



Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

JUNE 2012

"A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society."

-- Billy Graham, Christian Evangelist

"The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother."

-- Theodore Hesburgh, Catholic Priest and President Emeritus of the University of Notre Dame

"My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it."

-- Clarence Budington Kelland, U.S. Writer

"How true Daddy's words were when he said: 'All children must look after their own upbringing.' Parents can only give good advice or put them on the right paths, but the final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands."

-- Anne Frank, German Jew and Holocaust Victim

"It is much easier to become a father than to be one."

-- Kent Nerburn, U.S. Author and Educator

"My dad has always taught me these words: care and share."

-- Tiger Woods, U.S. Professional Golfer

"Blessed indeed is the man who hears many gentle voices call him father!"

-- Lydia M. Child, U.S. Author

"We are given children to test us and make us more spiritual."

-- George Will, U.S. Journalist

- "It is easier for a father to have children than for children to have a real father."

-- Pope John XXIII

Happy Father's Day!

~ 1 ~



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Main Page	1
Pastor's Chat	2
Lay Leader's Line	3
Summer Break	4
Parking Passes	4
100 Year Anniversary	4
Prayers Requested	4
Thursday Bible Study	4
Contact Pastor Nicholas	4
Mother's Day Breakfast	5
Pre-Father's Day Cookout	5
Honoring Our Graduates	5
Vacation Bible School	5
Attention Ladies	5
Finance Report	6
Newsletter Deadline	6
J4J Bible Challenge	7
J4J Bible Challenge Cont.	8
Celebrations	9
June Worship Leaders	9
June Calendar	10



PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Nicholas Gleason



Dear Friends,

I hope and pray that your summer vacations are bringing you much rest and peace. A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to share a meal with the Bishop. At our dinner, he offered me a book he had written many years ago, *Becoming Jesus' Prayer*. He was kind enough to sign the book with the inscription, "Nicholas, Let prayer shape you from the inside out."

As the days went by, that inscription has continued to stick with me. It keeps ringing in my thoughts. Every week during worship, we end our prayers and concerns with the Lord's Prayer. I like the Prayer. I like it because it's theologically rich, and yet, so simple.

But the Bishop's inscription has me thinking, how are we allowing this powerful prayer to leave an impression on our life? Do we allow this prayer to comfort us, convict us, convert us? To bring us joy, to bring us sorrow? To humble us, to transform us?

What do you experience as you lift up the Lord's Prayer in community? I'm curious, how long have you had this prayer memorized? Do you remember when you could first say the prayer from your heart? Do the words just roll off your tongue? Does it lead you into a living, breathing conversation with God? What does the conversation teach you, about God, about yourself?

Let me offer up just a little personal reflection. Saying one's prayer is not the same as praying. When I was in seminary, we used to pray this Prayer every Sunday. One Sunday, I can remember a friend sitting next to me reciting the Lord's Prayer as she was taking notes. After the prayer I looked over at her notes (not that I'm nosey!). It read: "Grocery List: Tomatoes...Bread...Milk...Potato Chips."

Most of us can recite the memorized phrases with ease. But can we pray it? Can we pray it from the deepest depths of our hearts and souls? I want you to take a moment to pray this Prayer. Pray it slowly. Pray it with the Spirit. Pray it and listen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Where do you find joy and struggle in praying Jesus' prayer? For me, both the joy and the struggle come from that line, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Every week we pray those words seem to stick out. Those words seem to hit me the hardest. In an age of self-indulgence, to pray, "put me to thy will", is revolutionary. Every day for the month of June, I want to challenge you to lift up this prayer. Let me know how it speaks to you. How it is leaving an impression on you. I think you will experience a rekindled sense of power, as we ask with the disciples, "Jesus, teach us to pray."

