

Tidings

“Developing Followers of Jesus Christ to Serve the World”

Dear church family:

For each of the first six months of this year, I am adopting a “theme” for each month, trying to focus our Christian discipleship in a narrow way for a short term. I have chosen:

January –Month of Reconciliation
 February –Month of Repentance
 March –Month of Invitation
 April –Month of Service
 May –Month of Remembrance
 June –Month of Transition

JANUARY – Month of Reconciliation . . . Broken relationships . . . we all have them. My call to action for the month of January is to attempt to overcome that brokenness. Relationships get broken because of insensitivity—someone hurts our feelings on purpose or just out of ignorance. Relationships are broken out of jealousy or neglect. Relationships are sometimes broken from religious or political differences—or our values begin to change.

I am sure there are those who feel that, I, in my role as pastor, have neglected or ignored them—or the decisions of the church were not pleasing in their sight. My hope and prayer is that each member will take the month of January and seek to rectify broken relationships—seeking forgiveness and reconciliation—granting forgiveness and bringing about peace. Maybe you need to make a phone call or send a note—but reach out this month... and In Jesus’ Name, be reconciled with all.

Pastor Ed

PS Several have asked me about my retirement . . . my last Sunday in the pulpit will be June 12. The new pastor will take over July 1 . . . sometime in January or early February, the Bishop will announce the new pastor. Please be in prayer for our District Superintendents and Bishop as they discern the best choice for UUMC.



2-3

Greeters • Planning Session

4-5

Children • Youth •
Thanks

6-7

New Athens UMC •
Forum • Journey

8-9

Parish Nurse • Visitors
Schedule

10

Music Tidings

Third Wednesdays 5:30 pm

United Methodist Men
Krause Room

Every Thursday 9:00 am
Ruth Circle Quilters –Stitchers
Krause Room

YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Quest Class meets every Sunday at 10:10 a.m. on the 4th Floor.

JUNIOR CHURCH

(Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
Junior Church is held during the 9:00 a.m. church service. Children are dismissed after the Children’s Story.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:10 A.M. – 11:15 A.M. –
Sunday School for Age 3 – 6th
Grade – Karen Frette Chil-
dren’s Floor – 2nd Floor
10:10 A.M. – 11:15 A.M. –
Sunday School for 7th – 12th
Grade – Youth Room – 1st
Floor

Sat, Jan 16, 8:30 am
McKinley Hall

Administrative Council Planning

SNOW /ICE CANCELLATION POLICY

It is rare that we cancel services or evening meetings due to snow. However, if the parking lot is treacherous due to excessive ice, worship or meetings may be cancelled.

We will send an email as soon as the decision is made, normally by 7:30 am on Sundays. We will post it on Facebook and our web page asap. We will try to put it on our church answering machine.

Our main concern is to protect people once they arrive on our property.



Tidings

Volume 60 Issue 1
Union United Methodist Church
721 East Main Street
Belleville, Illinois 62220
618-233-6375
sheri@unionumc.org

The Tidings is published bi-monthly. The copy deadline is generally on the second and fourth Mondays, 10:00 am, with only one issue printed in November. Contributors may attach copy to email or place it in the editor's mailbox in the church office.
lanecclass@gmail.com

Zona Ludlum, Editor
Rev. Ed Weston, Senior Pastor

SAVE THE DATE TOUCH OF CLASS DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2016 TICKETS ON SALE SOON

We are now accepting items: baskets, sports or entertainment tickets, and donations for the silent auction.



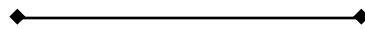
We will also be accepting fresh baked goods. We need to know in advance if you are donating baked goods, which can be brought to the church office on Friday, March 4, for display.

Other items should be brought to the church office during office hours with the pink donation receipt, or on Sunday mornings to the Welcome desk and complete the pink donation receipt form there. The deadline is **Friday, February 26, 2016.**

We have supplies to "finish" the baskets with clear bags, if you would like. We are asking church members, Sundayschool classes, youth parents, UMW Circles, UMMen, and other fellowship groups to contribute for the benefit of the youth mission trips.

