



# Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

## THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

MAY 2013

### Happy Mother's Day

*To all of our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, special friends,  
and other mother-figures we've had in our lives!*

*"Since Jesus highly values children, mothers are His  
servants when they bless their children for Him."*

- Art Birch

*"Becoming a mother makes you the mother of all  
children. From now on each wounded, abandoned,  
frightened child is yours. You live in the suffering  
mothers of every race and creed and weep with them.  
You long to comfort all who are desolate."*

- Charlotte Gray

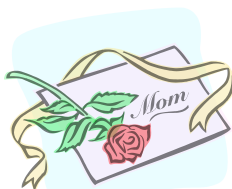


*"Making the decision to have a child is  
momentous. It is to decide forever to have your  
heart go walking around outside your body."*

- Elizabeth Stone

*"I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which  
first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother  
Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."*

- 2 Timothy 1:5



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*"As a mother comforts her child, so  
will I comfort you; and you will be  
comforted over Jerusalem."*

- Isaiah 66:13

*"As apostles of Christ we could have  
been a burden to you, but we were  
gentle among you, like a mother  
caring for her little children."*

- 1 Thessalonians 2:7

~ 1 ~

# PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Nicholas Gleason

Dear Friends,

I pray this letter finds you well and blessed. As I sit down to write this letter to you, I am watching the scenes of the Boston Marathon tragedy play over and over on my television. Every year approximately 20,000 people, young and old, gather in Boston to run in one of the most prestigious marathons in the world. Approximately 500,000 more come to cheer them on. I can't imagine what could be pleasurable about running 26 miles. But it is an exultant moment in the lives of the runners and their cheerleaders.

Until this year's race, when just before 3 PM, someone or some people decided to turn this exultant moment into a moment of death and destruction. The devastation was felt when two bombs exploded and stole this world of three precious lives and the innocence and security of many more.

As I am sitting watching the news coverage, my heart is sinking deep into the pit of my stomach, as the reporter shares the story of 8-year-old Martin Richard, whose life was one of the three stolen from us in this act of terror. His little sister, Jane, who is only 7, lies in the hospital suffering from grievous injuries to her legs. Their mother, Denise, was so badly hurt in the blast that she went under immediate emergency surgery and barely held on to her life. Can you imagine having to walk through this moment that the Richards family is abiding in?

Jane Sherman, a neighbor of the family, tells media that "there are no words to describe how they are feeling...we are feeling."

My heart sank even deeper. I think millions across this world share this sentiment, "there are no words to describe how...we are feeling."

And yet, I find hope from a very unlikely source, comedian Patton Oswalt. On Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, the Chicago Tribune reported on a widely circulated Facebook message, in which Oswalt promises that good people still outnumber the bad.

"I remember, when 911 went down, my reaction was, 'well, I've had it with humanity.' But I was wrong. I don't know what is going to be revealed to be behind all of this mayhem. One human insect or a poisonous mass of broken sociopaths. But here's what I do know. If it's one person or a hundred people, that number is not even a fraction of a fraction of a fraction of a percent of the population on this planet."

His message concludes by saying, "So when you spot violence, or bigotry, or intolerance, or fear, or just garden variety misogyny, hatred or ignorance, just look it in the eye and think, 'the good outnumber you, and we always will.'"

In life, as we push forth to that finish line, we can spend time focusing on what we don't have, the bad that is done to us, the ugly people around us. Or we can remember that the good outnumbers the bad. We can focus on what God has blessed us with, the goodness God pours out on us and the incredible people we are simply lucky enough to share this life with.

# PASTOR'S CHAT (CONT. FROM PAGE 2)

Pastor Nicholas Gleason

In moments like this, we often ask why. We ask how we can stop this from happening again. The heartbreaking truth is I don't think we can. Evil has always existed and will always exist in this imperfect world. There will always be some form of evil trying to creep into our lives. But we don't have to let it destroy our lives. We can remember the good still outnumbers the bad.

Instead of allowing the hatred of a fraction of a fraction of a fraction of a percent of the population on this planet tear away the love and hopefulness of our heart, let us take a moment to remember the words of the Scripture.

