



**The United Methodist  
Church of Reed City**  
503 S. Chestnut Street,  
Reed City, MI 49677-1301  
**Address Service Requested**

**JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY**

- In person...  
10:00 a.m. - Worship Service  
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- By Broadcast...

Worship Services Broadcast:

Radio WDEE 97.3 FM - 10:00 a.m. Sunday  
Local Cable TV: Channel 97 - 12:45 p.m. Sunday

**Church Office Hours:**  
Monday - Friday • 8 am - Noon • 1-3 pm  
Telephone: 231-832-9441 • FAX 832-5641  
**New Parsonage Phone Number: 465-4068**  
**Church Website New Name: [www.reedcityumc.com](http://www.reedcityumc.com)**  
Office Manager's email: [office@umcrc.com](mailto:office@umcrc.com)  
Pastor's email: [katcad@umcrc.com](mailto:katcad@umcrc.com)

**OUR CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Kathryn Cadarette..... Pastor  
Tammy Solis..... Youth & Children's Ministries Director  
Carolyn Sims..... Office Manager  
Rosemary Todd..... Organist  
Gwen Ford..... Organist  
Rick Allen..... Custodian

**Look Inside This Issue...**

A Word from Pastor Kathy .....	3
Calendar .....	Center
Education/Youth News .....	14, 15
Financial/Stewardship Updates .....	16, 17
Health & Well-Being.....	8
Our Church Family News .....	5, 6, 7, 17
Missions .....	4
Small Groups.....	5
Thank You Notes.....	4, 6, 9
UM Women News.....	13
Volunteer Lists & Opportunities .....	6, 17, 18, 19
Worship & Music Ministries .....	1, 2, 4, 12

*Mailed on January 26*



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**The United Methodist Church of Reed City**  
Open Hearts...Open Minds...Open Doors  
**February 2012**

# The Reed

## What Is Lent?

The season of Lent is a 40-day period before Easter intended to give Christians a chance to have a time of repentance and reflection on their mortality.



Ash Wednesday - which falls on February 22 this year - marks the start of this journey. At 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. we will have a worship service in which Pastor Kathy will mark persons' foreheads with ashes in the sign of a cross. This reminds us "from dust we come, and to dust we will return." Christians are called to fast

on this day and on select days (usually Fridays) during this time.

Some things to know about the Lenten season:

- The ashes used on Ash Wednesday are the remains of the previous Palm Sunday's palm leaves.
- During the season of Lent, songs sung on Sundays do not include the word "hallelujah."
- The 40 days does NOT include any Sundays in the weeks between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. This is because the Church believes every Sunday is an anniversary of Easter, and we should feast and not fast on this special day.
- A traditional way to observe the season is to give up something for the 40 days - usually a favorite food (like chocolate or coffee), but it also could be a favorite TV show, video games or something else we enjoy on a daily basis. In this way we are reminded that we can live without anything except God.
- Fasting is encouraged on Ash Wednesday and on Fridays during Lent. The time we would have spent on meals we can then dedicate to reflections upon God's will in our lives. If a daylong fast is impossible because of sugar levels or a need to take medication, try fasting for one meal a day.



# WORSHIP WITH US



Date	Theme and Scripture * Please note...liturgist reads first scripture passage only	Readers
February 5	Communion Sunday Weakness vs. Strength * Isaiah 40:21-31 1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Anna Lee White
February 12	The Healing of Naaman * 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 2 Kings 5:1-14	Aaron Weiss
February 19	Transfiguration of Christ * Psalm 50:1-6 (from hymnal pg. 783) Mark 9:2-9	John Williams
February 26	Covenant with Noah * Psalm 25 (from hymnal pg. 756, 2nd musical response) Genesis 9:8-17	Debbie Youngs

## Ash Wednesday Service Planned

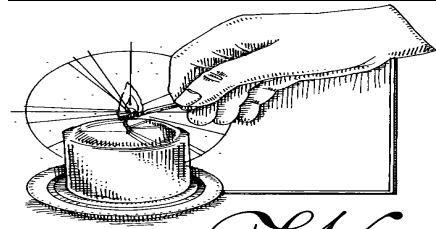
Ash Wednesday, **February 22**, marks the start of our lenten journey. At **10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.** we will have a worship service in which Pastor Kathy will mark persons' foreheads with ashes in the sign of a cross. This reminds us "from dust we come, and to dust we will return."



If you are unable to serve as scheduled, please find your own substitute. Then notify the church office of the changes as soon as possible so that the Sunday bulletin will be accurate. Thank you.



