

United Methodist Messenger

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

February 2012

Volume 31, Issue 2

Soup-er Bowl

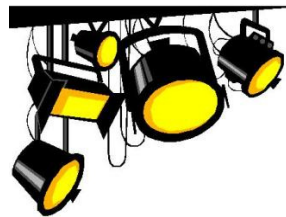
The Big Game will be on February 5th, a time when many will gather with friends and family to eat and drink and, at the very least, watch the commercials. But what about those who are without even a bowl of soup? The Middle School/Confirmation/Senior High Youth will be collecting donations of canned soup and \$1 donations during services to supply our local food pantry.



Wed., Feb. 15th. Every year our slate fills up quickly, so put on your thinking cap and when you've decided on what you can share, submit your information on the sheet. Talent Show director is Susan Schultz- 784-8833 or susans@mchsi.com.



Midwest Mission Distribution Center Trip



Talent Show Acts Recruitment!

Don't be shy- step right up! Our Talent Show (and Pie Auction) will be Saturday, March 3rd at 6:00 pm, and we need

you! Come and amaze your church family and friends with your talent of singing, dancing, drawing, reading, acting, joke-telling, eating, speed cup-stacking- whatever you're good at doing that will complete our evening of fun. Groups of all ages and number of participants will provide a well-rounded show. As in past years, all proceeds from this event will go towards the Youth Mission Trip to Indiana in July.

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the (upstairs) office. The cut-off date for signing up is

Friday, March 23

This is an opportunity for each person to have a "hands-on" mission experience. This experience is to fulfill Christ's command to help the "least of these" whose needs are great because of some disaster or circumstance that is not of their making.



At a Glance...

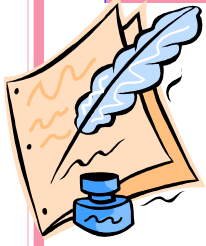
- 5 Soup-er Bowl
- 18 Who's Next? (11th & 12th graders)
- 22 Ash Wednesday Service - GCUMC
- 23 Meet & Seek
- 24 YAR
- 29 Lenten Service - 1st Christian Church

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

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 Pastor Kevin

I [Jesus] came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. (John 10:10b)

We are now at the time of “in-between.” The birth story is behind us and the time of the cross (death) is yet to come. We are between Christmas and Easter. Anyone who is reading this is also at the place of “in-between.” We are between our birth and our death. God calls us to life and life abundantly.

The stories around the time of a funeral about the person who has died always linger in my mind for weeks and months after the service. Some of these stories have touched me deeply over the years and have helped shape my journey. Most of these stories are surprisingly simple and not stories that speak of great physical achievements or material accomplishments. These are simple stories of being there in times of need, of shared experiences that bring laughter, or of acts of faith or giving of one’s self. Unfortunately, there have also been negative stories that have caused loved ones pain and grief. They are similar to the positive stories in that they reveal memories of not being there in times of need and acts of selfish gain. Sometimes these memories can be hard to overcome.

When stories are shared by family and friends about the “in-between” years of a loved one who has died, one can easily witness the power that we all have through simple acts of giving. These are choices that we all have the power to make. We don’t need any special education. We don’t need material abundance. We can live life abundantly by giving ourselves away to others.

For Christians this call to give our gifts away is risky. Those who follow Jesus are asked to give themselves away to strangers and even enemies, not just family and friends. The abundance in life that Jesus talked about becomes available to others who will remember our acts of selfless giving.

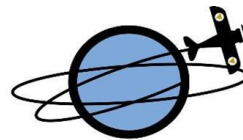
Lent is the season of being “in-between.” Ash Wednesday begins this season and we can be prepared for abundant life in Jesus Christ. We can look back and see how God has touched us through the church. We can celebrate the stories of how our service has touched the lives of others. We can ask the question of ourselves as we gather in community, “How is God leading us to risk in service as we give ourselves?”

We will continue to choose to take risky steps on this journey as we follow Jesus. Those who are touched will not just experience “life” but “life abundantly!”

