



Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

FEBRUARY 2013



PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE DAY

February 9

6:00am-2:00pm

You can't beat an All You Can Eat Breakfast while sharing in a time of fellowship with such good company ☺

Open to the public--

Invite your family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors!

A love offering is accepted.

Please see Jerry Payne for information on donating supplies or money and/or volunteering to help with set-up, clean-up and serving.

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Ash Wednesday



The Ash Wednesday Service will be Wednesday, February 13th at 7:00pm.

Please note that there will be no Family Night meal or meeting that evening.



PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Nicholas Gleason

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well and blessed. In just a few days we enter into the season of Lent. Whenever I think of preparing for this season, I think of a man named Naaman.

Naaman was one powerful guy. He was the commander of the army of his nation, Aram, the neighboring country and enemy of Israel. He was a man used to being in charge. Naaman designed the battle plans and was the man responsible for one military success after another. He was powerful and he was admired. Except for one thing...he had leprosy. His leprosy was not the fatal kind. He was still able to function as the commander and to have a wife and servants, but his skin disease made him a social outcast. Surely, he had gotten the best treatments available in his country but to no avail.

Then one day a little girl who had been captured during a raid in Israel and then given to Naaman's wife as a servant, told his wife about this prophet in her country who could heal him. When Naaman learned what she said he assumed that any prophet with that much power must be a royal prophet in the king's court. Immediately, he loaded up his chariots with silver and gold he could use to bribe his way to healing.

The king of Israel turned into a nervous wreck the minute he saw the enemy commander coming. When Naaman told the king he wanted to see the great prophet in the royal court who had the power to heal leprosy, the king got even more worried. He didn't have any great prophets who could heal leprosy. In the ancient expression of fear, the king tore his robes. Someone in the king's palace got word to the prophet Elisha about what was going on. Elisha sent back a message to the king telling him to relax and send Naaman to him.

So Naaman arrived at Elisha's front door with his horses and chariots and silver and gold, ready to negotiate. Like most powerful people, Naaman was used to receiving a lot of fanfare. But Elisha didn't even come out and say hello. He just sent out his messenger to tell Naaman to go and wash seven times in the Jordan and he would be restored.

Naaman had never been so insulted! This ordinary prophet treats him like a nobody. And then has the nerve to tell him to go and wash in the Jordan River, which up north was just a stream. Naaman had great and powerful rivers in his own country, more fitting for a man of his position. If he was going to wash in a river it better be a powerful river.

Then one of his servants dares to speak up. "If this prophet had asked you for gold or silver, you were ready to pay him. If he asked you to do something difficult, you would have done it. What have you got to lose going to the Jordan River?"

Naaman had two things to lose. One was his leprosy. The other was his pride. God was working on healing him of both. I don't believe that God gave Naaman leprosy in order to cure his pride, any more than I believe that God brings disasters and illness to us. But I do believe that God used Naaman's leprosy to restore him to his true humanity. And I believe that God uses disasters and illness in a variety of ways to restore us as well.

I invite you to consider what is holding you back from receiving the fullness of God's healing. Let this season of Lent be a season of transformation for you.

Shalom,

Nicholas

~ 2 ~

LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

In our Sunday School Class, we've been discussing the book, *'Oprah Miracles and the New Earth'* by Dr. Erwin Lutzer who is an author and professor at Moody Bible Institute. In the book, Dr. Lutzer examines the teachings of **'A Course in Miracles'** which is a new age philosophy being taught and endorsed by Oprah Winfrey. This teaching takes some of the truths from the Bible and distorts it just enough to get people to "buy-in-to-it". They believe that Jesus did exist, but was only a model of what we all are and what we all can be. Their belief is that Jesus shows mankind that we all are God and we can all be just like Jesus if we can find that perfect state of consciousness by thinking right! We don't need grace or salvation, we just need to practice positive thinking and we can achieve the perfect frequency that will catapult us into heaven!

I was looking through my files in order to research this month's article and came across a devotional from Our Daily Bread (I know, I use this a lot in my articles) which touches on this same topic, so I decided to write on it.

The devotional references a long letter the publication received from a man who says he believes in both God and "the Christ spirit" but not in "the historical Jesus as portrayed in the New Testament." He doesn't mind that the staff at 'Our Daily Bread' believes as they do, but he wants the staff to show respect for him by acknowledging that both beliefs are of equal merit. That they cannot do!

A belief is either true or false. Either Jesus is Lord and Savior, God in the flesh, or He is not. When considering who Christ is, we choose to believe either in Jesus or our own imagination or in the Jesus of biblical revelation.