<u>Projection</u> Mark Posey 796-3112	<u>Nursery</u> Sally Plummer 832-9662	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Counters</u> Bonnie Dalman 832-5493	<u>Coffee Hour Hosts</u> Carrie Buss 832-2344	<u>Date</u>
Mark Posey	Denise Allen	Teri Hays in memory of Niki Sweet	Tammi Buell, Larry & Nancy Hoisington		<b>February 5</b>
Tyler Thompson	Lorie Kohl	Available	Steve & Brenda Marsh, Betty Maples		<b>February 12</b>
Mark Buss	Anna Lee White	Available	Anna Lee White, Rod & Lucille Rugg	Missions Luncheon	<b>February 19</b>
Mark Posey	Sally Plummer	Altarscape	Larry & Nancy Hoisington, Sherry Kirch		<b>February 26</b>



# Worship Assistants

# for February

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u> Carrie Buss 832-3244	<u>Ushers</u> John Williams 832-4395	<u>Acolytes</u> Brenda Hendrick 832-1330	<u>Liturgists</u> Burl Near 832-4702	<u>Organists</u>
February 5		John Engel, Jim & Tyler Thompson	Emily Weiss	Anna Lee White	Gwen Ford
February 12	Handbell Choir	Sheila Tees- dale, Fay & Jeff Wilson	Brittany Cassidy	Aaron Weiss	Rosemary Todd
February 19	Mission Team	Dwight & Sandy Gingrich, John Cookingham	Rachelle Hendrick	John Williams	Gwen Ford
February 26		Aaron Weiss, Steve Marsh, Jerry Peters	Taylor Weiss	Debbie Youngs	Rosemary Todd



Dear Friends,

When it comes to vacation destinations, Dave prefers Florida with its blue water and green vegetation. I, on the other hand, love Arizona.

For one thing, I see my parents there. However, it also means before I get home, I log 15-20 miles of hiking with them. Every other day we head to Saguaro National Desert, Sabino Canyon or the Catalina Mountains.

Dad usually is at the head of the trail, and Mom and I follow along behind. Occasionally, we let Dad get too far ahead of us and when we look up, there is no sign of him. But if we look down, we usually find his footprints. Sometimes, he stacks a pile of rocks to assure us we are on the right trail.

Being able to hike in the desert only works because we come prepared. Depending on how long a hike we plan, we have one or two bottles of water each, plus good hiking shoes, and a stick to keep our balance. We also may carry granola bars, crackers and cheese, or other snacks to replenish us.

Most importantly, God always reminds me on these visits that there is life in the desert. Cacti of almost every description abounds. In an El Nino year, wildflowers cover the desert floor. We regularly catch sight of owls, rabbits, and javalinas (a wild pig), and occasionally see mule deer. They survive because they have learned how to adapt to the desert.

My trips to Arizona are always good reminders to me of what it means to journey through Lent. The 40 days before Easter remind us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness. In fact, much of the Bible concerns people in wilderness experiences, from Moses and the Israelites wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, to Elijah seeking God on Mount Horeb, to Peter and Paul facing prison and death for their ministry.

Lent is a good time to be reminded that everyone has dry spells in their spiritual life. And like hikers in the desert, we can live through those dry spells.

First, if the path seems unclear, try looking down instead of ahead. We need to bow our heads and pray for God's guidance, and the Holy Spirit will reveal insight to us in the right path to choose.

Second, dry spells are much easier to endure when we are prepared. Rather than waiting until the tough times, we need to have provisions stocked up. Try a daily discipline of prayer and devotion, and make sure we have a prayer partner to share the journey.

Most importantly, never forget that with God, there is life in the desert. The dry times in our spiritual journeys may bring more growth than when we are in green valleys, for we may learn new ways to live and thrive with God. We may not enjoy dry spells in our travels, but there is life if we learn to adapt.

May God give us grace in this Lenten season and the assurance that He walks with us.

Peace and prayers,  
Pastor Kathy Cadarette

## Lenten Activities Add Meaning to the Season

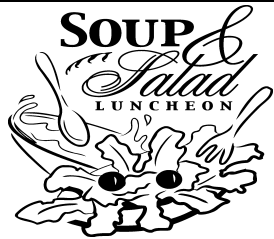
This time of year, Spring and Easter seem a long way off, but planning is underway for Lent and Holy Week. **Beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 22**, our Lenten observances will bring meaning to this holy season. **We are very excited by the return of the Last Supper drama on Maundy Thursday.** The depiction of Christ's final gathering with His disciples is a celebrated tradition in our church, and you are invited to share in it and participate in communion with the disciples that night. We have also come to consider our annual Bible Reading Vigil as an integral part of our Holy Week activity at RCUMC. The nonstop reading will begin on Dark Saturday morning and will continue through the night and until worship begins Easter morning. More information will be coming on both of these events: if you're interested in helping with either, please contact Timothy Locker (The Last Supper) or Sheri Thompson (Bible Reading Vigil).



