

Pastor's Page



Swimming Suits and the Soul

Brenda and I just got back from some time in southern California. One of our sons (Jason) and his family moved to California about 15 months ago because of a job transfer. This was only my second trip to California – ever. While Brenda and I were packing for the trip, I threw my swimming trunks into my suitcase. When Brenda saw it she said, “You can’t take those!”

“What do you mean?” I replied. “The last time we were there, we went to the pool several times.”

“You can’t take those.”

“Why not?”

“You’ll embarrass me.”

“Huh?”

She explained, “They’re too old and ugly. And they reveal too much. You will embarrass me if you wear those. You will have to go get a new pair.”

At closer inspection, they were faded and a bit frayed, and clearly they had shrunk over the years! So we went shopping for new swimming trunks. I have never shopped for swimming trunks in January before. There are not a lot of swimming suit options in the stores of New Lenox in January. Getting a bit frustrated I protested, “Can’t we just fix the old pair? Put in some new elastic? Do we have to throw the old ones out?”

My protest was met with a cold stare and continued shopping. We finally found a pair that would not embarrass Brenda. We made our purchase and headed home. I put my old pair in the trash and put the new ones in my suitcase.

I’ve been thinking a lot about that experience as we have been preparing for the Lenten Season. Lent is all about renewal and discarding those things in our lives that make us less than we should be. We don’t throw our souls away, but we do need to let go of things that distract us from living the lives God intends for us. It is a time to invite freshness into our souls.

On Ash Wednesday, I invited the congregation to “nail to the cross” those things that prevent us from living the lives God intends for us. Each Sunday during Lent you will have a time to do the same. Worries, sin, temptations, etc., will be written on small pieces of paper and nailed to a specially prepared cross. This is a tangible reminder of the “throwing away” and “renewal” process that Lent is meant to be.

Also, throughout Lent, we will be focusing in our worship and small group studies on a series titled, “*Jesus: The New Way*.” This is a great opportunity for you to dig deeper into who Jesus is and what he came to do. See the details of the study inside this issue of the “*The Guide*.”

In basic terms, Lent is the time of spiritual preparation leading up to the great celebration of Easter. We can’t really understand the impact of the resurrection, unless we first travel to the cross. I hope you will use this Lenten season as a time of letting go of some things in your life in order to find new and increased purpose, hope and joy in Jesus Christ!

--Jay



The next **Healing Service** will be held March 11 at 10:10 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
We will continue to be in prayer for you.

Sunday School in March

During March 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 am service only.

In March we'll learn that following Jesus takes commitment. We also hear the stories of Jesus clearing the temple and how the widow gave cheerfully. We'll then learn how Jesus explains why God sent him to save us all.

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

BARBIE'S BOOK REVIEW

This month my review is about a series of three books geared towards older youth. They are written by Catherine Ritch Guess.

Old Rugged Cross, Let Us Break Bread Together, and Victory In Jesus are the story of a young woman, Maggie, who turns off the interstate on her way to Florida and finds Christ in the sands of Finlay, Ohio. The story based on the works of an actual sculptor takes many twists and turns as Maggie searches and finds all that she has been looking for.

The first book in the series will leave you wanting to read more !

Peaceful Reading !

Barbie



Celebrating 100 Years of Girl Scouts! 1912-2012

Calling all past and present Girl Scouts:

Sunday, March 11th is Girl Scout Sunday. Current Girl Scouts will be presenting the colors at the beginning of the 9:00 service. Meet in the Narthex no later than 8:45 am. All Girl Scouts and leaders are asked to wear their uniform and will be acknowledged by standing. Girl Scouts are also helping host coffee hour after the service; please bring a dish of baked goods. Girl Scout Sunday is open to everyone in the community.

Youth News for March

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

Save the date - Sunday, April 22nd will be Confirmation Sunday for the 9th Gr. Confirmation Class. (Both 9am and 10:45 service) We have 11 confirmands who have been faithfully keeping 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!!

Jesus POWER program (4th-7th Gr.)

