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Directions for the Trail

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Several months ago our District Superintendent asked each of the churches of our district to consider doing a year-long program focused around the practice of several spiritual disciplines. I shared this program with our Adult Spiritual Formation committee and after some adaptation to better fit our congregations needs, it was presented to the Church Council for consideration. The Council approved the program, so for 2013 our congregation is going to participate in what is called "The 10x10 Journey".

This program focuses on the practice of ten spiritual disciplines emphasizing a different one each month for 10 months. Some of them are very standard like prayer, stewardship and Bible reading while others are less commonly practiced like fasting and mission work. During the year, numerous workshops will be offered to help support the spiritual emphasis of the month in the attempt to make sure everyone has the tools needed to fully participate in the program.

In January, I will be sharing a great deal more of the details of our year long journey and will at that time extend to everyone an invitation to participate in as much of this journey as you feel you can. My hope is that everyone will find at least a part of the journey that they feel they can join and benefit from.

If I had to state a goal for the year, it would be that everyone in our congregation deepens a spiritual discipline they are currently practicing and hopefully starts at least one new one. This program will offer each of us the opportunity to take a next step on our spiritual journey and it is my prayer that we will all take advantage of this church-wide opportunity.

As we consider resolutions for the New Year, I invite you to consider taking your next step *On The Trail* as a resolution for 2013.

Pastor Larry

OUR CHURCH IS RECYCLING!

Please find that there are recycling bins throughout our church. You will find a basket at the front entrance and the entrance from the education wing to the sanctuary for you to place your bulletins in after the service. There is a bin in each of the Youth Sunday school classrooms as well as one in the kitchen, the lower hallway and the church office. Please note the types of recycling items you can put in each of these bins. We can not take styrofoam, plastic bags, paper towels, or tissues. Soda cans and plastic bottles can be recycled in the entry by the soda machine. Please be courteous to our recycling volunteers by not using these containers as a trash can.



JANUARY 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1 Happy New Year!
- 2 Choir Practice at 6:00 p.m.
Boy Scouts at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday Night A.A. Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Upper Room
- 3 "Disciple" Book Study at 6:00 p.m. in Faithful Friends
Scout's Roundtable at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 4 Adult Spiritual Formation at 8:00 a.m. in Passages
- 5 Handbell Choir Practice at 9:00 a.m.
A.A. Meeting at 10:00 a.m. in Upper Room
- 7 Community ACS Relay for Life Meeting at 5:00 p.m. in Chapel
Girl Scout Troop 8189 Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in Journeys
- 8 Young at Heart at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall
Cub Scouts at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Board of Trustees Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in Annex
Finance Committee Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Annex
- 9 Staff Meeting at 9:00 a.m. in Annex
Choir Practice at 6:00 p.m.
Boy Scouts at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday night A.A. Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Upper Room
- 10 Girl Scouts at 4:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and Passages
"Disciple" Book Study at 6:00 p.m. in Faithful Friends
- 11 Daisy Troop 8225 at 7:00 p.m. in Journeys
- 12 U.M.M. Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
Handbell Choir Practice at 9:00 a.m.
A.A. Meeting at 10:00 a.m. in Upper Room
- 14 Nurture & Care Meeting at 1:00 p.m. in Trailblazers' classroom
Sewing Bee from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 15 Cub Scouts at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 16 Choir Practice at 6:00 p.m.
Boy Scouts at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday night A.A. Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Upper Room
- 17 "Disciple" Book Study at 6:00 p.m. in Faithful Friends
- 19 Handbell Choir Practice at 9:00 a.m.
A.A. Meeting at 10:00 a.m. in Upper Room
Saturday Book Club at 10:30 a.m. in Library
- 20 Hospitality Ministry Meeting at 11:15 a.m. in Chapel
- 21-25 Meals on Wheels
- 21 Girl Scout Troop 8189 Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in Journeys
- 22 Church Council at 6:00 p.m. in Chapel
Cub Scouts at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 23 Choir Practice at 6:00 p.m.
Boy Scouts at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday night A.A. Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Upper Room
Service and Missions at 7:00 p.m. in Faithful Friends
- 24 Girl Scouts at 4:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and Passages
"Disciple" Book Study at 6:00 p.m. in Faithful Friends
- 25 Scrapbook and Scripture at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Daisy Troop 8225 at 7:00 p.m. in Journeys
- 26 Handbell Choir Practice at 9:00 a.m.
A.A. Meeting at 10:00 a.m. in Upper Room
Meal and a Movie meal preparation in afternoon in Kitchen
- 27 Meal and a Movie at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall
- 28 Card Workshop at 6:00 p.m. in Upper Room
- 29 Cub Scouts at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 30 Choir Practice at 6:00 p.m.
Boy Scouts at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday night A.A. Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Upper Room
- 31 "Disciple" Book Study at 6:00 p.m. in Faithful Friends

