



CROSSROADS
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

The Messenger

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2012

- The deadline for the February, 2012 issue of *The Messenger* is Friday, January 20th. Please submit articles to ashaw@mtco.com or send hard copies to the church office.
- Please send address corrections to Brenda Thornburg at brendat@mtco.com or call the church office at 444-2381.
- The monthly birthday list is available at the Welcome Desk and on the Crossroads website.

Inside this issue:

Bible Studies	2
Year-End Statistics	2
Alpha	3
Healing Service	3
Business Meeting	3
Youth News	4
GETS News	4
Just for Kids	5
Prayer Challenge	6
Stephen Ministry	6
From Nurse Sally	7
Help for Single Parents	7
Senior News	8
GriefShare	8
Fellowship Opportunities	9
Walk to Emmaus	9
UMW News	10
Pastoral Care Notes	10
Thank You Notes	10-11

From Pastor Tom

As I write this, politicians are racing all over the state of Iowa seeking last minute opportunities to get their message out and convince Iowans that they are the best candidate for president. Those with money to spend are airing commercials on local stations (radio and television), and those without money are turning to the internet and grass-roots campaigning. Six of the candidates are touring the state on buses and chartered planes. Big cities and small towns alike are the beneficiaries of the campaign. This political presence both helped Iowans decide who to vote for and is a major boon to the local economy. A study by The University of Iowa expects the months of campaigning to be a \$100 million dollar assist to the state. Think about all the hotel rooms for staffers, rent and meal money, and advertising dollars.

All of this money and attention is spent so that on January 3rd, Iowans will vote for their favorite candidate. Of course, we know that it takes millions, if not billions, of dollars to run a presidential campaign these days. That means fund raising has been going on in Iowa for some time. And presidential

campaigns are now in four year-permanent cycles. The days when campaigning did not begin until Labor Day—the year-before-the-election are long past. I do not live in Iowa but I suspect that many of our friends to the west will be glad when January 4 arrives and all of the election machinery heads to New Hampshire and South Carolina and the rest of the primary states. Even \$100 million dollars is not enough to warrant having your life interrupted any longer. A recent opinion polls seems to back this up. Seventy percent of respondents said they were ready for the political season to be over!

I share this as we think about the campaign that has gone on even longer than the 2012 presidential race. The campaign began 2000 years ago with the announcement in Nazareth that God would enter the human race in Bethlehem, and work to bring all of humanity into the party. There were no promises of tax cuts, pork barrel projects for local communities, or pledges to cut the size of government (in this case the Kingdom of God). Instead the campaign promised to increase the commitment of all involved, stressed self-

sacrifice not self-gain, and suggested that those who joined the movement would face hardship and struggle, rather than success and popular acclaim.

The campaign is called “discipleship” and we sign up when we practice good stewardship, give our gifts of time and talent, and share our story of the difference Christ has made in our lives with others. We learn discipleship through reading the Bible, worshiping and prayer. We stay in discipleship through the blessing of Christian fellowship. The campaign calls for intentional action on our part. We must grow as disciples or give up on the journey.

This is difficult work, and unlike the Iowa caucus campaigns, not temporary. On January 4th, 2012 there will still be work to do for Jesus Christ. But there is one promise we have that all of those laboring for election in Iowa lack—the certainty that in the end our campaign will be successful.

I am glad I am part of this movement. Are you?

~Pastor Tom

Bible Study Opportunities

Bible study with Pastor Goodell
Tuesdays, 1:00pm
Studying the book of James

Community Bible Study
Wednesdays, 9:30am

Bible study with Pastor Lawry
Wednesdays, 1:00pm
Studying First Corinthians

Precept Bible Study
Wednesdays, 9:30am

Grow through the Bible (an introduction to reading the Bible)
Sundays, 9:45 AM
Beginning January 15th

Grow through Loving God
Sundays, 9:45am,
beginning January 15



“Our mission is to grow disciples and send them out into the crossroads of our communities to impact lives for Jesus Christ.”

