

# The ECHO

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The following is on the St. Martin's United Church of Christ Facebook page...circulate this message on Facebook to your friends on family...get the message out!!!

Who wants a chance to hit the jackpot!? Enter for your chance to win \$900 worth of lottery tickets!

The proceeds from our lotto raffle will benefit the church general fund and some special projects! COVID has prevented us from hosting our annual Fall Festival, so this raffle will serve as our primary fundraiser for the year.

Tickets are 1/\$1 or 6/\$5. Tickets can be purchased through [Terri Green](#) on Venmo at @Terri-Green-40. Please include your name and phone number on the Venmo transaction when purchasing tickets. If you prefer to purchase tickets with cash, please contact the church office at (636)285-4797. The drawing for the raffle will occur on Sunday, October 3 at 10:00 am. The raffle will be announced on the church Facebook page via a live video!

Thank you for your support of St. Martin's United Church of Christ!

## Church council update:

### **Special congregational meeting – October 3<sup>rd</sup> during service.**

Please plan to attend. The reason you ask? A glitch in the language of our by-laws...we were advised by the title examiner at Hillsboro Title that our bylaws do not give any authority to sell the 6 acres to the Schraders. Our bylaws state that "church property is indivisible". Also, while the council can make many decisions with the consent of the congregation, the bylaws do not state specifically that council can sell property. The closing of the sale of the property is on hold until we make modifications, which, of course, require the consent of the congregation.

We have an attorney assisting with the modifications. At services on Sept. 18 and 25, council will have available the proposed modifications to the bylaws. On those dates, we will also announce the special meeting to vote on the changes on October 3. The proposed changes will be available in "hard copy" on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>. The changes will be e-mailed to those on the church e-mail. The special meeting will be announced on OneCall during the weeks of October 18th and 25<sup>th</sup>. Any questions? See Jack

Trunk or Treat is back!!! We will be sponsoring our Annual Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 30. So, get those cars ready!! Car registration will begin at 4:00pm and Trunk or Treat will be from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. We will award "fabulous" prizes to the top three winners in church October 31. Please let Terri, Kathy, or Donna know if you are bringing a car so we can keep count.

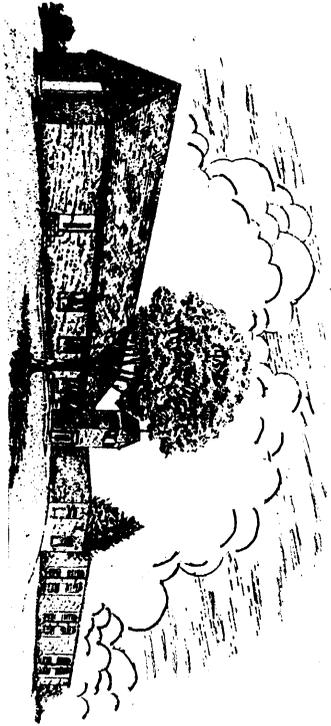
ST. MARTIN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

7890 Dittmer Ridge Road

Dittmer, MO 63023-1112

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL  
OCTOBER 2021



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# From the Pastor's Desk

Autumn has arrived and we would typically be anticipating attendance at worship increasing because summer trips are over and it's time to get back to 'normal'. Normal this year, however, still will not look like it has in the past. We aren't even far enough along in the recovery from this international pandemic to say that we have come to a sense of a NEW normal!

I am sad that our traditions, like the Fall Festival and making Apple Butter which mark the time for us and our whole surrounding community, won't be able to take place as they have in the past. This is just one more loss on top of many which we have all had to accommodate these days.

The 'disease' which is spreading has affected all of life – and THAT is what I am leading up to. A prayer written by Walter Brueggemann in his book of prayers entitled, "Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth," spoke hope into all of the current trials for me. The prayer is called, "Be Our Primary Disease!"