## Appreciation for Christmas Eve Basket Participation

Thank you for all the goodies for the community workers Christmas eve baskets. Every year I watch and hope we will have enough items donated, and each year we have just what we need! Thank you for all the baked goods; I am sure they are the favorites! Thank you to Terri Weiss for her baking and for delivering some of the baskets. Also, thanks to Mrs. Horchner and Katie Worrall for their help with deliveries. It is such a great ministry for our own community.

*Most sincerely, Sally Plummer*



**Sunday, February 19**  
**11:00 am**  
**to benefit**  
**FSU Wesley House**

## Clothing Drive Items Available at Adventist Church

Reed City Area Ministerial Association Winter Clothing Drive articles are available to anyone needing them on **Tuesdays** from **2:00-5:00 p.m.** at the vacant **Seventh Day Adventist Church**, 401 S. Chestnut St. All items are free. Call **Mary Lou Proefrock** at **832-4938** if you have any questions.

Please help us spread the word so people will know of this wonderful opportunity for their families.

## Pledges to Our Lord's Work in 2012

A total of 78 pledges were received:

- ♦ 56 will pray for the church
  - ♦ 61 will attend church
  - ♦ 56 will strengthen their faith
  - ♦ 57 will serve the church
  - ♦ 55 will give to the church
- Total pledged \$144,111.50

## 2012 General Fund Budget

2000 Ministry Shares .....	\$28,449.00
3000 Administration .....	\$29,021.00
4000 Education.....	\$16,275.00
5000 Program.....	\$3,150.00
6000Worship .....	\$10,369.00
7000 Clergy Salary .....	\$52,253.00
7500 Clergy Benefits.....	\$28,877.00
8000 Building & Grounds .....	\$53,817.00
9000 Parsonage .....	\$5,650.00
<b>Total Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$227,861.00</b>

## AED Training Offered Feb. 19 (And—What's an "AED"?)

Simply, an AED, or Automated External Defibrillator, is a device which automatically diagnoses life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias and treats them by applying electrical therapy. This stops the arrhythmia and allows the heart to resume a more normal rhythm. It is meant to be used by lay persons. Through the generous gift of a caring church family member, we will soon have a life-saving AED installed in our church! We are asking all of our Usher staff to receive training, but the training is open to EVERYONE, and it is hoped that many of our congregation will attend to learn how to use the AED most effectively. These devices are available in many public buildings, airports, and offices, and we are indeed fortunate to have one in our church. This training, which also includes current CPR instruction, does not require physical strength or medical knowledge—just a couple of hours of time and a willingness to learn some skills that could save the life of someone with ventricular fibrillation or tachycardia. The device, which is not the 'paddle and shock' equipment seen on emergency room TV shows, is a huge medical advance in treating such cardiac arrests when they occur outside of the hospital—and the fact that it can be used by almost anyone makes it even more important.

The training, kindly offered to our church by our local EMS staff, will be held on **Sunday, Feb. 19, from 12 noon til 2:00 p.m.** Our Missions Team is offering a luncheon benefiting FSU Wesley House following worship that day, so plan on staying after our service for both. If you'd like to attend the training, please sign up on the narthex bulletin board so that we can be sure to have enough materials for the class and enough food for lunch. This could be one of the most important things you do for yourself—for a loved one—or for a complete stranger— and we hope to see you there! Contact Sheri Thompson if you have questions.

## FINANCE & FIGURES

A Report on our Presence and Gifts for Christ's Church

Date	Attendance	General Fund Offering	Designated Offerings (totals for this period)	
12/4/2011	151	\$6,201.00	\$230.00	Missions Projects
12/11/2011	185	\$5,308.87	\$220.00	Poinsettias
12/18/2011	149	\$3,207.00	\$130.00	Food Pantry
12/24/2011	219	(12/24 & 12/25 offerings were combined)	\$30.00	Capital Improvements
12/25/2011	75	\$1,679.12	\$27.00	Human Relations Day
1/1/2012	88	\$4,479.75	\$125.00	Kitchen Fund
1/8/2012	147	\$5,798.00	\$25.00	Building Fund
1/15/2012	94	\$2,226.00	\$500.00	Utilities
1/22/2012	106	\$1,883.00	\$2,075.00	Loop System for Sanctuary
<b>Y-T-D Average</b>	109		\$49.14	Penny Ministry
<b>Average</b>	135		\$27.00	UM Student Day
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$30,782.74</b>	\$25.00	Thanksgiving Offering
<p><b>* PLEASE NOTE: THE BUDGETED AMOUNT FOR 2011 MINISTRY SHARES HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL</b></p>			\$76.00	Fairfield Orphanage
			\$1,050.00	Deb Moore's trip
			\$54.70	Sunday School
			\$213.50	Sr. High Youth Group
			\$1,869.68	Mid-High Youth Group
			\$141.00	Men's Group
<b>General Fund Summary</b> thru 1/25/2012			\$199.00	Ministry Shares
<b>Income-to-Date</b>		<b>\$13,242.00</b>	\$2,057.83	Christmas Offering
<b>Expenses-to-Date</b>			\$120.00	Haiti Hot Lunch
Ministry Shares		-0-	\$6.00	Children's Ministry
Administration		\$1,592.11	\$95.00	Gifts for Kids
Education		\$1,106.59	\$660.00	Ranald Williams Memorial
Program		-0-	\$100.00	Juanita Frederick Memorial
Worship		\$351.24	\$250.00	Wedding Escrow
Clergy Salary		\$3,807.32	\$500.00	VanAlstine/Martin Nursing Sch.
Clergy Benefits		\$2,181.45		
Building and Grounds		\$1,830.01	<b>\$10,885.85</b>	<b>Total Designated Gifts</b>
Parsonage		-0-		
Payroll Expense		\$3.83		
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$10,872.55</b>		
<b>General Fund Balance</b>		<b>+ \$2,369.45</b>		



