



LEWISBURG UNITED METHODIST Church

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Lewisburg United Methodist Church Newsletter

December 2009

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Dear Church Family and Friends

Thank you for subscribing to our electronic newsletter. We wish for you and your family a joyful holiday season as we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,



Your family in Christ
Lewisburg United Methodist Church
(937) 962-2817

Feeding the Body and Soul - Transforming Lives

One night, Melissa and I were sitting back in our family room talking. It had been a very busy week and I was tired. We were discussing what all occurred that day and all the upcoming meetings and meals, and possible bible studies and missions in 2010, and suddenly she said, "You know, the church should have the slogan, 'Lewisburg United Methodist - feeding body and soul'." I thought about it for a moment, and really liked it! So now you know that all my good ideas come from my wife. The bad ones, I will blame my dog.

After reflecting a bit more about that slogan, I felt it was missing something - the "why" - so I added the phrase - "transforming lives." Lewisburg United Methodist Church feeds the body and soul - why? - So that we can help in the transforming of people's lives. This is not an "official" slogan for us, but maybe it should be. It sure seems to fit.



FEEDING THE BODY

Since beginning September 1, I have witnessed groups of unpaid servant leaders feed over 200 for the Wednesday night community dinner at Trinity Lutheran, over 150 at St. Paul's in Dayton, 100 for our LUMC Thanksgiving dinner, the entire TCN football team, families after funerals, 50-60 people for our LUMC Community Dinner and Movie nights, an average of 80-90 people each Sunday morning for a hot breakfast, not to mention the other community events such as our outreach and dinners for the Preble County Women's Shelter, and catered dinners for our neighbors at Proctor and Gamble (Iams).

FEEDING THE SOUL

While Jesus seemed to be eating with his disciples a lot throughout the gospels, we know that his purpose was much larger than feeding the body. Jesus was all about caring, nurturing, and feeding our souls. This is our task as well. While we value fellowship around the table, we are called to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

My first 90 days have flown by with hardly time for a breath it seems. I am still adjusting to not being on a staff, and having to learn to balance work, family, and some creative time for me. There is always much to do and ways to grow to help "feed the souls" of any congregation.

But here are some ways that we already are "feeding the soul." Our worship has been exciting for me, and I have really enjoyed the band, the choir, the children's moment, the media team, etc. We really have not changed a lot, but tweaked it some to fit my style. And I am happy to report that worship attendance numbers are on the rise. We have had over 200 in worship the past couple of weeks, and hope to continue that trend through December. The worship design team, music ministers, and I will continue to look at ways that we can strengthen your experience in worship to help "feed your soul."

Our Sunday morning adult class offerings are another way to "feed the soul." One Sunday school class, taught by Jeff Ginter, has moved into the worship area because the classroom was getting too small. A new short-term class, taught by Sandy Slade, began with a few new folks. The third adult class on Sunday morning, taught by Ken and Mary Morrow, continues to go strong. Ken and Mary also lead a small bible study group on alternate Saturday evenings in their home. For those interested in mid-week adult studies, we have them as well. On Wednesday nights, Jeff Ginter, leads our Agape Bible Study which does short series. It has grown over the last couple of months from 8-10 to around 20 or more people. On Thursday nights, Sandy Slade leads the Disciples of Faith, which is a Women's Bible Study. It too is growing - not just in numbers, but in relationships with God and one another - truly "transforming lives."

On Wednesday evenings as well, Betsy and Brooklyn Lock and Kim and Abbey Fergus began TGI Wednesday for Kids. It began with 12 kids and has grown to over 35. Donnie Wright and Brooklyn and Abbey began leading the new Children's Choir in connection with TGIW night. They sang for the first time in worship on Nov.22, and were fabulous!!

We also hope to have youth leaders in place by the New Year that will continue and build upon the foundation that Lyna Timmons laid for the past three years. But while in transition, Whitt Waltman, Rhonda Gephart, and Betsy Lock have stepped in and continue to help "feed the soul" of our youth.

