

The Norwalkian

A Publication of Norwalk First United Methodist Church

February 2012

OUR VISION STATEMENT

We open our doors to all to join us as we attempt to address our weaknesses and enhance our strengths while using our unique spiritual gifts in service to our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Our Thoughts & Prayers are with...

Mike Battles
Gregg Berry
Jerry Braden
Joan Blackburn
Clinton Campbell, Sr.
Robert & Rita Dean
Morgan Jones
Jason Laughlin
Alice Mills
Paul Mock
Craig Murray
Marilyn Pierce
Tom Walcher

Dear Friends in Christ,

When we think about the month of February we think about the themes of “love.” When we were kids, every bulletin board in the school was covered with holiday red hearts. The February 14th occasion was a time for a party and class fun. Within the family, Valentine’s Day was a time for baking cookies and decorating cards for one another.

As I prepared for my sermon on January 29th, I struggled with what hymns and worship songs might be appropriate for the morning’s scriptures and sermon. My theme for the day was: “It is easy to go on with our lives thinking that no one is looking at our attitudes and actions. However, this morning’s scripture reminds us that not only do our lives make a difference, but others often are led and influenced by what we do. Are we mindful of this part of the journey?”

After preaching the first service message, I had a revelation. Absolutely, the worship song we should be singing, as we affirmed our Christian witness, was “They’ll Know We Are Christians by our Love.” The refrain says it so plainly, **“they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.”**

Paul is clear. Love builds up (I Corinthians 8:1b). Jesus instructs us to “love one another” (John 13:34). These passages are words of encouragement that we should share the love of God with others. During these days, let us offer Christ’s love to others and to those who do not know Jesus.

Near the close of February (as we enter the Season of Lent) let us also remember that God shows us his love. An old USA folk hymn explains it: “What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.”

“In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins” (I John 4:10).

During this month when we witness love themes all about us, let us remember the love that God has for us and let us freely offer the love of Jesus to those we meet. Yes! they will truly know we are Christians by our love.

Blessings,
Rev. Gary



Thank you to everybody for your cards, calls & prayers. I am truly blessed to have you as my Church family.

God bless,
Lucile Lemmerman

Thank you Rev. Gary and my friends for the cards, phone calls, and visits during my precious sister's passing. God loves you and so do I.

Gloria Kenne

Thank you to Pastor Gary, Wesleyan Circle and everyone for your prayers, calls and cards I received after my recent knee surgery.

May God bless you all as he has blessed me.

Glenda Benner

Thanks to all our church family for the cards, concerns and prayers. Also thanks to Pastor Gary for his visits and prayers while Max was in the hospital.

Max & Corrine Opper

The following hand-written note was received from Jessica Vargo—Conference Treasurer:

I wanted to take this time and thank you for your committed response to paying 100% of your 2011 shared ministry funds. Because of your generosity, mission and ministry will receive even more funds in 2012!



Our prayers and sympathy to the family & friends of Bill Berry, who passed away on January 18th.

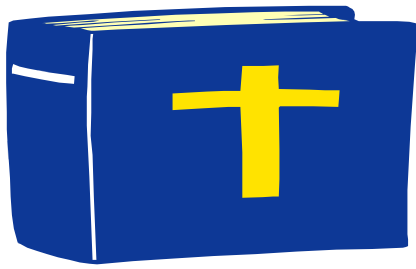
February Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Isabelle Ballard | 15 Nancy Feyedelem |
| 2 Bob Andrews | 16 Shirley Doughty |
| Clinton Campbell | Richard King |
| 3 Samuel Freeman | 17 Mary Jane Ewell |
| 5 Nathan Phillips | Morgan Jones |
| Taylor Tanzillo | Patti Jackson |
| 8 Nick Bright | Charee Walcher |
| Jim Fishbaugh | 18 Julie Pavelich |
| Chris Hadaway | Randy Pelham |
| 9 Cole Berry | Peggy Wheeler |
| Ted McClaran | 19 Virginia Harper |
| 10 Don Helton | Sarah Christophel |
| 12 David Bodde | 20 Bette Livingston |
| Patrick Horning | Kimberly Zeigler |
| Victoria Plotner | 21 Ann Jennings |
| 13 Eric Crumrine | Jim Penwell |
| Hope Gockstetter | Paula Thorpe |
| Faith Kastor | Sandy Wurmser |
| Linda Newsom | 25 Isabelle Wetherill |
| 14 Kay Fletcher | 28 LaMar Zieber |
| Larry Koch | 29 Eric Hull |
| | Victoria Wheeler |

