

November 4, 2019 Huntley UMC weekly email

Dear friends,

A lot of people really get into Halloween. It's a big holiday celebration these days. I'm not just talking about children going door-to-door building their holiday candy stash, it's a much bigger deal than that. Some people go all out and decorate their homes and yards to rival Christmas, sometimes whole neighborhoods. There are Trunk or Treat gatherings at churches and businesses, adults have parties complete with costumes, and haunted houses to scare us silly abound. A lot of people really get into Halloween. Me, not so much!

Oh, don't get me wrong, I don't have a personal problem with a little Halloween fun. I get my treats ready for the evening, and wait expectantly for the doorbell to ring, and I love to give out treats and see all the children's costumes. And I always make sure I have ample supplies of treats to hand out because a little left over isn't a bad deal for me either! Just saying! And I don't have a religious problem with Halloween like some Christians do. I just see it as harmless holiday fun. No, for me, Halloween is just another day that some people get excited about, and I observe, mostly from the sidelines.

But then comes the day after, November 1st. Not many people celebrate on November 1st, but it is the more important day for me. It is All Saints' Day! Now my religious instincts perk up. This is a day to celebrate! All Saints' Day is an opportunity to give thanks for all those who have gone before us in the faith. It is a time to celebrate the lives of people who have died during the past year, and to give thanks that they are now part of what the church calls the great cloud of witnesses, who surround us and encourage us and cheer us on as we run the race of faith.

So, on the Sunday immediately after All Saints' Day, Huntley United Methodist Church celebrated All Saints' Sunday. We voice the names of those we have lost during the past year, we light a candle in their memory, and ring the church bell in their honor. On All Saints' Sunday we give thanks for both the saints in glory and those still on earth, who have led us to faith in Jesus. As they have shared the gospel with us, may we add our voices to the gospel message so someone else may hear and accept the grace and love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Companions in Christ group meet on Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

WCI Team will meet on Tuesday, November 5th at 7:00 p.m.

Huntley UMC Administrative Council will meet on Thursday, November 7th at 7:00 p.m.

Huntley UMC annual Charge Conference will meet on Friday, November 8th at 7:00 p.m.

Early Response Training for mission teams will be held on Saturday, November 9th from 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Evangelical UMC in Billings.

See you in worship,
Pastor Gary Geiman