Touch of Class is a great evening with a wonderful meal, the opportunity for a warm fellowship, and the possibility of going home with some unique items. Hope you will come and participate.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT TOC 2016 SILENT AUCTION COMMITTEE



Thank you to the United Methodist Women for providing wonderful cookies and for all your help with the annual Christmas Tea.



Thanks, too, to everyone who donated packaged cookies and powdered drink mix to the Lessie Bates Davis-Neighborhood House. They are very appreciative of your generosity!

Connie Stein

FLOODING UPDATE

If you would like to donate and be assured that every penny goes to relief, consider a gift to UUMC. Mark it "flood relief" and our Conference Disaster Team will use it to help those in greatest need. We will collect the next few weeks. Just put your gift in a plain envelope. Mark it FLOOD RELIEF. Make checks out to UUMC.

Pastor Ed

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PLANNING SESSION WILL BE ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 16 AT 8:30 AM TO 1:00 PM

The following committee members are encouraged to attend this meeting: Administrative Council Members, Trustees, Outreach, Worship, Evangelism, Nurture and Communication Committees.

We will gather for orientation, brainstorming and planning in McKinley Hall at 8:30 am. Then committees will meet separately at 10:30 am and the Administrative Council will hold their January meeting at 11:30 am.

If you are staying for lunch, cost is \$6 per person.

WELCOMING THE STRANGER: DIFFICULT AND NECESSARY

The arrival in Europe of massive numbers of Middle Eastern refugees is causing crises for humanitarian organizations and churches as well as for governments. At such a time, scripture draws us to **Matthew 25:35b: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me," Jesus said** in a sermon about the behavior he expects of those whose lives reflect the grace and love of God.

The thousands of displaced persons pouring out of Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and various parts of Africa into Europe put a tremendous strain on regional and global economics, political and social systems, and human compassion. Christians know our responsibility: Welcome the stranger, and that can be a tough mandate, difficult and risky, demanding of sober realism, and also full of potential for new insights and understandings about human and cultural relations.

From Global Ministries, United Methodist Church

See more at: <http://www.umcmmission.org/learn-about-us/news-and-stories/2015september/0911welcomingthestranger#sthash.0fHOhyq0.dpuf>

UNION UMC GREETERS SCHEDULE

JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP AFTER WORSHIP IN MCKINLEY HALL.

Date	Narthex	Welcome Center	East Main
Jan. 17	Virginia Voelkel Kathryn Grissom	Phil and Barb Elmore	Jack and Carolyn Burke
Jan. 24	Sheri Hill	Jack Griffith	Michael Munie
Jan. 31	Barbara Edwards	John and Deanna Graham	Joe and Janet Lanius
Feb. 7	Debbie Fietsam	Nancy Weston	Dale and Jane Helms
Feb. 14	Tom Wade	Jerry and Margaret Turner	Bob and Heidi Dee
Feb. 21	Zona Ludlum	Devery and Bette Miller	Tom and Betty Sheeler
Feb. 28	Jane Bonaldi	Gary and Marvina Lee	John and Linda Gray

THANK YOU to all who helped decorate and then 'un-decorate' the facility for our Christmas season—the building looked warm, inviting and beautiful. Thanks for sharing your talents!

THANK YOU to our Horticulture Club who recently assisted in the replacement of lights in McKinley Hall. The new LEDs are more cost efficient, brighter and seldom need replacing— as well as being dimmable!

PASTORAL TRANSITION

As you know, I will be retiring June 12 – my last Sunday at UUMC. The Staff-Parish Committee has submitted a detailed profile and need list to our Bishop and District Superintendents. They will be meeting and making the appointment soon. We do not "hire" our appointed UM pastors. Once the committee has met with the DS, they will announce the new pastor who will "take over" July 1, 2016.

Important note: It is our policy as UM Pastors to not "come back" to do weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc. I have to abide by my covenant with the other clergy in our annual conference. After July 1, I will be a guest at UUMC, but not the pastor or officiant. I hope you will understand and abide by our church policies.

Pastor Ed



**MOPS/MOMSnext
(MOTHERS OF INFANTS
THROUGH FOURTH GRADE,
MOTHERS OF
PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN)**

We will meet on Wednesday, January 27 from 5:15 pm until 7:45. Dinner with your children in McKinley Hall will be from 5:15 pm until 5:45. Dinner will be Subway and is \$5.00 per mom. Mom time will start at 5:45 pm until 7:45. The topic for January is Embrace Rest - Stress. We hope you can join us!