*Be our primary disease,  
and infect us with your justice;  
Be our night visitor,  
and haunt us with your peace;  
Be our moth that consumes,  
and eat away at our unfreedom.  
Be our primary disease,  
our night visitor,  
our moth  
infect, haunt, eat away...  
Until we are toward you and with you and for you,  
away from our injustice,  
our anti-peace,  
our unfreedom.  
More like you and less like your resistance.  
In the name of the one most like you,  
most with you,  
most for you...even Jesus.  
Amen.*

**Reprinted from The Upper Room,  
September 11, 2021  
Grant Roth (Missouri)**

## RESPONDING IN LOVE

*Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also.*

*Matthew 5:39 (NRSV)*

My older brother ran down the stairs with tears streaming from his eyes. A few seconds later I followed, trying to keep up with him on my little, three-year-old legs. When my brother and I entered the living room, my mom was startled and concerned. She asked my brother, "What's wrong? Why are you crying?" My brother answered through his tears, "Grant hit me for no reason!" Before my mom had a chance to respond, I exclaimed, "That is not true! He is lying! I didn't hit him for no reason; I kicked him for no reason!" This story from my childhood makes me laugh, but I also feel bad about the way I treated my brother. He didn't deserve it.

Sometimes we're treated in ways we don't deserve. Whether a friend abandons us, a co-worker gossips about us, a family member manipulates us, or a boss undervalues us, our tendency is to retaliate. But Jesus calls his followers to respond differently.

In today's reading, Jesus speaks about how his listeners have twisted God's words to justify revenge. But then Jesus urges his followers to respond in a different way. Even when we're treated in ways that we don't deserve, Jesus calls us to respond with love .



We gathered at the church for our September meeting. The planning committee presented the schedule for 2022 which will include a mix of fun programs and times out to eat. Our Annual Books will be available in December with the schedule. We hope you will join us.

Our October meeting will be in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, October 7th at 11:30. All women of the church are welcome. Bring a sack lunch, your own drink and come have fun.

Respectfully submitted by  
Sandy Roland, President

## Singers & Ringers

After prayerful consideration and much discussion, the worship committee would like you to consider taking part in restarting our church music program. If you are interested in joining either of these groups, bring proof of your vaccinations. We are requiring this for the safety of other participants. We will maintain social distancing during our time together. Rehearsals, for both, will be brief and will take place at 9:30 only on the Sundays. October 3rd is Worldwide Communion Sunday. This will be the first worship service the choir will join. The date for bells to return will be announced. If you are interested in participating, please contact Dianne Lowerre, Ruth Ann Gillman, or leave a message at the office. Choir and Bells will receive a OneCall with more details.

### October Calendar of Events

**Sunday, October 3**

9 am Family Church hour  
10 am Worship  
RAFFLE DRAWING  
Hopper usher team  
Confirmation class

**Thursday, October 7**

11:30 Women's Fellowship

**Sunday, October 10**

9 am Family Church hour  
10 am Worship  
Weckback usher team  
NO confirmation class this week

**Tuesday, October 12**

6:30 Church Council

**Sunday, October 17**

9 am Family Church hour  
10 am Worship  
Rob Bohle usher team  
Confirmation class

**Sunday, October 24**

9 am Family Church hour  
10 am Worship  
Wakeland usher team  
Confirmation class

**Sunday, October 31**

YOUTH SUNDAY

9 am Family Church hour  
10 am Worship  
Confirmation class

**Thursdays, 5 pm, Book club**

**Thursdays, 7 pm, Scouts**

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**All are invited to attend.....  
monthly Church Council  
meetings, 2nd Tuesday  
of every month  
Next meeting, October 12  
6:30 in Fellowship Hall.**



### 80 years + Birthdays

Barb May	10/04
Vivian Horn	10/09
Esther Larsen	10/14
Alice Weber	10/25
Marianne Schroeder	10/25



### 25 years + Anniversaries

Ronald & Kathleen Gensler	10/02
Neal and Jane Weber	10/07
Stan and Mary Bonacker	10/11
Jeff and Lisa Argurio	10/12
Mike and Joann Williams	10/22
Doug and Melody Barnes	10/27



### **PEACE PANTRY**

In October, the Pantry appreciates donations of pasta and sauces. As always, the Pantry appreciates the support of St. Martin's in all donations offered.



