Dear Church Family,

Dietary experts have been telling us for years that the nutritional content in iceberg lettuce is sparse. The news was unwelcome for those of us in the habit of choosing the mild-flavored lettuce as a mainstay in our salads.

I found this information especially disconcerting when trying to enjoy certain high-calorie meals. Before chowing down on steak or pasta, I liked to think I was at least opening my meal in a healthy manner—with an iceberg lettuce-based salad. Alas, it wasn’t so.

So, like many of you, I am developing a taste for the deeper greens of kale, collards and spinach. As you likely know, the darker greens contain more nutrition. Also, I am told that the darker greens have more staying power when sautéed or otherwise cooked in recipes.

As there many varieties of leafy vegetables, so there are many approaches to the season of Lent. There is what we might call the “iceberg lettuce” approach to Lent. With this approach we tinker a bit around the edges of our lives. We make minor adjustments. We feel better because we have done something that is connected in our minds to the season of Lent. Indeed, anything we do is likely better than doing nothing at all. Iceberg lettuce is better for us than pork rinds.

But Lent also offers us the opportunity to go deeper. The process of going deeper may at first have a bitter taste. But the real purpose of Lent is to move us toward changes that are substantive and lasting. We do not need a temporary season of extra good behavior to make God love us more than He already does. God already loves us as completely as can be.

Let us focus on the permanent changes God may be calling us to make. Lasting changes prepare the heart to experience the love of God and the joy of Resurrection life more completely. The power derived from these blessings equips us to live for God throughout the year.

Blessings in Christ,

Paul
Worship & Sunday School Times
Services: Sunday: 8:30 & 11:00 am
Youth and Children Sunday School: 9:45 am
Discipleship Hour: 9:45 am

OFFERINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February</th>
<th>General Fund</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>$ 9,044.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>$ 6,755.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th</td>
<td>$ 5,255.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th</td>
<td>$ 3,690.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 24,744.50</strong></td>
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ATTENDANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February</th>
<th>8:30 a.m.</th>
<th>11:00 a.m.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>51</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th</td>
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<td>60</td>
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<td>19th</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>61</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd (Ash Wed)</td>
<td>62 (7PM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>68</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td><strong>120</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On behalf of the Global Health Initiative of The United Methodist Church, thank you for your generous contribution of $12,790 to Imagine NO Malaria in 2011. Your gift is making a lifelong impact to entire families. When multiplied, it profoundly affects the health and livelihood of entire villages and communities. Your faith in action continues to "bring health to the sick" (Matthew 10:8). Nearly 1 million mosquito nets have been provided to vulnerable populations (children under 5 and pregnant women). Thousands of community health workers have been trained to teach families about malaria, proper net usage and other prevention measures. In-country health boards have been established to ensure greater levels of accountability and oversight of malaria programs. We are grateful for your support and also ask that you will continue to pray for the children suffering from malaria in Africa, and that you will pray that the hearts and minds of people of The United Methodist Church will continue to be opened by this life-saving ministry.

Gary R. Henderson, Executive Director

Thank you for your gift of $3,150 (January 2012) to Imagine NO Malaria, a program of The United Methodist Church. Your generous contribution will help to save lives and improve the health and livelihood of entire villages and communities for generations to come. We are boldly stepping out in faith to eliminate deaths caused by malaria— a preventable, treatable and beatable disease. We are recognizing that we must take the next step beyond bed nets, to also fund the training of community health care workers, development and rehabilitation of United Methodist hospitals and clinics in Africa, and malaria prevention and education programs. Thank you for helping to light the path we are traveling on towards a world free of pain and suffering caused by malaria.

Bishop Thomas Bickerton, Chairperson of Global Health Initiative

The Mt Calvary Lutheran Food Pantry needs our donations. The food pantry is in need of 1 lb. canned hams this month. The donation box is located by the main doors. The pantry distribution day is on the first Tuesday of every month.

Thank you for your continued support of the pantry!

Food Pantry

The April LINK will be mailed on Friday, April 6th. All articles are due by April 2nd.