Please contact **Geri Mueth** at unionumcmops@gmail.com or **Donna Shock** at donna@unionumc.org for more information.



**SCOUT SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 7, 2016**



Boy Scout Troop 53 along with the United Methodist Men will have their annual pancake breakfast immediately following the 9:00 service on February 7.

All Cub Scouts are invited to join us to participate. Jim Maule, 670-2565.



KIDS-ON-THE-GO

(Kids from First through Fourth grades)

KOTG's lock in is on Friday, January 29 - Saturday, January 30 from 7:30 pm until 9:00 am. The evening will be fun-filled with games, making cards for Valentine's Day for the UMW and watching movies. Please be sure your child eats dinner before coming to church. We will be having snacks and drinks. On Saturday morning, we will be having pancakes for breakfast. Please RSVP by Sunday, January 24 so I can make sure we have enough materials and food - donna@unionumc.org.

Miss Donna

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE: FRANKLIN SCHOOL
TUTORING PROGRAM**

Franklin Neighborhood House offers an after-school tutoring program for Franklin School students who are in first through sixth grades.

One hour tutoring takes place at Franklin School on Mondays at 3:00 pm. Tutors usually have only one student. Materials and supervision are provided. A new session will begin in January 2016.

Email Franklin Neighborhood Association at fnca118@yahoo.com for more information or how to enroll.

THANK YOU TO UUMC FOR TOYS FOR TOTS DONATIONS

A big thanks to the UUM congregation for their donated toys. At both Union and Journey, the number of toys "blew away" collection levels experienced at other locations.

Even more impressive is that those toys were well thought out to address all ages. If people wonder if the toys matter, read this: a coworker of mine who does charity work in East St Louis helps distribute the toys and toys make a huge impact for kids who would otherwise receive nothing.

My wife and several friends work in the schools where they help match students with organizations who facilitate the toy distribution. To see the reactions from those families whose parents or guardians are barely scraping by makes our effort totally worthwhile. It is hard to tell who appreciates receiving the toys more, the kids or the parents/guardians

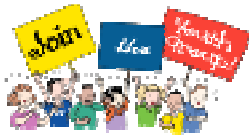
Charles Knowles,

Marines contact ,

Toys for Tots

PS from Pastor Ed: At least ten families in Belleville were direct recipients of our gifts!





JUNIOR YOUTH SCHEDULE

All youth entering the fifth grade are invited to join us at 6:00 pm in McKinley Hall. Schedule subject to change.

01.17.16 Discussion and Charades

01.24.16 Games and Discussion

01.31.16 Discussion and Dodge Ball

February 2016

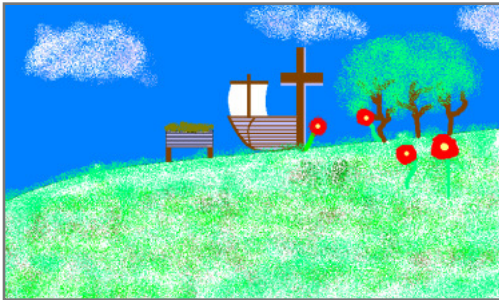
02.07.16 Games and Discussion

02.14.16 Valentine's Day Party; snacks will be provided.

2.21.16 Discussion and Dodge Ball

YOUTH AND CHILDREN WILL PRESENT A MUSICAL WORSHIP: *THE LEGEND OF THE THREE TREES IN THE SPRING*

The children of the church along with Joyful Noise and the Youth Choir will present a musical legend by Allen Pote with lyrics by Tom S. Long on April 24 at both the 9:00 and 11:15 worship services.



All the children and youth of the church are invited to participate. It is not necessary for participants to be in any of our choirs. All are welcome from first grade through twelfth.

The musical has both singing and speaking for a large number of children from first grade through high school. Some of the music will be learned in Joyful Noise and Youth Choir rehearsals on Sundays, but Saturday morning rehearsals will be necessary in late March and April. All those participating are welcome to rehearse with the choirs at any time.

