



Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

DECEMBER 2014

PASTOR'S PERUSALS

By Chuck Trent

CHUCKIN' ALONG for the LORD

WE ARE WELL INTO ADVENT with the pink "Joy" candle of the advent wreath due to be lighted Sunday morning. Where does the time go?

OUR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM and potluck dinner went very well with lots of help from lots of people. Thanks so much to everyone, you know who you are and so does God.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHT AND COMMUNION SERVICE will be at 5:30; December 24th (Isn't it funny how Christmas Eve always comes on the 24th?). If you have an opportunity to attend church on Christmas Day anywhere, by all means do. A Christmas Day service is a special blessing on a special day.

THE NEW YEAR looms ahead with lots of opportunities as we begin planning a mission trip, camping missions, and anything else with which the Lord might use us to make disciples for himself as we continue to grow the ministry at Otterbein UMC. Merry Christmas and a most productive New Year from Chuck and Linda in the parsonage.

Peace, love and warm fuzzies,

Chuck

LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

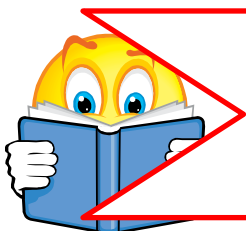
During this season of Advent, one of the most frequently recited scriptures relates to the story of the virgin birth. We hear it so often that I sense the story loses its luster due to repetitiveness. I have to really concentrate some times to make sure that I don't miss something that God is trying to tell me. His word can be new and fresh each day if we allow it to be. I was made aware of this while reading a devotional from David McCasland printed in the Daily Bread.

In the article, he references Luke 2:1-7 and highlights verse 7 which is, *"...and she [Mary] gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."* David continues by sharing a story about Grace Ditmanson Adams, who as a young girl in the late 1920s, often traveled with her missionary parents through inland China. As an adult, Grace wrote about those trips and the over-crowded places they stayed overnight- village inns full of people coughing, sneezing, and smoking, while babies cried and children complained. Her family put their bedrolls on board covered trestles in a large room with everyone else. One snowy night, they arrived at an inn to find it packed full. The innkeeper expressed his regret, then paused and said, "Follow me." He led them to a side room used to store straw and farm equipment. There they slept in a quiet place of their own. After that, whenever Grace read the story of Jesus' birth, she saw the event differently. While some described the innkeeper as an example of uncaring, sinful mankind who rejected the Savior, Grace said, "I truly believe that Almighty God used the innkeeper as the arranger for a healthier place than a crowded inn – a place of privacy."

Through eyes of faith, we see God's provision for Mary. During this season of Advent let's look for ways He provides for us.

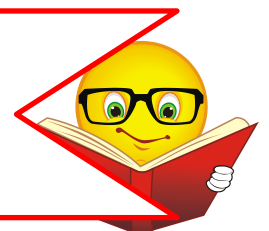
In His Grip,

Butch



Thought for the Day

If you can't be content with what you have received, be thankful for what you have escaped!



Intentional Faith

Family Night

Something for EVERYONE!!

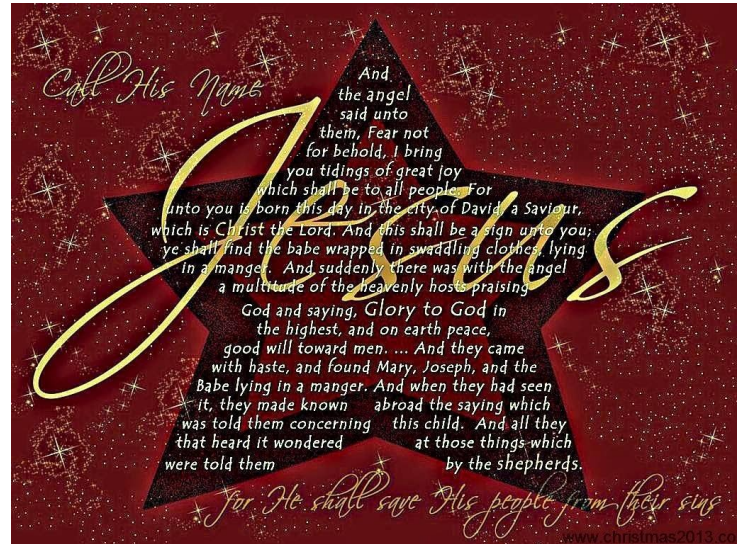
Bring YOUR whole family!

Wednesday Evenings

6:00-6:30 pm Meal & Fellowship

6:30-7:30pm Small Groups

(All Ages)



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 ☺

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



Tom Watson

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

Eleanor Rice

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

2014 Worship Leaders

Please check the website for a current list of Worship Leaders for 2014. These include Greeters, Acolytes, Ushers, Family Cross and Children's Moment Leaders. We appreciate your involvement in our weekly worship service.

www.charlestonotterbein.org

Please Note

If you need to reach
Pastor Chuck Trent

Cell (618) 262-3409

chucktrent47@gmail.com



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...

