers, and the National Guard have been working 24/7 to retrieve those trapped by the flood waters. The Cajun Navy – a volunteer group of Louisianans that came together during Hurricane Katrina – has brought over 20 boats, with more on the way, to assist in the rescue efforts. A furniture store owner opened his doors to evacuees Sunday and gave 600 people a place to sleep and food to eat. Neighbors are sharing food and supplies. Churches have opened their doors as emergency shelters. Friends and family from around the country have used social media to check in on each other and get assistance directly to where it’s needed.

None of these folks have super-strength, the power of flight, invisibility, or super-speed. They just have the willingness to help. You may never see their stories in a comic book or on the silver screen, but they remind us that we all have the power and the ability to be heroes.

Katy

If you want to be a hero to the folks affected by Hurricane Harvey, make a donation to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). 100% of donations made to UMCOR for US Disaster Relief go directly to assist those in need. You can donate online at www.umcor.org or through the church by noting on your donation that you would like it to go to UMCOR: US Disaster Relief.

2017 ARTS FESTIVAL

The church and the Learning Academy will be partnering to host a booth at this year’s *LocalMotion Arts Festival* in Hapeville on

Saturday, September 16th. We’ll have information about the church and school, as well as a craft activity for kids. If you would like to volunteer to help staff the booth, please contact the church office. Even if you can’t volunteer, make sure to come by and say hi while you visit the Festival!





COUNCIL NOTES

First, I'd like to give a shout out to the folks serving on the council. We decided this year to adopt a smaller leadership group for the church, but one who did all the committees' work. These individuals have been faithfully serving the church all year: Raymond Cornelius, Julie Couch, West Gary, Kathleen Gulley, Penny Hannah, Leslie Haskins (we miss you), Charlotte Ivey, Alene Lang, Mollie Mayfield, Bob Van Orden, Karen Tello, Garland Watkins, ...and a warm welcome to Kimberly Duncan who is taking over as Financial Secretary!

Second, I'd like to thank all of you who have helped and/or attended the Savory Sundays this summer. It's taken work each week, but we've had good turnout and I think it's served as a great ministry to the community! As mentioned earlier, please hold September 17th and October 15th for the last two of the year.

In other news:

- We are pleased to welcome a new tenant in our Washington Street Parsonage. Getting the house ready and the tenant set for success has been a joint effort between our church and the Presbyterian and Episcopal churches as well as Family Life Ministries. A special thank you to Scott Ivey for his work coordinating this effort and doing all the "heavy lifting" with the house renovations. Scott, I am grateful for your interest and effort to connect the local churches in this and other outreach efforts!
- Preparing for Charge Conference. The council is working on several things necessary for a successful Charge Conference, including a financial audit and ministry evaluation. We'll be working on written reports and a 2018 budget as well.

We have a Worship Committee! After going years without one, I'm pleased to announce the team helping Katy and Sandy with worship planning: Anna Kathryn Hodges, Allen Peebles, and myself. We're super excited about the possibilities!

Call to Action:

Would you be willing to help on some Sundays this fall? We have needs for people to help usher, count, liturgize, and prepare activity bags for the children. If you would be willing to do this one or a few Sundays, would you please email me mhodgescp@gmail.com or call me 404-805-7747. It takes a village!

Our next council meeting is September 27. You don't have to be on the council to come and be a part of what's going on at College Park Methodist. Please join us!

Meredith, Council Chair

FINANCIAL UPDATE



The Learning Academy has been a part of the Church's mission and programming for many years. It began as a Mother's Morning Out program 18 years ago. Approximately 15 years ago, we began the process of moving this program to a full-time, licensed preschool. This required a renovation of the Education Building and playground space to meet GA State Code requirements. We have seen many children grow up in our preschool and quite a few families join our church because of this program.

When we started the Mother's Morning Out program, we were blessed with a gift from a donor to purchase and install the commercial grade playground set you can see from East Main Street. Unfortunately, it is now covered in caution tape and unusable by our children. Other parts of the playground space have already been removed due to needed repairs or code issues. Families are starting to express concern over the safety of their children and prospective families are turning away due to the state of our playground.

The Learning Academy Board voted to move forward with the grant writing process to secure a new playground system for our preschool but this will be a lengthy process. It would be best if we could start a partial renovation with donations if at all possible. We have a seed gift of \$10,000.00 which is approximately one third of what we need. While it is not possible to redirect donations used for annual church operations, we are hoping you or someone you know, has a soft spot for our children's ministry and may make a gift towards this much needed project. If you would like to discuss this project one on one, please give me a call at [404-406-4184](tel:404-406-4184). -**Mollie Mayfield, Finance Chair**

The Messenger

We're on the Web:
www.cpfirstumc.org



Published by
First United Methodist Church of College Park
3726 East Main Street
College Park, Georgia 30337-3708

PRAYER LIST

CHURCH MEMBERS:

Jackie Allen and family, Julie Askew, Emily Campbell, Doug Gilbert, Susie Hardin, Meredith Hodges, Bess Lyle, Dennis Matchett, Jewell Moore, Tosca Oxford, Allen Peebles, Genevieve Rominger, Paulette Rouse, Frances Wiley

SHUT-INS:

Juanita Aldredge, Jean Cowden, Skeeter Faulkner, Evelyn Glover, Dot Hale, Laura Leigh Hicks, Bobbie Longino, Caroline Rowley

FRIENDS AND FAMILY:

Patrick Bolden, Bonnie Brown, Nellie Crawford, Joseph Cook, Jenny Dubose, Ellen Evans, Charles Fitzgerald, Annie Foster, Karin Garcia, Alan Hudson, Terry Kennedy, Karen and Al Pardo, John Perry, Jerry Robinson, Anne Shrock and family, Nancy Spradlin, Kenneth Ward, Sandra Williams, James Woods, Clay Zupp, Sr., Victims of Hurricane Harvey



- 4 Juanita Aldredge
- 5 Caroline Rowley
- 6 Susie Hardin
- 7 Reagan Gary
- 10 Meredith Hodges
- 12 Nathan Harvey
- 15 Zoe Miller
- 18 Jane Warren
- 26 Stewart Haskins
- 30 Matthew Gulley

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES 35TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Family Life Ministries celebrates their 35th Anniversary with a fundraising gala featuring guest speaker Jeff Foxworthy on Thursday, September 21 from 5 to 10 pm at the Georgia International Convention Center.

Tickets are \$100 and more info can be found at facebook.com/familylifehelps

