



Open Hearts, Open Minds,
Open Doors

The Methodist Messenger



First United Methodist Church

McHenry, Illinois

www.mchenryfumc.org

February 2012



From the Pastor's Desk

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. –John 13:34

Love your brothers and sisters in God's family. – 1 Peter 2:17

We are anxious that you keep right on loving others as long as life lasts, so that you will get your full reward. – Hebrews 6:11

Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples. – John 13:35

Open your homes to each other without complaining. - 1 Peter 4:9

Reach out and welcome one another to God's glory. Jesus did it; now you do it. – Romans 15:7

Be friendly with everyone. Don't be proud and feel that you are smarter than others. Make friends with ordinary people. – Romans 12:16

Little Children, let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions. - 1 John 3:18

Let us agree to use all our energy in getting along with each other. – Romans 14:19

Excel in showing respect for each other. – Romans 12:10

All of you should be of one mind, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds. – Peter 3:8

Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. – Ephesians 4:2

Dates to Remember:

- Feb. 5—Pick up ordered subs from LOGOS
- Feb. 12—Scout Sunday/Bake Sale; Community Dinner
- Feb. 18—Troop 131 Pasta Dinner/Bake Sale
- Feb. 22—Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 26—Silent Auction/Dinner/Karaoke Fundraiser

(continued on page 2)

Pastor's Desk (continued)

Encourage one another and build each other up. – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. – Ephesians 4:32

By helping each other with your troubles, you truly obey the law of Christ. – Galatians 6:2

Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well. – 1 Peter 4:10

We work together as partners who belong to God. – 1 Corinthians

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love other believers. – 1 John 3:14

These are called the "one anothers" of the New Testament. There are more, spread throughout the text, speaking to us about what Christ expects us to do for one another in the Church. Taken together they demonstrate the care of the core community for faith in the Christian tradition. The ideal, expressed by Jesus and other New Testament leaders of how we should be in community together.



When they are read together, they are compelling and convincing. If someone outside the church witnessed this type of behavior, they would be impressed. That impression may even convince them to learn something more about Jesus Christ.

Share the faith. Live the faith.

In the peace of Christ,

Gary

Let Christ TOUCH Your Heart During Lent

"Before God touched his heart and transformed his life, Rudy Rasmus was a businessman running a "borderline bordello" in Houston. But thousands now know him simply as "Pastor Rudy," a transformed leader of a downtown ministry at St. John's Church that he and his wife, Juanita, started to reach out to those who Jesus called "the least of these." TOUCH is the amazing true story of Rudy's life, his response to God's grace, and his passion to touch every person with God's great love."



The above is just one of many reviews that might catch your attention if you look for information on this year's all-church Lenten study resource:

TOUCH by Pastor Rudy Rasmus. Pastor Rudy has touched the lives of "the least" as well as some of "the most," such as recording artists Beyonce' Knowles and Kelly Rowland. His story has also had a powerful influence on leaders in the faith community, such as Pastor Mike Slaughter and Dr. Richard Foster.

Others write:

"In a world where 'Me First' has become the norm, it is refreshing to read a text as heart-felt and instructive as Touch: The Power of Touch in Transforming Lives."

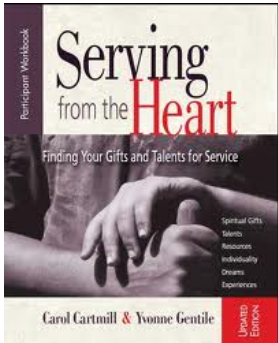
"As gentle as it is direct, Touch is a read that makes us mindful of the compassion, grace and mercy of Christ. It shares the joy as well as the challenges and heartache of serving. Above all, its content has the potential to provoke self-examination. After consuming these words of passion and wisdom from one on the front line, one might ask: Is it enough to speak about change or is it my duty, my reasonable service, to become a part of the change we seek?"

"I was profoundly moved by this book and found myself transformed by the experience of Rev. Rasmus and the work he has been called to do. Rev. Rasmus lives by what he calls a "love imperative" — to love God with all his heart, mind, soul and strength and to love his neighbor as himself."