Please mark the presentation date and Saturdays in mid-March and April on your calendars so your children can enjoy rehearsing and presenting this musical for worship with us. A meeting date will be announced later in the Tidings and scripts and schedules will be given out at the first meeting. Questions? Contact Julie Petraborg.

January 30 the Optimist Club of Belleville is sponsoring a night with the stars—if interested, we can get a table for eight -- tickets are \$30 each -- payable to Ed Weston who needs to turn in my order by Tuesday, January 19 noon. Please let me know by Monday January 18. Ticket includes small buffet from 6:30 - 7:15; Elvis, Patsy Kline and Buddy Holly impersonators.

Pastor Ed

**Sunday, January 17 -- 10:00 am
BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING -- McKinley Hall**



Union UMC is fielding a volleyball team again this year; games start on January 25. Those of you who are interested in playing with us, contact me (618-210-6045 or John.Gardiner.Family@gmail.com)

Games are played at First Presbyterian Church.

John Gardiner

THE NEXT TIDINGS DEADLINES

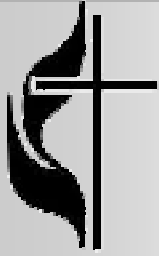
DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT EDITIONS ARE
January 25, 2016 and
February 8

HOSPITAL REMINDER

When you check into Memorial or St E's hospitals, be sure to let them know you are from UUMC.

Our Administrative Assistant calls each morning so we know who is in from our church. If you are going in for surgery, or anytime you will be going to St Louis hospitals, be sure to call the church office beforehand, as they normally do NOT notify us.

Our normal hospital visitation schedule is: Monday—Pastor Ed
Tues—Parish Nurse Carol Tucker
Wed-- Pastor Doug
Thurs—Pastor Jay
Friday—Pastor Ed



New Athens UMC

201 S. CLINTON ST
NEW ATHENS, IL
618-475-2000

DOUG STEWART,
PASTOR

Communion first Sunday
of every month

Administrative Board Meeting:
January 17, 2016, following
Worship

New Bible Study
"How God Builds Your Faith"
begins January 20, 2016 at 6:30 pm

WMF Meeting,
January 21, 2016 at 6:30 pm

CESNA Work day
January 30, 2016

January Greeters:

3-JoAnn Ritter and Lisa Phelps
10-Wanda Nash family
17-Deborah Winkelmann
24-Kevin and Jo D Fritsche
31-Kim Hampton family

January Ushers:

Jim and Juanita Ozier

January Liturgists:

3-Reba Jones
10-Jim Ozier
17-John Ervin
24-Cathy Oliver
31-Mary Van Hoose

FREE MOVIE NIGHT: *WAR ROOM*

Miss Reba Jones, our "movie host," will be showing the movie *War Room* January 22, 2016. If you have not seen this movie, now is your chance. Bring the family and bring your friends; everyone is invited . . . popcorn and soft drinks are free. *Note: This movie is geared more toward teens and adults.

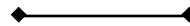
UPPER ROOM

I would like to share an email that I received from Dorothy Hacker on January 8 at 12:03 PM: "Barbara, at the start of a new year I want to mention again *The Upper Room* devotional provided for— it seems like forever, our church. It has been and still is one way of feeling God's love for us each and every day, in such personal ways. I can't imagine it not helping us through our lives each day, one by one. If you know of any who failed to remember to get theirs, it is not too late to start now and if you can't be there, just tell someone else to see that you have it. For me, this and the hymns have a message always available for everyone. Happy and Blessed New Year, Dorothy Hacker"

The Upper Room Daily Devotional Booklets are located by the bulletin board in the Narthex. Pick one up for yourself or to give to someone who you feel may need one. Thank you, Miss Dorothy!

VISIONS FOR 2016

Board Chairperson would like everyone to think and pray about "Visions for 2016" and be ready to discuss and suggest their ideas after the Board Meeting on January 17, 2016. So, write your thoughts down and bring your "visions" with you.



Winter Warm Up—Support for the Christian Center for the month of January is: coffee, hot cocoa, tea, sugar and creamer.

The WMF also has some greeting cards for sale in the Fellowship Hall. The Price? A donation to the WMF Cause!