*The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.*  
*Zephaniah 3:17*

How can we possibly show love and hopefulness even amongst challenging situations? Goodness comes from a place in our hearts. It comes from a focus on God. So this is my challenge for you. Let us not become weary. God never promised us that life would be easy, but God did promise to never forsake us. God did promise to walk along beside us each and every day. God did promise to be with us through each trial we face. And God did promise to lift us up when we are down. Consider how you have seen God's goodness shining throughout this tragedy in Boston.

Finally, let us challenge ourselves with the words of Jesus.

*"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..."*

*Matthew 5:43-44*

In times of darkness, we must let God's goodness and hope shine forth as we offer this prayer in His name.

In darkness help me call on your name, Jesus. Be the light of my heart; may I never be afraid. In your mercy, give me the gift of hope. And by your love, help me to love others.

Help me to seek the values that will bring lasting joy in this changing world. Grant this through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

And may you discover this blessing each and every day of your life, through the good times, and through your trials.

Peace,

*Nicholas*



# LAY LEADER'S LINE

**Butch Hackett**

I'm watching the second round of the Masters Golf Tournament while I'm writing this article. The commentators make frequent references to "making the cut" At the Masters, the lowest 44 golfers' score, if they are within 10 strokes of the leader, make the cut and get to play the next day. Every year, high-school seniors apply to their favorite universities and watch the mailbox for the letter announcing their acceptance. Youth of all ages will try-out for their favorite sport hoping to 'make the team'.

"Make the cut", "make the team", "get accepted" are phrases we have all grown up with indicating that you can be part of the 'chosen'. Even in New Testament times, Jewish boys would often attend rabbinical schools until age 13. Then only the best and the brightest would be chosen to "follow" the local rabbi. This small, select group of disciples would go where he went and eat what he ate-modeling their lives after the rabbi. Those who didn't make the cut would pick up a trade like carpentry, sheep-herding, or fishing. Joe Stowell of RBC Ministries puts it this way:

[Guys like Simon, Andrew, James, and John hadn't made the cut. So instead of following the local rabbi, they were down by the docks, knee-deep in the family business. It's interesting that Jesus sought out the men the local rabbi had rejected. Instead of targeting the best and brightest, Jesus offered His invitation in Matthew 4:19; "*Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men*"

What an honor! They would become followers of the ultimate Rabbi.

Jesus extends the same honor to you and me-not because we are the best or brightest, but because He needs ordinary people like us to model His life and to lovingly rescue people on His behalf. So, follow Him and let Him make something of your life!]

In His Grip,

Butch



## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

**Even the ordinary and the outcast  
can make the cut to follow Jesus.**

# Intentional Faith Development

## Thursday Night Bible Study on the book "Crazy Love"

10 Week Bible Study, Led by Derek Hennig beginning April 18 at 6:30pm

"Have you ever wondered if we're missing it? It's crazy, if you think about it. The God of the universe--the Creator of nitrogen and pine needles, galaxies, and E-minor--loves us with a radical, unconditional, self-sacrificing love. And what is our typical response? We go to church, sing songs, and try not to cuss.

Whether you've verbalized it yet or not. . .we all know something's wrong.

Does something deep inside your heart long to break free from the status quo? Are you hungry for an authentic faith that addresses the problems of our world with tangible, even radical, solutions? God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. Because the answer to religious complacency isn't working harder at a list of do's and don'ts--it's falling in love with God. And once you encounter His love, as Francis describes it, you will never be the same.

Because when you're wildly in love with someone, it changes everything."



*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**  
(1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Meet in Garden Room  
w/ Jane Cox

**M.S./H.S. Class**  
(6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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 **May**:



May 5  
May 12  
May 19  
May 26

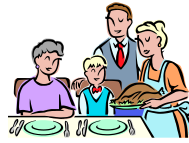
Pastor Nicholas  
Rick & Sharron Waltrip  
Cathi Brockman  
Crystal Schulz



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 our last meeting for the season will be May 22!



**J4J** (Jumping for Jesus)

Age 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
 w/ Jane Cox

**LinC** (Life in Christ)

6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades  
 w/ Adam Baker

**Women's Group**

w/ Samantha Baker

**Men's Group**

w/ Jim Craig

Please remember our shut-ins in your prayers! Their addresses are below if you'd like to visit or send a special note anytime to let them know that we are thinking of them ☺

**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 Pearcy**

321 West Van Buren  
 Charleston, IL 61920  
*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, Rm. 102  
 Neoga, IL 62447  
*Birthday: 2/9*

**Tom Watson**

2200 Madison Ave.  
 Charleston, IL 61920  
*Birthday: 8/10*



# Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together...