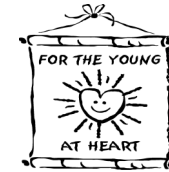
### Church Financial Update

We did not reach our 2011 general fund budget, but we did finish the year in the black. Thanks to everyone for giving to our Lord's work. Thanks to all the committees for being very careful about spending.

In prayer,  
John Cookingham, Finance Chairperson

### Young at Hearts Plan Noon Meeting in February

Young at Hearts group will meet **Thursday, February 9 at 12:00 noon** in the Fellowship Hall. There will not be a regular potluck this month. Refreshment time will be "cracker barrel style". Please bring your favorite finger food. Program will be "game time". Bring your favorite game and a friend along with you!



### AARP Tax Service Hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church

Taxes for senior citizens and low income families will be done on **Tuesdays and Thursdays at Trinity Lutheran Church from February 2 through April 15**. This is sponsored by the IRS and AARP.

**Call Commission on Aging at 734-5559 to set an appointment.** This program has helped many people over the years. Clients should bring all needed information so that we can be of help.

### RCUMC Explores (cyber)space!

You may be aware of the updates that have taken place to our website recently. If not, check it out at [ReedCityUMC.com](http://ReedCityUMC.com). During upcoming months, we will be offering opportunities to become familiar with the site, and, for those who may be tentative or non-users of the internet, we'll provide some basic tutorial opportunities. Watch for information in upcoming *Reeds*, and in Sunday bulletins—and, of course, we'll post that information on the website too!

Mark Posey has spent many hours revamping our website to be user-friendly and full of good content. Additions and enhancements are ongoing, and he's happy to hear any feedback you might have. Also—if you have material or pictures you would like posted, be sure to let him know. Here are just a few interesting facts about our website's use during these past couple months:

- In the last 3 months, our site has had 360 visitors—from 17 states! Our Michigan visitors came from 27 different cities. Snowbirds and family and others visited most often from Ohio, Arizona, Texas, and Arkansas.
- Our Nov. 27 sermon/service was visited 140 times—and the Bell Choir's "Thanksgiving Praise" was visited over 130 times! The children's pageant was viewed 54 times! Other than the "home" page, Pastor's Page is the most often visited.

We'll share more in months to come, but you can see that we have established a strong web presence—and, our Facebook page is more 'liked' all the time, as well. We're working on adding more content to both sites, so check them regularly!

While we are looking to further our mission of being God's love alive in community—that community increasingly includes those in the flock online. And, as we spread the word in making disciples for Jesus Christ—we recognize the tremendous potential for strengthening faith to those on the web, as well as strengthening faith among those we communicate with there. There is no substitute for the personal, face-to-face engagement we have within our church walls on Sunday morning, but the web can enhance our ability to communicate our faith outside our walls, and hopefully to bring new church family members to us.



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 - Pat Mitchell  
 4 - Lauren Posey  
 5 - Jan Teesdale, Ron Ingraham,  
 Joyce Wooster  
 8 - Kayla Cassidy  
 13 - Pastor Kathy Cadarette,  
 Treavor Kailing  
 14 - Pam Remacle, Jared Kienitz  
 16 - Mark Iverson  
 19 - Irene Beckstrom  
 21 - Rick Allen, Mary Kienitz  
 22 - Emily Weiss, Andrea Benson,  
 Gloria Patterson

THERE ARE NO  
 ANNIVERSARIES KNOWN THIS MONTH

## Calling All Acolytes!

We have a great group of acolytes, and we're very proud of them! In order to grow our group, we are offering interested students in grades 4-12 an opportunity to serve their church in a meaningful way.

