

The Allen Memorial Messenger

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'"

Volume 15 Number 2

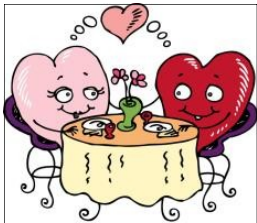
February 2015



United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women will meet on February 14 in the **Slagle Classroom** for lunch and a program.

The hostess, Charlotte Newman, will provide a light lunch. She will also present the program. All ladies of the church are invited to attend. **Please note that we are meeting in the Slagle Classroom this month and NOT Wattenbarger Hall.**



Valentines DAC

Dinner After Church February 15

The Youth have a very special DAC planned for February.

The meal will be very special and includes chicken casserole, green beans, corn, congealed salad, deviled eggs and a choice of cheese cake with toppings, red velvet cake or sugar-free dessert.

The Youth need to know how many to prepare for. Please call the church office (745-1560) to have your name added to the reservation list.

Your support is always appreciated. There is no charge for the meal, but donations will be accepted to help fund the trip to Orlando in June. Since this is a very special meal, please be generous with your donations.



Body & Soul—2015

Our first Body & Soul meal will be March 11. Yvonne Raper will be the hostess. The menu features catfish, white beans, coleslaw, cornbread, peach cobbler and a drink! Please mark your calendar now and plan to join us on March 11.

The cost is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children 10 and under. Body & Soul is a great time to fellowship and get better acquainted with the people you see only on Sundays during Worship.

Other Body & Soul events are as follows: May 14—Family Life Church Wide Birthday Party; August 12—Super Sunday for Kids will host; September 16—Yvonne Raper will be the hostess, and the last will be on November 18 hosted by Joyce Grubb and Becky Jaquish. Please join us as often as you can!

Something for Everyone

No activities are planned for January or February. However, please save the date for the following activities:

March 3rd—“Marvelous March” - Seasons—We will celebrate the 4 seasons of the calendar year as well as the four seasons of our lives. We will enjoy food from the four seasons and our tables will be decorated for each season of the year. **Please make reservations with Charlotte or the church office by March 1st.**

April 7th—Whitwell, Tennessee—We will travel to Whitwell for a lunch and a show.

The lunch menu is from the table of Jefferson Davis and includes Savannah Baked Chicken, Louisiana Bayou Cornbread Stuffing, Charleston Style Green Beans, South Carolina Sweet Carrots with Alabama Molasses, Plantation Pan Biscuits, Varina Davis' Blackberry Cobbler, Blockade-Runner Tea and Mr. Lincoln's Coffee. The show is a Christian based historical program. We will travel back to a time when Christian values and man's word were his bond.

The total cost for the meal and the show is **\$38.95** per person. Reservations **MUST** be made and paid for with Charlotte or the church office by **March 29th**. We plan to take everyone who wants to go, but it is very important that we know how many are attending so that transportation is arranged for everyone.

We will leave the church at 9:45 AM and return around 5 PM.



Ash Wednesday Service

This year Ash Wednesday falls on **February 18th**.

Ash Wednesday begins the 40 day period in the Christian year known as Lent. Many Christians use this time as an opportunity for introspection and fasting.

Our Ash Wednesday service will be at 7:00 PM here at the church. You will not want to miss this special time of worship which will end with the imposition of ashes. Invite your friends to come and join us in the special time of worship.

Jubilation XV (for older adults) , April 19-21, MainStay Suites, Pigeon Forge. See the bulletin board for more information or call the church office.

Pastor's Corner:

In just a few weeks, we will observe Valentine's Day. For some, this "Hallmark day" will be celebrated by buying flowers, chocolate candy, or a special card for someone we love. For others, it is a day that holds little significance or importance. Regardless of how you choose to celebrate Valentine's Day, it holds the potential of being a day that can remind us of the people in our lives that are important to us and the love that we share together. Thinking about Valentine's Day led me to ponder how we express our love for God. Just within the last couple of days, I have been surrounded by experiences that have reminded me of just a few of the different ways that God's love is expressed.

CORPORATE: I had the wonderful privilege of attending the Resurrection youth conference with the Allen Memorial youth group this past weekend in Gatlinburg. As I watched them express their love for God through singing songs in worship and responding to the preacher for the weekend, I was struck by their authenticity and genuine encounter with God. Within the blaring music, the strobe lights, and the fog machine, we were reminded of God's extravagant love offered to each of us.

