

THE BEACON



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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Since 2008 the mission statement of the United Methodist church has been: "The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." This statement appears in our book of discipline and is in reality the primary mission statement of every local congregation in our denomination.

Over the last three years members of our congregation who form our Discerning Our Direction team (DOD) have been asking the question of how we in this congregation best fulfill this mission. How are we making disciples; what are the ways we focus our resources in order to maximize our disciple making potential.

Hours and hours of conversation have gone into answering that one question which has generated a myriad of other related ones. Questions like;

what is a disciple? Just how is a disciple made or formed. What are the common steps of growth and maturity most disciples moves through. How can we help encourage everyone to continued growth and maturity on their own unique spiritual journey?

Early in our conversation we began to realize what we really needed was a disciple formation process (dfp). A systematic attempt to develop an environment which extended a constant invitation for persons to 1) become a disciple and 2) grow in their discipleship.

As we moved forward in our planning we looked at the many ministries and activities we currently do asking ourselves where do they fit in this process? We also ask what things we need to be doing which we are not in order to consistently and effectively fulfill our mission.

This month the DOD team will share with the congregation the results of our many hours of planning and conversation by introducing a disciple formation process called "The Trail". For the next six weeks our worship services will focus on sharing this process. Through visual displays, printed materials, sermons and video presentation we will introduce this metaphor and the disciple formation steps which accompany it.

It is the prayer of the DOD team that over the next six weeks you will experience the profound affirmation of your own unique spiritual journey and the gentle but persistent invitation to move beyond your current position into a deeper walk with God.

Your servant in Christ,
Larry A. Gilbert



FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1 - "Discerning the Voice of God" Bible Study, 9 am
- 2 - Disciple I Bible Study, 6 pm / Scouts Roundtable, 6 pm
- 3 - Adult Spiritual Formation Meeting, 8 am
Worship Planning Meeting, 9:30 am
- 5 - Youth collecting canned goods and donations for Souper Bowl
- 6 - Relay For Life, 5:30 pm / Girl Scouts, 6 pm
- 7 - Mom's Small Group, 6:30 pm
- 8 - "Discerning the Voice of God" Bible Study, 9 am / Staff Meeting, 9:30 am
- 9 - Disciple I Bible Study, 6 pm / Girl Scouts, 6 pm
- 10 - Art of Marriage Retreat, 6-9 pm
- 11 - Art of Marriage Retreat, 9 am-4 pm
- 12 - JYF Confirmation Class, 4 pm / CYF Youth Group, 5 pm
- 13 - Girl Scouts, 6 pm / Nurture & Care Meeting, 7 pm
- 14 - Young @ Heart Lunch, 12 pm
- 15 - "Discerning the Voice of God" Bible Study, 9 am
- 19 - JYF Confirmation Class, 4 pm
- 20 - Girl Scouts, 6 pm
- 21 - Mom's Small Group, 6:30 pm
- 22 - "Discerning the Voice of God" Bible Study, 9 am
Ash Wednesday Service, 7 pm
- 23 - Girl Scouts, 6 pm
- 26 - CYF/Pizza Party at Brad & Soo Jin Fager's home, 4 pm
- 27 - Girl Scouts, 6 pm / Bible Study, 6:30 pm
- 29 - "Discerning the Voice of God" Bible Study, 9 am

Tuesdays: Cub Scouts, 6 pm

Wednesdays: Chancel Choir Practice, 6 pm / Boy Scouts, 6 pm

Saturdays: Handbell Practice, 9 am / AA Meeting, 10 am



February 5: Youth collecting
canned goods & donations for Souper Bowl

February 12: JYF Confirmation Class, 4-6:30 pm
CYF/JYF Meeting - 5-6:30 pm

February 19: JYF Confirmation Class, 4-6:30 pm

February 26: CYF Pizza Party at Brad & Soo-Jin Fager's
home; meet at church, 4-6:30 pm
JYF Confirmation Class, 4-6:30 pm

*CYF: Christian Youth Fellowship (3rd - 5th grade)

*JYF: Junior Youth Fellowship (6th - 8th grade)

*Sr. UMYF: United Methodist Youth Fellowship (9th - 12th Grade)



February

Ushers

*Todd Doody
Gary Likins
Andy McNitt
Jennifer Watson
London Watson
Kyle Miller*

Welcome Center

Hostesses

February 5 & 12
*Rosie Wece
Mary Ann Hinchcliff*
February 19 & 26
*Kay Bozarth
Pattie Shields*