Training will be provided, and new acolytes will be mentored by our veteran acolytes as they learn. If you would like to know more about being an acolyte and what is involved, leave your name at the church office or on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. You'll be contacted when training has been scheduled.



## Opportunities for Serving Through Worship

If you are looking for an opportunity to serve our church on Sunday mornings, we're looking for you! We are updating our lists of liturgists, ushers, and communion assistants, and would be happy to add your name to any of those groups. Trainings for those positions will be provided. If you have questions, please contact Sheri Thompson (832-2046), or make a note on the attendance pad on Sunday morning.



Dear Church Family,

I would like to thank our many friends at RCUMC for their cards, calls, prayers, and concerns during this difficult time. Four surgeries in one year has turned out to be too much for "this old gal".

God bless you all, Betty Vanderhoof

## Flower Chart Opportunities Available

The following Sundays are open to provide flowers or provide a gift to a specific mission in lieu of flowers: Feb 5, 12, 19; April 29; May 13, 20, 27; June 24; July 1, 8, 15, 22; Aug. 12, 26; Sept. 2, 16, 30; Oct. 14, 21, 28; Nov. 11, 18; and Dec. 30.

- ♦ Please indicate on the flower chart located in the narthex the date(s) you desire;
- ♦ Fill out a slip located next to the chart exactly how you want your name to appear in the bulletin/newsletter, and return the flower chart slip to the church office.

Thank you!

## Scholarship Applications Available February 1

Scholarship applications are available in the church office beginning February 1, and are due no later than **April 1**, along with a current transcript (through the first semester of 2011-2012). For some scholarships, recipients must be full, confirmed members of RCUMC, and/or active in the life of the church.

If you have any questions about scholarships, please feel free to call a member of the Foundation Team.

## Let's Keep in Touch!

In an effort to facilitate communications within our church groups and to save some print and mailing costs, we are going to begin to develop a directory of email addresses within our church. This should save some time for our team and group leaders, as well, in communicating with those in our congregation who use email. Of course, privacy is important, and if you have an email address and prefer not to share it, that wish will be respected. This is a supplement to, not a replacement of, phone/mail/personal contacts. If you wish to be included in this list, to be used only within our church, please email the church office ([office@umcrc.com](mailto:office@umcrc.com)), or indicate your email address on the attendance pad on Sunday morning. We will make every effort to keep this list updated, so please let us know if you change email addresses in the future.

## Youth Group News

We have started the new year out just right!! On our first Sunday meeting we started our mission project for the patients at the Spectrum Health Rehab Nursing Facility. We decorated pillow cases with fabric paints and magic markers, all in bright colors. Each pillow case had two Bible verses written on it, and then a little added touch of either a Christian symbol, flowers, smiley faces, or hearts.

The following Sunday we visited each patient's room at the nursing facility and took time to visit with each and to give them a pillow case. All of us, the youth, the patients, and the nursing staff had a great day.

## Be a Love Bird

Many stories about the origin of Valentine's Day have come down through the centuries.



There's no definitive story, but most revolve around the imprisonment of Valentinus (St. Valentine) for his disregard of Roman laws.

Many legends are also associated with Valentine's Day. For example, because birds seemed to arrive and mate in some countries in mid-February, human couples came to be called "love birds."

In 1667, the first recorded Valentine cards was printed. Today people will give their sweethearts countless millions of cards and acres of heart-shaped boxes filled with candy. But why wait for Valentine's Day to share love with others? Remember, Jesus' words in John 13:34: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another."

## Featured Youth - Kyleigh Lucinda Smith

Let's get to know Kyleigh. She is 8 years old and has one older half brother, two half sisters, two full sisters, and will soon have a baby brother expected to be born any day now. Kyleigh's mother is Lucinda Morse, and she says that Katie Worrall is her second mom. She is quite proud to say she has "2" moms.

Kyleigh has many things that she likes to do including, horseback riding, swimming, camping, cooking, baking, and being able to go to Vacation Bible School each summer. She has also done some squirrel hunting and fishing. Kyleigh loves to bake and cook — cookies, cakes, and macaroni salad are among her favorites. She said she hopes to master her grandma's pancakes, because she likes those too. Kyleigh shared that she has been involved in both softball and cheerleading. She loves to play Wii tennis and is ready to challenge anyone to a game. She is currently thinking about taking ballet classes in Big Rapids, and is trying to learn how to play a keyboard. Kyleigh has been attending the Pow Wow's in Lake County for four years. She is excited to report that this summer she will be able to receive her Indian name which will be "Dancing Daisy". Kyleigh would like to be a karate teacher or a dentist when she grows up.