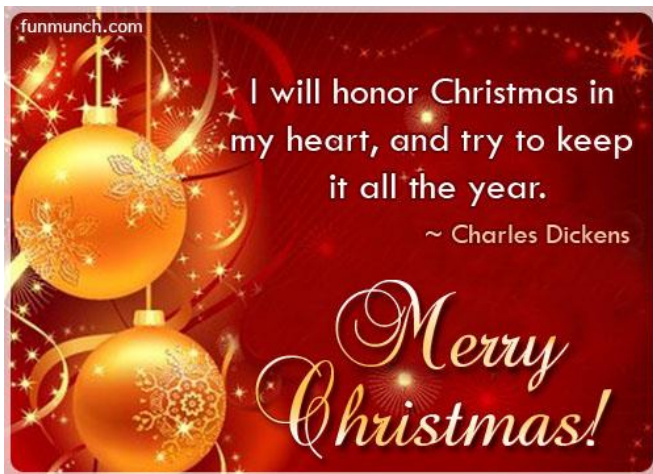


Newspapers

Betty Potts would like to thank everyone who has brought newspapers for her. She really appreciates it, and she could always use more if you have extras 😊

Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter (*Jan 2015*) will be printed and distributed around the first week in January. The deadline to submit articles or information in the January newsletter will be **Thursday, December 18**. Please contact Michelle Price (217) 549-7285 or email the church office if you have information to include.







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



December 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Finance Meeting</u> 6:30 PM	2 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	3 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6pm-7:30pm	4 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	5 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	6
7 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	8 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	9 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	10 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6pm-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	11 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	12 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	13
14 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	15 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	16 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	17 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6pm-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	18 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Newsletter</u> <u>Articles due</u>	19 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	20
21 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	22 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	23 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	24 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	  <i>Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia</i>	26 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	27
28 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	29 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	30 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	31 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>			

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>
11/02	\$ 2,384.00	\$ 1,245.00	\$ 1,139.00
11/09	\$ 1,593.00	\$ 1,245.00	\$ 348.00
11/16	\$ 1,015.01	\$ 1,245.00	(\$ 229.99)
11/23	\$ 1,423.55	\$ 1,245.00	\$ 178.55
11/30	\$ 114.25	\$ 1,245.00	(\$ 1,130.75)
TOTAL	\$ 6,529.81	\$ 4,980.00	\$ 304.81

MONTHLY EXPENSES

PAID BY LOOSE PLATE/TITHE

Ameren CIPS (Church)	\$ 495.00
City of Charleston (Water Dept)	\$ 26.00
Conf. Group Health Ins. (Pastor)	\$ 1,525.00
Consolidated Comm. (Church)	\$ 93.00
IGRC Missions	\$ 1,062.00
IGRC Pension (Pastor)	\$ 836.00
Childress Mowing	\$ 160.00
Janitor/Secretary Wages	\$ 494.04
Maintenance Supplies	\$ 50.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 40.00
Chuck Trent	\$ 2,380.26
Chuck Trent TV/Hse. Phone	\$ 120.00
Payroll Taxes	\$ 41.00
Postage	\$ 49.00
Print Co (Newsletter)	\$ 24.00
SS Material	\$ 72.00
Upper Room/Devozine	\$ 27.00
<u>State Farm Ins. (Bldg & Work Comp)</u>	<u>\$ 285.15</u>
TOTAL	\$ 7,779.45
Weekly	\$ 1,245.00

Not, how much of my money will I give to God, but how much of God's money will I keep for myself.



— John Wesley

Building Fund / Current Balance

11/02	\$ -1,045.62
11/09	\$ -1,045.62
11/16	\$ -955.62
11/23	\$ -2,202.17
11/30	\$ -2,042.17

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



Celebrations



<u>Birthdays</u>	
Ray Landon	12/01
Ian McDaniel	12/03
Kim Hackett	12/10
Becky Rice	
Jeremy Fitzpatrick	12/18



December Worship Leaders



	<u>12/07</u>	<u>12/14</u>	<u>12/21</u>	<u>12/ 28</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Marcia Lawhead & Betty Potts	Randy & Becky Rice	Jim & Carolyn Craig	Jim Hackett
<u>Acolyte</u>	Jade Smyser	Brandon Schulz	Kayla Donley	Tyvon Smallhorn
<u>Family Cross</u>	Brad Bircher & Crystal Schulz	Doug & Mary Hennig	Dan & Vickie Bircher	Daniel & Tabatha Lewis
<u>Ushers</u>	Austin Hackett Brad Bircher Doug Hennig Mary Hennig	Jim Hackett Vickie Bircher Butch Hackett Linda Hackett	Clinton Tribby Bob Snider Marty Buell Shelli Blair	Deece Schwartz Ian McDaniel Brandon Schulz Alesia Smyser
<u>Children's Moment</u>	Richard Dennis	Carolyn Craig	Pastor Chuck Trent	Jane Cox



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



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DECEMBER 2014



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!