During Lent, Preteens and Jr. High students are invited to learn some basic concepts and significances of Holy Communion, Baptism, Lent and Easter. There will be 20 minutes for a lesson (Teachers: Pastor Jay & Sarah), 20 minutes of Lenten Crafts & activities, and 20 minutes for a simple meal. Sign up in the church office at 815-485-8271 or Office@umcnl.com) or Pastor Sarah at Pastorsarah@umcnl.com before Sunday, March 4. Bring \$5 per session per person to cover the meal. The dates are Wednesdays, March 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 5-6pm in the chapel.



Pictured to the right and left are of the Super Bowl Sub Sandwich assembly team... (please note the "fashionable" hairnets and blue gloves!)



Thank you to all those who helped with the YOUTH Sub Sale. Thanks to Georgina Koenig who donated bread, pickles, cheese and her time. Thanks to Judy Selby who donated bags and more bags. Thank you to Michael Johnston who donated chip and 54 pickles. Thanks to Claudia Hesslau who donated packets of mayo and mustard. Thanks to all those who baked cookies. AND a big thank you to all those who ordered subs and gave us donations, WE appreciate the support for the YOUTH of our church. We sold over 100 sub sandwiches and after our expenses we raised \$700.00.

Save Your Shoes!

JAMUTC, Jesus And Me Under The Cross, Junior High Youth Group will be having a shoe drive starting April 22. We will be collecting used shoes, boots, sandals, flip flops, athletic shoes, dance shoes, etc. to donate to Share Your Soles. This Chicago organization sends shoes all over the world to areas in need. Please keep us in mind when you start your spring cleaning!



The Youth Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser will be coming up on April 21st at the New Lenox VFW and we will need help and volunteers to help us raise funds for 2012 Mission Trip. Please let Michael Johnston know if you are available to help.



Pictured to the left is the confirmation class that visited St. Mark United Methodist Church in January to experience an African-American service.

Confirmation Class Visits St. Mark UMC in January

Thank you to chaperones (Sue & James Karlson, Colleen & Terry Taylor, Chris Power, Vivian VanDonk, Sandy Zurawski, Sarah Hong). We had a total of 30 people visit St. Mark. We enjoyed the welcoming and energizing service. Here is some feedback from our confirmands.

- *I was impressed by their fast songs and Amen responses. I loved their music and liturgical dance. *(Allison D.)*
- * The most impressive thing was how much the children and youth were involved in the service and how the people were into the service. The congregation seems very lively. They seem more excited about the service. I really liked their songs. *(Alexa Strimbu)*
- *The preacher was very humorous. I liked the songs, liturgical dances and martial arts. *(Violet VanDonk)*
- *The whole congregation sings along and they get into it. The preacher recognized all performers as “Do-Gooders”. I loved their choir and liturgical dance. *(Maggie O’Connell)*
- *The liturgical dance and martial arts performance was phenomenal. *(Jack Gustafson)*
- *The gospel choir was very good and every element in the service was a prayer. *(Kirk Lever)*
- * I was impressed how passionate the whole congregation was when they sang and spoke. I loved their passion in music and other parts of worship. *(Mattie Taylor)*
- * No one sits out of the singing or liturgical dancing. Everyone was involved in the service, The youth involvement in the worship was impressive (liturgical dance and martial art etc.) *(Richie Adler)*
- *I was impressed how much energy the congregation had. There was a lot more music and youth involvement in the worship, which was very good. The congregation was serious, but also had fun with their service. I really liked the whole involvement of the congregation in worship. *(Cari Floyd)*
- *The music was the most impressive thing. In their worship, there were lots of emotion and energy. *(Kat Power)*
- *The whole congregation was very inspiring. They were into all the activities in the service. The church was cheerful and thankful. *(Maddie Karlson)*
- *The youth in liturgical dance and martial art was very impressive. The choir was very good too, but everyone sings along to the music and the whole church seemed like a choir. *(Alaina Clark)*
- *The most impressive thing is the congregation’s love and devotion to God. The choir lifts people up and the congregation was more vocal than we are. Also they were very focused in the service. *(Sydney Kelly)*
- *The liturgical dance was great. There were more things for youth and kids in the service of this church. *(Ashley Hedges)*
- *The choir was awesome. They sang loud and had more songs than ours. I enjoyed the service. *(Kirsten Thalacker)*

