

The LINK... Keeping You Connected

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RIDING THE ROLLER COASTER

*“For every time
there is a season,
and a time for
every matter under
heaven...”*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance...

I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him...

Living in Extremes

The scripture in Ecclesiastes reminds me that this past year included some times of extremely different kinds of conditions and events. According to Yahoo, the 10 top searches in 2010 included such things as the BP oil spill, *American Idol* and the World Cup. Each a very unique experience, and intense in its own way. These were just a few of the many highs and lows of the year.

We had our share of ups and downs in the church as well—everything from the joys of the ways in which our congregations united to help those in need—to dealing with the realities of membership and financial struggles. In society and in the church, these realities remind us that life can sometimes feel like a roller coaster ride.

The last time I was on a roller coaster, I decided I probably wouldn't get on another. It was a little too exciting, too exhilarating, and too scary—all at the same time. For me and many of us, roller coaster rides are too intense for an everyday experience. Yet sometimes we have no choice. Some suffer as the result of seasons of poverty, or domestic violence, or a life-threatening disease. Some scale the walls out of the dungeon of a season of addiction. These kinds of seasons are a very real part of living a life that feels like a daily roller coaster ride.

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Mission Focus

WORLD VISION: ORPHANS & WIDOWS

Let them know they are not alone. Reach out to orphans and children whose lives have been devastated by the AIDS epidemic – along with elderly grandmothers who often bear the burden of care.

Your gift will help with urgent needs such as food, shelter, education, counseling, care for the sick, and job training. This is a wonderful way to give tangible help and hope to hurting children.

With over 11 million orphans in Africa alone, it's imperative to find the best strategies to care for the children.

World Vision has been leading the way in successfully implementing several new solutions:

- ◆ Creating a volunteer care force
- ◆ Neighborhood Care Centers

Care is customized as needed to reach and help as many children as possible.



“I wish our mother was still alive to help us. We pray every night for food and protection”

-Sungeni, a 12 year old orphan in Malawi

Read about all World Vision's efforts at their website: www.worldvision.org

Mission Giving

Month & Mission	Amount
January - NINA Fund	1204
Total Mission Giving 2011	1204

The Salvation Army, Porchlight, UMCOR, NINA Fund & our soldiers have all expressed their heartfelt gratitude for your generous giving. Take a moment to read their “Thank You’s” which are posted on the community bulletin board next to the elevator.

Christmas Eve offerings were given to our local NINA Fund. A check in the amount of \$2,486 was received by Joe Sullivan.

Please send my gratitude to your congregation for the generous Christmas Eve offering made to the NINA fund. In 2010 the fund spent \$25,600 assisting 93 local families. The fund's success has been because of the great support of the churches and local community. Best wishes to all for a happy new year. *Joe Sullivan*

Year End Update - 2010

General Giving for 2010: \$348,728

Other Income: \$12,305

Designated Funds used: \$8,926

(includes Children's Music & Drama salaries and Worship Asst & Worship Tech salaries)

Year-end deficit: \$16,852

Giving through Jan 16, 2011

General Giving \$16,142

(Monthly general giving needed to meet budget: \$29,200)

Loan Repayment Giving \$851

The church building loan has been paid off!

Meeting Minutes

FINANCE UPDATE

The Finance Committee, along with all church committees, has worked very hard on the 2011 budget the last few months. The result is a balanced budget and a healthy financial outlook for 2011.

Our capital drive has been completed successfully by making the final payment to pay off the Church Building Mortgage in December. This is great news and we celebrate this accomplishment. Many of you have pledged to continue the capital drive contributions you were making to assist us in retiring our remaining debt. Thank you. This will assist us in maintaining a healthy financial outlook for the future. If you missed this opportunity and are able please consider revising your 2011 pledge and continuing your contributions.

Maybe continuing the contribution or increasing your giving just isn't an option for you right now. You can still contribute to helping our community of faith reach its goals. Here is your chance to get creative. What ideas do you have for raising money? Is there a fun project you and your family can do together? Maybe something you could do with a group of fellow church members. Perhaps making and selling a product or selling a service, or cleaning out the attic and getting rid of all that stuff you don't need, the possibilities are limited only by your imagination. It can be anything that you are willing to develop and oversee. This can be your way of helping PUMC be prepared for whatever opportunities God presents for us to share his love with others. In a couple of weeks

we will have a board in the greeting area where you can share your project ideas. We can't wait to hear from you.

Wendy Zimmerman, Finance Chair

WORSHIP TEAM

“Looking Ahead” dates:

- ◆ Ash Wednesday, March 9, 2011
- ◆ Lent, March 9, 2011 - April 23, 2011
- ◆ Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011.

