Dear Church Family,

In national political news, you likely have heard references to “red” states and “blue” states.

Did you know that we have a “red” contingent and a “blue” contingent right here within the walls of our church? Yes, indeed, we have a rivalry that is quite heated. But I am not referring to politics. I am talking about something far more important—baseball.

Fans of the St. Louis Cardinals (red) and the Chicago Cubs (blue) go at each other every year. Numerically speaking, our church is a microcosm of baseball fans in central Illinois. Loyalties are about equally split between the Cards and the Cubs. It’s all in fun. There is plenty of room in our church for Cub fans, Cardinal fans and for the folks who don’t care at all.

As it is with baseball, so it is with far weightier matters, in the life of our church and in the denomination at large. United Methodism can be likened to a “big tent.” There is room for all kinds of folks.

Our denominational website puts it this way: “United Methodists come in all sizes, shapes, colors, dispositions, outlooks and life stories, but share a unique history and faith perspective. Our members speak many languages and live in many countries.”

United Methodists have a connectional system in place that equips us to appeal to folks who are drawn to what has historically been called the “social gospel.” Through our collective giving and global outreach we are positioned to fight disease and poverty in ways that individual churches—working alone—could never accomplish.

We also have in place an ongoing tradition of focus on personal transformation. This emphasis on making disciples can be traced directly back to our founder, John Wesley. He stressed both service and piety in painting the picture of what the faithful Christian life looks like. He had a bedrock belief that we are saved by grace alone, and at the same time, he urged his followers to make sanctification a daily focus of their lives.

Social concerns and personal spiritual formation are too sides of the same coin. Transformation—individual and global—is the business we’re in. That balanced approach leads to a “big tent” not because it is a good marketing strategy. The fusion of personal and global issues in the walk of faith is powerful because it is true to the “Great Commission” that Jesus gave to his disciples, the same directive he shares with us.

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

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<th>April</th>
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ATTENDANCE

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We saw the Lord in action when we saw University UM Church reach out to our family in such a meaningful way. The McGuire family are so blessed by you.

Sharon & Denny Johnston

We are very thankful for each and every gift to The Center for Prevention of Abuse. We are constantly amazed at the generosity and support of our community as we work to end abuse in our area. The Center not only provides safety, counseling and therapy, and advocacy for women, men, and children who have been affected by violence and abuse, but also works to prevent abuse from happening. Our prevention educators are in as many classrooms as possible teaching students how to be safe, how to identify healthy relationships, and how to be respectful of themselves and others. Your donation of food will help us continue these efforts. Our programs work and we appreciate your support.

Carla N. Payne, Director of Development

To all the people who sponsored me for the CROP Hunger Walk, I want to say a big Thank You for helping me and our church help the hungry people in Peoria and in far away places. They thank you with smiles and hugs. I turned in $475 and it will go far to give a helping hand.

Barb Gurtler

Missy and I would like to thank everyone for being so nice and inviting to your church. Also to thank you for the $500 sent to the McGuire family in their time of need. You all have done so much in just the fourth week at the church.

Missy & Vincent Sharp

Thank you to all of our volunteers!

May 6th  | Quest Class  | Paul Arnold, Leader
May 13th | Member Care  | Barb Long, Chair
May 20th | Deep Thinkers| Tom Dresden, Leader
May 27th | UMW          | Priscilla Circle

Our deepest condolences
To Betty Fandel and her family upon the passing of her husband, Mike, on April 20th.

Prayer for family and friends

Tim & Tina Junk
Jerett Fauser
Brian Kelly
Kathleen Dawson
Lucille Watkins
Barb Van Ormer
Dan Young
Betty Fandel

Newsletter Mailing Date
The June LINK will be mailed on Friday, June 1st. All articles are due by May 28th.
Thank you!
Garage Sale – May 12: UMW members are asked to bring small bags of goodies that people can purchase before or after they shop at the UUMC Garage sale. Coffee will also be served. Goodies should be brought to the church anytime on Friday, May 11, already bagged in baggies to be sold for 50 cents each. Please leave your bagged goodies in the kitchen for the sale on Saturday, May 12. Contact Jan Deissler, 691-8342, for additional information.

