

The Messenger

January 2012 Edition

Pastors' Ponderings

Dates to
Remember

01.03.12
Visiting
Ministries
Meeting
10:30

01.11.12
Ad Council
Meeting
7:00p.m.

01.15.12
24/7 Sunday
Noisy Offering
Brunch

Friends,

The end of one year and the beginning of another almost always forces us to examine how our life has gone for the previous year and what the prospects are for the coming one. This is true in our church life also. Have I been faithful in my membership vows of supporting the church with my prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness? Have I not only reached out to help others, but have I also looked within myself and grown spiritually.

With the new year also comes changes in leadership in the church. To better equip everyone in leadership positions this year, Pastor Molly and I are engaging the leaders and membership with some special training opportunities. Right Now Leadership Training will help us with this through computer online sessions where you will work through the materials on your own time from wherever you have computer access. We will also use some of the training tools in group settings, such as Administrative Council or in committee work.

The tools available from Right Now Leadership look to be very helpful and well put together and I am excited about using them to help train not only the leaders of this church, but to help all the members grow closer to God. Be looking for information on how you may log on to this growing opportunity.

In His Service,
Chet

Next Newsletter – Wednesday, January 25, 2012

All information and articles due at the church office on or before Friday, January 20, 2012.

Check out our church website at www.tremontumc.org You will be informed of all the activities and events that are happening here at TUMC!

Our Membership Vows

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Offering</u>
December 4	248	95	\$7356.00
December 11	223	81	\$7583.75
December 18	219	92	\$8751.50
December 25	91	0	\$2876.00
Average	196	90	\$6,641.82

Benevolent Giving

\$ 1,418.81

Amount needed each week to meet our budgeted expenses \$6000.00

Food Pantry

Here are the end-of-year statistics for the Food Pantry.

64 families used the pantry in 2011 with an average of 5 families/15 persons per week. These averages are slightly lower than those of 2010. We added 28 new families in 2011, the same as last year. Half of the patrons used the pantry just once or twice during the year. Twenty-four TUMC volunteers worked at the pantry.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of the pantry. We are blessed to be the host church for this ministry.

United Methodist Women

Tremont UMW will meet on February 1, 2012 at 6:30p.m.

Feed The Need

Feed the need is an evolving church-wide program that will begin February 8th. "Feed the Need" will be every Wednesday evening in the

Fellowship Hall. The purpose of this evening is to "feed your need" -- whatever that may be - physically, socially, spiritually. Whether your need is: no cooking on Wednesday night in order to simplify your mid-week evening, a quick meal for children and their family getting ready to go to choir, youth group, meeting, or another activity, a nice meal for singles/couples who might not feel like cooking for just 1 or 2, social time with others, mid-week Bible Study, games/hobbies/various activities (to be determined).

The Meal will be served from 5:30 - 6:45 with a suggested donation of \$4 adults, \$3 children, max per family \$14. The meal is open to everyone in the community. More information to come.

Senior High Youth Group

December was a busy month celebrating the holiday season! On the 14th we were able to Christmas carol to a few elderly homes, I believe they truly enjoy seeing and connecting with the youth! We also attended one

of our favorite missions, serving at the Loaves n Fishes in Peoria. The Senior High youth truly enjoy helping the needy and doing hands on activities. And, lastly we enjoyed our Xmas gathering at one of our leaders homes, Josh and Mary Rassi – while playing a funny white elephant gift exchange. Never know what you'll get! ☺

Our upcoming January activities are as follows

January 4: Meeting/Assisting the TCA take the Xmas trees down at the park.

January 8: Senior high bible study

January 11: Meeting/Tie Dying

January 18: Meeting/Prepare for 5th Sunday Service

January 22: Senior high bible study

January 25: Meeting/Prepare for 5th Sunday Service

January 29: 5th Sunday Service

Bible Study

We will begin a HS bible study beginning January 8, our first session will be located in our HS Sunday School room but I am looking for a more informal setting. (If there is any parent that would be willing to host a

Sunday or two, let me know!) Our first bible study will be a 4-week session that is called “Conflict by Doug Fields.

