

The Current

A Newsletter of Crossroads United Methodist Church
January 2010

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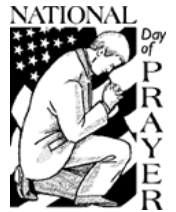
Submitted by Pastor Sharon

Have you ever tried fasting? It's a spiritual discipline that many of us try to avoid. Let's face it – most of us just like to eat. But Christians have been doing it for centuries, so maybe there's something to it. And we have a wonderful opportunity to give it a try – just for one day.

On Thursday, January 7, our District Superintendent Sam Royappa is calling for a Day of Prayer with Fasting. It is his great hope that as many Methodists as possible in our region will choose to participate. For those who are able, there will be a "prayer open house" at Dodgeville UMC. There will be a continuous worship service there from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. People are invited to come for whatever time they have available. The worship will cycle through singing, reflection and prayer every hour. Pastor Sharon plans to leave church at 8:00 a.m., and anyone who is interested in carpooling is welcome to join her.

For those who have other commitments and can't get to Dodgeville, you are invited to join us by fasting for the day. Can you give up breakfast? How about your lunch? Perhaps during your lunch time you can take a few minutes to be in prayer.

Please put this important date on your calendar and join us in whatever way you can.



Heifer project news from Sunday School

Submitted by Linda Lerch

We raised \$220. The kids chose to purchase the following through Heifer International:

A goat,
Trio of rabbits,
Flock of Ducks and Geese, and a
Flock of Chickens

Thanks to everyone who purchased hot/cold bags from the Sunday school tribes.



Next COA's is March 12 2010!

Due to holidays, vacations and weather, the next COA's luncheon will be in March. Your contact for reservations will be Keith Nelson at .849-8728.



Crossroads United Methodist Church
Where faith and friendship meet
Phone: (608) 849-9599 Fax: (608) 850-4799
5901 Hogan Rd., Waunakee, WI 53597
www.crossroadswaunakee.org

Pastor's Page



Sometimes it's hard to write the Pastor's Page, because I have to write the article a week or two before it gets printed and mailed. As I write this today, my 90-year-old grandfather is flying by himself from Portland, ME to Appleton, WI. My cousin spent last night at his house so she could help him get to the airport and send him on his way.

GG, as we call him, has eight great-grandchildren. He's met them all, except Kenna. That's why he's coming out for Christmas this year. I am thrilled that Kenna will get to spend time with her great-grandfather, a man who is exceptionally talented at making silly faces and entertaining young children. When it comes to loving your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, GG is an expert.

But GG is 90 years old, and we live very far apart. I know there's not a great chance that Kenna will get to see him too many times. When she grows up, she may not remember him. But he loves her fiercely anyway. And that makes me stop to wonder: who has loved me that I don't know or remember?

Great-grandparents, friends of my parents, church members from when I was young... and probably others I can't even dream up. But at the top of the list is Jesus. A man who lived 2,000 years ago loved me so much he was willing to put his life on the line for me. When you put it into terms like that, it's hard for us to even comprehend the depth and strength of God's love for us. And God loves each one of us like that. God loves each of us as if there were only one to love.

So I invite you to take a moment to think about the anonymous people who have loved you. And to think of whom you have loved that may never know it. And to be thankful that we have a God who cares for us so deeply.

Grace abounds,

Pastor Sharon

SPRC Moment

Submitted by Lori Tebrinke



One of the goals our church as authorized through the work of the dream team and the process of open forum meetings is to provide babysitting for Tuesday and Thursday night church activities. We expanded these hours of provided babysitting to Wednesday evening choir practices if needed. This goal was set as part of the "Intentional Faith Development" category. We have purposefully organized all meetings to these evenings in our effort to be good stewards to the wonderful folks who serve our church by being committee members and leaders, freeing up three evenings per week. We offer this babysitting service as a way of making it possible for more friends and members of Crossroads to serve and attend evening Bible study classes. Tressie Hook has been hired in this capacity. She and SPRC are working on "procedures" to use this service. **If you need babysitting to attend one of the Tuesday or Thursday meetings, choir, or Bible study, please call either the church office or Tressie Hook.** We will publicize the "procedures" as soon as we formalize them. In the mean time, please welcome Tressie Hook as our newest staff member.

Thank you...

Submitted by Patsy Manion



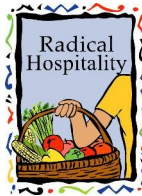
We have had another successful year of fundraising through our Scrip gift card program. We have raised \$2,360.30 to help support the budget at Crossroads UMC. Thank you to all who have participated in this simple and easy way of raising money. We would like to encourage more members and friends of CUMC to participate during 2010.

