

The Russell Report

Russell Memorial United Methodist Church

A Family Rooted in Christ and Reaching Out in Love



Vol. 14, No. 4

April 1, 2018



Russell Youth

Our youth in action over Spring Break. Working hard at the church and clearing brush offsite.

The UMW project for this year will be School Kits for UMCOR. (The Kit list is shown below.) The UMW is planning to provide 12 bags and will meet on June 9th to assemble the bags. So anytime you are out shopping, please select a few items (or everything) from the list below and join us.

School Kit

Value: \$11.00 per kit

School Kit Materials

- 1 **14x16 inch cloth bag** ○ Homemade or purchased bags are both acceptable ○ Heavy-duty fabric only, such as denim, corduroy, drapery fabric, etc. ○ No advertisements, religious, patriotic, military, or camouflage symbols ○ Closures are optional but must be buttons, snaps, or Velcro sewn in middle of opening, if used.
- 3 **pads of paper** ○ Spiral- or top-bound pads 100-150 sheets of loose leaf can be substituted for one pad ○ Combination of spiral, top bound, side bound, or 1 subject notebook are acceptable No composition books ○ No 3 or 5 subject notebook
- 1 **24-count box of crayons**
 - Only 24-count boxes
- 1 **pair blunt scissors** ○ Rounded tip only ○ No plastic scissors
- 1 **2-inch or larger size eraser** ○ No advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols, please ○ Cartoon characters are acceptable
- 6 **unsharpened pencils** ○ No advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols, please ○ Cartoon characters are acceptable
- 1 **hand-held pencil sharpener** ○ Must be at least one-inch long ○ Remove from packaging
- 1 **30-centimeter ruler** ○ Hard or flexible
 - Cartoon characters are acceptable ○ No advertisements



Egg Hunt 2018





Pray for Those in Prison

“Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.” Hebrews 13:3

Throughout the centuries from when the Gospel was first advancing to right now, Christians have been persecuted, tortured and killed. Yet, the 21st Century has been the worst century for persecution, even compared to the first century. Open Doors, a ministry that equips persecuted Christians to share the Gospel, reports that 322 Christians are killed every month. This statistic is real life people. They don't want to be killed, but they are willing to die because they love Christ.

On the other hand, the church is growing in most places where persecution is taking place. In Iran, the church is growing rapidly as people become dissatisfied with Islam and see the love of Christians, especially among the youth in Iran. Surprisingly while Iran is an Islamic Republic, about 80,000 of the population is Christian. If someone converts to Christianity from Islam, they could be killed by their own family or government, kicked out of their family or jailed.

Here's one story of a Muslim scholar by Open Doors who came to Christ:

“Reza was a mullah (a Muslim scholar) who hoped to become an ayatollah (a Shiite leader). One day, while studying at an Islamic seminary in Iran, he found a New Testament that had been boldly left in the library. Out of curiosity, he picked it up and was deeply shaken. Over time, he fell in love with Jesus. Today Reza is a trained church planter serving in the Iran region.”

Reza knew the risk of following Jesus, yet he decided to follow Jesus despite the cost.

When you ask a persecuted Christian how you can help them, they ask for prayer. They do not ask that they would be set free from the persecution, because they know that the only way for that to happen is for them to stop preaching the Gospel to nonbelievers. Rather, they ask for boldness to continue sharing their faith in the midst of persecution, that they wouldn't deny Christ and that their enemies would come to know the Lord.

For more information on how you can pray for specific countries where Christians are persecuted, go to this website:

<https://www.opendoorsusa.org/>



Dates to Remember!

