

# February 2010 Issue

# The LINK..... Keeping You Connected

People's United Methodist Church

103 N. Alpine Parkway, Oregon, WI 53575

**Where Jesus Goes After Christmas** Driving past a church this morning, I noted that the Nativity scene was already down (sorry Wise Men — snooze, ya' lose. Wouldn't want to honor Epiphany by accident or on purpose...) and Mary and Joseph were laying face down in the snow and the baby Jesus was buried under a stack of wood and hay; one small hand reaching out for rescue from the crushing load. It struck me as an "on-the-nose" symbolism of our cultural relationship to Christ and Christmas — honor the holiday event for a few weeks in December, then strike the set and put the props away until next year. And Jesus, for many, is just that — a prop.

When I was a child I once asked my mother why we wrapped Jesus in paper and put him in a dusty box and shut him in a musty, dark closet for eleven months and 25-30 days each year (we didn't add Jesus to the crèche scene until Christmas Eve, then took things down the week after Christmas. Our wise men arrived around December 10 and just sat on their camels shooting the breeze with Mary, Joseph, the angel, the shepherds and the animals for a couple weeks — but everyone looked appropriately reverent the whole time.) There was something disrespectful about shoving Jesus to the back of the closet when we were through with him. Out of sight, out of mind. My grandmother actually listened to me, and she left the baby Jesus from her Nativity scene on the fireplace mantle all year 'round.

At my local coffee shop, the "Keep Christ in Christmas" sign that's been in the window for the past month is already gone. Along the roadways, denuded Christmas trees lay abandoned, waiting for pickup. There is no more "Joy to the World" to be found. Once more, we are done with Christmas. But how many of us are also done with Christ? One headline I saw on a news-site says it all: "Soldiers

Take Up Arms as Christmas Ends." Christmas ends. It's all over. Peace is done, time to kill. Good cheer is finally no longer expected, we can stop pretending to be nice. The Valentine's candy is already out at the local CVS and Target stores. (And just where is the Martin Luther King, Jr. candy?)

A vacation ad for a Caribbean post-holiday getaway shows Jesus and Santa clinking glasses on a pristine beach, reindeer and camels playing beach volleyball in the background. It seems that Jesus and Santa can't wait for all the Christmas craziness to end, either. (How an adult Jesus gets the vacation a day after his birth is a bit confusing, but then I didn't know reindeer could spike...)

Keeping Christ in Christmas seems like only half the battle. The real work begins when we try to keep Christ in the rest of the year. Too many of us drag Jesus out to pay attention to once (or twice) a year, then shove him into a dark corner until we need/want him next. This is a challenge for our communities of faith. Helping people keep a focus on Christ's role and place in their lives — individually and collectively — is a full-time, year-round task. It brings to mind one of the more startling and discouraging findings from the worship research I did a few year's back. Two of the interview questions we asked were "What did you learn about God?" and "What did you learn about Jesus?" in sermons that people had heard the same day. One-in-eight (12%) could name something about God and one-in-eleven (9%) could identify something about Jesus, though 71% said that the sermon was "about God" and 86% reported that the sermon was "about Jesus." We know that worship is somehow about God and Jesus — two safe answers in most churches — but we don't always pick up exactly what preachers are saying about them. And, did you notice I didn't mention the Holy Spirit?

Continued inside

## **February Mission Focus:**

### **Wisconsin Literacy, Inc.**

Would you believe that in Wisconsin, more than one million residents are in need of adult literacy services? That's why Wisconsin Literacy, Inc., a state-wide coalition working to strengthen Wisconsin's workforce, families and communities, provides support, training and advocacy to adult literacy organizations statewide

Each year, more than 3,500 trained volunteer tutors provide individualized adult literacy instruction through Wisconsin Literacy's member agencies to thousands of learners, such as George, a 52-year-old who had trouble finding a job after the manufacturer that had employed him for 15 years closed its doors.

George felt shame in not having the literacy skills necessary to fill out job applications, read a story to his children or even choose a Valentine's Day card that would express his feelings to his wife. After two years of meeting with a dedicated tutor at Fond du Lac Adult Literacy Services, George found a stable and rewarding job and is now encouraging other adult learners to seek help at their local literacy council.