GO GREEN WITH SCRIP IN 2010...Did you know you can place a gift card order by going to www.shopwithscrip.com? You can order gift cards and pay on line in a few easy steps.

Our order schedule will remain the same in 2010. You can submit your orders the first and third Sundays by 5:00 p.m. and gift cards will be distributed on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. If anyone has questions about this fundraising program, please call Patsy Manion, Nancy Koch, or Cathy Mielke.

Radical Hospitality

Submitted by Lurene Swenson



Robert Schnase redefines hospitality to extend beyond simple Christian Hospitality, to practice extra-ordinary efforts and exceed expectations. To offer "Radical Hospitality" in order to cultivate "Fruitful Congregations."

Simply defined, Radical Hospitality is actively inviting the community in. Accommodating new needs. Welcoming people and offering empathy, support, friendship, a feeling of community, a shared experience and spirituality; service to all through Jesus' examples. Teaching the congregation as a whole how to make strangers feel at home in our church.

This is our ultimate goal in an effort to "Cultivate Fruitfulness."

With this goal in mind, the Outreach Committee has recruited among the congregation a team of people to lead us in Radical Hospitality, the "Radical Hospitality Team." If you are interested in being a part of the Radical Hospitality team, contact Pr Sharon or Lurene Swenson. Training will begin in January.

Soup-er Bowl is February 7– Bring can goods or a dollar donation for the Waunakee Food Pantry

Leaders' Training

At our Charge Conference in December, we elected a new slate of leaders for our church for the coming year. I'm asking all of our new and continuing chairpersons to attend a training on Sunday, January 10 at noon. Lunch will be provided.

We will use this time to discuss tips for effective meetings, how to communicate with the congregation, and general expectations. We will also have a time of brainstorming our dreams for the future of our congregation.

Men's group



The Men are still looking for fire brick to finish the outside grill. If you have some extra or know someone who does, or would like to make a donation toward it, please contact Dave Duchnowski.

Devotion

The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. 2 Chronicles 16:9

Years ago, I was hesitant to embark on a new ministry opportunity. I was afraid I wasn't competent enough to fulfill the role adequately. Through the godly counsel of a good friend, she reminded me that God isn't searching the earth looking for the most competent individuals to fulfill his mission. He searches for those whose hearts are committed to him. What challenges are you facing today? Is your heart fully committed to God? When you rely on the Lord, he will deliver you!

—Marian V. Liautaud

Those in our prayers



Prayers of Joy: Best wishes on birthdays and anniversaries; Congratulations to the Thompson family in the birth of baby girl Kyra

Jean on December 13; the joy of the adults and children in the Christmas play, they were awesome! Jen, Alice Hamilton's friend, is able to continue her pregnancy and have chemo for her cancer!

Prayers of Concern: All those recovering from surgeries and long term illnesses; those who are homeless at this time of year.

Prayers of Comfort in Grief: All those who have lost loved ones, friends and family; the Richardson at the loss of Dana's father.

Prayers for Peace, Justice and Safety: All families and friends still without jobs and insurance; those having trouble getting enough food for their families and dreading the holidays; all those who are away and traveling during the holidays.

Fair trade coffee and tea



Crossroads is still participating in the UMCOR Fair Trade coffee and tea project. If you want to order please do so by calling Sandy Thompson or emailing her and by picking it up at church. If anyone is interested in taking over this project for the church, please talk to Sandy. It is an easy project and not very time consuming. Sandy is teaching Sunday School and needs to give this opportunity to someone else. Thanks for your consideration.

Youth Group Meetings



The next youth group will be January 17 at 4:00 pm. This group meets every Sunday evening from 4-5:30 pm. for planning and fun activities. Please plan to join them.

January Birthdays...

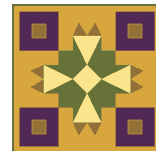


Best wishes to you all!

Doyle Erickson	01/10
Judy Buskager	01/11
Gary Richardson	01/11
Robert von Ruden	01/13
Myron Ledvina	01/14
Gabriel Murray	01/18
Steve Fahlgren	01/19
J. R. Hribar	01/19
Nancy Koch	01/19
Jeffrey Manion	01/21
Mike Adam	01/23
Lucy Vaughn	01/24
Margo Collins	01/25
Gene Hollman	01/28
Stacey Guelker	01/30
Robert Kinzler	01/30

Cookie Cutter Quilters

Submitted by Lynne Adam



During the winter months the quilters will meet at 9:00 am instead of during the night time. All are welcome to come and sew, learn quilting techniques, as well as fellowship with us. Our next meeting is January 9.

