



February 2012

## Pastor's Page

### Beyond Cards and Chocolates

Ah, love is in the air! Valentine's Day is just around the corner, a day for romance and lovers. Or is it? Would the real Valentine (yes, he was a real person, not a cherub who shot arrows) even recognize our February 14 celebration?

Valentine was a priest in Rome who lived during the reign of Emperor Claudius II. Claudius was not a nice guy. During his rule, Claudius engaged Rome in several bloody battles. The battles were fierce, and to keep his army strong the Emperor needed to continuously recruit soldiers. (Soldiers have a way of needing to be replaced.) However, according to legend, Claudius found that many men resisted joining the army because of their wives and children. So, through a stroke of genius, Claudius cancelled all marriages and engagements in Rome, thus eliminating the primary excuse for not going into battle.

However, word spread among young Roman lovers who wanted to get married despite the Emperor's decree, that there was a priest who would secretly arrange marriages of young men and women. The priest was Father Valentine – not so much a romantic at heart, but an early advocate of the separation of church and state. Unfortunately, Valentine's defiance made him famous. When the news of the rouge priest reached Claudius, he ordered Valentine's arrest. The priest was arrested, brutally tortured and finally put to death on February 14, about 270 AD.

For his martyrdom, Valentine was named a Saint after his death. By the Middle Ages, Saint Valentine became popular as the patron saint of lovers. In 496 AD, Pope Gelasius declared February 14 as St. Valentine's Day. Thus, Saint Valentine's martyrdom day became an occasion to celebrate love.

Over the years, St. Valentine's Day has become associated with red hearts and roses. It is the ultimate day of romance. But Father Valentine most likely would not recognize the idea of love we observe on his day. Love, for Valentine, was not a pink card with mushy poetry. Love was risking your life and standing up against evil. There was little time for romance under the reign of Claudius II.

But let's not give up on love, just yet. Let's see what the Bible has to tell us about love. Probably the best Biblical definition of love is found in 1 Corinthians 13. It is read at most weddings. The funny thing is that it doesn't describe love as an emotion. It describes love as action and attitude. It says that love is patient, kind and humble. It says that love is never rude and does not demand its own way, and it always seeks the best for the other person.

Where are the candles and the chocolates? Not there. Now, I'm not trying to put the chocolate makers out of business, but what if our celebration of St. Valentine's Day went beyond "romance" and included a Biblical definition of love? What if we spent the days prior to and following February 14 as days we practice being patient and seeking the best for those we love? How did you express your love by your action and attitude yesterday?

This kind of love doesn't need to be reserved for one special day, and can even be shared with all the people in your life. This St. Valentine's Day, let's go beyond the card and chocolates. Let us love one another in action and attitude, for love is of God.

With love,

Jay

## *Sunday School in January*

During February we will have nursery care and Sunday School classes for preschool thru 6th grade at both services. There will be a class for 7th graders at the 9 a.m. service only.

Through out the month of February we will continue to learn about Jesus' life. We will hear the story of how John baptized Jesus and how Jesus surprised Nathanael, letting us know that Jesus does know all about us. Following Jesus as the Disciples did will be a part of our lessons and we will learn how Jesus is all powerful.

We encourage every adult and older youth in the church to help in a Sunday school class. Remember to keep our teachers and children in your prayers.

***LIVE - LEARN - GROW***

***FOLLOWING CHRIST'S EXAMPLE***

### **Scout Sunday to Feature Award Presentation**

Sunday, February 4, 2012 has been designated as Scout Sunday by Boy Scouts of America. At UMCNL, our scouts will participate in our worship services that day, and specific religious awards will be presented. All scouts are encouraged to wear their uniforms that day.

Two groups of scouts have been working with our pastors on the "God and Family" award (grades 4-5) and the "God and Church" award (grades 6-8). Both of these awards represent significant amounts of work. Each group has been meeting with one of our pastors for several weeks and have completed several projects in order to earn the award. Congratulations, boys!

***Confirmation classes (8th & 9th Gr.)*** will visit the Korean SouthSuburb UMC (Homewood) on Feb. 19th for their Youth & young Adult service (English). We will leave New Lenox 10am and will return around 1pm. If you like to join us, let pastor Sarah know.