One Great Hour of Sharing

On March 18, United Methodists will have the opportunity to do a world of good through One Great Hour of Sharing. The annual churchwide offering on the fourth Sunday in Lent underwrites the United Methodist Church's ministry of compassion to survivors of disaster and extreme need, by providing the funding that secures the "nuts and bolts" of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

For 50 years, United Methodists have supported One Great Hour of Sharing to ensure UMCOR has the funds needed for administrative costs—to keep the lights on and the phones ringing at headquarters. That means that when donors give to designated programs, such as Japan or Haiti relief, those funds go directly to the relief and development field. UMCOR's ministry makes a visible difference in the lives of people in more than 80 countries.

Maundy Thursday Service to Include Disciples' Moms

Last year, our Maundy Thursday worship service included reflections from Jesus' twelve disciples, each wondering if they would be able to stay faithful to Jesus to the end.

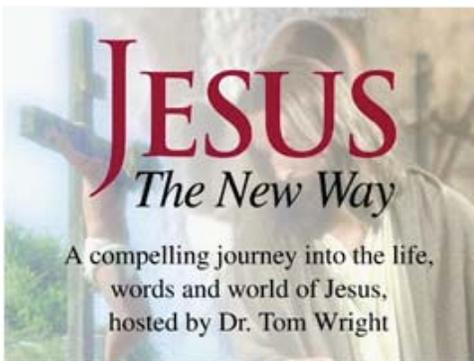
This year, we see the events of Holy Week from the perspective of five mothers: the mother of Jesus, Judas, James, Mark and Barabbas. It will be a power service of reflection.

Our service will be held at 7:00 pm, April 5. In addition to the aforementioned drama, "*Have You Seen My Son?*" the service will include our chancel choir and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Get this on your calendars, now!



All-Church Lenten Study: "Jesus the New Way" Begins



Beginning the first Sunday of Lent (February 26) our sermons and small groups will focus on a look at Jesus as "The New Way." After nearly 2,000 years of Christian history, it is easy to miss how really radical Jesus is.

This series presents Jesus as you have never seen him before. For Christians, Jesus has been seen through centuries of doctrinal development and creedal formulations. For Jews, Jesus has been seen through a frightful history that understandably creates suspicion. For the indifferent, the question is legitimately, who cares? What difference does Jesus make anyhow?

This six-part curriculum approaches all three responses from a different perspective, from the vantage point of how Jesus understood himself, in his original context, in the setting of first century Judaism. We will use videos featuring Biblical scholar Dr. Tom Wright to begin our discussions.

A variety of times and days are planned for this study. A sign-up poster is in the fellowship area at church. Several groups will meet on Monday evenings, begin with soup together at 6:30 pm, watch the video together, and then break into their individual groups for discussion. Other times for the study are Sunday at 10:30 am, and Friday at 9:30 am and 6:30 pm.

TWG Fund Account as of January 31, 2012



December 31, 2011 balance	\$146,644.26
January receipts from pledges	20,404.50
Interest	100.00
Other Receipts (Recycle)	27.82
TWG Other Income	179.10
January expenditures	0.00
January mortgage & interest payment	<u>-12,415.88</u>
TWG Fund balance as of January 31, 2012	\$154,939.80

** \$500,000 personal loan was paid off in December, 2011. The remaining debt on the building as of 1/31/12 is the mortgage of \$1,856,487.63

The next breakfast meeting for the United Methodist Men will be Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. Please join us.



The Mens' Ministry in Milling will once again be cutting up the fallen trees to sell as firewood in an effort to raise funds for the scholarships they sponsor. The wood will be sold in small bundles (\$5) as well as face cords (\$100). We will be doing it on March 31st in 2 shifts: 8-Noon and then Noon until 4 p.m. Last year, it was a HUGE success and we are looking forward to the same this year.

