THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS: Sandy Morgan wants to express her gratitude for your prayers on her behalf for her recent surgery. She is now out of the hospital.

LAY LEADERSHIP TEAM meets today at 5 p.m. in the Parlor. All team members should be present at this meeting.

TODAY IS THE FINAL DAY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE LOVE OFFERING to express congratulations on the marriage of Justin & Yeimi Rice. Pat Douglas, Angie Rose, Laura Messimer, or Lesia Garrison are collecting the monetary gifts. Do not make checks payable to the church, please!

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NEW DISCIPLE STUDY, "Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis," by the Institute for Creation Research, is a series of 12 DVDs for 12 sessions. The first session begins, Wednesday, August 2, at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall with leader, David Gilliam. Everyone is invited to attend.

JOIN US AT THE HOME PRAYER GROUP at 11 a.m. at the parsonage (238 Moon Circle), Thursday, July 27th. Everyone is welcome.

THE YOUNG ADULTS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS begins a new series on the history of Christian denominations on Sunday, August 20th, 9:45 a.m. at the Family Life Center. Wait Morse is the teacher, and he invites all young adults in our church to join this class.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE SOLAR ECLIPSE on Monday, August 21st. This is a great opportunity to witness to the love of Jesus and to provide assistance to those in need in Rhea County. SCUMC will provide parking by donation, concessions, and restrooms. There will be a tent in each parking lot where donations will be collected, with two volunteers needed per tent, in 2-hour shifts beginning at 8 am. Volunteers are also needed in the FLC to monitor bathrooms, beginning at 10 am. The FLC will be provided with concessions, and are asking for donations of individually wrapped baked goods or other items for their efforts. All proceeds go to purchase school supplies and backpacks for foster children in Rhea County. Please see Kathy Heimel, 423-333-9667, or call the office to volunteer or donate.

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Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?

Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.

Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.