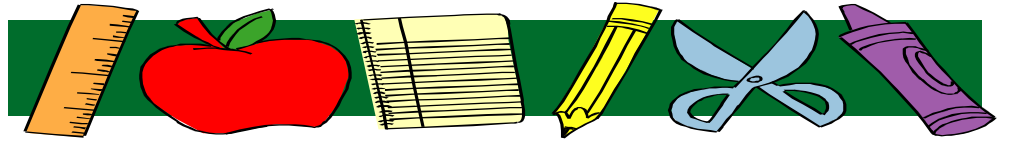
February Anniversaries

- 1 Mark & Kelly Strimpfel
- 6 Jason & Becky Potts
- 12 Nicolaas & Pam Van Giesen
- 17 Scott & Mary Tester
- 20 Todd & Marlie Tanzillo
- 26 James & Mary Meisler





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



It's easy to think about Vacation Bible School when the temperature is reaching 60 in January! (Thanks Lord, I needed that!) Sarah and I have chatted and we have some new ideas about this year's program; now it's time for you to chime in.

The week is July 16th—that much we know for sure, but it might be time for a schedule change. I TRULY NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!!! E-mail your responses to dldeann@gmail.com. What do you think? Shall we...

_____Keep everything the same old, same old? Monday-Friday 9am-12pm.

_____ Try something different? Start Sunday the 15th with a church picnic and run the program Sunday-Thursday? And what if we got really crazy and threw in a time change too? Say 6-8pm maybe?? (It might give some people that have always wanted to help with VBS the chance to step up and have a great week with our kids.)

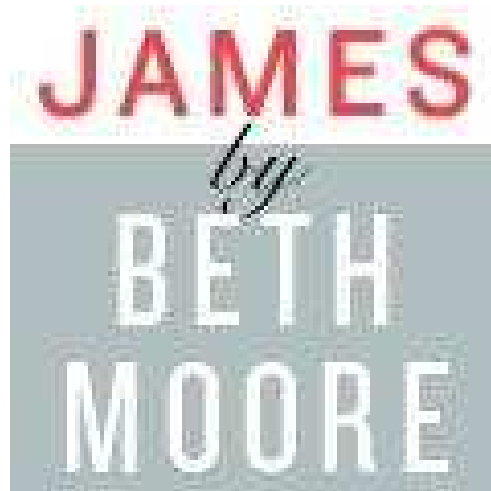
Now REALLY, I need your suggestions (e-mail me: dldeann@gmail.com) If your kids have sports, lessons, etc. I want to know. This is your chance to have a voice about the best week of the year!

While we're on the subject of opportunities, I would like to invite you to be a part of the Christian Ed Committee. I have 6 openings...YES SIX!! Email me...dldeann@gmail.com. Why, you ask, do we need a Christian Ed Committee? Because WE can do so much more than ME! A single 'I' does not make great progress and it's time we start moving forward.



WHAT GOOD IS YOUR FAITH?

“James: *Mercy Triumphs*” forces us to face the implications of faith. Be inspired to put your faith into action as you get to know both the man and the Book of James.



This new, interactive study begins Tuesday, March 6th at 7pm with registration and a video. The remaining classes will meet 6:30-8:30 and will include a video and small group sessions. Come for the video session, group session or both!



February is heart month, so this month we would like to talk about *Heartburn*. What is heartburn? Your stomach digests the food you eat by producing acid. Most of the time, this acid stays in your stomach where it belongs. Every now and then, a bit of acid backs up into the tube—known as the esophagus—connecting your throat and stomach, and the backed up acid creates a burning sensation. This is heartburn. Heartburn has nothing to do with your heart. The name comes from the fact that the acid causes a pain in your chest near your breastbone—close to your heart.

How can you keep heartburn to a minimum? Instead of eating one large meal, eat several small ones. Choose your foods wisely--try to limit or avoid coffee, hot chocolate, colas and other drinks with caffeine. Avoid foods made with tomatoes. Eat fewer fatty and spicy foods. Skip the peppermints after dinner. Although it might seem like a peppermint will settle your stomach, the opposite is true—it can give heartburn. Stop smoking. Take time to relax. At times heartburn is difficult to differentiate from chest pain, so always call your healthcare provider or go to the emergency room if you are not sure.

“I leave you peace; my peace I give you. I do not give it to you as the world does. So don’t let your hearts be troubled or afraid.” John 14:27

Mark your calendars for the following blood pressure screening dates:



February 19th
March 18th
April 15th
May 20th

***Please note: Blood Pressure Screenings will take place 9:30-10:30am in the Rotunda.*

JAMES

Mercy Triumphs



Study begins
Tuesday,
March 6th.



PATHFINDERS Upcoming Events

- February 5th 11:30 a.m. Church Auction
- February 12th 12:00 p.m. Ice Skating Trip
- February 15th 1st \$35 Progressive Payment Due for Nehemiah Mission Trip
- February 19th No Pathfinders
- February 26th 5:30 p.m. Fellowship / Bible Study



Altar Flowers

The 2012 Altar Flower Calendar
is posted in the Rotunda.

