



Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

The Otterbein Encourager

May 2014

Pastor's Chat

Pastor Nicholas Gleason

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well and blessed. We just worked our way through another Easter celebration. One of my favorite celebrations of the Church. It's a season filled with so many rich and beautiful theological teachings. As I look back, I'm thinking about the main theme that we want to pull out of this season, and make sure we carry with us throughout the rest of the year. And I guess what Easter mostly reminds me of is that Jesus is our healer and savior.

I love this passage in the fifth chapter of Mark's Gospel, where Jesus is standing by a lake, and this synagogue leader, named Jairus, comes to Jesus, and falls at his feet. He pleaded earnestly with Jesus, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live."

It says he pleaded earnestly. Pleading earnestly is not yelling at your teenage son or daughter to clean his or her room. Pleading earnestly is when you open your mouth, and your heart pours out. To plead earnestly is when your tears speak louder than your words.

To plead earnestly is when that young mother, earlier this week, held her stillborn baby, and looked at me, and could only mouth the word, "help".

That is how Jairus came to Jesus. As a father whose heart was breaking. As I'm sure each of us have come to Jesus, while in a moment like this. A moment of devastating fear. A moment of deep need. A moment when you know you can't do it. So you plead earnestly with your Lord.

And Jesus hears Jairus, and has compassion on Jairus, and follows Jairus. The first true hope of healing in this passage, is when we cry out to Jesus, Jesus will come with us. It's that power of his presence. When Jesus says, "Whatever you face, you will not face it alone." Because Jesus says to us, "as you earnestly cry out to me, I will come to you. I come for you."

And then the story kind of changes. As Jesus is on his way to Jairus' home, a very large crowd surrounds Jesus. And in the midst of that, they meet this woman who had been suffering for twelve years. For twelve long years she had been suffering with this issue of bleeding.

And she comes, and she believed, that if she could just get close enough to Jesus, just close enough to touch his clothes. Not talk to him. Not have him speak to her. Not have him lay his hands on her. Just close enough for her to touch his clothes, then she might be healed.

So you get this image of this women, who is struggling to push through this packed crowd, and finally, she is close enough that she is able to reach out and touch him. And instantly, Jesus knows something has happened. Instantly, she knows something has happened.

The second hope of healing is that when we connect with Jesus, something will happen. Something real. Not imagined. Not manufactured. Not manipulated. Something happened.

And Jesus asked who touched him. And this women confesses up. And Jesus responds in a very interesting way. He said to her, “Your faith has made you well.” He doesn’t say, “My generosity has made you well.” He doesn’t say, “My clothes carry enough power to make you well.” He doesn’t even say, “I made you well.” He says, “Your faith has made you well.”

The third hope of this passage is the recognition that our faith is a powerful gift. When we face these moments of illness and challenge, our faith is a gift that says, even in the midst of that pain, we might have peace. We might have healing.

When we come into these moments, whatever we face, we need to recognize that our faith is an amazing gift that God has given us. And we need to hold on to that gift. Our faith can help us face those moments and trust that healing can come.

Then the story swifts on us one more time. We come into this horrible, really horrible moment. While Jesus is still walking, some men come from Jairus house and say, “Your daughter is dead.”

And I have to think, somewhere in Jairus heart, he had to be thinking, “You know Lord, had you not stopped and dealt with this women, you might have made it in time to save my daughter.”

And this story gently leads us into this moment that a lot of us face, when we ask that question, “Why did God heal this person, and not that person?”

And in that moment, the people come to Jairus, and basically they are telling him to give up. They say, “Why bother the teacher anymore?”

And Jesus responds in this moment, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.” In the midst of this moment of death, Jesus steps forward and says, “This is not a moment to fear.”

So they go to Jairus house, and Jesus raises the girl from the dead. That is the fourth true hope of healing in this passage. That Jesus as savior comes to say, “Death will not win. I will raise you to life.”

So it doesn't matter what we face. Rather it is illness or death, the message of Jesus is the same. The healer and savior will come, and life will come again. It is the true hope of healing. That not even death can overcome what Jesus can do.

Now, why are these two different events brought into the same story? Because together, these two stories expand the whole range of healing that Jesus can bring. Jesus is healer and savior, and this story from the Gospel of Mark shows us that.

As we continue on this journey, as followers of Christ, we need to believe that healing can happen. Through his presence, his touch, his grace, and through his sacrifice.

I don't know exactly what you are facing, as you read this article. But I know whatever it is, the healing hope of Jesus, can bring exactly that to you.

