



Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

DECEMBER 2013

Christmas Eve Service



The Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00pm this year. Please invite your family, friends or neighbors to join us in a special worship service to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Main Page	1
Pastor's Chat	2
Lay Leader's Line	3
Family Night	4
Women's Bible Study	4
Sunday School	4
Advent Bible Study	4
Shut In List	5
2014 Worship Leaders	5
Contact Pastor Nicholas	5
Family Night Needs	5
Christmas Cards	6
Summer Mission Trip	6
Newsletter Deadline	6
Finance Report	7
Celebrations	8
Dec. Worship Leaders	8
December Calendar	9

Christmas Drama

December 22nd
at 9:00am

Join us in Sunday morning worship on December 22nd as the youth/children will be presenting the annual Christmas drama.

Charge Conference



Sunday, December 1
5:00pm
at Wesley UMC

Everyone is encouraged to attend.

PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Nicholas Gleason

Dear Friends,

I pray this letter finds you well and blessed. Hopefully you are nice and warm as you cozy up in your blanket, sip a cup of hot cocoa, and pore over this newsletter, on what I can only assume is a beautiful snowy December evening.

Over the last couple of months God has been challenging me. Challenging me with this story in the Gospel of Mark. As you snuggle your blanket, take a moment to chew over this story in Mark's twelfth chapter with me.

This story of Jesus standing over the treasury. He is watching the people come forth to drop in their offering. He watches many rich people come forth and drop large sums into the treasury. He offers no commentary. Then this poor woman comes forth with two copper coins. These coins are worth only a penny. But Jesus offers breathtaking praises. While the others simply gave out of their abundance, she gave out of her poverty. This woman gave everything she had.

This is certainly not an ambiguous story. Plain and simple, it is a story about giving. But it's not a story about money. Jesus made no comment about the amount of money. It is a story about the amount of faith. It is a story about a woman who understood her relationship with God was the most precious facet of her life.

This woman always challenges me. This woman calls me into account. I think each of us would agree that our relationship with Jesus is the most important relationship in our life. But are we giving all that we can to that relationship?

Too often we give out of our lifestyle choice. We give our money and our time that we don't need to provide for the lifestyle we seek, rather than giving what we can. Most of us have never given to God in a way that impacts our current lifestyle.

As we enter into this Christmas season, I invite you to pause and remember what this season means to you. We revisit the story of how God broke into this world to save your life. How does that encounter change your life? What does it mean to you, that God cared enough for you, that Jesus was sent into this world for you?

Now think about this with me. In November we talked about our fragrance. That is the scent that we leave behind. Is your giving of your time and talent and resources producing the fragrance that best represents what this relationship with Jesus means to you?

If not, how might this Christmas season be inviting you to express your love and devotion to Jesus in deeper or richer ways? Remember, Jesus didn't care about the amount this woman gave. He was concentrated on how she lived.

Let us commit ourselves to making this season of Christmas be one where the fullness of our love and devotion for Jesus can be seen flowing through our every thought, word, and deed. And may each of us have a Merry Christmas.

Shalom,

Nicholas

LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

During the month of December, quite frequently we read or the pastor will preach on Matthew 1:18-25 which is part of the Christmas story. Amid all of the Christmas festivities, one man is often forgotten. No, I don't mean Jesus although we often fail to give Him first place as He deserves: we don't usually forget him. I'm talking about Joseph – the man God trusted so much that He placed His Son in his home to love and nurture. What a responsibility!

Read what my footnote in The Life Application Bible has to say about the earthly father of Jesus:

Joseph truly is the forgotten man in the Christmas story. Yet, his task was an important component of God's incredible plan. As we read Matthew 1:18-25, we find that Joseph was just, righteous, merciful, protective, and courageous. He was faced with a difficult choice after discovering that Mary was pregnant. Although he knew that taking Mary as his wife could be humiliating, Joseph chose to obey the angel's command to marry her. His action revealed four admirable qualities: (1) righteousness, (2) discretion and sensitivity, (3) responsiveness to God, and (4) self-discipline.

But most of all, Joseph was obedient. When the angel told him to take Mary as his wife, he obeyed. When the angel told him not to lay with Mary until after Jesus was born, he obeyed. And, when the angel told him to flee to Egypt with Mary and Jesus, he obeyed.

Just as Mary was carefully chosen to bear the Son of God, Joseph was deliberately chosen to provide for his young wife and the Christ child. And trusting God, Joseph followed through on everything God asked him to do. In fact, it was Joseph who gave Jesus His name (verse 25).

What is God asking of you today? Are you willing to commit yourself to do whatever he wants you to do?

We can learn much about obedience from Joseph, the forgotten man of Christmas.

In His Grip,
Butch



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

**It is not always the talented people
who serve the Lord the best—
it is the obedient ones.**

Intentional Faith Development



FAMILY NIGHT

Something for **EVERYONE!!**

Bring your whole family!