If you would like to help out please leave a note in the Men's Ministry mail slot. Order forms to purchase the wood will be available soon. Its a great time to stock up on wood for the summer time fires!

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

Women's News

Hannah Circle will be serving at Morning Star Mission on Sunday, March 4. Ruth, Jason, Laurie, and Jane are going. If anyone else would like to jump in, you are welcome. We need to arrive at Morning Star at 3:45, so I suggest we meet at church at 3:15 to carpool or at least follow each other.

Hannah Circle will meet at Bonnie Ulstad's on March 9 at 7 p.m. We will make three blankets for Linus, and we will fill a bin of Easter eggs for the egg hunt at church. Please bring a bag of individually wrapped candy. Lynne and Ruth have offered to co-hostess.

Lydia Circle will meet at the church on Monday, March 20 at 9:00 a.m. Regrets only to Janet Stasiowski.

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 Wednesday, March 7 at the home of Marion Geyer at 7 p.m. Co-hostess will be Joyce Korista with devotions and the program will be given by Nancy Jarosik ! "Ten." New ladies are always welcome.

Sarah Circle will meet Friday, March 9 at 7 p.m. at the home of Kristine Bonebrake.

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.

UMW is seeking a Chairman of Social Action.
Please contact June Miller.

**THERE ARE ONLY
3 LEFT!!!
HURRY, BEFORE IT'S
TOO LATE!!!**



The "Celebrate 175 Years" Cookbooks are in the office! If you haven't been able to purchase one yet, you may purchase one in the church office.

Cookbooks are \$10 each.



Please remember our shut-ins this Easter! Candy or home-made cookies marked “shut-ins” may be delivered to the church kitchen by 10 a.m. Sunday, March 25. The Sunshine Committee, Hannah Circle, and our Youth will package the cookies. The Praise Band and Youth will deliver cookies and entertain the residents at Salem Village from 2 to 3 p.m. If you have questions or would like to participate, please contact Jane Corradett.



Thank you to everyone that helped set up, take down, served at and/or donated dishes for the Funeral dinners of Gary Chase and Hugh Tinman in February. Everyone was very complimentary on how wonderful everything was and appreciated your kindnesses greatly. These dinners would not be as well received without all of you and your thoughtfulness during these difficult times.

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for your support this past week. The love you’ve shown our family is something we’ll never forget. The meal was absolutely wonderful, the flowers beautiful, the kind words spoken, and having the choir there meant the world to us. Pastor Sarah led a beautiful service along with Pastor Jay. No words can express our gratitude for Sarah’s support over the past year. In the short time that we’ve known Sarah, she has come to understand our family like few can and her healing words and willingness to listen have been very comforting to us during this difficult time. We are so fortunate to be a part of this church family.

With great appreciation,
The Funeral Committee

Thank you to Lois Meyer, Marion Geyer and Anita Batson who made beautiful flower vases for shut-ins and those who are in the hospital.

All our love,
The Hugh Tinman Family
Carol, Tracy, Caryn, Amy, & Jon

Please accept our sincere thank you for the prayers, cards and visits for Gary during his long illness and recent death. Thank you to the funeral committee for a wonderful dinner, and to Pastor Jay and Pastor Sarah for their visits and words of comfort.

I’d like to thank my “Church Family” for remembering me during my surgery and recovery. The cards, visits, phone calls and Rev. Sarah’s visits meant a lot to me. I’m so thankful to be a part of this “family.”

Sincerely,
The Gary Chase Family

Thanks again,
Jeannine Koehler

Thank you to everyone that purchased **Hannah-Made Fudge and Animal Pants** for Valentine’s Day. We made \$378. We will discuss at our next meeting how much we want to donate to the Emergency Fund. Any remaining funds will go to (an)other worthy cause(s).