Your Brother in Christ,

Pastor Kevin

2012 Mission Trip Opportunities



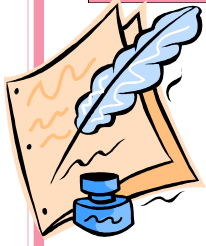
Our bishop, Rev. Gregory Palmer, is encouraging us all to step out for the sake of Christ in 2012.

**MISSION
TRIPS**

Consider these GC UMC options:

- Red Bird Mission Trip - June 2-9, intergenerational workcamp to the heart of Appalachia (southeast Kentucky). Contact Barb Horsch for more information.

- This year, 20 youth and 5 adults will be going to Rushville, Indiana from July 8-July 14. We will have an informational meeting on February 16th at 5:30pm, and a deposit of \$100 will be due by March 1st. If you have any questions, talk to Pastor Megan.



From Pastor Megan

What would it take to take the church outside of the four walls of the church building?

It's the question that the High School youth will be looking to answer in a variety of ways this winter and spring.

We kicked off the New Year by going out and creating some "Holy Mischief." The students were divided into two groups and told to stay together. The basic rules were pretty simple:

Bless at least 3 people tonight! ONE must be a youth group member who is not here tonight. ONE must be a non-youth member of our congregation. ONE must be a complete stranger. *Anyone else is up to you!*

They were given a church directory, a Bible, \$20 and about 45 minutes. They came back with some great stories, and a new understanding of what it means to take risks and be blessed.

It wasn't easy for them—especially approaching a stranger. But each group found that when they risked more, the blessing they received while trying to bless another, was much greater.

Group 1

Last week our Methodist Church Youth Group was asked to bless three different people: a person from our youth group, a person in our congregation, and a complete stranger. This was a scary but rewarding task. My group and I set off to see our friend at work who couldn't make it to youth group that night to bless her by reminding her how much we love her. Then we went to see a very loving member of our congregation who meant a lot to each of us. He told us all how much it meant that we thought of him, and I believe it taught as all to be thankful for the mentors we have around us. Finally the hardest task came. We set out to the streets of Gibson and



found a complete stranger whom none of us knew. We prayed with this man, not knowing his religion or anything about him. After that we introduced ourselves, and personally for me, that meant the most. This man knew my family, many of them by name. He told me a few stories of when they were young and in high school, like me. I had never heard these stories, and it meant so much knowing someone remembered my last name. This was rewarding in many ways. I believe this was a risk-taking mission, and I hope there are many more to come from the Methodist Church Youth Group.
-Meaghan Sharp

Group 2

Our group had a great time going around town on our special mission. Our first goal was to bless a youth member that was not there. We drove to her house and read her a verse about going to meet Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. We then let her know that we loved her, and that God did too. Next we made our way down the street to visit one of our teachers, who also happens to qualify for our next mission, blessing a congregation member. We read him a verse about not judging your brothers and sisters, because God does not judge you. We blessed him and his coming baby, that he or she may be healthy, and they will be happy. The final mission was to bless a stranger. We drove to County Market, and intercepted a lady checking out. As a group we purchased a \$20 gift card, with our own money. We read her 1 Corinthians 13:13 and said that God loved her. We felt a great sense of giving because we had given ourselves to help a stranger. It was an overall great experience for the five of us.
-Mikayla Woodward

Youth Activities

Who's Next?

Who's Next? is a one day event for high school Juniors and Seniors. It is offered by the Illinois Great Rivers conference of the United Methodist Church. The goal of Who's Next is to prepare leaders for the next step. Who's Next will be held on Saturday, February 18, 2012 from 10am—4pm at the Springfield First United Methodist Church. There will be a worship service led by Bishop Palmer and the Harvest Ministry Team. Students can expect to meet other Juniors and Seniors going to "their" college. They can have real conversations with Q&As about college life led by college students. They can connect with each other, their youth leader, and God. Please contact Pastor Megan if you are interested in attending this event. The group will be leaving from the church at 8 am. The cost will be covered by the church.



