

A GARDEN LIVES
A garden lives within our soul,
A secret place so dear,
A quaint and lovely part of earth
That brings us beauty here.
The tulips catch the morning sun,
The air is fresh and sweet,
At eventide the shadows fall
When day is then complete.
A garden is a golden spot
Where comfort fills our hearts,
A peaceful place where quiet dwells
As each new day does start.
There's loveliness and tender faith,
As raindrops fall,
To bless each wondrous growing thing,
As nature then stand tall.
A fragrance fills this quiet spot
With peaceful, tender bliss,
Where God looks down on each small plant
And sends an angel's kiss.
To walk and dream 'neath cotton clouds,
To feel the warmth of Spring,
And gently tuck the world away
As robins nest and sing..
There's promise in the hope we find
As seasons come and go.
The laughter of the Summer breeze,
The touch of Winter snow,
A miracle – a friendship real,
The smile that loving gives,
While every heart finds blessedness
Because a garden lives.

...and their soul shall be as a watered garden...
Jeremiah 31:12

SOUTH COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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www.scommunityumc.org

JUNE 2024

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

PASTOR JIM MORT
Marion Church Phone- (231) 743-2834
Parsonage Phone- (231) 743-0062

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.

Goodbye, Farewell, and Amen

Janet and I are retiring! Janet's last day of school is May 30. My retirement date is June 30; however, I have two weeks of "transition leave" and I will be taking two weeks of vacation in June. My last Sunday to lead worship will be June 2. I am excited over the prospects of retirement yet am saddened that retirement signifies the end of my time as your pastor.

The title of this newsletter article comes from the final episode of the television series M*A*S*H. This series was about the fictional 4077th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (hence the name of the show) during the Korean war. The series lasted for eleven seasons, which gave views a chance to get to "know" the main characters and how they were more than just a group of army medical personnel, that during their time together, they became a community. The series finale highlighted the close bonds between the characters as the end of the Korean war approached and they were preparing to leave the 4077th and go off on their separate ways. Memories were shared with accompanying laughter and tears.

I find myself thinking about the time we have had together. There have been baptisms, weddings, times of Holy Communion, presentations of Bibles, Christmas programs, Christmas caroling, Christmas Eves, Lenten Brunches, Easters, and Bright Sundays. There have also been funerals, Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday worships that have caused us to reflect on life, death, and life eternal. We have lifted seemingly hopeless situations up to God in prayer, and later praised God for his answers to prayer. We went through that strange time of not being able to worship together, yet we still prayed for each other and worshiped as we could from home until we could come back together and unite in worship. And there has been so much more!

We laughed together, cried together, and loved God and neighbor together. My family and I have been blessed by the people of South Community in so many ways. Thank you for all that you are and all that you have done! I thank and praise God for each of every one of you.

People have asked me what I will do in retirement. I do not know what God has in store for me. What I do know is God will be there. I also do not know what God has in store for South Community UMC. But I am confident that God will be there.

Let me leave you with these words from Philippians 4:4-7:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Blessings,

Pastor Jim

LILACS – A VISION OF SPRING

I've seen the pussy willows
With dainty furry faces;
I've found the pretty violets
Abloom in shady places;
The jonquil and the crocus
Have told me of the spring,
And in the orchard up and down
Has glanced the bluebird's wing.

*But here's the purple lilac
That lifts its fragrant plumes,
And sends a waft of sweetness
Through homely cottage rooms,
Its hardy branches tapping
Against the farmhouse eaves,
The flowers it gives us growing
In generous waving sheaves.*

I'm sure the mother robin
Is very glad to see
The lilacs' screen about her
Wee nest and fledglings three;
And father wren is singing
In pure delight today
That spring is here already
And summer on the way.

*And I am glad our Father,
Whose love is over all,
Who counts the stars by number
And sees a sparrow fall.
Has sent again the lilacs
To make the garden fair,
And waft their honeyed sweetness
Up on the wandering air.*

THE ROSE

In pensive mood

I walked along the garden path one day,
And there beside the wall where shines the sun
I cleared a little place and dug a hole,
And planted there a rosebush, only one.

In careless mood

*I walked along the path again one day,
And on the stem two tiny leaves I found.
My heart leaped up! A miracle I saw...
A growing thing made this hallowed ground.*

In happy mood

I went to see my rosebush every day,
And dug and sprayed and watered it with care.
My heart rejoiced when each new leaf appeared.
My friends came out to see, my joy to share.

In joyous mood

*I watched each day a tiny bud unfold
And slowly open leaves of rarest shade;
A velvet pink no artist's brush could tint...
It was my own, its beauty God had made.*

Oh, changing mood!

A full-blown rose I plucked one day with care
And placed it in a vase where I could see.
I think I never saw a rose so rare
As one I grew and watched from day to day.

FINANCES:

Receipts for April- \$ 3,432.00
Disbursements for April- \$ 4,739.62
Receipt year to date- 14,939.06
Disbursement year to date- \$17,900.77

JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES ***

- 3- Venecia George
 - 14- Dan Winkel
 - 16- Karen Dorman
 - 21- Dean George
 - 21- Al Peterson
 - 22- Philip George
 - 23- Barb George
 - 6- Rick & Sheila Mannor ***
 - 18- Al & Karen Peterson ***
 - 25- Chic & Nancy Broersma ***
 - 27- Todd & Marilee Benson ***
- *****

Pastor Jim's Retirement Dinner

Sunday June 2 at 12:30pm at Marion UMC given by Marion & South Community UMC. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Pulled pork & cake will be provided. Please write a memory of Pastor Jim and place it in the card basket. Thank you.

Love INC SPOT-ON Lifetime Classes

June 15 – Become a master Air Fryer cooking with our comprehensive class, foods perfect for the entire family. all participants will be entered in a drawing for a New Air Fryer to take home with you that evening. Don't worry about lunch plans – come hungry and you can enjoy plenty of samples! It you bring a family favorite recipe it will be included in the Holiday Spot On Cookbook for the public.

Special Event July 4. Join us for an unforgettable July 4 celebration! Bring your friends & family to walk in the patriotic parade, part of the Lake City Greatest Fourth in the North celebration. You can decorate your bike, wagon, or stroller and join the fun. Call the Love INC office at 231-779-1888 to sign up for this event. Wear any shade of blue to match our logo.

SOLITUDE

The sighing wind so slowly passed
 Across the rolling seas,
 It climbs the hill and came to rest
 Among the stately trees,
 Each nodding flower nestles there
 Within the morning light,
 Protected by the still of dawn
 As darkness crept from sight.
 The golden sun came stealing through
 And lingered on the breeze,
 As nature loaned an added charm
 A gentle little tease,
 The dew that sparkled on the grass
 The quiet, oh, so dear,
 Within the tender arms of Spring
 A peacefulness and cheer.
 No sound within the forest glade
 But that of singing birds,
 A music sweet upon the air –
 No human voice is heard,
 Just the beauty lingers there
 A carefree, happy mood,
 The world in quietness supreme
 God's wondrous solitude.

SOLITUDE

Give me the country roads the flowering meadows,
 The gently rolling fields of golden grain.
 I long to hear the breezes in the treetops,
 And smell the fragrant earth after the rain.
 I long for solitude those quite moments
 Alone beneath the dazzling starlit sky;
 To lay aside the things which easily confound me,
 To sift my thoughts and thank God on high.