Many thanks to the following church family members who helped make the 2012 All-Church Retreat on January 28 a successful day. Thank you to all facilitators who led the brainstorming and goal-setting sessions: Julie Blecker, Cheryl Bruozas, Judy Buell, Bill Christiansen, Scott Creech, John DiMiele, Jim Floyd, Dave McCune, Lauren Rentfro, Brad Sargent, Michelle Sargent, and Lisa Wainwright. Thank you to all youth babysitters who took care of our little church members so moms and dads could participate: Nick Flamini, Cari Floyd, Michaela Johnston, Sydney Kelley, Kirk Lever, Alex Lockhart, Leah Luksetich, Lindsey Murphy and her friend Becca, Maggie O’Connell, Alexa Strimbu, Mattie Taylor, and Kirsten Thalacker. Thank you to our Praise Band members who added a wonderful musical touch to the retreat: Keith Blecker, Marty Driscoll, Bill Cidell, and Rose Hatalla. Thank you to Brenda Rentfro for sharing your artistic talent as we brainstormed the perfect farm animal. And finally, thank you to all who participated in the retreat to help shape the future of our church. God bless you all!



Kids & Company Preschool currently has limited openings in their 2 & 3 year-old preschool classes. For further information, please call 815-485-9504.

Smiles!

Kids and Company Preschool Staff

*Kids & Company Preschool
Brunch Fundraiser*

An English Country Garden

Saturday March 24, 2012

9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

*United Methodist Church of New Lenox
Fellowship Hall*

Admission

Preteen-Adult \$10

Children ages 2-11 \$5

Children under age 2 free



**Enjoy "high tea" in the English Rose Tea Room (Fellowship Hall)
Tetbury Toast and Drop Scones (French toast & pancakes), Imperial Potatoes
(cheese potato casserole), Earl of Quiche Surprise, Stratford Scrambled Eggs
and Sausage, Sweets, Tea Sandwiches & Crumpets, Lemonade, Coffee and Tea.*

37th Annual Campground Festival

Saturday, June 23, 2012 from 10 a.m. ~ 4 p.m.

Raindate will be Sunday, June 24, 2012 from Noon ~ 5 p.m.



Sketch of Georges Seurat's "Sunday Afternoon On the Island of La Grande Jatte"

Serving God In This Community For Over 175 Years

Old Campground Festival ~ The 37th Annual Old Campground Festival, sponsored by our church will take place on Saturday, June 23, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. outdoors in our beautiful campgrounds. Rain date is Sunday, June 24 from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Applications for arts and crafts spaces are available in the church office. Space size is 12 ft. x 15 ft. for \$45.00 without parking in the space or \$50.00 with parking available in the space.

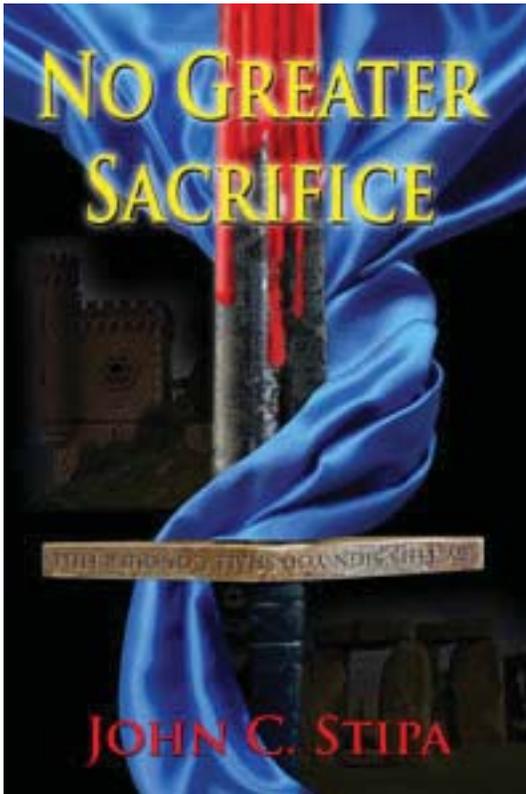
All funds generated from the Old Campground Festival go to the church.