Worship Team invites everyone to grow your Worship experience by joining in the “Top Ten Theologians” book reading and discussion. See page 11 for more information.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 10, 2011

1. Opening
 - a. Jon shared some info about personality types based on how Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John presented Jesus; we were asked to think about where we “fit” with regard to our personality and then with regard to how we worship.
- Approval of minutes from December joint meeting between Finance and Ad. Council was deferred to next meeting.
2. Leadership/Volunteer Development
 - a. Lay Leadership reported that nominations for committees were approved at Charge Conference on January 9; only a few vacant slots to fill; group will continue to meet throughout the year.
 - b. Volunteerism goal activities will be “driven” by Lay Leadership; Council recommends that a focus on volunteering and “living our faith” will include monthly article in Link and as part of the

worship power point; February's article will be IHN and March will be adult education leader, Laura Flood

C. SPRC will meet with new committee for the first time on the 24th; agenda will include assigning staff liaisons, planning for the year, the evaluation tool; Council asked committee to improve everyone's understanding of our staff and what they do through a monthly article in the Link – job description summary along with “a day in the life of....”

3. Reach, Welcome, Connect, and Keep

- ◆ Chaired by Barbara Mahr
- ◆ Developing new approach for visitors who are not yet ready for membership
- ◆ Intentional contact with those who are “MIA” or needing support
- ◆ Identifying designated person from each group to “care” for group
- ◆ Health and Wellness
 - ◆ large gathering at 1st Monday
 - ◆ involvement with St. Mary's Parish Nurse program is great for Susan
 - ◆ Susan will be attending a workshop on breast cancer and women's health that she will then share with PUMC in various ways
- ◆ *Rethink Church* workshop on Feb. 19th in Racine
 - ◆ how we present ourselves & what we have to offer especially to young families
 - ◆ Barb will notify everyone of registration date & cost is \$30

4. Encourage Generosity in Giving and Serving

- ◆ Finance Committee jointly with Stewardship Committee is addressing debt
- ◆ \$28,000 was pledged to debt during stewardship drive
- ◆ Council recommends more organized campaign for debt retirement this spring

5. Grow Children/Youth Programs – slow during the holiday time but getting back up to speed now.

6. Invite Adults into Faith Formation

- ◆ Adult Discipleship team has plans in place up to Lent
- ◆ Variety of opportunities to meet different needs and interests
- ◆ Tentative plans to introduce new program called 6:33; involves intentional spiritual development through a series of steps; first step is prayer

7. Develop High Member Expectation – part of volunteer efforts and a new way of recruiting them

8. Build Passion for Worship

- ◆ Discussion of new ideas for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services
- ◆ Open House – should it be continued; recommendation was to have one occasionally; change how we reach out regularly to a focus on specific groups, neighborhoods, etc.

9. Increase Work Beyond Our Walls

- ◆ LOF meeting on 2/2 will be *A Forum About Youth*
- ◆ Opportunity for completing court-ordered youth service hours is in place as part of Wednesday Night Supper program; two youth have been involved to date
- ◆ Meeting on Jan. 23 about LOVE, INC (in the name of Christ); Jon is going and Dave will check his calendar to see if he is free to attend as well; informational meeting only at this point

10. PUMC as possible site for School of Social Work intern

- ◆ 9 month program
- ◆ Only appropriate if involved something that could sustain itself or an appropriate task that could be completed during 9 month time period.
- ◆ Council recommends further investigation of feasibility of participation

Next meeting will be February 7th at 6:30 PM.

Submitted by Anne Staton

HOSPITALITY AND CONNECTIONS TEAM MEETING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2011

Mission of the Hospitality & Connections Team

To grow discipleship through the connection of people – visitors and members – to the programs and ministries of People’s Church in ways that enrich their lives, draw them closer to God, and send them out in ministry to others.

Minutes

Team name and assignments

We discussed the name of this team. “Radical Hospitality” doesn’t say enough; it sounds like we do Sunday treats. Reach-Welcome-Connect-Care is awkward to use. So we will go with Barb Feeney’s suggestion, **“Hospitality and Connections”**

Work Area Reports

Reach Out: Team mission is *“to attract people to our faith and our faith community.”*

We are currently relying mostly on the presence of our new building and our reputation in the community to attract visitors.

We decided at our last meeting to put a hold on this area until some of our other areas are more developed and 2 or more people with true interest in this area can be recruited to the team.

Welcome: Team mission is *“to help us all make a good first impression, identify visitors, and provide initial follow-up.”*

We have work hard in this area with new usher patterns, Sunday hospitality teams and treat makers, attendance pads, nametags, child

friendly initiatives, friendly spaces, open communion, tables in Worship Center.....

