



# Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

*A church that is growing, praying, and serving to make disciples of Jesus Christ*

# THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

APRIL 2012

## HOLY WEEK

**The following activities will be cancelled during Holy Week:**

- \*No Normal Family Night Meeting
- \*No Thursday Choir Practice
- \*No Thursday Evening Bible Study



### Palm Sunday

**Sunday, April 1  
Worship at 9:00am**

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### Family Movie Night

**Wednesday, April 4  
6:00pm**

*Join us for dinner and an Easter movie for all ages.  
Everyone is welcome!*



### Easter Sunday

**Sunday, April 8  
Worship at 9:00am  
(No Sunday School)**

*Invite a friend to come and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!*

# PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Nicholas Gleason

Dear Friends,

Recently, I went to a birthday party at my friend's house. Now, she knew I was coming, so she took this punch bowl and overfilled it with jelly beans. (She knows what I like!) And yes, I positioned myself right in front of those Jelly Beans all night long.

But here is the thing. There's nothing wrong with overeating at fun celebrations. But what happens when we choose to live our life that way all the time?

How many of you have a Wii Fit? Wii Fit is a Nintendo videogame that is supposed to help you get in shape. And the game comes with a board that you stand on to weigh yourself. And if you weigh a certain amount, when you get on it, you know what it does? It goes, "UGHHH". As if I'm practically smashing the poor board. *And I don't like that!*

And I have come to the conclusion that there's a way of living that finds the Wii Fit mocking me. There's a way of living that leads to unhealthy choices and death. And then, there's a way of living where I eat healthy and I exercise appropriately and I make healthy choices. And the Wii Fit board doesn't get to mock me!

And it's the same principle with greed versus generosity, pride versus gentleness, sloth versus liveliness, lust versus self-control, and in every other arena that your life takes you. There are always two ways you can live. There's a path that leads to unhealthy living and death...and a path that leads to healthy living and life.

So as we have journeyed through the season of Lent, we have looked into the ways of our life that lead to death. But then we have also looked into ways of climbing up to the way of life.

We considered coming up with rules for our life. I will control my eating by setting more rules. I will only eat food after 6 AM and before 6 PM. Have you ever done that? Have you ever thought; if only we set up more rules and more boundaries, then my eating will be confined to a small area. And then I will eat less and have more self-control.

Except, what happens? Well, this weekend is Easter. Last weekend was my friend's birthday party. And next weekend is, well, something will come up. And it's rude not to eat at a party! So we find our way back on this path that leads to unhealthy choices, guilty feelings, personal pain, and spiritual death.

We try harder and harder...we make rules and more rules... And yet, we find ourselves confessing the same thing over and over and over. So how do we get from this way of living to that way? Well, that brings us to Easter. I hope to see you this coming Sunday as we continue this story.

Shalom,

*Nicholas*



# LAY LEADER'S LINE

**Butch Hackett**

One of the recurring stories that we hear at church during the Lenten Season is found in Matthew 21:1-11. It's the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. Most of us have heard this story a hundred times, but have you ever taken the view of the donkey? I mean if I were the donkey laboring along carrying a man; seeing all of these people laying palm branches and cloaks down on the road in front of me to make my stepping easier, it would make me think that they really appreciated me! Finally, I got the recognition I deserved! All the people taking time out of their day to sing me praises! Isn't it easy to fall in the worldly trap of putting yourself first? One of the things that I have learned as the result of our recent Bible studies is that while we all have gifts and abilities that we are good at or enjoy, doesn't mean that those are the only gifts we are to use to bring glory to God. I used to think that I needed to look for areas in the church to serve that matched my interests or talents. I have come to the realization that sometimes God will place in your heart a desire to, as William Shatner might say, "Go where you have never gone before!" Why? If you think about it, if you serve in an area that you never have or weren't good at and you complete the task, you could give God more of the glory because you know that it had to be His hand that was guiding you. If we do what we always do or enjoy doing then we could be like the donkey and think that any compliments or praise would be for us. As we continue on our journey of faith and grow in Christ we should think that we are the donkey. We are Christ-bearers that should humbly go about our daily routines reflecting the one we're carrying. This Easter, won't you take a look at your heart and listen to the "donkey-whisperer"? He might be leading you to a place you've never been, but I'll guarantee you that He will not lead you astray!