Sunday Stewards

*Rob Williams
Rick Pierson
Ricky Pierson
Rick Runge
Bert Ozburn
Cliff Buchholz
Ron Moutardier
Dick Graff*

Acolytes

February 6
*Cole Fletcher
Caitlin Doody*
February 13
*Julian Valliant
Asia Watson*
February 19
*Lucas Bigham
Ben Barringer*
February 26
*Cole McNitt
Briana Bean*

Ash
Wednesday

Service

February 22 at 7:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE



The Women's Prayer Breakfast, sponsored by the Adult Spiritual Formation Ministry, will be held on **Saturday, May 5, 2012.**

Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend this inspirational time of fellowship, prayer, music and a light breakfast. Child care will be provided. Watch for more information about this annual event in upcoming Beacons and church bulletins.

Please contact Rosie Wece at 618-687-3309 or gwece@wecefarms.com if you would like more information or would like to help with the event.

get ready
to
make a
masterpiece

For more than three decades, FamilyLife has been helping couples understand God's design for relationships. Now, in this fresh new video guided event, couples have the opportunity to look at their relationship in a whole new way. Weaving instruction from respected pastors and Bible teachers together with compelling stories, humorous vignettes, man-on-the-street interviews and more, The Art of Marriage will help couples apply what the Bible teaches about marriage in a powerful way. It's practical, funny, and straight to the heart.

For more information, visit FamilyLife.com/theArtofMarriage.

FAMILYLIFE PRESENTS
the art of **marriage**[®]
a six-session video event

United Methodist Church of Murphysboro
Date: February 10 & 11, 2012
Where: 1500 Pine Street
Time: 6-9 pm Fri. & 9-4 am Sat.
Dinner Friday, Brkfst & Lunch Saturday & materials included, Registration \$65
Contact: Ed/Jennifer O'Donnell
jodonnell2@edodonnell.com
Phone: 618) 565-4166
or visit the Family Life.com

The Library Corner: News from the UMC Library



A Reader Review by
Thelma Pierson
Book Title: Unbroken
Author: Laura Hillenbrand

What is this book about?
It Chronicles the life of Louis Zamperini, Olympic runner and a POW in a Japanese prison camp.
What was interesting or meaningful about this book?
The pictures and details of the life of WWII airmen and the conditions of Japanese prisoner of war camps, and the mind-set of the Japanese, both military and civilian were all very interesting.

Anything else that makes this book stand out?
The physical and mental resilience of a human being, the destructiveness of such suffering, and the redemptive power of faith—all were moving and powerful.

Would you recommend it to others? Why?
Yes. It is carefully researched and interestingly written.

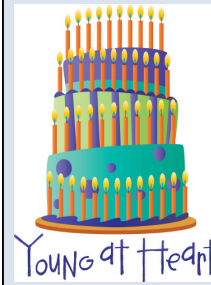
How many stars (from one to five) would you give it?
5 stars! *****



Library Note:
'Tis the Season of Love.

How many books in the library have the word "love" in the title, or in various ways deal with the topic of love? Well, we're not sure, but since love—in all of its varieties—love of God, love of family, and love of one another—is supremely important to the human condition we think there are at least a few! Check out our library table, and downstairs for some "books of love." Happy Valentine's Day!

Help! Help! We have a problem. One or more people are removing books from the library without checking them out. Now we love our readers—all of them—but it is very important that if you would like to read a library book that you check the book out! It's simple: take the book card that is just inside the front cover, put your name and the date on it, and put it in the container provided. **This is important!** We don't want to lose track of books if they are lost or late, and also we very much need to know what books are popular in our church, to guide us when we make future purchases. So please don't skip that important "check it out" step! Thanks.



February Menu
Soup & Sandwich (soft roll)
Carrot & Raisin Salad
Cheese Cake/Cherry Topping

Program: Ken & Vern Cline's video presentation of their long summer trip to Alaska.

Young at Heart meets
Tuesday, February 14
at 12, noon.



On **Sunday, February 5th**, the youth groups will again be participating in the **2012 Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive.**

Near the sanctuary entrances before and after service, you will find youth with big pots to receive your donations of canned goods or money – all donations will go to the local food bank. Thanks for your support in helping to feed those who are hungry.

