

Christ United Methodist Church

Spring Newsletter 2015

Pastor's Letter 2015

You can sense it in the air! You can feel it in your bones! After what seems like a forever winter and extremely cold weather we are just around the corner from Spring! As the church enters this time of the year we have a special story to tell of Resurrection. Out of the life and suffering and eventual death of Jesus came a surprise.....New Life.

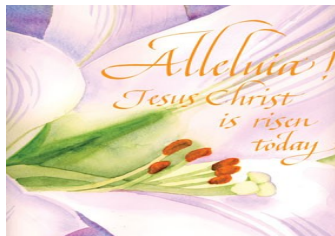
The hope of being raised up to live again is the hope of Spring. All around us winter looks as if it has killed off all vegetation, all growth, all life. We notice that there is not much activity going on in the cold and chilly months, and that includes ourselves. But with spring we start to notice the tentative coming to life that begins to take place all around. This initial budding gives way to awakening blossoms. This blossoming eventually bursts into full grown fruit, into mature and healthy life.

With this as our backdrop, let us also allow Spring to stir new life in us. Let us allow God to work in us new wonders, new imagination that is open to wonderful possibilities. Let us dream how God might bring new life to our lives, to our relationships, to our work, to our retirement, to our passions as well as our hobbies.

What are the "miracles" that God can help make happen in our ministry and outreach, in our hospitality and learning, in our risk-taking service and mission here at Christ UMC. Is it time to allow God to bring new life, to raise us up from where we are and set us on a bright and hopeful path for decades to come. I think so! I believe its time! I believe God will do it and I believe that you and I as Christ UMC are ready for it to happen.

With God's raising up of new life from old, let us allow this time of new life beginning to push forth from the long winter sleep in the world around us. Let it inspire and lead our spirits and our hearts to set us on a new course this year. What wonderful things will God call forth from you and me? What are we going to be asked to let go of that doesn't work anymore? What are we going to be asked to step out into the unknown and do or be? I do not know what that lies ahead for each of us but I do know whatever it is, that God will walk with us along the path.

Pastor Bruce



Inside this Spring issue, APRIL—MAY 2015

Upcoming Events	2
Ways We Have Served Others	2
April Birthdays, Anniversaries	3
May Birthdays, Anniversaries	3
Imagine No Malaria	3

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR EASTER, 2015

The District United Methodist Men sold plants in support of the Ministerial Scholarship Fund to help support district students going into the ministry.

The cost was \$8.00 per plant, and orders and the deadline date was Sunday, March 15, 2015.

As always, THANK YOU for your continued support of the Maumee Watershed United Methodist Men's ministry.



MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2015

We will be joining together with two other United Methodist congregations: First United Methodist Church and Turning Point United Methodist Church in Bowling Green this April 2nd. Beginning at 6:30 p.m. we will gather at First UMC for a carry-in meal together. After about an hour of eating and fellowship we will then proceed to the sanctuary and worship together in a Maundy Thursday Service of word and table and ending with a stripping down of the altar and sanctuary in preparation for Good Friday.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD, 2015

I encourage everyone to watch for any upcoming announcement concerning the Bowling Green Ministerial community Good Friday Service and join in that for your worship experience that day.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE, APRIL 5, 2015

Service on Sunday, April 5, 2015, begins at 7:30 am, and breakfast will be served at 8:00 am. We hope to see you there.

MOTHER-CHILD DINNER

On Wednesday, May 13, 2015, Christ United Methodist Church will have it's annual Mother-Child Dinner. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm followed by a program at 7 pm. Make your reservations now. Details as to the menu and the program will be forthcoming. Mark the date on your calendars and watch for the updates. (If you are reading this on the website either call us at the church, 419-686-2621 or e-mail us at christumc@dacor.net with your reservation)

BOOK CLUB

We are currently reading Mary Stewart's **THE HALLOW HILLS**, which is Book Two of her four book series of the Arthurian Saga. We continue to meet on Wednesdays at Grounds for Thought, located at 174 South Main Street, Bowling Green. time is 9:00-10.30 AM:

Ways We have Served Others this Year

An update on the ministry projects ongoing here at Christ United Methodist Church:

In February 2015, the Outreach Committee held a breakfast for the church where one's "cost" for breakfast was to bring in a donation of food for the food pantry (see related article) or a donation of items for the Humane Society. (see related article) It was very successful effort. Both organizations were helped and everyone had a wonderful warm breakfast.

