



Otterbein United Methodist Church
Charleston, Illinois

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

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

FEBRUARY 2011

Dear friends, let us love one another,
for love comes from God.

Everyone who loves has been
born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love
does not know God,
because God is love.

This is how God showed his love among us:

He sent his one and only Son
into the world that we might live through him.

This is love: not that we loved God,
but that he loved us and sent his Son
as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Dear friends, since God so loved us,
we also ought to love one another.

No one has ever seen God;
but if we love one another,

God lives in us and
his love is made complete in us.

1 John 4:7-12

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It's All About Love

PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Krista Price

February is often referred to as the Heart Month. It is a busy month with holidays, such as Valentine's Day, President's Day, Black History month and the blood banks consider it their month as well. So, we have 28 days to accomplish it all, and yet if we look at all those special days/recognition it would all reflect relationships.



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So, how are you with your relationships? Do you only recognize your spouse/significant other during Valentine's Day? Or do you take the time to make time for them all year long? What about giving blood or getting along with others? Do you only recognize the needs of others in February?

I often wonder why people put so much effort into planning and cleaning and working when relationships go neglected. Those things that are important should come first, and I would pray that relationships should be at the top of the priority list. We can learn from the scriptures of how important relationships are if we look at John 15. Jesus is letting us know how important our relationship with him is and how we can sustain it. We need to spend time with him and he will bear fruit in our lives of the time we spend with him and God will be glorified.

I hope that we can take time during not only the month of February but all of Lenten season as it begins in March. Let's take time for God, and each other. Make February a priority for relationships and God will honor your faithfulness. If we make all these other dates important why not the people most important in our lives! Focusing on Christ with you this month!

*Serving with you,
Pastor Krista*



LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett



Many people start the New Year with various goals like losing 20 pounds, exercising everyday, or reading the entire Bible from cover to cover. If you're like me, we often set large goals and then soon get frustrated when we get behind. Eventually the "goal" we set becomes a thing of the past and we wait to start fresh next year. One thing that has helped me is to set a smaller goal that can be achieved easier which in turn gives me a sense of pride for my accomplishments. Eventually, my larger goals get fulfilled. Take for instance reading the Bible. Instead of setting your goal at reading so many pages a day in order to get the whole Bible read in one year, set your goal at one book of the Bible at a time. It's like the old riddle that we learned in grade school: "*How do you eat an elephant?.....One bite at a time!*"

The Psalms is a good book to start with. From the very first Psalm you can start your progress in growing closer to God. Look at verse one, "*Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked.....(NIV)* We are to seek counsel from God and Godly people. No matter what age we are, we are influenced by those we spend the most time around. We need to be careful whose advice we respond to because it may cause us to go in the wrong direction. It's like the large company that wanted to improve efficiency so they hired a consultant. The consultant called a meeting of all the shop personnel. Stressing the need to listen to experts, he said, "Imagine you're all on the Titanic, and it's sinking. You climb into a lifeboat. Which direction would you row?" The responses varied, but all agreed that they would row away from the ship to begin with. The consultant then asked, "What if the ship's navigator happened to be on your lifeboat? Now which way would you go?" The group all said they would row in the direction that the navigator told them with the exception of one man who said, "Well, I don't know. He's already hit one iceberg!"

It's interesting that the first chapter of Proverbs (verses 2-7) urges us to get advice from the wise. The Hebrew word used in those verses for "wisdom" is the same word that's translated as "skill" in Exodus 31:1-11 in reference to the detailed work of Bezalel and Aholiab in constructing the tabernacle. God gave them and others skill for artwork, building, weaving, and carving. It's no different today. Biblical wisdom then is the "skill for living". Today, wise men and women have a valuable skill ----- "the skill for living!" We shouldn't take the lead from others until you take a look at their lives. If they have crashed into a lot of icebergs, they may cause your life to sink as well. The "blessed" person delights in God's Word. Some of our church membership will be changing their positions in the church leadership in 2011. Some have been leaders for a long time but taking up new positions. Others will be joining committees for the first time. Let's start 2011 taking our "directions" straight from God's Word!

In His Grip,

Butch

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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

TAKE YOUR DIRECTIONS FROM THOSE WHO FOLLOW GOD'S WORD.



Jumpin' 4 Jesus

Hopefully, the weather will be cooperating with us again very soon, as spring is just around the corner! The kids met in January and celebrated Jesus' birthday with a postponed Christmas party. We played some fun games, ate a yummy meal, and watched the Veggie Tales movie, "It's A Meaningful Life." Our group has grown over the last year in number, but we are always looking for more kids to come and to share with them the message of God's love and salvation! If you know of any kids that are between age 3 and 5th grade, please invite them to join us on Wednesday nights! We would love to see them ☺

(And if you know of any kids/youth that are older, you can invite them to participate in LinC—we have a place for everybody!!)