We are not unloving when we say that those who reject the Jesus revealed in the Bible are wrong. We follow the example of the apostle John. In 1 John 2: 18-27, John refers to such teachers as "antichrists" who had no right to be counted as members of the fellowship of believers. In verse 22, he wrote, *"Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist –he denies the Father and the Son."* (NIV) Then in verse 24 he informs us to....*"See that what you heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father."* What had they heard from the beginning? None other than the teachings of Jesus Himself, as well as the dynamic eyewitness testimony of those who intimately knew the life, person, and work of our Lord.

They had strong reasons for believing in Jesus – and so do we! It's not our imagination, ego, or even our consciousness. It's the revelation of God!

In His Grip,

Butch



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

**To be able to detect what is false,
we need to study the Truth!**

Intentional Faith Development

UPCOMING BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK "NOT A FAN"

6 Week Bible Study, Led by Pastor Nicholas on Thursday Evenings from 6:30-7:30pm, beginning January 31st

Twenty times in the New Testament, Jesus issued a compelling and challenging invitation to Follow Him. He's not interested in mere fans. He doesn't want enthusiastic admirers. He wants Completely Committed Followers. Based on the engaging approach of Kyle Idleman, this one-of-a-kind small group study examines what it means to deny one's self and truly follow Jesus.

This unconventional small group experience is a cinematic journey through a series of six mini-movies providing a unique perspective to help shape today's believer into a first century Christ-follower. Follow the journey of Eric Nelson, a man leading a compartmentalized triple life as a pleasure-seeking rebel, a cutthroat corporate executive, and a nominal Christian. When confronted with a near death experience, Eric embarks on a spiritual journey that transforms his commitment to Jesus Christ and tests the faith of his friends and family.



Women's Bible Study
Tuesday Mornings
at 9:00am
w/ Sandy Smallhorn

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 ☺

These families have signed up to provide the refreshments for the month of **February:**



February 3
February 10
February 17
February 24

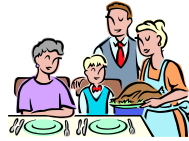
Snider Family
Snider Family
???
???



Join us at
FAMILY NIGHT

Wednesdays
6:00-7:30pm

...a time of Faith, Fellowship,
and Fun with your church Family!



Family Night Meals

Offered to participants at no cost (donations are accepted, as you are able).
Feel free to join them anytime for a meal and fellowship (*you do not have to stay for the sessions beginning at 6:30 to participate in the meal!*). And you do not have to come every week—come when you can ☺ You are always welcome!!!

Please note that they will not be meeting February 13th.



J4J (Jumping for Jesus)

Age 3-5th grade
w/ Jane Cox

Learning the Books of the Bible with
DVD series "What's in the Bible?" from
Veggie Tales creator Phil Vischer.

Women's Group

w/ Samantha Baker

*Join the women for a devotional and various
hands-on mission/craft projects each week. They
are currently setting up a church library, including
a children's section and a reading/incentive
program for the kids.*

LinC (Life in Christ)

6th-12th grades
w/ Adam Baker

Our sessions have been more youth-driven,
leading into some very deep discussions, from
angels & demons, temptation, to free will.
Please continue to pray for our youth as their
spiritual lives are being molded.

Men's Group

w/ Jim Craig

Discuss a weekly question (taken from "Living
With Questions"), and discuss and implement
ways the men can serve both inside the church
and out into the community.

Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together...



Pocket Change Sundays

Please be reminded that the youth group will be collecting Pocket Change on the last Sunday of every month to help support our World Vision child Andinet. The monthly sponsorship for Andinet is \$35. We receive progress reports, letters and cards from her regularly.

Anyone is welcome to write her a letter if you would like to ☺ The next Pocket Change Sunday collection will be February 24th. We appreciate your help in supporting this mission!

The Preschool Sunday School Class will be collecting 50 cents from everyone (or any amount you can offer!) each month to donate towards the Heifer Project, which works with communities throughout the world to end hunger and poverty and care for the Earth. For more information on the Heifer Project, visit their webpage at <http://www.heifer.org>

See Sandy Smallhorn for more info. Please help support the Preschoolers with their mission work ☺

Please Note!



If you need to reach Pastor Nicholas:

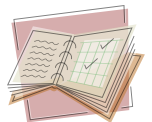
Cell Phone: (740) 513-6199

Home Phone: (217) 345-2046

Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter (*March 2013*) will be printed and distributed around the end of February. The deadline to submit articles or information in the March newsletter will be Thursday, February 14.