She likes to come to church and Sunday school and enjoys the Bible stories, games, and the yummy snacks! Kyleigh's favorite Sunday activity is Children's Church... Hmm, I wonder if that's because Katie Worrall teaches Children's Church? Her favorite songs are *Silent Night* and *Jesus Loves Me*. This past Christmas Kyleigh received an alarm clock as a gift from Sunday School. She said she really likes it, because the alarm clock has four different prayers, which she listens to almost every night. Kyleigh was asked what she would do if Jesus walked into the room and sat beside her. She flashed a big smile and exclaimed she would really like that. She would want to play games with him, she would like to give him a bunch of balloons, and then she would ask him if she could visit with her grandfather who is in heaven. Something that she is grateful for and would like Jesus to know is, "I am thankful to be alive!"

## Leaping Green Leprechaun Family Fun Day

**Sunday, March 11** will be a day of eating green, wearing green, playing green, and learning green. So get out your green clothes and get ready to do an Irish Jig. Perhaps you might want to see how well you do at the "Pot of Gold" or see if you can get your Shamrock on the Leprechaun. Still up for another challenge? That is good to hear, because we have hidden shamrocks with history facts. If you can find them, it will be a brighter green day for you!

## St Patrick Dinner Set for Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

The Y.U.C. (Youth United for Christ) will be serving beef stew, bread, salad, dessert and beverage for all. We will be serving from 4:30 pm to 7 pm. The free-will offering will be used for our year-end gathering.



**In the Hospital:** David Randall (RC Re-hab), Betty VanAlstine

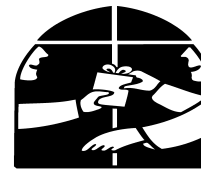
**At Home:** Betty Vanderhoof (in FL), Betsy Randall

**Cancer Concerns:** Jill Benkert Knapp (G. Erickson's niece), Bob Keithly, Jody & Ian Goltz (friends of M. Holtz), Jody Strelow, Shannon Slaughter (Pastor Kathy's sister), Beth Tyler, Keith Mosher, Gloria DeKleine (Bonnie Dalman's cousin), Mike Hickle (Stucks' son-in-law), Angela Chupp, Katie Scharlow, Arden Buss (Mark Buss' dad), Bob Stuck (Harry's brother), Denise Whaling, Angie Kailing, Bernie Kelsch, Enid Slankard, Mary Keikkinen, Susan Melosh (F. Easton's daughter)

**On-Going:** Linda Cosier (Dave Cadarette's sister), Donna Birdseye, Mike Burkell (Cindy Foote's uncle), Don Bow, Larry DeCou, Bruce Coon, Cathryn Proudfoot, Tim Near, Ray White, Mildred Williams, Kevin Pontz, Dennis Johns, Sara Beilfuss, Virginia Parker, Ken & Louise Main, Lynn Mohr, Fredith Easton

**In Nursing Home:** Elfriede Kadwell (Grand Oaks, Baldwin), Vella Stringer (Altercare, Room 147), Kathleen Kilmer, Nathalie Closson, Amy Iverson (Dan (Sue) Iverson's mother), Winona Bugge, Dora Pratt, Marjorie Bluhm, Arlene Wood, Louis Nellis

**In the Service:** Kylie Szpiech (granddaughter of Lois Clementshaw) at Marine Boot Camp in S. Carolina; Jason Brzezinski, medic training in Texas; Jordan and John Burdette (grandsons of Ingrahams), in the Middle East



Welcome  
Our New  
Members

We are pleased to announce that three new members joined our church on Sunday, December 18. They are: **Judy Knuttila, Maureen Holtz, and Cindy Foote.**

Be sure to give them a hearty RCUMC welcome!

## Library Input Sought

Our library team will soon be purchasing some new books for our church library. Your input is needed. If there are some books that you would like to see in our church library, please contact Marilyn Cookingham or Marilyn Sengelaub.



Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the family and friends of **Sandy Teske.**



**Harper Henley Dickinson** was born December 13 to Zachary and Jordana Dickinson. Harper weighed 6 lbs., 4 oz.. She is the granddaughter of Phil and Wendy Noder.

**Adelynn Kathryn Zomer** was born December 29 to John and Mary Zomer. Adelynn weighed 8 lbs., 12 oz, 22 inches long. She is the first grandchild of Larry and Kathy Zomer.

God's blessings!

### Facts About Strep Throat?

**What is strep throat?** Strep throat is a bacterial infection in the throat and the tonsils. The throat get irritated and inflamed, causing a sudden, severe sore throat.

**What causes strep throat?** Strep throat is caused by streptococcal (strep) bacteria. There are many different types of strep bacteria. Some cause more serious illness than others. Although some people are quick to think that any painful sore throat is strep, sore throats are usually caused by a viral infection and not strep bacteria. A sore throat caused by a virus can be just as painful as strep throat. But if you have cold symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, or a runny or stuffy nose, you probably do not have strep throat.

