

United Methodist Messenger

A publication of the United Methodist Church of Gibson City, Illinois

August 2011

Volume 30, Issue 8

Rally Day—Celebrating Our Stories! 9/11/2011

Rally Day is a time to remember, rejoice and renew. We will do that this year in a celebration of stories. There is a fabric of faith that holds our life stories together, and threads of grace that run through all our lives. On Rally Day 2011, we will take time to remember and share some good stories, rejoice in how God works in our lives, and renew ourselves to sharing the essential story of God's love for the world. This will be a one service Sunday (9:00AM) and there will be Sunday School for all ages (10:15AM). Following Sunday School, we will gather for fun and fellowship with a cookout in our park (11:15AM).

Fabric of Faith

We invite your help with a special project in preparing for Rally Day worship on Sept 11. For our worship setting that weekend, we want to collect items made of fabric that represent your story - something special to you or representative of your life (you personally or your family). This could be an item of clothing (like work clothes) or a special blanket or a quilt or ?! It can be big or small, fancy or plain. We will see how these pieces from our lives come together on Rally Day. And please safety pin a little note to it that includes your name and why you chose that item. Examples will be displayed during the Sundays leading up to Rally Day. Please bring your item of fabric to the church by Wednesday, September 7. Contact Barb with any questions. Thank you!

CornBelters



Please join the Family Fellowship Team on a trip to a CornBelters' baseball game in Normal, IL. We have reserved tickets so that everyone can sit together. Ticket cost is \$9 each. If you are interested in going to this game, please sign up on the sheet outside the office. Payment for the tickets can be made to the church. The game begins at 6PM. We will be arranging departure times as we get closer to the game!

Hymn Festival

The third annual hymn sing festival is scheduled for August 14, 2011 at 3:00 PM at the United Methodist Church of Gibson City.

The theme for this hymn sing will be "Our Hymns Through The Centuries", directed by Reverend Cindy Breeze of the 1st Mennonite Church in Urbana, Illinois.

The presentation is sponsored by the Gibson Area Music Foundation, ecumenical and non-denominational, and will be held at the Methodist Church because of its excellent pipe organ and piano.



Kevin Boesen—Pastor

Megan Thompson—
Associate Pastor

Barb Horsch—
Connection Coordinator

April Rotramel—

Administrative Assistant

Pam Gee—Church Custodian

Beverly Nagle—Organist

Ruth Davis—Choir Director

Verna Buck—Saturday Pianist

Phone 217-784-5452, Fax 217-784-5543

Saturday Night Light Worship 5:30PM

Sunday Traditional Worship 8:45AM

Sunday School 10:00AM

Sunday Emerging Worship 11:00AM

Office phone 217-784-5452, e-mail gcumc@sbcglobal.net

Pastor's cell phone (217) 249-5453, Associate Pastor's cell phone (217) 418-8354



From the Pastor's Pen

"How much does God want me to give?"

Sometimes the question says a lot about our understanding of God and who we are as children of God. In this case, "How much does God want me to give?" is the wrong question. This question implies what we have is ours, that there are limited resources, and that we are in control. Within this question we also have a built in separation between the one who is giving from "their own" resources and those who might be "the lucky ones" who receive it. Separation is created between the "haves" and the "have nots."

That is not what the Kingdom of God is meant to be like. Through Jesus Christ, God calls us into restored relationship, or relationship made right. So what happens when we rephrase the question to, "How much of God's abundance should I keep for myself?" This changes our focus entirely.

- We recognize that our resources are not ours and are unlimited.
- These resources are more than just money.
- This question changes the meaning for existence. All that we have and all that we are is meant for an eternal and divine purpose. We believe this of others too. Everyone has something to offer as a part of God's Kingdom.
- The question opens the doors for receiving in our giving. We enter into relationship, giving of ourselves and expecting for God to bless us through others. Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors.
- The meaning of mission is transformed from us simply giving to those in need into an exchange that has eternal potential.
- The world sells us a lie that when we give of our money we expect to get what we are paying for in return. The new question calls us to give out of abundance as God directs for the purpose of glorifying God. If we don't get "paid back" then it doesn't matter. God uses everything we freely give in ways we don't understand. We may not be the ones to reap the harvest. But we have the confidence that God will use whatever we give.