***Confirmation classes (8th & 9th Gr.) will visit Chicago Temple UMC*** worship service and Northern Illinois Conference of UMC office on March 18th(Sun). More details will be posted on March Guide.

**Save the date - April 22nd (Sunday) will be Confirmation Sunday for the 9th Gr. Confirmation Class.** (Both 9am and 10:45 service) We have 11 confirmands who have been faithfully keepng their journey of faith.

**Sunrise service on Easter morning** (Sunday, April 8th at 6am at our outdoor worship site) The Youth will lead Sunrise service. Join and experience Easter joy and the promise of new life!!

### **BARBIE'S BOOK REVIEW**

Every month in the guide I am going to review a book from Mary's Garden (our children's library). I hope you'll take a few minutes, whether you have children or not, to visit this wonderful room. It's a very peaceful place in our church with a wonderful view, no matter what season.

The first book I'd like to tell you about is **The Next Place** by *Warren Hanson*. It's a story about what happens when our life on earth is over. Warren Hanson is not only the author of this book but also the illustrator. The words he chooses to go along with his illustrations are truly comforting. The book is geared for ages 5 and up and I really believe adults can get as much of a sense of peace out of this book as children. So take a few minutes to check out this book. It's one you'll want to share!

**Peaceful Reading !**

**Barbie**

*Don't Forget...Starting Jan. 19th will be a grief support group to help you talk to your children and grandchildren about death. Contact Pastor Sarah or Bonnie Ulstad for more information !*

## Youth News for January

**Youth Winter Retreat (Great Escape)** will be March 2-4th in Spring Hill, MI. The cost of the trip is as follows: Youth \$90 (\$50 registration fee before January 31st and the remain \$40 before Feb. 26th ), Bring your own money for the road food (2 meals - Dinner on March 2nd and Lunch on March 4th ), Adult chaperons - \$0, Bring your own money for the road food (2 meals - Dinner on March 2nd and Lunch on March 4th) - Registration forms are on the information desk. We are looking for 2 male chaperons.

**Youth Summer Mission Trip** will be July 29 - August 3 in St. Louis, MO. The cost of the trip is as follows: Youth & Adult Chaperons \$150 ( \$75 registration fee before March 15th and the remain \$75 before June 15th ), Bring your own money for the road food ( 3 meals - Lunch on July 29th, Dinner on Aug. 1st , Lunch on Aug. 3rd ) - Registration forms are on the information desk. We are looking for two male chaperons.

**Wildside(Thursday night Youth fellowship)** is looking for adult chaperons. Contact Judy Selby(her number, 815-285...) if you can help.

**Youth Cornerstone (Sunday gathering of praisie and worship), 6:30-7:30pm) - Come and Join us!! (6th-12th Gr.)**

Date	Theme	Speaker
Jan. 22	Mercy & Justice	Mrs. Lamparski
Jan. 29	Self Control	Mr. Swanberg
Feb. 5	God's Concept of Family	Ms. Samuels
Feb. 12	Sibling Rivalry	Ms. Jasurda
Feb. 19	New Concept of Family	Director of House of Hope (Youth Rehab. facility)
Feb. 26	God's Grace Upon Dysfuctional Families	Mr. Clark

*Thank you to Bob Field, Michael Johnston who shared wonderful messages with youth at the Cornerstone on Jan 8th and Jan.15th. Thank you to Kathy and Keith Keogh who taught the 9th Gr. Confirmation class on Jan 15th.*

**Youth small groups (If you are interested in joining, contact pastor Sarah)**

**Jr. High girls (6-7th Gr.)** (Leader: LeAnn McQuen) Every other Sundays 5:30-6:30 (Conference Room) (Jan 22, Feb 5, Feb.19) Topics: Teen emotions; how to control?