Wisconsin Literacy's member agencies reach adults:

- who need to learn English or improve their literacy skills to get a job or find a better job;
- who need customized schedules due to juggling work and parenting responsibilities;
- who have learning disabilities that require individualized instruction;
- who live in urban or remote locations;
- who seek confidentiality as they address their reading and writing challenges; and
- who have had poor experiences with large educational institutions in the past.

Wisconsin Literacy is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and relies on corporate sponsorships and individual donations to provide the support, training and advocacy, community-based adult literacy providers need to serve their students and train volunteer tutors. To become involved in or donate to Wisconsin Literacy or one of its member literacy programs, call (608) 257-1655 or visit [www.wisconsinliteracy.org](http://www.wisconsinliteracy.org).

## **Mission Giving**

### **Recap of December Giving:**

|                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Leukemia & Lymphoma Society      | 1727.00          |
| Christmas eve/NINA Fund          | 1985.00          |
| Pastor's Gift/Heifer Project     | 448.00           |
| Postage for soldier boxes        | 531.00           |
| <b>Total giving in December:</b> | <b>\$4691.00</b> |

| <b>Month &amp; Mission</b>         | <b>Amount</b> |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Jan - WI Blind & Visually Impaired | <b>611.00</b> |
| Feb-WI Literacy, Inc.              |               |
| Mar-                               |               |
| Apr-                               |               |
| May-                               |               |
| <b>Mission Giving Year-to-Date</b> | <b>611.00</b> |

### **Thru 1/17 Year to Date**

|                |           |  |
|----------------|-----------|--|
| General Fund   | 24,510.00 |  |
| Debt Reduction | 1,597.00  |  |

**\*Church building loan balance is \$94,939.  
Principal payments of \$69,000 were made in 2009.**

**UM Communications change mission giving for 2010** The Capital District, for which we are a part of, is one of two districts in our jurisdiction that has been chosen to test a new offering concept for United Methodist Communications. At the 2008 General Conference, the UM Communication team was asked to study a concept of a unified church wide Special Sunday that would combine five of six current Special Sunday's into one Sunday. As a result, this year there will be two special offering Sunday's instead of the 7 you are used to. They will be as follows:

*March 13/14 - One Great Hour of Sharing* – Benefits The United Methodist Committee on Relief located at the General Board of Global Ministries. With this offering, the United Methodist Church rebuilds lives and communities around the world by helping the United Methodist Committee on Relief keep its promise that 100% of your designated gift goes to specific causes.

*Oct 2/3 - Opportunity Sunday* - Funds the same programs covered by the current five Special Sundays - Human Relations Day, Native American Ministries Sunday, Peace with Justice Sunday, World Communion Sunday & United Methodist Student Day. The envelope you receive will give you the opportunity to choose a specific cause to support.

**Membership Inquiry Dinner** The second Wednesday of every month at 5:30pm, new individuals and families are invited to join Pastor Jon at a reserved table during Wednesday Night Supper. We'll grab some grub and eat together, afterwards the kids can join the youth groups or play in the nursery while we have a question and answer session about the Methodist faith and life here at PUMC. If you have been attending service and are interested in learning a bit more about us, we encourage you to attend.

**The NINA Fund thanks PUMC for our generosity** On December 24th we had the opportunity

to donated our offerings to the NINA Fund. The NINA Fund was created and is handled by Joe Sullivan, a case worker right here in Oregon. The fund supports families that need financial assistance to pay utilities and rent. Because of your generosity on Christmas eve, we were able to give \$2,000. In a recent phone conversation with Joe he said the need in our community is so great right now. As of January 7th, he has already helped families with over \$4,000 in assistance. Now, that pace won't keep up through the year, if it did this fund would need over \$100,000. But Joe does anticipate a need of about \$25,000 in 2010. "Please offer my sincere thanks to all that support this fund. It is wonderful how the community has embraced the program."