Saturday, April 7, 10:00 a.m. Cake at Crestwood
 Saturday, April 14, 9:00 a.m. UMW Brunch,
 9:00 a.m. Kitchen Clean Up Day
 Sunday, April 15, 12:15 p.m. SPRC meeting
 Saturday, April 21, 8:30 a.m. UMM Breakfast Meeting
 9:00 a.m. Crafting with Christ
 Saturday, April 28, Youth Rummage Sale
 11:00 a.m. Neighbor to Neighbor
Sunday, April 29, 9:00 a.m. Brunch, 10:30 a.m. Combined Worship in the Sanctuary

Community Outreach Program

Neighbor to Neighbor Lunch
 11 am-1pm
 Fourth Saturday of each month
 Deen Building - George Hall
 OPEN TO ANYONE
 WHO CHOOSES TO COME
 Please contact the church for details
 (903-873-2569).



Happy Birthday!

Linda Greenwald 4-1
 Katie Robinette 4-5
 Maxine Clopton 4-7
 Sarah Cartwright 4-7
 Cole Roberts 4-8
 Tom Butts 4-8
 Lois Butts 4-11
 Andrea Brown 4-12
 Scott Miracle 4-12
 Zac Moore 4-12
 Daniel David 4-13
 Dave Lutzinger 4-16

Suzy Birdwell 4-16
 Barbara Lathem 4-20
 Jana Teel 4-22
 Angie Smith 4-24
 Abby Wilcoxson 4-25
 Cyndi Fields 4-25
 Suzanne Hetmer 4-29
 Daniel Turner 4-30



April Worship Assistants

Altar Guild: Carolyn Hawkins (Chair), Molly Brittain, Laura Bates, Kathleen Bobbitt
Ushers: Robert Greenwald (Head), Barbara Lamb, Denny McCormick, Gerald Haney



Our Presence and Our Gifts

	March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25
the early service	58	38	54	47
Sunday School	82	71	80	81
Traditional Worship	87	106	94	132
	\$5,514.00	\$6,151.25	\$6,578.00	\$3,660.50

Calendar of Events for April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 am Early Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	2 10:00 am Ladies Prayer Group 6:00pm Trustees	3	4 5:30pm K6/Youth 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:00pm Youth Hand Bells 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	5	6 6:30 pm Bible Study	7 10:00am Cake @ Crestwood UMW District Meeting @ Hawkins UMC
8 8:30 am Early Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:15pm SPRC	9 10:00 am Ladies Prayer Group 5:00pm Day School 6:00pm Finance	10	11 5:30pm K6/Youth 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:00pm Youth Hand Bells 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	12	13 6:30 pm Bible Study	14 Kitchen Clean Up 9:00am UMW Brunch Scouts in Deen Building in pm
15 8:30 am Early Service 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Church Council 2:00 pm Crestwood	16 10:00 am Ladies Prayer Group	17	18 5:30pm K6/Youth 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:00pm Youth Hand Bells 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	19	20 6:30 pm Bible Study	21 8:30am UMM Breakfast 9:00am Crafting with Christ
22 8:30 am Early Service 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	23 10:00 am Ladies Prayer Group	24	25 5:30pm K6/Youth 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:00pm Youth Hand Bells 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	26 10:00am Spa Day at Crestwood	27	28 8:00am Youth Rummage Sale Neighbor to Neighbor Lunch 11 am—1pm
29 <u>9:00am Brunch</u> <u>10:30am Combined Worship (Sanctuary)</u>	30 10:00 am Ladies Prayer Group	Communion offering this month will go toward Neighbor to Neighbor.				
The UMW Northwest District Spring Meeting will be in Hawkins, April 7 beginning at 9:30 with registration and concluding with a provided lunch. The guest speaker will be Marlin Finn, District Superintendent. Anyone wishing to attend may meet at the Church and leave promptly at 8:30am.						

Bible Hero Central - VBS 2018 - June 10-14

Every VBS a church chooses must have something that calls to them. Things like a special song during assembly that focuses the hearts of those listening, interesting Bible stories that shed new light on familiar themes, or even the way serving snacks is done all help us run a program that is both meaningful and entertaining for kids. This year is no exception. Though this year's theme of Superheroes is lively and entertaining, the reason we chose it has everything to do with its much more serious message: God's power within us is our superhero strength. His love gives us a heart for loving other people. His steadfastness brings us courage to face difficulties. His strength gives us power to do good always. He is the real superhero.