J4J

WED. 6:00-7:30 PM
AGE 3 TO 5TH GRADE

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It's Never Too Late To Join Us!!

Please remember that Family Night is held on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:30pm. It is an awesome opportunity to join together in fellowship as we eat supper (provided by our wonderful volunteer meal teams!) and following the meal, there is something for everyone!

J4J, LinC, Adult Bible Study, and child care is available (age 2 and under) If you need child care, please contact the office so we can ensure that arrangements will be made ☺

Everyone is invited-- even if you only want to share in the mealtime, we would love to see you there!

Food



Fellowship



Fun



Faith Development

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING (tacklehunger.org)



More than 20 years ago, *Souper Bowl of Caring* began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: "Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat." Since that day, more

than \$71 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

Through this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a positive difference in the world—as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need. Be a part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously. Every canned good item collected will go to the Charleston Food Pantry, and every dollar collected will go to the Coalition for People in Need agency. This collection of canned goods and money will run for three Sundays (Jan 23, 30 & Feb 6). After the concluding Sunday, Feb 6th (*Super Bowl Sunday*), we will report the number of cans, and the dollar amount collected to "tacklehunger.org" and then deliver the canned goods and money to the local agencies mentioned above. Thanks for your participation.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS:

Here are some upcoming 2011 youth events that we're hoping to participate in if we have the interest, the chaperones, and the money. If you are able to assist with any of these events (drivers, chaperones, food, monetary support, etc) please let one of the members of the youth ministry team know:

~(dates t/b/d) – 30-Hour Famine Event

~Feb 25 – 27 – Sr High "Fire-Up Conference", Troy, IL (or Sr. High YAR the same weekend?)

~Mar 26 – Winter Jam, Champaign, IL (the whole family can attend this!)

~Apr 9 & 10 – "Dead Serious About Life", musical/drama being presented in Martinsville, IL



~ 5 ~

LinC (Feb. Schedule)

02/02/11 – w/Lisa McDaniel

02/06/11 – "Souper" Bowl Sunday (w/canned goods & \$\$ collection on Jan 23, 30 & Feb 6)

02/08/11 (6:30 PM) – Youth Ministry Team Mtg.

02/09/11 – w/Lisa McDaniel

02/16/11 – w/Jim Craig

02/23/11 - w/Jim Craig

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MIDDLE SCHOOL IGNITION CONFERENCE

Ignition is a Harvest Ministries Conference for Middle School students (grades 6th-8th grades), and is being held on January 28-29, 2011, at Christ UMC, East Moline, IL. It is an exciting weekend of worship, praise, and teaching, and is a weekend designed to draw students closer to Christ. Two of Otterbein's youth and an adult sponsor are registered for this event. Please pray for travel mercies and spiritual growth for our Middle School youth and leader as they attend this event.

OTHER NEWS

Moving Forward...

Otterbein has a new web page that will hopefully be more user-friendly and informational for our current members and potential visitors. It is still "under construction" in some areas, but we invite you to check it out, and pass it along to anyone that may be interested! Please note that the monthly newsletter, calendar of events and monthly worship leaders are posted and up to date.

www.charlestonotterbein.org



Free Showing of "Fireproof"

There will be a free showing of the movie Fireproof on February 13th at 5pm. Couples are encouraged to attend and bring friends. We will have time to fellowship immediately following the movie!

Let's Get Ready to Rock!

UB Loyal has planned a **Soup & Karaoke Night** for **February 26, from 5-8pm.**

Please join us for a night of some good old-fashioned fun! The soup and equipment will be provided by UB Loyal—just bring yourselves, a few friends and, as always, a sense of humor and lots of enthusiasm!



ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

New Thursday Night Study--Pastor Krista will be leading a study on the book The 5 Love Languages, written by Dr. Gary Chapman, beginning in February.

While working as a marriage counselor for more than 30 years, Dr. Chapman noticed a pattern: everyone had a "love language," a primary way of expressing and interpreting love. He also discovered that, for whatever reason, people are usually drawn to those who speak a different love language than their own. In a friendly, often humorous style, he unpacks each one.

This will be an excellent supplement to the sermon series on love for the month of February. Please consider joining the study as we share in a casual and friendly atmosphere. This study will be beneficial for all adults at any stage of life. By learning our love language and the love language of our loved ones, we can discover more effective ways to relate to one another.

Also:

****Women's Bible Study**—meets Tuesdays from 9-10am

****Wednesday Night Bible Study**—meets from 6:30-7:30pm.

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Please take a moment to read and enjoy these simple life lessons written by Regina Brett, of Cleveland, Ohio, at the wise age of 90.