## Egg Cartons

The Murdock Food Pantry is in need of egg cartons. If you have any, please bring them to the church and Crystal Schulz will deliver them to the food pantry.

## THANKS! THANKS! THANKS!

During the year 2012,  
**\$499.17** was collected for the  
Children's/Youth Programs by various ways:

<b>Pocket Change</b>	<b>\$283.17</b>
<b>Aluminum Cans</b>	<b>\$148.00</b>
<b>Ink Cartridges</b>	<b>\$68.00</b>

This is an easy way to give. Keep up the good work in 2013. Let's try to make the numbers even larger.

## Newspapers

Betty Potts is in need of newspapers. If you have extra ones, please bring them to the church or contact Betty to make arrangements to pick them up.



## PRAISE VBS



Mark your calendars for Praise VBS, a 4 evening program beginning June 23 through June 26 from 6-8pm. Everyone is encouraged to participate in VBS—we can use all the help we can get....from planning, decorating & set-up, donating materials, clean-up, prayer, or if you're interested in a hands-on position, we can use helpers & leaders each evening too! Please contact Samantha Baker for more information on how you can help.

Also, if you are able, each family is asked to contribute \$25 to help toward VBS expenses. Please mark your check or envelope "VBS" to ensure your gift is designated properly.

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

## TO MY CHURCH FAMILY

I'm writing this because JESUS has put it on my heart. We are a loving Church Family because we care deeply for each other, but recently our family is not as loving. Being we all have our spats, but ours has become more than a spat. We aren't like the children that say "I don't want to play with you or I don't like you." In ten minutes, they are saying "Let's play ball."

Somehow the DEVIL has gotten in and is trying to tear our family apart, but with JESUS' help and the best rules in the world that I found at the first of the BIBLE. The LORD sent to us the "Ten Rules" to follow to behave like the LORD would like us to.

EXODUS 20:1-17, also LEVITICUS 19:18 "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

MATTHEW 5:39 "But whoever slap your right cheek, turn the other to him also."

MATTHEW 18:21-22 The parable of the Unforgiving Servant

Peter asked JESUS how many times he should forgive his brother that sins against him up to seven times. JESUS said 'I do not say up to seven times but seventy times.'

LUKE 17:1 Same parable

Take heed to yourself. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him and if he repents, forgive him; and if he sins against seven times a day and seven times a day return to you saying "I repent," you shall forgive him.

There have been words said and not said and some not wanting their families to be around other families.

We should be like the children and have a short memory. We are to be the example, not the children being the example.

I hope with lots of prayer and forgiveness our church will be a happy church family again.

IN GOD'S LOVE,

*Dorothy Cox*



### 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 (June 2013) will be printed and distributed around the end of May. The deadline to submit articles or information in the June newsletter will be **Thursday, May 16.** Please contact Samantha Baker or email the church office if you have information to include.



# 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>
3/31	\$ 1,878.18	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 306.82)
4/7	\$ 2,367.25	\$ 2,185.00	\$ 182.25
4/14	\$ 1,548.04	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 636.96)
4/21	\$ 1,796.50	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 388.50)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,589.97</b>	<b>\$ 8,740.00</b>	<b>(\$ 1,150.03)</b>



## BUILDING FUND

### Current Balance

3/31	\$ 2,346.34
4/7	\$ 3,041.34
4/14	\$ 1,854.79
4/21	\$ 2,354.79

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>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 8,729.00</b>
<b>Weekly</b>	<b>\$ 2,182.25</b>

*Give and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.*

**--Luke 6:38 (NLT)**

# Celebrations



<u>Birthdays</u>	
5/4	Melody McGrath
5/4	Tyvon Johnson
5/5	Vickie Bircher
5/6	Samantha Baker
5/16	Sherry Strode
5/22	Raymond Seeley
5/25	Francis Adkins
5/25	Alice Seeley
5/25	Jerry Payne
5/25	Lidiya Blair
5/30	Bill Porter
5/30	Joey Smyser
5/31	Jim Anderson