"There are many ministers out there preaching positive messages of hope and prosperity. But if you want to read the words of someone who is living an authentic and transparent life — someone who is really trying to do "what Jesus would do" — this is the book."

What will you say after you read TOUCH? Books will be available in the Narthex beginning Sunday, February 12.

Plan to meet with friends or join a Lenten small group study to discuss your insights and reactions. If you would be willing to facilitate a discussion with a group of friends using the questions provided in the book, please contact Pastor Gary, Pastor Lori or Char Mowery.



BODY BUILDING 2012

Have you ever wondered why believers are given Spiritual gifts? The answer: To build the body! The body of Christ, that is! When we exercise our gifts, the body of Christ (aka: the Church and its ministries) is strengthened!

Spiritual gifts are given to us by God, and each has its own place in the life of the church — none is better or more important than any other; they're all key parts of the whole, just as the various parts of the human body work together. We each have unique talents and gifts, and we're called to use those gifts diligently in God's service, in the way that makes sense to each of us individually. Different Christians have wildly different interests and talents, but all should work together for the cause of Christ.

In 1 Corinthians 12: 1, 4-6, Paul writes: "Now about spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be ignorant ... There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work."

In 1 Peter 4: 10, we are also reminded that: "Each one should use whatever gifts he or she has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

Do you know what your Spiritual gifts are? If you have not yet taken a "Serving from the Heart" Class, perhaps this is YOUR time!

If you are unfamiliar with spiritual gifts or don't know what yours are, come and learn how God has gifted you and where your unique dreams and passions might lead you to serve. The next class sessions will be Tuesday mornings from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Dates will be determined by interest. Please call the church office (815-385-0931) to express your interest in a daytime class and request your materials.

Be part of "Body Building 2012!"

News from Missions

Thank you for all the winter wear donated during the holiday season. We took two large bags of warm items to McHenry's Family Services, who were grateful to receive them, and who will distribute them to families in need.

2011 was a busy year for the Mission Commission. After a year of plant sales, Fiesta Day booth and Holiday Happenings Bazaar, we settled back in December and gave away all that God helped us to earn, although He could have given us better weather for the plant sale!

We gave \$5,000 to our Rainbow Covenant commitment to International, U.S., UMCOR, and District charities — 22 in all — as well as local charities.

The Loose Change Offerings for the year totaled \$2,223.23. We collected \$199 in December for Turning Point. For February, the Loose Change Offering will be for the Youth Mission Trip to Gatlinburg, TN. The Loose Change Offerings are completely separate from what we earn for our projects. Thank you for being so generous.

Midwest Mission Distribution Center Trip

A group from FUMC is going to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center again this year. We will leave on Sunday, Feb. 26 at 2 p.m. and return on Tuesday, Feb. 28 around 6 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to participate in some hands-on mission work. There are jobs for everyone including sitting jobs, packing kits, working in their warehouse and sewing projects. We will be collecting the items below to take with us — please place in the basket by the coat racks in the Narthex.

URGENT NEEDS: Hand towels, Bar Soap (3 oz.), Infant sleepers/nightgowns (newborn size), Crayola Crayons (24 pk)

OTHER ITEMS: Scouring Pads (NOT steel wool), Sponges, Scrub Brushes, Household Cleaner 12-16 oz. (NO glass bottles), Disinfectant Dish Soap - 26-28 oz., Clothes Line - 50 ft. or 100 ft., Dust Masks - pk of 5, Work Gloves, Latex Gloves, Clothes Pins - pk of 50.

As you can see, many of the items are for cleaning/flood buckets. We will soon be having flood issues in many parts of the country. They send out thousands of buckets each year to those in need. These supplies will be especially appreciated to be ready for this season.

We also are taking sewing machines that are refurbished there and sent out for women to use. If you have one you would like to donate, please contact Pat.

If you would like more information about the Midwest Mission you may go online to www.midwestmissiondistributioncenter.org. This trip is a great time of christian fellowship — we hope you will join us!

If you are interested in participating in this trip or have questions, please contact Pat Wilson at (815) 728-7223 or patmwilson72@comcast.net.





