

Christ United Methodist Church

Fall Newsletter 2014

Take a minute and read the following story.

After 78-year-old Tona Herdon's husband passed away, she was completely devastated. The last thing she was thinking about was protecting herself from crime. To add to her tragedy, Herdon was visiting her husband's grave site when something heartless happened – she was mugged. The story made headline news when the mugger was arrested and 15-year-old Christian Lunsford instantly recognized the thief as his estranged father. The father arrested several times before, in and out of prison, had recently given his son \$250 for a band trip that he wanted to go on. But this teen proved he was wise beyond his years and has a heart bigger than the majority of humankind. He did something that completely shocked Herdon, proving that genetics doesn't always mean everything. Not knowing if the money his father had given him was from the crime against the 78 year-old Tona, he arranged to meet her in a church parking lot, and there he gave the money back to her. She accepted it! Then she said it was hers to do with what she wanted, so she turned right around and gave the money back to Christian for his band trip. The two hugged and she commented later on how mature a young man he was. There were no victims here in this story.

This is an old story by now, but for some reason it came up on my Facebook posts and I took it as a sign that I needed to share it with you. This to me is a perfect example of what Jesus was talking about when he said "For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?" This story of Tona and Christian is about giving oneself, or at least giving something very precious to oneself without reservation, to another. Both Christian and Tona did this for the other, and in the end they both won. That is why I said there are no victims here, only two people who truly know about emptying themselves for the other.

This is what Jesus is talking about. This is the Cycle of Gospel Living. The Cycle is about those who have the power (in this case the one who has the money, the 15 year-old boy) who chooses to give up the power, which in turn empowers the powerless one (the 78 year-old woman, who was robbed). This then empowers her, making her the one with the power (because she now has the money!). What does she do? She then gives up the power (again because she is the one who now has the money) and gives it back to the powerless one (the 15 year old boy)!

This is Jesus' idea lived out perfectly. It is a simple story! It is a profound story. It is a story that can inspire us all to find very simple ways in our everyday, so-called normal lives to live out this same Gospel Living.

May this wonderful autumn open to you new opportunities for transformation as we witness the transformation of our physical world.

Blessings

Pastor Bruce

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"Love the Lord your God
with all your Heart, Soul,
and Mind." Matthew
22:37



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3489.

CUMC updates and upcoming events

Sunday School Class

Christ UMC has an adult Sunday school class directly following Worship on Sundays, from 10am to 11am. We are currently studying together a book by Pastor Rob Bell called, What We Talk About When We Talk About God. In this book Bell challenges the reader in everything they think they know about God. He tackles the misconceptions about God, showing how God is not being left behind but is actually ahead of us, pulling us forward into lives of greater fullness and vitality. Come join us for stimulating conversation and in-depth study.

Book Club

Our Book Club continues to meet, and we want to take this opportunity to invite any and all to be a part of it, come and have a great time talking and sharing about the books we read together. The Book Club is really just an excuse to have good conversation. Currently we meet at Grounds for Thought Coffee Shop in BG from 9-10:30 every Wednesday. If you are considering joining us, let us know if that time works for you, or not. I think I speak for the others when I say we would be open to considering a different time and place. We three who meet regularly feel that having more people there would mean more fun. Presently we are reading The Poisoner's Handbook, in which Pulitzer Prize winner Deborah Blum's tells about the history of forensics in the early 20th century. It is an interesting and fascinating read. Our next two books are I Thought My Father was God, edited and introduced by Paul Auster. This is a book of true tales from NPR's National Story Project. Taking stories from all walks of life and all over the country, giving readers a glimpse of America's soul in all its diversity. The second book is Double Cross, by Ben Macintyre. It is the true story of the D-Day spies of World War 2. Talk with either Pastor Bruce, Richard Gill or Sandy Gill if you are interested in joining us. We collaborate on which books to read, so bring your suggestions and we can have fun reading and conversing together.

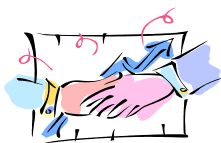
Blessing of the Animals

On Saturday October 4th, 2014 at 7pm Christ UMC will host a Blessing of the Animals for the community of Portage on our front lawn. Blessing of the Animals is a many century old event celebrated in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures. This is a time to celebrate and honor the animals in our lives. We will share about the joy they bring to our lives and how they have enriched our family. There will be an opportunity during this time to have a blessing prayed for your animal (s), as well as handing out of treats and a time to let your animals be with each other.

Tell your friends and neighbors, let's have a great time together.

THANKS

to the
Wood
County
Gate



Volunteers who took time out of their busy life to help out with this year's 2014 Wood County Fair, they are as follows: Vicky Allen, Katie Boltz, Vicki Cramer, Anne & Jay Deutschman, Carole Fitzwater, Doris Herringshaw, Don Mears, Jackie Palmer, Alyce Roller, Rev. Bruce McDaniel, and any other members we might have missed from last minute additions/changes to the list of volunteers.



Just a few photos taken during another successful Blood Drive at Christ United Methodist Church, June 9, 2014. Thanks to those who stopping by to donate blood and all our great volunteer staff. Our next blood drive has been scheduled, and the Blood Mobile will be here Monday, September 8, 2014.

