

The United Methodist Church in Stow
4880 Fishcreek Road
Stow, OH 44224-1930

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The United Methodist Church in Stow-February 2012

Growing in Faith in Jesus Christ~ Reaching out in God's Love



From the desk of our pastor, Rev. Scott Hayward
(and Mia)

How many holidays are there in the month of February? Look at the list that I took from the internet of the first seven days of February; it may cause you to a) smile b) scratch your head c) make special plans or d) all/none of the above.

1 National Freedom Day ; 2 Ground Hog Day; 2 Candlemas; 3 The Day the Music Died; 4 Create a Vacuum Day ; 5 Thank a Mailman Day; 5 National Weatherman's Day ; 6 Lame Duck Day; 7 Wave All your Fingers at Your Neighbor Day; 7 Send a Card to a Friend Day

Each of these days was created or declared by someone for some reason. Each of these days is important to someone, yet many of these days mean little to some of us. Super Bowl Sunday was even omitted from the list. Imagine that! No one, I'm reasonably sure, will celebrate or even care about all of these days. Which ones will you celebrate and why?

In the larger sense, we are invited to examine the question: what are the most important things in life? There are many people and events in our lives. Some draw our immediate interest and attention; some go by almost without notice. A crucial consideration is this: Where do you place your focus in life? What is most important to you?

When people in Jesus' day for whom simple survival was a daily issue, were worried about their lives and what they would have to eat or wear, Jesus indicated that life is more than food or clothing. That is also true of those of us who are not really concerned with simple survival. Jesus told us all: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33). Where will your focus be in the month ahead?

An Invitation to a Lenten Adventure: 40 Days of Solidarity with the Poor
Join Pastor Chris Seay and thousands of others who seek to lay down their desires and follow the heart of God. This radical journey of self examination, discipline, and renewed focus on Jesus, will change our lives and the lives of millions of needy brothers and sisters around the world. This is a passionate journey of radical faith, personal action, solidarity, and extravagant grace.

Who: You (and others you may wish to bring) are invited!

What: Lenten Emphasis using A Place at the Table-40 Days of Solidarity with the Poor by Chris Seay (Suggested donation \$10.)

When: Sunday Evenings, Feb 26-April 1, 7:00-8:15 p.m.

Where: UMC in Stow

Why: To experience dependence on God, to be in solidarity with the poor and to donate to a hunger cause.

Contact us:

The United Methodist Church in Stow
4880 Fishcreek Rd., Stow, OH 44224-1930
Phone: 330-673-7752
Web Site: www.stowumc.org
Email: stowumc@sbcglobal.net

Rev. Scott Hayward: scotthayward520@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant-Cathy Schindler: cmcas@yahoo.com

Director of Education-Ruth Ann Looker: ral49@neo.rr.com

Director of Music-Julie Stuneck: jbstuneck@yahoo.com

Youth Leader- Justin Pascoe: JPascoe123@gmail.com

UMC Preschool-Karen McCaffrey: 330-677-5549

Children's Place- Mrs. Angie Collier: 330-673-9433 childrensplace1@yahoo.com

Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.- 12:15 p.m. & 1:00 pm-3:45 p.m. weekdays

Deadline for the Sunday Worship bulletin: Wednesdays at noon.

Deadline for the newsletter, *The Messenger*: the 20th of the month.

Have you remembered The United Methodist Church in Stow in your will? Check out our P.E.F. (Permanent Endowment Fund) brochures in the narthex bookcase.

The Messenger

LETTERS

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LENTEN HEIFER PROJECT

By Janet Mather

Throughout Biblical history, the lamb has played a significant role - from the sacrifice of lambs in the Jewish religious life to the shepherds in the story of the Nativity to John the Baptist referring to Jesus as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." (John 1:29)

Lambs, as they grow into sheep, continue to be a comfort to us. Besides being a food source, the sheep's wool is warm in winter, cool in summer, waterproof and durable, and a source of income for families.

Sheep can graze even the hilliest, rockiest pastures unsuitable for other livestock; some families use managed-grazing techniques or zero-grazing pens to protect the environment and collect manure for fertilizer which improves soils and pasture land. Sheep often give birth to twins or triplets; these offspring, along with the necessary training, are provided through the time-proven principle of *Passing on the Gift* to other neighbors in need.