In this meeting we realized that ushers are the vital bridge between Welcome and Connect. Therefore Barb Feeney and Rebecca Otte have scheduled an ushers’ training meeting to ask each team to appoint one person from to fill the ambassador role. Barb and Rebecca will then add a group of roving ambassadors who are passionate about greeting. Ambassadors will stay near Jon so that he can pass visitors over to them, for getting-to-know-you conversation and a walk to the welcome table to fill out a name and address card “so that we can send you our newsletter for a couple of months to get to know us.”

Larry Svanda introduced his idea of a business card that he found at the Church Supply store. He has written a short welcome message on the back and hands them to visitors that he talks with. Others liked the idea.

Dena Wendlandt suggested that we use confirmation youth as ushers. She says Jordan benefited from this when he was in confirmation class. The group concurred and noted that we need to use the youth in pairs.

Connect: Team mission is: *“to build discipleship through connecting people to opportunities within our faith community”.*

Our present efforts include: visitor tracking & follow-up, membership inquiry, mentors for new members, newsletter and bulletins with opportunities for involvement.

The usher training above is our first step in developing this area further. We talked briefly

about resuming one-on-ones with those who have visited several times. We clarified that our goal is involvement and discipleship not necessarily membership.

Care: The team mission is: *“to develop a system of care for everyone in our congregation and to help existing members/constituents to find a satisfying area of involvement within the congregation .*

This is a new area. We need a system for encouraging involvement by all members and active constituents.

Barbara Mahr talked about the work she and Pam McIntyre are doing to add information to our Servant Keeper database identifying members who are part of any group or ministry. Then they plan to enlist care coordinators in each of these groups who will be alert to needs and share those with Jon, Susan, other staff or the Connections Team. Phase 2 will be to care for uninvolved members by connecting them to a group and/or to raise a “care umbrella” around them.

Team Membership Development Plan

We will begin to seek new members with each sub-team challenged to recruit one or two more persons to their sub-team by the next time we meet.

Hospitality & Connections will be a working team. The 4 sub-groups will meet monthly or more, often as they work. This coordinating team will meet bi-monthly, and eventually quarterly, to hear progress reports and coordinate our efforts.

Next meeting: Tue, MARCH 22nd at 6:30 pm

APPORTIONMENTS IN THE WI CONFERENCE

Ever wonder where the apportionment payment goes once it leaves the church checkbook? Here are some ways we make an impact through our payment to the conference:

- ◆ Meals, clothing, safe housing to those that would go without.
- ◆ Support & aid to abused women and children
- ◆ Consultation & support to local congregations
- ◆ Emergency funds to assist clergy & congregations in time of exceptional circumstance.
- ◆ Life affirming camping & retreat experiences to hundreds of youth, adults & special needs individuals.
- ◆ Infrastructure costs to VIM & other mission opportunities.
- ◆ Support for ministry events that serve people statewide.
- ◆ Funding for interfaith partnerships
- ◆ Leadership support for racial & ethnic development.
- ◆ Library resources to support congregations.
- ◆ Communication through website, enews, and emerging technologies.
- ◆ Books & School supplies
- ◆ Resources & support for congregation revitalization.
- ◆ Ministerial education & training
- ◆ Support for leadership, superintendents & staff

Coming February 2, 2011

PUMC YOUTH FORUM

“40 Assets-Helping Kids Make Healthy Choices”

- **Purpose:** To connect adults with youth
- **When:** Wed, February 2nd , 6:00-7:15 pm

Steve Staton will lead the program, followed by small group brainstorming session.

Please bring your dessert and coffee and join in!

CHANCES TO VOLUNTEER

We know it is hard to balance work and home life, especially if you have young children involved in several activities. Your time is precious in so many ways. Consider volunteering just once a month or on an as need basis. Opportunities are available and can be done as a family, creating a meaningful tradition. A full list is available on the kiosk. Whatever your interest, we have a spot for you!

Knitters Group Expands

The knitting and crocheting group is expanding their work to include making hats for infants in the maternity wards of St. Mary's and Meriter hospitals. Each infant goes home with a little hat. If you are interested in supporting this effort, donations of baby, or sport weight yarn would be appreciated. If you knit or crochet, we have patterns available. The hospitals have specific patterns that they use for the hats to ensure proper fit for infants. For more information or to obtain patterns contact Kathy Schneider at 835-7443 or come to the Knitting/Crochet meeting @ 6:00 PM on the first Monday of the month.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission

The United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) have released their 2011 summer brochure. The Volunteers in Mission is associated with the United Methodist Church. People of all faiths are invited and encouraged to participate.