- We become more accountable and better money managers knowing that what we have is God's.
- We realize that we can live with less.
- We realize that when life's circumstances change, such as losing a job, our offering to God doesn't lessen in value.
- The things of this world hold less value to us resulting in less financial burden.
- **We gain life!** Mark 8:36, "For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my [Jesus] sake, and for the sake of the Gospel will save it." (see also Mark 9:33-36)

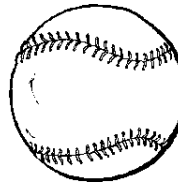
How much of God's abundance do we really need to keep for ourselves? Let us glorify God in all that we have and all that we are. AMEN

Your Brother in Christ,

Pastor Kevin

Church Softball

Please join us for pickup softball on the last Sunday of the month in July and August at 6PM at the North Park. All players welcome ages 13+. The games will be played with a mush ball which is larger and softer than a softball, so you don't even need a glove!



Meet & Seek

"Christians at their best are good listeners, and the Christian church, when most faithful, is a listening community. To live with God in this world that God loves requires some intense and intentional listening." - Bishop Rueben Job

Jesus was attentive to the deep needs of the people he met. As a church, how do we follow that example? One way is to pull away from our busy lives for a couple of hours to meet & seek where God is leading. On Thursday, August 14, we will meet from 6:30-8:30pm in the Red Room. This gathering is open to all as we seek to grow and go as disciples of Christ. Hope you can join us for some great conversation!

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*“Look! I’m doing a new thing;
now it sprouts up...”*
Isaiah 43:19

I’ve been at Gibson City United Methodist Church for a month now, and much of my time has been spent asking questions. A great many of those questions have been variations on the theme of, “What is your name?”, but there have been others as well. I’ve been asking questions about what the traditions of this church are, what the mission is, who are the people who gather to praise God and to be the hands and feet of Christ in this world. It’s been, to say the least, a busy, informative time.

One question that will take a lot more time than a month to answer will be, “What is this church?” It’s an interesting question to answer, one that will be answered in a variety of ways at worship and Sunday School classes, in committee meetings and over cups of coffee or frozen treats, in conversation and on facebook. It’s a question that will have more than one answer.

The lectionary (a calendar of scripture readings) readings for the month of July have focused on Jesus’ parables about farming. These stories about planting and growing, weeding and harvesting are among my favorite because, depending on what is going on in my life, they speak different truths about how God is working in the world.

Hearing them as I begin my time of ministry with this church, I am reminded, once again, that God is at work in new beginnings. Even when things are changing, when new things are happening, God is present. Even when I am asking questions about what my place is in this newness, God is present. Even when I am unsure because everything is so different from what I have been used to in the past, God is present.

Facing the year to come, a year that I am incredibly excited about, I look forward to continuing asking my questions and to discovering answers. I look forward to finding out how the kingdom has been

sprouting and growing in this community. I look forward to scattering seeds and having a few thrown my way through conversations. I look forward to continuing to discover the strong presence of God, in small things and large.

In this time of change, where do you find God? What do you see as the identity of this church? Come tell me over a cup of coffee (or something else!)

Blessings,

Pastor Megan

Special Speaker

Robb Warfield will be coming to speak on August 7th for the 8:45 and 11:00 worship services. The Warfield family will be heading to the Uganda/Congo border in the Fall of 2011 where Robb will be the Director of Christ School a high school that serves 360 students of which 60 are War and Aids orphans. They have 2 sons, Avery (2000) and Hayden (2003) and one daughter, Avalyn (2002). In 2008-2009 the family spent a year in France at language school before joining a team in West Africa. There, Robb directed a prison program that focused on educating prisoners and rehabilitating them to successfully integrate back into society. He also partnered with the Minister of Justice to work on cases involving human trafficking. They were forced to leave after being targeted by an extremist group.

Please plan on attending worship on August 7th to hear more about how God is using our gifts through the Warfield family.