Clothing will be sold for the first time in many years at the Garage Sale. UMW will help with the clothing room, which will be in a separate room with a separate cashier. Wire hangars and clothes are needed, and the size should be easily visible.

Spring Meeting, Thursday, May 17 – All are welcome!

The University UMC UMW will host their annual Spring Meeting on Thursday, May 17, 6 p.m., in the Dining Room. The meeting will feature a dynamic program presented by Cheryl Rhoades, a pastor and actor, titled Lives and Legacies – The Women in Jesus’ Lineage, Rebekah. Rhoades will ‘flesh out’ the story of Rebekah with insights from archaeology and historical works into how men and women lived in ancient times. She manages to ‘bring to life’ Biblical characters than may seem more obscure than others. She has prepared this series of presentations to raise funds for Global Commission Partners, a ministry dedicated to evaluate and help support effective Native American ministries and their missionaries.

The evening will begin with dinner at 6 p.m. in the dining room. Dinner is $7 per person. All women are invited to attend regardless of age or UMW membership. The program will be engaging and inspiring as well as provide a wonderful opportunity for friendship and fellowship. Circle members are asked to let their Circle leaders know if they can attend. Reservations are not required for others. Please mark your calendars for May 17.

Special NOTE: Members and guests are asked to bring gift cards in $5 and $10 denominations for Target, Walmart, Subway or McDonalds for Lessie Bates Neighborhood House and Cunningham Children’s House

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- May 12: Goodie sale at Missions Garage Sale
- May 17: Spring meeting, 6 p.m., $7 per person, all women of the church and invited
- June 25: District UMW, First United Methodist, Downtown, 8:30 a.m. – noon, Personal Growth Seminar
- August 3 - 5: Weekend School of Christian Mission
- August 5 – 8: Weekday School of Christian Mission
- August 6: UMW Board planning session, Millen Farm

COFFEE HOURS and GREETERS:

- May 27: Priscilla Circle
- June 24: Ruth Circle
- July 29: Priscilla Circle
- August 26: Ruth Circle

Reading Group May topic – Educate for Mission

9:45 a.m., Sunday, May 20 and open to the entire UUMC membership

The books for the May discussion are listed and described below.

BEADED HOPE by Cathy Liggett
When four women embark on a mission trip to South Africa, they all have selfish reasons for going. What none of them expects is how profoundly their lives will be transformed by the people they meet. This is a moving story about the power of faith and hope to overcome even the most tragic circumstances.

IT’S EASIER TO REACH HEAVEN THAN THE END OF THE STREET: A JERUSALEM MEMOIR by Emma Williams
In August 2000 Emma Williams arrived in Jerusalem with her three small children to join her husband and to work as a doctor. For the next three years, she witnessed an astonishing series of events in which hundreds of thousands of lives, including her own, were turned upside down. This powerful memoir continues to bring to life the realities of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Purpose of United Methodist Women
The organized unit of United Methodist Women(UMW) shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.
The UMW will host storyteller Cheryl Rhoades as part of its annual Spring Dinner, to be held May 17.

The evening will begin with dinner at 6 PM in the dining room, followed by music in the sanctuary from Katie Kilduski, and culminating with storytelling.

Cheryl Rhoades will portray the story of the biblical character, Rebekah.

Cheryl gives voice to the heroines of scripture through storytelling, with the goal of bringing a fuller understanding of these women and their lives. Cheryl uses information from scripture, other authors, geography, local customs, archeological findings, as well as her own creative processes to construct her stories.

She traces her interest in storytelling to her mother’s vivid rendering of the story of Queen Esther. As an adult, during a session of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Bradley, she was exposed to the Peoria Storytellers Guild. Her storytelling career began with monologues of the women in Jesus’ family and life. Cheryl has been “grieved” and “appalled” at the way women of the Bible have at times been portrayed. Through storytelling, she hopes to lift up more compelling and numerous female role models for our faith and practice.