Summer 2011 Opportunities:

- ♦ May 21-22 VIM 25th Anniversary Reunion @ Pine Lake, Westfield
- ♦ May 14 Chain Saw Training @ Pine Lake UM Camp, Westfield
- ♦ May 15-20 Pine Lake UM Camp, Westfield

- ♦ June 19-24 Red Cliff Reservation, Bayfield
- ♦ July 23-31 Luccock Park UMC Camp, near Livingston, MT
- ♦ August 1-5 UM Children's Services & Transitional Living Program, Milwaukee
- ♦ September 12-23 Lake Junaluska, NC as part of VIM's 25th Celebration
- ♦ October 2-7 Camp Lucerne, Wautoma
- ♦ October 16-21 Midwest WI, IA, IL, MN OR OH - flooding problems

Please visit the VIM website at:

<http://wisvim.org/forms/VIMSummerBrochure-011411.pdf> to view the brochure and learn more about each volunteer opportunity.

Choir: Vocal & Bell

It's always enjoyable when there are more people to make music together! Think about sharing your musical talents. Both choirs practice once a week on Wednesday's. Choir sings on Sunday's.

What if Church weren't just a place we go, but something we do?

Bell's play a once per month. Both choirs take a break during the summer so commitment would only be during the school year. If you are interested and want to try it out, simply come for a practice. If you need more information, please contact Kathy Schneider, Bell Choir Director, 835-7443 or Amy Gonzalez, 838-1230.

Offering Counters

The Finance Committee is still looking for a few individuals that would be willing to assist in counting and preparing the offering for deposit after the 10:30 Sunday service each week. We are only asking for a commitment of one Sunday per month. If you would be willing to help out the 2nd, 3rd or 4th Sunday of the month please contact Sandy Behrend, 835-3755 x 30 or email her at sbehrend@wisconsinumc.org.

For information on any volunteer opportunities, please call the church office at 835-3755

PUTTING YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION THE PUMC WAY!

Volunteering with the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN), a program of the Road Home, is just one opportunity we have to “live our faith”. This program helps homeless families with children by providing shelter at area churches. The IHN shelter program is part of what the Road Home does to help the families successfully move from homelessness to stable housing. PUMC is part of an ecumenical group of five churches in the Oregon area that provides a home for our IHN guests at St. John’s Lutheran Church 3-4 times a year for a week.

One volunteer opportunity that this program offers is leading the after dinner activities for children on the night that we also provide and host the evening meal. Blair and Scott Sanford and their children, Mary and Will, have volunteered for this activity on several occasions. Here, in the family’s own words, is what they say about their experience and why they do it:

In a world, where many organizations can benefit from volunteer time and talent, the Sanford’s focus family time every quarter on Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN). Scott, Blair, Will and Mary grab their tennis shoes and head to St. John’s gymnasium, where it’s time to play with the children. Why do they volunteer? Mary, a 5th grader, responds, “Because it’s fun. I’m helping people and I like to do it.” Will, an 8th grader at Oregon Middle School reflects, “I like playing with the kids, especially basketball.” Scott and Blair agree that it’s a great way to teach values to their own children and it’s time well spent. “We try to be good examples for our children and the children in the program and we’ve been very blessed, so we should take advantage of opportunities like this one to serve.” Blair comments that

INH is a worthy organization that is managed very effectively and the volunteer coordinators at PUMC make it easy to say “yes”.



We received the following “thank you” from the Rachel Krinsky, the director of the Road Home, after the last visit of the families over the New Years weekend.

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“Many thanks to all of you for organizing and orchestrating a great hosting week in Oregon. The families seemed to have had a great time. They had plenty of activities to participate in during the week and we really appreciate all of your thoughtfulness in providing a variety of entertainment for them - from arts and crafts to video games to the ever-popular basketball court. The families also enjoyed having KFC as a special dinner treat.

Thanks too for your extra efforts to welcome and accommodate the new family as they moved in. Please share our appreciation with the volunteers who participated last week. Each volunteer from your 5 churches helped to create a caring, responsive and happy shelter environment for families very much in need of this kind of safe haven. You are all an essential part of The Road Home, making it possible for our guest families to reach safe housing and a more stable future.”

The next visit of the IHN families will be February 27th – March 6th. We encourage more of you to experience the joy of “putting your faith into action”. Please contact Peg Schmidt at 835-3049 or Steve or Anne Staton at 835-3253 for more information about how you can be involved.

THANK YOU STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

Psalm 54:6 “I will offer a sacrifice as a special gift to you. I will thank you, Lord, because you are good”. The Finance Committee would like to thank all of the PUMC staff and those that volunteer for living these words.

Thank you to the PUMC staff, who provide such important and needed support in so many ways and who have “sacrificed” this year by taking no salary increases. Thank you to the volunteers who share their gifts and who “sacrifice” countless hours of their time. The support of all of these

individuals allows us to share the love of Christ with each other and with the community.

Though they may not see this as a sacrifice but as their way of thanking the Lord and living their faith, we would like to recognize all that they do and offer a big THANK YOU to all those who “sacrifice” in the name of the Lord, whether it is financially or by sharing of their gifts and their time.

Wendy Zimmerman, Finance Chair

Also...

We would like to thank Todd Weis for taking several desks and metal file cabinets to the scrap yard. He not only cleared out the garage for us but also made a little extra cash, our junk was worth \$92! What a great surprise, thanks Todd we appreciate your time and willingness.

FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry could use some help stocking incoming food and bagging during distribution. Please contact Linda Fuller, 835-2184.

Thanks to a lot of help from our church sponsors and other friends, we got through November and December with little problem. In November, we had 151 families representing 509 individuals. In December, the count was 132 and 455. We expect the rest of the winter to be in that range.

Thanks again, and God bless you all for your generosity. *Submitted by Joyce Larson, Coordinator*

Food Pantry Collection at a Glance
Here are some monthly suggestions to keep the local food pantry stocked.
February.....Bath Soap & Shampoo
March..... Paper Products
The Oregon/Brooklyn Food pantry is open the last Thursday of each month from 3pm-6pm at 1092 Union Rd #8. Any Oregon resident is welcome. Bring a utility bill to prove your residency.

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Jon Claude Bartlett

Hi! As I am reminded I need to have an article for this Newsletter, I am preparing to take 6 days away to finish my worship planning for the rest of the year. I also plan to get some quiet time and work on relaxing. So my article is something that resonated with me and I will pass on to you. Peace, Peace, Peace! Jon Claude

“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my promise of peace be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you. ~Isaiah 54:10

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ~Hebrews 10:24

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child; I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. ~1 Corinthians 13

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

By Cathy Irvin, CBN Staff Writer

Well folks it's that time of year again. You know, red hearts, pink roses, balloons, cards, candy, and animals that sing songs of Love.

Yes, the stores are stocking their shelves with all these items and more. Actually they began the day after News Years to get ready for Valentines Day. Did you know more roses are sold on Valentines day than any other day in the year? It is the one day people show their love for someone special all over the world.

Most mothers and wives are on the lookout for a traditional item or perhaps a trip to a nice restaurant or even a meal cooked for them. It is a great occasion to express love and appreciation for any of your loved ones, but it is important to show little acts of kindness the other 364 days of the year.

I personally can do without a dancing gorilla, singing Love Me Tender, but I sure would miss getting that hug or kiss from my little great granddaughter who helps me when she comes to my house and says, “I love you GiGi.” Or my sons nightly ritual when he says, “Good Night Mom I love you”. He tells me that must be the last words he says every night to me if he is at home -- I guess that it is because we only have today, we are not promised tomorrow.

When my daughter calls she always says “Bye, I love you”. This is the best gift, day after day, just to know that I am loved.

It means a lot when family and friends want to spend time with you, share a meal, or just talk. You see God tells us in His Word how much He loves us all the time too. His promise is to never leave or forsake us, to answer us when we call day or night. He never slumbers nor sleeps. We need to tell Him how much we love Him 365 days a year as well.

You see, flowers will die, candy gets eaten, balloons will pop, the stuffed animals may stop singing and cards may get lost or thrown away, but the love that is shared with one another and God's love for us will never pass away.

May you find little ways to show some acts of kindness to those you love before and after Valentines Day this year.

Let love be in the air at all times!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Do you notice an error or an omission?

If you are new to PUMC or have not turned in an updated info sheet recently, we may not have your birthday or anniversary date. Please notify the office, or submit your info on line at:

www.peoplesumc.org/info

February			
1st	Patricia Jenkins-Bock	15th	Darren Arttus
	Ellen Legler		Jeanne Carpenter
	Orlan Prestegard		Jeff Potrykus
3rd	Paula Legler		Michael Schliem
4th	Warren Sproule	16th	Sara Dippong
	Bill & Betty Meier		Dave & Pat Stratton
7th	Nicole Varese	17th	CJ Jenkins-Bock
8th	Karen Hammon	18th	Pat Zimmer
	Erin Hill	19th	Rosie Fiscus
11th	Girish Russell	22nd	Martha Hilgendorf
12th	Dwayne Berg		Bernie & Teresa Brickner
	David Bradley	23rd	Liam Palmer
	Max Chase	25th	Pepe Gonzalez
	Larry Mahr		Dallas Rogers
	Owen Reichert		Katrina Rudolph
	Jo Temte	26th	Trishia Schroeder
13th	Alexander Nelson	27th	Barbara Feeney
	Orlan & Barbara Prestegard		Bridget Horan
			Logan Ihlenfeldt
14th	Bob & Shirley Jones		Mary Sanford
	Ron & Linda Outhouse	29th	Marsha Squire