**Oregon/Brooklyn Food Pantry 2009 Facts**

**Mission:** The Oregon/Brooklyn Food Pantry's primary mission, with the generous support of the community, is to serve Oregon School District residents who believe they need assistance in supplementing their supply of nutritious food and basic necessities. Our goal is to be a consistent, dependable resource for our clients, cooperating when possible with other community agencies. The Pantry Coordinators and other volunteers act as stewards of God's bounty in a respectful and non-judgmental manner.

**Location:** Union & Lincoln Road; Ed Hefty Storage Building

**Food distribution:** Generally, the last Thursday of each month, 3 to 6 pm (*dates adjusted for holidays; sign posted at Bill's Market*)

**Contacts:** Joyce Larson; Chairperson: 222-3399  
Lisa Butters, Secretary /HMC Church: 835-5763

|                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Churches participating                | 6   |
| Average volunteers per month          | 20  |
| Approximate volunteer pool            | 120 |
| Ave # of families served/ month       | 127 |
| <b>New individuals</b> served in 2009 | 435 |

## Pastor's Corner

Hello,

It is my prayer that this newsletter finds you well and thriving in God's Grace. In my personal life I have been thinking about and praying about how my faith impacts my everyday life.

All of us have "core messages" about who we are and how we live. These messages usually go back to our early years. For example, what if the message is "you are not good enough", "you are not smart enough" or "you are not important". These messages usually follow us all of our lives. Psychology tells us that there are a couple ways we deal with this. 1. Maintenance of the messages: We make decisions, surround ourselves with people and situations that maintain the message and keeps us believing the message. 2. Avoidance: We make decisions and surround ourselves with people and situations that help us avoid looking at the message.

Faith and Grace give us other ways to look at these messages. God wants us to think differently about who we are and how we live. The whole purpose of Jesus coming as a human is to remind us that God wants "salvation and wholeness" for us. Here are some messages God wants us to use to replace those old negative messages.

These messages come from Bishop Schnase's "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations". People need to know:

- That God loves us, that we are of supreme value, and that our life has significance.
- We are not alone, that when we face life's difficulties, we are surrounded by a community of grace; and that we do not have to figure out entirely for ourselves how to cope.
- The peace that runs deeper than an absence of conflict, hope sustains us and the sense of belonging that blesses us.
- How to offer and accept forgiveness and how to serve and be served.
- That life is not having something to live on but something to live for. Life comes not from taking for oneself but by giving of oneself.
- People need a sustaining sense of purpose.

These are life giving messages that we as individuals and as a church need to integrate as how we think or ourselves and the world. I invite you to cut this out and use it as a devotional and repeat these life giving messages often.

Blessings!

Jon Claude



We are proud to offer you a monthly electronic newsletter delivered right to your e-mail inbox. This format will allow more timely information on church events & opportunities, news & updates from around the congregation.

Best of all, the paper-free format supports our commitment to caring for our environmental & economic challenges.

Beginning this month, a paper version will be placed in your church mailbox for handy pick-up.

Sign up for the email newsletter at [www.peoplesumc.org](http://www.peoplesumc.org)

If you have received the mid-month LINK by email in the past, you do not need to sign-up again.

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Where does Jesus go after Christmas? Wherever we put him. If we set him aside, store him in a box, dump him in the shed under a bale of hay, pack him with the other “decorations” down in the basement or out in the garage, it may actually be symbolic of what we do with him in our lives. I need to be careful to keep him out where I can see him. I need to hold him in my heart as easily as I can hold a Nativity figurine in my hand. I need to see him, attend to him, reflect on him, pray to God in his name, walk with him, talk with him, etc., etc. I can’t do that if I set him aside in the dark recesses of my heart. I need to keep Christ central in my non-Christmas life so that I might live Christmas a little bit more in our non-Christmas world.

Well, if you want to hear anything about the Holy Ghost you shouldn’t be United Methodist. One-in-thirty-nine (2%) remember the Holy Spirit being mentioned, but only one-in fifty-five (<2%) can remember what it was. It is only during the Advent season and Christmas, Lent and Easter, that the majority of people can recall specific messages and stories about Jesus. Messages get a little more generic during Kingdomtide. And the trend of our larger, “popular” churches is to preach about people’s needs rather than God’s will. I recently watched a few minutes of a United Methodist church broadcast that would have made Joel Osteen proud — the pastor raved about the untapped power of prayer to help us attain our deepest heart’s desires. Prayer, he admonished, is a tool we have been given with which to build our dream-life. If we don’t have the life we want, it is because we aren’t praying for it. The only mention of God in the entire seven-minute sermon was as the dispenser of goods to those who pray well. There was no mention of Jesus.