In His Grip,

Butch



## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

**Let us pray, not for lighter burdens,  
but for stronger backs!**

# Intentional Faith Development



## Sunday School

10:30am

(following worship & fellowship time)

Age 3-Kindergarten Meet in Noah's Ark Room  
(2<sup>nd</sup> classroom on the right)  
Led by Sandy Smallhorn & Cathi Brockman

1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Meet in the Garden Room  
(3<sup>rd</sup> classroom on the left)  
Led by Jane Cox

6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Meet in Jr High/High School Room  
(1<sup>st</sup> classroom on the left)  
Led by Sean Hackett

### 2 Adult Class Options:

The Believers Meet in Fellowship Hall  
(End of hallway)  
Led by Butch Hackett

??s Meet in Café Room  
(2<sup>nd</sup> classroom on the left)  
Led by John McDaniel



## Women's Bible Study

Tuesday Mornings  
at 9:00am



## Family Night

Wednesday Evenings  
from 6:00-7:30pm  
(dinner from 6:00-6:30pm)

\*J4J (age 3 thru grade 5)

\*LinC (grade 6 thru 12)

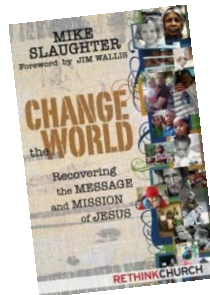
\*Men's and Women's Groups

\*Child Care for age 2 and younger



**CHOIR PRACTICE**  
**THURSDAY EVENINGS**  
**at 5:45PM**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
**TO JOIN THE CHOIR.**  
**LET'S MAKE A JOYFUL**  
**NOISE TO THE LORD!**

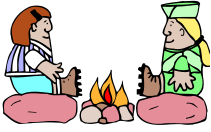


## Bible Study

Thursday Evenings  
from 6:30-7:30pm

Pastor Nicholas will be leading the next study on the book Change the World: Recovering the Message and Mission of Jesus by Michael Slaughter. The study will begin April 19. Please sign up in the entryway if you're interested in participating so the books can be ordered ahead of time. The deadline to sign-up is **April 12**.

# Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together...



## CLUB 52

Help send kids to church camp!! Join Club 52 by giving \$1/week or a one-time gift of \$52. Please indicate "Club 52" or "Church Camp" on the memo line of your check. The deadline to pay for Summer 2012 church camp is right around the corner. The average cost to send 1 child is \$300-350. We appreciate your support of this ministry!

## Sunday Fellowship Time

Everyone is invited to share in a time of fellowship and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service each Sunday morning (before Sunday School classes begin). The refreshments and coffee will be provided by a different family each month (or possibly several families).

Apr 2012	Tom & Shelli Blair
May 2012	John & Brenda Adams
June 2012	Bob & Betty Stoner
July 2012	Ken & Sandy Smallhorn



## Vacation Bible School

We are beginning to plan for Vacation Bible School 2012! This year's VBS is called "Kickin' It Old School," and will have an 80's, retro hip-hop concert theme. We will travel through the Old Testament as well as the New Testament to learn about several attributes of God. We will learn that God's holiness and views of sin have never changed. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. It's time to kick it old school! Stay tuned for more details!

## Please Note!

Pastor Nicholas's  
contact information:

Cell Phone:  
(740) 513-6199

Parsonage Phone:  
(217) 345-2046

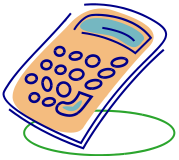
**But Let Us Encourage One Another** (Hebrews 10:25)

# FINANCE REPORT

Please note the following figures and reports provided by the Finance Team.

## LOOSE PLATE/TITHE

	<u>Amt Received</u>	<u>Amt Needed</u>	<u>Over/(Short)</u>
2/26	\$ 1,489.50	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 695.50)
3/4	\$ 2,151.50	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 33.50)
3/11	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 885.00)
3/18	\$ 2,900.50	\$ 2,185.00	\$ 715.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,841.50</b>	<b>\$ 8,740.00</b>	<b>(\$ 898.50)</b>



## BUILDING FUND

### Current Balance (each Sunday)

2/26	\$ 4,048.49
3/4	\$ 4,493.49
3/11	\$ 3,556.94
3/18	\$ 4,876.94

Monthly Mortgage Payment      \$ 1,356.55

## MONTHLY EXPENSES

### PAID BY LOOSE PLATE/TITHE

Ameren CIPS (Church)	\$ 450.00
City of Charleston (Water Dept)	\$ 12.00
Conf. Group Health Ins. (Pastor)	\$ 1,525.00
Consolidated Comm. (Church)	\$ 125.00
County Office Products (Copier)	\$ 78.00
IGRC Missions	\$ 1,053.00
IGRC Pension (Pastor)	\$ 836.00
J&J Lawn Care	\$ 200.00
Janitor/Secretary Wages	\$ 535.00
Maintenance Supplies	\$ 50.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 125.00
Nicholas Gleason	\$ 3,084.00
Nicholas Gleason TV/Hse. Phone	\$ 120.00
Payroll Taxes	\$ 41.00
Postage	\$ 44.00
Print Co (Newsletter)	\$ 24.00
SS Material	\$ 72.00
Upper Room/Devozine	\$ 46.00
State Farm Ins. (Bldg & Work Comp)	\$ 279.00
Worship Service	\$ 30.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 8,729.00</b>
<b>Weekly</b>	<b>\$ 2,182.25</b>

## Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter (*May 2012*) will be printed and distributed around the end of April. The deadline to submit articles or information in the

May newsletter will be

**Thursday, April 19.**

Please contact Samantha Baker or email the church office if you have information to include.

