

# The Current

A Newsletter of Crossroads United Methodist Church  
January 2012

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## All-church planning event

submitted by Pastor Sharon

January is a time of new beginnings and planning for the future. At Crossroads, we're doing this not only as individuals, but as a congregation. Who do we want to be? How do we want to respond to God's call? What exactly is our calling as a church?

Join us on Saturday, **January 7** from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. as we start to answer these questions. Leading us in an interactive time of discovery and discernment will be Dan Dick. Dan currently works in our conference office, but he brings with him years of experience working with congregations around the country.

Lunch will be provided. You can expect to receive a call from someone on church council (if they haven't already called) to get your RSVP. Please try to join us for at least part of the day. Also, please continually be in prayer for Crossroads, that we might recognize ways we can join with God in what he is already doing in the world.



## COA's luncheon

submitted by Roselyn Warren

The luncheon will be January 13, at 12:30 p.m. Reservations are due by Tuesday prior to the luncheon by calling Roselyn at 849-5451.



COA's Luncheon

## Women's group special date

submitted by Nancy Koch

Our next meeting is January 9, a week later than usual due to the holiday. We have a special guest speaker, Dr. Trent Thompson. He will speak to us on his mission trip and show us slides of the trip.

Please plan to attend and welcome him to our meeting. Meeting starts at 6:30 and ends around 8pm. Hope to see you there. These meetings are usually on the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. and last about an hour. You don't have to be a member to join and you can come anytime you can. If you let us know that you have a need for child care we can make sure we have someone available.

## Phone number change

submitted by Pastor Sharon

Pastor Sharon and her family no longer have a landline phone. You can feel free to call Pastor Sharon on her cell phone: 608-219-7436.



**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](http://www.crossroadswaunakee.org)

# Pastor's Page

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Has anyone asked you about resolutions yet? I have no data or proof, but I just have a general impression that fewer people are making new year's resolutions than a generation ago. I have heard two main reasons why people don't make resolutions.

Some don't because they have made them in the past, only to fail. They are unable to stay committed, and they give up. The majority of people who make resolutions have given up on them before March. Given that high failure rate, no wonder some of us have decided just to give up on even making resolutions.

On the other hand, I've also heard people say that starting a new lifestyle or making a change just because we've hung a new calendar seems pretty arbitrary. When you realize there is a need or desire for change in your life, the best time to start is always right away. Why wait for New Year's, or summer break, or any other set time?

Even though New Year's resolutions may be decreasing in popularity, this is still a time when people reflect on the last year and gear up for a new one. For students, this is often a time of transitions, either between semesters or nearly at the end of one. Partly because of that, and partly because so many people come to church for Christmas Eve worship, this is a time of year when people are often receptive to visiting church.

And if you ask a friend to come with you to worship, chances are they have a positive impression of us. About 62% of adult Americans have a favorable impression of United Methodists. That's according to a new survey from LifeWay Research that looks at perceptions of faith groups among adults in the U.S. This reinforces the findings of a 2008 Gallup poll that showed "Methodists" to have the highest positive ratings of religious and spiritual groups in the U.S.


United Methodists had the highest percentage of favorable impressions among the faith groups included in the survey – Roman Catholics, Southern Baptists, United Methodists, Mormons and Muslims – with 15% of respondents reporting very favorable impressions and 47% reporting somewhat favorable. United Methodists also had the lowest percentage of unfavorable impressions at only 23%.

So I'm not asking you to make a New Year's resolution. But I am inviting you to take on the challenge of inviting someone new to worship this year. Want to know the tricks to making that easier?

1. Invite someone you already know well.
2. Invite them to come with you.
3. Invite, invite, invite. Most of us need to be invited more than once. And invite them to a variety of activities, not just worship.
4. Invite someone who already believes in God. You don't have to convert anyone, just help them find a church home.

Not a week goes by that someone at Crossroads doesn't tell me how much they love this congregation and the community we have here. Wouldn't it be great in 2012 if we could share the blessings of this place with more people?

Grace abounds,



Pastor Sharon

## Those in our prayers

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**Prayers of Joy:** Best wishes on birthdays and anniversaries; joys of seeing family and friends.