Begins Monday,
February 20 through
April 2, 2012 (7 weeks)

6:30—8:00 pm

Registration \$15;

Deadline February 12th



Sign-up in the Welcome Center or
email Trina at
trina.eaton1@gmail.com

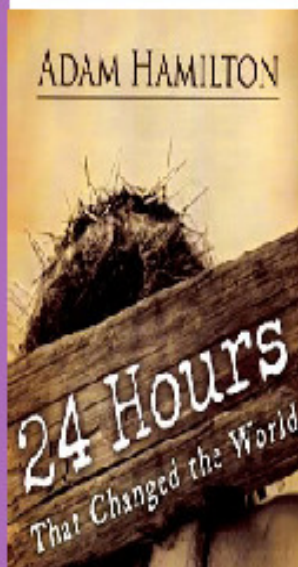
Lenten Book Study

No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth.

In this book, Adam Hamilton guides us through the last twenty-four hours of Jesus' life. Each chapter is designed to help the reader experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death in a way you have never done before.

Whether you are long-time Christians or simply curious about the story of Christ's crucifixion, you are invited to join in retracing the last 24 hours of Jesus' life.

- Led by Trina Eaton & Scarlett Pierson
- Child Care Provided
- Men and Women welcome



We are Methodists on a Mission!!!



At the recent Murphysboro American Cancer Society Relay For Life Kick-Off, our team was reminded of why we relay. Most of the money that we raise through our Methodists on a Mission Relay team stays right here in Southern Illinois serving the needs of cancer patients in our area. We relay for patient services such as the wig closet for chemo patients and Hope Lodge in St. Louis; we relay for cancer research projects being conducted at S.I.U.; we relay so new laws are passed to protect the rights of cancer patients; and we relay so we can provide educational information to the community to help prevent cancer. Every dollar we raise counts.

Our gift card sale in November was a big success, and here is what we have lined up for the next few months. In February we will begin taking orders for PEANUT ROLLS!!!! They will be ready for delivery on March 17th. Prices will be \$5 for a half dozen, and \$9 for a full dozen. The peanut rolls freeze really well, so order extra. In April, we will once again be selling flower coupons to be redeemed at McNitt Growers. Our final fundraiser will be our always popular Dessert Silent Auction on Mother's Day. The last two weeks of May we will also be selling the luminaria to honor someone who has fought the battle with cancer. The luminaria will be displayed at the Murphysboro Relay For Life event on June 8 – 9 at the High School.

We always welcome new members. So if you want to become involved, just contact one of our team captains, Nancy Fager or Wilma Westerfield, for more information.

Murphysboro United Methodist Church 2012 Budget

Salaries and benefits

Salaries and contractual staff will be \$137,273 with benefits of \$55,619 which includes health insurance, travel, continuing education, pension, housing allowance, and workman’s compensation. **Budget is \$192,892.**

Congregation Nurture and Care

This ministry includes health, ministry of care for shut-ins, funeral dinners, family ministry, and sending delegates to the annual conference. **Budget is \$2,650.**

Worship Ministry

The Worship Ministry includes costs of worship supplies, instrument care, music supplies for all choirs including the enthusiastic children’s choir of pre-K to 5th graders and the Bell Choir. **The Budget is \$3,200.**

Adult Spiritual Formation

We have had a rapid growth and participation in small group studies. The library continues to add more books. Supplies for adult Sunday school classes, the women’s prayer breakfast, and child care to support the small group studies are included in the **budget of \$4,300.**

Children & Youth Formation

This ministry includes children, junior/ senior youth, and vacation bible school activities. The 2011 confirmation class activities included a trip to Nashville, Tennessee. Summer camp and youth mission trips are now highlights every summer. The church helps sponsor part of the costs of non-member’s children. All the youth groups have fund raisers to help with their expenses. **Budget is \$14,750.**

Hospitality

This ministry includes advertising, Welcome Center, Fellowship Café, nursery supplies, and has now added Newcomer’s support. The hospitality committee organized assistance for welcoming and serving community persons attending the Apple Festival Pancake breakfast. **Budget is \$2,600.**

Utilities and Upkeep

Greatest expenses are utilities of \$17,510, Property insurance of \$9,150, and Van operation of \$2,450. **Budget is \$32,955.**

Finance

Conference apportionments will be \$37,476, office supplies etc. \$16,130, and mortgage payments of \$44,765 are included in an annual **budget of \$99,601.**

The total budget for 2012 is \$352,948. Our projected income, at this time is \$338,537, which is \$14,411 short of expenses. We have a lot of "non-pledged" givers, so it is difficult to estimate our income for the year. In six months we will review our funding sources and expenses so we can adjust the 2012 budget as needed.

