



The Messenger

February Issue
2012

Reminder ! Beginning February 5th the 8:00 AM service will move to 8:30 AM to make it more accessible to young families. The format of this service will help it become an outstanding traditional service in "high church" service.

Sunday School will move to 9:30 AM, and the 10:30 AM service will remain at it's existing time. The format of the 10:30 Service will help it become a lively blended worship service of both traditional and contemporary elements.

Faith Promise Missions Sunday Schedule

February 19th

How Shall They Hear?

8:30 a.m. - Sanctuary	Guest Speaker: Mr. Van C. Taylor Executive Director, Kokomo Rescue Mission
9:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hall	Mission Fair Various mission ministries we support will be available to give information regarding their ministries and answer questions
10:30 a.m. - Sanctuary	Guest Speaker: Mr. Van C. Taylor
11:45 a.m. - Fellowship Hall	Pitch-In Dinner Bring a dish to pass and your appetite as we share a meal, fellowship and discussion with each other and our Mission Fair representatives.

Staff

Pastor

Dave Scifres

Office Manager

Karen March

Director of Music Ministries

Jason Gornto

Organist

Don Krug

Accompanist

Kay Weideman
Nancy Spahr

Nursery Attendant

Emily Spahr

Preschool Director

Leslie Scott
Connie Jones,
Asst.

Computer Consultant

Brad Hochstedler

Newsletter Editor

Bonnie Bond



Main Street United Methodist will once again host the Cluster Group's Ash Wednesday Service at 7 PM on February 22nd in the sanctuary. Please plan to join us for this meaningful service which begins the church's celebration of the Lenten Season.

A Note from Pastor Dave...

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

(Romans 10:14-15 NIV)

One of my favorite T-shirts is a knock-off of those billboards that you see around that are completely black with a short "message from God" written in white letters. The message on my T-shirt is this: "That love thy neighbor thing... I meant that – God"

For me, this is a reminder that we serve an awesome God who was in the beginning in mission to us and the entire world through creation, and through the redemption of Jesus Christ our Lord. For me, it is also a reminder that as the Body of Christ, the Church is to continue to serve God's purposes in that redemptive mission in the world today. Finally for me, it is a reminder that all of those who are individual members of the Body of Christ are called to be "missional" people, committed to the mission of making disciples, loving God, and loving neighbor.

This is the purpose of our mission ministries: to share God's love with people beyond our own congregation. Because all people are children of God, we have a responsibility to reach out to all people who need assurance of their acceptance and inclusion in God's grace.

To support this purpose we have decided to hold a dedicated funding drive specifically for missions giving each year. This funding drive will take place within the context of a **Faith Promise Missions Conference**. This year our Faith Promise Missions Conference will be held on **Sunday, February 19th**, and the theme for the conference *will be* "**How Shall They Hear?**", based upon Paul's words to Romans above.

Faith Promise means *discerning* what God is asking you to give of your personal resources, *promising* to give these resources, and *believing* God will be faithful to provide so that the promise may be fulfilled. You will receive more information on our Faith Promise program by mail very soon.

I am thankful for all who have generously and consistently given to the missions program in the past, and look forward to how God will work in each of you through our collective Faith Promise giving in the future.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Dave

PRAYER CONCERNS

Sonja Myers	Christine Ebert	Glenn Hill	Margaret Burkhardt
Vicki Utterback	Aundrya Black	Mardell Wayne	Judy Rice
Christy Conner	Frances Lease	Edward Lautenschlager	Rex Lease
Dale Cook	Troy Norris	Betty Bankston	Kathryn Sholty
Joe Williams	Allie Clymer	Bob Thompson	Helen Tucker
Pauline Thomas	Jennie Stuber	Diana Krug	Jack Jumper
Marilyn Sutton	Brent Alwine	Lance Yoder	Connie Mills
Ruth Yoder	Floyd Fishburn	Darlene Crippen	Delene Ewing
Larry Yoder	Annabelle Butts	Meredith Zandi	Orval Garber
John Fritz	Ann Lockard	Jim Guthrie	Patty Westcott
Cara Pickens	Phil Struble	Sgt. Tommy Davies	Norma DeWald
Shirley Hairrell			

JOYS

Answered prayers.



The 2012 Offering Envelopes are available for pickup in the back of the sanctuary. There are both monthly and weekly envelopes. All of the boxes have names on them.

If you did not receive a box of envelopes and you wish to have them, please contact the church office at 472-3323.

You may notice that your envelope number has now changed. So don't forget to discard your old & unused envelopes.

USHERS NEEDED!



Due to losses amongst our ushering staff, we have a real need for more ushers. Each team has usher duties only 3 months per year. This is an easy way to help your church and to meet people. No prior experience is necessary. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Dave Swihart at 472-4974 or call the church office.

Contribution Statements:

Your 2011 End of Year statements are in envelopes in the back of the Sanctuary (in alphabetical order). Any envelopes not picked up, will then be mailed by first class postage which can be costly.

If you have a question about your statement, please call the church office at 472-3323.



The new 2012 Altar Flower Calendar is now available and is located in the main hallway on the bulletin board. The cost for flowers is \$17.00 and is payable during the month you sponsor. *This is a wonderful way to honor or memorialize a loved one and help beautify the altar area each Sunday.*

MISSIONS OUTREACH NEWS

"We are sent to serve God in our World"

Mark 12:31 (NIV)

"The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

"Times are tough" -

We *hear* that each and every day as we read the paper, watch television, and listen to the radio.

Many of us *see* it at the Salvation Army with the increase in numbers eating the free lunches as well as the ever-increasing drain on local food pantries.