**Jr. High boys (6-8th Gr.)** (Leader: Russell Brower) Every other Sundays 5:30-6:30 (Fellowship Hall) (Jan 22, Feb 5, Feb 19) Topics: Tough guys:Teen self image

**High school girls (8th -12th Gr.)** (Leaders; Lynn Lamparski & Karin Ulstad) Every other Sundays 5:10 -6:30 (Kitchen & Mary Phillips Library) Topics: Growing into godly women

**High school boys (9th- 12th Gr.)** (Leaders: Al Longtin & Devin Calrk) Every other Sundays 10:15- noon (Mr. Longtin's house) (Jan. 29, Feb.12, 26) Topics: Road blocks and faith tools

\* **Jr. High fellowship "JAMUTC"** (game and devotion) night - Every other Wednesdays night. 6:00-7:00pm Feb. 1st, 15th (Chapel) - We are looking for male chaperons for this event. Contact Emily Redman or Tracy Swanberg if you are interesteds in.



### **Grief Support Group (*An Angel on Your Shoulder*)**

How do you talk about death to your children and grandchildren? Starting January 12th (Thr.) 4:30-5:30 pm at Conference Room, we will share and support one another based on readings from children's bereavement books (Christian perspective). This Group will meet for ints final 3 weeks (Feb. 2, 9, 16) and Bonnie Ulstad will be the facilitator. Anyone who lost their loved ones or has a loved one in hospice care can join us. A sign-up sheet is available at the Fellowship Area. For more information, contact Pastor Sarah Hong.



## Mission Trip Planned to Native American Mission Site

For the last several years, UMCNL has been sponsoring a missionary in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. We would like to build a stronger relationship with our missionary, Meri Whitaker and the mission center where she works, Cookson Hills.

Our Senior Pastor, Jay Carr, has volunteered to lead this group. We have tentatively identified April 15-21 or April 22-28. If you are interested in participating in this trip, please let Jay know (seniorpastor@umcnl.com or 815-485-8271).

The Cookson Hills Center has been a very significant part of the mission work of the United Methodist Church in Oklahoma since 1948. The presence of the UMC among rural low-income people in Northeastern Oklahoma has shown an important aspect of the way we care for others as concerned Christians. The primary target group of the center's services is Native American people, most being of the Cherokee tribe.

While there, our group will do a variety of work, both big and little projects. People of all skill levels are encouraged to participate. We will be assigned specific jobs based on the skills we bring. There are jobs for all capabilities. Because of the dates, this will primarily be an "adult" trip.

The cost per person will vary depending on the number of people going on the trip, but will probably be between \$200 to \$300 per person for the week. Financial aid may be available for those who need it.

We can take a maximum of 20 people. We will firm up dates in mid-December based on those who have expressed an interest, so hurry!



Thank you so much for the rides, meals, cards, and phone calls after my accident. But, mostly, thank you for all of your prayers. We could not have gotten through these past few weeks without your wonderful support. We are truly blessed!

Peg & Marty Driscoll

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you for all of your prayers, calls, cards, and a special "thank you" to the care team for the poinsettia after my surgery. This has been a rough road to recovery and knowing that all of you are there, praying for me and care for me during my recovery helps more than you know.

Blessings to you all,  
Nancy Dodds

We would like to thank our wonderful church family for the generous love gift. It was so unexpected and so appreciated. We are truly blessed to be part of this church.

Thank you and God bless,  
Hugh and Carol Tinman

Thank you to everyone that remembered me with cards and gifts during the Christmas Season. It feels so good to know I am appreciated by you. Without my "right-hand gal," Robin, I haven't had the time to write individual "thank you's" to you, so I hope you won't be offended by my more "public" thank you.

Blessings to you all,  
Wendy Miller

Thank you to our loving church family for the generous love gift for Christmas. It was a wonderful surprise and will be greatly enjoyed by our whole family. Blessings to you all!

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Sarah, Caleb, Lydia and Abbigail

***Thank you to everyone who donated to the Mitten Tree this year! The Mittens, scarves and hats were divided between the Joliet and New Lenox Food Pantries this past week and they were thrilled to receive them!***

I would like to thank everyone who called, sent cards, and/or remembered me in their prayers. I am doing fine now and greatly appreciate your concern for me during my convalescence.

Gratefully yours,  
Dorothy Boldt

Thank you for your church's generous gift of \$130 to the ***Lamb's Fold Center for Women and Children***. We are very grateful for the support of your church has given us over the years. It is so encouraging to us!

Gratefully,  
Rhonda L. Sykes, Executive Director

# MENSNews

The next breakfast meeting for the United Methodist Men will be Saturday, February 4, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. Please join us.