**What are the symptoms?** The most common symptoms of strep throat are: A sudden, severe sore throat; pain when you swallow; fever over 101 degrees; swollen tonsils and lymph nodes; white or yellow spots on the back of a bright red throat. You may also have a headache and belly pain. Less common symptoms are a red skin rash, vomiting, not feeling hungry, and body aches. Strep throat can be passed from person to person. When a person who has strep throat breathes, coughs, or sneezes, tiny droplets with the strep bacteria go into the air. These droplets can be breathed in by other people. If you come into contact with strep, it will take 2 to 5 days before you start to have symptoms.

**How is strep throat diagnosed?** Your doctor will do a physical exam, ask you about symptoms and past health, and do a rapid strep test to diagnose strep throat. Sometimes another test, called a throat culture, is also needed. If the rapid strep test says that you don't have strep (the test is negative) but your symptoms suggest that you do, your doctor may want to do a throat culture to be sure. This is because rapid strep tests are not always accurate. To do a throat culture, the doctor will swab a sample of cells from the back of your throat. The sample will go into a special cup (culture) where the strep bacteria can grow over time. If strep bacteria grow, the doctor knows that you have strep. If the rapid strep test is positive and says that you do have strep, there's no need to do the throat culture.

**How is it treated?** Strep throat will go away in 3 to 7 days with or without treatment. Doctors usually treat strep throat with antibiotics since they make you well faster. Antibiotics shorten the time you are able to spread the disease to others (are contagious) and lower the risk of spreading the infection to other parts of your body. You are contagious while you still have symptoms. Most people stop being contagious 24 hours after they start antibiotics. If you don't take antibiotics, you may be contagious for 2 to 3 weeks, even if your symptoms go away. Your doctor may also advise you to take an over the counter medicine like acetaminophen (such as Tylenol) or ibuprofen (such as Advil or Motrin) to help with pain and lower your fever. Do not give aspirin to anyone younger than 20. It has been linked to Reye syndrome, a serious illness.

**How do you prevent strep throat?** To avoid getting strep throat, it is a good idea to avoid contact with anyone who has a strep infection. If you are around someone who has strep, wash your hands often. Don't drink from the same glass or use the same eating utensils, and don't share toothbrushes. Bacteria can live for a short time on doorknobs, water faucets, and other objects. It's a good idea to wash your hands regularly. If you have a strep infection, there are things you can do to avoid spreading it to others. Use tissues you can throw away instead of handkerchiefs, wash your hands often, and do not sneeze or cough on others. Antibiotics can shorten the time that you are contagious. It is a good idea to stay home from work or school until 24 hours after you have started antibiotics.



### United Methodist Women News

- ♦ We are in need of **colored sheets in good condition and large pieces of fabric** (no knits, please). These items are needed for Camp New quilts.
- ♦ **Quilt workshops will be held on February 7 and 21 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** Come help make quilts for Camp New Day.
- ♦ **UMW is Serving Dinner at FSU Wesley House on Thursday, February 2.** Please let Nelda know if you can help serve.
- ♦ **Valentine Tea, Saturday, February 11** from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Edmore Faith UMC (note location change). Cost is \$2 at the door. Light refreshments will be served.
- ♦ **Baked Potato Luncheon to benefit our local Food Pantry, Sunday March 25** immediately following worship.

### United Methodist Women's 2011 Year-End Treasurer's Report

Jan. 1, 2011 Balance .....	\$4,541.04
Income:	
Pledges .....	\$1,044.00
Meals .....	\$5,715.50
Bazaar .....	\$1,589.17
Rummage Sales.....	<u>\$2,042.27</u>
<b>Total Income</b> .....	<b>\$14,931.98</b>
Total Expenses.....	<u>\$10,476.77</u>
<b>Balance Dec. 31, 2011</b>	<b>\$4,455.21</b>

We also donate to Goodwill, WISE, Love Inc, provide a meal to FSU Wesley House, and make quilts for Camp New Day and new babies in the congregation.

<b>Expenses:</b>	
<b>Heartland District</b> .....	\$3,795.00
(Pledge, Missions, Memorial, Community House, Dove)	

<b>Local Church</b>	
Meals.....	\$2,177.24
Utilities .....	\$1,000.00
Parking lot.....	\$500.00
Youth .....	\$50.00
Food Pantry .....	\$400.00
Scholarship.....	\$500.00
Camp New Day .....	\$100.00
Chairs.....	\$437.00
Love Gift-Deb Moore .....	\$200.00
FSU Wesley House .....	\$250.00
Kitchen Stove .....	\$500.00
Janitor Gift.....	\$300.00
Misc. (stamps, books, etc.) ....	<u>\$267.53</u>
Total.....	\$6,681.77

**Total Expenses** .....

**\$10,476.77**

## Happy Birthday, Jesus Tree

The old song counts down 12 days of Christmas, ending with "and a partridge in a pear tree."