### **Youth Bragging Rights:**

Anna Belle Wakeland-a Junior at Grandview High School just made All-District Choir.  
Luke Meier a Freshman at Northwest High School recently raced on the JV Cross Country Team at Cape Girardeau and placed 12 out of 114. Luke continues to improve his Personal Record and help his team.

### **Youth Graduates:**

Austin Smith and Allison Wakeland are two of our "Youth Graduates". I want to take the time to brag a little and focus on their recent Awards. Another example of how our Youth continue to make us proud!! Austin Smith attends Missouri Baptist University. Austin was recently awarded an MBU Champion of Character Award. This is awarded by the University Athletic Department. The award is only given to one male and one female each year. They are chosen from roughly 800 student athletes who best exemplify the ideals of Missouri Baptist University and the NAIA's five core values of integrity, respect, responsibility, servant leadership, and sportsmanship. The student-athlete must also have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. This is the article published regarding Austin: Austin Smith-Men's Wrestling-St. Charles, MO Smith serves on the Student-Athlete Advisory Council for Men's Wrestling and carries a 3.90 cumulative GPA as a Forensic Psychology major. The St. Charles, MO junior has collected several awards including the 2020-21 Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete award, two President's Citations, two Dean's List Citations and two Academic All-AMC honors. The local product of Francis Howell Central High School is a prime example of a servant leader volunteering with Special Olympics and having taken two mission trips; one to Bayou La Bare, AL, to help clean up damage from Hurricane Katrina and one to Buffalo, NY to do community work including home repairs, summer programs for area youth, and helping with repairs on one of the oldest Catholic Cathedrals in New York. Smith is also a contributor (writer and editor) for Devozine, a devotional book for teens under the same company as "The Upper Room". Austin will be formally inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame class and will be honored next month at the 2021 Spartan Athletics Hall of Fame Banquet.

Allison Wakeland attends St Louis College of Pharmacy. Allison was selected for A.O. Duer Award. The NAIA has selected UHSP cross country and track and field athlete Allison Wakeland as the 2021 winner of the A.O. Duer Scholarship Award. The National Award comes after Wakeland was selected as the American Midwest Conference NAIA nominee. The A.O. Duer Scholarship is awarded to one male and one female student-athlete in any sport who have excelled in scholarship, character, and citizenship. Wakeland will be presented with a certificate and a \$1000.00 scholarship as a recipient of the national award. She will also be recognized at an annual function in April. Wakeland is a Cross Country National Qualifier and All-Conference runner for the Eutectics, she has maintained a 3.88 GPA in the pharmacy program while simultaneously playing a crucial role on the Eutectic cross country and track and field teams and in the community. On Campus, Allison serves in several leadership positions. The list includes being the President of the Kappa Epsilon, the team captain of the cross country and track and field teams, the secretary of the Student-Athletic Advisory Committee and was recently elected to a leadership role in the Pharmaceutical Cosmetic Club. In addition, she serves as a resident advisor. Allison is a true asset. She is a hard worker, intelligent, and has the ability to make everyone smile. Her volunteer work is also high on Wakeland's priority list. She has committed time to help with Food Outreach, preparing meals for HIV patients, working in the St Louis University Adult Clinic, COVID vaccine clinics, and a Forest Park greenhouse project called Blitz Blooms. Her work as an intern at the Siteman Cancer Center at Washington University is equally impressive. The Siteman Cancer Pharmacy manager writes, she does an outstanding job working in the investigational drug service space and is a true pleasure to work with. She demonstrates a true interest to research.