**Prayers of Concern:** All those recovering from surgeries and long term illnesses; those with unspoken concerns; the Werner family; The Ripp family; Dave Duchnowski's dad with health issues; Jackie Mathes recovering; those recovering from car accidents; Joe Fisher's friend Dwight recovering from a fall, those struggling with serious health diagnoses.

**Prayers of Comfort in Grief:** All those who have lost loved ones; the Sailor family in the death of Fid; Lynn Weiss' daughter-in-law in the loss of her father.

**Prayers for Peace, Justice and Safety:** All our military and their families all around the world; all those in weather related disasters around the world and here at home; students traveling or being at home alone; those unemployed and those not paid well.

## Electronic giving

submitted by Finance

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One of the ways the Finance Team makes it uncomplicated to give to ministry at Crossroads is through electronic withdrawal. You fill out a simple form giving us permission to debit your bank account – in an amount you choose on a day you choose. Electronic giving is very helpful for our church, because it helps us account for a steady cash flow. To begin giving electronically, see Bob Tietz or Irene Steinl.

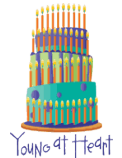
We also want to include our electronic givers during the offering time of our worship service. You will soon notice in the Friendship Pads green cards that read “I give through electronic withdrawal.” Please feel free to take a card when you sign in, then put it in the offering plate later in the service.



## Birthdays

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ERICKSON, Doyle	01/10
RICHARDSON, Gary	01/11
VON RUDEN, Robert	01/13
LEDVINA, Myron	01/14
MURRAY, Gabriel	01/18
KOCH, Nancy	01/19
MANION, Jeffrey	01/21
ADAM, Mike	01/23
VAUGHN, Lucy	01/24
COLLINS, Margo	01/25



## “Freed Up From Debt” workshops

submitted by the UM Conference

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*Sunday, January 29, 2012 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm*

*Monday, January 30, 2012 from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm*

The cost for these workshops is \$8.00 for materials. These workshops will be held in the Foundation Conference Room, Suite 305 of the Conference Center, 750 Windsor Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

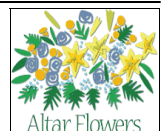
No sharing of personal financial information takes place – however, **please bring** the details of any debts. To register, please call us at [1-888-903-9863](tel:1-888-903-9863) or email [wumf@wumf.org](mailto:wumf@wumf.org). Spouses are encouraged to attend.

## Flowers

submitted by Pattie Hook

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Flowers for Easter, flowers for birthdays and anniversaries, and flowers for Advent and Christmas! We love flowers.



We like to give opportunities for the congregation to participate in lots of ways here at Crossroads, and one way is with flowers.

If you would like to purchase flowers for the coming year, to put on the altar, we hope you will. **Flowers for the altar** are for any special occasions that you and your family want to celebrate with the congregation. They are **\$30.00**. Just put your name on the chart in the Narthex and make sure your money is designated “flowers for the altar.” If you have questions please call the office at 849-9599 Tuesday through Thursday.

# Super Saints calendar

submitted by the Youth Team

The youth group meets on Sundays from 11:30-1:00 p.m. This time includes a simple lunch. Note that in the descriptions below, if the box is shaded grey, it meets at a different day or time than usual.

## Sunday, January 1 New Year's Day

No youth group today. Get ready to head back to school!

## Sunday, January 8 11:30-1:00 p.m. Planning

Pastor Sharon needs your help with something special for worship on January 15. Come make plans — and then we'll play a game.

## Sunday, January 15 11:30-1:00 p.m. Music Videos

We're going to watch Christian music videos and rate them. Which one has the best music? Which has the weirdest hairstyles?

## Sunday, January 22 11:30-1:30 p.m. Fellowship

We might go old school and play Spoons, or we might play the Video version of Clue. Join us for games. (On the off chance we have snow, we may play outside!)

## Sunday, January 29 11:30-1:30 p.m. Meet Muteti

We'll learn more about our sponsored child by making a Kenyan meal together. And of course, write Muteti more letters.

## Sunday, February 5 after worship Fundraiser

It's Super Bowl Sunday. After worship we will distribute the pizzas we sold.

## Women's fundraising update

submitted by Dana Handy, treasurer of women's group

### Funds raised;

Applefest- \$560.

Cookie Walk- 1\$1292.

