



## Tecumseh United Methodist Church

Christ's compassionate community in Tecumseh;  
Loving and serving prayerfully and unconditionally

Wednesday 19 August 2020

### Tecumseh Fresh Food Initiative - Saturday 18/15/2020

Saturday was a beautiful day to hold this month's fresh food distribution. Although we are in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic, the work being done to fill in the gaps between need, economic stress, and limited government assistance continues to be needed.

*Right: unloading the food bank delivery truck and staging the food boxes.*



Much has changed with the onset of the pandemic. We used to unload and unpack the food and set it out on the tables in our pavilion for clients to "shop". To limit contact today food arrives from the food bank mostly prepackaged. Clients drive up and boxes are loaded into their vehicles.

*Left: boxes of food ready for distribution. Bottom: packing the lot.*

Another big change is the use of volunteers. Whereas we used to welcome the help of as many who would help, we currently work is done by as few volunteers as possible for health safety. Even so, the operation is efficient and effective.

Thank you to all who support this effort through leadership, volunteering, financial support, and prayer.



## Outdoor Worship Continues

There is irony built into the universe and God has a sense of humor. We now have proof:

After all the work we put in to improvements of our church building--from the heating, cooling, electrical, and Wifi work a few years ago to new roofs this year—we are currently getting more use out of the pavilion behind the church building than the building itself!

We are continuing to meet Sunday mornings at 10am under the pavilion for worship, physically distanced and wearing face masks. And honestly, it has been a delight to be outdoors. We have had a lot of things, like music, differently, and we have had visitors each week. Some have joined us because we are meeting together but in

a safe way, others have been curious, and others are wildlife that sometimes stroll through.

Services are being held outdoors in response to the current gubernatorial executive order mandate that limits indoor gatherings to ten persons or less. Other churches are ignoring this mandate because there is also a clause releases houses of worship from penalty for its violation. However, just because we could get away with violating the 10 person maximum does not make it right to do so. As long as the mandate is in effect and we can meet outdoors, we will.

If you have not yet attended an outdoor worship service, give it a try.

## Let's Zoom - Midweek Evening Virtual Gatherings Begin

We need more time together and to help us get it we are bringing church back to Wednesday evenings.

**Beginning this week—Wednesday 8/19**—a virtual gathering using Zoom will be available. Each gathering begins at **7:30pm** and will last for **40 minutes** (the length of our free Zoom license).

Each gathering will have a different purpose and here's the current schedule:

- Wednesday 8/19, 7:30pm  
**Fellowship** – no agenda, just an opportunity to get together, reconnect and enjoy some good conversation.
- Wednesday 8/26, 7:30pm  
**Hot Topic** – this is intended to be similar to Pub Theology, which gathers people to discuss a topic of current interest, allowing all the people around the table a voice. Notably, while someone moderates the discussion, there is no discussion leader or resident expert. When a pastor shows up, they are just another participant. The discussion topic will be offered prior to the Wednesday evening gathering.
- Wednesday 9/2, 7:30pm  
**Fellowship**

- Wednesday 9/9, 7:30pm  
**Brief Bible Study** – Pastor Mark will lead a short exploration of scripture. Don't worry about this getting complex and boring, there isn't enough time for any of that.
- Wednesday 9/16, 7:30pm  
**Fellowship**
- Wednesday 9/23, 7:30pm  
**Hot Topic**
- Wednesday 9/30, 7:30pm  
**Fellowship**

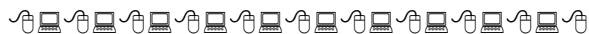
## And I Thought I'd Left the IT Business . . .

by Pastor Mark

When I officially retired from my software engineering career in August of 2004, I had the suspicion that I was not finished working with computers, networks, and source code. My suspicion was both well-founded and prescient. I have been doing IT (Information Technology) work ever since I stopped being paid for it.

So far, I have coded five websites (not counting several redesigns and recoding of three of them) and configured and managed two networks. And this week, I am setting up a wifi network for Dundee UMC (which looks suspiciously like the wifi we have at Tecumseh UMC).

Although I still enjoy working with software and have a love/hate relationship with networks, I would not be spending the time doing any of it if I did not believe that churches need the technology. And the Coronavirus pandemic lockdowns have validated that belief.



### Tips & Tricks & Trivia

Have you used a flash card of some kind—a USB stick or SD card (used most often in cameras) that hold anywhere from 4 to 256Gb? When I began computer work, I used an 8-platter, 14”

disc drive unit the size of a washing machine and sporting a whopping 256Mb of storage.

If you have trouble making a phone call on your smartphone inside Tecumseh UMC, try a text message instead. Voice calls digitize and transfer lots of data, which is a problem when signal strength is low. Text messages are tiny and very efficient and nearly always work.

Save your smartphone's battery. Turn off wifi if you are not connecting to a wifi network and turn off Bluetooth if you are not in your car or using Bluetooth device with your phone. Both are constant drains on your batteries.

Byte = 8 bits

Word = 16 bits

Kilobyte (Kb) = 1,000 bytes = 8,000 bits

Megabyte (Mb) = 1,000,000 bytes  
= 8,000,000 bits

Gigabyte (Gb) = 1,000,000,000 bytes  
= 8,000,000,000 bits

Terabyte (Tb)

= 1,000,000,000,000 bytes  
= 8,000,000,000,000 bits

Periodically reboot your computerized device. This will clean out garbage that accumulates in its memory. Just do it.