Cheryl lives with her husband, Dent, a retired professor of education, among 100-year-old oak trees in central Illinois. He has served as editor, proof reader, photographer, consultant, chauffeur, coach and “whatever else I have needed him to be.”

As a youth, she attended Peoria Christian School, two years of high school at Prairie Bible Institute and Grace Presbyterian Church, where she participated in Sunday School, Junior Church, Christian Endeavor and Pioneer Girls.

Proceeds from Cheryl’s storytelling go to Global Commission Partners, a non-profit missionary organization dedicated to planting churches in places and among language groups not yet reached by the Gospel message.
If you are going into the hospital for either a brief or extended stay and would like a visit from our Pastors Paul or Gene, please contact the church office at 688-3486 and notify us when and at which hospital you will be. Although we check the hospitals daily, there are many times when we are not immediately aware of your hospitalization, especially in emergency situations. Each of the hospitals have their own policies for tracking our church members, and we want to do our very best to meet your spiritual needs in those stressful times when you would appreciate the comfort and assurance of your pastors.

KATIE KILDUSKI is graduating with Honors from Illinois State University on May 12th, receiving a Bachelor of Music Education degree. Her college activities include participation in the Big Red Marching Band for 4 years, serving as flute section leader her senior year, in Concert Band and Pep Band for 4 years, in Chamber Winds, and in Sigma Alpha Iota, the music fraternity for women. She received a piano scholarship all 4 years and gave individual piano and flute lessons and group piano lessons at Metcalf Music Academy. Katie was in the Honors program, on the Dean’s List and inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She student taught at Eureka, working with grades K-12 and aspires to be a middle-school band teacher. Jerry and Renee Kilduski are her parents, and Jeri Lynn McCoy and Elizabeth Marshall, her two older sisters.

BRITTANY SMALLBERGER is graduating from Monmouth College on May 20, with a degree in Business/Marketing. She will be seeking employment in her area of study, as well as looking at options for pursuing a masters degree. Brittany is the daughter of Don and Nancie Smallberger.

Congratulations!

The Mt. Calvary Lutheran Food Pantry needs our donations. The food pantry is in need of cereal or peanut butter 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!

WELCOME Nancy and Verne Powley who became members of UUMC on February 5, 2012. Verne and Nancy Powley first connected with our church in the 1960s and then rejoined our congregation this past winter. Verne is retired from the Post Office and now works for CEFCU. He has also been on the Arthritis Board for 30 years. Nancy is retired after working in the office for WINPAK and has been a volunteer at Proctor for many years. They have two grown sons, a big extended family, a dog and three cats. They are devoted fans of the Chicago Cubs.

WELCOME Vincent and Missy Sharp who became members of UUMC on April 29, 2012. Vincent is very familiar with this church because his parents, Dorothy and Raymond Sharp and his grandparents, Jack & Eleanor Reed attended UUMC when Vincent was growing up. And years later in October 1987, he and Missy were married here by Rev. Bill Zander. After living in Knoxville, Tennessee, they are back in the Peoria area and eager to be a part of our church family. They both enjoy basketball, football, hockey and Frisbee golfing in their free time, and they have volunteered serving/delivering food at the Southside Mission on Thanksgiving and Christmas for the past four years.

WELCOME Meredith and Sam Scibilia who became members of UUMC on April 1, 2012. Meredith is transferring her membership from Vermont Street United Methodist Church in Quincy, Illinois, where they were married in October of 2011. Sam is transferring his membership from a United Methodist Church in Fairfax, Virginia. He works as a consultant for Caterpillar. She is an epidemiologist for Tazewell County.

On Friday, May 11th, 6 p.m. Couples will meet for dinner at the German Hall, 7601 N. Harker Dr. (off Pioneer Pkwy). Cost is $12.00. For reservations, contact Pat and Gary Emery by May 9th at 699-3338.