Mission Work

The youth council has chosen not to go to Kentucky for a yearly mission trip this year and rather do multiple smaller mission work trips and save up for a large mission trip in two years. That being said – if you or your families are aware of any mission work needing to be done, please let me know. This could be anything from painting a room to a whole house project (building a deck, fixing a cabinet, etc.).

Happy holidays!

Tina

Junior High Youth Group

The Junior High Youth group has a busy December. On December 9th we met at the church after the school dance and played games until 11:30. On December 17, the youth helped serve meals at Fishes and Loaf, a food pantry ministry through the Peoria United Methodist Church. The kids

loved this so much we plan to make this an annual event. In January, we will meet on January 11 to kick off the new year. We will start a new DVD series called Plugged In: Connecting Students to the Heart of God's. We will also be working on plans for our debt reduction fundraiser and we will be participating in the 5th Sunday Service. All junior high youth in 7th and 8th grade are welcome to join us.

Tweens

I am looking forward to a new year with the Tweens and all of the exciting opportunity that 2012 will bring!! The Tweens worked hard to make blankets for the children at the Childrens Hospital and made great Christmas cards for our shut-ins this holiday season! I also want to thank everyone who supported the youth during our food drive in November!! What a great experience the Tweens had being involved with such a great mission! The month of January will be start working on making witness bracelets not just to wear but to share with all who want to celebrate their faith. So please be supportive if given or asked to wear a bracelet from the Tweens!!

The Tweens will talk in church over the month about this mission!! We will meet at our regular 2nd and 4th Wednesday in January and will keep you updated on anything new or updates through the church email!! Have great new year as I know the Tweens will!
God bless
Steffany, Tweens leader

Kids Club

Kids's club will resume on Jan10th. We will continue making the nighty, nighty bags for children in the hospital. Donations needed are stuffed animals, fleece (4 yards to make 1 blanket), books, and/or money for items.

January Schedule 10th 17th 24th 31st

Clues Club

Clue's Club will be finishing up a few more blankets and then they will be delivered later on this month. Lessons focus will be on Bible heroes. January Schedule:

4th 11th- With Tweens
18th 25th- With Tweens

From Molly

To start, I would like to thank everyone for their gracious gifts this month for my birthday and for Christmas.

As the New Year sets in I pray that each one of us has reflected on the past year and looked at the things that we were faithful in and the things that we were lacking in. And from this evaluation I hope that we all have a Spiritual plan for 2012. Most of us are faithful in preparing a budget, keeping our calendars in order and even have an exercise plan. But do you have a spiritual plan? If we are not intentional in growing spiritually the chances of that happening is slim. As 2012 begins we want to continue to challenge you as we did through the Challenge of 11 in 2011. This year we will be focusing on Feeding our Needs as well as finding our heritage through John Wesley. But first get your own spiritual plans in place and then together we can address those needs and grow together. Below is a Franciscan Christmas Blessing, this blessing is my prayer for each of us in 2012

*May God bless you with discomfort...
at easy answers, hard hearts, half-truths, and superficial relationships*

May God bless you so that you may live from deep within your heart where God's Spirit dwells. May God bless you with anger...at injustice,

oppression, and exploitation of people.

May God bless you so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace. May God bless you with tears...

to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war.

May God bless you so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy. And may God bless you with enough

foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, in your neighborhood, so that you will courageously try what you don't think you can do, but, in Jesus Christ you'll have all the strength necessary.

May God bless you to fearlessly speak out about injustice, unjust laws, corrupt politicians, unjust and cruel treatment of prisoners, and senseless wars, genocides, starvations, and poverty that is so pervasive. May God bless you that you remember we are all called to continue. God's redemptive work of love and healing in God's

place, in and through God's name, in God's Spirit, continually creating and breathing new life and grace into everything and everyone we touch.

“The MYTH of 200 Barrier”

We will be starting a 4 week course on Jan 15th during the Sunday School hour in the pastor's study of the 1904 building (known presently as the Sister Chicks Classroom). That same day we will be offering another 4 week session in the parlor at 6:30pm. It is a great way to understand and discover what the church is going thru and what we can do to reach out to others while growing Christ's kingdom. This course is highly recommended, if not required for leaders of the church. If you do not have a copy of the book the church may have a copy for you to borrow.