Birthdays, Anniversaries for members of CUMC, September 2014

BIRTHDAYS

1 Janet Kidd
 2 Sarah Herringshaw
 4 Kathy Bame
 Deb Smith
 6 Spencer Bechstein
 8 Mark Deutschman
 10 Pauline Thiebaut
 12 Judy Amend
 13 Skip Glassford
 Troy Amos
 Richard Deutschman
 15 Carole Frances
 Paul Glassford
 16 Andy Coe
 Judy Swanson
 17 Kara Hunter
 18 Marie Bressler
 Linda Canterbury

19 Richard Canterbury
 Betty Hampshire
 24 Tom Holloway
 25 Sarah Ducat
 26 Don Allen
 27 Jerry Foltz
 Justin Frank
 Wanda Frank
 Ray Keys
 Shirley Summersett
 28 Winton Boltz
 29 Emily Curtis
 30 Mike Keys

14

ANNIVERSARIES

1 Millie and Robert Broka
 Nancy and Lynn Gillian
 2 Sandy and Richard Gill
 3 Shareen and Jeff Avery
 7 Nancy and Jim Cessna
 Tricia and Jason Naus
 11 Anne and Jay Deutschman
 27 Eileen and Neil Smith



Birthdays, Anniversaries for members of CUMC, October 2014

BIRTHDAYS

1 Clarence Kidd
 2 Jenny Bechstein
 Anne Deutschman
 3 Jean Wack
 5 Lauren Deutschman
 6 Deena Deutschman
 Jennifer Graffin
 7 Kristen Zarecki
 8 Sharon Hernandez
 9 Kurt Lee
 10 Millie Broka
 Mary Lou Loose
 Kirk Summersett
 12 Elie Krassow
 15 Stuart Foos
 16 Linda Allen
 18 Greg Amend
 Maria Roberts
 25 Michael Allen
 28 Connie Deutschman
 Lynn Gillian
 29 Regina Amos
 Jeff Avery
 Robin Espen
 31 Sally Amos
 Judy Bressler
 Karla Carney

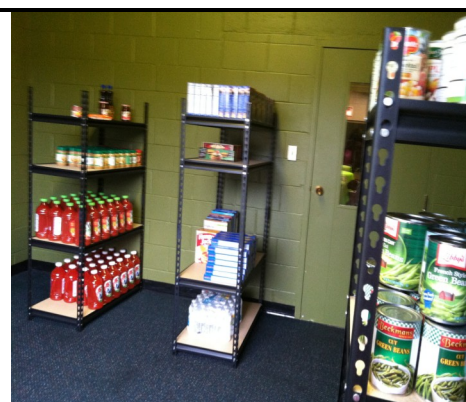
ANNIVERSARIES

4 Kelli & Mike Daniels
 Rosemary & Stan Patten
 8 Pat & Murray Watkins
 21 Amy & Rex Lee
 26 Jane & Gary Wulff
 30 Vicki & Brian Cramer



Getting the room ready for the
 Food Pantry at CUMC

Food Pantry is now ready for
 Opening Day, Saturday,
 8/30/2014



More CUMC news

Reach for Excellence And Classical Homeschooling (R.E.A.C.H.)

Hello, My name is Robina Grunden. I have two daughters ages 14 and 18, and I have been running home school co-ops for many years. When my family moved to BG, I realized there were no home school co-ops, so I felt the Lord lead me to start REACH with my friend, Charlotte Shanks.

REACH is a Christian home school co-op consisting of several families with children ranging from birth to 12th grade. Families come together once a week to share their educational talents and host classes that are more fun to do in a group setting (i.e. debate, drama, foreign language, etc.). In order to be a part of the co-op, at least one parent from each family is required to be present with their children and must teach or assist at least one class. Students prepare by doing daily work at home, which they present and discuss during co-op time. Families and students develop lifelong friendships in the context of an educational Christian setting.

We have met at Christ United Methodist Church a few times for special REACH events through Jeremiah Diegel, and now we are very excited and grateful to Christ UMC for hosting us this coming school year! Classes begin 9/5/2014.

Robina Grunden

OUTREACH MEETINGS Will be held the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Trunk or Treat

For those who may live outside the village of Portage and want to participate in the long time tradition of handing out treats at Halloween, your opportunity to do that will come this October. Other groups have done this and called it Trunk or Treat, where you gather in a parking lot and pass out treats from the trunk of your vehicle as the children come to you. At the writing of this article the day and time of Trick or Treating in Portage is not known. When we get word of that we will announce it enough ahead that you will be able to plan to be there.

This would be an excellent chance to meet families of Portage and connect with them.



Birthdays, Anniversaries for members of CUMC, November 2014

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Abe Diehl | 13 | Drew McDaniel |
| | David Fawcett | 14 | Angie Foos |
| | Mary Jo Newman | 15 | Diana Bacon |
| 2 | Chris Amend | 19 | Karen Deutschman |
| | Beth Lowell | 24 | Matthew Deutschman |
| | Sandy Gill | 25 | Nicholas Palmer |
| | | 27 | Natalie Beaverson |
| 8 | Bruce McDaniel | 30 | Jared Boltz |
| 11 | Brandi Reynolds | | Seth Daniels |
| | Krystal Loera | | |
| | Lynda Loera | | |
| 12 | Sara Avery | | |
| | Tricia Naus | | |
| | Courtney Smith | | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 4 | Cherie and Mike Curtis |
| 19 | Dawn and Steve Hasselbach |



The Christ United Methodist Church newsletter is published quarterly. Comments and suggestions for articles may be submitted to Gloria Enriquez Pizana or deposited in the Newsletter mailbox in the Narthex. Anyone wishing to write articles for the newsletter is welcome to do so. Please check with Gloria regarding the deadline date for the Winter newsletter. Thank you!

<http://home.dacor.net/ChristUMC/>