The Finance Committee

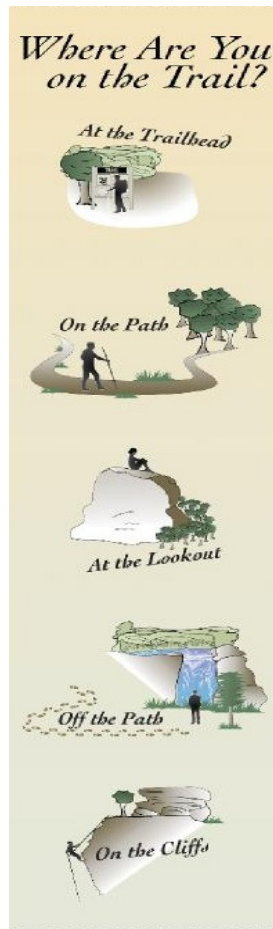


Are We “Going on to Salvation”?

Come and see, along with the Seekers Sunday School class, as we begin a new book study on February 5th, called “Going on to Salvation” A Study of Wesleyan Beliefs by Maxie Dunnam. We will think about our own personal faith journey as well as what makes Methodism different from other denominations. This book is described as “A Guide for the Christian pilgrimage of ‘faith working through love’ as envisioned by John Wesley and practiced by the people called Methodist.” You are welcome to come join us for this study. Books are available in the Seekers’ classroom downstairs. Questions? Ask Susan Patterson.



It is a brand new semester for your sponsored college student. You can send a card, a gift card, a care package or an email. To wish them well
It is our responsibility to make disciples for Jesus Christ. This is a great way to do that.



***The Launch Is Just
Around The Corner!***

*Get ready and hold on to
your hiking sticks.
Prepare to see the
church sanctuary evolve
into a natural setting.
The walk on your
journey can be very
exciting.*

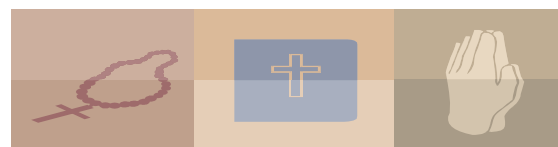
See you on the Trail!

As you have perhaps noticed, the Prayer Team has implemented the spiritual practice of praying over the pews. This has been a part of our worship each Sunday morning for the last several months. We believe this intentional prayer time is an added blessing as we worship.

We would like to add this as an opportunity to serve and invite you to consider becoming a part of this ministry. Rest assured you will reap as much as you sow.

If you feel that you would be interested in serving on this team, please contact Candy Watt for more specific information. 684-3332 or watt2c2@yahoo.com

“The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results”. James 5:16



United Methodist Church
1500 Pine Street
Murphysboro, IL 62966

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Coordinator of Ministries: Earl R. Renshaw
Discipleship Coordinator: Teresa Gilbert
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Financial Secretary: Christine Nolan

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Prayer Chain...

If you desire prayer, please contact Janis Crews at 534-9404 or Barb Zimmerman at 687-4514, cell 559-8063.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Service:
9:00 A.M.

Sunday School:
10:10 A.M.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

In February

1-Gina Warren	16-Maddie Bean
3-Tyler Doody	16-Frank Stewart
4-Joan Bastien	18-Ralph Bastien
5-Scott Browner	19-Marie Quigley
5-Ed Thraikill	22-Paul Parrish
6-Rhonda Shands	22-Verna Smith
7-Lola Pierson	22-Imogene Tedrow
8-Violet Fager	24-Judy Little
10-Harold Gibbs	24-Adrienne Will
12-Patti Shields	27-Eileen Auxier
14-Betty Morefield	27-Dee Chambers
15-Lynn Pierson	29-Josh Barringer

11-William & Marie Quigley
12-Martin & Katherine Twenhafel
14-Paul & Viola Parrish
18-Bill & Mary Slider
22-Charles & Pam Crews
24-Lowell & Ada Heller

If your birthday or anniversary does not appear in the Beacon please call the church office.

All information for the Beacon must be in the church office by the **20th** of each month.