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August Birthdays



Jim Hazen	1	Jack Royal	11	Justin Endsley	17	Phil Lutz	24
Missy Jennings	1	Jacob Barnes	12	Dustin Heavilin	17	Jo Nettleton	24
Brian Steidinger	2	Karen Cox	12	Gary McCullough	17	Cecil Paul Davis	26
Kaci Farmer	5	David Kramer	12	Kara Pool	17	Barb Nagle	26
Stephanie Berkey	6	Schuyler Frashier	13	Bryce Barnes	18	Jessica Romshek	26
Nancy Taylor	7	Bettie Main	13	Terri Snyder	18	Amber Wittemann	26
Sarah Tubbs	7	Wilma Reiners	13	Josh Chase	19	Dusty Davis	28
Mark Davis	8	Ruth Harris	14	David Hester	19	Katie Dowling	28
Bill Siegfried	8	Marlene Royal	14	William Pierce	19	Lori Frashier	29
Maxwell Moody	9	Megan Shields	15	Laura Hazen	20	Ethan Murphy	29
Susan Hawthorne	10	Courtney Shields	16	Evadna Mooney	20	Jodi VanSwol	30
Marie Schneck	10	William Tubbs	16	Tom Taylor	23	Betty Pearson	31
Katie Jones	11	Jennifer Arsenault	17	Michelle Kietzman	24	James Steinman	31



August Mission Socks will benefit **C.A.P.S.**

C.A.P.S. is the after school program administered at the GCMS Elementary School.

Stats and Such for July

Giving YTD (budget) through July 24	\$151,486.80
Giving Goal YTD (budget) through July 24	\$202,800.00
Giving Goal (budget) each week	\$ 6,760.00
*Other Giving YTD through July 24	\$ 51,288.43

Weekend	Sat	Sun	Sun	SS	Offering
July 3	20	132	20		\$5,726.09
July 10	18	119	15		\$5,495.00
July 17	16	155	20		\$5,738.00
July 24	18	131	25		\$3,244.01

*Includes giving for the following missions: Bereavement Meals, Memorials, Designated Giving (Handyman Fund, Cookouts at County Market for Missions, Special Offerings, etc.), Mission Socks, Opportunity School, Organ Fund, Elevator Fund, and Youth Mission Trip. It also includes Interest Income.

August Anniversaries

	Day	Years
Dwaine and Barb Horsch	1	30
Doug and Susan Schultz	3	26
Brian and Cathy Steidinger	3	20
Dusty and Nancy Davis	4	55
Merle and Krista McCallister	5	33
Dave and Deanna Freehill	7	18
Dan and Denise Kearfott	7	29
Ray and Oleta Lantz	7	51
Craig and Pamela Bradbury	8	??
Nick and Taunya Elder	8	2
Jim and Jo Gramley	8	19
Steve and Susan Hawthorne	8	??
Bryan and Sue Shields	8	29
Fred and Barbara Wittemann	9	48
John and Ruth Davis	12	39
Matthew and Danielle Brown	15	2
Don and Kathy Garard	15	47
Steve and Leigh Ann Sharp	15	24
Craig and Karen Kummerow	16	31
Bob and Bettie Main	17	63
Mike and Janet Utterback	17	??
Brad and Sarah Fairfield	18	4
Bob and Meladee Ferguson	25	43
Link and Angie Woodward	26	22
Don and Mary Rhodes	27	17
Bob and Janet Davis	30	42
Kevin and Sherrie Knerr	31	??

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Prayers for the People

Join us in the sanctuary each Monday morning at 9:00 for prayer. Every member of our congregation is prayed for by name. The following people are in need of our prayers:

Teresa Beckman
Joyce Bennett
Marian Boog
Verna Buck
Janice Christensen
Mildred Davis
Ed Eagleson
Lorene Edwards
Rick & Jean Ertel
Jennifer Fancher
Ruth Fisher
Grace Hanley

Ruth Harris
Donald Hiner
Bill Hunter
Hailey Jamison
Vivian Imlay (Lorene Edwards daughter)
Mary Lou Kelley
Imogene Loy
Phil & Malinda Lutz
Tom Lutz
Bob & Bettie Main
Warren Meinhardt (Laura

Hazen's father)
Mark, Angela and Kailyn Overman
Judy Peters
Thelma Probus
Heather Reum
Glenn Riddle
Dixie Thomas
Don Williams
Harold Young

Births, Baptisms, Weddings, Deaths

Halle Elizabeth Willoby was baptized on July 17th.