CHURCH RECORDS

Visitors

In January	28
Year to date	28

Average Attendance in Worship

Saturday Eve	22(3wk figure)	Last year	30
Sunday 1st Service	185		100
Sunday 2nd Service	56		81

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We Need Solid Ground

Those of us doing the work of the Church as clergy, paid staff or volunteers also experience seasons of ups and downs. We can find ourselves so overcommitted and stressed that when we do take a break, stopping is almost too abrupt, and we have to steady ourselves from the ride. In these and other life circumstances, we need the stability that comes from standing again on solid ground.

The words of the preacher in Ecclesiastes remind us to consider the stability that comes from the constancy of God's spirit: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..." He continues, "I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it; nor anything taken from it. God has done this, so that all can stand in awe before him."

So ultimately, we return to the source of our being, God, in Christ Jesus, who is the unchanging ground of grace and peace through it all. This New Year is a time of new beginnings—and a new season of possibility. Perhaps it is a season for healing from disease, a season for deliverance from an addiction, a season of peace and safety instead of danger. When we rely on the unchanging love of God, we can have fewer roller coaster days. We can experience fewer low times and enjoy more high times. We are better able to share the blessings God gives to us.

Blessings in 2011, Bishop Linda Lee

Membership

Information Gathering

February 9th @ 5:30pm

Come for supper, stay for a non-committal meeting.

LINCOLN AND THE WILL OF GOD

Do you believe that “There is a divinity that shapes our ends,” as Shakespeare’s Hamlet did? Abraham Lincoln certainly believed that was true.

In a letter to Mrs. Eliza Gurney, Lincoln referred to God’s providence by saying, “We must work earnestly in the best light he gives us, trusting that so working still conduces to the great ends he ordains.” Lincoln thought that God was at work in human history ordaining, judging, guiding and working against evil while uplifting the faithful.

Lincoln would have agreed with Mary’s song of praise in Luke 1:51-52, NRSV: “He [God] has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly”

Abraham Lincoln was intensely religious and had an unwavering faith in the power of God working “to the great ends he ordains.”

- Charles Ferrell

YOUNG PEOPLE’S MINISTRIES LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

The General Board of Discipleship’s Young People’s Ministries website, www.globalyoungpeople.org, has been revamped with interactive features to better serve young leaders across the globe. Some of the new features include chat, text message subscriptions, free monthly webinars, grant and scholarship information and weekly stories highlighting ministries with young people throughout the UMC.



CONNECT WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS TO DEEPEN YOUR FAITH AND GROW IN DISCIPLESHIP WITH WESLEY MIN- ISTRY NETWORK ONLINE

In partnership with Bishop Richard Wilke’s Institute for Discipleship, Wesley Ministry Network now offers lay education courses online. Each course features streaming video lectures and online discussions with other students and experienced Wesley Ministry Network teachers. Courses are open to everyone, and CEUs are available. Spring courses begin January 16th and include:

- ♦ Serious Answers to Hard Questions
- ♦ Women Speak of God
- ♦ Devotion to Jesus: The Divinity of Christ in Early Christianity
- ♦ Religion and Science: Pathways to Truth

JOB POSTING: CAMP ASSISTANT

The Camping Ministry Team at Pine Lake Camp Seeks a Resident Camp Assistant to join year-round camping ministry team. The individual in this position will gain well-balanced camping experience and be an integral part of the Camping Leadership Team. This position has strong growth potential. Desire strong servant-leader with excellent people skills. Successful candidate will gain experience in all aspects of camping ministry.

Contact Nick Coenen, Pine Lake Site Manager, with questions or to apply.

Pine Lake Camp
W8301 Cty. Rd. M
Westfield, WI 53964
(608)296-2720

pinelake@wisconsinumc.org

Dear Family and Friends,

**Parish Nurse
Ministry**



We often associate **Valentine's Day** with something *sweet*. **How about a Valentine promise from God in a verse from Proverbs?...When you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.** (Proverbs 3:24)

Sleep is essential to our well-being. It is necessary for the body to recharge its batteries, heal its wounds, rest the spirit, and regroup for another day. Everyone needs deep, uninterrupted sleep for at least six or more hours a night. **Without good sleep we will experience fatigue, moodiness, irritability, poor memory, decreased dexterity, decreased energy level, and possibly depression.** Continued sleeplessness and fatigue may cause **additional risks of high blood pressure, cardiovascular problems, diabetes or weight gain.**

Many things can cause a poor night's sleep: excessive napping, physical ailments, poor sleep habits, excessive worrying, or hormonal changes. Many of these conditions can be remedied through behavior change or medical treatment. If sleep problems occur more than three times a week, consider seeing your primary care provider to determine if the problem might be medical in nature.