This message is so especially important today. Our world of self-sufficiency and worldly aspirations tends to distract from God's omnipotence. Superhero Central's theme brings the focus right back to God as the center of the world, and we are looking forward to sharing this message with lots of kids from our community.

We still need help! People bring energy and that means more excitement for kids. If you would like to help in anyway, please contact Leslie Nychka at lnychka@hotmail.com or Dana Hullum at danamhullum@me.com. There are still numerous roles to be filled and we welcome all help.

There are other ways to help, too. First, we need your input. Do you have a favorite Bible superhero? We would like to know. We are taking a poll from all of our church members to see who the top 5 are. There's a catch, though, we need to know why you think so. Look for your voting slips in your Sunday School classrooms to cast your vote and then drop them in the Superhero Buckets.

Second, we need your pennies! The kids this year will be collecting pennies to add to our Superhero Buckets. If you have any to spare, please donate them to VBS. There are buckets in the Sunday School classrooms to drop them in for whichever group you choose. All proceeds will go towards the annual back to school fair.

Also, we need lots of empty paper towel tubes (no toilet paper tubes, please) as well as a few other supplies. Please see the list below for more details. We will have a collection box at the front of the Deen building and by the church office for you to drop them on your way in and out.

Items we need:

Empty paper towel tubes

Decorative duct tape rolls

Washi tape

Puff fabric paints

Fabric squares (4")

White, non-fraying cloth strips (suitable for head bands)

Pony beads

Bottle caps, various colors

Thank you so much for your support!

Leslie and Dana, VBS team helpers

Remember in Prayer:

Sanderson Family
Alice Kolb
Allen Thompson
Amy Alonzo
Annette & Gerald Clemmons
Denny McCormick
Bobby & LaJuan Mayfield
Chris Conn
Chuck & Nelda Currie
Craig & Vicki Collins
Crestwood Nursing &
Assisted Living
Daisy Bates & Family
Darlane Fuller
David Cartwright & Family
Don Tisdale
Donna Whitehead
Gene Kilgo

Methodist Church (RMUMC)
Homeland Security
Huff Family
Hurricane, VZ County Tornado
victims
James & Brenda Brown &
Family
John Stewart
Jerry Bodin
Jimmy Wilson
John Buffington
Johnny Wortham
Jane Webber
Kelles Miller's great grandson
LaNell White
Liz Ellis
Marvin Carlisle
Mary Helen Castleberry
Maxine Page
Missionaries in Iraq

Our Armed Forces, Troops in
Korea
Mark Brown
Pat Halbrook
Randy Owen
Ron Turner
Sherry Walker
Students, Teachers, &
Administrators
Valerie Pearson
Virginia Cockerham



Memorials

In memory of
Theil Shastid
Given by
Robert and Linda Greenwald.



I want to thank you for reaching all the way to Carrollton with your “Prayers and

Shawl Ministry”. This reminds me of the short story of Dorcas we read about in Acts 9:36-39. She was a gracious Christian woman in the early church who had devoted much time and effort to a sewing ministry. She used her talents and resources to minister to others. So, I am now aware of a group from Wills Point with a ministry just like Dorcas—and I am now a recipient of the blessings your ministry pours out. Please accept my thanks and gratitude for your expression of Christian love—it is most certainly a blessing for me.

Jim Stanley Robertson

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Rev. David Cartwright, Pastor
Nancy McDonald, Office Administrator
Theresa Turner, Ladies Hand Bells Director
Kristy Adams, Pianist
Erin Galope, Youth Bell Director
Amy Goodson, Contemporary Prayz Band Leader

Dr. Bob Gilbreth, Music Director
Fritz Gilbreth, Organist
Kelli Huff, K6 Kids Coordinator
Jackie Cockerham, Financial Administrator
Jerry Don Huff, Youth Director

Join us Sunday Morning!

Contemporary Worship @ 8:30 Sunday School @ 9:45 Traditional Worship @ 11:00

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday

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Wills Point, TX 75169

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED