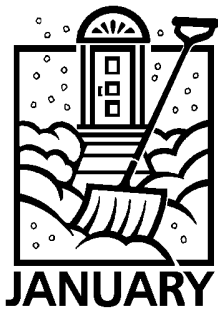


The Sower



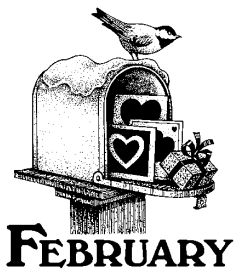
A Note from the Church Office

“We spend January 1st walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives, not looking for flaws, but for potential.” —Ellen Goodman

What we do matters. We can ask ourselves what we would do with our time if we had no particular constraints. The pursuit of pleasures in a self-indulgent lifestyle would soon leave us empty and dissatisfied. We would start looking for a productive way to be of service to others. We would seek a way of serving that corresponds to our own unique talents and gifts, a way that engages the whole of ourselves, a way that calls to us. God has a specific plan for each of us; **“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”** (Jer. 29:11) and He has equipped us for the work that we have been called to complete. As we consider what will be new for us in 2012, let us prayerfully consider what God has planned for us, and that He has equipped us with the desire and ability to complete it!

2011 Food Pantry Stats

Our food pantry helped over 1430 local people with emergency groceries and holiday food! Some of the people helped are clients that come occasionally throughout the year, some are families that came once to get through a situation. 30% of the total number of people served were under the age of 18—just over 440 children were given good nutritious meals from the variety of foods we provide, from canned goods to “dry” items like pasta and cereal, to fresh milk and frozen meats. Almost all of the food in our pantry is church-member provided, either through direct donation, or by the gift of money that we use to purchase food from the Cleveland Food Bank and Mentor Family Foods. Thank you for your continued support of this important outreach ministry!



Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Ruth Bittner leads a morning Bible study at 10:30 am on Tuesdays in the Meeting room. There is no cost for books or materials—just bring your Bibles. The study is open to everyone! Tea and refreshments are served as the Word is examined.



Ash Wednesday falls on February 22nd. Join us for a Service of Ashes at 7:00 pm.

Camp Asbury Open House

Want a chance to tour the camp, talk to the staff and see what is being offered for 2012? Camp Asbury in Hiram will hold an open house on February 5th from 2-6 pm. The camp is located at 107776 Asbury Rd, Hiram. Call 330-569-3171 for more information, or check out all three East Ohio Camps online at www.EOCsummercamps.org.

Week-long and weekend camps are offered with a variety of themes for ages 6-18.

Scholarships & Loans Open for Students

The United Methodist Scholarship and Loan Programs are a church-wide educational service providing scholarships and loans to help supplement the financial needs of today's students. Funding for these scholarships and loans are provided through offerings, wills, annuities, and other designated gifts. Through the Loan Program, students may borrow up to \$5,000 per year at 5 percent interest (Five for Five program). The 135-year-old United Methodist Student Loan Fund is the oldest student loan fund in the United States.

Scholarships are awarded on an academic year basis. A student is eligible to receive only one United Methodist scholarship during any one academic year from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) funds. www.gbhem.org

A list of East Ohio Loans and Scholarships with application details is located in the office.

Thank you!

Thanks to Marion Sedgwick and Julia Grace for organizing the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets last year! We helped so many families enjoy the holidays. Thanks to everyone that contributed food, money, gifts and time to this endeavor!



Special Speaker January 22

Rev. Dave Scavuzzo will offer the message on Sunday, January 22nd. We will hold **one worship service only**—at 10:30 am—so everyone can attend and hear our district superintendent share his gift of preaching with us. Mark your calendar!

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men will continue to meet on the Third Sunday of the month, at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. The men share in a hot breakfast, time of devotion and discussion. All the men of the church are invited!



The men's annual soup lunch will be held Sunday, January 15th after the 10:30 service. Don't miss it!

Youth Group News

The Youth Group enjoyed hosting the children's Christmas party in December and helping with the food basket distributions.

They will meet Sunday evenings. Youth Group is open to youth in grades 7-12. See Melina Bennett for a specific schedule or more information.