If worry might be the culprit, try a nighttime ritual of turning over your problems to God when you go to bed. (Perhaps visualize wrapping them into a box and asking God to hold the box "just until morning.") And then repeat the scripture verse ***Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*** (Matthew 11:28) It may just be the recipe you need for a divinely prepared *sweet treat*.

Blessings,

Susan Payne, People's Parish Nurse



The First Monday Gathering is comin' round the bend!!

Join us on **Monday, February 7th at 11:00** for our potluck lunch.

Great food will be followed by a slide show highlighting 40 years of **train photography by Mark and Mike Nelson.** Their presentation is in high demand by historical and other groups looking for an interesting show! Aren't we lucky to have them here in our own congregation?!



Come one come all!
Dedicate Wednesday
as your out to dinner
night at People's
Church. A delicious
meal, including des-

sert, is offered from 5pm-6:30pm. A freewill offering is welcome. Invite a friend, neighbor, and family.

Are your Wednesday nights busy with sports and other kids activities? This is a perfect way to sit down together before heading off in different directions. Programs and childcare are provided after dinner, so feel free to stay and feed your soul!

February Menu:

2nd	Turkey & Biscuits
9th	Taco Bar
16th	Tator-Tot Casserole
23rd	Lasagna

Gluten free options and soup are served at every meal. Desserts are always welcome!

FAST AND FEAST

Arthur Lichtenberg, when presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, quoted this Lenten advice:

Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.

Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.

Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.

Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.

Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.

Fast from pride, and feast on humility.

Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.

Fast from fear, and feast on faith.

- The SourceBook of Wit and Wisdom

Bible quiz:

Jesus once took three friends to a special rendezvous. When they stopped at a certain place, Jesus was changed before them. His face had a glow and his clothes appeared to be dazzling white. His friends suddenly felt the presence of Moses, the lawgiver, and Elijah, one of the great prophets. Jesus' friends, Peter, James and John, heard a voice from a cloud that said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him" (Matthew 17:1-8, NRSV).

What do we call this special event?

- A. The Annunciation
- B. The Resurrection
- C. The Transfiguration
- D. The Incarnation



Answer: C



Adult Discipleship

Winter is far gone!

“The night is far gone, the day is at hand. Throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.” (Romans 13:12) The days are getting longer, and we long for spring and an end to the grey, cold, dismal last days of winter. Let us watch with equal eagerness for the coming of the Christ, the Light of the world. Let’s live in a way that brings the Reign of God a little nearer.

BLOG

Some Ongoing Groups

Gluten Free Group: Meets the fourth Wednesday monthly 5:30-6:30pm during Wed Supper.

Young Adult Group: Meet with other 25-40 year-olds to talk, have fun and make connections. Meets third Wednesday monthly 6-7:30pm.

Knitter’s Group: First Monday monthly 6-7pm.

Adult Discipleship: Meets the fourth Thursday, 5-6:15pm at the Firefly. Plan classes, events, and groups that form adults in their faith.

Living Our Faith: Meets the first Wednesday each month 6-7pm. Plan service projects and other ways to show faith in our lives.

As soon as we work out the kinks, links will be posted on Facebook and the website. Discuss ideas from classes or questions about life and faith.

Upcoming Classes

Parenting Matters

- Sundays, Feb 6 and 13
- 10:15-11:30am
- Facilitators: Anne and Steve Staton

For parents/grandparents/guardians of kids of all ages. Learn practical skills for common concerns. Childcare provided.

Stress Management

- Wednesdays, Feb 9, 16, 23
- 6-7pm
- Facilitator: Amanda Case

Learn useful, easy strategies to manage mental, emotional, and spiritual stress.

All-Church Book Read

- Sundays, Feb 20 and 27, March 6 and 13
- 10:15-11:15am
- Facilitator: Dan Behrend
- *A Cloud of Witnesses: Ten Great Christian Thinkers* by Alister McGrath

Find insight into some of life’s persistent questions by Christian thinkers throughout history, from Augustine to C.S. Lewis. An accessible and inspiring book.

Rethink Church Workshop

What if church was a way of life, rather than a place to go on Sundays? Check out this conference-wide event February 18th and 19th. Come to one or both days. Go to www.wisconsinumc.org for more info.