Life isn't fair, but it's still good • When in doubt, just take the next small step • Life is too short to waste time hating anyone • Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch • Pay off your credit cards every month • You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree • Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone • It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it • Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck • When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile • Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present • It's OK to let your children see you cry • Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about • If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it • Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks • Take a deep breath. It calms the mind • Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful • Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger • It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else • When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer • Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special • Over prepare, then go with the flow • Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple • The most important organ is the brain • No one is in charge of your happiness but you • Frame every so-called disaster with these words 'In five years, will this matter?' • Always choose life • Forgive everyone and everything • Don't worry about what other people say about you – it doesn't matter • Time heals almost everything. Give time time • However good or bad a situation is, it will change • Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does • Believe in miracles • God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do • Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now • Growing old beats the alternative -- dying young • Your children get only one childhood • All that truly matters in the end is that you loved • Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere • If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back • Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need • The best is yet to come... • No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up • Yield • **Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

ANNUAL PANCAKE & SAUSAGE DAY

FEBRUARY 12

6:00 AM – 2:00 PM



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Are You Ready To Be Green?

In an effort to be more "green" and more mindful of the environment, we are encouraging everyone with internet access to view/print the monthly newsletter from our webpage

www.charlestonotterbein.org

The monthly newsletters will be available on the webpage by the end of the previous month and are saved in a pdf format. Everyone should be able to view them as long as Adobe is installed on your computer.

If you are interested in discontinuing your paper copy of the newsletter, please email the church at

charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com and

request to be removed from the mailing list. We will send an email each month to you with the link to view/print the newsletter.

If you do nothing, your newsletter will remain the same.



Celebrations

Birthdays

2/2 Doug Carr
 2/9 Eleanor Rice
 2/10 Mackenzie Wilson
 2/14 Michael Payne
 2/19 Danny Bircher
 2/21 Kimberly Rice
 2/22 Krista Price
 2/23 Kayla Evans
 2/25 Krista Snider



Anniversaries

2/12 Jim & Carolyn Craig
 2/14 Rick & Sharron Waltrip
 2/15 Bill & Judy Harrison
 2/17 Jim & Toody Hackett



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February Worship

	<u>2/6</u>	<u>2/13</u>	<u>2/20</u>	<u>2/27</u>
Greeters	Brad Bircher & Family	Rex & Joan Johns	Bill & Judy Harrison	Marty & Loretta Buell
Acolyte	Ian McDaniel	Deece Schwartz	Alesia Smyser	Mackenzie Wilson
Ushers	Tom Blair Bill Snider Betty Potts Linda Hackett	Lisa McDaniel Samantha Baker Jim Craig Jim Hackett	Bill Harrison Rex Johns Marty Buell Harold Hackett	Bob Stoner Rick Waltrip John McDaniel Jerry Payne
Family Cross	Dan & Vickie Bircher	Butch & Linda Hackett	Dorothy Cox	Betty Potts

FEBRUARY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Women's Bible Study 9:00-10:00am	2 <i>Doug Carr</i> Family Night 6:00-7:30pm	3 Prayer/Fasting 5 Love Languages Study 6:30-7:30pm	4	5
6	7 Finance Mtg. 6:30pm	8 Women's Bible Study 9:00-10:00am	9 <i>Eleanor Rice</i> Family Night 6:00-7:30pm	10 <i>Mackenzie Wilson</i> 5 Love Languages Study 6:30-7:30pm	11	12 <i>Jim & Carolyn Craig</i> Pancake & Sausage Day 6am-2pm
13 Free Showing of "Fireproof" 5pm	14 <i>Michael Payne</i> <i>Rick & Sharron Waltrip</i>	15 <i>Bill & Judy Harrison</i> Women's Bible Study 9:00-10:00am	16 Family Night 6:00-7:30pm	17 <i>Jim & Toody Hackett</i> 5 Love Languages Study 6:30-7:30pm	18	19 <i>Danny Bircher</i>
20	21 <i>Kimberly Rice</i>	22 <i>Krista Price</i> Women's Bible Study 9:00-10:00am	23 <i>Kayla Evans</i> Family Night 6:00-7:30pm	24 5 Love Languages Study 6:30-7:30pm	25 <i>Krista Snider</i>	26 Soup & Karaoke Night 5:00-8:00pm
27	28 PPRC Mtg. 6:30pm					

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

FEBRUARY 2011

Sunday Morning Worship
Sunday School

9:00 am
10:30 am

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

Phone: (217) 345-5843
Email: charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com
Website: www.charlestonotterbein.org

All are welcome!



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