UMW News

Installation of officers and a pledge service was held at the January meeting. Pledge cards have been mailed to all women of the church. Please return them as soon as possible to the church office.

At Mt. Hope during the day on Wednesday, February 8, the group will work on a service project. Call Mt. Hope for the exact time.

Abigail circle will meet on Monday, February 20 at 7 p.m. in the Narthex area. Lisa Floden will host and lead the discussion on Chapter 5, "Moving From the Mundane to the Mysterious – Esther 2:8-11" in our study book, "Becoming a Woman of Beauty and Strength – Esther" by Elizabeth George.

Deborah Circle will meet on Thursday, February 23 at 7 p.m. at Helen Brown's house for an evening of making crafts to be sold at the Holiday Bazaar in November. Monies raised will go towards missions.

Hannah Circle will be sending out our Winter Snack packages to college students in February. If you would like your student to be included, please leave their address information with Beth at the church office.

World Day of Prayer is Friday, March 2. Sign-up sheets will be passed around during Sunday morning services.

The next FUMC UMW meeting will be on March 8 at noon in Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served. The program will be "Call to Prayer Self Denial." Mark your calendars for our April 12th evening meeting featuring "Drums For Health" by Rev. Phyllis Mueller as the program. It will be an exciting experience for all.

Sunday Community Dinner

Kathy Barrows, Julie Shaw, and Sally Von Bruenchenhein serve up a delicious roast pork dinner to our guests at the January Community Dinner. Our next dinner will be on Sunday, February 12 at 5:30 p.m. It will be our Valentine's dinner, with ravioli as the main entree.



Youth News

(contact Lori Bee at lori.bee@sbcglobal.net or 815.385.0931 for more information)

February Events

- 5 STORM CORE (Small group study 4-5:30 p.m. for Jr thru Sr High)
- 12 College Age Group (4-6)
- 15 HS MISSION TRIP MEETING 6:00-6:45 p.m. with parents
- 17-18 YMCA Lock-In in Lake Geneva
- 26 Silent Auction/dinner/Karaoke fundraiser for mission trip 4-6:30 p.m. If anyone has any new items that you would like to donate for the auction, please contact Lori Bee. We hope you enjoy our newly-lowered ticket prices this year and we appreciate your support! Mission Team: plan on being at church from at least 3 to 7:30 p.m.

Our College Group is growing — hope you can join us next time and bring a friend!
The group begins with a devotional/teaching and small group discussion, then an activity.



Our last STORM Swim Party was a blast!



February Birthdays

Danielle Alonzo, Feb. 1
Sheila Wiedenhoef, Barb
Zamastil, Feb. 2
Barb Dodds, Feb. 3
Alicia McKee, Feb. 4
George Lane, LeRoy Olsen,
Dean Palya, Feb. 5
Dawn Bauml, Jacob Maldonado, Henry
Schmidt, Feb. 6
Kit Carstens, Feb. 9
Emily Guild, Feb. 10
Lori Alonzo, Steve Brewbaker, Feb. 12
Jordyn Duncan, Feb. 13
Gary Doud, Ellen Meyers, Henry
Mittermayer, Feb. 15
Joe Knaack, Feb. 17
Marion Bacon, Feb. 19
Betty Smith, Feb. 20
Roger Gerstad, Feb. 21
Kathy Dass, Michele Mack, Feb. 22
William Ragusin, Harry Ragusin II, Feb. 24
Chase Warner, Feb. 25
Cheryl Martin, Lillian Mass, Brian Mourning,
Feb. 28
Ethan Crick, Feb. 29



Troop 131 News

February 12 is Scout Sunday. We'll recognize Scouts at the 10:15 service.



There will also be a bake sale to help raise money for the Mount Hope Community Garden shed, an Eagle project.

Baked good donations will be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at the church on Saturday morning, February 11.

Join the Boy Scouts on Saturday, February 18 from 4-8 p.m. for an all-you-can-eat pasta dinner/bake sale fundraiser!

This event will take place at the McHenry Moose Lodge on Route 31 at Johnsbury Rd.

Tickets are \$6 per person; children 5 and under eat for free. Tickets are available at the door, or from Bonnie Rudolph.