If you have the book “The MYTH of 200 Barrier” and would allow someone to use it, please drop it off at the church office

January Birthdays

- 1- Mary Oberlander
- 2- Ron Vance
- 3- Mike Herrin, Jim Boyle, Penny Venovich
- 4- John Baker, Laura Fox, Nathan Barnett, Bradley Hazelman
- 5- Zachary McDowell, Addison Shafer, Hilary Mason
- 7- Steve Martiens
- 8- Hannah Nguyen
- 9- Jeff Leber
- 10- Jay Cremeens
- 11- Harry Keith Cluts, Joyce Swartz, Samuel Zurski
- 12- Carisa Camden
- 13- Nancy Clow
- 14- Keith Toepfer
- 15- Don Gibson, David Fairfield, Heather Pierce, Tyler Venovich, Brody Nelson
- 16- Mary Ann Conover
- 17- Virginia Schmidt
- 20- Alisabeth Brouwer, Paige Harris
- 21- Sheryl Wilkey, Melissa Nash
- 23- Holly Parr, Deanna Baker
- 24- Jim Flannigan, William Grant, Rebecca Jeppson, Abigail Scott
- 25- Yvonne Goeken, Joseph Venovich, Jr., Hannah Alexander
- 26- June Smith, Ronald Neville

- 27- Cade Alton
28- Duane Nelson, Rob Jones, Danny Parr
29- Timothy Elliott, Dennis Mitchell, Brian Gareau
30- James Shafer, Peggy Flannigan, Leanne Nieu Kirk
31- Dustin Pierce

January Anniversaries

- 3- Dan & Donna Sinn #57
4- Bradlee & Nichole Alton #14
14- Connie & Jerry Byrd #44
18- Elmer & Mary Papenhouse #52
20- Beverly & Charles Neubauer #54

Our Shut-Ins

Eileen Beutel
Apostolic Christian Parkside
1500 Parkside
Morton IL 61550

Edith Pflederer
Apostolic Christian Parkside
1500 Parkside, Juniper Room 514B
Morton IL 61550

Nancy Clow
Hopedale Commons
Hopedale, IL 61747

Hopedale Nursing Home
107 Tremont Street
Hopedale, IL 61747
Esther Schurter

Naomi Eichelberger
2122 Hillcrest
Pekin IL 61554-6123

Cynthia Nash
PO Box 509
Tremont IL 61568

Mary Oberlander
John Evans Support Living Community
1320 Executive Court
Apt. 131
Pekin IL 61554

Marceline Stevens
Rosewood Nursing Center
900 Centennial Drive, Room 101
East Peoria IL 61611

Barbara Papenhouse
700 North McLean Blvd.
Room 272
South Elgin, IL 60177

Joan Miller
PO Box 16
Tremont IL 61568

Duane Nelson
21811 Butternut Lane
Delavan IL 61734

Keith Cluts
Hallmark Nursing Home
2501 Allentown Road
Room 107
Pekin IL 61554

Mark Grimm
407 W. Armstrong
Peoria IL 61614

Pat Nelson
Grand Victorian
2700 South 14th Street
Pekin IL 61554

Please remember our missionaries and
UMC military chaplains with your
prayers and cards.

Esther Gitobu
c/o United Methodist Mission
No. 74, St 606 Sangkat Boeng Kak 11
Phnom Penh 3, Cambodia

Phyllis Crouse
51 Cove Hollow Lane
Beverly, KY 40913

Carl C. Johnson, Chaplain, U.S. Army
5535 Wilkerson Pass Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO 80917

John D. Read, Chaplain, U.S. Army
15496 March Overlook Dr.
Woodbridge, VA 22191-3775

Margaret E. Seimer, Chaplain, U.S. Navy
101 N. Roaring Springs Rd.
Fort Worth, TX 78114

Sunday School Class Offerings – Spring 2012

We hope to have at least one Topic-Driven class each quarter and will try to publicize each class' topics as they change. See more information below!

Beginners through 4th Grade - Lower Level Sampson St Facility (RockSolid from Cokesbury) Rock Solid sessions are built on a firm foundation with a comprehensive 3-year journey through the Bible with story-based experiences rather than verse-based lessons. By learning the key Bible stories, children will be better able to understand and remember the Bible's message. Rock Solid's scope and sequence follows the church year. With Rock Solid, children are given examples and then encouraged to apply the weekly Bible story and faith experience to their everyday lives. Children do more than just memorize Bible verses—they experience God's message through consistency, community-building, application, and dedication and commitment. Rock Solid creates a sacred space for children to know God and become lifelong followers of Jesus.

Tweens in Transition 5th & 6th Grades - Lower Level Sampson St Facility *Rock Solid* speaks to tweens in language they can relate to and adapts the scope and sequence into two 1-year surveys of the entire Bible. Each yearly survey gives tweens the opportunity for a more in-depth study of some of the stories they've heard in previous years, providing greater insight and perspective into the Bible's big picture and helping them understand the broad overview of the Bible.

Junior High – Lower Level of Pearl Street Facility The Junior High class and teacher select their curriculum on a quarterly basis. This is a fun, upbeat class. And, the teacher often brings food!!

High School – Lower Level of Pearl Street Facility The High School group studies from a variety of resources. Teacher is Greg Sinn.

Young Adult (Post-High School) – Lower Level of Pearl Street Facility The Young Adult Sunday School class is a discussion-based class. The group focuses on topics particular to young adults who are recently entering the world on their own. Last fall, the group studied a book written by Casting Crowns singer Mark Hall. Mark struggled starting out on his own and recaps his story with the ups and downs that led him to becoming a strong Christian believer and lead singer of the Christian band - Casting Crowns. The next study also happened to

be written by a member of a very different kind of band. This singer was the guitarist and singer in the band, Korn, which is a band known for rough lyrics and bad peer pressure. He tells his story of life dealing with drugs and other bad choices, and how he left his lead singer position to turn his life back to Jesus. The book is written about Brian Welch and is titled "Tears of Blood." The book includes questions for discussion and scripture to go along with it.

Topical Study – Parlor of Pearl Street Facility We will be starting a 4-8 week course on “The MYTH of 200 Barrier” on Jan 15th during the Sunday School hour in the pastor’s study of the 1904 building (known presently as the Sister Chicks Classroom). It is a great way to understand and discover what the church is going thru and what we can do to reach out to others while growing Christ’s kingdom. This course is highly recommended.

Room 113 Class – Lower Level of Sampson St Facility Room 113 class is composed of men and women, married and single, ages 20-40+, who are seeking answers to life’s questions. Study material is generally chosen according to class members’ needs and curiosity. Curriculum in the past has included various video series, books, studies.

Friends – Lower Level of Pearl Street Facility Friends Class is composed of men and women, married and single, ages 40-60, who are seeking answers to life’s questions. Study material is generally chosen according to class members’ needs and curiosity. Curriculum in the past has included various video series, books, studies on church controversies, and simple living. We are currently finishing a study, Food and Faith. Bible expertise is not required. Leading the studies rotates among class members on a voluntary basis.

Discipleship Class – Lower Level of Pearl Street Facility The Discipleship Sunday School Class is a class that studies scripture and how it applies in today's world. All of our studies are deeply rooted in scripture as we develop a closer relationship with God the Father, Jesus Christ our Lord and the Holy Spirit. We engage ourselves with in-depth studies of items of interest, including current national and international events and how we might view them from a Christian worldview. Past studies have included “What I Believe” (a close look at the statements of the Apostles Creed and how they are supported by scripture) and a study of The Lord’s Prayer in a series of classes “Lord, Teach Us to Pray.” This class is primarily attended by ages 40 and up. The group recently finished studying the Book of Matthew.

**Tremont United Methodist Church
112 West Pearl Street
Tremont, IL 615688**

**8:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. Sunday Worship
9:45 A.M. Sunday School**

**Church phone: 309-925-2011
Pastor's home: 309-925-7361
Sampson Street Phone: 309-925-9978
E-mail: tumc@tremontumc.org
WebSite: Tremontumc.org**

Address Service Requested

**Pastor: Chet Travis
Dir. of Family Ministries: Molly Spence-Hawk
Organist: Don Niekirk, Marthajane Hillman
Sanctuary Choir Director: Marilyn Toepfer
Administrative Assistant: Lori Brown
Jr. & Sr. High Ministries Directors:
Tina Reinbeck and Michelle Williams
Childcare Center Director: Jennifer Hendrickson**