WMF also sells RADA knives and other products to raise funds to help support their missions . . . Ask one of the ladies about RADA products . . . the more you buy the more they can give!

January Birthdays

3-Evan Fritsche
5-Mary Hawkins
6-Jeff Idecker
8-Reba Jones
15-Casey Petrowich
16-Gage Fritsche
21-Carolyn Allwood-Helen Fleming-Trudy Petrowich
24-Alyssa Petrowich
25-Sara Petrowich
29-Jeanne Jansen-Laurel Ruhmann-

Wanda Nash-Elizabeth Nash.

January Anniversaries

11-Ron and Renda Chase

Thought from Reverend Doug during his Sermon January 3, 2016:
"Stay focused on God's ways."

Happy New Year Everyone!

Barb Marcus



JOURNEY UMC CHURCH
PASTOR HOLLY WOOD
900 NORTH STATE STREET
FREEBURG, ILLINOIS 618-971-7382

Journey UMC: What's Happening in Freeburg

We have a new ministry—Feed the Kids—helping Freeburg families who have children at the Primary Center (school) who are receiving free or reduced lunches. The past two weeks, people have donated food items and packed bags that teachers are discreetly giving select kids on Friday afternoons before they go home for the weekend. A recent meeting brought support from St Paul UCC in Freeburg, who will be taking on two weeks per month. Two other churches are considering getting involved. Please be in prayer for this ministry.

For the past several years, I've wondered what exactly I'm supposed to be doing spiritually during Advent and Lent? I had this general feeling of looking forward to Advent because it was leading up to the "fun" of Christmas, but that seemed really shallow.

After all the bad news items of 2015, I REALLY looked forward to Advent this past year. I felt a real longing for Jesus to come back NOW. I found myself asking God, "Exactly how much are you going to put up with? When are you going to say ENOUGH IS ENOUGH? Why must we endure this? Why can't we just get it over with and just come be with you in Heaven?"

I even found myself singing a song I didn't particularly like: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." Now let me explain. I didn't like the song because the melody seems *dark* instead of *happy*. But for the first time I got it! We live in a dark world, but the words of this song express the *longing* and *hope* that I was feeling. (If you don't remember the words, ask my friend Mr. Google - that's the joke in our house - and he will help you.)

But an indirect Facebook post by a pastor in Missouri actually enlightened me as to why we are still here. We know God loves us. But he loves EVERYBODY. And not EVERYBODY is ready to go to Heaven yet. They don't know they are loved or they haven't accepted it yet. He really wants EVERYONE to go to Heaven so he is giving them many chances.

After Christmas each year, it seems depressing to turn off the sparkly lights and put away all the decorations. It's like we're packing up all that hope and putting it away for another year.

I don't get into resolutions in particular, but here are some challenges for the new year . . .

- † Pray that God would draw everyone closer to him.
- † Help us to see and love others and ourselves as God sees and loves us.
- † Pray that God would help us to reflect his love, light, and salt in the world.
- † Keep that Christmas "feeling" alive by rejoicing in being loved and by sharing that love with others.

Cathy O.



Every Sunday:

8:45 am
 Worship;
 Gospel Project for
 Children

9:30 am;
Fellowship Time
in the Garden of Eatin';

10:00 am
 Worship;
 Gospel Project for Children;

6:30 pm
 Junior and Senior High Youth
 Groups (meeting separately)

7:30 pm

Looking Ahead:
January 30: Men's breakfast,
9:00 am

**THE FORUM CLASS BEGAN A
 STUDY: RELIGION AND SCIENCE
 JANUARY 3, 2016:
 IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN US**

The Methodist position says, "We find that science's descriptions of cosmological, geological, and biological evolution are not in conflict with theology." Yet Christians struggle with seeming contradictions between what science says and what we learned in Sunday school.

Some suggest this struggle has resulted in the loss of young people in our congregations. I will lead a discussion examining these issues, assisted by Steve Patrick.

Bill Morey

THE MIRIAM CIRCLE . . .

will meet in the Krause Room on January 22 at 1:00 pm.

Sandy Kuehn and Faith Lehr will hostess and Alice Gyerman will present the program. Everyone is welcome.