During this Lenten season, the Missions Committee invites you and your family to help struggling people around the world become self-reliant for food and income by contributing to **Heifer International**. In February, collection boxes will be available for members of our congregation to fill at home with loose change and return to the church when they are filled. It is the goal of the Committee to have 100 collection boxes filled which would purchase about 20 sheep! **"Those who are generous are blessed for they share their bread with the poor."** Proverbs 22:9



Thank you to our volunteers who served lunch at Open M on January 24. L-R: Autrey Lewis, Judy Hall, Ted Root, Carol Lewis, Bud Lance, Becky Gares, Nancy Scheidler, Joanne Holt, Mike Marsh, Lucy Esposito, Dick Benton. Front row: Dawnya LaMantia, Beth Marsh, and Debbie Shay. Not pictured but helping as well: Carl Koltas. And thank you to those who brought in food so we could serve 124 people! The next dates for us at Open M are June 22 & October 29.

I just want to extend a sincere word of thanks to all of you for welcoming me back with such warm hearts and voices. I feel blessed being on the bench again especially during this past Christmas season. Happy 2012, my friends!

Kim Gallagher

I'd like to say thank you to everyone for all your cards, calls, and especially your prayers. They mean so much and really make this time much easier. Thank you.

Jean Oberholtzer

Dear Friends,

Hearfelt thanks to all of you for your thoughts, prayers, cards, calls, and food. It has been so encouraging. My cast was removed yesterday, and I'm now in a walking cast for six weeks. I look forward to see you soon!

Pat Koltas

Dear Church family and friends,

Thank you for all your help in my past illness. It was very hard not being able to do things again. Thank you to those of you that came and stayed with me when I was not allowed to be home alone. Thanks for your wonderful meals, cards and especially your prayers. They were very uplifting, caring, and the support and love that I needed.

Also thanks for my balloons; they are still floating on my ceiling! What a pleasure it was to have visitors, and to share with those of you who have fractured their pelvis. (2 times for me).

You are all so special. I thank God every day for my church family. You are always ready to share the LOVE of Jesus. Thanks to Scott for all his visits and phone calls. God Bless all of you.

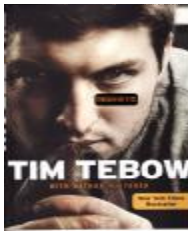
Your Sister in Christ,
Janie Copeland



By Beverly Willis
Tim Tebow wrote *Through My Eyes* in collaboration with Nathan Whitaker. Tim, labeled as a miracle baby, was born

August 14, 1987. The Tebow story will be fascinating to anyone, even the non-football fans. His playing days are over for this season, but you will hear more about this home schooled, graduate of the University of Florida. Tebow's Christian faith, family values and determination to succeed are reoccurring themes in this biography. His propensity for kneeling in football arenas brings a new word to our vocabulary – Tebowing.

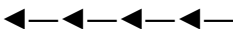
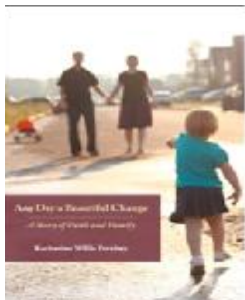
Through My Eyes is one of the new books in our expanding church library. I highly recommend you read about this controversial, but positive new role model in professional sports.



Consider This!

By CMS

Katherine Willis Pershey's book, *Any Day A Beautiful Change~A Story of Faith and Family*, is now in our church library. The author is the daughter of Richard and Beverly Willis and a former member of our church. She is now a pastor in Illinois. Katherine, her husband, and her daughter are on the book cover. Check it out!



UMW has reserved 20 seats for Stow Players' "Cotton Patch Gospel" on Sunday, Feb. 19 at 2:00 p.m. Please see the sign up sheet on the narthex tripod, if you wish to go.

Nineteen women attended our January meeting when we thoroughly enjoyed the humor of Jeanne Robertson. Jeanne will be appearing in Canton at the Palace Theater on May 1 at 2 p.m. For more info, visit her website at: www.jeannerobertson.com.

Our next regular meeting will be Tues., March 27, at 7:00 p.m. when several members of the Needle or Knot group will teach crochet basics. We will also have a Bible study option, and be introduced to the new 2012 reading books.



Yeager Scholarship

The Jack C. Yeager Scholarship was established in honor of retired pastor, Jack C. Yeager. Rev. Yeager served the United Methodist Church in Stow from 1994-2007. He believed in the importance of education and support for those entering Christian Ministry. To apply for this scholarship, the applicant must be an active member of the United Methodist Church in Stow, be a high school graduate, and must plan to pursue a career in Christian Ministry. For complete details, pick up an application at the church office. Deadline for application is April 1.