### Outgoing funds to mission:

The Crossing-\$200.

Porchlight-\$200.

Waunakee food pantry-\$300.

UWM Chaplaincy-\$100.

Crossroads-Bubble man-\$100.

2010 CUMC apportionments-\$500.

CUMC pastors fund-(scrip cards)\$300.

School of mission-\$25.00

May basket supplies-\$36.61

### Other costs:

Lake Lucerne Camp for retreat- \$430.

Pinelake- \$40. deposit

Cookie walk signs, numbers and posts-\$60.

As of 8-31-11 there is \$1,117.20 in the account and that will be sent out at our January meeting. Thanks to the church for always supporting our events. Without your help we would not be able to reach out the way we do in your name.

## Weigh-in to help the food pantry

submitted by Waunakee food pantry

No matter where you workout you can register to help the Waunakee Food Pantry get items from Second Harvest through the Princeton Club's Million Pound Challenge. When you sign up to exercise a few hours a week or lose a certain amount of weight, you're helping many of your neighbors. For every pound of weight you lose, or every hour you exercise, 10 pounds of food will be donated to second harvest, up to one million pounds! Starting January 1, you can log your hours of exercise, and the food pantry benefits! To register, just go to the Million Pound Challenge website, and select Waunakee Ecumenical Food Pantry as your designated food pantry



## A stewardship message for your church

submitted by the WI UM Foundation

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“The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped.”

~Proverbs 11:26-27 *The Message*

“God grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, the courage to change the one I can, and the wisdom to know it’s me.”-Author Unknown



January is the season for New Year’s resolutions. We want to start out the New Year on the “right foot,” taking care to improve ourselves and our habits. Getting out of debt and saving money are generally two of the top ten resolutions made each year. Cuts in income seem to be the norm these days, so how do we remain faithful and generous as we set priorities in the New Year?

It seems counter-intuitive but it begins by giving. Generosity breeds a positive, “can-do” attitude in us. It’s good to say thank you, even in tough times. Therefore as you make moves toward financial freedom from debt, consider:

1. Making the first payment from your check every week or month a “thank you” gift for the many blessings you’ve received.
2. Save an equal amount in an emergency savings account you can use when you truly need to overspend your regular budget for medical needs, car repairs, house repairs or emergency family travel.

Some folks find that giving 5% of their income to the church and saving another 5% each week or month in an emergency fund can be a helpful spiritual tool as they take responsibility for their finances.

## Apportionment giving

submitted by Rev. Jean Ehnert Nicholas of the WI Foundation

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We keep a quart jar in a prominent place in our bedroom and put our loose change into it on a regular basis. When it’s almost full we take it to the bank and are surprised to discover there’s about \$100 that has magically accumulated!

It’s also amazing to me that for just over \$100 per member/year we are able to fund the worldwide mission and ministry of the entire United Methodist Church! We may have loose coin offerings for a number of very worthy ministries in our churches throughout the year, but what are we teaching our children if we don’t meet our primary commitment to the ministry, done in our name here in Wisconsin and throughout the world, through our apportionments?

I invite you to start now – at the beginning of the year – to find a way to fund your share of the church’s apportionments. Maybe you can write a check for the full amount upfront. Or you may be like many folks who are struggling to make ends meet and the most you can give are a few coins each week. Start now and when that jar is full, you’ll be amazed at how much you’ve saved!

If you don’t have children or grandchildren at home, invite a child or two from your church to help you count it. And, if you wish, involve those children in giving the gift the following Sunday in a special envelope marked for apportionments. For many wonderful stories of how these gifts are used for the ministry of Christ and the glory of God, go to [www.umcsgiving.org](http://www.umcsgiving.org).