COMMUNITY: I was asked to participate with other pastors in a community-wide worship celebration on Martin Luther King Day. It was an absolutely amazing experience to be within a diverse community of people who were celebrating God's love that knows no boundaries of race or nationality. As we shared a fellowship meal after the worship service, it was a wonderful reminder of the beautiful diversity that exists within God's Kingdom.

INDIVIDUAL: As I was driving down the interstate last week, I was listening to some worship music that I was familiar with. After a few minutes, I found myself completely overwhelmed with being reminded of God's love and presence in my life. This experience reminded me that God comes to each of us on an individual level to fill us with God's love and remind us of God's continued presence in our lives. We just have to slow down enough to hear God's continual call upon our lives.

Over the next few weeks you will have the opportunity to celebrate all of these expressions of God's love at Allen Memorial UMC. As we join in **corporate worship** each Sunday morning, we are reminded of God's enduring love and forgiveness. As we come together as a church **community** to participate in the Souper Bowl challenge, we have the opportunity to provide food to our neighbors that are in need. And as we come together as a community of faith on Ash Wednesday, we will be challenged to consider how we will **individually** commit ourselves to seek a deeper walk with God during Lent. **I encourage you to get connected to the life of Allen Memorial UMC and experience the many ways that God's love is expressed.**



February—the month usually encourages sharing our Love with others on St. Valentine's Day.

Obviously there is a great need around the world for many to know God is Love.

Hearing and seeing on television the atrocities carried out by humans on others, we understand the meaning of Solomon's words in Proverbs 13:6b, "Wickedness misleads sinners." (CEB)

We remember our Christian hope is found in the real God of our salvation. May we treasure that gift and let the sounds of His praise be heard. If our world is going to change, only the Love Jesus has shown will do it.

My sincere thanks to my church family who so graciously has remembered me while I have "camped out" at home for some time. Your prayers and many acts of kindness expressed in Love have touched my life more than I could every count or say. Continue to remember all the prayer needs and pray for your sheep.

Love to All,
Eva



Relay for Life

Relay for Life will be on Friday, May 8th, from 5 PM to 12 Midnight at Market Park in downtown Athens.

It's time to start thinking about how you can honor or remember your loved ones that have been touched by cancer.

The Allen Team is already busy working on ideas to raise money for this very important cause. Watch the church bulletin for opportunities to help our team raise money to fight this dreadful disease.



Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help conduct a census of homeless individuals in our area. Training is on Wednesday, January 21st from 1—3PM at Cooke Ministry Center. The census will be conducted on January 28th. If you are interested in helping with this, call Priscilla Rutherford at 443-7675.



The Church Council will meet in regular session on Sunday, March 8th, at 6:30 PM in Wattenbarger Hall.

If you have an item to add to the agenda, please contact Yvonne Raper, Chairperson. If you are a member of the Council, please plan to attend.

Weekly Recurring Events

Monday
6:30 PM Junior Girl Scouts

Wednesday
6:00 PM Prayer Ministries
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice

Sunday
10:00 PM Sunday School
11:00 PM Worship
4:30 PM Youth

Monthly Recurring Events

Sunday
5:00: Selected Sundays —Super Sunday for Kids
4:00: 3rd Sunday—Rejoicing Spirits at Allen

Tuesday
1st Tuesday—Something for Everyone—Check bulletin

Thursday
7:00: 1st Thursday—McMinn Ministries at Cooke Center

Saturday
12:00 Noon: 2nd Saturday —UMW

Special Events and Meetings for February:

Sunday, February 1
Souper Bowl Sunday—Bring canned food items

Saturday, February 14
12 Noon—UMW—Lunch in Slagle Classroom
Charlotte Newman, hostess

Sunday, February 15
12:05 PM—Dinner After Church, sponsored by Youth
4:30 PM—Super Sunday for Kids

Wednesday, February 18
7:00 PM—Ash Wednesday Service at Allen

Sunday, February 22
5:00 PM — Youth Worship in Wattenbarger Hall

Flowers for 2015

The new flower chart is now up in the side vestibule. Please sign up for the dates you would like to provide flowers for our Worship services.

You can use potted plants or fresh flowers you fix yourself or you can order from any florist of your choice.



Camp Lookout

Brochures are now available in the side vestibule for the summer camping program.

The church provides help for our children who wish to participate.

Call the church office for the camper code before you register. More information is available at www.camplookout.com.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

"I will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and do all in my power to strengthen its ministry by my prayers, my presence, my gifts, my service, and my witness."

Our Presence

	SS	Worship
(YTD) 2014 (Average)	54	162
(YTD) 2013 (Average)	57	153
(MTD) Average for Dec. 2014	54	156

Our Gifts

YTD (Dec. 2013)	205,666.41
YTD (Dec. 2014)	205,748.93
Dec. 2014	15,647.19
Sunday School Outreach	60.00
Youth Funds	260.00
Jesus Birthday Offering	977.00
Structural Repair Fund, includes Fundraisers	1406.00
UMCOR	25.00
Future Fund	75.00
Bus Fund	40.00
Super Sunday for Kids	35.00
AED Fund	30.00
Food Pantry	150.00

Our Prayers

Our Country, our Leaders and our Troops
Our Pastor, Rev. Melissa Smith
Our District Superintendent, Rev. Joe Green
Our Bishop, Rev. Mary Virginia Taylor
Our Missionaries, both at home and overseas

Polly Anderson	Chase Littleton
Ann & Reva Barton	Diane MacElman
Chris Beaton	Susie Malone
Sheron Bellman	Alice Matthews
Dorothy Bigbee	Jim O'Daniel
Joseph Carpenter	Virginia O'Daniel
Kathy Cawlfeld	Monte Raper
John & Pam Cooley	Mike Ray
Jim Crittendon	Bettye Kaye Richeson
Ken Davidson	Myrtle Lee Roberts
Dee Gamble	Mildred Smith
Nell Gambill	Josh Sledge
Mike Jackson	Roy Thomas
Raymond & Linda Latham	Millard Vincent

**Our Service—Flowers for January
Altar Flower Schedule**

February 1	-----
February 8	----- Margaret Mason
February 15	----- Tim & Sue Walker
February 22	-----

Allen Memorial United Methodist Church
 800 Decatur Pike
 Athens, TN 37303
 Melissa Smith, Pastor
 423-745-1560
 Fax: 423-453-5530

Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Morning Worship 11:00 AM
 Youth 4:30 PM

allenmemorialumc@bellsouth.net
 allensec@bellsouth.net



Youth Ministries

Any youth 6th—12th grade is invited to participate in our Youth Group.

Our meetings begin on Sunday afternoons at 4:30 in the Youth Hall.

Youth Schedule for February

Sunday, February 1st

4:30—Regular Youth Meeting

Sunday, February 8th

4:30—Regular Youth Meeting

Youth will make valentines for our shut-ins.

Sunday, February 15th

12:05—Dinner After Church

4:30—Regular Youth Meeting

Sunday, February 22nd

4:30—Youth

5:00—District Wide Youth Worship in W.H.



SOUPER BOWL of Caring

Challenge

You are invited to support your favorite team in the Super Bowl by bringing canned food items on Feb. 1st and placing them in the box of your choice.

The box with the most cans wins the challenge.

You can choose the Seattle Seahawks or the New England Patriots.

Souper Bowl of Caring is sponsored each year by Youth across our nation. Join in the fun

and help someone in the process.



Children's Ministries

Super Sunday for Kids is for children ages 3—5th grade. The meetings are on selected Sundays from 4:30—6:00. If you have any questions concerning our Children's Ministries, please contact Kelly Bean.

**Super Sunday for Kids Schedule for February
 Sunday, February 15, 4:30 PM**

The children will enjoy a meal, a program and a time of fun.

Save the Date!!

VBS—May 31—June 5th

5:30—8:30

More information soon!!



THE ALLEN MEMORIAL MESSENGER, a monthly publication of the Allen Memorial United Methodist Church, is intended to be an informative link between the church members and friends. Your comments and/or article contributions are welcome! If you know of other people you would like to receive this newsletter, please contact the church office at 800 Decatur Pike, Athens, TN 37303 or call (423) 745-1560. Jane Jeffreys, Charlotte Newman and Melissa Smith, Editors.