United Methodist Women

The first meeting of the new year will be on Thursday, **January 5th** at noon. Carol Carr will be sharing with us information about our UMW pledge money. Ruth Bittner will pay tribute to those members who passed away in 2011. Julia Grace will present a short program on "Prayerful Resolutions". Start the new year off right by joining the fellowship of the UMW. Bring a bag lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided.



The UMW will meet again on Thursday, **February 2nd** at noon. The program topic will be "Women in the Ministry". Female ministers in our area will be in attendance to share their stories. Bring a bag lunch as beverages and dessert will be served.

Job Board

There is a bulletin board in the outer office with local job opportunities. The job listings include full-time and part-time, entry-level through upper management and change somewhat frequently. If you know of a local company that is hiring, please let Jennifer know.

Previous listing have included sports radio personality, paralegal, CDL drivers for Waste Management, and local retail positions.

**HELP
WANTED**

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30a Worship	2	3 10:30 a Bible Study	4	5 11:00a AA 12:00p UMW	6	7 7:00p Worship 9:00p AA & AI Anon
8 8:30a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship 6:30p Esther	9	10 10:30 a Bible Study	11	12 10:30a Rebecca 11:00a AA	13	14 7:00p Worship 9:00p AA & AI Anon
15 8:30a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship 12:00p UMM Soup Lunch	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Office Closed	17 10:00a Lap Robes 10:30a Bible Study	18	19 11:00a AA 7:00p Trustees 7:30p Sarah	20	21 7:00p Worship 9:00p AA & AI Anon
22 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship	23	24 10:30 a Bible Study	25	26 11:00a AA 6:30p Finance 7:15p Ad Board	27	28 7:00p Worship 9:00p AA & AI Anon
29 8:30a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship	30	31 10:30 a Bible Study				

Newsletter deadline is the 3rd Sunday of each month

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 11:00a AA 12:00p UMW	3	4 7:00p Worship 9:00p AA & AI Anon
5 8:30a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship	6	7 10:30 a Bible Study	8	9 10:30a Rebecca 11:00a AA	10	11 7:00p Worship 9:00p AA & AI Anon
12 8:30a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship 6:30p Esther	13	14 10:30 a Bible Study	15	16 11:00a AA 7:00p Trustees 7:30p Sarah	17	18 7:00p Worship 9:00p AA & AI Anon
19 8:30a Worship 9:00a UMM 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship	20	21 10:00a Lap Robes 10:30a Bible Study	22 7:00 pm Worship Ash Wednesday	23 11:00a AA 6:30p Finance 7:15p Ad Board	24	25 7:00p Worship 9:00p AA & AI Anon
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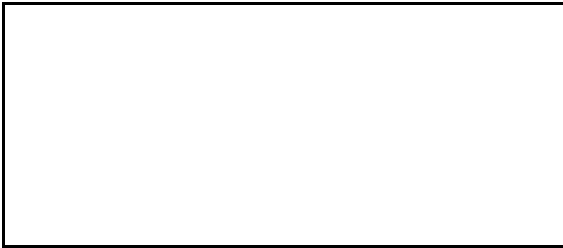
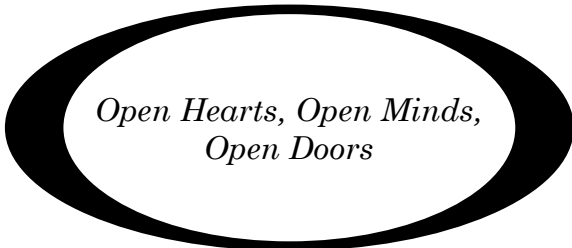
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Rev. Tadd Butler
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Mentor, OH 44060

440-946-1193
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Operation Overboard—Dare to Go Deep with God!

Dive in and discover God's underwater universe! Explore the depths of God's Word at VBS 2012 with Cokesbury's Operation Overboard - Dare To Go Deep With God!

In this action-packed adventure, your kids will swim with humpback whales and seahorses, scuba through a vibrant coral reef, and take a personal submarine to the ocean floor, where eels and octopi play. Through interactive lessons that are easy for kids to apply to their lives today, they will "go deep" into God's Word, exploring Bible stories of people who revealed deep faith by knowing how to:



- Depend on God
- Dare to care
- Claim Jesus
- Choose to follow
- Change the world

Coming This Summer!
See Christina Wiley to join the team!