If you are going into the hospital for either a brief or extended stay and would like a visit from our Pastors Paul or Gene, please contact the church office at 688-3486 and notify us when and at which hospital you will be. Although we check the hospitals daily, there are many times when we are not immediately aware of your hospitalization, especially in emergency situations. Each of the hospitals have their own policies for tracking our church members, and we want to do our very best to meet your spiritual needs in those stressful times when you would appreciate the comfort and assurance of your pastors.
## May 2012

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<td>JUNE 1</td>
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<td>Anuroop Thomas</td>
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<td>Margaret Carlie</td>
<td>Shirlee Williams</td>
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### GARRETT EVANGELICAL CORNER

In April, it was a great pleasure to have Pastor Keith Zimmerman, Development Associate for Garrett-Evangelical visit with us. He carried a message of the important work being done by the Seminary to develop future church leaders. Pastor Keith also spoke of a number of annuities which 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.

It's easy to learn about how a charitable gift can provide income by going to [www.garrett.edu](http://www.garrett.edu) and using the “Annuity Calculator”, which will show you and your family might be favorably impacted by an annuity.

Other annuities available are the “Deferred Gift Annuity,” (you receive a fixed sum each year), the “Charitable Remainder Unitrust,” (pays you a fixed percent each year for life), the “Retained Life Estate” (deed your home to charity but live in it for life), and the “Charitable Lead Annuity Trust” (pays a fixed amount for a term of years and then goes back to your or your heirs).

It's a complex subject, but if you are interested in learning more, you can see Jim Dooley (309-251-0487) or contact David Heetland at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (847-866-3970) for confidential information.

### May Anniversaries

- **Wes & Robert Foster** May 2nd
- **Charlie & Susie Brown** May 13th
- **Art & Jane Bell** May 15th

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Dear Friends at University UMC,

My name is Jeremy Lafary. I’m a 1st year M.Div. student at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. I’m also a certified candidate on the elder track out of the IGRC. I would like to take this time to thank you for your continued support as I make my way through this journey called seminary.

My first year here at Garrett has been an amazing year, and I feel that I’m very fortunate to be at such a good school. My favorite class during my first semester was definitely Introduction to the Old Testament with Dr. Brooke Lester. I feel that the things I learned in that class will stick with me for a very long time. I also enjoyed my United Methodist Worship class with Dr. Ron Anderson, which helped me develop worship planning skills that I will use for the rest of my career in ministry. For my second semester, I believe my favorite class is going to be Planning and Planting Congregations taught by Dr. Mark Fowler and Dr. Mark Teasdale.

It means a lot to me that a church from my conference is supporting me. Again, thank you for your continued support through the UUMC scholarship and for your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely, Jeremy Lafary

May 12 is the National Association of Letter Carriers food drive. Please leave non-perishable food items in or near your mailbox, and your letter carrier will be glad to pick them up. These will be delivered to local food pantries. This is the largest one day food drive in the country!

ANUPA THOMAS is the daughter of Bipin and Asha Thomas and sister of Anuroop Thomas, who will be graduating from Dunlap High School on May 13. She will be attending St. Louis University this fall to study medicine. Anupa wants to become a doctor, though she doesn’t know which field she would like to specialize in yet. Throughout high school, she made sure she was involved academically, musically, and socially. As a student, Anupa enjoyed contributing in band, chorus, student council, and the Dunlap District Leadership Team. As a leader, she became the president of National Honor Society, Multi-Cultural Club, and Key Club. She’s been an excellent student and was given the honor of being an Illinois State Scholar and received the Presidential Academic Award. She couldn’t be more excited to open a door into the next chapter of her life and experience the world.

Dear Church Family,

We are trying to come up with an updated list of everyone who has a key to the outer doors of the church building, as well as those who have keys to the office.

If you have a key to the building, office, or both, please contact Julie Reed and let her know what you have. Also, if you happen to have a key that you do not need, please turn it in. It is helpful for us to have as many spare keys as possible in the office.

Thanks so much for your help on this!

Paul