# Crossroads UM Church Scrip Order Form, make check to CUMC Scrip

Revised 9/10/11

for more businesses go to [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) (under create an account, enter 98C5L17213229 for the cumc enrollment code)

Retail Stores	\$	Quantity #	\$	Quantity #	%	Total \$
Ace Hardware	\$25		\$100		4%	
Amazon.com	\$25		\$100		4%	
American Eagle Outfitters	\$25		xxx	xxx	10%	
Auto Zone	\$25		xxx	xxx	5%	
Barnes & Noble	\$10		\$25		9%	
Bath & Body Works	\$25		xxx	xxx	13%	
Bed Bath & Beyond	\$25		xxx	xxx	7%	
Best Buy	\$25		\$100		3%	
Buckle	\$25		xxx	xxx	8%	
Burlington Coat Factory	\$25				8%	
Cabela's	\$25		\$100		11%	
Claire's	\$10		xxx	xxx	9%	
Crate and Barrel	\$25		xxx	xxx	8%	
CVS Pharmacy	\$25		\$100		6%	
Dell (can only use one gift card per purchase)	xxx	xxx	\$100		4%	
Dick's Sporting Goods	\$25		xxx	xxx	8%	
Disney	\$25		\$100		2%	
Dressbarn	\$25		xxx	xxx	8%	
Family Christian Stores	\$25		xxx	xxx	9%	
Finish Line	\$25		xxx	xxx	10%	
Gander Mountain	\$25		xxx	xxx	8%	
Gordmans	\$25		xxx	xxx	7%	
Gymboree	\$25		xxx	xxx	13%	
Hallmark	\$25		xxx	xxx	4%	
Home Depot	\$25		\$100		4%	
iTunes	\$15		\$25		5%	
J. Jill	\$25		xxx	xxx	8%	
JC Penney (No longer can use cards to pay charge acct.)	\$25		\$100		5%	
Jo-Ann Fabrics	\$20		xxx	xxx	6%	
Jiffy Lube	\$30		xxx	xxx	8%	
Kohl's (CAN Pay On Charge Acct. At Store Register)	\$25		\$100		4%	
L.L. Bean	\$25		\$100		15%	
Land's End	\$25		\$100		16%	
Limited, The	\$25		xxx	xxx	9%	
Macy's	\$25		\$100		10%	
Marshalls / T.J. Maxx	\$25		\$100		7%	
Maurices	\$20		xxx	xxx	7%	
Menards Home Centers	\$25		\$100		3%	
Michaels (The Arts & Crafts Store)	\$25		xxx	xxx	4%	
Office Depot	\$25		\$100		4%	
Office Max	\$25		xxx	xxx	5%	
Old Navy/Gap Tri-card/Banana Rep	\$25		xxx	xxx	14%	
O.Co (Overstock.com)	\$25		xxx	xxx	8%	
Payless Shoes	\$20		xxx	xxx	13%	
Petsmart	\$25		xxx	xxx	4%	
Pier 1 Imports	\$25		xxx	xxx	9%	
Pottery Barn / Williams Sonoma	\$25		\$100		8%	
Radio Shack	\$25		xxx	xxx	4%	
REI	\$25		xxx	xxx	8%	
Sears	\$25		\$100		4%	
Sears Auto Service Center	\$100		\$250		4%	
Shopko	\$25		\$50		3%	
Shutterfly	\$25		xxx	xxx	9%	
Staples	\$25		\$100		5%	
Target	\$25		\$100	xxx	2%	
Wal-Mart / Sam's Club	\$25		\$100		2%	
Walgreens	\$25		\$100		6%	
Younkers / Boston Store	\$25		\$100		8%	

Total # Cards / Gift Certificates Ordered:	#				
Total \$ Amount Ordered:	\$				
Name:	Phone or e-mail				

