

News From Holland

August 2011

Holland First United Methodist Church

Dr. Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

With the coming of August, change abounds in everything (it seems) except heat. Caution and care continue to be the wise course of action during the next couple of months, at least. Meanwhile, life goes on!

August brings the summer months to a conclusion. Family vacations and travel to exotic places have brought meaningful memories that will accompany us, some for as long as we live. Our children and grandchildren will soon again rise early in the mornings to continue their learning. Unfortunately, for some this brings upon them the feelings of enslavement and imposed disciplines. On the other hand, for others it means renewed daily contact with friends and the end of boredom. For still others, it means that doors will soon be opened to exploring the wonders of life through systematic learning and classroom experiences. All things considered, I believe that most are welcoming the beginning of the new school year, be it grade school or graduate work.

Like so many things in my life, I remember facing a new school term with mixed emotions. I thoroughly enjoyed my "summer liberty," but welcomed the joy of relationships and study. The challenges that I faced through books often beyond my comprehension, athletic events in which I failed to excel, assignments that I often found intrusive and laborious all combined to bring about growth, development, understanding, and maturity of self: body, soul and spirit.

In my younger days my inner self often complained of the disciplines and "work" imposed upon me during my school days. My senior years now remind me of how I wish I could experience them once again!

Does this sound familiar to anyone? Life rarely confronts us with clear unmixed feelings. Though we desire simplicity, we rarely confront "black or white" experiences/decisions. A beautiful example of this is our current discussions of the Debt Ceiling! In the fleeting present moments, we often fail to fully appreciate their crucial meanings for our tomorrows. Meanwhile, our retrospective desires would have us re-live these experiences again to see their deeper meanings. But, alas, that's impossible!

What we learn from our many mixed and often conflicting emotions is that we can live only in the present moment. Today IS God's precious gift to us. So, if August means the beginning of school for you, begin with eager expectation as you begin the journey that lies ahead. If it is the return to one's work and/or family responsibilities, make it a joyful, fulfilling beginning once again. If it is one's entry to a new stage of life, search out the benefits, blessings, and joys this new period provides. God has created, and through His creation He provides us with a never-ending series of new beginnings and new periods of existence by which we mature in His love and presence.

Perhaps August provides a new beginning for you in your church. We still gather on Sundays for worship and praise. Experience its joy and meaning among the fellowship of believers who gather in a "present moment" and in God's presence to give thanks. See you in church, Sunday.

Phil Shuler, Pastor

UMW

We will meet again until September. Everyone is welcome. We have met briefly and elected officers for 2012. Our District meeting will also be held in September.

Community Breakfast

The free Pancake Breakfast for at the Kuhlmann Center 7:30-9:00 am on Aug7th. We will be hosting a Heart Aware Program's Free Health Screening. (See flyer enclosed) Our church service will follow at 9:00 am. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship! Call Rob Fagner if you have questions.

Judy's News

Granger Community Food Pantry

The shelves are getting barer, the need continues to rise with new families, and God continues to supply. The Central Conference Hunger Force sent our Food Pantry a check for \$1,000 to help us. It is truly a blessing with the rise of the cost of food and supply of demand. We couldn't do it without the giving's of other churches, individuals, and organizations. I pray they are blessed as they are truly blessing others. We had 54 families come through in July. Next one will be August 18th.

5th Sunday Community Service

This month's on the 31st of July will be held at the Baptist Church in Granger. Everyone is invited to come and celebrate in worship with song and praise. Fellowship will follow. Everyone is asked, if they can, to bring a dish of some sort to share with others.

UMM/UMME

The United Methodist Men will not meet again until September. See you at the 1st Sunday Pancake Breakfast on Aug 7th.

Cowboy Church

We will resume our Cowboy Church Services in October. Hope to see you there!



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®