

It is officially the Halloween season! Skeletons of various sizes are being placed out in yards. Candy is flying off the shelves. Children are trying to decide what costume they're going to wear. We here at the church are preparing for our Trunk-or-Treat Car-nival. It's getting a little spooky out there!

People love to get scared this time of year. It's a safe environment to be creeped out by the things that go bump in the night. It's fun to go to the haunted house and have people shout "Boo!" Scary movies on television are entertaining to watch with friends, and if they're ever too creepy, you can just turn on the light and turn off the TV screen.

Halloween is fun because the things out there to scare us aren't real. The zombie is just a guy in makeup. The ghost is just a kid in a sheet. The tombstones are Styrofoam and the spiderwebs are cotton. It's all fake. Nothing can hurt us, so it's okay to scream and have fun. Halloween is a fun kind of scary.

If only the rest of the year was like Halloween. For the other 364 days of the year, we have things far scarier than ghouls and goblins in our lives. We have the doctor's phone call to worry about. There's the pile of bills and a too small bank account to keep us up at night. We have the unknown future to make us afraid. There's a lot of things out in the world that can make us scream that will never be found in a horror movie. And we can't turn these fears off. The mortgage isn't a guy in a mask. It's all too real.

The world is a scary place, my friends. Being scared by the world is a draining thing. The world is so full of scary things that it can make us feel hopeless. And feeling hopeless is the worst.

I take heart in the promise God made in Isaiah 41:10 "do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." God told this to Isaiah during the Exile. God's people are in captivity in Babylon. The Temple was destroyed. They have every right to be afraid.

Yet, God promises them that they will be strengthened. They are told that even in this scary place, God is with them. God will not solve all their problems, but God will help them through it. God will guide them and empower them.

Friends, God is still with us, even when we are afraid. When we face the unknown, we face it with God. With God on our side, what do we have to fear?

Doesn't mean that life will be easy. God isn't going to *poof* and solve all our problems. God will be there to give us wisdom and strength. God will be there to help us deal with the outcomes. God will never leave us scared and alone.

The world is a scary place even outside of Halloween. But we know the truth. We can be brave and hopeful because God loves us. God is there with us. So let us not be afraid. God Bless! Pastor Ed

Disciples and Dragons Youth Group Is meeting every other Sunday at 6 PM

TOPS Club meets at LUMC on Mondays, 4:00 PM, Room 206, use north east door.

Looking Ahead

Lakeville Fall Festival – Saturday, Oct. 11

LaVille Fall Break – Oct. 16-20

Disciples & Dragons Youth Group Sunday, Oct. 19, 6:30 PM

Mary Magdalene Mission Circle – Tuesday, Oct. 21, 7 PM

Finance Committee Meeting – Tuesday, Oct. 21, 10 AM

Ida Mission Circle – Wednesday, Oct. 22 meet at Coppes Commons at 11:30 AM

Trunk or Treat – Saturday, Oct. 25, 4:30 PM – Here

Euchre Game Night – Saturday, Oct. 25, 6 PM

Food Pantry – Tuesday, Oct. 28, 3 – 6 PM

All Hallows Eve – Friday, Oct. 31, “The Barn”

Online giving is available for your convenience

Scan the QR code for the direct link.

Also, at lakevilleumc.org



Food Pantry Needs: vegetable oil, dishwashing soap, ketchup, box potatoes, boxed rice side dish, ranch dressing, pancake syrup, cake mixes, frosting, baking supplies, pancake mix

Food Pantry is open to anyone in the Union North school district as well as to our church family on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month 3 – 6 PM

Sunday Fellowship Time Refreshments Schedule

Oct. 12 Riddle's Oct. 19 Bev Feitz Oct. 26 _____

Sign up at the bulletin board outside the kitchen door.

Sunday Kids Church Schedule

Oct. 12 Charlotte Oct. 19 Rita Oct. 26 Hope

Sign up at the bulletin board outside the kitchen door