YAR

YAR is February 24-26. High School Youth are invited to come, worship, go to workshops, and meet other UMC youth around the conference. Sign up by Feb. 5th with Pastor Megan. The fee will be \$30, with the church providing the rest. T-Shirts are available for \$13. Scholarships are available.

Fellowship of the King Meal



The Senior High Youth are invited to prepare the Fellowship of the King Meal on Monday, February 20. Come for fellowship and lasagna assembly! Time TBD

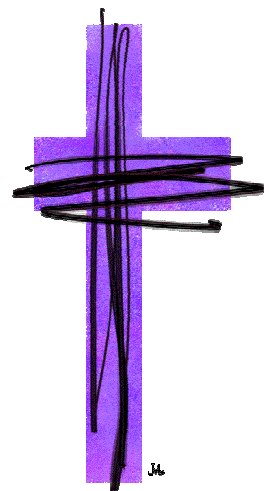
Meet & Seek

It has been said that "the church is made up of imperfect people who are responding day by day in all their relationships to God's stunning grace." Yes! As imperfect people, we meet together to seek God's grace in figuring out how to share God's love in our relationships with the world. Join us!! Our next meeting is Thursday, February 23, from 6:00 pm -8:00 pm. Childcare will be provided.

The Seven Deadly Sins

The theme for this year's Community Lenten Services will be the seven deadly sins. Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday services will be held at each of the churches. Ash Wednesday is February 22nd and the worship service will be at 6:30pm following the Fellowship of the King Meal. The time for the Maundy Thursday service is yet to be determined.

February 29	6:00pm Meal	7:00 pm Worship	First Christian Church
March 7	6:00 pm Meal	7:00 pm Worship	American Lutheran Church
March 14	6:00 pm Meal	7:00 pm Worship	First Presbyterian Church
March 21	6:00 pm Meal	7:00 pm Worship	United Methodist Church
March 28	6:00 pm Meal	7:00 pm Worship	Location TBD
April 6—Good Friday		7:00 pm Worship	Location TBD



Connect, gROW, GO!

We love because God first loved us (I John 4:19)
... take hold of the life that really is life (I Timothy 6:18-19)



Alive Now!

Alive Now - a devotional that seeks to help people carve out space for God in the midst of busy lives. This little magazine is a bi-monthly Upper Room publication and a limited number of copies are offered on the table outside the church office. If all print copies are gone, know that one can go to alivenow.upperroom.org and find helpful resources online for prayer and spiritual formation. Watch for the March/April edition to come in late February. This issue will include a special devotional guide for Lent.

Hometown Nazareth

What would life have been like when Jesus was a boy? This year's **Vacation Bible School** will re-imagine that world with "Hometown Nazareth." VBS is a community ministry in which we serve with three other churches, with GC UMC taking our turn to lead this year. It's great fun to work cooperatively with other faith families to reach new hearts for Christ! Come hear more at our first planning meeting, Thurs, Feb 16, 7:00, Red Room.

Salty Service

From The Message, Matthew 5:13 -
"Let me tell you why you are here," says Jesus.

"You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness?"

Salty servants are those who bless the community for Christ. They use God-given abilities and passion to serve the Kingdom.

Meet 'salty servant,'

-Rick Ertel -

Rick loves teaching, and currently serves as a math teacher at GCMS High School. A few years ago, he felt God calling him to do something more. He remembered hearing about Restoration Urban Ministries from a pastor acquaintance and decided to email the Champaign organization to ask if they could use the services of a math teacher. The timing was divinely perfect - that was just what they needed at that moment! Rick now volunteers Thursday evenings teaching GED math classes. Restoration Ministries seeks to help homeless families by "Restoring lives through Jesus Christ." Rick plays an important role in their mission to provide support for the "desperate and displaced, while lifting up Jesus Christ and His love toward all people."

Thanks, Rick, for serving the Kingdom!