TRANSFORMING LIVES

While worship and studies and small groups can and do help transform lives through the Holy Spirit - they tend to be more inner-focused. A great way to experience transformation is through missions - being outward focused. This is one of the things that Jesus taught us - "what we do for the least... we do to him." In all my "fireside chats" the last couple of months, I heard over and over how someone's life was transformed from going to our mission site in Belize, or going across town to St. Paul's to serve the homeless a meal.

In 2010, we will have several mission opportunities to help transform lives - both those who we serve and our own in serving. The first week of February is our annual trip to Belize. The last week of April, we are partnering with Good Works, Inc. in Athens, Ohio and will be in mission with them to the rural homeless in southeastern Ohio. We have five trips in 2010 planned to St. Paul in Dayton. And we will plan another mission experience in the fall.

Through all these mission experiences, available classes, small groups, our worship, and emerging ministries that will form in 2010 - we truly are "feeding the body and soul, and transforming lives." If you want to make a difference in this community and beyond, I pray that you will get involved right here at "Lewisburg UMC: Feeding the Body and Soul - Transforming Lives."

Cookie Walk

The Lewisburg United Methodist Women will be sponsoring a Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 12, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, in the worship area of the church. Yummy homemade cookies and candies will be available for you to purchase. Small Boxes will be \$6.00 and Large Boxes will be \$10.00. Baked donations from the congregation will be appreciated. Be sure to include a copy of your recipe so that we can share with our buyers, to be aware of food allergies. You may drop off donations any time between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 12. The proceeds from the Cookie Walk will be used for needs in the church and missions.

Lois Deem will also have glass yard art and a crafts booth in the cafe. The proceeds from her booth will be donated to the church.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS AT OTTERBEIN-LEBANON

The public is invited to enjoy the spirit of the Christmas season at Otterbein-Lebanon. These music events are free and open to all:

- WED, Dec. 16 at 3:00 p.m. - Treble-Aires women's ensemble, Tintinnabulators and Chapel Bell Ringers handbell choirs
- SUN, Dec. 20 at 7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir Christmas Concert

All music programs are held in the Chapel/Multi-Purpose room.

Also plan now to attend the 2010 Renaissance Feaste at Otterbein-Lebanon, on January 7 or 8 at 6:00 p.m. This traditional celebration of food, music, and entertainment is always a popular event. Tickets for the public may be reserved by calling the Renaissance Feaste "Hot Line" at (513) 696-8575 after December 6.

Otterbein-Lebanon is one of five United Methodist Retirement Living Communities in Ohio, and is located at:
585 N. State Route 741
Lebanon, OH 45036

Call toll free at (877) 933-5471 for more information, or check out www.otterbein.org.



Trustees Say Thank You

To the congregation of the Lewisburg United Methodist Church, I would like to take some time to thank all of those people who have helped on the many, many projects around the church. We have a very good Board of Trustees, but the Trustees alone cannot keep up with all of the work required to run our church on a day-to-day basis.

Following is a partial list of the projects the congregation has assisted with: Helping Hands, mowing crew, the Spring Work Day, cleaning and painting of the Dayton Street house and church, cleaning, painting, and maintenance of the parsonage, clearing the outdoor worship area and running electricity for this area, repair of the marquee sign in front of the church, the Banner Team and hanging the banners in the sanctuary, landscaping flower beds, installing the stained glass window, cleaning the storage barn, etc. I would also like to thank those who have contributed financially to purchase of the lift and floor polisher, repairing the gas line at the Dayton Street church, materials for the outdoor worship area, touching up paint in the church, and painting of the handicap signs in the parking lot. This is an impressive list, which really shows how active the church is. More importantly, it shows how involved the people of our church are.

I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of those people involved in helping our church grow and keeping it beautiful. If you do not know all of your Board of Trustees, get to know them, it makes it easier to ask us for help, as well as for them to ask you to get involved in the many projects and upkeep of our beautiful church.

Again, to all who have helped one way or another, including prayer, Thank you very much.