PORTAGE FOOD PANTRY (located within Christ UMC)

The Food Pantry was the focus of a donation effort in February entitled "Love Your Neighbor" which picked up on our celebration of Valentines Day. People were asked to choose from items printed on heart shapes which included such things as: 2 gallons of milk, 2 dozen eggs, 5 cans of peaches, etc. Most of these were taken and the gathering in of the donations helped stock the food pantry with canned goods and dairy products. THANKS again for all your support of this much needed ministry. We will be continuing to collect special food offerings throughout the year to help stock the pantry.

WOOD COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

Around the time of Christmas and New Years the Outreach Committee put out a basket with the picture of a cute puppy and the words Blankets for Puppies. People were asked to donate their old blankets and towels to keep dogs warm at the Humane Society. The effort was hugely successful. The basket was overflowing many times. When we delivered them to the Humane Society it took us 3 loads to give them all the blankets we had gathered. The current donation for the Wood County Humane Society is our collection of bleach and paper towels. THANKS for your warm and generous hearts. We will continue to collect donations for the Wood County Humane Society throughout the year. Watch for further announcements.

Birthdays, Anniversaries for April 2015

BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

1 Richard Gill	20 Kristen Allen
3 Helen Bowen	21 Alissa Jacobs
4 Emilie Garn	Austin Jacobs
5 Mel Amos	22 Jim Holloway
6 Jay Canterbury	Holly Espen Pultz
Fran Hottinger	Kristy Wulff Akdemir
9 Mark Canterbury	
10 Matt Avery	24 Amanda Amos
Andy Fitzwater	Travis Frank
Jason Hasselbach	Dawn Snow
Zachary Hasselbach	25 Jerry Bateson
Josh Holloway	
Ruth Troxell	27 Jean Espen
	28 Cathy Finkhousen
11 Mike Berry	Nancy Gillian
13 Corrine Bressler	
Bonnie Schatzke	29 Nancy Keys

ANNIVERSARIES IN APRIL

23	Kathy and Tom Holloway
27	Teri and Melvin Amos
30	Linda and Richard Canterbury

Birthdays, Anniversaries for May 2015

BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

4 Aaron Cramer	22 Rex Lee
	23 Carolyn Keys
5 Hannah Espen	Gary Wulff
6 Tom Curtis	24 Cindy Yeasting
9 Daniel Amos	25 McKenna Hunt
12 John Keys	26 Amanda Holloway
14 Jacob Boltz	Kevin Keys
19 Joel Yeasting	27 Doris Herringshaw
20 Adam Garn	
21 Graycyn Foster Amos, Alden Carney, and Brian Cramer	

ANNIVERSARIES IN MAY

5	Cindy and Larry Gerken
	Evelyn and Amada Perez
21	Alyce and Tom Roller

Imagine No Malaria..... Our Faith in Action.

Did you know malaria claims 655,000 lives every year? 85% of those deaths are children. 85% of the cases are in sub-saran Africa.

Together we can make a difference. Sometimes in this world we live in the problems that face us seem insurmountable. Here is one problem; that is within reach of being eradicated: malaria

The members of the West Ohio Annual conference have committed to saving 350,000 lives over the 3 years as part of this denomination-wide campaign. To reach our conference goal of saving those lives we need to raise \$3.5 million dollars.

I realize that we asked to support apportionments, special offerings and every day expenses to keep up the church. This is a special effort that we can work to achieve. I am challenging Christ United Methodist Church to raise \$500.00 by Annual Conference in June of 2015. This will be our way of sharing in this wonderful, life-saving effort. You all have risen to numerous challenges before and I applaud your generosity. Let this be your next challenge. (Note: when you give toward Imagine No Malaria please mark your envelope or on your check memo **IMAGINE NO MALARIA**, so that we know if has been earmarked as such.)

Let's help in the effort to save lives needlessly lost by such a disease ...that can be avoided! \$10.00 can save one life, let's see how many we can save!