



GUNNISONVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
EST. 1888
DECEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER
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Dear friends,

In the midst of all the festivities of the holiday season there are people for whom this is not a holly jolly time of year. Perhaps, they have just lost a job or are worried about how they are going to make ends meet this winter. Maybe, they are struggling with marital problems or have just endured the tragedy of divorce. Possibly, this is the first Christmas after the death of a loved one and they are grieving over that empty chair at the holiday table. For some, the idea of getting together with the family is troubling because of strained relationships and unresolved conflicts. For a variety of reasons this time of year can be incredibly depressing, especially when everyone else apparently is having such a great time. Perhaps that is how you are feeling this year.

So, we are offering a unique worship experience called *Blue Christmas*. This service is designed for people who for one reason or another are struggling to get through the holiday season.

We will acknowledge this pain, provide healing for aching hearts and offer words of hope. If you could use some help getting through the holidays, I invite you to come and receive encouragement and healing. If you know people who could benefit from this, let them know about this opportunity. I encourage you to go a step further and offer to bring them to the service so that you can be there for them.

You have two opportunities to participate in this worship service:

At 6:00 on Sunday evening, December 13th at the Bath church.

OR

At 7:00 on Wednesday evening, December 16th at the Gunnisonville church.



Remember the promise of the beloved carol, *O Little Town of Bethlehem*: It is in the dark streets that the everlasting light of God's love shines!

Your pastor,
Mark

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

06 Carolann Cochran
08 Marlene Walker
08 John Swanson
11 Berniece Ramsay
13 Paula Cox

21 Nathan Reed
21 Madisyn Reed
21 Jean Johnson
22 Shannon Balzer Proctor
30 Bernice Green

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

16 Charles & Eloise Fritz

19 Ron & Johanna Balzer

DECEMBER HOSTESSES

06 Darlinda Van Etten
20 Lois Baumer

13 Laurel Headley
27 Florence Hartman

DECEMBER 1 Disciple Bible Study 7:00 at Balzer's 3450 Clark Rd.

DECEMBER 06

Heifer Sunday 9:15 (Wear your farm clothes)
Women's Christmas Tea 2:00 TO 4:00PM. Invitation on page 3.

DECEMBER 09 SERVICE CLUB

The Service Club will meet on Wednesday, December 9 for the annual Christmas Party. We will gather at the church at 11:30 and carpool to Flap Jack restaurant for a 12:00 noon lunch. After lunch we will return to the church for dessert and an optional two dozen cookie exchange and an optional \$5.00 gift exchange.

Administrative Board Meeting at 7:00PM

DECEMBER 13 6:00 PM.

Bath Blue Christmas Worship Service

DECEMBER 16 7:00 PM.

Gunnisonville Blue Christmas Worship Service

DECEMBER 20

9:15 AM Adult choir Christmas Cantata "The Love of God"
4:00 PM Birthday Potluck
5:30 PM Children's Christmas Program

DECEMBER 24

5:30 PM Bath Christmas Eve Service
7:00 PM Gunnisonville Christmas Eve Service

SCHEDULING OF CHURCH EVENTS:

To schedule any events, please call Florence Hartman at 333-3616

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Sunday the 20th of December 2009



Come join us for an afternoon full of memories, laughter, oodles of fun and of course, tea! The Historical Committee will host the Women's Christmas Tea Sunday, December 6, 2009 From 2 to 4 pm at Gunnisonville United Methodist Church.

THANK YOU

Thanks to my friends at Gunnisonville for their calls, cards and love they have shown to me since my fall. All of my family appreciates the help and love you show for my Mom too. Jane Casler

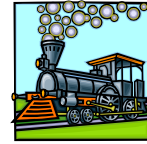
CHRISTMAS



GREETINGS

The Caring Committee would like to send Christmas greetings to John Swanson and to Ross Wilkinson who are out of the country during the holidays. Please place their name on the envelope of the card and hand it to Nancy Drolett by December 1st. She will box up the cards and take care of mailing them. If you have any questions please see Nancy.