We did not get the partridge, but our "Happy Birthday, Jesus" tree certainly was well stocked with gifts this year. All of the teams appreciate the gifts given this year. Thank you for your generosity.

Among gifts given:

- ♦ Membership Care: 153 styrofoam cups, 80 clear cups, 200 small paper plates, 200 plastic forks, 600 napkins
- ♦ Young at Hearts: styrofoam plates and cups, small plates and napkins
- ♦ Worship: 2 bottles of grape juice
- ♦ Missions: 30 retractable tape measures
- ♦ Custodial: 11 rolls of paper towels and 8 rolls of toilet paper
- ♦ Finance: card stock and more than 1000 legal envelopes
- ♦ Office: 1 box of paper clips, 24 pads of post-it notes, 5 books of stamps, 2 reams of white paper; one case (10 reams) white paper letter size
- ♦ Education: moveable white board with markers, 2 rolls of paper towels, 2 reams of white paper, 1 bottle of hand sanitizer and 2 bottles of juice, assorted pens, pencils, and large paper clips
- ♦ United Methodist Women: medium sized plates

## Our Music Ministries Bring Joy to Our Worship!

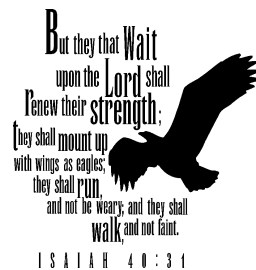
Our Chancel and Bell Choirs are scheduling for the winter and spring months, and we look forward to their music ministry on Sunday mornings! There remain openings each month for special music offerings, and we're hoping to hear from those of you who might like to fill some of our open dates. Or—if you think of someone who you'd like us to contact or encourage to sing or play on Sunday morning, please let us know!

### Hang On!

When a couple received a rose bush as a gift, they planted and cared for it, eagerly waiting for it to bloom. A few months later, a bud finally appeared. Day by day, it began to fill out. The couple's anticipation grew when they could see that the rose would be bright red.

One day, they were surprised to notice that the green around the bud had been pulled away and the flower petals were torn apart. They asked their young daughter if she knew what had happened. "I just couldn't wait any longer," she said, "so I blossomed it myself."

The psalmist tells us to "Wait for the LORD..." (Psalm 27:14). Instead of trying to help God along, let Him bring things to fulfillment in His perfect time.



The education team would like to say thank you for the many assorted Christmas gifts: juice, paper clips, scotch tape, pens and pencils, hand sanitizer, sticky notes, paper, and the dry erase board. Again, thank you so much.

*Tammy Solis*

Dear Friends,

Many thanks to those who brought gifts and goodies in to me at Christmas time. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated. Thanks also to those who purchased gifts for the office from the "Happy Birthday, Jesus Tree". May the Lord richly bless all of you in the new year!

*Love in Christ, Carolyn Sims*

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for all your love, especially your healing prayers, your enheartening cards, and visits, and for the nourishing food enjoyed by both Damian and me. And most especially to you, Pastor Kathy, I give thanks for your long and frequent trips to Grand Rapids, and communion here at home. This seems a bit belated, but with your continued prayers I am occasionally able to get out; and weather permitting hope to see you in church some sunny day!!

*With Christian love, Donna Birdseye*

Many thanks for your generosity in supporting the RCAMA Winter Clothing Drive. It was an overwhelming success. Local school children needs were filled first. God bless you and your efforts!

*Sincerely, Mary Lou Proefrock  
RCAMA Clothing Drive Chairperson*



Marilyn and I would like to thank everyone of our church family for prayers, and the many cards during and after my back surgery. This is very encouraging to know that people really care.

Also, thanks for a wonderful dinner that was brought to our home. Recovery is going very well, and I am now in therapy.

*John Cookingham*

I am writing this brief note on behalf of Nathalie Closson. She is doing very well since her debilitating stroke in 2010. She cannot walk or talk, and her right arm is non-functional so she cannot write. That's the bad news. The good news is her mind is sharp as ever, and her sense of humor is undiminished. When we visit her she lights up, and many visits are spent laughing over some story or current event. She loves the Tigers, Lions, and Red Wings and follows the standings carefully. Visits from her dog Blackie are frequent and joy-filled. Of course she has many friends at Tower Hill. When she goes down the hall, many residents and staff alike reach out to her with greetings and smiles. This is amazing to us since she has not spoken since her admittance. She truly is a remarkable woman. She absolutely loves receiving cards, letters, and greetings from old friends. The bulletin board next to her bed is loaded with photos of family and friends. Please send greeting to: *Nathalie Closson, 7N943 Woodcliff Dr., South Elgin, IL 60177*. Thank you for all your kind thoughts and warm wishes.

*Tim Closson (Nathalie's son)*