Wednesday Evenings

6:00-6:30pm Meal & Fellowship

6:30-7:30pm Small Groups

(All Ages)

Please note:

Will not be meeting Dec. 11th, 18th,
25th or January 1st, 2014

Women's Bible Study



Tuesday Mornings at 9:00am

w/ Sandy Smallhorn

Please note:

Will not be meeting Dec. 17th, 24th, 31st
or January 7th, 2014



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Will meet Thurs, Dec. 5th, 12th & 19th from 6:30-7:30pm

Join us to help Pastor Nicholas reflect on the weekly Bible passage to prepare for Sunday morning. You will also work with him to prepare a multi-sensory worship service based on the teachings of this Bible passage. One of the services we prepare together will be videotaped for IGRC RIM. This should be a fun, creative, and spiritual enlightening experience for all of us.

Anyone is welcome to join us.

SUNDAY SCHOOL (Sundays at 10:30am)

Sunday School classes available for all ages—Everyone is welcome!

Preschool Class

(Age 3-Kindergarten)

Meet in Noah's Ark Room

w/ Sandy Smallhorn

Elementary Class

(1st-5th grade)

Meet in Garden Room

w/ Jane Cox

M.S./H.S. Class

(6th-12th grade)

Meet in Blue Room

w/ Sean Hackett

Adult Class #1 (Believers)

Meet in Gold Classroom

w/ Butch Hackett

Adult Class #2

Meet in Café Agape Room

w/ Jim & Carolyn Craig



Please stay and share with us in Fellowship Time

each Sunday following the worship service

(even if you do not plan to stay for Sunday School).

This is a wonderful time to reconnect with your church family ☺



As the holidays are approaching, let us continue to remember our shut-in and homebound members. Please remember them in your prayers and feel free to visit or send a card ☺

Francis Adkins

Odd Fellow Rebekah Home
201 Lafayette E
Mattoon, IL 61938
Birthday: 5/25

Joan Hutton

Hilltop Conv. Center
910 W. Polk Rm. 209
Charleston, IL 61920
Birthday: 4/21

Fern Percy

Odd Fellow Rebekah Home
201 Lafayette E
Mattoon, IL 61938
Birthday: 6/12

Raymond Plath

Brookstone Estates
314 Lincoln Hwy. Rd
Charleston, IL 61920
Birthday: 3/10

Eleanor Rice

Heartland Christian Village
101 Trowbridge Rd
Neoga, IL 62447
Birthday: 2/9

Tom Watson

2200 Madison Ave.
Charleston, IL 61920
Birthday: 8/10

2014 Worship Leaders

We will be preparing the 2014 worship leader schedule very soon. If you would like to be involved in Sunday morning worship, please sign up at the entryway table. We need Greeters, Ushers, Children's Moment Leaders, and Acolytes every week. If you have any questions, please contact Samantha.



Please Note!

If you need to reach
Pastor Nicholas:

Cell Phone: (740) 513-6199
Home Phone: (217) 345-2046



Family Night

We could still use your help in providing supplies for Wednesday Family Nights. Here's how you can help...

- Donate canned fruits, cake/brownie mixes, frosting, peanut butter & jelly, salad dressings, pudding cups, Rice Krispies & marshmallows, Apple Juice or Lemonade Mix (*Place them on the "Family Night Supplies" shelves in the room across from the kitchen*);
- Donate \$\$ for paper & plastic supplies & teaching resources. Cash in an envelope, or a check marked "Family Night", can be placed in the offering plate.



Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together...



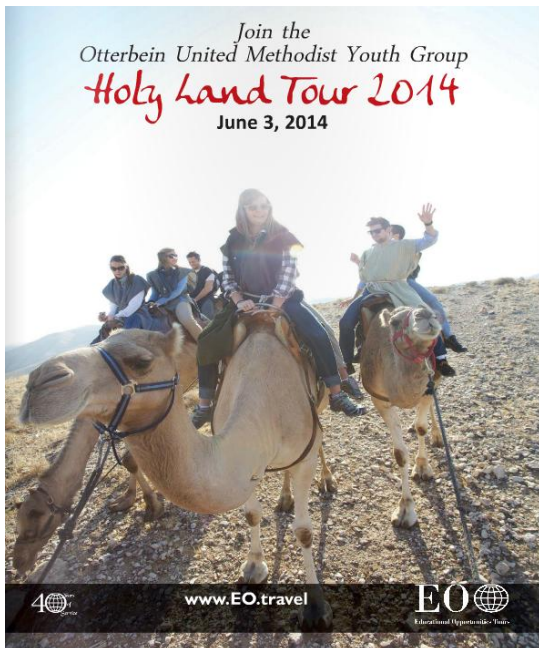
Church Christmas Cards

You are invited to share in the Christmas spirit by hanging a Christmas card from your family on the bulletin board by the kitchen. Here we will collect cards that are for the whole church in order to help lessen the burden of sending cards to everyone within the church. However, you are still welcome to give individual cards to as many people as you wish ☺



Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter (*January 2014*) will be printed and distributed around the end of December. The deadline to submit articles or information in the January newsletter will be **Thursday, December 19**. Please contact Samantha Baker or email the church office if you have information to include.