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

-2 Corinthians 9:7



A Sunday School teacher asked her little children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

\*\*\*\*\*

A little boy opened the big and old family Bible with fascination, looking at the old pages as he turned them. Then something fell out, and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed in between the pages. "Momma, look what I found," the boy called out. "What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked. With

astonishment in his voice, he answered, "It's Adam's Suit!"

\*\*\*\*\*

The preacher was wired for sound with a lapel mic, and as he preached, he moved briskly about the platform, jerking the mic cord as he went. Then he moved to one side, getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before jerking it again. After several circles and jerks, a little girl in the third pew leaned toward her mother and whispered,

"If he gets loose, will he hurt us?"

\*\*\*\*\*

Six-year old Angie and her four-year old brother, Joel, were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said,

"See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

\*\*\*\*\*

My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo while I asked, "No, how are we alike?"

"You're both old," he replied.

\*\*\*\*\*

A ten-year old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Then one day she floored her grandmother by asking, "Which Virgin was the mother of Jesus? The Virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"

\*\*\*\*\*

A Sunday School class was studying the Ten Commandments. They were ready to discuss the last one. The teacher asked if anyone could tell her what it was. Susie raised her hand, stood tall and quoted, "Thou shalt not take the covers off thy neighbor's wife."

\*\*\*\*\*

I had been teaching my three-year old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings, at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer: "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed,

"but deliver us from e-mail. Amen."

\*\*\*\*\*

One particular four-year old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

\*\*\*\*\*

A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."



# Celebrations



## Birthdays

4/5	David Schaaf
4/7	Mary Cavanaugh
4/11	Elizabeth Bircher
4/16	Lindsey Rice
4/17	Judy Harrison
4/20	Dorothy Cox
4/21	Joan Hutton
4/24	Jamie Hackett
4/26	Keridwen McDaniel
4/26	April Payne
4/28	Tom Blair
4/28	Daniel Lewis

## Anniversaries

4/5 John & Lisa McDaniel



## April Worship Leaders

	<u>4/1</u>	<u>4/8</u>	<u>4/15</u>	<u>4/22</u>	<u>4/29</u>
<b><u>Greeters</u></b>	Ken & Sandy Smallhorn	Bob & Betty Stoner	Jim Hackett Butch Hackett	Doug & Mary Hennig	Harold & Phyllis Hackett
<b><u>Acolyte</u></b>	Debra Bircher	Jade Smyser	Mackenzie W.	Ian McDaniel	Deece Schwartz
<b><u>Ushers</u></b>	Wade Hennig Wayne Cox Adam Baker Jim Craig	Jim Hackett Jason Anderson Bill Harrison Larry McGrath	Linda Hackett Phyllis Hackett Rachael Bircher Shelli Blair	Derek Hennig Doug Hennig Bill Snider Bob Stoner	Brad Bircher Wayne Cox John McDaniel Sean Hackett
<b><u>Family Cross</u></b>	Randy & Becky Rice	Doug & Mary Hennig	Jessica Watton	Harold & Phyllis Hackett	Eleanor Rice
<b><u>Children's Moment</u></b>	Samantha Baker	Carolyn Craig	Sandy Smallhorn	Jane Cox	Pastor Nicholas





# APRIL 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	2	3 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am	4 <u>Family Movie Night</u> 6:00pm	5 <i>David Schaaf John &amp; Lisa McDaniel</i> <b>Maundy Thursday</b> <u>Tech</u> 5:00pm	6 <b>Good Friday</b>	7 <i>Mary Cavanaugh</i>
8 <b>Easter Sunday</b> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am	9 <u>Finance Mtg</u> 6:30pm	10 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am	11 <i>Elizabeth Bircher</i> <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm	12 <u>Tech</u> 5:00pm <u>Choir</u> 5:45pm <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm	13	14 <u>Building in Use:</u> <b>Bircher/Lewis Wedding</b>
15 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	16 <i>Lindsey Rice</i>	17 <i>Judy Harrison</i> <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am <u>Building in Use</u> 7:00-10:00pm	18 <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm	19 <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b> <u>Tech</u> 5:00pm <u>Choir</u> 5:45pm <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm	20 <i>Dorothy Cox</i>	21 <i>Joan Hutton</i> <u>Arts Council</u> 9:00am-2:30pm <u>Great Banquet Gathering</u> 4:30-8:30pm
22 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	23	24 <i>Jamie Hackett</i> <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am	25 <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm	26 <i>Keridwen McDaniel April Payne</i> <u>Tech</u> 5:00pm <u>Choir</u> 5:45pm <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm	27	28 <i>Tom Blair Daniel Lewis</i>
29 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	30					

# THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

APRIL 2012

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Sunday Morning Worship  
Sunday School

9:00 a.m.  
10:30 a.m.

**Otterbein United Methodist Church**  
**2175 E. Harrison**  
**Charleston, IL 61920**

**CONTACT US:**

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www.charlestonotterbein.org (webpage)



Find us on **Facebook** at [www.facebook.com/charlestonotterbein](http://www.facebook.com/charlestonotterbein)

**All are welcome!**

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