Year-End Statistics

- 810 - average total worship attendance (4th highest in our conference)
- 346 - average attendance at first service
- 462 - average attendance at second service (both are records for Crossroads)
- 1,368 - highest attendance (Easter Sunday)
- 200 - lowest attendance (Christmas Sunday)
- There were 9 Sundays with over 900 total attendance
- 1,200 - total attendance at Christmas Eve services
- 52 new members
- 15 professions of faith (persons making a Christ decision)
- 22 baptisms
- 350 participants in the Grow studies this fall (Grow through the Bible and Grow through Prayer)
- \$10,000 - support to our church family through the Good Samaritan Fund
- \$32,000 - support to King David Methodist Church in Zimbabwe
- \$4,000 - support to the Machinga family in Zimbabwe
- \$5,945 - support to Missions through our United Methodist Women
- 150 backpacks distributed to The Children’s Home in Peoria and area schools
- 265 Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes
- Thousands of people assisted through donations of church money and labor to Threads, Hope and Love; and Washington Helps Its People (WHIP)
- \$1,000 - support to Adopt-a-Block, South Side Mission and countless deliveries of bread, prayers and support to the people of our blocks in Peoria (Merriman Court and Johnson Street)
- \$2,500 - March to the Manger offering in support of Red Bird Mission
- \$2,500 - March to the Manger offering in support of Neighborhood House in Peoria
- \$2,500 - March to the Manger offering in support of Shoes for Orphaned Souls

Alpha Begins January 29

Alpha is an opportunity to explore the questions and meaning of life in a relaxed, friendly setting. It is found in over 160 countries in churches of all denominations with more than 15 million people having attended. **Crossroads will be offering the Alpha course for the 19th time starting on January 29 from 6:30 to 8:30pm.** Already more than 400 of your Crossroads friends have participated.

Alpha is for anyone who thinks there may be more to life than meets the eye. The course investigates questions about the existence of God, the purpose of life, the afterlife, the claims of Jesus, and more. It also helps us with practical questions like reading the Bible and praying.

Each Alpha gathering begins with a video presentation by the Rev. Nicky Gumbel, followed by dessert and fellowship time. After dessert we will break into small groups for a discussion time. Everyone is welcome to ask questions, contribute your opinion, or simply listen. No question or comment is considered too simple or too hostile. Many friendships have begun in Alpha small groups.

Alpha begins on Sunday, January 29 and ends on April 22. Each regular session will be from 6:30 to 8:30pm. On March 18 we will have a special Holy Spirit Retreat Day from 1:30 to 8:30 pm. There will be no session on Sunday, April 8 as we celebrate Easter. Child care

will be provided if you let us know your needs.

In the coming weeks, you will see people with "Ask me about Alpha" name tags.

They will be happy to answer and questions you may have. Now is the time to grow deeper in your faith. See you at Alpha... and did I mention great desserts?



Healing Service

On January 11th, at 7:00pm, there will be a Healing Service in Faith Chapel. This service is for healing of every kind, whether spiritual, physical or emotional. The service will consist of the ancient practice of Laying on of Hands and Anointing with Oil for healing.

From the time of the early church to the present, healing, comforting the sick and anointing have always been part of the lives of believers. Anointing is clearly believed to have healing benefits. In the Book of James we hear the question, "Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing

them with oil in the name of the Lord" (James 5:14). As Christians, we believe Jesus is the physician of our souls. We look to His healing strength that reaches to every level of our being.

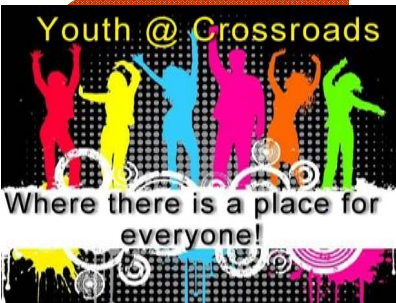
Prayer joins the one who is spiritually, emotionally or physically ill to our Creator. *It is our God that heals.* Gathering friends and family together to pray for ill sisters and brothers reminds them that they are not alone in time of suffering. In prayer we praise and thank God for the individuals and we entrust them to God's care.

When we are sick, injured or facing the final days of our life, a

special kind of touch links us to God's healing presence. During anointing the sign of the Cross is traced upon the forehead with oil. One or more persons can lay their hands on the person in need of healing. Prayers praising God and prayers for healing can be offered by one or several people.

Even if you are not in need of healing, please come to pray with those who need your healing touch and prayers. A Prayer and Healing Services is held every three months at Crossroads.

Youth News



The mission of the Crossroads Youth Ministry is to be committed to loving and caring for youth in the Washington area.