## ANNUAL SWEETHEART DINNER Saturday, February 11 at 6 p.m.



sponsored by  
the United Methodist Men

tickets on sale now \$45/couple  
contact Bob Stasiowski for more info

## Women's News



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

*Women of the church, please consider joining a circle. It's a great way to meet new friends within the church family as well as to serve God and others in the community and around the world.*

**Women interested in joining a Women's Circle** who aren't sure which one they may enjoy the most, please contact June Miller, Dolores Barenz or Wendy Miller at the church office (815) 485-8271. They will be able to explain the age groups and meeting times of the various circles and the contact name of the person for that circle.

**Lydia Circle** will meet on February 21<sup>st</sup> at the church, regrets only to Meri Sorgatz.

**Rebecca Circle** will meet on the 2nd Wednesday at 7 p.m. every other month. Contact Amie Burgess for more information on the next meeting.

**Ruth Circle** will meet at 7:00 P.M. Wednesday, February 1 at the home of Vanessa Belcastro. Directions will be emailed. Co-hostess and devotions will be by Nancy Jarosik and the program, "Be A Shepherd" will be given by Marion Geyer. No ladies are always welcome.

**Sarah Circle** will meet Friday, February 10 at the home of Michelle Sargent at 7 p.m. RSVP Michelle. *The March meeting will be Friday, March 9 at 7 p.m. at the home of Kristine Bonebrake.*

# Methodist Men Do!!!

**DID YOU FORGET US IN 2011?**

**NOT IN 2012, PLEASE!!**

**SEPTEMBER FLEA MARKET**

**WE COLLECT DONATIONS ALL YEAR**

**CALL US KEEP US IN MIND EVERY DAY**

**ALL HOUSEHOLD, FURNITURE & YARD  
(Working, Useable, NO junk)**

**YOU CALL & WE HAUL**

**Jim Speicher 815-485-4794**

**UMW is seeking a Chairman of Social Action.** Please contact June Miller at 815-722-7635.

## Hannah- Made Fudge Is Returning!!!

*Watch for the coming information on how you can order fudge for your "Sweetie" AND help support missions through the UMW Hannah Circle at the same time! What better way to spread the love than twice the love for one price!*

**The Cookbooks Are  
HERE!!!**

**The Cookbooks Are  
HERE!!!**



The "Celebrate 175 Years" Cookbooks are here! If you were unable to purchase one in May, you may purchase one in February at the church office. Cookbooks are \$10 each.

## Finance Ministry – Rooted in History: Giving for the Future.....

The fourth quarter report of our church's Financial Ministry reflects a positive balance of \$32,798 or approximately 5.2% of our total budget. Income was 7.5% under budget, but our shortfall was offset by disbursements being 12.8% under budget. Total disbursements were under budget due to a combination of Program Support Ministries being under budget by 8.7% due to an unfilled budgeted position coupled with Ministry to Others – and TWG Reserve and Conference Claims - being under budget by 35.5%. For the first time since the inception of Together We Grow, we were able to fund \$18,000 towards the TWG Reserve from the General Fund.

Please continue to pray for the financial health of our congregation and for the financial leadership. We thank you for your gifts and extend a special appreciation for those members who have accelerated and increased payments of their commitments to meet the year end revenue needs. As we say good bye to 2011, it is now time to move our ministries Boldly into the Future in 2012. Remember; when you give, you are growing ministries, changing lives, and changing you. This is the transformative spirit of Christ and our church.

**New Lenox United Methodist Church  
Finance Ministry Quarterly Report  
As of December 31, 2011**

<b>Receipts:</b>	<b>12 Mos Year-to- Date</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>
<b>General &amp; Unidentified Pledges</b>	\$ 528,097	91.8%	\$ 575,500
<b>Loose Offerings</b>	14,034	89.4%	15,700
<b>Holiday Offerings Other Receipts</b>	37,981	105.2%	36,100
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 580,113</b>	<b>92.5%</b>	<b>\$ 627,300</b>
 <b>Disbursements:</b>			
<b>Pastoral</b>	\$ 176,820	99.5%	\$ 177,700
<b>Program Ministry</b>	135,842	91.3%	148,800
<b>Property Ministry</b>	148,457	92.4%	160,600
<b>Ministry to Others</b>	86,196	61.5%	140,200
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 547,315</b>	<b>87.2%</b>	<b>\$ 627,300</b>
 <b>2011 Year-to-Date Balance (Deficit)</b>		<b>\$ 32,798</b>	
		5.2%	