Dan Dick is an ordained minister of The United Methodist Church serving in Extension Ministry as the Director of Connectional Ministries for the Wisconsin Annual Conference. You can read more of Dan’s personal thoughts and perspectives on his blog at <http://doroteos2.wordpress.com/>.

## LAY SPEAKER/SERVANT BASIC COURSE

For those who feel called to be a lay speaker.

Saturdays, February 20, 27 & March 6, 13

9-11:30 AM

Richland Center: Peace UMC

Instructor: Pastor Barbara Cook

To Register Contact: Sherry Malone

[smalone@wisconsinumc.org](mailto:smalone@wisconsinumc.org)

Fee: \$25

Fee Payable to: Capital Coulee Regional Office  
Sherry Malone, Wisconsin Conference UMC  
750 Windsor St, PO Box 620, Sun Prairie, WI  
53590-0620.

Specific Questions About the Course To:

Pastor Barbara Cook: [dbcook@tds.net](mailto:dbcook@tds.net)

Direct Other Questions To: Sherian Foster

[sherianef@hotmail.com](mailto:sherianef@hotmail.com) or 608.592.1918

**January’s Poll: Prayer.** How often do you spend time in private devotional activities such as prayer, meditation, reading the Bible?

### Results:

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| A few times/week | 13% |
| Every day        | 12% |
| Hardly ever      | 37% |
| Occasionally     | 38% |
| Once a week      | 0%  |

*Go to our website and participate in the poll for February: Involvement. All answers are confidential.*

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- The "Grandparents Helping to Raise Grandkids" group will meet the third Thursday of each month at Netherwood Knoll Elementary School Library at 7:00 pm, starting January 22. For information call Gail Brown at 835-7451.

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Dear Family and Friends,



**February is traditionally the month of the year associated with the human heart.** Sometimes that focus translates to *love*, often in the spirit of romance and Cupid. Other times it translates to *cardiac health concerns*, as in Heart Healthy Eating.

But this year I would suggest we think about ***the effects of grief on our human hearts.*** Grief originates in many ways. The obvious grief we deal with is related to the death of someone dear to us. But there are many other causes of grief. Loss of a job, the end of a relationship, onset of a chronic health problem, surgery or an accident that affects our daily life, divorce, or wrestling with the realities of aging, can all generate grief issues. These circumstances can be life-changing, just as the death of a family member is to us. To move beyond grief and become healthy, we can learn to help ***heal our hearts.***

I would like to invite any of you who are touched by grief issues to join a grief group series next month that will meet for three weeks. Peggy Weber, RN, will facilitate the series, ***A Time to Learn, Cope and Pray with Our Grief.*** She has over 30 years of experience working with grief and brings a wealth of wisdom to the process. The evening dates of our gatherings will be March 16, 23, and 30. (Please RSVP your intention to attend.) By talking about this opportunity in the February LINK, I am hopeful that you will be able to make the time to ***tend your own hearts.***

Jesus wept over Lazarus's death (Jn. 11:35). He grieved in the Garden of Gethsemane over his own impending suffering (Mt. 26:27-39). God is always with us in our times of grief.

Peace to you,

Susan Payne, People's Parish Nurse

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**First Monday** is once again just around the "calendar corner" on **Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:00.** This month we will be learning about wonderful resources right in our own backyard! **Alison Koelsch, Oregon Senior Center Director,** will be with us to talk about all the wonderful opportunities for education, activities, health and wellness services, legal counseling and more that the Senior Center provides. As usual, we'll have food, prayer and conversation with the "best of the best" right here at People's Church. Invite a friend to join you! Questions? Call your Parish Nurse, Susan.

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**Do you have a slide projector that we could borrow for the March First Monday program?** Please contact Susan Payne if you have one. Thanks.