Thank you!
"The Journey: Forgiveness, Restorative Justice, Reconciliation"
Illinois River District UMW Mini Mission
University United Methodist Church

UUMC UMW is privileged to host the Illinois River District UMW Mini Mission "The Journey: Forgiveness, Restorative Justice, Reconciliation" **Monday, March 26.** We will need muffins and coffee cakes for the continental breakfast as well as kitchen help for breakfast and lunch. Contact Renee Kilduski, 383-4597 or kilduski@yahoo.com or Linda Millen, 691-6854 or tchkids2@sbcglobal.net if you can help either by contributing food or working in the kitchen. All UMW members are invited to attend. If you are interesting in participating in the Mini Mission, contact Barb Gurtler, 692-7514 or bbgurtler@sbcglobal.net.

**Reading Group March topic – Nurturing for Community**
9:45 a.m., Sunday, March 18, *open to the entire UUMC membership*
The books for the March discussion are the *IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS* by Rebecca Skloot, *I AM NUJOOD, AGE 10 AND DIVORCED* by Nujood Ali and *SAME KIND OF DIFFERENT AS ME* by Ron Hall, Denver Moore, Lynn Vincent. Each book chronicles a life of hardship and causes the reader to consider how and when society and individuals should get involved. All the books are available from the UMW library located in the conference room, most are in circulation at Peoria area libraries and readily available for purchase at local and on-line retailers.

**Successful Chicken Noodle Carryout!**
Once again, the great tradition of the Chicken Noodle carryout at UUMC was a big success. Thanks to all the hard work of the women of Ruth and Priscilla Circles and thanks to the entire congregation for your enthusiastic support of this annual UMW fundraiser.

**Agape Meal – a special time together in preparation for Easter**
Please join with UMW members and their guests for an Agape Meal in preparation for Holy Week and the celebration of Easter on Thursday evening, March 29 in the Dining Room. UMW members are asked to bring finger foods to share. Watch the Sunday worship bulletin for details.

**Mark your calendars for Blanket Sunday, March 11**
Blankets+ is a special mission opportunity for all ages. Some 8,00 congregations and groups across the US hold Church World Service (CWS) Blankets+ events, providing funds to help people in need around the world, including the US. For over 60 years CWS has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future including: Blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster; tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields; wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens; and literacy training and microcredit of women struggling to realize their potential. UUMC members and friends will have the opportunity to make gifts supporting Blankets+ on **Sunday, March 11**. A blanket costs $5; can YOU give one, two or more blankets? On March 11th let's blanket the world with love!

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 12</td>
<td>UMW Board meeting, 6:30 p.m., Room 201</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>UMW Reading Group, 9:45 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>Priscilla Circle, 7 p.m., Memorial Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 26</td>
<td>Illinois Rivers District UMW Mini Mission, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., University United Methodist Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>Agape Dinner, Dining Room, UMW members are asked to bring finger foods to share. Please invite a guest to attend this meaningful evening in preparation for Holy Week.</td>
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</table>

**COFFEE HOURS and GREETERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Circle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>Priscilla Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>Ruth Circle</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Couples Group will meet Sunday, March 18th, 5:30 p.m. @ Leslie & Randy Gerdt's home for a St. Patty's potluck. Please bring something green to eat!
Thank you to all of our volunteers!

Coffee Hour
March 4th Coffee/Conversation Gene Mace, Leader
March 11th Ad Council Doyle Long, Chairperson
March 18th Finance Debbie Burrows, Chairperson
March 25th UMW Priscilla Circle

Our sincerest condolences to Bev Garrett and her family upon the passing of John last month. His kindness and gentle spirit will be greatly missed.

Peoria CROP Hunger Walk 2012
Join us in the Greater Peoria CROP Walk!
This volunteer based community event will raise money to support local and global anti-hunger efforts! 75% of funds raised will support: Church World Service, the ecumenical relief and development agency in over 80 countries. 25% of funds raised will support: The agencies of the Peoria Anti-Hunger Coalition.

Where: Proctor Fitness Trail, 5409 N. Knoxville, Peoria, IL
When: April 29, 2012 with Registration @ 1:15 PM and Step-Off @ 1:45 PM

How: Send a “Recruiter” from your church or group to the Recruiters Rally on Monday, March 19, 2012 at Peoria First Church of the Brethren, 4717 N. Sheridan Ave., Peoria, IL at 7:00 PM. At the Rally, the recruiter will receive registration forms, flyers, bulletin inserts, videos, posters, educational materials … everything you need to promote the CROP Hunger Walk in your church or organization! Once walkers have a registration form, they can gather sponsors, online or in person, and bring it to the CROP Hunger Walk.