The Finance Committee  
Laura Christiansen, Chairman

*A detailed revenue, expense and budget comparison report is available in the office.*

### TWG Fund Account as of December 31, 2011

November 30, 2011 balance	\$602,531.64
December receipts from pledges	56,216.76
Interest	220.00
Other Receipts (Recycle & Interest returned)	9,841.74
TWG Other Income	0.00
December expenditures	0.00
Personal Loan paid off **	-500,000.00
Interest paid for 2011 on Personal Loan	-9,750.00
December mortgage & interest payment	-12,415.88
<b>TWG Fund balance as of December 31, 2011</b>	<b>\$146,644.26</b>

\*\* \$500,000 personal loan was paid off in December. The remaining debt on the building as of 12/31/11 is the mortgage of \$1,859,376.79.





# February Birthdays



2/1 Wayne Town

2/2 Gavin Godfrey

2/3 Owen Nowak  
Terry Platt  
Joseph Shamonski

2/4 Tessa Gallagher  
Jennifer Williams

2/5 Eric Eisenbeis  
Alison Moehle  
Shannon Powell

2/6 Megan Adler  
Stephen Fieffer  
Madeline Karlson  
Andrea Skinner  
Jean Town

2/7 Rebecca Bodenchak  
Sue Powell  
Judy Selby  
Sally Wieclaw

2/8 Harry Geyer  
Darrin Jolas  
Vernette Manzi  
Alaina Toncrey

2/9 Aidan Donnellan  
Derick Gleason II  
Amy Platt

2/10 Jenny Cherven  
Nancy Jarosik

2/11 David Dedic  
Lindsey Murphy  
Laura Pyles  
Brian Stefanelli  
Rebecca Stefanelli



2/12 Genevieve Higgins  
Ty Higgins  
Steve Olewinski  
Mike Shivers

2/13 Laura Brink  
Evan Hawrysz  
Ryan McCarthy  
Fred Mooney, Sr.  
Kaitlyn Saterfield

2/14 Arthur Anderson  
Alan Babbe  
Rolland Cagwin  
Erik Christiansen  
Paul Floyd  
Jeffrey Maier  
Jonathon Penczek

2/15 Michelle Boban  
Sean Gearman  
Jackson Owens  
Kylie Wroblewski

2/16 Carol Briggs  
Jane Corradetti  
Ashley McInerney  
Dan Pajak  
Marie Swanson  
Michael Williams

2/17 Deborah Babbe  
Katherine Cagwin  
Dorothy Christiansen  
Muriel Mooney  
Brenda Rentfro  
Melissa Wilson

2/18 Sarah Lamparski  
Stefannie Sestak  
William Vance

2/19 Jodi Ciarlette  
Arielle Cramer  
Roderick Gleason  
Rachel Lamparski  
Ed Thornley  
Kevin Veerman

2/20 Kent Bader  
Ann Davis  
Ethan Klug  
Ethan Randolph  
Zoe Randolph

2/21 Donna Smith

2/22 Dylan Blievernicht  
Jennifer Sargent  
Christopher Skiniotes  
Robert Stasiowski  
Donna Weber

2/23 John DiMiele  
Helen Smithson  
Michael Staack

2/24 Nolan Nelson  
Tyler Skinner

2/25 Nicholas Toncrey

2/26 Timothy Darche  
Jimmy Gross

2/27 Jacob Habas  
Nroma Karales

2/28 Susan Hecht  
Dan Moore  
Pat Wakey



## Friendship Group

The Friendship Group Luncheon will meet at Aurillio's Pizza in Frankfort Thursday, February 16 at 12:00 Noon. Sponsors are Diane Batson, Pam Bloom, and Mark Batson. Please sign up at the Welcome Table or call Martha Horsley. All are invited age 55+.



### The Columbarium Committee

would like to remind you that columbarium niches may be purchased in the church office. Selection of niches will be on a first-come-first-served basis.

### Attention Members...

If you have lost your name tag or never received one, please contact Marty Driscoll for a new one.

You can reach Marty at:  
(815) 485-4122.



### Prayer Team Ministry ~

Have you ever experienced the power of prayer? Do you believe that prayer is the basis of wholesome worship? Please join the "prayer team" who will pray during the 9:00

and 10:45 worship in the Narthex. See Pastor Sarah if you are interested in joining this ministry.

**Please pray for our Confirmation Mentors.** They will prayerfully support confirmands for the next 8 months. Their names are Kristin Creech, Judy Selby, Julie Blecker, Faith Hatalla, Chris Hagen, Joyce Spalla, JoAnn Gleason, Brenda Rentfro, Al Longtin, Dennis Wychocki and Peter Bonebrake.



There are many opportunities to sign up for flowers for the altar for the 2012 worship year. Please sign up by picking up an envelope from the desk of the church office, fill out the front, place payment inside and turn in either in the offering plate or in the church office.

*The United Methodist Church of New Lenox February 2012*



## \$SCHOLAR\$HIP\$



The time for applying for scholarships is here! Our church has four different scholarships available! They are *The Art Nelson Scholarship* sponsored by the United Methodist Men, *The Reverend & Mrs. Louis Teague Memorial Scholarship* sponsored by the Teague family, *The Thomas H. and Ruth J. Loverude Scholarship* sponsored by the Loverude family, and *The Richard Swanson Scholarship* sponsored by the United Methodist Men. Applicants do need to be members in good standing of the United Methodist Church of New Lenox. The scholarships are awarded to students attending or planning to attend a four year college or university, a two year college or vocational school, or graduate school. For at least one of the scholarships, awards can be granted to the same person more than once through reapplication. There is one form to complete to apply for all four of the scholarships. The criteria and application form for the scholarships will be available through the church office beginning Sunday, February 5, 2012. Completed application forms for consideration will need to be returned to the church office by 10:30 a.m. on the last Sunday in March 2012.

**Volunteers Needed** to assemble the *Guide* every month on the Wednesday after the third Sunday at 9:00 a.m. every month. This is a great help to the office staff and a great time to fellowship with other members.

**We need technical people to volunteer** for the Communications Committee and to assist with running the new video equipment. If interested, please contact the church office at 815-485-8271.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

*"Meals on Wheels"* is looking for volunteers to deliver meals in the New Lenox area once a week.

Please contact Sharon at 815-838-5885 after 1 P.M. for more details and/or to volunteer.

*This program is organized through the Senior Service Center of Will County.*

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# ONGOING YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Remember that the Youth will continue to sell gift cards through the SCRIP program to help fund their Mission Trip, Retreats, Events and other miscellaneous projects. Please think about what you will be spending in the coming month when working out your budget and where you will be spending your money, then purchase gift cards for face value to the places you will be spending your budgeted money - the cards you purchase will automatically earn immediate funds for our Youth while not causing you to spend any additional cash than what you were already planning on spending on your monthly budget! Use the cards for gifts, use grocery gift cards to purchase food items for the food pantry - **DOUBLE YOUR GIFTS WITHOUT SPENDING ADDITIONAL CASH!!!** (Youth AND food pantry will BOTH benefit at the same time with no additional dollars than what you would have spent for the food for the food pantry in the first place!)

*A percentage goes to the church for youth ministries immediately! Order forms are available outside the church office at the information center.*



**WOULD YOU LIKE THE GUIDE  
IN FULL COLOR???**



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAVE TREES???**



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAVE THE CHURCH MONEY ON POSTAGE???**

Call the church office  
and have us add you to our e-mail list for the Guide or  
e-mail us with the e-mail address you would like us to use at  
**business@umcnl.com**



**Worried about your next big presentation? TOASTMASTERS CAN HELP!**

Sponsored by the Men's Ministry of New Lenox (12 Area Churches), Toastmasters can help you develop better speaking and presentation skills, learn to think quickly and clearly on your feet AND build strong leadership abilities. On the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month, Toastmasters meets from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM in the New Life Church (**NEWLOCATION**). The Toastmasters program will help you to develop your communication skills and open doors in your personal and professional life. Instead of laboring in an academic setting, or spending up to thousands on costly seminars, you learn in a self-paced atmosphere of understanding and helpful fellowship. To learn more about Toastmasters International and our unique Communication and Leadership program, contact Nancy Dye.