Ash Wednesday is February 17—
Worship at Crossroads at 7:00 pm.

Choir news



Our choir participated in the Overture's hymn sing on December 22 in Madison. In the spring the CUMC adult choir is planning a Palm Sunday special with music from "Godspell." They welcome anyone who wants to sing with them.

Electronic Donation – Simple. Safe. Smart.



Why not give yourself the gift of electronic donation to Crossroads this year? What is electronic donation? Instead of filling your offering envelope with cash or check, you authorize payments to Crossroads directly from your financial institution, in an amount and on a schedule you want. To make things easy, simply complete the included authorization form & include a deposit slip or voided check from your bank account, put it in the collection plate or drop or mail it to the church office. No muss, no fuss. An electronic transfer on the day you specify and the amount you specify will be made from the account of your choice will go directly to Crossroads. Circumstances change? No problem, the same form can be used to make changes (amount or timing). If you have questions please contact Bob Tietz or Jim Walker.

It's a simple, safe, and smart way to go GREEN, and save some work in the process!

Porchlight Meal

Submitted by Margo Collins



Porchlight, Inc. relies on over sixty faith communities/organizations to provide a dinner and breakfast for guests of the Drop-In Shelter located in downtown Madison at Grace Episcopal Church. We are one of these faith communities and provide a meal the second Sunday of the odd months. Our next meal is **January 10, 2010**. During the coldest winter days, **120/130 people** will eat meals at the shelter each day. In order to accommodate these numbers, we are asking for extra food or monetary donations. In addition to the support provided by our regular crew, we need the items and amounts listed below. If you are able to provide any of the following, please contact Margo by email waunacollins@tds.net or phone 849-1974. **Also, all those who make regular contributions, please confirm that you would like to continue this for the year 2010. We are always looking for new people to become involved with this ministry!** We would appreciate an email so we can set up a list of volunteers and what they contribute. Remember the **food needs to be at church between 5:00 and 6:00 pm Sunday, January 10**. Of course, you may bring your donation with you Sunday morning. Please label and refrigerate as needed.

Increased needs for Porchlight:

- 5 people to donate 2# ground beef seasoned with 2 packages of taco seasoning
- 3 people to donate jello with fruit salads (1/2 to 3/4 of an ice-cream bucket)
- 2 people to donate 20 flour tortillas (10"- 12"white please)
- 3 people to donate 2# grated cheddar cheese : 6 people to donate 1 gallon of milk, your choice
- 6 people to donate a large box of cold breakfast cereal

Monthly CUMC meetings:

Church Council ~ 3rd Thursday	Sean Murray, chair
Finance ~3th Thursday	Jim Walker, chair
Trustees~2nd Monday	Pat Baldwin, chair
SPRC~2nd Thursday	Lori Tebrinke, chair
Men's Group~1st Saturday	Dave Duchnowski
Women's Group~2nd Monday	Heather Murray
Outreach~2nd Tuesday	Lurene Swenson, chair
Adult Choir~ Every Wednesday	Bill Hofeldt, Music director (Memorial Day through Labor day)
W.E.B. Meeting~ 3rd. Tuesday	Terri Willihnganz, CUMC representative
Quilters ~ First Monday (winter first Saturday).....	Lynne Adam

Please contact the group chair for information as the meetings are subject to change.

Women's Group



Women's group will meet on January 11. We will talk about a new book to read and plan Movie and Dinner night out. All Crossroads women are invited to come and bring a friend. We meet at the church at 6:30 pm. Childcare will be provided if you let us know ahead of time that you need it. Call Heather at 849-4048 or contact Tressie Hook at 576-4354 as she is the child care person.

Our Community & the world!



Thank you Waunakee Churches!

The Waunakee Ecumenical Board (WEB) would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for your support of the Christmas Giving Tree program. We were able to provide 110 families with gifts for their children. It is a testament to the generosity of our community that this outpouring of care and compassion occurred. This holiday season was uncertain economically for many, but that did not stop you from helping your neighbors in need. May God Bless you all. Thank you for your support of WEB projects at Christmas, and all year long.

Habitat House Blessing



On Saturday, January 16 at 10:00 a.m., we have one last opportunity to help out with our Habitat for Humanity Build. On that day, everyone who has been part of the build for the Boakai family will come to support them with a house blessing ceremony. Whether you've been to the site, prepared meals, prayed or donated money, everyone is invited to this special event. Please join us as the Boakai's officially begin turning this house into a home. It's a wonderful way to let them know how much we care.