Shalom,

Nicholas

LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

I enjoyed a multitude of sports as I was growing up. No matter what sport I happened to be engaged in at the time, I still could feel the "butterflies-in-the-stomach" when I competed against someone who I knew was a lot better than I was. Early in my life, I let the "butterflies" get the best of me and would not perform very well. In fact, I usually wouldn't even perform up to my normal ability because I let the intimidation get the best of me. I remember either reading or hearing a story that changed the way I approached those anxious moments. I came across the story again in the May 4th devotional in 'The Daily Bread', written by David Roper. The original story, written by John Eldridge, tells about a Scottish athlete in the 19th century who wanted to learn to throw the discus. He made a discus out of iron based on a description that he had a read. What he didn't know was that the discus used in official competition was made of wood. The one he made weighed 3 to 4 times more than the wooden one. He marked the record distance in a field near his home and trained day and night to match it. For years he labored until he could break the record. Then he took his discus to England for his first competition. When he arrived in England they gave him the official discus which he was able to throw much further than any of his competition and set a new record. He held the record for many years because he trained with a heavier burden and became better for it. I remember thinking that competing against the best or practicing with more than is required, could make me better. (For instance; the Cubs get better by playing the Cardinals!)

I started to look for opportunities to become better in whatever the endeavor. If it was baseball, I looked forward to batting against a good pitcher. If it was football, as linebacker, I wanted to face the best running back in the conference. When it came to shooting pool, I discovered that if I spent a few hours playing snooker (because the table is longer and the balls are smaller) I played '8-Ball' better.

How can this life-lesson be applied to our spiritual life? I believe that there are a number of ways this can be applied, but for the sake of space, I'll only share one.

Hebrews 10:25 tells us that we should not give up meeting together (NIV). I believe that one of the many benefits of worship and meeting together with other Christians is being able to share with those who may be stronger in their faith, or have studied scriptures longer, or have more life experiences that we all can learn and grow from. Whether it's the pastor from the pulpit, the Sunday school teacher, or Bible study leader, we should view these opportunities as "gatherings-for-growth". But, just like the man from Scotland, we have to do some work on our own. Daily devotionals, prayer time, and Bible reading are also necessary to develop a strong faith-foundation that we need in order to prevent being led astray. If you are looking for a church home, a Christian author to study, or a Bible study to attend, I have found that the Holy Spirit will help you seek those that will strengthen you. Who knows, maybe you're the next "record-setter" in God's Kingdom!

In His Grip,

Butch

~ 3 ~



Thought for the Month:

**Spiritual growth
soars when
we have
prayed up,
made up,
and
paid up!**



Scripture study

Intentional Faith Development



As summer approaches and our schedules fill up with vacations and summer events, we will be taking a break from our regularly scheduled activities until fall.

- NO Sunday School
- NO Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study
- NO Family Night Meetings
- NO Choir Practice
- NO Thursday Night Bible Study



PARKING PASSES

Jim Hackett has extra parking passes for Barnes Hospital. If you are planning to travel there, please see Jim Hackett.

*"If you live close to God
And His infinite grace,
You don't have to tell;
It shows on your face."
—Anonymous*

100 YEARS!



This year marks our 100th anniversary as a congregation! We will celebrate this summer on **July 8**. We also plan to have former pastors return to Otterbein and preach throughout July and August. To prepare for the celebration, we will be looking for memories, photos or anything else that our community would like to share for this celebration. Please see Pastor Nicholas if you have info.

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

Please remember the youth and adults as they travel to Chicago for the summer mission trip. They will be leaving June 3 and returning June 9. Please pray that their eyes will be open, and they may have a spiritual encounter with God that will



be life-changing.



Also, please remember to pray for the IGRC Annual Conference, which will also be held the first week of June. Pastor Nicholas and Jim Craig will be attending the conference in Peoria and representing Otterbein.

Thursday Night Bible Study

When we begin meeting again in the fall, we will do the Beth Moore study on the book of James. Stay tuned for more details!



Please Note!

If you need to reach Pastor Nicholas:

Cell Phone: (740) 513-6199

Home Phone: (217) 345-2046



Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together...