FIVE PRACTICES OF FRUITFUL CONGREGATIONS



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

February Birthdays



Darren Eckerty	1	Chase McCall	9	John R Bell	17	Hunter Pruitt	24
Sandy Fairchild	1	Trent Wetherell	9	Cheryl Hester	17	Dorothy Shields	26
Barb Horsch	2	Doris Young	10	Martha Benson	18	Laynie Shields	27
Joyce Dewey	3	Haley Arends	11	Claudia Chase	18	Benjamin VanSwol	27
Jean Ertel	4	John Kinder	11	Fred Wittemann, Jr.	18	Jerry Wright	27
Donald Rhodes	4	Nicholas Vogelbaugh	11	Steve Woodall	18	Brandon Clark	28
Donna Douglas	5	David Noellsch	12	Miranda Kearney	20		
Wanda Baird	6	Garrett Wright	12	Lucas McCallister	20		
Cody Jamison	6	Christopher Wittemann	14	Cathy Steidinger	20		
Margaret Farmer	7	Becky Young	14	Grant Goltz	21		
Seth Barnes	8	Alex Bennett	15	Zachary Glascock	23		
Zachary Barnes	8	Fred Wittemann, Sr.	15	Shirley Jackson	23		
Kim Fisher	8	Steven Hawthorne	16	Lois Kelley	23		
Dwaine Horsch	8	Shirley Peeken	16	Jasmine Bennett	24		

Happy
Birthday!

February Anniversaries

Stats and Such for January

Giving YTD (budget) through Jan 22	\$ 19,565.96
Giving Goal YTD (budget) through Jan 22	\$ 27,892.00
Giving Goal (budget) each week	\$ 6,973.00
*Other Giving YTD through Jan 23	\$ 2,581.88

*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.

	Day	Years
Phil & Jean Noellsch	1	37
Ron & Mary Ann Hood	13	57
Richard & Joyce Bennett	14	30
Mike & Kenna McCall	14	25
Terry & Shelley Overman	25	34
Jeff & Judy Eckhoff	27	30
Lyle & Linda Goltz	27	41



Pastor Lori Bultemeier from The Baby Fold will lead us in worship on February 12. Mission Socks collection will be February 19 and will benefit The Baby Fold.

Attendance

Weekend	Sat	Sun	Sun	SS		Weekend	Sat	Sun	Sun	SS
January 1	10	110	NA	NA		January 8	15	111	32	74
January 15	15	115	18	77		January 22	15	120	25	85

United Methodist Messenger



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
 Marian Boog
 Janice Christensen
 Rolf Christenson
 Mildred Davis
 Ed Eagleson
 Jennifer Fancher
 Grace Hanley
 Ruth Harris

David Hester
 Donald Hiner
 Bill Hunter
 Braxton Jamison
 Hailey Jamison
 Mary Lou Kelley
 Imogene Loy
 Phil & Malinda Lutz
 Bob & Bettie Main

Warren Meinhardt
 Mark, Angela and Kailyn
 Overman
 Judy Peters
 Heather Reum
 The Rhodes Family
 Larry Richoz
 Don Williams
 Harold Young

Births, Baptisms, Weddings, Deaths

Verna Buck passed away on January 8, 2012.



From the Web Corner

Exciting resources are available online!

Alive Now, the daily devotional which follows the lectionary (scripture selections for the church year) that our pastors follow is available online with its own website. As with the paper edition, the site includes the Daily Reflections, Scriptures, Spiritual Tools suggestions, Pictures, and Prayers. Especially exciting and *not* available in print form is the Audio *Lectio* feature. This guided meditation provides an audio reading of the

scripture (3 times) and instructions on how to take the words into your memory and your heart. If *lectio divina* is new for you, please listen to the introduction that is also provided, and/or talk with Pastor Kevin or Pastor Megan.

The **2012 Camping Catalog** of our conference is also online, so start checking out what's available and meets your or your child's interests and age criteria. Many new adventures await the 2012 camper! Links to the above are posted on our website, along with a place to 'meet' our new nursery workers, an updated 'Opportunities for Service' page, and pictures of the office remodel which will be changed periodically.