Please be sure to fill out the Information Card (located directly across from the calendar) and turn it in to the church office prior to your scheduled Sunday.



Our Budget

BUDGETED ITEMS	2011 Budget	2011 Expenses	2012 Budget
Church Expenses	\$96,050.00	\$91,239.32	\$96,885.00
Office Expenses	5,375.00	4,961.92	6,250.00
Apportionments	87,196.00	83,291.56	85,412.00
Benevolence	5,800.00	5,644.72	4,200.00
Parsonage Expenses	13,660.00	10,143.98	14,830.00
Program Expenses	24,297.00	25,417.77	24,100.00
Salaries/Benefits	181,133.00	174,843.79	191,645.00
Vehicle Expenses	6,310.00	6,348.16	7,510.00
Other Operating Expenses	2,100.00	6,656.19	2,300.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$421,921.00	\$408,547.41	\$433,132.00

DID YOU KNOW??

Huron County has a NON-Food Bank

If you would like to donate any of the following items, please place them in the Food Bank Box in the Rotunda.



- Toilet Paper
- Bar Soap
- Dish Soap
- Trash Bags
- Multi-Purpose Cleaners
- Paper Towels
- Laundry Detergent
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Facial Tissue



Distribution takes place on the 3rd Thursday of odd-numbered months from 2-5pm at the Congregational Community Church, 29 Chapel Street, Monroeville.

Lent



Tuesday, February 21, 2012 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
Hosted by the United Methodist Men.

Wednesday, February 22, 2012 12:00 p.m. / 6:00 p.m.
Holy Communion

Wednesday, February 22, 2012 6:30 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Worship
A service offering prayer and the imposition of ashes.

Wednesdays, February 22-April 4, 2012 6:30 a.m.
Lenten Prayer Breakfasts
Join Rev. Gary in weekly devotion while enjoying a delicious breakfast provided by The United Methodist Men.

Thursday, April 5, 2012 6:00 p.m.
Holy Thursday Dinner
Hosted by the United Methodist Men.

Thursday, April 6, 2012 8:00 p.m.
Holy Thursday Worship Service
Our evening worship remembers the gathering of Jesus and his disciples as we share in an Upper Room Holy Communion.

Friday, April 7, 2012 8:00 p.m.
Good Friday Tenebrae Service
This Service of "Darkness" is an extended meditation on the passion of Christ as we remember Jesus crucifixion.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

FEBRUARY

1
 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
 11:00 a.m. UMW Tea

3:30 p.m. Logos

6:15 p.m. Carillon Bells
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

2

 Groundhog Day

5:00 p.m. Girl Scouts
 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts
 7:00 p.m. Sally King
 7:30 p.m. Praise Band

3

4

5
 8:30/10:30 a.m. Worship
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School



Auction

6
 6:30 p.m. Trustees
 8:00 p.m. AA

7
 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts
 8:00 p.m. Al-Anon

8
 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

3:30 p.m. Logos

6:15 p.m. Carillon Bells
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

9
 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts
 7:00 p.m. Sally King
 7:30 p.m. Praise Band

10

11

12
 8:30/10:30 a.m. Worship
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 12:00 p.m. 7S Luncheon



Boy Scout Sunday

13
 6:30 p.m. SPRC
 7:00 p.m. Shakespeare
 7:30 p.m. Endowment
 8:00 p.m. AA

14

 Valentine's Day

6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts
 8:00 p.m. Al-Anon

15
 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

3:30 p.m. Logos


6:15 p.m. Carillon Bells
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

16
 5:00 p.m. Girl Scouts
 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts
 7:00 p.m. Sally King
 7:30 p.m. Praise Band


17

18

19
 8:30/10:30 a.m. Worship
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure

20

 Presidents Day

2-7 p.m. Blood Drive
 7:00 p.m. Naomi-Ruth
 8:00 p.m. AA

21
 Shrove Tuesday


1:30 p.m. Wesleyan
 5-7 p.m. Pancake Dinner
 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts
 8:00 p.m. Al-Anon

22
 Ash Wednesday


6:30 a.m. Lent Breakfast
 12:00 p.m. Communion
 6:00 p.m. Communion
 6:30 p.m. Worship
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

23
 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts
 7:00 p.m. Sally King
 7:30 p.m. Praise Band

24

25

26
 8:30/10:30 a.m. Worship
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School



FIRST SUNDAY in LENT

27
 6:30 p.m. Committees
 8:00 p.m. AA

28
 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts
 8:00 p.m. Al-Anon

29

 Leap Year

6:30 a.m. Lent Breakfast

3:30 p.m. Logos
 6:15 p.m. Carillon Bells
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir



Love One Another

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