Summer 2014 Youth Trip

The youth and young adults have begun planning for the Summer 2014 Mission Trip. They will be going to the Holy Land in Israel.

Please remember them in your prayers as the preparation & fundraising begins! Please also pray for their hearts to be ready for this amazing and life-changing experience.

The first fundraising event has already begun. The "Money Wall" can be found in the hallway. Take an envelope & fill it with the amount of money listed on the front of the envelope. Please return the envelope in the offering plate on Sunday morning.

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>
10/27	\$ 1,498.25	\$ 2,011.00	(\$ 512.75)
11/3	\$ 2,341.00	\$ 2,011.00	\$ 330.00
11/10	\$ 1,696.00	\$ 2,011.00	(\$ 315.00)
<u>11/17</u>	<u>\$ 1,433.40</u>	<u>\$ 2,011.00</u>	<u>(\$ 577.60)</u>
TOTAL	\$ 6,968.65	\$ 8,044.00	(\$ 1,075.35)



Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!

--Malachi 3:10 (NLT)



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)	\$ 92.00
IGRC Missions	\$ 1,053.00
IGRC Pension (Pastor)	\$ 836.00
Childress Mowing	\$ 160.00
Janitor/Secretary Wages	\$ 535.00
Maintenance Supplies	\$ 50.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 40.00
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	\$ 27.00
<u>State Farm Ins. (Bldg & Work Comp)</u>	<u>\$ 285.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 8,450.00
Weekly	\$ 2,011.00

BUILDING FUND

Current Balance

10/27	\$ 480.49
11/3	\$ 965.49
11/10	\$ 1,135.49
11/17	\$ 1,195.49

Monthly Mortgage Payment **\$ 1,356.55**

Celebrations



Birthdays

12/1	Landon Bircher
12/2	Butch Hackett
12/3	Ian McDaniel
12/10	Becky Rice
12/10	Kim Hackett
12/13	Loretta Buell
12/15	Randy Snider
12/16	Deece Schwartz
12/18	Jeremy Fitzpatrick
12/20	Kenny Smallhorn
12/23	Zane Tanner
12/28	Wanda Chasteen



Anniversaries

12/19	Bob & Betty Stoner
12/19	Cord & Jamie Hackett
12/22	Jeremy & Tiffany Fitzpatrick



December Worship Leaders

	<u>12/1</u>	<u>12/8</u>	<u>12/15</u>	<u>12/22</u>	<u>12/29</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Marty & Loretta Buell	Bob & Betty Stoner Sherry Strode	Raymond & Sharon Johns	Butch & Linda Hackett	John & Lisa McDaniel
<u>Acolyte</u>	Omarion Smallhorn	Christopher S.	Brandon Schulz	Mackenzie W.	Tyvon Smallhorn
<u>Ushers</u>	Doug Hennig Jim Hackett Sandy Smallhorn Lisa McDaniel	Butch Hackett Linda Hackett Cathi Brockman Marty Buell	Phyllis Hackett Vickie Bircher John McDaniel Randy Rice	Adam Baker Sean Hackett Jim Craig Rick Waltrip	Kenny Smallhorn Mackenzie Wilson Keridwen McDaniel Ian McDaniel
<u>Family Cross</u>	Wayne & Jane Cox	Cathi Brockman	Jim Hackett	Butch & Linda Hackett	Doug & Mary Hennig
<u>Children's Moment</u>		Carolyn Craig		Jane Cox	Pastor Nicholas





DECEMBER 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 <i>Landon Bircher</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am <u>Charge</u> <u>Conference</u> 5:00pm</p>	<p>2 <i>Butch Hackett</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Finance Mtg</u> 6:30pm</p>	<p>3 <i>Ian McDaniel</i> <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>4 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm</p>	<p>5 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Advent Bible Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm</p>	<p>6 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am</p>	<p>9 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>10 <i>Becky Rice</i> <i>Kim Hackett</i> <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>11 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm</p>	<p>12 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Advent Bible Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm</p>	<p>13 <i>Loretta Buell</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>14 <u>Youth Gift Wrapping Fundraiser</u> 11:00am-3:00pm</p>
<p>15 <i>Randy Snider</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am</p>	<p>16 <i>Deece Schwartz</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>17 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>18 <i>Jeremy Fitzpatrick</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm</p>	<p>19 <i>Bob & Betty Stoner</i> <i>Cord & Jamie Hackett</i> <u>Newsletter Articles Due</u> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Advent Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm</p>	<p>20 <i>Kenny Smallhorn</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 <i>Jeremy & Tiffany Fitzpatrick</i> <u>Christmas Drama</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am</p>	<p>23 <i>Zane Tanner</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>24 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Christmas Eve Service</u> 7:00pm</p>	<p>25 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm</p>	<p>26 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>27 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>28 <i>Wanda Chasteen</i></p>
<p>29 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am</p>	<p>30 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>31 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>				

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DECEMBER 2013

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:

(217) 345-5843 (phone)
charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com (email)
www.charlestonotterbein.org (webpage)

Find us on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com/charlestonotterbein

All are welcome!

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2175 E. Harrison
Charleston, IL 61920