So my prayer is that you find this hope of healing that he brought us this Easter season, and continues to bring us each and every day we keep our hearts open to Him.

Shalom,

Nicholas



Lay Leader's Line

Butch Hackett

In recent months we have seen a terrible mud slide cause tragic deaths, ruin lives, and destroy homes. A Malaysian Airliner crashed resulting in over 200 deaths and still cannot be found. I have listened to comments about these events and other disasters from friends, co-workers, and within earshot of other people discussing such things. I find it interesting that the majority of the time people's reaction tend to fall in one of two categories; 1) either the people think that it is divine judgment from God for how bad humankind has become or 2) people will use the opportunity to solidify their non-belief in a God that would allow such things to happen to people he created and supposedly loves.

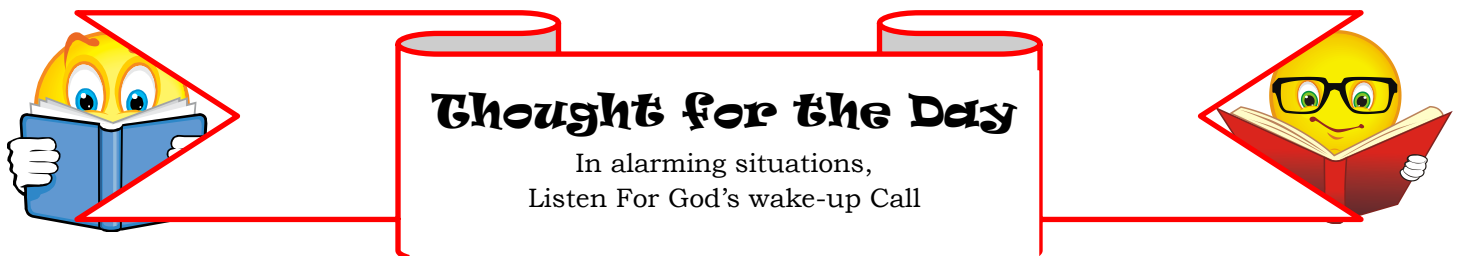
If you read the first five verses of Luke chapter 13, you will find that the people questioned Jesus about this very thing. Apparently Pilate had killed some Galileans possibly because he thought they were rebelling and there was a recent tragedy where 18 people died from a tower in Siloam falling on them. Jesus asked the people in attendance in verse two, ***“Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans.....?”*** And in verse four He asks them about the 18 workers who died, ***“.....do you think they were guiltier than all the other living in Jerusalem...?”*** Then He continues to answer both of these questions with the same response: ***“But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”***

You see, according to my footnotes on these verses, Jesus was telling them and us that instead of blaming others, everyone should look to his or her own day of judgment. No one gets out of this world alive. But not everyone needs to stay dead. Jesus promises that those who believe and accept Him as their personal savior will not perish, but have everlasting life.

God's gift of free will comes with bad choices. Often these choices affect many others. We can choose to argue the reasons bad things happen or we can concentrate on our personal walk with Christ. Join me in choosing the latter.

In His Grip,

Butch



Intentional Faith



Family Night

Something for EVERYONE!!


Bring YOUR whole family!

Wednesday Evenings

6:00-6:30 pm Meal & Fellowship

6:30-7:30pm Small Groups

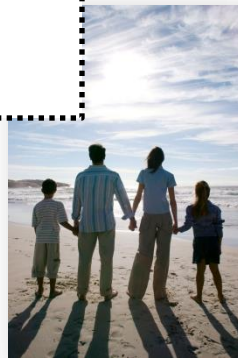
(All Ages)



Women's Bible Study

There will be NO Bible Study from the months May thru Aug 2014

It will start back up in September 2014



SUNDAY SCHOOL (Sundays at 10:30am)

Sunday School classes available for all ages—Everyone is

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...