Festival Needs Many Volunteers! Please Sign Up Below and return to the church office:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Games | <input type="checkbox"/> P.A. System | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Up Grounds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Face Painting | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Stand Worker | <input type="checkbox"/> Set Up Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information | <input type="checkbox"/> Tables/Chairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Tear Down Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Table Hostess | <input type="checkbox"/> Cashier | <input type="checkbox"/> Bake/cut/wrap pies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parking | <input type="checkbox"/> Cook Barbecue | <input type="checkbox"/> Use me wherever |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help Check in Crafters | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Sitter for workers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pop/Ice/Coolers | <input type="checkbox"/> Tractor w/cart | <input type="checkbox"/> Children |

I will need babysitter for children while I'm working at festival.

Name _____ Phone _____



"No Greater Sacrifice"

*~ remembering Christ's final days and ultimate gift of love
is the Palm Sunday Cantata this year.*

The cantata is given by the Chancel Choir in memory of Gordon Wakey.

The Chancel Choir will be accompanied by a 24 piece live orchestra.

Eight liturgical dancers directed by Lisa Wainwright
will also be featured in the cantata.

The cantata will be given at both the 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services.

Don't miss this great musical worship experience!



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 a group to Cookson Hills to work at the mission and build a stronger relationship with our missionary, Mari Whitaker. Dates for the trip are April 23-28 (Monday through Saturday). We can take a maximum of 15 people. 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 be between \$200 to \$300 per person for the week. Financial aid may be available for those who need it.



March Birthdays



3/1 Charles Clark
 Ryan Hesslau
 Brian Kelly
 James T. Pitcairn
 Richard Predl
 Susan Reyelts
 Paul Smith

3/12 Natalie Gnade
 Deborah Harvey
 Ken Klug
 Mitchell Mitera

3/23 Melissa Clark
 Mark Hendrickson
 Michael Mitera
 George Neill

3/2 Susan Heaton
 Andrew Jasurda
 Jim Spalla
 Tracy Theodour

3/13 Alyssa Alberico
 Jill Dyrkacz
 Emily Gross
 Suzanne Hammond
 Joan McKune
 Alexander Redman
 Sydney Swanberg

3/24 Jill Ishii
 Fredrick Manzi
 Alexzandra McQuen
 Christopher Pyles
 Jill Ramirez
 Julie Rhodes

3/3 Donna Kickert
 William Krohn



3/14 Jane Ingmire
 Nicholas Pyles
 Kristin Ulstad

3/25 Jill Murphy
 Rose Shamonski
 Ray Trent

3/4 Megan Grant
 Henry Schroll

3/15 Jo Anne Born
 Matthew Harvey
 Caleb Hong
 Gale Murphy

3/26 James Haring
 Michaela Johnston

3/5 Hal Harrington
 Debbie Speicher

3/16 Don Bensema
 Betty Hoyt
 Danica Johnson
 William Lorenz
 Patrick Phillips

3/27 Alex Adler
 Allison Danielson
 Cheryl Larson
 Gwen Vandenberg

3/6 Jay Carr
 Ashley Hopper
 Nicole Hopper
 Nicole Veerman



3/28 John Harvey
 Kristine Loverude
 Bryce Pitcairn

3/7 Elizabeth Clark
 Pam Everts
 Charles Matesi

3/17 Gavin Gleason
 Zoe Sullivan

3/29 Jennifer Nelson

3/8 Dave Johnson
 Matthew McCarthy
 John Vandenberg

3/18 Violet Higgins
 Laura Olewinski

3/30 Josh Bodenchak
 Marianne Dewey
 Margery Ellis
 Kim Kosmatka
 Patsy Loverude
 Mitchell Olewinski
 Jonathan Petyko
 McKenna Williams

3/9 Lori Bader
 Kim Ingram
 Will Jennings
 Cody Vogler

3/19 Larissa Olewinski
 Paige Prochaska
 Brendan Sauriol

3/10 Diane Bucksath

3/20 Georgina Koenig
 Samantha Larson
 Frances Pease
 Alex Smith

3/31 Caryn Bath
 Ellen Haas
 Harriet Koller
 Alexandria Marchert
 Katherine Pacetti
 Connie Petyko

3/11 Cynthia Cook
 Danielle Delaney
 Gary Fritz
 Heather Goewey
 Dakota Lorenz
 Cole Silha
 Paige Veihl



3/22 Jacob Bodenchak
 Kelly Bufford



Friendship Group

The Friendship Group Luncheon will meet at the Country Charm Restaurant in New Lenox on Thursday, March 15 at 12:00 Noon. Sponsors are John Gustafson, Faye Schroll and Rosie Hudson. Please sign up at the Welcome Table or call Martha Horsley. All are invited age 55+.