We *feel* it with every food item placed in the 34 backpacks being sent home each and every Thursday so that a few of the many children in need have something to eat on weekends.

Our *calling* as God's people is to serve. Our *mission* as His church is to provide the means for all to serve. Missions Outreach is actively working on programming to do just that. Faith Promise will support those programs financially but we also need the support of each and every member and friend of Main Street UMC through active involvement. Your Missions Outreach Committee will provide a monthly list of how you can actively serve God in our community.

February 14 (aka Valentine's Day) - what a wonderful time to revisit the words of Mark 12:31!

February Mission Focus - "something for everyone"

- **Food Pantry** - any and all non-perishable items needed
Focus this month - paper products and personal hygiene items
- **Birthright baby bottle fundraiser** - baby bottles will be handed out after worship and available in the office for pick-up. We are asked to fill the bottles with "pocket" change and return to church by March 1st. This money will be used to provide formula for the youngest in our community.
- **Reward Cards and "Buy one get one free" deals** - consider donating these items
- **Backpack Ministry** - 2nd Thursday of each month (7:30 am for about 20 minutes) a small group is needed to meet at a local church to pack food into 34 backpacks. Please call the Church office for more information or to sign up.
- **Troop Support** - the needs of our military troops continue. Care packages will be sent out the end of February. An updated list of suggested items will be available in the back of the sanctuary and at our donation center outside the sanctuary. Magazines are not needed at this time. Cards and letters are always appreciated. Especially enjoyed are cards, letters, and drawings by the little ones - the continued freedom for this generation is exactly why so many of these soldiers, airmen, and sailors have *volunteered* to serve.

Missions Outreach is an open committee. Anyone interested in visiting our meetings or with suggestions for mission needs/ministry work in our community is encouraged to contact a committee member. Looking forward to seeing you all at our FAITH PROMISE celebration, February 19!

*Serving to the Glory of God,
Missions Outreach Committee*

YOUTH EVENTS

Sunday, February 5th Super Bowl Subs!

Sunday, February 5th Youth Council 11:45 a.m.

Sunday, February 12th Lazer Tag 11:45 a.m.

Sunday, February 26th Game Night with Pastor Dave & Dawn 5—6:30 p.m.



"Hello" from all of the Preschoolers



January was a very exciting month. The first week or so was spent getting back into our normal routine. The Children hadn't seen each other in a couple of weeks, and they seemed to have a lot of catching up to do.

Our monthly field trip was to the State Police Post. The Children were given a great tour which was led, 2 out of 3 times, by a Preschool Grandfather, Ron Whitney. Sgt. Slocum joined us for the last tour, and the Preschoolers had the added treat of being able to meet the Post's Police dog.

Another exciting event occurred when Ray and Mary Courtney, our Preschool's adopted Grandparents, came for a surprise visit. This time they brought a real moose antler which, the Children were able to handle. Grandma Mary also brought two little toy moose to help them visualize how the antlers are placed on the head. This is a side note, but the next time you see Ray ask him about Itsey Bitsey Spider. His answer will bring a smile to your face.

At the last Preschool Board meeting it was decided to institute some new policies involving the safety of the Preschoolers. From now on the classroom doors will remain locked as long as children are present. Also background checks will be required for any interaction with the Preschoolers, and finally, the restrooms outside the Preschool room are to be used only by the Preschoolers while classes are in session. Your help enforcing these rules will be greatly appreciated.

The Preschool has some items that have broken and need to be replaced. If you happen to have an old DVD player and / or vacuum cleaner you are no longer using, we could really put them to good use. Any help that you could give us would be very much appreciated.

This month our concentration will be the testing of the Children to see their weak areas and to work on improving them. We will also celebrate Valentine's Day, and P1 and P2 will take a trip to the Miami County Historical Museum. The P3 class will be taking a tour of a dentist's office which will work with a unit on dental health. All three classes will begin their study of Lent.

In closing, the Preschoolers and I want to wish you and your Family a very Happy Valentine's Day.

Leslie

UMW Jewel Of A Woman Award

Every year a special woman is selected from our church to receive the UMW Jewel Of A Woman Award. On Sunday, January 22, 2012, this honor was awarded to **Cindy Woloshuk**. Cindy serves our church and community in so many ways. Besides serving as Chairperson of Missions, Cindy helps with the UMW Market and Dinner, circle meetings, funeral dinners, works with the Salvation Army, and is always there to help in any way she can at Main Street. Congratulations, Cindy!

**LOOKING
AHEAD**



*The LION, the WITCH
and the WARDROBE*

DON'T MISS OUR LENTEN SERMON SERIES:

February 26 th	1 st Sunday in Lent	Mark 1:9-15	"The Road to Glory"
March 4 th	2 nd Sunday in Lent	Romans 4:13-25	"Faith in Transition"
March 11 th	3 rd Sunday in Lent	John 2:13-22	"A Passion for the Kingdom"
March 18 th	4 th Sunday in Lent	Ephesians 2:1-10	"Face to Face with Grace"
March 25 th	5 th Sunday in Lent	Jeremiah 31:31-34	"Great Restorations"
April 1 st	Palm Sunday	Mark 11:1-11	"The Final Countdown"
April 8 th	Easter Sunday	Mark 16:1-8	"The Coronation"

Mark your calendars for the UMW White Breakfast on March 31st.



As you are cleaning from the holiday, don't forget to save the items you don't want for our annual **Spring Rummage Sale on May 5th**. If you have any questions, please contact Rosemary Rice.