Marvina Lee

LOOKING FOR A SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS?

The Forum Class is busy and exciting. We are presently in a study, led by Bill Morey, on Science and Religion.

We not only meet, study and discuss, but we are busy with other projects. Last year, we gave a memorial gift of \$150.00 in honor of Dr. Eryn Adams to further his ministry. We also gave a gift of \$150.00 to our food pantry. In December, we presented a check for \$1000.00 to support the wonderful work done by Beacon. This was started by a generous gift of \$500 from Margaret and Bob Blinn.

We are a class of all ages and thoughts with the common goal of living for Christ.

Come and join us!

Colleen Krause

(More class information third column p. 7)



PARISH NURSE NOTES: FLU VACCINES

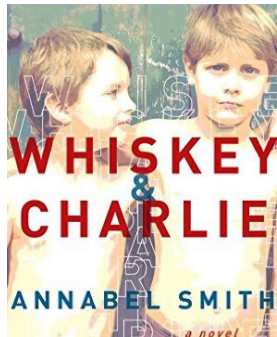
On the day after Christmas, I read an article about a four year old girl who lived in Florida. Seems she was fighting for her life after having been exposed to the flu. I read that she had initially been a healthy four-year old and she had danced in her school Christmas play. However, later her family said that she became pale, felt and looked ill, and her hands and feet were cold to the touch. Her parents were going to take her to see her doctor, but decided to go to the emergency room. In the ER she was diagnosed with the flu. However, while there, she had a cardiac arrest. After trying to revive her and after medical personnel gave her CPR for forty-five minutes, she was placed on a life support machine. Can you imagine what her family was going through?

On the Sunday before Christmas her parents notified their family and friends to pray for the daughter. They received their Christmas miracle! Her heart began to beat on its own! This precious little girl did not need a heart transplant. Her parents had never taken her to get a flu shot! They later said they did not think of the flu as a "serious illness." But now they do! Now they encourage all parents to get their children vaccinated against influenza.

Children, as well as adults, die from flu. Our Walgreen's pharmacy reported that it is not too late to get your flu shot this season." The shots are available through March. I hope we do not have a bad flu season this year. God's Blessings to each of you!

Your Parish Nurse,

Carol



BOOK CLUB MEETING WILL BE ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, AT 10:30 IN THE KRAUSE ROOM
The book to be discussed is *Whiskey and Charlie* by Annabel Smith. Whiskey and Charlie might have come from the same family, but they'd tell you two completely different stories about growing up.

Whiskey is everything Charlie is not – bold, daring, carefree – and Charlie blames his twin brother for always stealing the limelight, always getting everything, always pushing Charlie back. By the time the twins reach adulthood, they are barely even speaking to each other. But as the brothers grew up, they grew apart.

When Charlie hears that Whiskey has been in a terrible accident and has slipped into a coma, Charlie can't make sense of it. Who is he without Whiskey? As days and weeks slip by and the chances of Whiskey recovering grow ever more slim, Charlie is forced to consider that he may never get to say all the things he wants to say. A compelling and unforgettable novel about rivalry and redemption, *Whiskey & Charlie* is perfect for anyone whose family has ever been less than picture-perfect.

Bonnie Holweck

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

The Food Pantry is doing well. We had the Boy Scout Food Drive just before Thanksgiving on a dreary, cold and very rainy Saturday! We didn't get a lot of food, but we still had some left from the Belleville District 118 Food



Drive. We also received a bag of food from the Deborah Circle!

In November, we received monetary donations from Linda Moyer, Sandie No-

bus, George Barron, the Inmans, the Bloomers, Jerry Sauerwein, Lindsey Lester-Brutscher, Kurt Tegtmeier, Ann Braun, Virginia Voelkel, Sue Davis, United Methodist Women, Belleville Township, the Heidenreichs, Geraldine Thomas and Hester Vessel.

December donations came from Robert Brunkow, the Verdoorns, the Inmans, the Baysingers, Jerry Sauerwein, Sue Davis, Lindsey Lester-Brutscher, Linda Moyer, the Barrons, the Heidenreichs, Gerri Farmer, the Lehrs, the Belleville Masonic High 12 Club. Kathryn Grissom, the Bloomers, Sandie Nobus, the Eltriches and Douglas Morton, Geraldine Thomas and the Seekers Sunday School Class.