Each Wednesday evening from 5:00pm to 6:30pm. Enjoy a mid-week break from cooking, come as you are, bring a friend, neighbor or family!

## February Menu:

**3rd - Turkey & Biscuits, pigs-in-a-blanket, peas & fruit salad**

**10th - Tator Tot Casserole, green beans, corn, tossed salad & soup**

**17th - BBQ Sandwiches, baked beans, apple cabbage salad, veggies & fruit, soup**

**24th - Lasagna, Mac & cheese, tossed salad, garlic bread**

You may check the menu right from the calendar on our website. Simply select the date, click on Wednesday Night Supper and read the description.

Your generosity has enabled the Wed Night Supper group to give back! Donations in the amount of \$200 have been given to the Oregon/Brooklyn food pantry; Salvation Army, and PUMC's general account to help pay for lighting upgrades in the kitchen. We continue to serve over 100 people on Wednesday nights. We are happy to see you and happy for all the help.

## Food Pantry Collection at a Glance

Here are some monthly suggestions of what to collect to keep the local food pantry stocked.

**February** ..... Bath Soap/Shampoo

**March** ..... Paper Products

**April** ..... Fruit/Vegetable Juice

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

|      |                                       |      |   |
|------|---------------------------------------|------|---|
| 1st  | Patricia Jenkins-Bock                 | 19th | Rosie Fiscus  |
|      | Ellen Legler                          | 21st | Curtis Dregne   |
|      | Orlan Prestegard                      | 22nd | Martha Hilgendorf   |
| 3rd  | Paula Legler                          |      | <b>Bernie &amp; Theresa Brickner</b>  |
| 4th  | <b>Bill &amp; Betty Meier</b>         | 23rd | Bryce Murphy  |
| 6th  | Nicole Varese                         |      | Liam Palmer   |
| 8th  | Lorie Anderson                        | 24th | Carter Goltz  |
|      | Karen Hammon                          | 25th | Pepe Gonzalez   |
|      | Erin Hill                             |      | Dallas Rogers   |
| 11th | Girish Russell                        |      | Katrina Rudolph   |
| 12th | Dwayne Berg                           | 27th | Barb Feeney   |
|      | David Bradley                         |      | Bridget Horan   |
|      | Max Chase                             |      | Logan Ihlenfeldt  |
|      | Larry Mahr                            |      | Mary Sanford  |
|      | Jo Temte                              | 28th | Brad Liddle   |
| 13th | Alexander Nelson                      | 29th | Marsha Squire   |
|      | <b>Orlan &amp; Barbara Prestegard</b> |      |   |
| 14th | <b>Bob &amp; Shirley Jones</b>        |      | Do you notice an error or an omission?  |
|      | <b>Ron &amp; Linda Outhouse</b>       |      | 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: |
| 15th | Darren Arttus                         |      | <a href="http://www.peoplesumc.org/info">www.peoplesumc.org/info</a>  |
|      | Jeanne Carpenter                      |      |   |
|      | Jeff Potrykus                         |      |   |
|      | Michael Schliem                       |      |   |
| 16th | Sara Dippong                          |      |   |
|      | <b>Dave &amp; Pat Stratton</b>        |      |   |
| 17th | CJ Bock                               |      |   |
| 18th | Pat Zimmer                            |      |   |



## Church Records

### New Members

January 10 - Janusz & Rebecca Dopart

### Baptisms

January 10 - Nadia Krystyna Dopart

## Attendance Stats in January

Visitors 25

### Attendance in Worship

Ave Saturday Eve 24

Ave Sunday 1st Service 96

Ave Sunday 2nd Service 73

**UMCOR - United Methodist Committee on Relief** United Methodists have had a long-standing relationship with Haiti through the Methodist Church of Haiti. The strong ties between the Methodist Church of Haiti and The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) helped in facilitating the opening of the UMCOR Haiti field office in 2005. 100 percent of Advance gifts made will go to support relief and development efforts due to emergencies in Haiti. You can donate to the Haiti relief project by writing a check to PUMC and in the notes section "Advance #418325" or donate from the website [UMCOR website](#). There you will also find news of the disaster, volunteer information and how we are responding as United Methodists. [Note: Please be patient. The website is experiencing huge amounts of traffic.] The mission of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is to alleviate human suffering—whether caused by war, conflict or natural disaster—with open minds and hearts to all people. Your support will help UMCOR be there to provide long-term recovery efforts for the people of Haiti.