The Road Home bulletin for December 2009

Submitted by Rachel Krinsky

Did you know? Our local community provides wonderful holidays for families at The Road Home, including gifts, meals and decorations. The families really enjoy the special attention and festivities. But the best gift you give is the year-round support that offers families the opportunity to be successfully "re-housed."

Susan, Troy (5) and Lindsey (4), for example, just moved to an apartment where they have their own rooms for the first time. Troy showed his case manager around, especially noting his bed and his Spiderman décor. He said "And look what else I can do in my room!" and promptly did a cartwheel across the middle of the floor. He's thrilled to have that much space to call his own.

This holiday season, 56 formerly homeless families will celebrate their holidays at home while participating in The Road Home's housing programs, and countless more are celebrating at home having graduated from those programs and moved on in their lives. The Road Home wishes all of you a wonderful holiday season of abundance and gratitude.

CUMC Snow Days?

Submitted by Pastor Sharon



With the snowflakes flying, this is a good time to remind you of how cancellations will happen for us this winter, if necessary.

First, if Waunakee schools are closed, Crossroads will also be closed.

If a team, committee, class, etc. cancels for the evening, every attempt will be made to reach the members of that group. Please check your e-mail and answering machine.

If a large event, or a group with an unknown guest list is cancelled, we will put a message on the church answering machine and on our website: www.crossroadswaunakee.org

If we ever have to cancel a Sunday morning worship, we will put messages on the answering machine and website, but we will also contact local news stations.

I love snow days but I'm not a fan of the mess they can make out of our carefully scheduled events. I will only cancel things when I really feel the weather poses some sort of hazard. You don't have to wait for us to cancel something in the office. If you don't want to be out and driving, stay home, stay warm, stay safe. (But if we're expecting you, give us a call so we don't worry...)

Relay for life CUMC needs a leader...

Submitted by Cindy Driscoll



Relay for Life project for the coming year, is already in the planning stages, and meetings are scheduled. There is a kickoff meeting for team captains already on January 20. If you are interested in being the coordinator for CUMC please call the office. *Perhaps taking on team captain might be a thoughtful idea for a new year's resolution.*

A Stewardship Message For Your Church

By the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation



"They offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road." (Matthew 2:11 NRSV)

Judy and Norm looked at each other and instantly knew what the other was thinking. It's the second Sunday in January. Where is everyone who came to light a candle Christmas Eve? Judy put her hands together and whispered, "Here's the church, here's the steeple, open the door, where are the people?"

On the way home Norm remembered, "It was so exciting to go to church last month. The pews were full and we had kids singing, adults singing and instrumentalists playing at every service. I got so caught up in *Joy to the World* I even agreed to serve on the finance committee when they asked! What was I thinking? Now we're singing *In the Bleak Midwinter*, there's plenty of room in the pews and the offering plates have almost nothing in them. How in the world are we going to pay our apportionments on time?"

Judy drove in silence and let him vent. As they sat down for their pizza playoff lunch before the game she said, "Remember what Pastor Eileen said about the fact that the story didn't end when the wise men gave their gifts. They heard that Herod wanted to kill the child so they went home via another route so that they could tell everyone what they'd seen. When the wise men arrived at the stable, their journey wasn't over. In fact, it had just begun. Our journey is about a lot more than going to church so we can pay the bills. It's about helping people know how Jesus can change their lives for the better and inviting them to help us tell the story."

Norm had to agree with her. At halftime he suggested they sit down and make a list of the people they missed seeing in worship earlier and figure out when the two of them might call or email everyone before the next Sunday.

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Worship at Crossroads

9:30-10:30am~ Sunday Worship

10:30am~ all of the following:

Hospitality & Refreshment Time (all ages)

Sunday School (Pre-school - 8th Grade)

Youth check- in Time

Come for any part of the morning, or stay for all of it!

From Memorial Day to Labor Day

Worship will end at 10:30 with fellowship.

Crossroads church leadership roster

Sharon Cook..... Pastor
Pattie Hook..... Assistant to the Pastor & Newsletter Editor
Bill HofeldtMusic Director
April KangPianist
Roselyn WarrenAccompanist
Keith Nelson.....Custodian
Lynne Adam Treasurer & Church Council, Vice Chair
Linda Stouffer & Loree von Ruden Sunday School Coordinators
Steve Harman..... Lay Leader
Bob Tietz..... Web Page Coordinator
Pastor Sharon Cook, Jennifer KochYouth Ministries
Patsy Manion.....Scrip Chair
Tressie Hook.....Childcare

The mission of the United Methodist Church is;
“to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

The mission of the Wisconsin Conference is:
“Live, Give, Love...Beyond all expectation.”

The purpose of Crossroads UMC is:
“to provide the greatest experience of God to the greatest number of people.”