



# Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

## THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

DECEMBER 2015

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### **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 the third Sunday morning. Where does the time go?

THIS YEAR HAS BEEN a wonderful time of wonderful times. God is blessing OUMC daily with signs and miracles. But we have to be looking for them. They are all around us. Trust me. Or better yet, trust God.

PLEASE KEEP US ALL IN YOUR PRAYERS, especially those who have lost loved ones in the last year and are navigating the Advent and Holiday season without a vital crew member in the craft. Matthew 5:04 has never been truer. God does comfort those who mourn, but we still hurt.

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 5:00; December 24<sup>th</sup> (Isn't it funny how Christmas Eve always comes on the 24<sup>th</sup>?). 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**

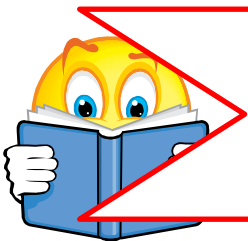
Our Sunday school class is studying an article written by Bill Crowder entitled "Where is God in Our Pain". He shares his wisdom about Adam and Eve's fall from the Garden of Eden and the impact that their sin has had on the human race since.

Julie Ackerman Link wrote in the Daily Bread, after Adam and Eve disobeyed God, joy was lost. God expelled them from their garden home to prevent something worse from happening. If they had eaten from the tree of life after eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they would have lived forever in their misery. Life outside the garden was not easy. Adam and Eve had to work hard for their food. The reality of death was everywhere and animals preyed on one another. Even worse, the couple's firstborn son murdered his younger brother. What could be worse? Sin had pierced their lives, and the couple could not stop joy from draining out. But God had a plan to restore joy. We read in Luke 2:9-10; *"And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them (the shepherds), and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."*

Joy was lost in the Garden when death came, but joy returned through the birth-the birth of God's own Son. Jesus grew up to heal the sick, give sight to the blind, and raise the dead. But this was just a taste of things to come. God entered our world, experienced our sorrow, and conquered death, giving us hope that He will keep His promise to end pain, and eliminate sorrow and death. No wonder Christmas is the season of joy!

In His grip,

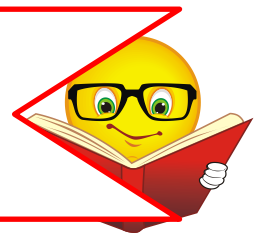
Butch



## **Thought for the Day**

Joy is prayer; joy is strength; joy is love; joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.

**Mother Teresa**



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

### Jim & Bertha Anderson

13250 E Cty Rd 210N  
Charleston, IL 61920

### 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

## 2015 Worship Leaders

Please check the website for a current list of Worship Leaders for 2015. These include Greeters, Acolytes, Ushers, Family Cross and Children's Moment Leaders. We appreciate your involvement in our weekly worship service.

## Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter (*Jan 2016*) 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, Dec 17th**. Please contact Michelle Price (217) 549-7285 or email the church office if you have information to include.

## Please Note

If you need to reach  
Pastor Chuck Trent

Cell (618) 262-3409

chucktrent47@gmail.com



## Family Night

Every Wednesday

6:00-6:30 pm Meal & Fellowship

6:30-7:30 for the Whole Family

J4J (Kid's Club) W / Jane Cox

~ 3 ~  
LinC (Youth Group) W / Sean Hackett  
Bible Study (Adults) W / Pastor Chuck

# FINANCE REPORT

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

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

## 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
State Farm Ins. (Bldg & Work Comp)	\$ 285.15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,779.45</b>
<b>Weekly</b>	<b>\$ 1,245.00</b>

Monthly Mortgage Payment \$ 1,356.55

## I'm a Little Reindeer

- I'm a little reindeer, ready to fly.
- I'll pull Santa's sleigh up in the sky.
- Christmas is here; we can't be late.
- All the children just cannot wait!



~ 4 ~

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

*The True Meaning Of Christmas*

In todays' day and time, it's easy to lose sight, of the true meaning of Christmas, and one special night.	The children look for Santa In his big, red sleigh Never thinking of the child Whose bed was made of hay.
When we go shopping, We say "How much will it cost?" Then the true meaning of Christmas, Somehow becomes lost.	In reality, When we look into the night sky, We don't see a sleigh But a star, burning bright and high.
Amidst the tinsel, glitter And ribbons of gold, We forget about the child, born on a night so cold.	A faithful reminder, Of that night so long ago, And of the child we call Jesus, Whose love, the world would know.

~ Written by Brian K. Walters ~

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Nubia\\_group/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Nubia_group/)

# Celebrations



★HAPPY★  
BIRTHDAY!

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



## December Worship Leaders



**12/06**                      **12/13**                      **12/20**                      **12/27**

### Greeters

Betty Potts                      Randy & Becky Rice                      Jim & Carolyn Craig                      Jim Hackett

### Acolyte

Jade Smyser                      Deece Schwartz                      Kayla Donley                      Tyvon Smallhorn

### Family Cross

Brad Bircher                      Doug & Mary Hennig                      Melody & Larry McGrath                      Daniel & Tabatha Lewis

### Ushers

Bill Snider	Jim Hackett	Clinton Tribby	Deece Schwartz
Rose Snider	Butch Hackett	Bob Stoner	Ian McDaniel
Doug Hennig	Linda Hackett	Marty Buell	Mackenzie Wilson
Mary Hennig	Sean Hackett	Jim Craig	Alesia Smyser

### Children's Moment

Carolyn Craig                      Jane Cox





# December 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	2 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6-7:30 pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	3 <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	4 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	5 <b>Arts Council</b>
6 <u>Worship</u> 9:30- 10:30 am <u>Fellowship</u> 10:30-10:45 am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:45-11:30 am	7 <b>Finance Meeting</b> 6:30 PM  <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	8 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	9 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6-7:30 pm  <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	10 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	11 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	12
13 <u>Worship</u> 9:30 -10:30 am <u>Fellowship</u> 10:30-10:45 am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:45-11:30 am	14 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	15 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	16 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6-7:30 pm  <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	17 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm  <b>Newsletter</b> <b>Articles Due</b>	18 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	19
20 <u>Worship</u> 9:30-10:30 am <u>Fellowship</u> 10:30-10:45 am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:45-11:30 am	21 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	22 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	23 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <b>NO Family</b> <b>Night</b>  <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	24  <b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>Service / 5pm</b>	25  	26
27 <u>Worship</u> 9:30-10:30 am <u>Fellowship</u> 10:30-10:45 am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:45-11:30	28 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	29 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	30 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm  <b>NO Family</b> <b>Night</b>	31		

- 12/5 Arts Council
- 12/6 Holiday Dinner / Drama –6:30 pm
- 12/8 Nurture Team Meeting—6:00 pm
- 12/13 Christmas Caroling after Church & Sunday School**
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Service—5:00 pm**
- 12/31 New Year’s Eve Services

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2175 E. Harrison  
Charleston, IL 61920



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Sunday Morning Worship                      9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School                                      10:45 a.m.

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

**CONTACT US:**

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www.charlestonotterbein.org (webpage)

[www.facebook.com/groups/CharlestonOtterbeinUMC](http://www.facebook.com/groups/CharlestonOtterbeinUMC)

**All are welcome!**