



THE UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER

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Thank You:



♥ **Thank You** . . .to Pastor Mark and my church family for your prayers, contributions of tote bags, clothes, school supplies, and money for my mission trip with Jan Joseph to Nicaragua. *God Bless & Keep All of You, Kay Holtbaus*

♥ **To The Prayer Shawl Ministry** . . .Thank you so very much for the prayer shawl. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness and prayers as we go to Nicaragua on our mission trip. *God Bless & Keep All of You. Love, Kay*

♥ **Thank You.** . . .for the lovely Christmas flower and issues of the Upper Room. *God Bless, Jean Nugent*

♥ **Thank You.** . . .so much for the beautiful Christmas plant and the Upper Room. I appreciate very much being remembered. I attend chapel here at Meridian, and wish it was Methodist. Thank you again. *God bless you all, Elaine Pauesick*

♥ **To My Church Family.** . . I want to express my appreciation for your thoughtfulness in sending me a poinsettia after the Christmas Service. I miss attending church, but am so thankful for the kindness of many church members. Ms. Vicky Jackson made the delivery and it was a pleasure to make her acquaintance. *Thanks again from the bottom of my heart, Dana Heinritz*

♥ **Dear Church Members.** . . Thank you very much for the Christmas love gift. It's a pleasure to serve the congregation. I'm glad you enjoy the music. *In Christian Love, Sue Abbott*

♥ **Dear Stella and all.** . . Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and the beautiful scarf. All three make me feel better. *Sincerely, Bob Jager*



January 29, 2012

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Sue Abbott, Pianist/Organist
Dianna Bickel, Handbell Director
Liz Horn, Pianist/Song Leader
Karl Wirt, Vocal Choir Director
Lori Watts, Office Manager
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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF COLLINSVILLE:

“A place to find an engaging and forgiven
relationship with God and His Children”

FEBRUARY 2012

The Messenger

A Moment With You

With Christmas still a recent memory, the beginning of the Lenten season is at hand. My, how the days go by and transition us so quickly from one season to another. The celebration of the birth of the Messiah means that the calendar will push us into the ministry, death and resurrection story all too soon for us in the church. The beauty of the spring and the bursting forth of new life are reminders of what the resurrection has meant to generations of believers.

In the span of barely 100 days we will have gone from celebrating the birth Jesus to remembering his death and resurrection. It seems like our calendar is all mixed up, trying so hard to take two of the biggest days in Christianity and getting them out of the way of the rest of the year. In some years the span is even closer together. Next year, we will have had our Easter celebration before we ever finish the month of March.

Lent is a time for fasting, ashes, prayers, and remembering Jesus faced temptation in much the same way we do and that through His death and resurrection we can claim a victory over sin and death.

How can we prepare ourselves for the journey through this season? One way is to get yourself prepared for the journey. Celebrate along with the church the entire journey from Ash Wednesday; join with the church for each Sunday worship that carries through the ministry of Jesus and his trial, crucifixion, and the Resurrection. Along with those opportunities, why not unite with a Sunday school class as we learn and talk about our faith together. There will also be a Bible Study focusing on some of the aspects of faith and our willingness or even reluctance to ask the tough questions that come during our faith journey. This Bible Study will begin immediately after the Ash Wednesday service and on each Wednesday evening through Lent.

Why not join us as we journey this Lenten season closer to Jesus? It may have been some time since you last made this type of commitment, but, why let another season go by without putting more into the faith you profess? This journey is just 40 days, and there are plenty of opportunities to unite with others during this time. Young and old, we have a place for you. Check it out on Sunday mornings at 9:00 and or Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Oh, and one more thing, all you have to bring is yourself and your Bible. See you there!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Mark

Sunday, February 12th is Boy Scout Sunday



Two young members of our church family have recently received the rank of Eagle Scout. Alex and Michael Tomaszewski, both seniors at Collinsville High School, have worked hard and are proud of their accomplishment. On Sunday, February 12th, the boys will have their Eagle Scout project on display and will be honored at a fellowship in Wesley Hall after morning worship.



Congratulations On Your Retirement!



Bob Guilander retired at the end of 2011 after selling his practice, Guilander and Graulein, to a Belleville area CPA.

Bob began as a Revenue Agent for the IRS in 1965 until he started working for a Belleville law firm in 1971. In October, 1988, Bob opened his practice, Robert Guilander, CPA, that would later become Guilander and Graulein.

Now is the time to enjoy the adventure that awaits you. We wish both you and Carolyn all the best!

December, 2011 Attendance

| Date | Worship | Sun. School |
|---------------|---------|-------------|
| December 4th | 108 | 34 |
| December 11th | 129 | 35 |
| December 18th | 107 | 32 |
| December 25th | 70 | No SS |
| Dec Avg | 104 | 34 |
| Dec 2010 Avg | 104 | 33 |

December, 2011 Giving

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Contributions | \$18,154 |
| Expenses | \$18,280 |
| Balance | -\$125 |



VBS Summer 2012

Be sure to mark your calendar!
July 22 - 26

A VBS planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1st at 6:30pm. Anyone that would like to help with "Operation Overboard", our Vacation Bible School theme for this summer, should attend.