Mother's Day Breakfast



The Mother's Day Breakfast was a hit from the feedback that we have gotten. Of course, there were a few things that might have been done better. But overall, most everyone was well-fed and enjoyed the time to fellowship.

Thanks to all who volunteered to help—cooks, waiters, set-up and take-down.

--Jim Craig and the Wednesday Night Men's Study Group

Thanks



Honoring Our Graduates

Please let Pastor Nicholas know ASAP if you or anyone in your family is graduating this year—from preschool, elementary school, junior/senior high, college, or professional or technical school.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Kickoff Celebration: Sunday, August 5th (for the whole family)

VBS program (evenings): August 6th - 8th

Please pray about your involvement in VBS. Everyone is invited to take part in the week, whether it is through prayer, donations of materials, food, money, or your time 😊 We appreciate all of your support! If you would like to be involved, please see Samantha Baker.

There is a place for everyone!

PRE-FATHER'S DAY COOKOUT

The ladies of the church are planning a cookout for the men and fathers of OUMC and the community in honor of Father's Day. Because we know that many of you may be busy on Father's Day, it will be held the Sunday before Father's Day. Join us **Sunday, June 10th**, after the worship service. The ladies will be cooking steaks for the men, and hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided for everyone else ☺ Please sign up at the welcome center table along with the number of people you will be bringing.



ATTENTION LADIES!!

Ways you can help with the Father's Day cookout

(Please see Sandy Smallhorn):

- ✓ Bring Your Men!
- ✓ Help Cook
- ✓ Help Serve
- ✓ Set-Up and Clean-Up
- ✓ Bring Desserts
- (sign up at the welcome center)*
- ✓ Donate a Few Dollars



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>
4/29	\$ 2,359.34	\$ 2,185.00	\$ 174.34
5/6	\$ 1,766.95	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 418.05)
5/13	\$ 2,245.15	\$ 2,185.00	\$ 60.15
5/20	\$ 1,416.75	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 768.25)
TOTAL	\$ 7,788.19	\$ 8,740.00	(\$ 951.81)



BUILDING FUND

Current Balance (each Sunday)

4/29	\$ 4,464.59
5/6	\$ 4,473.39
5/13	\$ 3,311.84
5/20	\$ 3,371.84

Monthly Mortgage Payment \$ 1,356.55

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

-2 Corinthians 9:7

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
Worship Service	\$ 30.00
TOTAL	\$ 8,729.00
Weekly	\$ 2,182.25

Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter (*July 2012*) will be printed and distributed around the end of June. The deadline to submit articles or information in the July newsletter will be **Thursday, June 14**. Please contact Samantha Baker or email the church office if you have information to include.

A Challenge from our J4J Kids:

How many of these questions can you answer?

The J4J kids did really well and answered most of the questions without any help!

They would like to challenge you to complete this quiz and return it to Jane Cox when you are finished.

Answers are on the following page, but please try to finish the quiz without looking ☺

- 1) How could Jesus do so many amazing things? _____
- 2) What did the Old Testament reveal about Jesus? _____
- 3) Why did Jesus come? _____
- 4) Who told Mary she would have a baby? _____
- 5) Where was Jesus born? _____
- 6) Who were Jesus' first visitors? _____
- 7) Why do you think God chose shepherds to be Jesus' first visitors? _____
- 8) To whom did God make a promise that he would see the Messiah before his own death? _____
- 9) What did Jesus do when His parents left Him in Jerusalem? _____
- 10) What happened after Jesus was baptized? _____
- 11) Which Old Testament prophecies did Jesus fulfill? _____
- 12) What are Jesus' followers called? _____
- 13) What happened to Jairus' daughter? _____
- 14) Name six of Jesus' 12 apostles. _____
- 15) What did Jesus say? _____
- 16) Who anointed Jesus' feet with oil, tears and hair? _____
- 17) Jesus told a story about soil. What did each soil represent? Path: _____
Rocks: _____ Thorns: _____ Good Soil: _____
- 18) What did Jesus do while He was on earth? _____
- 19) What happened when Jesus was in a boat during a storm? _____
- 20) How many people did Jesus feed from one boy's lunch? _____
- 21) How did Jesus treat people? _____
- 22) What did Jesus want His followers to learn from the parable of the Good Samaritan?