February Anniversaries

Kathie & Randy Robinson,
Feb. 9
Marion & Les Bacon, Feb. 15
Aldena & Joel Boeka, Feb. 18



February 2012

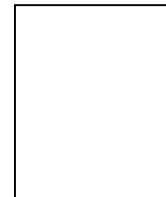
****Activities at Mount Hope****
Are starred

Worship Hours: Sunday Mornings at 8:00a.m. and 10:15a.m.
 Sunday School: 9:00a.m. Age 2 thru 6th Grade: downstairs, Confirmation: small fellowship
 High School: The Loft, Adult Class: Library Men's Group: Parlor
 Office Hours: Mon: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Tues - Fri: 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
February Loose Change: Youth Mission Trip						
5 9:00 Prayer Shawl 4:00 STORM Core Sub Sandwich Pick-up!	6 9:30 Fox Point Study 7:00 AA, Admin-Team 7:30 Alanon	7 6:00 **Disciple I** 6:30 Disciple I 7:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Boy Scouts	8 9:00 Hannah Circle 6:30 Joyful Noise 7:00 Chancel Choir	9 9:30 Daniel 10:00 **Prayer Group** 5:00 LOGOS (Western) 7:00 Men's Study	10 7:30 AA men	11
12 9:00 Prayer Shawl 4:00 College Age 5:30 Sunday Community Dinner	13 9:30 Fox Point Study 7:00 AA 7:30 Alanon	14 6:00 **Disciple I** 6:30 Disciple I 7:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Mission Commission	15 6:00 Youth Mission Trip Parent Meeting 6:30 Joyful Noise 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Cub Scouts Newsletter Deadline	16 10:00 **Prayer Group** 5:00 LOGOS (☛ of Church) 7:00 Men's Study	17 7:30 AA men YMCA Lake Geneva Lock-in	18
19 9:00 Prayer Shawl	20 9:30 Fox Point Study 7:00 Abigail Circle 7:00 AA 7:30 Alanon	21 6:00 **Disciple I** 6:30 Disciple I 7:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Boy Scouts	22 Ash Wednesday 6:30 Joyful Noise 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Cub Scouts	23 10:00 **Prayer Group** 5:00 LOGOS (Oscars) 7:00 Deborah Circle 7:00 Men's Study	24 7:30 AA men	25
26 9:00 Prayer Shawl 4:00 Silent Auction/ Karaoke Dinner	27 9:30 Fox Point Study 7:00 AA 7:30 Alanon	28 6:00 **Disciple I** 6:30 Disciple I 7:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Boy Scouts	29 6:30 Joyful Noise 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Cub Scouts			
Adult Mission Trip to Midwest Distribution Center						



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Sunday School News

The children will sing "Standing on the Promises of God" at Mount Hope on Sunday, February 5 at the 10:30 service. We will caravan over after our regular Sunday School time.

We are also looking for an overall coordinator for this year's Vacation Bible School. If interested, please contact Steph Ritter.

LOGOS News

LOGOS Sub Sandwich Fundraiser

Just a reminder to get your sub sandwich orders in before the end of January for February 5 pickup. Your sandwich purchases help send our LOGOS youth to the annual National LOGOS Conference in Estes Park, Colorado in July.



There will be an informational meeting for parents and youth interested in attending the LOGOS conference on Sunday, February 12 after the 10:15 service. Everyone interested in going to conference should come, along with their parents.

Mark your calendars now for the 2012 LOGOS Talent Show fundraising event. We are moving from a Silent Auction/Dinner event to a Talent Show/Light Meal event for 2012. This event will be held on **Saturday, April 21 at 5 p.m.** We hope to have lots of talent from our congregation, as well as talent from our local school groups. Look for more info in the March and April newsletters as well as the weekly bulletins. We hope to see you all there! Proceeds will go towards getting our youth and adults out to Colorado for the LOGOS Conference.

Book Group Meets March 11



An informal book discussion will take place after the second service on **Sunday, March 11**. The group will discuss "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet" by Jamie Ford.

Several copies of the book are available for checkout at the McHenry Public Library.