Ken Morrow, Chair
LUMC Board of Trustees

Worship Design

Have you ever wondered how the Pastor's sermon, the music and the images of worship all seem to come together? The answer is Worship Design. We have a Worship Design committee that meets with the pastor 2-3 times a month to help plan what the worship time will look like.

Just as each of us has a unique appearance, we also have unique personalities, likes and dislikes. We currently have only one Sunday morning worship period which must be designed to touch as many of the congregational members as possible. We know that every piece of the worship picture may not appeal to everyone present, but we hope that at least one of those pieces touches you.

For that reason, we have Worship Design. The committee members are Pastor Roy Mitchell, Rhonda Gebhart, Whitt Waltman, Melora Waltman, Brooklyn Lock, Daryl Foster and Val Browne. This committee's role is to incorporate a variety of mediums or tools that help stimulate a number of senses. We want the congregation to hear the message through scripture and spoken word. We want you to see the message through video and drama. And sometimes you can even experience the message through touch and smell. God provided us with all of these wonderful senses and it is awesome when we can use each of them to worship him.

Please share with a committee member how we are doing with designing a Worship time that is cross generational. We want to hear your likes and dislikes, but please understand that these must all be balanced. One person's likes may be another person's dislikes.



Thank You

Dear Pastor Mitchell and Lewisburg UMC Congregation,

We were blessed with a beautiful day to walk for the CROP Walk (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty).

The Lord uses us to minister to the needs of others as stated in Jeremiah 29:11 . . . I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, to give you a future with hope. How wonderful it is to be part of this ministry to help provide hope and needs!

Thank you for your support . . . God bless you,
Mary L. Hatfield [2009 CROP Walk Coordinator]



We would like to thank everyone for all of their concerns, cards, and most of all their prayers during my husband's recovery. We are truly blessed to have such a caring church family.

God Bless,
Bonnie & Joe Gibson

Lewisburg UMC,

I want to thank everyone in my church family for their cards, prayers, love, and help with everything. I don't know what I would have done without all of you.

Love,
Robert June

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and gifts while Bob was in the hospital. He is now at home.

-The Brenner Family

Thing To Remember in December

Matching Funds Challenge-What is it? A member of the congregation has challenged us to raise an extra \$5000 in contributions to the building fund during the month of December. If we accomplish this challenge, this individual will match this with a \$5000 gift, resulting in an additional \$10,000 for the building fund. To participate, place your giving in the Sunday offering and mark it "Matching Funds".

Blue Christmas Dec. 13 at 6:00 p.m.-Have you ever been down, "blue" at Christmas? Does the memory of loved ones who are no longer with us make you sad? Is this your first Christmas without a loved one? All of these items and many more can make us sad or blue at Christmas. But many times we do not give ourselves permission to be sad at Christmas. Everywhere we look there is happiness and joy and we tell ourselves we too must be happy. This Blue Christmas Service acknowledges that we may be sad at Christmas. It acknowledges that even in our happiness, there may be moments of sadness. Join us as we explore this new holiday service.

Sunday, Dec 20- the Childrens Choir and the Senior Choir will be coming together for a joint performance.

Christmas Eve Family Service-we will have a Christmas Eve Service for the family December 24 at 5:30 pm. This will be a short service that focuses on our children and the true meaning of Christmas. It will be early so that those with small children can participate in Christmas eve service without keeping the children out late. However, the service is for children of all ages. Please come and join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord.

Community Christmas Eve Service- This year is our turn to host the Lewisburg Area Council of Churches (L.A.C.C.) Christmas Eve Service. This community wide Christmas eve service is a long standing tradition in Lewisburg. Here members from all of the churches come together to create a moving celebration of Christ's birth. The pre-music will start at 10:00 pm and will feature several community musician's. The service will start at 10:30 pm and usually lasts a little over an hour. Pastor Leo A. Cunningham of Verona UMC will be delivering the message.

Sunday Dec. 27- Pastor Roy, Melissa, Ryan and Lily will be Tennessee with their family for vacation and holiday celebrations. Out guest preacher will be our newest member, Jeff Ginter. Come and join us as we listen to Jeff deliver God's words.