## Anniversaries

5/1	Randy & Becky Rice
5/5	Dave & Kim Hackett
5/26	Jim & Bertha Anderson
5/30	Joey & Kendra Smyser
5/31	Adam & Samantha Baker



## May Worship Leaders

	<u>5/5</u>	<u>5/12</u>	<u>5/19</u>	<u>5/26</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Bill & Judy Harrison	Jim Hackett	Adam & Samantha Baker	Brad Bircher & Crystal Schulz
<u>Acolyte</u>	Debra Bircher	Deece Schwartz	Kenny Smallhorn	Keridwen McDaniel
<u>Ushers</u>	Lisa McDaniel Sandy Smallhorn Butch Hackett Doug Hennig	Bill Harrison Jim Craig Vickie Bircher Betty Stoner	Brad Bircher Wade Hennig Bob Stoner Randy Rice	Marty Buell Dan Bircher Bonnie Tribby Mary Hennig
<u>Family Cross</u>	Adam & Samantha Baker	Raymond & Sharon Johns	Clinton & Bonnie Tribby	Jerry & Sue Payne
<u>Children's Moment</u>	Samantha Baker	Jerry Payne	Adam Baker	Jane Cox





# MAY 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>Randy &amp; Becky Rice</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b> <u>Family Night</u> <b>6:00-7:30pm</b> AA Mtg	2 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>  <u>Bible Study</u> <b>6:30-7:30pm</b>	3  <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	4 <i>Melody McGrath Tyvon Johnson</i>
5 <i>Vickie Bircher Dave &amp; Kim Hackett</i> <u>Worship</u> <b>9:00am</b> <u>Sunday School</u> <b>10:30am</b>	6 <i>Samantha Baker</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>  <u>Finance Mtg</u> <b>6:30pm</b>	7 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> <b>9:00am</b> <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	8 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b> <u>Family Night</u> <b>6:00-7:30pm</b> AA Mtg <b>8:00pm</b>	9 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>  <u>Bible Study</u> <b>6:30-7:30pm</b>	10 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	11
12  <u>Worship</u> <b>9:00am</b> <u>Sunday School</u> <b>10:30am</b>	13 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	14 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> <b>9:00am</b> <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b> <u>Nurture Mtg</u> <b>6:00pm</b>	15 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b> <u>Family Night</u> <b>6:00-7:30pm</b> AA Mtg <b>8:00pm</b>	16 <i>Sherry Strode</i> <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b> <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b> <u>Bible Study</u> <b>6:30-7:30pm</b>	17 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	18 <u>Arts Council—</u> Building in Use
19  <u>Worship</u> <b>9:00am</b> <u>Sunday School</u> <b>10:30am</b>	20 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	21 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> <b>9:00am</b> <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	22 <i>Raymond Seeley</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b> <u>Family Night</u> <b>6:00-7:30pm</b> AA Mtg <b>8:00pm</b>	23 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>  <u>Bible Study</u> <b>6:30-7:30pm</b>	24 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	25 <i>Francis Adkins Alice Seeley Jerry Payne Lidiya Blair</i>
26 <i>Jim &amp; Bertha Anderson</i> <u>Worship</u> <b>9:00am</b> <u>Sunday School</u> <b>10:30am</b>	27 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	28 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> <b>9:00am</b> <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	29 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b> <u>Family Night</u> <u>Planning Mtg</u> <b>6:30pm</b> AA Mtg <b>8:00pm</b>	30 <i>Bill Porter Joey Smyser Joey &amp; Kendra Smyser</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b> <u>Bible Study</u> <b>6:30-7:30pm</b>	31 <i>Jim Anderson Adam &amp; Samantha Baker</i>  <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	

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MAY 2013

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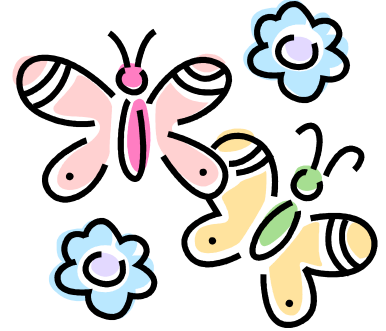
Sunday Morning Worship  
Sunday School

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](http://www.facebook.com/charlestonotterbein)

**All are welcome!**

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

