



Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

JANUARY 2014

PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Nicholas Gleason

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well and blessed. I pray this New Year will bring you new happiness, new peace, new friends, and new exciting opportunities. Which is exactly what we seek each year as we shape our New Year's Resolution. As we enter 2014, I would like to suggest a New Year's Resolution for you. Make this your 2014 motto:

The greatest thing we can do in 2014 is take a risk!

Why is this such a beautiful motto for 2014? In my readings, I came across this quote from Max Lucado which answers that perfectly:

When fear shapes our lives, safety becomes our God. When safety becomes our God, we worship the risk-free life.

Can the safety lover do anything great? Can the risk-averse accomplish noble deeds? For God? For others?

No. The fear-filled life cannot love deeply because love is risky...No wonder Jesus wages such a war against fear.

Fear creates insecurities. Fear blocks action. Fear puts up walls and keeps people at a distance. Fear never trusts. Fear never accepts. Fear is always suspicious.

Love draws people in. Love allows people to be who they really are. Because love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. So take the risk:

Weep and risk appearing sentimental.

Reach out for another and risk involvement.

Expose your feelings and risk exposing your true self.

Place your ideas, your dreams, before a crowd and risk their loss.

Love and risk not being loved in return.

Live and risk dying.

Hope and risk despair.

Try and risk failure.

Because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing. The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing, and is nothing. They may avoid suffering and sorrow, but they cannot learn, feel, change, grow, live or love.

A few years ago I heard this story of a ten year old boy. His brother was confined to a wheel chair, and he was pushing his brother around the Cabrini-Green Projects in Chicago. When suddenly the wheel chair hit a bump in the sidewalk, and his brother slipped out of the wheel chair.

The ten year old was not strong enough to lift his brother back into the wheel chair. He tried many times to flag down a car, to get someone who might help lift his brother back into the wheel chair. But no one stopped.

Finally, the ten year old picked up a brick, and he threw it at the next car, which just happened to be a brand new luxury Jaguar. The brick hit the front passenger window and shattered the glass. The wealthy business man in the car slammed on his breaks, jumped out of the car and gave this ten year old an ear full.

The ten year old apologized and told the man he just needed someone to stop and help his brother. The business man suddenly saw the paralyzed boy lying on the sidewalk. He helped the boy back into his wheel chair. For the rest of the year, the business man refused to repair the shattered window. To remind himself that drive bys in any neighborhood should never be tolerated.

And as I remember that story, I am confronted with many condemning questions: how many drive bys have I committed? People that just needed me to stop. How many people have I walked by at Walmart, at the park, even in this church? Probably too many. And I'm reminded of John's first letter, when he writes:

If anyone...sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and truth.

The battle is not taking place in the safety of this room. The battle is taking place out there in our own backyards. Drugs are destroying people's lives. Affairs are destroying marriages. So many children are living without the attention and affection they desperately need from their Moms and Dads.

What if we all decided, church wide that we were going to cut back on our activities, so we could serve in our youth ministry and our children's ministry. What if our homes became safe places for young people to come to? Giving them an alternative on Friday nights and Saturday nights. So they can experience that positive social environment and nurturing affection. What if we took that risk?

Shalom,

Nicholas

~ 2 ~

LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

I read of a hotel in Singapore that introduced an express buffet – ‘Eat All You Can In 30 Minutes and Pay Just Half Price’ After that experience, one diner reported; “ I lost my decorum, stuffing my mouth with yet more food. I lost my civility.....and I lost my appetite for the rest of the day because my heartburn was so severe.”

Many of us begin new disciplines or make resolutions as we enter a new year. Often the discipline deals with spending more time in scripture or in prayer. I wonder how many times we treat our time with God as an ‘express buffet’? I know I am guilty of hurrying through my devotional time as if there was a time limit or because I had other things pulling my attention away. I wolf it down and wonder why I didn’t learn anything. Like physical food, spiritual food needs chewing! For those of us who have been Christians for a long time, may have a tendency to speed read passages that we think we have heard a thousand times or it seems boring. But in doing so, we miss what God is meaning to show us or to tell us. One sure sign of this is when we walk away from our devotional time and learn nothing new from the passage.

The Psalmist’s desire was right when he wrote in Psalm 119:15, *I will meditate on Your precepts and consider your ways*” That’s the way to treat God’s word – take time to mull it over.

Let’s not come to the Bible as if we were going to an express buffet. Only by meditating on God’s word will we get the most value for our spiritual well-being.

