

Breckenridge United Methodist Church



August - September Newsletter

Welcome Pastor Monique!



On July 14, 2019 Pastor Monique French started her ministry here at the Breckenridge United Methodist Church. The UMW provided a cake and refreshments at a welcoming reception that followed the service. In the photo above, Linda Nagel and Sharon Howie of the UMW are holding the cake and Pastor Monique is holding the cards that the Sunday School children made to welcome her. We are looking forward to Pastor Monique's ministry here in Breckenridge.

Pastor Mark's Farewell Reception

June 9th marked the last day in the two-year interim appointment of Pastor Mark Johnson here at the BUMC. Mark's ministry was greatly appreciated and we feel blessed that he was appointed to our church. Two days after his reception, he was back on his quest to hike the Appalachian trail. He hiked this year until July 4th and hopes to conquer the trail within the next two years.



Pictured above are Johnie and Mark Johnson with his "Happy Trails" cake. The second photo shows Mark with Church Council Chair Dave Stoneman, Head Trustee Joel Colbry, SPRC Chair Dave Briggs, and Annual Conference Representative Ray Rohn.

From Pastor Mark Johnson: Thank you, congregation for your thoughtful and generous gift! I will use it to buy something that will remind me of the joyful time I had with you! And thank you members of the UMW for the Cracker Barrel Gift card! Johnie and I will use it to take out our grandchildren on a special day. And thank you children for the precious cards and gifts that you gave me. They warmed my heart!

Graduation Sunday



Scholarship Committee Chair, Diane Colbry presented \$1,000 scholarships to Jentry Brown and Elijah Stoneman. This year's graduates included a mother daughter duo of Dakota Colthorp and Lesha Colthorp. Our high school graduate was Elijah Stoneman.

A Message from Pastor Monique

Greetings Beloved Breckenridge United Methodist Church,

I wanted to take the time to thank you for the warm reception, love, and care that you provided for me. When someone is new to a place, it's always nice to be made to feel welcomed. I came across this letter and have always kept it and thought it would be great to share with you.

A Visitor

"radical" rather than "polite" - A high school girl wrote the following letter to a friend:

Dear _____,

I attended your church yesterday. Although you had invited me, you were not there. I looked for you hoping to sit with you. I sat alone. A stranger, I wanted to sit near the back of the church, but those rows were all packed with regular attendees. An usher took me to the front. I felt as though I was on parade.

During the singing of the hymns, I was surprised to notice that some of the church people weren't singing. Between their sighs and yawns, they just stared into space. Three of the kids that I respected on campus were whispering to one another throughout the whole service. Another girl was giggling. I really didn't expect that in your church. The pastor's sermon was very interesting, although some members of the choir didn't seem to think so. They looked bored and restless. One kept smiling at someone in the congregation. There were several people who left and then came back during the sermon. I thought, "How rude!" I could hear the constant shuffling of feet and doors opening and closing.

The pastor spoke about the reality of faith. The message got to me and I made up my mind to speak to someone about it after the service. But utter chaos reigned after the benediction. I said good morning to one couple, but their response was less than cordial. I looked for some teens with whom I could discuss the sermon, but they were all huddled in a corner talking about the newest music group.

My parents don't go to church. I came alone yesterday hoping to find a place to truly worship and feel some love. I'm sorry but I didn't find it in your church. I won't be back.

I couldn't imagine someone ever saying that about their worship experience here at Breckenridge United Methodist Church. I thank God that when we encounter others, we offer them H.O.P.E., living out our mission. We acknowledge that we don't know what it took for them to enter our doors, but we want to ensure that they experience Christ's presence while they are here.

Hospitality – more than being nice and tolerating people, but showing genuine LOVE.

Opportunity – to fellowship, serve and worship God together

Purpose – to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

Engaged – in changing our community and the world one life at a time.

Sincerely,

Pastor Monique French

Outreach Committee Will Expand Programs

When September arrives, the Outreach Committee will be adding on to two of their successful programs.

The “Fifth Quarter” program will be providing snacks and a place for the High School teens to go after home football games this year in addition to the home basketball games. Sue Collins (Grandma Sue) has run out of high school aged grandchildren and will be retiring from the after-football games get-together gatherings at her house. The Outreach Committee has decided to step in and fill that void.

The Week-End C.A.R.E. program which provides food for low-income students on weekends will be expanding the program to the middle school. For the past two years Outreach has provided needed food for elementary students and since the same need is felt in the middle school, they have decided to expand the program. This means that instead of 50 backpacks per week, they will be packing food for 80 - 90 students.

The Outreach Committee will be needing extra helpers for these two programs. If you would like to help, contact Carin SanMiguel or Karen Rohn.



Mark your Calendars!

August 6, at 6:30 PM – Finance Committee

August 7, at 6:30 PM – Worship Committee

August 14, at 6:30 PM – SPRC Committee

August 18 – Celebration and Appreciation of Youth at Sunday Worship - 10AM

Fun, Food, Games and Laughter will be provided – Bring your family and friends!

August 29th – Outreach Committee

September dates will be posted in the weekly bulletins.

(Join the Breckenridge/Wheeler Area Historical Society on Sunday, August 11, for a 25-year anniversary celebration. The event will take place at 404 E. Saginaw St., from 2 until 5 with music from the Broken Glass String Band and Ray Brown, free ice cream, and games for kids. There will also be tours of the two buildings throughout the day.)