Missions Update

December Manna Basket

We collected **\$105** in monetary donations and a generous amount of paper products and baby items for CAMA.

Collinsville Food Pantry

Donations totaled **\$111** for the month of December.

Christmas Offering

The Special Christmas Offering received totaled **\$1,797** and was given to the Collinsville Area Ministerial Association (CAMA) Helping Hands Ministry. Thank you for sharing.

Thank you to all who have so generously contributed to these worthwhile ministries.

February Manna Basket

We will be collecting **Hygiene Products, Paper Products, and Laundry Items** for **The Phoenix Women's Crisis Center in Granite City.**

Monetary Gifts are also welcomed.



Phoenix Crisis Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving women, teen and pre-teen domestic violence abuse victims. Provides a facility or emergency shelter for these individuals and offers counseling services through social service agencies. Trained volunteer personnel operate a 24-hour Hotline for emergencies. Mental Health Board funding is provided for mental health treatment services. Serves all areas in Madison County.

*Checks may be made payable to FUMC.
Please help in any way that you can.*

February Food Pantry Needs



Food Pantry Donations Needed

- *Soap
- *Shampoo
- *Deodorant
- *Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- *Laundry & Dish Soaps
- *Feminine Hygiene Products
- *Toilet Paper (ongoing need)

Paper & Plastic Bags and volunteers are always needed

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | | | |
|-----------|------|---------|--|
| Saturday | 2/04 | 3:00pm | Valentine Box Assemble & Pack |
| Thursday | 2/09 | 12:00pm | Lunch Bunch at Bert's Chuck Wagon - Collinsville |
| Sunday | 2/12 | 11:30am | UMCOR Coffee/Chocolate Sale - Narthex |
| Tuesday | 2/14 | | ♥ Happy Valentine's Day ♥ |
| Monday | 2/20 | | President's Day |
| Wednesday | 2/22 | 6:00pm | Ash Wednesday Service |
| | | 6:45pm | Lenten Bible Study |
| Wednesday | 2/29 | 6:30pm | Lenten Bible Study |

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

| | | | |
|-------------|------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| ☞ Wednesday | 2/01 | 6:30pm | VBS Planning Meeting |
| ☞ Tuesday | 2/07 | 11:00am | Priscilla Circle - Wesley Hall |
| ☞ Monday | 2/13 | 7:00pm | Board of Trustees - Meeting Room |
| ☞ Tuesday | 2/14 | 1:00pm | Missions Ministry Team - Meeting Room |

WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES

| | | |
|-------------|---------|--|
| ☞ Sunday | 9:00am | Sunday School - for all ages |
| | 10:15am | Worship |
| ☞ Monday | 6:00pm | Vocal Choir |
| | 6:45pm | Bell Choir |
| ☞ Tuesday | 9:30am | Healing Stitches Prayer Shawl Ministry |
| ☞ Wednesday | 9:00am | Priscilla Workday in Wesley Hall |
| | 4:00pm | Youth Group - Youth Room |
| | 6:30pm | Lenten Bible Study - Beginning February 22 |



Our Mission as a vital congregation in The United Methodist Church, is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Church Family Prayer Concerns

Prayers for Health & Healing: Lowell Ecker, Bob Fresen, Julia Gossett, Joanna Tamburello, Lou Roustio, Rhoda Gibson, Tom Roustio, Joyce Barcliff, Miles & Justine Cochran, Tony Osborn, Kay Knecht, Kelsey Renner and Baby Emma

Prayers for Comfort: Families of Dan Wysocki, Delores Counts

Prayers for Our Church: Bishop Gregory Palmer, District Superintendent Gary Wilson, Pastor Mark Horn, Our Church Staff, Our homebound members and friends, Our members for health and healing, Our Church Renovation, Kay Holthaus, Jan Joseph, and their mission trip to Nicaragua with the NiCE Foundation

Prayers for Our Community: CAMA Helping Hands Ministry, Collinsville Faith in Action, Collinsville Area Meals on Wheels

Prayers for Our Country: Our military men and women and the families who wait for their safe return



Youth Sponsored Baked Potato Bar Luncheon. . .



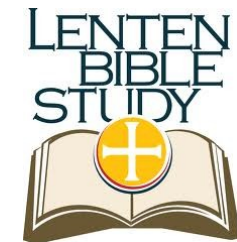
Sunday, March 4th, immediately following worship in Wesley Hall. Our Youth Group is again hosting a "Stuff Your Own Baked Potato Lunch". Baked potatoes with a variety of toppings will be available. Donations after expenses will help defer the cost of Dare 2 Share tickets . Come and enjoy lunch and help support our youth in ministry.

