

GOD KNOWS BEST

*Our Father knows what's best for us,
So why should we complain –
We always want the sunshine,
But He knows there must be rain –
We love the sound of laughter
And the merriment of cheer,
But our hearts would lose their tenderness
If we never shed a tear...
Our Father tests us often
With suffering and with sorrow,
He tests, us, not to punish us,
But to help us meet TOMORROW...
For growing trees are strengthened
When they withstand the storm,
And the sharp cut of the chisel
Gives the marble grace and form...
God never wastes our pain,
For every loss He sends to us
Is followed by rich gain...
And when we count the blessings
That God has so freely sent,
We will find no cause for murmuring
And no time to lament...
For Our Father loves His children,
And to Him all things are plain,
So He never sends us PLEASURE
When the SOUL'S DEEP NEED IS PAIN...
So whenever we are troubled,
And when everything goes wrong,
It is just God working in us
To make OUR SPIRIT STRONG.*

SOUTH COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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www.scommunityumc.org

AUGUST 2017

MORNING WORSHIP 9:30 A.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00 A.M.

PASTOR JIM MORT

Marion Church Phone- (231) 743-2834
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Vision Statement

We are a family united by God's love: serving, sharing and growing together. It is our mission to call people into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

What Can Be Seen?

On August 21, 2017, a phenomenal natural wonder will take place – an eclipse of the sun, which turns daytime into night while the sun's corona still blazes in the sky. There's a lot of excitement since this will be visible over all North America. Not everyone will see a complete eclipse depending on their location, but we all will see at least a partial eclipse.

Solar eclipses are an amazing phenomenon. As the moon slides between the earth and the sun, the sun's brilliance gradually fades. Its light grows dim, as if there's a layer of dust on everything you see. The effect is most dramatic on a bright cloudless day. While the eclipse is a total eclipse and is full effect, we might be tempted to forget that the sun is still there in all its force and glory.

Another unique thing about solar eclipses (especially total ones) is when the moon is between the sun and the earth; astronomers, scientists and other observers (using proper equipment to protect their vision!) can see and observe the sun's corona. The word corona is Latin for 'crown' and a corona is an aura of plasma that surrounds the sun and other stars. Something else becomes more visible when the sun itself is not, are solar flares which are evidenced in sudden, localized increases and variations in brightness that emanate from the surface of the sun. Even the sun itself cannot be seen, its corona and solar flares give testimony that the sun is still there, shining in all its glory.

When we look around at our world today, with the problems of hatred, violence, prejudice, warfare, hunger, disease, lust, selfishness, pride, envy and so many other things, it seems like God's glory is being eclipsed by the bad things and the evil that exists in our world. Yet, even when people question whether God is still there, if we but look, we can see things that give testimony that God is still there. Things like the beauty that exists in God; creation, mercy, compassion, justice righteousness, forgiveness, redemption, restoration, salvation and grace all point to God's glory.

Let's all commit to being that evidence of God that can be seen no matter what is going on in the world around us. Let our words, our actions, and our very lives be testimony that God is still there and God's glory is undiminished!

Scientists tell us that some day, billions of years from now, that the sun will go out. When that happens sunlight and moonlight will be

no more. That will indeed be a total eclipse and a permanent on to boot! Yet, we know that God's glory is forever and through Jesus Christ we will share in the glory always! *"The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory".* (Isaiah 60:19)

May we reflect God's glory always!

Pastor Jim

AUGUST * SEPTEMBER * OCTOBER COFFEE SERVERS

August 6- Marilee Benson, Jan Smith & Haylee Brinks

13- Tammy Green, Flo Nye & Barb George

20- Venecia George & Janet Hotchkiss

27- Gail Loeks & Mindy MacIntyre

September 3- Sheila Mannor, Deb Johnson & Sharon Raymond

10- Sheryl Anderson & Mary Kay Moon

17- Esther Ashbay & Karen Peterson

24- Sallie & Nancy Broersma

October 1- Marilee Benson, Jan Smith & Haylee Brinks

8- Tammy Green, Barb George & Flo Nye

15- Venecia George & Janet Hotchkiss

22- Gail Loeks & Mindy MacIntyre

29- Sheila Mannor, Deb Johnson & Sharon Raymond

PLEASE NOTE: If you can not do cookies on this date, please find someone to take your place or have cookies at church. Thank you.

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AUGUST GREETERS

6- Jack & Betty Bates

13- Bruce & Sharon Raymond

20- Barb George & Sheryl Anderson

27- Tim & Gail Loeks

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES ***

1- Kilee Brinks

8- Alison & Lucy Moyer

15- Pastor Jim & Janet Mort***

FINANCES:

Receipts for June- \$ 3,964.00

Disbursements for June- \$ 3,335.23

Receipts year to date- \$ 25,364.62

Disbursements year to date- \$ 21,409.38

Wesley House - \$ 248.00

Heifer project -\$ 296.75

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rick & Sheila Mannor will clean the church the month of August.

THANK YOU to Aaron & Sue Whipple who donated the new kitchen stove to South Community!!

WHEN DAY IS DONE

*This day so full of promise
Has slowly slipped away,
Like dying coals upon the fire
Where logs of oak once lay.*

*Some victories, some losses,
With work yet to be done –
People who will need me
Struggles to be won.*

*So I kneel beside my bed
To thank God for this day,
I ask for nothing but His grace
That love might light my way.*

*Gone forever is this day,
Content I've done my best.
I hand it over now to God
And seek His peaceful rest.*

I will lay me down in peace and sleep,
For thou, Lord,
Makest me dwell in safety.
Psalm 4:8

**STORMS BRING OUT THR EAGLES
BUT THE LITTLR BIRDS TAKE COVER**

*When the “storms of life”
gather darkly ahead,
I think of there wonderful words
I once read
And I say to myself
as “threatening clouds” hover
Don’t “fold up your wings”
and “run for cover”
But like the eagle
“spread wide your wings”
And “soar far above”
the troubles life brings,
For the eagle knows
that the higher he flies
The more tranquil and brighter
become the skies...
And there is nothing in life
GOD ever asks us to bear
That we can’t soar above
“ON THE WINGS OF PRAYER.”
And in looking back over
the “storm you passed through”
You’ll find you gained strength
and new courage, too,
For in facing “life’s storms”
with an EAGLE’S WINGS
You can fly far above
earth’s small, petty things.*

...but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.
Isaiah 40:31