- 23) Why didn't the disciples want children to be around Jesus? _____
- 24) What changes came to the blind man after he met Jesus? _____
- 25) What motivated Jesus? _____
- 26) Why did people welcome Jesus into Jerusalem? _____
- 27) Why was Jesus angry when He went into the temple? _____
- 28) What motivated the widow to give money to God? _____
- 29) Why did people try to trap Jesus by asking Him about taxes? _____
- 30) Why was Jesus arrested? _____

31) During the Passover meal, what did Jesus say about the bread and wine? _____

32) Who betrayed Jesus? _____

33) What did Jesus do after Peter cut off the man's ear? _____

34) What did all of Jesus' disciples do when He was arrested? _____

35) Why did Jesus die? _____

36) How did the guards treat Jesus? _____

37) What happened at Jesus' trials? _____

38) What are some ways Jesus suffered? _____

39) Why did Jesus come back to life? _____

40) How did Jesus convince the group of disciples that He was alive? _____

ANSWERS:

- 1) Jesus was BOTH God and man
- 2) The Old Testament predicted what He would do
- 3) Jesus came to save people from their sins
- 4) An angel
- 5) Bethlehem
- 6) Shepherds
- 7) Your own answer—no right or wrong one
- 8) Simeon
- 9) Worshiped in the temple, talked with the teachers, asked questions
- 10) Jesus prayed, heaven opened, the Holy Spirit descended, and God's voice spoke
- 11) Preach the good news, release the captives, heal the blind, free the oppressed
- 12) Disciples
- 13) Jesus raised her from the dead
- 14) Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon, Judas, Judas Iscariot
- 15) Love your enemies. Pray for those who mistreat you. Turn the other cheek. Give to those who ask you. Do to others as you want them to do to you.
- 16) A woman who was sorry for what she had done.
- 17) Path-people who hear but do not believe; Rocks-people who receive God's Word but later fall away; Thorns-people who hear but don't grow; Good Soil-people who hear, grow and reap a good harvest
- 18) He showed His power by healing and helping others
- 19) He showed His power over nature by stopping the storm
- 20) 5000
- 21) He was always loving and compassionate (caring)
- 22) Treat everyone with love and care
- 23) They thought Jesus was too important to spend time with children
- 24) He got his sight back, followed Jesus and praised Him.
- 25) Jesus wanted to honor His heavenly Father and do His will.
- 26) They wanted to make Him their king
- 27) The temple had become a place to make money, not to worship God
- 28) She gave everything she owned to show her love for God
- 29) The religious leaders wanted Jesus to say something to get in trouble with the Roman government
- 30) The religious leaders wanted to get rid of Him
- 31) The bread was Jesus' body that would be broken
The wine was His blood that would be shed
- 32) Judas Iscariot
- 33) He touched his ear and healed him
- 34) They ran away in fear
- 35) He died to pay for our sins—taking our place and forgiving our sins
- 36) They made fun of Him, beat Him, and treated Him badly
- 37) He was turned over to the religious leaders to be killed
- 38) Jesus was whipped, made fun of, beaten, wore a crown of thorns, and carried a heavy cross. Nails were hammered into His hands and feet.
- 39) Jesus came back to life (resurrected) to prove that He was victorious over sin and death
- 40) He showed them the nail prints in His hands and feet



Celebrations



Birthdays

6/1	Nicholas Gleason	6/16	Sandy Smallhorn
6/2	Tiffinie Watson	6/16	Christopher Schulz
6/3	Harold Hackett	6/16	Henry Clark
6/4	Melissa Rice	6/17	Dan Bircher
6/6	Drew Schwartz	6/18	Jane Cox
6/8	Mandy Buell	6/19	Alesia Smyser
6/12	Fern Percy	6/24	Michael Donley
6/13	Martin Clark	6/24	Brandon Schulz
6/15	Jayna Menser	6/25	Sharron Waltrip
		6/25	Rachael Bircher

Anniversaries

- 6/7 Dan & Vickie Bircher
- 6/9 Doug & Mary Hennig
- 6/20 Rex & Joan Johns
- 6/22 Jerry & Sue Payne
- 6/26 Richard & Paula Dennis



June Worship Leaders

	<u>6/3</u>	<u>6/10</u>	<u>6/17</u>	<u>6/24</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Jim & Carolyn Craig	Dan & Vickie Bircher	Marty & Loretta Buell	Betty Potts & Cathi Brockman
<u>Acolyte</u>	Kenny Smallhorn	Keridwen McDaniel	Debra Bircher	Alesia Smyser
<u>Ushers</u>	Betty Potts Jessica Watton Cathi Brockman Mary Hennig	Tom Blair Sean Hackett Austin Hackett Jason Anderson	Bill Snider Jerry Payne Butch Hackett Jim Hackett	Adam Baker Derek Hennig Jim Craig Wade Hennig
<u>Family Cross</u>	Larry & Melody McGrath	Brad Bircher and family	Marty & Loretta Buell	Cathi Brockman
<u>Children's Moment</u>	Butch Hackett	Carolyn Craig	Sandy Smallhorn	Jane Cox



JUNE 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>Nicholas Gleason</i>	2 <i>Tiffinie Watson</i>
3 <i>Harold Hackett</i> <i>Youth & Adults Leave for Mission Trip</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am	4 <i>Melissa Rice</i> <i>Mission trip to Chicago</i> <u>Finance Mtg</u> 6:30pm	5 <i>Mission trip to Chicago</i>	6 <i>Drew Schwartz</i> <i>Mission trip to Chicago</i> Annual Conference	7 <i>Dan & Vickie Bircher</i> <i>Mission trip to Chicago</i> Annual Conference <u>Tech 5:00pm</u>	8 <i>Mandy Buell</i> <i>Mission trip to Chicago</i> Annual Conference	9 <i>Doug & Mary Hennig</i> <i>Return from Mission trip to Chicago</i> Annual Conference <u>Arts Council</u> 9am-3pm
10 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Pre-Father's Day Cookout</u> 10:30am	11	12 <i>Fern Percy</i>	13 <i>Martin Clark</i>	14 Newsletter Articles Due <u>Tech 5:00pm</u>	15 <i>Jayna Menser</i>	16 <i>Sandy Smallhorn</i> <i>Christopher Schulz</i> <i>Henry Clark</i>
17 <i>Dan Bircher</i> Father's Day <u>Worship</u> 9:00am	18 <i>Jane Cox</i>	19 <i>Alesia Smyser</i>	20 <i>Rex & Joan Johns</i>	21 <i>Building in Use- 5 Mile House</i> 10am-12pm <u>Tech 5:00pm</u>	22 <i>Jerry & Sue Payne</i>	23
24 <i>Michael Donley</i> <i>Brandon Schulz</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am	25 <i>Sharron Waltrip</i> <i>Rachael Bircher</i>	26 <i>Richard & Paula Dennis</i>	27	28 <u>Tech 5:00pm</u>	29	30

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

JUNE 2012

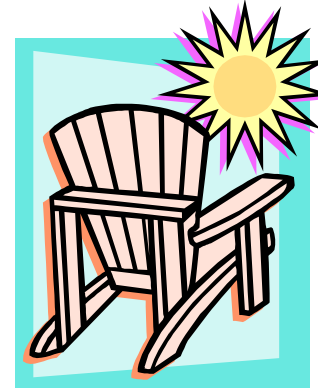
Sunday Morning Worship
Sunday School

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!

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