Thanks to everyone who keeps the Food Pantry running: Sarah Lanxon for shopping, all the volunteers on Monday and Friday mornings and everyone who donates, and thank you to Dick Frette who always gets stuck with setting up for the food drives and any other necessary physical labor! THANKS!

Kay MacIntire

In light of the human suffering in our world, especially the current refugee crises, have we taken the scriptural commandments to love our neighbor as ourselves seriously? The second most important commandment says: *'Love others as much as you love yourself.'* No other commandment is more important than these." Mark 12:31

UNION UMC FIRST TIME VISITOR LIST FOR JAN/FEB

	<i>Primary Team</i>	<i>Alternate Team</i>
Jan 17	Dan and Laura Nollman	John and Linda Gray
Jan 24	Barb Edwards and Marlene Frazer	Don and Connie Stein
Jan 31	Mike and Julie Callaghan	John and Linda Gray
Feb 7	Don and Connie Stein	Dick Frette
Feb 14	Jerry and Lisa Koerkenmeier	Kent and Susan McVety
Feb 21	John and Linda Gray	Dan and Laura Nollman
Feb 28	Dick Frette	Barb Edwards and Marlene Frazer



*Thomas Alkire
Feb. 15, 1994-
Dec. 25, 2015*

I want to thank all my church family and friends for the kindnesses, the love, prayers, kind words, and caring thoughts along with the cards, offers of food and comfort in the loss of my wonderful

handsome twenty-one year-old grandson Thomas Winfred Alkire. I so appreciate the prayers and can truly feel them.

Please continue to keep my daughter Tracia and her family, son-in-law Bryan, and Thomas's three surviving brothers, Christian, Patrick and Joshua in your prayers as they recover from the shock and strive to deal with the tragic loss.

Terry Lynn Schau Schuchman



to all who sent cards of encouragement and get well.

I am sure I did so well after surgery and received good news from the doctor because of the prayers from the members of Union UMC.

Thank you Rev. Ed for your visits and prayers. One still to go. Thank you to all.

Mary Duncan



Union United Methodist Church
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Belleville, Illinois 62220
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**SPIRITUAL DECLUTTERING: A FRESH
START FOR A NEW YEAR**
A UMC.org Feature by Joe Iovino
December 31, 2015

One of the wonderful things about each new year is that it brings with it a sense of a new beginning, 365 days of promise and possibility.

Some use this time to bring freshness to their lives. They may decide to declutter the junk drawer, attic, or garage. It may also mean removing many of the sugars, fats, and carbohydrates from our diets.

As a United Methodist, parting with some things for a season, may help declutter your spiritual life. Doing so helps make room for a new movement of the Holy Spirit in the months to come. What might you set aside in the next year? a. free up wasted time to volunteer more; b. find a new pew for a season, new perspective, new people; c. read a different version of the scripture; d. join a new group, take a new class; e. banish negative thoughts. Let the Holy Spirit work in your life.



MUSIC TIDINGS

*"O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord,
all the earth! Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day."*

Psalm 96:1-2

9:00 am Sunday, January 17

Sanctuary Choir Anthem: "We Hope In Thee, O God" -J.S. Bach

Rev. Weston's sermon: "In the Pits" Psalms 40:1-3

Jubilation Handbells will ring.

10:15 am Pastor Jay Krumeich in the Chapel; Natalie Gravois, music

11:15 am Crosswalk in the Sanctuary

9:00 am Sunday, January 24

9:00 am Sanctuary Choir Anthem: "They'll Know We Are Christians" -Larson
With flute

Pastor Jay Krumeich preaching: First Corinthians 12

10:15 am Pastor Jay Krumeich in the Chapel; Natalie Gravois, music

11:15 am Crosswalk in the Sanctuary

Thank you to the United Methodist Women
for the lovely Christmas Tea
and to the Altars Guild and Worship Committee
for the beautiful decorations for Worship!



The next Union United Methodist Fine Arts Series Concert:
The University of Evansville Concert Choir
from Evansville, Indiana
Wednesday, February 24, 6:30 pm