In March

Prayer Partners

- Celebrate Lent with mutual prayer.

Camp Sunday

- March 6. Wear camp clothes, sing camp songs, learn about UMC’s camps & retreats.

Yoga Retreat

- Saturday, March 12th, 9am-3pm



Children & Youth Ministries

Group activities will be available for children during the 10:30 worship service. We will meet downstairs in the Third Grade Classroom for a variety of activities. A reminder too, that all children are always welcome to participate in our Drama Teams, which meet at the same time in the Youth Library/Drama Room.

Oregon 4K: Parent Information Nights have been scheduled for January 31st from 6-7:30pm at Brooklyn Elementary School, and February 3rd from 6 - 7:30pm at Prairie View Elementary. Registration begins on February 7th for current families.

Little Angel's Christian Preschool & Parent's Day Out - Registration for Fall begins January 31st for current or alumni families. Church families may register beginning February 7th. A parent information night will be held on February 13th from 11:30am - 2:30pm.

For questions about Little Angels, Parents Day Out, or Oregon 4K, please contact Katie Grady, caring-stampingkt@aol.com.

Junior High Convo: Mark your calendars! Convo will be held on May 13 - 15th this year at Chula Vista Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. This is a bit later in May than usual.. Registration information will be available soon.

Wednesday Evening Youth Programs for grades K - 12, from 6 - 7pm:

- **1st Wednesday - Faith Exploration**
- **2nd Wednesday - Service Project**
- **3rd Wednesday - Recreation & Game Night**

Please note that there will not be programming on February 23rd due to the school holiday.

Summer Camp: Information is now available on camp offerings for this year. Brochures area available on the kiosk. Also, **mark your calendars for Camp Sunday, scheduled for March 6th.** Wear your camp clothes, think about your favorite camp activities and plan to sing some of your favorite songs! Scholarships are available to attend camp.

Third Grade Bible Mentors: The next meeting date for the Third graders and their mentors will be Sunday, February 20th, during the Sunday school hour

A big Thank You to Sue Madsen for volunteering to take care of our kids worship bags each week!

Sunday school offering: Beginning last month, and going through the end of the year, all offerings received will be donated to Heifer International.

C&Y Staff

Sue Koch
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Katie Grady
Little Angels Preschool Dir.
Mom's Day out Dir.
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Stacy Thompson
Lead 4-K Teacher

Diane Haag
Little Angels Preschool Teacher
Nursery Attendant

Lisa Unertl
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Mom's Day Out Teacher

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Children's Music & Drama Dir.

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Children's Music & Drama Asst.

Ariana Bonsett-Veal
Nursery Attendant

Aleksandra Martinka
Nursery Attendant

Dana Schiele
Nursery Attendant

Celeste Johnson
Nursery Assistant

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00am-3:00pm Worship: Saturday 5pm & Sunday's 9am & 10:30am

Church Phone: 608-835-3755 Parsonage: 835-9907

Pastor	Jon Claude Bartlett, jcb@wisconsinumc.org
Financial Administrator	Sandy Behrend, sbehrend@wisconsinumc.org
Children's Music & Drama Assistant	Megan Dietrich
Worship Media Assistant	Brandon Finch
Adult Vocal Choir Dir./Children's Music & Drama	Amy Gonzalez
Worship & Preschool Dir.	Katie Grady, kgrady@wisconsinumc.org
Building Maintenance	Gary Haffele
Children & Youth Ministry Dir.	Sue Koch, skoch@wisconsinumc.org
Adult Discipleship Dir.	Rebecca Otte, rotte@wisconsinumc.org
Parish Nurse	Susan Payne, spayne@wisconsinumc.org
Church Admin	Sandi Reichert, peoplesumc@wisconsinumc.org
Bell Choir Director	Kathy Schneider, schneka@merr.com
4-K Teacher	Stacy Thompson
Mom's Day Out Teacher	Holly Rausch
Church Office Email	peoplesumc@wisconsinumc.org
Church Website	www.peoplesumc.org
Council Chair	Barb Feeney
Board of Trustees Chair	Greg Schnelle
Staff Parish Relations Chair	Anne Staton
Worship Chair	Mary Malone
Finance Committee Chair	Wendy Zimmerman
Memorials Chair	Charlotte Clark
Stewardship Chair	Scott Sanford
Hospitality Coordinator	Barbara Mahr

Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our dream is to make this church, this community and this world a better place.

We are called as a community of faith to reach out by:

listening openly, loving unconditionally and inviting all to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

**We will share God's love through circles small enough to care for each,
and large enough to encompass all.**

We accomplish this with integrity, trust, honesty, respect and inclusiveness.