Larry Swartz interview by Alta Reed.



As a child, Larry lived in Pennsylvania, but he and his mother moved frequently keeping up with his father who was serving in the military.

When he finally decided to put down roots, he moved to Center Road in Bath Township. At that time he was working at WKAR TV for Michigan State University as their Community Public Relations person.

Norma was his high school sweetheart and they were married fifty one years. They had three children, two sons and a daughter. Larry now enjoys two grandchildren, a boy and a girl.

Larry received a Doctors Degree from Syracuse University in 1967 in radio and television and started his own business, "America by Rail" in 1984. His two sons also work in the business. He was the first chairman of the Amtrak Advisory Committee from 1997 to 2002.

His summers are spent at his home in Presque Isle. He plays golf and with one of his sons enjoys classical music.

Larry became a Christian forty years ago on October 30, 1969. He speaks of the warmth and friendliness found at Gunnisonville and likes that the church is involved in the community with so many activities. We are all so glad to know him.

On Sunday, October 11, twelve walkers and nine rockers participated in the Greater Lansing CROP Walk for hunger. About 30 members plus many outside donors supported the efforts of these walkers/rockers as their financial sponsors. Due to the great generosity of these sponsors our walkers/rockers were able to raise \$3,012.00.

As most of you know, Pastor Mark challenged Gunnisonville and Bath that he would shave off his beard if the two churches could raise \$4,000. The Greater Lansing CROP Walk Committee also set a challenge of a \$50.00 bonus to all churches that raised \$100 or more than they had in 2008. They also offered a \$50 bonus to each church that sent a representative to their September CROP Walk Recruiter Rally. Pastor Mark generously offered to go as the representative for Gunnisonville.

Both churches met the goals for the bonuses. Gunnisonville's total was \$3,112, Bath's was \$896 for a grand total of \$4,008. On Sunday, November 15, Pastor Mark honored his challenge by having Ron Balzer shave off half of his beard, the other half to be done by Bath.

On behalf of the Mission/CROP Walk Committee we want to thank all of you who made this possible. Because of you many lives will be touched and the presence of God felt. THANK YOU!!!



Ron & Mark

Halfway there

Before



At Bath



After

The following is an essay written by Jamie Boyle nominating Ande Glasmacher for the *Women Who Inspire Award* sponsored by "Women Working Wonders" a division of the Sparrow Foundation. There were 50 women nominated from the mid-Michigan area. Ten

finalists were chosen and brought together for the award ceremony at the Lansing Center on November 11. Three winners were chosen from the ten and Ande was the first winner. Jamie's essay was read by radio host Monica Harris to a group of approximately 300 guests.

I would like to nominate a friend of mine for the Women Who Inspire Award. Her name is Ande Glasmacher. The way that Ande inspires is through her attitude, her education and accomplishments when faced with events that could cripple many families. Starting with education, Ande sets an extraordinary example for young girls interested in a degree in science, with her PhD in Cosmic Ray Physics. Her scientific background and research skills particularly, played a specific roll in helping a small segment of population across the world. Her oldest daughter was diagnosed as an infant with Aicardi Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder. There are estimates of 800 cases in the U.S., and several thousand world-wide. This syndrome has left Astrid, a beautiful little girl who loves music, bound to a wheelchair, using feeding tubes, having frequent respiratory failures, and seizures. Upon the diagnosis, Ande became a full-time "stay at home" mother, and tried to understand her daughter's prognosis and future. She found that there was very little information or up-to-date research on this rare condition. Ande then took on the task of gathering research, and submitting a paper to various medical journals. The end product, authored by Ande and several others, is "Phenotype and Management of Aicardi Syndrome: New finding from a survey of 69 Children", published in the Journal of Child Neurology, 2007. Now Doctors and families have a more up to date study to use in projecting the prognosis of other children diagnosed with Aicardi. Ande also maintains the website for families of Aicardi patients. In every way, Ande is an advocate for her daughter.