We would like to express sincere sympathy on the passing of **Ronald Probus** on July 1st, 2011, and on the passing of **Marilyn Shields** on July 10th, 2011.

Please join us in welcoming Ed & Kathy Eagleson, Pat Goembel, and Patricia Wilson who joined the church on July 24th with professions of faith.

Potato Bake

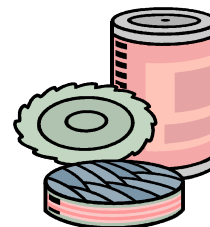
On Friday, September 23, 2011 from 11:00am—1:00PM there will be a potato bake here at the church. Please look for more information.



Food Pantry Needs:

condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo, dressing, ect.)
sugar
jelly
toilet paper
canned ravioli
canned fruit

saltine crackers
hygiene products
cleaning products



The food pantry has been hit hard this summer, so thank you for your continued support.

Annex	Manor (G.C.)	Asta Care	McLean
Verna Buck	Frances VanSwol	John R. Bell	Bill Loy
Doris Young	Ella Mae Miller	<h2>Area Nursing Home Residents</h2>	
Imogene Graff	Thelma Probus		
Zella During	Judy Peters		

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Words can not express how thankful and proud we are of all of you. Pastor Kevin Boesen, the Ladies of our church for the wonderful dinner, the dear hearts who came together to help with the celebration of our sister's joining to our Lord. Thank you!

Love & God's Blessings Always!

The Family of Melody J. Cochran, Jan & Dixie

"I Wonder....."

A Message from Annual Conference

"I wonder if we could part some Red Seas together, see a bush burn and not be consumed, or through a mighty shout to the Lord, our God see walls like those of Jericho come tumbling down.

I wonder if we could change the heart of our souls, our churches, our general church, our nation, or our world.

I wonder if we could turn around years of not producing fruit to a place where our bins would not hold the harvest.

The passion of your Cabinet and your church is to reap the harvest, sow new fields, water, nurture, prune...actually do whatever it takes for a revival to break out..people finding Christ...growing in Christ...and then plant their faith in someone else..."

Co-Cabinet Chair Reverend Randy Reese

"In Kingdom matters, maintaining doesn't really exist. We're either moving forward or sliding backward."

Co-Cabinet Chair Reverend In-Sook Hwang

United Methodists are being encouraged to practice a variety of spiritual disciplines. Last year the emphasis was the practice of First Thursday prayer and fasting. In continuing this initiative conference leadership is encouraging us to read through the Bible in a year. A daily reading calendar has been put together to aide us in this journey which begins on August 1. Please consider the charge that both In

-Sook and Randy have set before us. Let us keep moving forward and let us fill our bins so that the church has abundance to harvest. Let us plant OUR faith in someone else. If you decide to join in this journey, please contact the church office or visit our website.



From the Web Corner



"But I don't have a Facebook page." This is a commonly heard statement from members of our church body. We have good news for you! You

don't need one to access the

church page! Just click on the 'f' icon on the Home Page of our church website and you, too, can take in all our FB page has to offer, including pictures! The latest additions to the Photos page are Mission Trip and Pool Party pictures.

Available on our website are all of the newsletters and Covenant Council minutes. Click on these links to keep up with the news of our church.

The newly-released Common English Bible is available in 20 digital platforms including Kindle, iPad, iPhone, Nook, and Sony, and can be found at www.commonenglishbible.com. God's word surely does stand the test of time- and changing formats!

MMDC Trip

Consider stepping out in mission with a trip to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center on Monday, September 19th.



Those going will meet in the church parking lot at 6:30 am and return by 6 pm. A sign-up sheet is outside of the church office. If you have questions, please talk to Kim Fisher.