Valentine Dinner and Dance February 14th, 12:00-3:00pm. . .

at the Collinsville Senior Center, 402 East Main. Chicken and Dumplings will be served and you will enjoy the Big Band Music of the Dale Willeford Trio. Cost is \$10 (\$5 for lunch and \$5 donation to the Glenwood Fund). Reservations can be made by calling Al Artimisi, Director of Senior Center, 344-7787. Bring a friend and enjoy the afternoon. Sponsored by the Friends of Glenwood Cemetery.



Valentine Boxes. . . will be packed in Wesley Hall on Saturday, February 4th at 3:00pm. Everyone is invited to help assemble the boxes, and then go out to dinner together around 5:00pm (private dining room). Donations of home baked cookies/goodies are needed and may be brought to the church office. We have approximately 11 boxes to fill for our college students and members of the military. Sign up sheet is in the Narthex for goodie donations and volunteers to help pack the boxes. If you know of any college students or military members that would like to receive a special box from our church, please contact the church office ASAP.



Lenten Bible Study Discussion Class, "Overcoming The Fear To Ask The Tough Questions", beginning February 22nd. . .

Pastor Mark will lead this 9 week study that is open to everyone. The first class will start immediately following our Ash Wednesday Service at **6:45pm**, and will continue to meet each Wednesday through April 18th at **6:30pm**.

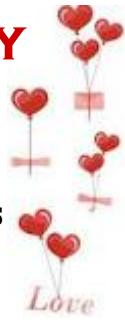


*Regular weekly meetings are Wednesdays at 4:00pm.

Upcoming Events:

- ☞ **Dare 2 Share, GAMEDAY 12,** March 16th - 17th at the Chaifetz Arena, St. Louis.
- ☞ **Agape Fest,** May 4th - 5th at the Bond County Fairgrounds in Greenville.

FEBRUARY Birthdays



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2012

2/01 Joyce McCain
Jessica Jacobs-Borders
2/02 Gail Schmidt
2/03 Albert Zebio
2/04 Kristine Beatty
2/06 Melanie Cummins
2/07 Dennis Luessenheide
Dale Nicol

2/09 Grant Beanland
Joshua Hunter
Mackenzie Hunter

2/12 Mark Schusky
2/14 Haleigh Parker

2/15 Julia Gossett
Miranda Harris
Julie Hicks

2/17 Eula Berry
2/20 Steve Wysocki
2/21 Elaine Hartley
2/22 Jean Nugent
2/25 Fern Miller
Harland Scheibal
Frank Tomaszewski

2/28 Melly Momo
Jessica Wysocki
2/29 Kay Robbins

Anniversaries

2/09 Dennis & Regina Luessenheide
2/23 Bill & Velma Hale
2/24 Kay & Dennis Holthaus

Prayer Thought:

God speaks through His Word to those who listen with their heart.



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|--|-----|--|
| | | | 1 9:00am Priscilla Workday 4:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm VBS Planning Meeting | 2 8:00pm Narcotics Anon | 3 | 4 3:00pm Valentine Box Assemble & Pack  |
| 5 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Greeters: Jim & Jan Williams | 6 6:00pm Vocal Choir 6:00pm TOPS 6:45pm Bell Choir | 7 9:30am Healing Stitches 11:00am Priscilla Circle - Wesley Hall | 8 9:00am Priscilla Workday 4:00pm Youth Group | 9 12:00pm Lunch Bunch @ Bert's Chuck Wagon 8:00pm Narcotics Anon | 10 | 11 |
| 12 BOY SCOUT SUNDAY 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 11:30am UMCOR Coffee/Chocolate Sale 11:30am Fellowship - Wesley Hall Greeters: Evelyn Meni & Stella VanHook | 13 6:00pm Vocal Choir 6:00pm TOPS 6:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Board of Trustees | 14 Valentine's Day 9:30am Healing Stitches 1:00pm Missions Ministry  | 15 9:00am Priscilla Workday 4:00pm Youth Group | 16 8:00pm Narcotics Anon | 17 | 18 |
| 19 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Greeters: Orville & Barb Buxton | 20 PRESIDENT'S DAY 6:00pm Vocal Choir 6:00pm TOPS 6:30pm Dulcimer Group 6:45pm Bell Choir | 21 9:30am Healing Stitches | 22 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:00am Priscilla Workday 4:00pm Youth Group 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Service 6:45pm Lenten Bible Study  | 23 8:00pm Narcotics Anon | 24 | 25 |
| 26 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Greeter: Gail Schmidt | 27 6:00pm Vocal Choir 6:00pm TOPS 6:30pm Dulcimer Group 6:45pm Bell Choir | 28 9:30am Healing Stitches | 29 9:00am Priscilla Workday 4:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm Lenten Bible Study | | | |