**Great ways to get involved & help your Church!** For information see our website, [www.peoplesumc.org](http://www.peoplesumc.org) or call the church office, 835-3755.

- Habitat for Humanity Coordinator
- Hospitality Team Members
- Wednesday Night Supper Crew
- Desserts for Wednesday Night Supper
- IHN Volunteers
- Ushers
- Mailboxes - 1-time project cleaning out nametags

**Volunteer Opportunities for IHN Week:** The homeless families with children that are part of the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) program of the Road Home will be staying here in Oregon the week of **February 7th through the 14th**. This is an ecumenical program supported by our church, St. John's Lutheran, Holy Mother of Consolation, First Presbyterian, and Memorial UCC and is a wonderful opportunity to live your faith. Volunteers to help host dinner or breakfast, prepare food for the meals, supervise the activities for children, and act as overnight hosts are needed on Wednesday, February 10th. Other opportunities during the week include providing transportation, assisting with moving the families to the next church, and helping with clean up at St. John's Lutheran Church where the families live for the week. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these jobs or have questions about the program please contact Peg Schmidt @ 835-3049 or Anne or Steve Staton @ 835-3253.

**Habitat for Humanity Coordinator Needed!**

We're looking for someone to help coordinate the days we host Saturday Work Day and Lunch for the Apostles' Habitat Build. Recruit builders and lunch providers, and make sure workers have an information sheet and youth permission forms.

This is a short term position, while the Oregon apostle build project continues. Commitment is about every other month. Contact Rebecca with questions.

**Ash Wednesday, February 17th**  
**5:00pm-7:30pm**

The Fireside room will be set up for meditation and prayer with ashes and communion available for self service.

# Adult Discipleship

February is upon us! Winter might still have us in its grip, but not for long. We have hope, despite the grey and chill, that the warmth and life of spring will soon be upon us. So it is as we approach Lent, a time of renewal and preparation for the coming of the Light. What in your life needs to be brought into the light? What darkness holds you bound? May the light of Christ draw you to new life this season.

## Rhythm

—Sunday, February 21, 10:30am

—Facilitated by Pam McIntyre

—Are our lives in tune with God's plan for the world? Watch a short DVD, join a lively discussion, and learn to listen to the Music.



## Scripture Conversations are Back!

Every Wednesday in Lent, 6-7pm

(February 24-March 31)

Diane Strohmenger and Pastor Jon  
Claude facilitate the discussion of  
the previous Sunday's Scripture

## Ongoing Groups

*Yoga*: gentle, free, every Thursday 5:30-6:30pm

*Gluten Group*: third Wednesday each month 5-6pm  
(part of Wed Night Supper)

*Knitters Group*: first Monday each month 6-7pm

*Adult Discipleship*: second Thursday, 5-6pm

## Lenten Retreat

Join Artie Ramos and Pam McIntyre on the first Saturday in Lent in prayer, conversation, and silence.

**Saturday, February 20, 9am-3:30pm**

Whispering Winds Retreat Haven, Cambridge

Lunch provided & Carpooling available

Cost: \$10

Please **RSVP** to Rebecca by Feb 14

Maximum 12 people

## Finding Shelter

Wednesday, February 3, 6-7pm

**Anthony Gittins**

—Talk with world-renowned author,  
teacher, and speaker

—“Who are We Talking About Here?  
Them, Us, or We?”

February 7-14

**IHN/The Road Home Host Week**

—Contact Anne Staton to help/835-3253

Sunday, February 14, 9am and 10:30am

**Church-wide book discussion**

—Barbara Heywood facilitating

—*Where There's Hope, There's Life:  
Women's Stories of Homelessness and  
Survival* by Anthony Gittins. Come even  
if you haven't read the book!