Mission Montana



A group of 35 (24 youth, 11 adults) ventured out from Gibson City on June 24, headed to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in southeast Montana. The group represented the cooperative youth ministry of our church plus First Christian, First Presbyterian and the American Lutheran churches. It was a life-changing trip with all that was experienced along the route - Mt. Rushmore, Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, Devils Tower National Monument and the Badlands National Park - and the reservation itself. The work days were filled with all sorts of home repairs such as painting, roofing, deck building and more. There were many God sightings, that is, situations in which we could clearly see God's grace at work. The main example of this were the wonderful connections many of the group made with their residents and/or with their work crews. There were almost 400 participants at this workcamp, which resulted in 65 crews being sent out to work on 44 residences. There is tremendous poverty on the reservation so the work that was done seemed very

appreciated. Youth came from all over the country, some from as far as New Jersey and Cape Cod, MA!

The GC group would like to THANK VERY MUCH all those who provided support for this ministry outreach. The financial contributions, the prayers, the loan of vehicles and equipment, etc all made it possible for lives to be changed for the better, near and far.

The workcampers presented a slide show summary of their trip on Sunday evening, July 17, at the Presbyterian church. Thank you to those folks for offering wonderful hospitality to the large crowd who attended that night. Thank you too to our church's adult mission team, and others, for providing homemade ice cream and pies for the event. It all made for a memorable evening which was a perfect wrap-up to such a memorable mission trip.

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DISCIPLE

Disciple Classes to Begin in Fall

Are you interested in taking Disciple I, II, III or IV class this fall?

Disciple I - Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study is the foundation course - a survey of the entire Bible - and must be taken first. This class covers about 85% of the Bible, providing an understanding of what the Bible says, what it means to be a Disciple of Christ, and what the Bible means to you personally.

The remaining courses, in-depth studies of certain books, may be taken in any order following Disciple I:

Disciple II - Into the Word, Into the World: Genesis, Exodus, Luke, and Acts

Disciple III - Remember Who You Are: Old Testament prophets, especially Isaiah and Jeremiah, and the letters of Paul

Disciple IV: Writings, especially Psalms and Proverbs, the Gospel of John, and Revelations, in addition to several other books.

Would you like to learn more about Disciple Bible Study? Please contact Barb Horsch for more information.

School starts on August 23

It is a time for new beginnings! Students and everyone else involved in helping them learn (bus drivers, teachers, custodians, parents, coaches, etc) are invited to attend a short Back to School Worship Service on August 21st during the Sunday School Hour. Come to praise God and be reminded that God finds potential in school and in everything else!

Hey Everyone!

Mark your calendars for
Sunday, August 28th!

It's a new school year at GC UMC and All God's Kids (and their families) are invited to a special event!

Sunday School Open House

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall



- Meet Pastor Megan Thompson, our new youth pastor
- "Get Down" with the High School Kids as they lead us in song.
- Be entertained - a Puppet

Show presented by **Mike O'Brien**

www.ClothespinPuppets.com

- Sunday School Open House
Visit classrooms and meet the teaching teams
- Refreshments
- Sunday School registration

Hope to see you there!

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Worship Information for August

	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28
Liturgist	Angie Woodward	Terri Moore	Doug Eckerty	Amy Hood
Greeters West	Lonnie & Michelle Engel	Barb Nagle	Barb Nagle	Tom & Kathy Bennett
Greeters South	Don & Mary Rhodes	Kris & Tom Barnes	Kris & Tom Barnes	Marilyn Verkler & Dorothy Shields
Acolytes	Erin Arsenault & Audrey Boss-Maxey	Kaitlynn Kietzman & Alison Davis	Micah & Jonah Moody	Danielle Eckerty & Spencer Hazen
Sound Room 8:45	Joel Hood	Lonnie Engel	Steve Hawthorne	Kim Fisher
Projection 8:45	Meaghan Sharp	Taylor Engel	Danielle Eckerty	Doug Woodward
Projection 11:00	Jeremy Steidinger	James Fairfield	Jessica Schultz	Jeremy Steidinger
Nursery 8:45	S. & J. Schultz	S. & J. Schultz	S. & J. Schultz	S. & J. Schultz
Nursery 11:00				
Altar Flowers	Don & Carolyn Williams	George Frashier Family	Link & Angie Woodward	Dusty & Nancy Davis

Head Usher for August is Virgil Rosendale.

Church Website: www.gcumc3.org

We're on Facebook! Our page name is "Gibson City UMC"

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