**VISIT US ON  
OUR NEW WEBSITE!!!**

**[www.newlenoxtoastmasters.org](http://www.newlenoxtoastmasters.org)**

## Midwest Mission Distribution Center Workcamp

We are planning our tenth workcamp to Midwest Mission Distribution Center. We will leave February 12, 2012 and return February 17, 2012. Some jobs we might do are pack cleaning buckets to reach our to some one with a moldy, sagging home. Pack health kits to help someone after an earthquake. Make school desk to inspire someone to learn. Sew hospital gowns that can be used as clothing and taken home with a child after spending time in a hospital. Repair a bicycle or a sewing machine to help someone have a better future. We would like you to consider being a part of this team. You may contact Don or Anna Melton for more information



UMCNL is on Facebook! If you have a Facebook account, search "United Methodist Church of New Lenox." Make sure you get

to the right page – it has a picture of our sanctuary as the profile picture. Be sure to click on the "like" button on top of the page so you get our updates. And be sure to refer the page to your friends!



### **Cleaning for a Reason**

If you know any woman currently undergoing chemotherapy, please pass the word to her that there is a cleaning service that provides FREE housecleaning - once per month for 4 months while she is in treatment. All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. ***Cleaning for a Reason*** will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service. This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help these women. It's our job to pass the word and let them know that there are people out there that care. Be a blessing to someone and pass this information along.

Visit [www.cleaningforareason.org/cancer\\_patients\\_acct.html](http://www.cleaningforareason.org/cancer_patients_acct.html) to get more information and/or sign up for this service.



### **Coffee Hour in February**

- 5 Boy Scouts
- 12 Lydia Circle
- 19 TWG Steering Committee
- 26 Membership Committee

**ATTENTION!!! MEN OF GREATER NEW LENOX**  
(13 years and older)

### ***IRON SHARPENS IRON CONFERENCE***

(whole day event)

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25th**  
8:30 a.m. - 4:55 p.m.

**ORLAND PARK CHURCH**  
7500 W. Sycamore Drive  
Orland Park, IL 60462

Additional information and carpooling available. Contact Daniel at 815-462-3592.

*Please RSVP by Wednesday, February 15th.*



The New Lenox Township Food Panty is experiencing high numbers of residents who are visiting the pantry. The pantry is having difficulty keeping up with the demand. Please continue to bring donations to our "pantry cart" that can be found in the Narthex on Sunday mornings. These are the food items the pantry is most in need of...

chicken noodle soup  
tomato soup  
tuna fish  
mac-n-cheese

ravioli or spaghettios  
green beans, corn, peas  
instant mashed potatoes  
instant flavored rice

peanut butter  
breakfast cereal  
spaghetti sauce  
spaghetti noodles

***noodle side dishes like***  
pasta or noodle roni

***Eat Out Twice a Month at Chili's and Help Support the Church at the Same Time!!!***

What a great excuse to eat out on February 7 and 21, 2012...to help support the church! Every first and third Wednesday of the month through December of 2011, take one of these vouchers with you and **10% of your bill will be donated back to the church!** The voucher is good only at the Chili's on Route 30 in New Lenox. (Give the other voucher to a friend, relative or neighbor to do the same!) **What a delicious way to help raise money for our church's General Fund.**



**Pepper Profit Program**

Bring this voucher when you visit (Dine In or To Go) the **Chili's** location identified below and **10% of your purchase (excluding taxes)** will benefit:

**UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF NEW LENOX**

1st & 3rd Wednesday of each Month  
JANUARY - DECEMBER, 2012

Event/Exp. Date

One coupon per person, per visit at participating Chili's restaurants only. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer ends per expiration date above.

**2390 E. Lincoln Hwy New Lenox  
815-463-8743**

Chili's Location/Telephone



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*Shop & Share at Berkot's*

Remember to participate in the monthly Shop & Share at Berkot's. The first Monday and second Tuesday of the month (February 6 and 7, 2012). Use one slip and give one to a friend!