As always, if you have questions or comments about our website or Facebook page, please contact Craig Kummerow or Susan Schultz.

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

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

What is the BIG Idea ??

"We believe that the stories Jesus told help us know how to live.

In February, preschool through 6th grade will listen to and experience the parables through art, drama, games and stories.

The Talents (Matthew 25:14-29)

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

Lost and Found (Luke 15:8-10)

The Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21)

KID'S CONNECTION! Ages 3 through 1st grade are invited downstairs, following the 8:45 Children's Message, for a time to



Listen, Pray and Play.

Join the team as we share the message of God's love through play. For more information, contact Sarah Chase.



Are you praying?

Class photos (children and youth) are available.

Pick a class and pray for the children in the class and their teachers throughout the year. You may also pray for children who do not attend a church, that they might be invited to join a class and feel welcome at GC UMC.

Thank you for partnering with the youth of GC UMC!

Bring a Friend ! Sunday, February 12th

All ages are encouraged to invite someone for church and/or Sunday School. It may be cold **outside**, but let's make it warm and welcoming **inside** GC UMC! Who will you bring?

Valentine Boxes and Envelopes

Valentine's Day is quickly approaching and once again we are inviting you to share in giving to our special friends a gift of love. Please continue making a difference for Christ in the lives of our special friends. On Wednesday, February 8, Valentine envelopes will be mailed. Boxes to our special friends will be delivered on Sunday, February 12th. If you would like to add someone to our list please contact the church office.

- ♥ *Make Valentines for those listed below. You may purchase cards or make your own!*
- ♥ *Bring your Valentines to the church and place in the shoe boxes or envelopes.*
- ♥ *Candy may be placed in the boxes and envelopes but please take into account anyone that may have dietary restrictions.*

Boxes

Marian Boog
Shirley Butler
Ora Lee Coleman
Zella During
Imogene Graff
Grace Hanley
Ruth Harris
Ella Mae Miller
Judith Peters
Clevita Tongate
Frances VanSwol
Doris Young

Envelopes

John Bell
Jaisi Bishop
Becky Littlefield
Austin Borton
Jenna Cowell
Alison Cowell
Matthew Ertel
Jeremy Grider
Jane Hastings
Mick Horsch
Sam Horsch
Bill & Imogene Loy
Sidney Overman
Lauren Pool

Craig Sharp
Libby Shields
Warren Walters
Harold Young
Jared Cox
Michael Romshek
Austin Seneca
Mackenzie Seneca
Donna Eckerty
Chelsey Lange

United Methodist Messenger

Worship Information for February

	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
Liturgist	Jeff Glascock	Angie Woodward	Terri Moore	Doug Eckerty
Greeters West	Linda Goltz	Glenn & Marsha Riddle	Glenn & Marsha Riddle	Frank & Lynne Titus
Greeters South	Eckerty Family	Jeff & Judy Eckhoff	Don & Donna Douglas	Don & Donna Douglas
Acolytes	Ethan Freehill & Spencer Hazen	Kaitlynn Kietzman & Allison Davis	Micah & Jonah Moody	Audrey Boss-Maxey & Emily Clinton
Sound Room 8:45	Kim Fisher	Steve Hawthorne	Joel Hood	Lonnie Engel
Projection 8:45	Darren Eckerty	Meaghan Sharp	Danielle Eckerty	Taylor Engel
Nursery 8:45	S & J Schultz	S & J Schultz	S & J Schultz	S & J Schultz
Nursery 10:00	Diane Heiser	Diane Heiser	Diane Heiser	Diane Heiser
Kids' Connection	Jennifer & Samantha Arsenault	Todd & Uyen Littell	Todd & Uyen Littell	Todd & Uyen Littell

Head Usher for February is Jon Clark.

Communion Preparer is Terri Snyder.

Church Website: www.gcumc3.org

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

United Methodist Messenger

Gibson City United Methodist Church
206 East 10th Street
Gibson City, IL 60936

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO 13
Gibson City, IL 60936**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED