

Long Memorial Church Family,

Early in the year, church leaders set aside October 5 on the calendar as a day to have "Church Under A Tent," a fun and festive worship service outdoors, complete with guest bands, a homecoming feel, and a sumptuous picnic lunch to follow. Unfortunately, the plans never really got off the ground, and we have decided that it would be better to **postpone Church Under a Tent** until next year.

I think we all are celebrating our recent "Chill Out" Fun Day festival: the community coming together, the delicious chili supper, the bounciest bounce house, and the generosity of so many who joyfully gave their time, effort, and donations. God's Spirit was moving in our midst, and it looks like we raised about \$35,000 to put towards our church's capital debts! Thank you to all who played a part!

To have a terrific Church Under a Tent celebration, it takes a similar amount of months-long planning. While everyone was willing to do what it took and try their best to put something together, we felt like more attention was merited.

So here's the new plan for October 5, which also happens to be World Communion Sunday.

October 5 Schedule

- We will have **one combined worship service in the Sanctuary at 10:30 am**, in observance of World Communion Sunday
- Immediately following the service, our Youth and Youth Parents will serve a church-wide fundraiser **luncheon** in the Harris Hall. They will receive donations to support their attendance at the annual Pilgrimage Youth Conference.

We thank God for the grace and space to come together. I know the decision comes with some measure of disappointment, which to me means that we love one another and celebrate our special times together. May God turn any sadness into a deeper appreciation for our church family, which continues to learn how to walk together through the ups and downs, the successes and the contingencies that life brings. As one of our affirmations of faith proclaims, "We are not alone. We live in God's world. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil." I am grateful to be a part of a congregation that embodies these traits.

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Ed Priestaf

Thanksgiving Meals for Christian Help Center

Long Memorial UMC Missions is sponsoring Thanksgiving meal bags for the Christian Help Center. A list will be provided with the dry goods, and canned items needed to supply either a family of 1-2 people or 4-6 people. The shopping list will be provided with a shopping bag to put your items in and return to the Narthex.

PLEASE - CIRCLE - the meal size you are providing and include with your returned shopping bag. Missions will supply the money for Christian Help to purchase the turkey through their supplier.

Donations for the turkeys are welcome if you prefer not to buy the groceries. Having all the food items for the meal in one bag helps the Christian Help Center in their distribution process. Individuals, Sunday School classes or other church groups are welcome to work together on this project.

WHEN: Grocery lists will be available in the Narthex Sunday October 5th and bags will be collected on Sunday November 2nd. .

DEADLINE: NO LATER THAN Sunday, November 2nd. The Christian Help needs the food bags by then in order to arrange for the families to have the food on its distribution date.

Thank you,

Missions Committee.

Contact Susan Wilkerson (336. 599. 1869) if you have any questions.

NEWS FOR OUR CHILDREN AND PARENTS

Today we started **Godly Play** beginning at **10:00 AM on the third floor** for children **K-2**. We are also offering a Sunday school class for children in **grades 3-5**, focused on learning to use their Bible.

We are so excited to offer this again! **Kelly Mundy and Jona Fitzgerald** will be leading Godly Play, while I will be with the older children in the youth room.

See Autumn Gentry for more information – 336-501-1953.

TOMORROW EVENING