Astrid is not the only daughter of Ande and Thomas. They also have Ursula (in 1st grade), and Jaana, who is a preschooler. Her daughters are known to explore the backyard full of wonder, barefoot and happy. They both have a curiosity in the world that may make them future scientists, too. When Ursula was doing so well after a few months with violin lessons, Ande started to pick up this skill, too. Between the violin and the contra dancing that Ande does with her girls, the house is full of music.

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Most of all, it is attitude, that sets Ande apart from many women I know. Her faith seems ever present. She is book smart, and full of common sense, too. Ande conquers life with a smile and looks to other activities on top of it; such as co-chairing committees through church and working from home as an independent database and programming specialist.

This past year has added another challenge for the family to face. Ande was diagnosed with Ocular Cancer. Although this must be scary, Ande has responded with humor and research. Besides seeking out the best oncologist for this cancer, she has taken up dietary and lifestyle changes to keep the cancer at bay.

With all that she's done with the first 30+ years of her life, I can't wait to see what she does in the next 40-50 years.



Dear Lord,
So far today I've done all right. I haven't gossiped or lost my temper. I haven't been greedy or grumpy, nasty or selfish or overindulgent. And I am very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, God, I am going to get out of bed, and from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot more help!
From Terry Teykl's book *How to Pray After You've Kicked the Dog.* 6

THYME IN A GARDEN
By Lorna Coulter



One of the things I like about growing herbs is that they are longer lasting in the garden landscape. They remain a vibrant and fragrant part of my garden after many frosts. Even though the flowers are gone I still get a lot of enjoyment from the herbs. Christmas Joy Tussie Mussie

You can just simply pick a handful of each herb, tie a piece of twine around the stems and hang upside down in your kitchen for daily use. They can be used to enhance soups, stews, pot roasts etc.... You get the picture.

This time of year my real enjoyment comes from using the remains of the herbs. One of these joys comes from making Tussie Mussies. I can hear you now “What in the world is a Tussie Mussie”? In the Victorian era the Language of Flowers added fascination to the little bouquets lovers’ exchange. And the giving and receiving of Tussie Mussies became a craze. A Tussie Mussie or “talking bouquet” or “word poesy” as it was called is a circular nosegay whose fragrant herbs and flowers carry a message in the Language of Flowers----love, condolence, good luck or a variety of other sentiments.

Tussie Mussies have been a part of human experience forever, it seems. The ancients delighted in them; to Aztec warriors they were as indispensable as their weapons. In Medieval Europe people carried tussies as protection against the plague.

To some plants and flowers a persistent meaning has been ascribed over the ages. Rosemary is understood to signify remembrance and constancy. Lilies suggest purity. Ivy, fidelity. Laurel—victory and roses, love.

I actually have a Tussie Mussie recipe book. It has a recipe for every occasion. Since I don’t always have the correct flowers I often create my own. My current favorite is bittersweet, sage, lavender, curry and thyme.

They are so easy to assemble: Collect herbs from the garden and arrange them as you pick them. Take a small wire or rubber band to secure the herbs and flowers. Bring inside to a work table and trim stems and remove excess leaves. Wrap a small piece of foil around the base and cover it with green floral tape, stretching and squeezing it together. Cut a small hole in the center of a small paper doily, insert the Tussie Mussie and gently pull the wrapped stems through the hole. I attach floral tape to the underside of the doily and wrap the doily and stem together. For a finished touch you can tie a pretty ribbon on the stem, leaving the ends long creating streamers or tie on heavy binder twine for a different effect.

Call me if you would like a hands on demonstration.

1. Twelve months _____
2. Alike _____
3. Large town _____
4. Warmth _____
5. Grows on your head _____
6. Part of a flower _____
7. Money _____
8. Divide with someone _____
9. Water vapor _____
10. Male sheep _____
11. A seat _____
12. Our planet _____
13. Bashful _____
14. Holds up a sail _____
- 15 Long tailed rodent _____



Use only the letters in Merry Christmas to find a word for each definition.

Barbara and Bridget
 Wish God's Blessing to all of you
 For a wonderful Christmas

The 25th of December is Bridget's
 First birthday.