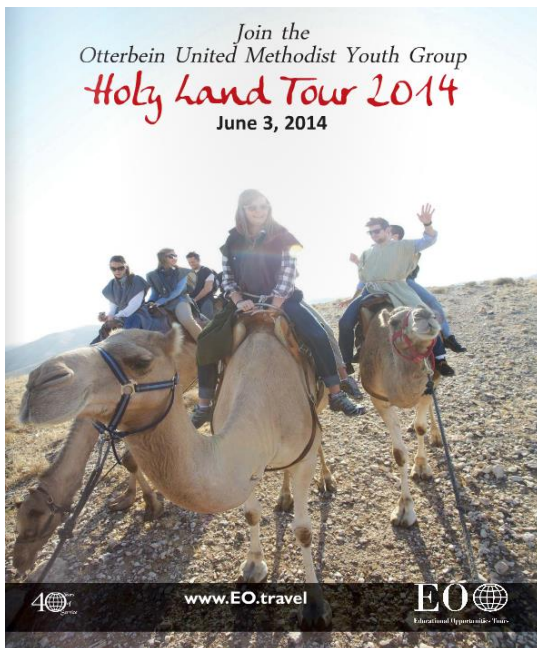
Newspapers

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 (*June 2014*) 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 15**. Please contact Michelle Price 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>
3/30	\$ 2,053.00	\$ 2,011.00	\$ 42.00
4/06	\$ 2,270.25	\$ 2,011.00	\$ 259.00
4/13	\$ 1,339.00	\$ 2,011.00	(\$ 672.00)
4/20	\$ 1,309.26	\$ 2,011.00	(\$ 701.74)
TOTAL	\$ 6,971.51	\$12,066.00	(\$ 1,072.74)



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

3/30	\$ 1,490.23
4/06	\$ 1,775.23
4/13	\$ 1,885.23
4/20	\$ 578.68

Monthly Mortgage Payment \$ 1,356.55

Celebrations



Birthdays

Melody McGrath	5/4
Tyvon Smallhorn	
Francis Adkins	5/25
Jerry Payne	
Alice Seeley	
James Anderson	5/31



Happy Anniversary

Randy & Melissa Rice 5/1

James & Bertha Anderson 5/26



May Worship Leaders



	<u>5/4</u>	<u>5/11</u>	<u>5/18</u>	<u>5/25</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Raymond & Sharon Johns	Tom & Shelli Blair	Dorothy Cox & Family	Rick & Sharron Waltrip
<u>Acolyte</u>	Brandon Schulz	Kayla Donley	Tyron Smallhorn	Ian McDaniel
<u>Ushers</u>	Austin Hackett Kenny Smallhorn Ian McDaniel Alesia Smyser	Marty Buell Wayne Cox Doug Hennig Mary Hennig	Bill Snider Rose Snider John McDaniel Lisa McDaniel	Tom Blair Shelli Blair Dan Bircher Vickie Bircher
<u>Family Cross</u>	Jerry & Sue Payne	Harold & Phyllis Hackett	Brad Bircher & Crystal Schulz	Doug & Mary Hennig
<u>Children's Moment</u>	NEED VOLUNTEER	Carolyn Craig	NEED VOLUNTEER	Jane Cox




May 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	2 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	3
4 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	5 <u>Finance Meeting</u> 6:30 PM <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	6 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	7 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	8 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	9 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	10
11 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	12 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	13 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	14 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	15 <u>Newsletter</u> Articles Due <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	16 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	17
18 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	19 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	20 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	21 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	22 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Ad Council</u> <u>Meeting</u> 6:30pm	23 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	24
25 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	26 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	27 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	28 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	29 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	30 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	31



Ladies and gentlemen,

Coles County Habitat for Humanity is about to begin construction of its 32nd home in Coles County. In order to sustain our mission, we have opened a ReStore at 520 W. Lincoln in Charleston. All profits are directed toward our mission.

Would you please consider placing this appeal in your church bulletin? A couple of weeks should do it, if you have the space.

Your help is so appreciated. If it is not your practice to oblige inclusions such as this in your bulletin and you'd like to be removed from this mailing list, please shoot me an email and I'll do my best.

Many thanks for all your work, all the time.

Susan Smith, Executive Director
Coles County Habitat for Humanity
P.O. Box 226
990 W. State
Charleston, IL 61920
217-348-7063
<http://www.colescountyhabitat.net>

The St. Charles Borromeo Parish Choir in Concert

Sunday, May 4 @ 7:00 pm

All parishioners and friends of St. Charles Parish are cordially invited to a concert by the St. Charles Choir on Sunday, May 4 at 7pm at the church in Charleston, IL. This "first-ever" event will feature music sung at liturgies throughout the church year which have become part of the choir's repertoire and favorites of our parish family. Music from all seasons of the year will be sung including Advent, Christmas, Lent and Ordinary Time.

The congregation will be invited to join in on some pieces. A free will offering will be taken to benefit the parish's Special Musician Fund and for the Hedwig House. Please come and enjoy an evening of beautiful liturgical music.



The Otterbein Encourager

APRIL 2014

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!



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