The Greater Peoria CROP Walk is one of nearly 2,000 CROP Hunger Walk nationwide, providing Church World Service with funds to support disaster relief and self-help development projects worldwide, as well as supporting local hunger-fighting agencies. We need your help to feed the 840 million impoverished people in the world.

For more information please call your local Planning Committee at 309-657-5147 Jyl Krause. Also visit www.churchworldservice.org and www.cropwalk.org

Our Annual Garage Sale
Yes it is time to start getting ready for our annual garage sale. It will be May 12, 2012 from 8AM to 2PM. We have a new item to add this year. We will be taking CLOTHES. Yes Clothes. We have a couple requests; it would be very helpful if there was a tag telling the size, slightly used would be appreciated. Of course we will take all the rest of your items too.

I will need extra help this year for both pricing all week and working the day of the sale. Any help will be appreciated. We don’t know what to expect with the clothes so the more help the better.

On Sunday May 6 after first service we will be setting up all the tables we can find. We would appreciate any of the men to stay a little after and help.

As you know the proceeds goes to our Mission Fund to help different originsations during the year. If you haven’t seen opening bell on Saturday morning it is a site to see. Please pray for a WARM SUNSHINE SPRING day so we will have lots of people to buy our treasures.

You may start bring items to the church on April 30th. Try to keep it organized behind the drapes in the dining room so it will hold more items. Please don’t block the tables.

Put that date of May 12th on your calendars and the week prior to donate your time and items for the sale. Thanks for all you do for our church.

Becky Rogers, Mission Committee

Prayer for family and friends
Jerett Fauser
Brian Kelly
Kathleen Dawson
Warren Watkins
Lucille Watkins
Ramona Carlyle
Barb Van Ormer
Bev Garrett & family
Dan Young

Forrest Hill United Methodist Church
March 4 700 Main St. Campus of First UMC
March 11 Madison Avenue UMC at Forrest Hill UMC
March 18 Mossville United Methodist Church
March 25 Bethel United Methodist Church
April 1 First United Methodist Church

Please note that on March 11 we will meet at Forrest Hill UMC due to concerns of safety for evening events at Madison Avenue, but Madison Avenue will be in charge of the service. Worship begins at 6:30 PM.
### March 2012

**Birthdays This Month**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tues</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thurs</th>
<th>Fri</th>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Kathy Frost</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cyd Henrikson</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Lois Alderman</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mae Brummer</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Sam Hannam</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Mary Arnold</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Carla Berg</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ron Wheeler</td>
<td>Ernie West</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Randy Gerdt</td>
<td>John Tay</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<td>27</td>
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<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beth Carlson</td>
<td>Jennifer Dawson-Tibbetts</td>
<td>Michelle Emerick</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jim Mosher</td>
<td>Jane Hamm</td>
<td>Juli Palka</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**March Anniversaries**

- Don & Nancie Smallberger | March 1
- Bill & Lynn Nebergall | March 6
- Virgilio & Mila Dacayo | March 8
- Dean & Kristy Worrell | March 8
- Dan & Evelyn Folk | March 10
- Bill & Sarah Cole | March 29
- John & Shirley Lane | March 31

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**Garrett Evangelical Corner**

We haven’t spoken of it much, but a number of annuities are available from Garrett-Evangelical, including “Gift Annuities”. Gift Annuities are a mutually beneficial gift, helping both you and the seminary. They help you by providing a guaranteed income for life, a significant immediate charitable deduction on your tax return, and an income stream that is partially tax-free.

The seminary is helped by building its endowment, thereby fulfilling its mission of preparing bold Christian leaders for the church.

You can learn about how a charitable gift can provide income by going to [www.garrett.edu](http://www.garrett.edu) and using the “Annuity Calculator”.

Other annuities available are the Deferred Gift Annuity, Charitable Remainder Unitrust, the Retained Lift Estate and the charitable Lead Annuity Trust.

If you are interested in learning more, you can see Jim Dooley or contact David Heetland at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (847) 866-3970.

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**University United Methodist Church** will participate in the 2012 Foodshare Can-A-Thon sponsored by the Peoria Area Anti-Hunger Coalition on March 25, 2012.

Can-A-Thon bags will be given out on Sunday, March 18, 2012. Please fill with non-perishable canned meat or tuna, soup, stew, chili, peanut butter, vegetable, fruit, or boxed dinner mixes. Bring to the church on Sunday, March 25th.

All food collected at UUMC will go to Mount Calvary Lutheran Church Food Pantry, the pantry in our neighborhood.