We will accomplish this goal by: providing a safe and loving place so that youth can be who God created them to be, meeting them where they are in their spiritual development, helping them grow into young men and women of faith, and equipping them to share their faith with others now and in the future.

Follow Lighthouse News! Text "follow xroadlighthouse" to 40404

High School Lighthouse:

Wednesday nights
6:30-8:30pm
Dinner, small groups, games, lessons, music and more

Lighthouse Bowling & Bible Study
Mondays at Plaza Lanes
3:30pm
\$1.50 per game & \$150 for shoe rental

Middle School Impact:

6th-8th Grade
Sunday nights
6:30-8:00pm
Fun, games, lessons, snacks and much more!

7th & 8th grade Bible Study/Small Groups
Wednesdays
5:00-6:30pm
Dinner provided
Led by Kelsey Mayginnis & Brandon Robertson



Lighthouse will resume on January 11, 2012.



Middle School Impact will resume on January 8, 2012.

GETS News

Meet Mao Her

Mao Her's hometown is Green Bay, Wisconsin. She is 43 years old and comes from New Faith Hmong Ministry, a United Methodist Church in Green Bay.

Mao was born into a Christian family. She is originally from Laos, but her nationality is Hmong. She came to this country as an immigrant in 1979, as a result of the Vietnam War. Her father was a pastor and is now retired. Mr. Her and Mao were married in August of 1990 hoping to become missionaries, but God had a different plan for their lives. They now have three children (one girl and two boys). She has been involved with the life of the church since her youth, so

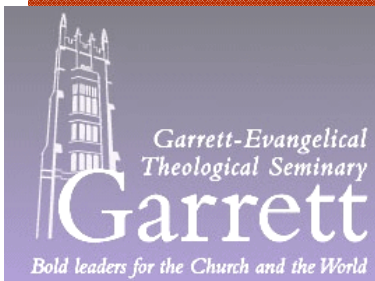
when she got married, she got involved with the children's ministry and the women's ministry in the church. When the couple joined The United Methodist Church in 2003, she served four years as president of the Hmong Women United Methodist Association and as its communication coordinator for another four years.

After seminary, Mao hopes to be ordained as an Elder in The United Methodist Church and work in local churches. She also hopes to create a bridge between the first and second generations of the Hmong people, as well as between Hmong churches and other United Methodist churches. Mao is passionate about Christian leadership, because she does not believe the church

can survive in this generation without strong leaders who love God and are passionate about extending their services in love to the people around them. There is much to be done, and she is so excited about where God will take her.

Crossroads has established an endowment fund at Evangelical Theological Seminary for the purpose of assisting students who are entering the ministry in the United Methodist Church. If you would like to donate to this fund, please send your check marked "GETS" to the church office. Thank you for helping the students at GETS answer God's call!

For more information about GETS, contact Cliff Smith at 444-8516.



Just for Kids

Kids for Christ

A Kids Club for 3rd, 4th, & 5th, graders
Bible time, Games, Music, and Snacks
6:00 – 8:00pm

2012 Dates:

January 13
January 27
February 10
February 24
March 10 (Kids Conference)
March 23
April 13
April 27

Family Fun Night

Saturday, January 28, 2012
5:00-7:00pm

If you enjoyed the Birthday Party for Jesus, plan to join us for another family night of fun, food, and activities. Look for updates in The Privy Paper and near the maps of The Shoppes on God's Prairie.

K-5 Sunday School - “Loyal Living – Ruth” January 15 – February 19

“Loyal Living – Ruth” is a unit in which the children will follow Ruth from Moab to Bethlehem where she begins a new life with her mother-in-law, Naomi. The children will learn what loyal living means by seeing Ruth loyally providing for Naomi. They will see how Ruth and Naomi were faithful throughout their struggles. They also learn that Ruth and Naomi thanked God for their blessings by showing care and kindness to others. They make a connection between Boaz being Ruth's kinsmen redeemer to Jesus being ours.

Activities in the workshops in this unit include a Kinsman Redeemer Skit, Ruth Slide Show, Community of Believers Advice Column, Multiplying Kindness Math Activity, The Strongest Link Reality Show, Puppet Show about The Story of Ruth, and a video with activities about Ruth.

