

# Kedron United Methodist Church



*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open doors The people of The United Methodist Church*

website: [www.kedronumc.org](http://www.kedronumc.org) Facebook: Kedron UMC

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## *The Kedron Connection*

October 2023

Volume 38 Issue 10



Recently, Anne and I attended a concert by Chicago at the FirstBank Amphitheater. Chicago was founded as a musical group 56 years ago; so, a lot of people there were my age, or a little younger. And yet, there were quite a number of younger people. I was struck by several things after leaving the venue; and I could not help but put my thoughts in a church-related framework.

The first thing I thought about was the most obvious: the event was an explosion of sound and sights. We were treated to outstanding music, much of which were older hits by this energetic band. (In fact, three of the group were original members of Chicago!) Sitting and standing all around us were people singing along, moving in rhythmic jerks and twists, smiling, laughing, and shouting to one another over the huge array of speakers. (We were near the front and were seated under a stack of 14 speakers suspended directly over us.) I imagined that this was similar to a religious experience for many in attendance. I can surely attest to the feelings that welled up in my chest.

Second, I was amazed at how many people attended the event even though it took some effort to get there; and it was expensive. The tickets were expensive, the parking privilege we had was an additional cost; and the food was good, but overpriced. (The venue will not allow attendees to bring in anything but a clear, EMPTY bottle.) While a few were tailgating, most ate and drank inside the venue. The difficulty of getting to our seats was considerable. First, there was a long drive, even after we got off of 840. My traffic app took us a less travelled way, so the trip in and out was not the most challenging thing about attending. (It would have been for the majority who did regular parking, and were in a huge backup when leaving.) The real difficulty was the long walk, uphill, from the parking area. Then, once at the top of the former quarry, we still had to walk a long way to our seats. Added to the difficulty was the long walk to the restrooms. (I don't know why they weren't any busier than they were, because people were drinking a lot—a lot.)

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First there was the fact that the event was something akin to a religious experience. Second there were the difficulties in attending, plus the expense of the evening. (I'm not going to add up everything just because I don't want to know how much the evening cost me.) Now, the third thing I want to say is that the evening was totally voluntary. Except for the performers and the staff, not a one of us was required to be there. Nor was the event life saving or of ultimate importance. We went out of disregard for the expense and difficulty. And for what? We all wanted to be totally immerse in an experience that carried us out of the ordinary and into another realm of existence—albeit temporary.

Now, here's where I'm going. Our participation in being a church is something we'd like to give us an overwhelming and life changing experience, but at much less the cost and difficulty in attending. We, too, are here on a voluntary basis. Even I am here voluntarily since I am officially a retired Elder in the United Methodist Church. I could have turned down the District Superintendent, without any negative recourse. And yet, I choose to be here. I choose to write a check each month, and I choose to drive about 30 minutes each way when I come to the church, not to mention the driving for visits, programs, meetings, etc. But, instead of what we do here being only a temporary reprieve from daily struggles, trials, and challenges, we participate in a permanent, life changing environment that no other human institution can promise or give.

I enjoyed the concert; and I looked forward to it. But now that it is over, I am simply back at the daily task of living. And yet, I'll be back in worship each week, because I want to; because my life and soul need it; and because I want to the Kingdom to be the biggest and most lasting and life changing experience for as many people as possible.

Michael O'Bannon, Pastor



### Administrative Council

Our council will meet on **October 15th, 2023**  
**At 1pm.**

### Fellowship Supper

**Fellowship supper will be Oct. 4th at 6:30 pm**  
**Special Fish Fry!!! Come join us!!**

### Men's Breakfast

October 7th., 2023 at 8 AM

### Bucket Offering

Our October Bucket offering taken on Sunday morning worship will be donated to: **The Journey Home.**

### Food Bank

You may bring food donations for the local food bank on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of the month. Place the donations on the pew in the narthex. The food will be delivered to the food bank. The Suggested item for October is **canned vegetables**. All non-perishable food is accepted and appreciated.

### Happy Birthday

Dee Rouse Oct. 10th

### Anniversaries

Rob and Delann Dunbar Oct. 5th



### October Calendar

October 1st	Sunday School 8:45 am Worship Service 9:30 am
October 4th 6:30 pm	Fellowship Supper (Fish Fry!)
October 7th	Men's Breakfast 8am
October 8th	Sunday School <b>8:45 AM</b> Worship Service <b>9:30 am</b>
October 11th	<b>Bible Study Locke's UMC 6:30pm</b>
October 15th	<b>Sunday School 8:45 am Worship Service 9:30 am</b>
<b>October 18th</b> Sept. 24th	<b>Bible Study Locke's UMC 6:30pm</b> Sunday School <b>8:45 am</b> Worship Service <b>9:30 am</b>
Sept. 25th	Laity Club
Sept. 27th	Bible Study Locke's UMC 6:30pm

November 2023 newsletter info due to Dee Rouse by  
October 26th 615-574-9320 or  
[ddrouse10@gmail.com](mailto:ddrouse10@gmail.com)

### Resources Available

Resources for various kinds of help/support for you or someone you know that might benefit from counseling and/or spiritual support are listed below:

Insight Counseling Center, Murfreesboro  
**615-383-2115** for in person or online/phone counseling.

Upper Room Prayer Ministry **615-340-7200**

Talkspace.com Online/phone counseling

### Methodist News Source

[www.umnews.org](http://www.umnews.org)  
Stones River District Office  
P.O. Box 12191  
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

# Fall Word Search

C U W V B F K S Q S W H A R V E S T H G  
O Y S M A N T A T O U U O G K R P M L E  
A C F D F O O T B A L L W B T Q W O Z B  
S E E Z Z A G E R Y N T U E N I B E X R  
W J P N X T B U W A A P P L E C I D E R  
E A U O A H U D C N U T U U U N C T A Q  
A P R V S A U U R K K P P Z M H R B C T  
T P L E A N N O J Y S R P C U P A G I C  
E L E M J K C A D B E F W K E U K Y M K  
R E A B U S K F Y O P L I O H Z E I Y B  
P S V E L G P H L N T Z H P S J S Q N O  
Q Q E R S I Q A W F E Y E M U W E Q J O  
J N S O M V V C N I M C O Q N R M W K T  
T B M E K I F Z B R B R Y C F K N L J S  
V Y A P N N Q K G E E A V G L U T A A O  
V N R R D G H N A B R U Q T O O N I G V  
C Y A O O P I Q O N H T X F W J Z Y P E  
L C X F E A L T K O E U W Z E S U P P B  
R D E F I D C W K O Q M Z Q R B F Z U S  
D R Q R J O V Z O Y W N C J G R K N E U



CORN  
AUTUMN  
BONFIRE  
BOOTS  
OCTOBER  
RAKE

THANKSGIVING  
HARVEST  
LEAVES  
CARNIVAL  
APPLES  
APPLE CIDER

PUMPKIN  
FOOTBALL  
SWEATER  
NOVEMBER  
SEPTEMBER  
SUNFLOWER