Gas Stations	\$	Quantity #	Quantity #	%	Total \$
BP	\$50		\$100	2%	
Kwik Trip ***Plus a Bonus 5% until 12/30/11	\$25		\$100	4%	
Mobil / Exxon	\$50		\$250	2%	
Phillips 66/Conoco/76 Gas	\$25		xxx	2%	
Shell Gas	\$50		\$100	2.50%	
Super America / Speedway	\$25		\$100	4%	
Groceries & Consumer Products	\$	Quantity #	Quantity #	%	Total \$
Nutri Systems	\$50		xxx xxx	12%	
Piggly Wiggly / WI & N. IL only	\$25		\$50	4%	
" "	\$100		xxx	4%	
Roundy's/Copps/Pick n Save	\$25		\$100	4%	
Whole Foods	\$25		\$100	3%	
Lodging and Travel	\$	Quantity #	Quantity #	%	Total \$
American Airlines / TWA (limited to redeeming 8 cards per transaction)	\$100		\$250	8%	
Avis Car Rental	\$50		xxx xxx	8%	
BedandBreakfast.com	\$50		xxx xxx	10%	
Best Western Int'l	\$25		\$100	12%	
Budget Car Rental	\$50		xxx xxx	8%	
Comfort Inn (Comfort Suites, Quality, SleepInn, Clarion, MainStay Suites)	\$50		\$100	4%	
Hyatt Hotels	\$50		\$100	9%	
Marcus Hotels & Resorts (includes Hilton Madison, Grand Geneva Resort, Pfister Hotel)	\$25		\$100	9%	
Marriott Hotels (Courtyard, Fairfield Inn)	\$50		\$100	8%	
Entertainment and Other Services	\$	Quantity #	Quantity #	%	Total \$
Great Clips	\$25		xxx xxx	8%	
Regis Salons	\$25		xxx xxx	8%	
Six Flags	\$30		xxx xxx	8%	
Super Cuts	\$25		xxx xxx	8%	
Marcus Theaters	\$25		\$100	9%	
Restaurants	\$	Quantity #	Quantity #	%	Total \$
Applebee's	\$25		\$50	8%	
Arby's	\$10		xxx xxx	10%	
Burger King	\$10		xxx xxx	4%	
Bruegger's Bagels	\$10		xxx xxx	5%	
Chilli's	\$25		xxx xxx	9%	
Chipotle	\$10		xxx xxx	10%	
Chuck E. Cheese	\$10		xxx xxx	8%	
Cold Stone Creamery	\$10		xxx xxx	8%	
Cousins Subs	\$10		xxx xxx	9%	
Cracker Barrel	\$10		\$25	9%	
Denny's	\$10		xxx xxx	7%	
Domino's Pizza	\$10		xxx xxx	8%	
Einstein Bros. Bagels	\$10		xxx xxx	10%	
Fazoli's	\$25		xxx xxx	7%	
KFC	\$5		xxx xxx	8%	
Noodles & Company	\$10		xxx xxx	8%	
Old Country Buffet/Home Town Buffet	\$25		xxx xxx	5%	
Outback Steakhouse	\$25		xxx xxx	8%	
P.F. Changs	\$25		xxx xxx	8%	
Panera Bread	\$10		\$25	9%	
Papa Johns	\$10		xxx xxx	8%	
Papa Murphys	\$10		xxx xxx	8%	
Perkins Restaurant	\$10		xxx xxx	12%	
Pizza Hut	\$10		xxx xxx	8%	
Qdoba	\$25		xxx xxx	7%	
Quizno's	\$10		xxx xxx	10%	
Red Lobster / Olive Garden	\$25		xxx xxx	9%	
Red Robin	\$25		xxx xxx	9%	
Ruth's Chris Steak House	\$50		xxx xxx	10%	
Starbucks	\$10		\$25	7%	
Subway	\$10		\$50	3%	
Texas Roadhouse	\$25		xxx xxx	8%	
TGI Friday's	\$25		xxx xxx	9%	
UNO	\$25		xxx xxx	12%	
Wendy's	\$10		xxx xxx	4%	

**Crossroads United Methodist Church**  
**5901 Hogan Rd.**  
**Waunakee, WI 53597**

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### **Change Service Requested**

Customer Name  
Street Address  
City, ST ZIP Code

#### **Worship at Crossroads**

**9:30-10:30am** ~ Sunday Worship

**10:30am** ~ all of the following:  
Hospitality & Refreshment Time (all ages)  
Sunday school ages 3-6th grade.  
Confirmation

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

#### **Crossroads church leadership roster**

Sharon Cook..... Pastor  
Pattie Hook..... Assistant to the Pastor & Newsletter Editor  
Bill Hofeldt .....Music Director  
Chris Powers.....Pianist  
Roselyn Warren .....Accompanist  
Keith Nelson.....Custodian  
Irene Steinl.....Treasurer & Church Council, Vice Chair  
Tammy Hribar.....Sunday School Coordinator  
Julie Frenz.....Lay Leader  
Sue and Natalie Tietz.....Fair Trade Coffee/Tea Coordinator  
Tressie Hook & Mel Warner.....Youth ministries  
Lynne Adam.....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.”