All children in Kindergarten through 5th Grade are welcome to be a part of Sunday School. Group Worship in Faith Chapel begins at 10:55am. Please join us for:

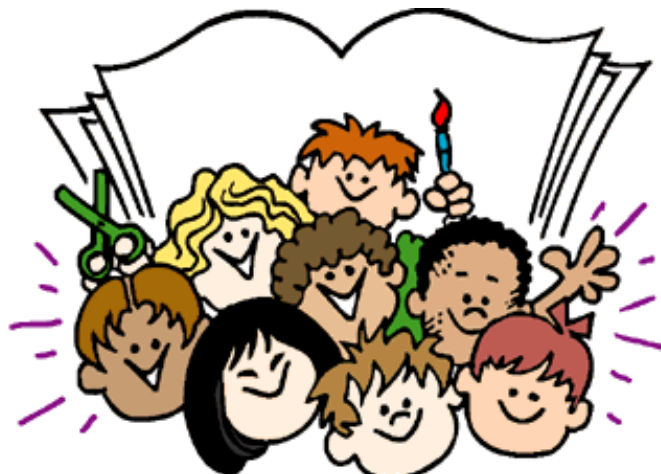
- Songs of Praise
- Prayer
- Scripture
- Offering

At the end of group worship, the Shepherds will take the children to their rooms listed on the rotation chart.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Kids' Light Conference

For Kids in Grades 1-5
Saturday, March 10, 2012
9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Registration will begin
February 1, 2012
Early Registration \$20
(February 1-20, 2012)
After February 20, 2012
Registration Fee will be \$25



Prayer Challenge

5 Resolutions To Keep

This year I promise to ... I really want to... Oh my, maybe I won't make any resolutions this Year... after all, I never keep them anyway. It's just too hard! New Years is a great time to reassess our actions and attitudes. Here are five resolutions we should strive to keep:

Reach Someone Who Doesn't Know Christ

Resolve to befriend someone who is not a Christian. It may be a co-worker, neighbor, your child's teacher or even your hair stylist. While reaching out may be scary, when you take the risk, you will see God work through you in exciting ways.

Become a Grateful Person

The practice of thanksgiving

is the discipline that helps us experience God's love.

Remember, your attitude is contagious. If you are always negative, those around you will always focus on what's lacking. Resolve to become a person of gratitude.

Spend Quality Time With Your Spouse

A marriage can get so busy with kids, carpools, commitments, etc. You think, I'll spend time with my spouse when life calms down. The problem is, life never does. Resolve to nurture your marriage. This year ask the question, "What can I do to help us grow closer together?"

Say "No" To Something

We all know that there are simply too many demands, too many choices and too little time. I have never

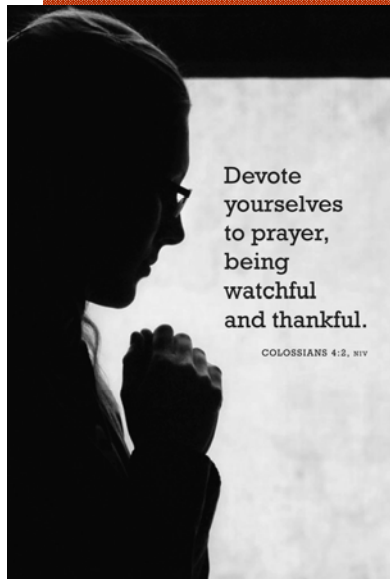
heard of anyone at the end of life say, "I wish I had spent more time serving on committees instead of spending more time with my family." Resolve to put first things first.

Pursue Christ With Fresh Vigor

Do you sometimes think your relationship with Christ is stale? As 2012 begins, resolve to recapture the joy you used to feel for Christ. Vary what you normally do for your time alone with God. The writer of Hebrews 12:1-2 encourages us to "throw off everything that hinders and the sins that so easily entangle, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus."

Adapted from [Christianity Today](#)

Submitted by Sally Charlton



Stephen Ministry FAQ's

What exactly is Stephen Ministry? It's a ministry in our congregation in which trained and supervised lay persons, called Stephen Ministers, provide one-to-one Christian care to individuals facing life challenges or difficulties.

Who is involved? Stephen Leaders are the ones who oversee and direct our Stephen Ministry. They recruit, select, train, organize, and support our Stephen Ministers, identify people in need of care, and match them with a Stephen Minister. We have three Stephen Leaders. They are:

Lu-Ann Frederick, Janita Goldman and Lori Samp.

Stephen Ministers are the caregivers.

They have engaged in many hours of training in Christian caregiving, including general topics such as listening, feelings, boundaries, assertiveness and using Christian resources in caregiving. Also, their training covered specialized topics such as ministering to the divorced, hospitalized, bereaved and aging. We currently have five active Stephen Ministers. They are: Tracie Carey, Joyce Dawson, Larry

Goldman, Lynette Salazar Vior and Linda Wicks.

Beginning in January we will be training the next class of Stephen Ministers. Please pray for this class as we equip additional people to further the care we share with Crossroads and the community. Questions? Contact Lori Samp at saved57@gmail.com or 309-367-9422.

Stay tuned – more of your questions about Stephen Ministry will be answered in the next Messenger.

From Nurse Sally...

Drug Commercials

Thanks to prime-time television, print and radio commercials, we have become well acquainted with many brand name drugs. Drug makers collectively spend billions of dollars each year to market their products. And their ads can be quite enticing, with pictures of happy men and women who have kicked whatever condition ailed them. There is a concern that some consumers are unduly swayed by these commercials and will insist on brand names, even though less expensive generics or over the counter drugs could be just as effective. Consumers should remember that the ads are meant to sell products and should look at them with a dose of skepticism. Many of the ads tell you to “ask your doctor” about a given product. Doctors should not bow to pressure from patients pushing for prescriptions that might not be the best choice for them.

Experts agree, however, that despite its potential for providing misleading information, the recent advertising explosion does have its benefits. Drug ads have informed millions of people about new and effective treatments for numerous conditions. They can be used as a springboard to talk to your doctor about symptoms or suspected conditions, even ones that were once too embarrassing to bring up.

What You Can Do:

- If you find that you are swayed by a drug ad, ask yourself, “Why am I interested in this drug? Am I being treated now for this condition? Am I happy with my current treatment?”
- Write down the information you hear or read in a drug ad. Take that information to your doctor and ask for specifics about the condition the drug treats, its side effects and alternative treatment options.
- Talk to your pharmacist about drugs risks and benefits as well as your cost and insurance co-payment.
- Keep your doctors and pharmacist up to date on your drugs to prevent drug interactions.
- Keep track of the drugs you take. Carry a list of those drugs with you. Obtain a medication card to carry in your wallet. These cards are available on the wellness bulletin board or by calling me at 444-2381.



If you are hospitalized, have surgery scheduled, etc., please let the church office know. A member of the pastoral staff would love to visit you and pray for you.

Help & Hope for Single Parents

If you are a single parent, you're probably tired, overwhelmed and feeling a bit underappreciated. That's why we are offering Single & Parenting groups – to share tips and parenting wisdom that will help you find rest, hope and encouragement.

At a Single & Parenting group you will learn lots of practical information, including how to:

- Deal with verbal onslaughts
 - Figure out what your emotions are telling you
- Plus, you'll develop meaningful friendships with men and women who, like you, are tired of hectic mornings and chaotic evenings, kids fighting and a never-ending to-do list.

A Single & Parenting group will begin at Crossroads on January 12th, 6:30 – 8:30pm. Call the church, 444-2381, to register. There is a \$15 fee to cover the cost of the workbook.

However, scholarships are available if the fee is a problem. Have a question? Please call Martha Schwend at 645-0481.

This program is open to the community; please feel free to invite friends who are single parents.

Senior News

M & M's Potluck Dinner and Music



Bring your favorite dish and join the M & M's for a potluck on Tuesday, January 17th at 5:00 p.m. If you are so inclined, include the recipe for your wonderful dish, or you may want to be coy and keep it a secret; it's up to you. Chicken will be supplied.

Following the meal, the very talented Julie and Jim Bayless will honor us with their wonderful praise music. We are so blessed to have such great talent as

part of our church family. They will also join us for dinner.

Please call the church at 444-2381 to let us know you are coming. If you have questions, call Sally Charlton at the church.

A potluck dinner is the perfect opportunity for older adults to become acquainted with new friends. There will be lots of time to sit and talk. All you have to do is call the church office, 444-2381, and let us know you will be attending.

If you need a ride to the church and back home again, just let that be known when you call.

Senior Meal

Our Senior Meal will be Tuesday, January 10 at noon in the Fellowship Area. Come, relax, and enjoy fellowship after the busy holidays. Call the church office at 444-2381 to make a reservation. Call a friend to join us!

GriefShare

GriefShare Beginning Thursday, January 12-April 5 (13 sessions) 1:00 – 3:00pm

GriefShare is designed for those suffering a deep hurt that comes with the loss of someone close. GriefShare sessions include three elements to help in the healing process:

Video

At each session a DVD will be viewed on issues related to grief and loss. They feature top experts on a variety of subjects important to the grief process. At each meeting we will hear personal stories from people who have experienced grief.

Support Group

After the DVD, the group discusses what was seen and how it pertains to their lives. The group leader will have a set of discussion questions to help guide the group.

Between Sessions

Group members are encouraged to reflect on what has happened at the meeting and how the discussion might apply to personal circumstances. Everyone will receive a workbook and will be encouraged to work in it during the week.

Alice Arn and Sally Charlton will facilitate the group. Anyone who has experienced the loss of someone close is invited to attend. The loss need not be recent.

Call the church, 444-2381, to register or with questions. If you have a friend or family member who would benefit from this program, please encourage him/her to attend.

GriefShare is ecumenical and open to the public.

There is a \$15 fee for the workbook but scholarships are available if the fee is a problem.

Visit the GriefShare website at www.griefshare.org for more information.

Fellowship Opportunities

Girls Night Out Friday, January 20th 6:00-10:00pm

You are invited to a girls night of friends and fellowship. Time to celebrate a new year. Now is the time to start putting those photos into meaningful albums for your family to enjoy. Learn quick photo solutions on how to get all of your photos into albums, storybooks, quickbooks or everyday displays for your family to enjoy. Free mini lessons available. Even if you simply want to come and work on something you have been meaning to get done, lets get together. We meet once a month.

February date:

Friday, Feb. 17th, 6-10 pm
Contact Tammy Miller at 444-2408 for more information.

Spirited Book Discussion Group

Something new! The Spirited Book Discussion Group is starting a program to deliver church library books to those who can not come to the church

library. We will be happy to deliver and pick up your books. Church library books can be checked out for the length of time you need to read them. There is no set due date. This is a great opportunity for you to get books and for us to enjoy bringing them to you. If interested please call Nancy Bullard at 444-5014 and she will talk with you about what type of books you like and arrange a time to deliver. The church library has fiction, non-fiction, some biographies, Bible study, poetry, humor, devotions, and much, much more. We are looking forward to helping you.

We will have a new time starting in January. We will meet at **2:00pm the third Tuesday of the month** in the church library. On January 17, we will discuss The Dressmaker of Khair-Khana by Gayle T. Lemmon. This is an inspiring story of the courage of Afghan women. For more information, contact Nancy Bullard at 444-5140 or nanrb@mtco.com.

Men's Basketball Ministry

Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00pm
Multi-Purpose Room

All men high school age and up are welcome. Contact: John Miller 444-2408.

Sewing Circle

The Dorcas Sewing Circle meets *weekly* on Wednesdays from 9:00am to noon. Even if you are not an experienced sewer, you are welcome to join us for some great fellowship and to share ideas.

Second Sunday Meal January 8 at noon

Menu:

Spaghetti
Salad

Homemade desserts

Sponsored by: Ad Council
Proceeds to go toward the King David Building Project in Zimbabwe.

*"But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.
I John 1:7*

Upcoming Emmaus Walks & Chrysalis Flights

Men's Emmaus Walk

February 2-5, 2012

Women's Emmaus Walk

February 9-12, 2012

The **Walk to Emmaus** is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servanthood and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways

appropriate to being a "servant of all." The Walk to Emmaus experience is a 72-hour short course in Christianity, comprised of fifteen talks by lay and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship, and what it means to be the church. The course is wrapped in prayer and meditation, special times of worship and daily celebration of Holy Communion. The Emmaus Walk begins Thursday evening and concludes Sunday

evening. Men and women attend separate weekends.

For more information on any of these events, visit ilheartlandemmaus.com.

Crossroads Emmaus Liaisons:

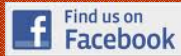
Valerie Kruzan (745-3321 or vkruzan@aol.com)

Jim O'Malley





For more information about the Crossroads Unit of United Methodist Women, contact Nancy Bullard at 444-5140



United Methodist Women

"The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through

participation in the global ministries of the church."

"Any woman may become a member of the unit who supports the unit through giving, prayer, study, action, or service."

THERE WILL NOT BE A MEETING IN JANUARY.

We invite all ladies of the church to join us on Thursday, February 2 at 1:00pm for a "Birthday Tea Party", where we will enjoy cake and fellowship. Also, we will have our pledge service for 2012.

Questions?

Please call Nancy Bullard at 444-5140 or Rebecca Bell at 444-2570.

Pastoral Care Notes

Congratulations to Kevin and Anna Peters on the birth of their daughter, Lydia, on December 2.

Congratulations to Joshua Mellican and Jessica Husted, who were married at Crossroads on December 10.

Our sympathy to:

Robert, Kayla, Charise and Kelli Jo Deatherage and Jessica and Sam Horton on the death of their adopted grandpa, Al Swinehart, on December 1.

Joe and Donna Cimino on the passing of Joe's mom, Alvis Cimino, on December 4.

Ron and Bev Riggins on the passing of Ron's mom, Doris Blair, on December 4.

Lynn and Nancy Zook on the passing of Lynn's mom, Elinor Zook, on December 9.

Dan and Marcia Gronewald on the passing of Dan's father, Harold Gronewald, on December 11.

Pat and Dean Huskins on the passing of Pat's father, JC Copeland, on December 13.

Danette and Randy McCall & James and Kim Campbell on the passing of Danette and James' father, Robert Forgason, on December 19.

Kay and Paul Cram on the passing of Kay's mother,

Mary Burgener, on December 20.

We extend our sympathy to Laura Beam and family on the passing of John Beam on December 16th. John was a member of Crossroads.

Finally we extend our sympathy to the Russell family on the passing of Rosalie Russell on December 5th. Rosalie was a 50-year member of Crossroads and active in the education and women's ministries of the church.

Thank You Notes

Thank you to Jim & Sandy Tunnell for leading the Gift Cards for Group Homes Project, to Lori Brittain for her help, and to the Confirmation Class for helping deliver the cards to two of the group homes.

Thank you to Jim Bayless & Acts 29, Joe & Donna Cimino, Mary Lynn

Dodson, Dan Doty, Ron Folkerts, the Hutchinson family, Bob Lawry, Will & Ben Meachum, Jim O'Malley, Adam & Jessica Penn and friends, John Sitler, Jill Tully, Brian Wierenga, and all who helped make our Christmas Eve services such a celebration of Jesus' birth. The services were beautiful!

Thanks to our church family for all of the Christmas cards, Christmas goodies, and the special Christmas gift given to our family. We are so blessed to serve such a loving and caring congregation. Tom, Sherry, Andrew & Nick Goodell

More Thank You Notes

The United Methodist Women express appreciation to all who have donated food to make possible our mission of providing funeral meals for many families. Thank you very much for your support.

The United Methodist Women

The 2011 Cookie Walk was a success! An outstanding variety of goodies were donated to sell. The United Methodist Women would like to thank the workers, all who donated goodies, and those who purchased the treats. Our local, national and international missions program will benefit from the proceeds of our sale.

The United Methodist Women

Sorry this is late, but I want to thank each and everyone for your prayers, calls and kind words expressed during my daughter Nita's illness and three surgeries. I'm so blessed to be in a church of such caring people. God heard our prayers. Nita is doing well and is glad to be able to return to work. May God bless each of you.

Elizabeth Elting

Thank you Crossroads family for making the Crossroads Christmas Angel Project possible. Thank you also to Cummins Restaurant for participating again this year. This was the third year Crossroads families have given fellow congregation members a Christmas to remember. We helped 14 children, 10 families, enjoy the holiday season. Parents were thankful for the help and I'm sure the children were truly surprised.

Every year we hear amazing stories...this year it's time to share with you. The recipient families tell their children that these gifts are from their Crossroads church family because we are showing the love we have for them, supporting and sharing with them - as we promised when some were baptized while we watched. What a warm feeling this gives us!

This year was a "give back" year. A family that we helped last

year called. I thought we had forgotten them and quickly asked what the children would like for Christmas. Imagine our surprise when the mom said..."No, I want to support a family". She then asked, and was able to help buy gifts for another family. This is Christian love in action!

God is good - all the time. Again, thank you Crossroads family for showing your love and your support - it's truly appreciated.

Blessings to you all (we'll be back next year!)

P.S. A special thank you to those angels who provided a food basket to our recipients.

Ron & Marilyn Hunt

Thank you to everyone who took a tree from our Group Home Gift Card Tree. Because of your wonderful generosity the residents will enjoy many months of eating out, shopping and even going to the movies. You not only made their Christmas merry, you have made next year better for them. Blessings to you all,

The Outreach Team

Sue and I express our appreciation for the many Christmas cards and notes, snacks, goodies, and gift cards we received this Christmas. We are deeply grateful for the congregational gift that was shared with us and appreciate the thoughtfulness behind it. It is a privilege and a pleasure to work with Pastor Tom and Pastor Dan, as well as have the opportunity to be in ministry to and worship with you all.

Bob & Sue Lawry

My husband and I want to thank the Crossroads Christmas Angels for giving my family Christmas this year. We were able to have nice gifts under the tree this year and it was such a blessing for us. Our church is blessed with people that truly care and have a heart for others' needs. God bless and Have a Happy New Year.

Anonymous

This "Thank You" is long, long, long over due. I didn't realize that my recovery was going to take so long and be so painful. But that's no excuse for my tardiness in thanking you all for the many cards, emails, visits to the house and hospital and of course, the prayer bear who still watches over me. Many blessings and thanks to each of you for all you've done for Marilyn and me.

Ron Hunt

Threads, Hope & Love would like to thank all of the people that helped us give toys and gifts to 115 children for Christmas. We couldn't have done it without all of your donations financially, prayerfully and of gifts. You helped put smiles of happiness on lots of little faces on Christmas morning.

Also, the staff of Threads, Hope & Love would like to thank all of the AWANAs for their Christmas project of making bags with personal needs for the families that came to us for gifts. They all said thanks so much to all of the children for thinking of them.

God Bless you & Hugs to you all,
Cindy Shuford

Thanks to Crossroads for the year-end donation to our food pantry. We greatly appreciate the assistance your church has provided as we work to serve the people of the Washington community.

The WHIP Staff (Washington Helps Its People)

Linda Clary and Jerod & LeeAnn Grebner would like to say "Thank You" to all our members for the prayers, cards, and kind words spoken to us in the passing of Linda's dad, Lannie Lee and Jerod's grandmother, Roberta Grebner on November 17, 2011. Linda also wishes to say "Thank You" to her staff family for the beautiful plant arrangement sent to her Dad's service. The Lord bless all of you!

"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God."

Philippians 1:3

Pastors & Staff

Directing Pastor

Tom Goodell
pastors@mtco.com

Pastor of Discipleship

Bob Lawry
pastors@mtco.com

Visitation Pastor

Dan Doty

Assistant to the Pastors

Angie Shaw
ashaw@mtco.com

Director of Human Resources

Donna Cimino
dcimino@mtco.com

Parish Nurse

Sally Charlton
charlton@mtco.com

Youth Director

Trevor Bartolomucci
trevorb@mtco.com

Director of Christian Education

Sue Husted
sueh@mtco.com

Children's Ministry Elementary Coordinator

Maureen Hotkevich
maureenh@mtco.com

Nursery Coordinator

Stephanie Wendte
stephw@mtco.com

Building Manager

Craig Hibbard
chibbard@mtco.com

Receptionist

Brenda Thornburg
brendat@mtco.com

Business Administrator

Amber Johnsen
amberj@mtco.com

Video Director

John Sidler
jsidler@mtco.com

Worship Coordinator

Will Meachum
wmeach@mtco.com

Praise Worship Leader

Jim Bayless
praiseways@yahoo.com

Accompanist

Brian Wierenga
brian.wierenga@live.com

Sound Technician

Tim Lee
timothycee@mac.com

Handbell Director

Cliff Smith

Little Lambs Preschool Director

Tracie Carey
mstracie@mtco.com

Wedding Coordinators

Melissa Sullivan
Beth Edwards

Crossroads United Methodist Church of Washington

P.O. Box 299
1420 N. Main St.
Washington, IL 61571

*Our mission is to grow disciples
and send them out into the
crossroads of our communities to
impact lives for Jesus Christ.*

Office Hours

Monday –Thursday
8:30am-4:00pm
Friday
8:30am-1:00 pm

Phone: (309)444-2381
Fax: (309)444-9818

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 am
Spirited Traditional

9:45 am
Christian Education
for All Ages

11:00 am
Casual Contemporary

www.crossroads4all.org