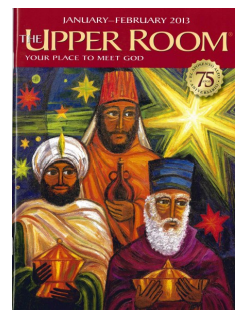
WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Ushers

*Todd Lirely
Scott Ballard
Sandy Herring
Ralph Bastien
Dick Graff*

Sunday Stewards

*Gary Likins
Todd Lirely
Bob Morefield
Ken Cline
Frank Boucher
Francis Addison*



**JANUARY-
FEBRUARY
UPPER ROOM**
NOW AVAILABLE IN
THE BACK OF
CHURCH.
JUST PUT YOUR
DONATION IN THE
SLOT. REGULAR
AND LARGE PRINT
AVAILABLE.
**OFFERS DAILY
SCRIPTURES,
THOUGHTS,
STORIES, PRAYERS,
AND FOCUS.**
**"YOUR PLACE TO
MEET GOD"**

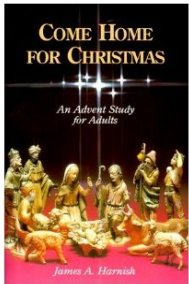
The Library Corner:

News from the MUMC Library



An Unexpected Gift

This is a little story involving the Seeker's Sunday School class, and how we received an unexpected gift—and in the strangest way. Here's what happened:

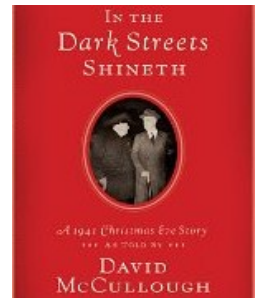


We are using an Advent study by James Harnish this year called *Come Home for Christmas*. We have been enjoying this excellent study, which every week features a different Christmas song as part of the study theme. Every Sunday we listen to the “theme” song for that week.

The very first week we played two “theme songs.” One was “I’ll Be Home for Christmas”; a haunting song that can bring tears to your eyes, and the second song was “O Little Town of Bethlehem”. Like many of the older hymns it combines powerful words and lovely music. We found we gained a new appreciation for both songs, just by sitting quietly and listening to the words.

And this is where the truly unexpected occurred. A week or two after beginning this study, when I (Susan Patterson) was browsing in Big Lots—(yep, Big Lots plays a part in this story) I ran across a number of copies of a book on a shelf towards the back of the store. The name of the book is **In the Dark Streets Shineth**. Those are familiar words. They are, in fact, from one of our Advent study theme songs “O Little Town of Bethlehem”.

The book is subtitled “A 1941 Christmas Eve Story”, and it contains a presentation given by David McCullough, the famous historian. He joined with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in its 2009 Christmas concert to give a compelling historical account from the early days of World War II of a visit made to the U.S. by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. The Prime Minister came to consult with President Roosevelt during a perilous time for both countries. England was at war with Germany, and the U.S. had just suffered the attack at Pearl Harbor.



During Churchill's visit both men gave a short speech to the crowd gathered on the White House lawn for the lighting of the National Christmas Tree. Their inspiring message was one of courage, strength, hope and faith.

The book includes wonderful pictures plus the texts of the inspiring speeches by these two great men. There is an accompanying DVD which shows McCullough giving his presentation, along with a performance by the Mormon Tabernacle choir.

Intertwined with this story is McCullough's tribute to music, its role in our lives, and the stories of two Christmas songs, the very two songs the Seeker's class began our Advent Study with: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” and “I’ll Be Home for Christmas.”

The Seeker's class appreciated this touching and unexpected addition to our Advent Study. You too will be able to read and see this compelling story. The book /DVD set will be in the church library in January. **Enjoy!**



Bring
A
Friend!

January 13: "Breaking Barriers"
Tae Kwon Do teaches about faith

- *CYF: Christian Youth Fellowship (3rd - 5th grade)
- *JYF: Junior Youth Fellowship (6th - 8th grade)
- *Sr. UMYF: United Methodist Youth Fellowship (9th - 12th Grade)



SAVE THE DATE

An All-Church Event

**Sunday Evening
January 13, 2013**

5:00 p.m. – All church potluck
5:45 p.m. – Michael's inspiring presentation

Breaking Barriers

Teaches Us About Faith
featuring

Michael Jessup,
Tae Kwon Do Expert

Presentation on
how to live a Christ-centered life



Appropriate for all ages.
Bring a covered dish to share,
and come expecting a blessing!

January Noisy Offering
for
MUMC Meal and a Movie

Coming In January A Sewing Bee!!!



We are looking for people who love to sew (and even if you just "like" to sew) to join us for a day of sewing, fun and food! We are going to sew goodie bags for the 2nd Annual Blessing of the Animals service (which is scheduled for Sunday, May 19th).

We will be cutting out the bags, sewing them, fellowshiping and of course, EATING so there will be something for everyone!

Mark your calendar for
Monday, January 14th
and plan to join us!
Please contact Trina Eaton at
trina.eaton1@gmail.com
if you have any questions.

STUDENTS FOR HIRE!

The students at the Wesley Foundation are holding a fundraiser than runs until 4/1/13. These students are going on a mission trip this summer to Honduras and they are willing to work to earn \$\$\$.



If you or anyone you know needs help with raking leaves, painting, cleaning house, or other chores around the house or office, please contact Sherry Smedshammer at the Wesley Foundation at 457-8165 or send an email to umwesley@siu.edu.

The students ask that a donation be made to help their trip. All donations go towards their individual trip cost and are tax exempt.



The trip will be a life-changing experience and the students are eager to go and eager to work to raise the funds!

ADULT MISSION TRIP

(post high-school age)

APRIL 21-27, 2013**NEW ORLEANS, LA****Group Size: 12-15 People****HOW CAN I JOIN THE GROUP?**

The anticipated cost will be about \$300 per person. A deposit of \$100 per person now will get you a seat on the bus. The next \$100 is due by 2/1/13 and the final payment is due by 3/1/12. Payments can be made in the church office or put in the offertory. Checks should be made payable to **MUMC** with "Mission Trip" written on the memo line.

This Adult Mission Trip is in coordination with CAMP RESTORE. Housing and meals provided. The only meals that are not included would be during travel to and from the destination. Camp Restore has a great range of projects that can easily be arranged for the abilities of each participant; community to construction. For more information, contact Trina Eaton (trina.eaton1@gmail.com) or Barb Hughes (jdbkhughes@frontier.com).

Spirit of Christmas 2012

Dia Parr, Coordinator of the community's Spirit of Christmas, writes "Thank you very much for participating in this year's Spirit of Christmas Project. We were once again able to provide gifts to over 700 less fortunate members of our community. The success of this year's program would not have been possible without the unselfish dedication and willingness by members of the faith community to open their hearts to those who are less fortunate. Sincere appreciation from the *Interfaith Council* and *Spirit of Christmas Project*."

Because of the generosity of individuals, families, and Sunday School Classes here in our own church, we provided Christmas gifts to 60 of those less fortunate. MUMC *Service and Missions* thanks you for supporting this important local outreach effort.

Please submit items for the weekly bulletin to the church office no later than 12:00 noon on Wednesday.



United Methodist Church
1500 Pine Street
Murphysboro, IL 62966



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Murphysboro, IL
Permit No. 63

Ministers.....The Congregation
Pastor.....Larry A. Gilbert
Coordinator of Ministries.....Earl R. Renshaw
Discipleship Coordinator.....Teresa Gilbert
Financial Secretary.....Christine Nolan
Church Administrator.....Cathy Lilley
Custodian.....Elmer McRoy

Return service requested

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Phone: 618-687-2317
Fax: 618-687-2604
E-mail: murphysboroumc@frontier.com

January Birthdays & Anniversaries



We're On The Web!
www.MurphysboroUMC.com

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 2 GEORGIA JOHNSON | 17 GRANT TICER |
| 4 FRANK BOUCHER | 19 ANDREW ERBES |
| 4 TODD MOUTARDIER | 22 TERESA GILBERT |
| 7 SUSAN KARNES | 22 BREANNA GRAFF |
| 7 BOB RICE | 26 LARRY JACOBS |
| 9 MIKE JONES | 27 JOHN ERBES |
| 12 VERN CLINE | 27 EMILY WECE |
| 16 BARB HUGHES | 28 SOO JIN FAGER |
| 17 TROY BROWN | 31 CHARLIE PIERSON |



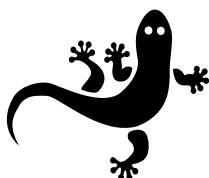
Open Hearts.
Minds.
Doors.

The United Methodist Church

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Service:
9:00 A.M.

Sunday School:
10:10 A.M.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- | |
|--------------------------|
| 4 BOB & TRINA EATON |
| 10 ALLEN & TENA BIGHAM |
| 19 SCOTT & JOYCE BRANDON |
| 31 DEAN & PATTI SHIELDS |

If your birthday or anniversary does not appear in the Compass, please contact Cathy in the Church office at 618-687-2317.



Many **THANKS** to the wonderful folding team that comes in each month to prepare our newsletter for mailing.

You are a blessing!