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.



Coffee Hour in March

- 4 Care Team/Leadership Development Committee
- 11 Music/Girl Scouts
- 18 Finance Committee
- 25 Kids & Company Pre-School

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.

Attention Members...

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



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.



\$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.

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.

SHAKE –A-LEG LINE DANCING

SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2012

7:00 – 9:30 P.M.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:
ANYONE WHO LIKES TO LINE
DANCE
AND THOSE WHO LIKE TO
WATCH

BRING A SNACK OR DESERT TO
BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED



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

All-Church Retreat Adopts Goals Related to Evangelism and Youth

Five specific goals focusing on youth ministry and evangelism were developed at the All-Church Planning Retreat on January 28. Around 90 church members attending the retreat turned the three priorities adopted at our 2011 Charge Conference into five specific goals.

The retreat, hosted by the Administrative Council and organized by the Appreciative Inquiry team, was the “next step” in our Appreciative Inquiry process. The AI team has been working for over a year to identify where God is calling us in ministry for the future. The AI team looked at demographic trends within our church and community, interviewed current and former church members, held feedback sessions, spent time in prayer, and led the retreat as a way to set priorities and goals. In all, including the retreat, over 250 members of the church participated in the AI process.

Two of the goals developed at the retreat were specifically related to strengthening our ministry to children and youth: (1) increasing the number of children/youth/family ministry opportunities outside of Sunday mornings, and (2) adding staff to specifically focus on children/youth/family ministries. Various groups, including the Youth Ministry Council and Staff Parish Committee, will work together to develop specific proposals related to these goals to present to the Administrative Council.

The remainder of the goals focused on how to attract and retain new members to our church. These goals included: (1) developing a third worship service specifically designed to attract a younger generation, (2) expand our outreach efforts through increased “PR” using all the various media available to us, including mass mailing, the internet and television, and (3) increasing our efforts in turning visitors into active members. A short-term task force will be called together to develop an alternative worship service. Other committees like our Membership and Communications committees will begin implementing strategies designed to further attract and retain new members.

Those attending the retreat agreed the day was productive and encouraging. The Administrative Council will oversee the progress on these goals.

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 to get more information and/or sign up for this service.



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 | ravioli or spaghettios | peanut butter | <i>noodle side dishes</i> |
| tomato soup | green beans, corn, peas | breakfast cereal | <i>like</i> |
| tuna fish | instant mashed potatoes | spaghetti sauce | pasta or noodle roni |
| mac-n-cheese | instant flavored rice | spaghetti noodles | |

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 March 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



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

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 (March 5 and 6, 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:
March 5 and 6, 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 # _____

United Methodist Church of New Lenox

Berkot's Community Involvement Days are good for:
March 5 and 6, 2012 (Mon/Tues)

Total amount of purchase _____
(Excluding tobacco, cigarettes, liquor, or tax)

Date of Shopping _____

Customer's Signature _____

Easter Lilies



Please fill out this form to order your Lilies to decorate our sanctuary for Easter. You may pick up your lilies after second service on Easter, or you may designate for them to be delivered to shut-ins. Cost is **\$14.50** per plant.

***Order forms are to be turned in to the office by
Monday, April 2, 2012.***

Given by _____

In Honor / Memory of _____

(please circle one)

In Honor / Memory of _____

(please circle one)

In Honor / Memory of _____

(please circle one)

Total # Lilies ordered _____ @ **\$14.50** each = \$ _____

Would you like to donate your lilies to shut-ins? _____

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 April 2012 issue is Sunday, March 18, 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.

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.