2141 Calistoga Dr., New Lenox, IL 60451

Store #300      Checker # \_\_\_\_\_

**United Methodist Church of New Lenox**

Berkot's Community Involvement Days are good for:

**February 6 and 7, 2012 (Mon/Tues)**

Total amount of purchase \_\_\_\_\_

(Excluding tobacco, cigarettes, liquor, or tax)

Date of Shopping \_\_\_\_\_

Customer's Signature \_\_\_\_\_



2141 Calistoga Dr., New Lenox, IL 60451

Store #300      Checker # \_\_\_\_\_

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Kids & Company Preschool is now accepting registration for Fall 2012. Class placement will be determined by lottery drawing on Friday, February 10th. Lottery Pre-Registration Forms will be available at the Ministry & Information Table outside of the church office after January 5th. For further information, please call (815) 485-9504.

### Bulletin Board Postings

The bulletin board in the Fellowship Area is a great way to let the church family know what is going on within our church and community. The posted information needs to meet the following 4 criteria so that there is a consistent guideline to follow in approving those items that are posted on the bulletin board and that these guidelines adhere to the values of our church and the advancement of our ministry purposes:



Postings should include these 4 core values of **belonging, growing, reaching and serving**. By meeting these four criteria, we hope to further the Kingdom of God and one's growing in Christ.

To have an item posted on the bulletin board, please bring it to Robin or Wendy in the church office.

The **Church Guide** is published monthly for the United Methodist Church of New Lenox. The deadline for the submission for the February 2012 issue is Sunday, February 19, 2012.



Articles for the **Church Guide** should be put in the mailbox in the church office, or they may be e-mailed to [business@umcnl.com](mailto:business@umcnl.com). E-mail is preferred, but not required. Articles may be edited for content and/or space. Questions should be directed to Wendy Miller by calling the church office at (815) 485-8271 or by e-mailing the above address.



Remember to bring your newspapers, magazines, and old phone books to the recycle bins located at the southeast corner of the church parking lot. Tell your friends and neighbors about our recycling program, too. It benefits our Together We Grow Fund.

## Ash Wednesday Begins the Season of Lent

Lent is an important time in the Christian life - a time of self-searching, reflection, and asking God to change and renew our hearts. During Lent, we “journey” with Jesus as he walks to Jerusalem to give himself as the Gift of God’s love for a sinful world, and bears our sin, our hate and our brokenness on the cross. We take this journey as a community of people, who all share the need for Christ’s powerful forgiveness. We begin this Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd.

You have multiple opportunities to join with others of our congregation to begin this journey:

### Ash Wednesday Communion Service and Breakfast

The United Methodist Women invite all women to their annual Ash Wednesday Communion Service and Breakfast on Wednesday, February 22nd at 9 a.m. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Area for all those planning to attend the breakfast.

We encourage you to attend this meaningful service and time of fellowship. Feel free to bring your friends who might want to attend as well.

Thank you,

Dolores Barenz, UMW Co-President

**The “Lent Event,”** hosted by our Children’s Ministry, will begin at 6:00 pm on February 22nd and will include a simple supper (soup) and learning activities and crafts for children and conversation starters for all ages. There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby or you can indicate your attendance through e-vite. Please indicate the number of adults and children.

**A Service of Ashes and Communion** will be held at 7:00 pm. You are invited to take part in the worship service whether or not you come for supper.

**POWER program (5th -7th Gr) During Lent,** preteens and Jr. high students are invited to learn some basic concepts of the Holy Communion, Baptism, Lent, and Easter. There will be 20 minutes of lesson, 20 minutes of craft & activity, 20 minutes of simple meal. Sign up with church office(815-485-8271) or pastor Sarah. (Bring \$5 per session to cover the meal) March 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th (Wed.) 5:00 - 6:00pm at chapel.

### Lenten Study of “Jesus ~ The New Way” to Begin February 27!!!

Our new Lenten Study of “*Jesus ~ The New Way*” will begin February 27 and run through April 2. This study captures the journey into the life, words and world of Jesus and what they mean to our world today ~ all you need for a compelling journey of deepening your life with Christ our Savior. A Sign-up sheet will be available the early part of February with times and days to fit into your busy schedule. If you have any further questions, please contact Pastor Jay or Kendall Gardner.