Here is a little poem that was printed in the Daily Bread that goes along with this thought:

*Spending time in meditation,
Hiding Scripture in our heart,
Works in us a transformation
So from sin we can depart. – Sper*

In His Grip,

Butch



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

**Reading the Bible without reflecting
is like eating without chewing.**

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)

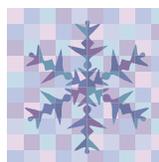
Resume meeting on January 8th



Women's Bible Study

Tuesday Mornings at 9:00am
w/ Sandy Smallhorn

Resume meeting on January 14th



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

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

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 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...



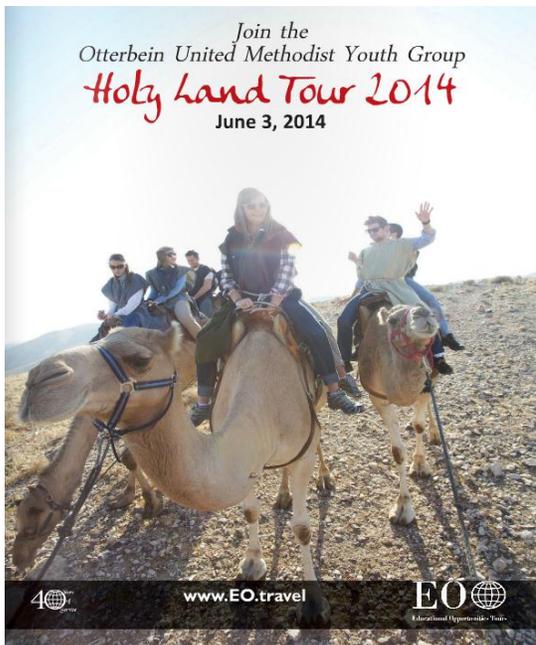
Newspapers

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 (*February 2014*) will be printed and distributed around the end of January. The deadline to submit articles or information in the February newsletter will be **Thursday, January 16**. 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>
11/24	\$ 1,021.00	\$ 2,011.00	(\$ 990.00)
12/1	\$ 1,615.15	\$ 2,011.00	(\$ 395.85)
12/8	\$ 2,013.00	\$ 2,011.00	\$ 2.00
12/15	\$ 1,308.91	\$ 2,011.00	(\$ 702.09)
12/22	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 2,011.00	(\$ 711.00)
12/29	\$ 2,771.50	\$ 2,011.00	\$ 760.50
TOTAL	\$ 10,029.56	\$ 12,066.00	(\$ 2,036.44)



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

11/24	\$ 1,305.49
12/1	\$ 533.95
12/8	\$ 603.96
12/15	\$ 1,013.96
12/22	\$ 1,521.44
12/29	\$ 2,671.44

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

Celebrations



Birthdays

1/2	Joan Johns
1/4	Randy Rice
1/5	Cathi Brockman
1/7	Natalie Holloway
1/9	Derek Hennig
1/15	Jim Hackett
1/16	Marty Buell
1/22	Debra Bircher
1/26	Tabatha Lewis
1/26	Kaden Donley
1/31	Rex Johns
1/31	Barbara Carr

No January
Anniversaries!



January Worship Leaders

	<u>1/5</u>	<u>1/12</u>	<u>1/19</u>	<u>1/26</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Dorothy Cox & family	Rick & Sharron Waltrip	Clinton & Bonnie Tribby	Ken & Sandy Smallhorn
<u>Acolyte</u>	Jade Smyser	Brandon Schulz	Kayla Donley	Tyvon Smallhorn
<u>Ushers</u>	Betty Potts Jim Hackett Wayne Cox Rose Snider	Marcia Lawhead Bonnie Tribby Randy Rice Jim Craig	Dan Bircher Vickie Bircher John McDaniel Lisa McDaniel	Deece Schwartz Kenny Smallhorn Ian McDaniel Christopher Schulz
<u>Family Cross</u>	Randy & Becky Rice	Marty & Loretta Buell	John & Lisa McDaniel	Rex & Joan Johns
<u>Children's Moment</u>	Samantha Baker	Carolyn Craig		Jane Cox





JANUARY 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	2 <i>Joan Johns</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	3 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	4 <i>Randy Rice</i>
5 <i>Cathi Brockman</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	6 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	7 <i>Natalie Holloway</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	8 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	9 <i>Derek Hennig</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	10 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	11 <u>Arts Council</u> 9:00am-3:00pm
12 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	13 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	14 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	15 <i>Jim Hackett</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	16 <i>Marty Buell</i> <u>Newsletter Articles Due</u> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	17 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	18
19 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	20 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	21 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	22 <i>Debra Bircher</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	23 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	24 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	25
26 <i>Tabatha Lewis Kaden Donley</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	27 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	28 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	29 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	30 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	31 <i>Rex Johns Barbara Carr</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

JANUARY 2014

Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 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!

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