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



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

The Mission Trip—A Huge Lesson I Learned

By Alesia Smyser

A huge lesson I learned is not to be greedy. I went on a mission trip with my church to Chicago to help homeless and to visit schools.

The first place we went was the YMCA to visit the daycare. We helped the teachers. There was one little boy about 3 who came up to me and handed me a flower and said "You are very nice, thank you." I thought that was so nice, I wanted to go there every day and help. That little boy made my day.

Next we went on a scavenger hunt that the counselor sent us on. We were looking for a homeless person to take and buy them food. We only had \$5 to spend. There was one adult with us. We went up to this man and asked if he needed food. He told us yes and then a lady came running up to us asking us to buy her food too. We told her yes and asked them where they liked to eat. They replied, "Pizza," and pointed at a pizza place. We said okay and took them to eat. Of course it cost more than \$5, so the adult that was with us paid for the rest. We sat at the pizza place for a while talking. The man who we took to eat had been staggering and he told us, "I'm sorry, but I am drunk." We told him no problem that it was okay. After they ate we left and went back to our counselor.

The next day we went to a nursing home and played bingo and chatted with the people. We were playing bingo when one of the men wanted to show off. He was probably in his late 70's or early 80's. He thought it would be funny to stick bingo chips up his nose and blow them out at us. One of the kids was scared when he did it, but the rest of us just laughed at him.

Then we went to the Food Pantry. We served the people food, sat with them and interacted with them. I was talking to a lady and she told me how her daughter was caring for her and then just left her and that was why she was homeless. She looked kind of dirty, but I didn't judge her and she was crying. My friend and I went up to her and gave her a huge hug. We prayed with her and just enjoyed her stories and talked with her for quite a while.

Lastly, we went to Goodwill to clean up the store so that it would look nice. We started going up some stairs to get into the store when one of the adults that was with us thought he was going to pass out as he was going up. He didn't pass out, but it was really scary. In the store we picked up hangers and clothes that had fallen on the floor. We also helped to organize the store. Working in the Goodwill store made me feel good.

The mission trip experience made me learn not to be greedy and to be thankful for what I have. That was my experience.

THE

OTTERBEIN

HUBBUB!

Submitted by Carolyn Craig

"The OTTERBEIN HUBBUB"

- **"Hub"** means **"focal point"** ... may our ministry focus always be God-centered!
- **"Hubbub"**, a word for **"noise"**...may we come together, serving in the way God created us to serve, and make **"a joyful noise"** in the process!
- **HUB Leader**... one whose goal is **"H-elping to U-tilize the B-ody"** (of believers... at Otterbein)

- **New Church Library** – Library set-up is moving along at a slow pace, but progress is being made. Over half the boxes have now been sorted, and many of the books have been placed on the available shelving in that room. Options are being pursued for additional space since the current shelving is mostly filled already.
- **Still Wanted: Cookbooks!** An idea presented itself a few months ago to host a *"Recipe Rendezvous"* at Otterbein sometime in 2013. Samantha Baker and Carolyn Craig had attended such an evening at *Standing Stone*, and found it to be a worthwhile, fun, and tasty event. It is truly a great time to invite friends to come along as well! Essentially it is a fundraiser—and a time for fellowship, and a time to try new recipes. This is the reason we've been asking for cookbook donations to the church library. Once we have the library set up, and a good collection of cookbooks, then we'll ask families from the church to borrow a cookbook from the church library, pick a new recipe from the cookbook, make two of whatever is selected, and bring both of them to a *"Recipe Rendezvous"* evening at the church. One of the items you bring will be placed on tables for everyone to *"taste test"*. The second item is set out for a *"silent auction"*. Proceeds from the silent auction can possibly go toward sending kids to camp, a mission trip, or other worthy cause. We haven't seen any cookbooks coming in, so if you've been *"thinking about"* cleaning out your cookbook shelf and turning over to the new church library some of those old cookbooks you no longer use, now is a good time to do it. Simply drop them off in the church library room. Thank you!
- **Wednesday Family Night, Women's Group** – (Message provided by Samantha Baker):
If you haven't noticed already, we received a special thank you from Becci Hansen, who is a part of ConKerr Cancer. She posted this message printed below on Otterbein's Facebook page: *The Wednesday Night Women's Group has been busy making pillowcases that were recently dropped off at "The Sewing Basket" in Charleston. These pillowcases were donated to ConKerr Cancer and will be distributed to children with cancer at St. John's Hospital in Springfield, IL.*
- **Special thanks...** to all of you at Otterbein who helped with the ConKerr Cancer outreach project!! Your time, talents and donations of materials are greatly appreciated now and will be in the future :) Thirty-three pillowcases were donated to this worthwhile organization. In addition, another 2 dozen pillowcases were made, sold or given away, either before/during/after the Chili Bazaar day. Awesome!!