Sunday, February 28

**Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)**

—Get the ‘homelessness tour’

—Speak with those who have experienced  
homelessness and find out what to do now

—Please RSVP to Anne Staton/835-3253

# Children & Youth Ministries

**Oregon School District 4K Update:** There are several sites in the community, including Little Angels Christian Preschool, that will be offering 4K next year - Oregon Day Care, Oregon Preschool, La Petite, Little Folks, Heart of Brooklyn, and the Oregon YMCA. Little Angels will be offering its current programs in the morning, and one 4K class in the afternoon. The class will meet M-TH from 12 - 3pm, and one Friday per month. The Oregon School District is working on the issue of transportation. There are two Parent Informational Forums scheduled:

- ♦ **Monday, February 1st** at 6:30pm at Brooklyn Elementary School
- ♦ **Thursday, February 4th** at 6:30pm at Prairie View Elementary School

Child Care will be provided at both events. When registering for 4K, you will select two locations for your child to attend. Parents will be given their 1st or 2nd choice, and will be notified in May of their child's placement. If neither choice can be honored, the school district will contact the parents directly.

**Little Angels Preschool will host an Open House on February 28th, from 11:30 - 2:30pm.** If you have a child who is currently enrolled, or are an alumni family, you may register for both Little Angels or Oregon 4K on February 15th. Others may register the day of the Open House. Contact Katie Grady at 835-1945 or [caringstamp-ingkt@aol.com](mailto:caringstamp-ingkt@aol.com) if you have any questions.

**On Wednesday, February 10th,** Junior & Senior High Youth will have the opportunity to assist IHN - The Road Home at St. John's from 6 - 8pm. We are looking for 3 - 4 students and adults to volunteer for one hour to play with the children of IHN families. This would count as a service project for confirmation students.

**On Saturday, February 13th,** PUMC students & adult volunteers will be making "sunshine baskets" for some of our members. If you have a leftover basket, container, or quart size canning jars with lids, please consider donating them!! They need to be large enough to hold a quart jar and a small package of goodies. Place your donation in the basket in the narthex. If you would like to participate on Feb.13th, we will meet at the church at 10am, and put together soup mixes, bake cookies and put together the baskets. We will be done by 12:00, & lunch will be provided. We will deliver the baskets after lunch. If you aren't able to make it on the 13th, consider making a donation for the baskets. Items needed are posted on the Kiosk on our "Winter Basket Wish List". Thank You!!!

**The Youth Group will hold a Used Book Sale on Saturday, February 6th from 4:30 - 6:30 and Sunday, February 7th from 9:00 - 12:30pm in the Fireside Room.** If you have gently used books you would like to donate, please bring them in by February 2nd. They can be dropped off downstairs in the Youth Room. All proceeds will help finance Youth Mission Trips. Questions? Contact Diane Haag at 835-2153 or Sue Koch at 835-7207.

## C&Y Staff

Sue Koch  
Children & Youth Ministry Dir.  
[skoch@wisconsinumc.org](mailto:skoch@wisconsinumc.org)

Katie Grady  
Little Angels Preschool Dir.  
Mom's Day Out Dir.  
[kgrady@wisconsinumc.org](mailto:kgrady@wisconsinumc.org)

Diane Haag  
Little Angels Preschool Teacher  
Nursery Attendant

Lisa Unertl  
Little Angels Preschool Teacher  
Mom's Day Out Teacher

Holly Rausch  
Mom's Day Out Teacher  
[hollyrausch@charter.net](mailto:hollyrausch@charter.net)

Amy Gonzalez  
Children's Music & Drama Dir.

Megan Dietrich  
Children's Music & Drama Asst.

Ariana Bonsett-Veal  
Nursery Attendant

Aleksandra Martinka  
Nursery Attendant

Dana Schiele  
Nursery Attendant

## Other Upcoming Events:

**February 7th** - Children's Choir performs during the 9:00am worship service.

**February 14th & 17th** - Second Junior & Senior High Youth Mission Trip Meetings. 2/14 - 11:30am in the Fireside Room. 2/17 - 6pm in the Youth Room.

**February 21st** - Drama Team performs during the 10:30am worship service.

**February 28th** - Third Grade Bible Mentor day during Sunday school.