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>
12/30	\$ 2,185.16	\$ 2,185.00	\$ 0.16
1/6	\$ 2,643.60	\$ 2,185.00	\$ 458.60
1/13	\$ 1,157.21	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 1,027.79)
<u>1/20</u>	<u>\$ 1,294.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,185.00</u>	<u>(\$ 891.00)</u>
TOTAL	\$ 7,279.97	\$ 8,740.00	(\$ 1,460.03)



BUILDING FUND

Current Balance

12/30	\$ 2,710.99
1/6	\$ 3,355.99
1/13	\$ 2,124.44
1/20	\$ 2,184.44

Monthly Mortgage Payment \$ 1,356.55

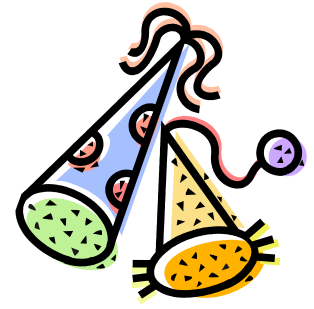
MONTHLY EXPENSES PAID BY LOOSE PLATE/TITHE

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
<u>Worship Service</u>	<u>\$ 30.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 8,729.00
Weekly	\$ 2,182.25

For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

--2 Corinthians 9:10 (NLT)

Celebrations



Birthdays

2/2	Doug Carr
2/9	Eleanor Rice
2/10	Mackenzie Wilson
2/14	Michael Payne
2/16	Bonnie Tribby
2/19	Danny Bircher
2/21	Kimberly Rice
2/23	Kayla Evans
2/25	Krista Snider

Anniversaries

2/12	Jim & Carolyn Craig
2/14	Rick & Sharron Waltrip
2/15	Bill & Judy Harrison
2/18	Clinton & Bonnie Tribby



February Worship Leaders

	<u>2/3</u>	<u>2/10</u>	<u>2/17</u>	<u>2/24</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Dorothy Cox & family	Randy & Becky Rice	Marty & Loretta Buell	Bob & Betty Stoner Sherry Strode
<u>Acolyte</u>	Ian McDaniel	Debra Bircher	Deece Schwartz	Kenny Smallhorn
<u>Ushers</u>	Brad Bircher Dan Bircher Butch Hackett Jim Craig	Adam Baker Derek Hennig Wade Hennig Sean Hackett	Bill Harrison Randy Rice Linda Hackett Phyllis Hackett	Alesia Smyser Ian McDaniel Debra Bircher Keridwen McDaniel
<u>Family Cross</u>	Eleanor Rice	Ken & Sandy Smallhorn	Bill & Judy Harrison	Butch & Linda Hackett
<u>Children's Moment</u>	Butch Hackett	Carolyn Craig	Sandy Smallhorn	Jane Cox



FEBRUARY 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	2 <i>Doug Carr</i>
3 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am Super Bowl Sunday	4 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Finance Mtg</u> 6:30pm	5 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	6 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	7 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm	8 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	9 <i>Eleanor Rice</i> <u>Pancake & Sausage Day</u> 6am-2pm
10 <i>Mackenzie Wilson</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	11 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	12 <i>Jim & Carolyn Craig</i> <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Nurture Mtg</u> 6:00pm	13 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Ash Wednesday Service</u> 7:00pm <u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	14 <i>Michael Payne Rick & Sharron Waltrip</i> Newsletter Articles Due <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm	15 <i>Bill & Judy Harrison</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	16 <i>Bonnie Tribby</i> <u>Arts Council "Felted Landscapes"</u> 9:00am-3:00pm
17 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am 1st Sunday of Lent	18 <i>Clinton & Bonnie Tribby</i> President's Day <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	19 <i>Danny Bircher</i> <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	20 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	21 <i>Kimberly Rice</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm	22 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	23 <i>Kayla Evans</i>
24 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am 2nd Sunday of Lent	25 <i>Krista Snider</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	26 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	27 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	28 Early Bird Church Camp Deadline <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm		

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

FEBRUARY 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)
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All are welcome!

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