Christian Education News

Ruth Ann Looker

Please continue to save your Acme receipts. The Cash Back program concludes on February 12th. The last day to turn in tapes will be February 19th. The money that we receive will help reduce the cost of VBS. Last year the Cash Back receipts added \$339.00 to the VBS budget.

The 5th-6th grade Sunday school class will be undertaking a service project in February. In keeping with the "love" theme of February, the class will be making a "no-sew" fleece blanket. We want to wrap the recipient with love, warmth and prayers. We would like to add a hat, gloves/mittens, scarf, pajamas and warm socks to the gift. If you would like to donate any of the items or make a cash donation, see Ruth Ann Looker, Lisa Kirmeyer or Karen McCaffrey. When the project is complete, it will be donated to the Haven of Rest.

It is not too late to join a Sunday school class. Practical Christianity, for example, is starting a new book on February 5th. All classes at every age level have room and would welcome you. See the Christian Education side of the tripod for more information.



YOUTH NEWS

Justin Pascoe



The Youth have been very busy planning for Youth Sunday. We always look forward to the opportunity to present a program for the church. We hope all of you enjoy it as much as

we enjoyed putting it together. The next few weeks are going to consist of some pretty fun activities. We will be going on our annual Whirlyball outing, then doing some sled riding, and also doing some more spiritual and educational things.

We'd love to have as many people out as possible for all these events. Even if you've been unable to join us for awhile we'd love to have any youth of the church stop by whenever they can. Feel free to email me with any questions. jpascoe123@gmail.com

FEBRUARY YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

- 5:** 2-3 pm Fun Day Pre-Game Soup-er Bowl
Please bring a can of creamed soup as a donation for our Food Pantry.
- 12:** 6:30-8:30 pm Valentine to the needy (Blanket Service Project), \$5 reservation fee for Whirlyball on 2/19 due on this day.
- 19:** Whirlyball. Meet at the church-2 pm \$5 reservation due on Feb. 12.
- 26:** Sledding-2-3 pm. Backup plan is bowling.



Thank you to Bob Wickland for painting the handicapped sign in the front of the church. The sign had faded considerably and is now refreshed.

~Thank you to Donna Hanna for cleaning the parlor chairs!

~Thank you to our church librarians: Judy Hall, Peggy Hayward, Donna Hanna, and Beverly Willis. They are making our library current and inviting. Stop by on Sundays or any weekday that the church is open. Have your spirit lifted!

~Thank you to Paul and Deborah Hudspeth for volunteering to write postcards to our visitors each week.

~Thank you to everyone who wrote to me after the passing of my beloved dachshund, Dory, on January 9. She was a gift from God who brought my family eight years of joy. We will miss her. *Cathy Schindler*

Book Club Meeting-
Tues., Feb. 7 at 7 pm-parlor.
Girl of the Limberlost by Gene Stratton Porter. This club is for men AND women. Refreshments will be served. The book for April 3 is The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot. Book summaries are on the tripod in the narthex.



Baptism-
Gracelyn Mae, daughter of Jamie and Ryan McArdle, received the Sacrament of Baptism during our January 1 worship service. We rejoice with Gracelyn and her family.



CORRECTIONS

Jim and Patty Green's **address and phone number** in case you missed it in the last newsletter:

3084 Hillside Trail, Stow, OH 44224
Patty: (330) 328-2509
AmzngGR8c@aol.com
Jim: 1-440-487-8608
jgreen@morrisoncompany.com

Bud Lance's **new email** address:
budlance@neo.rr.com

Susan Allshouse- **Add the s** to the middle of her last name.



Justin Pascoe's **email-**
Add an "e" to the end of his name.

Mike and Jody Williams' **new address:**
3947 Cardinal Circle, stow, OH 44224

The McCaffrey Family lives in **Stow**, not Kent. 4737 Fox Run Dr., Stow, OH

Kathy Castillo's **phone #** is 330-548-4234
Her **email** should be:
kathycastillo830@yahoo.com

Please add:
Lauren Rocco; Logan
4608 Fishcreek Rd., Stow, OH 44224
330-573-1838

SUN. Services- 8:30/10:45 am	MON. 8 pm CODA 6:30 pm Pilates	TUES. 7:30 pm Nicotine Anonymous	WED. 9:30 a/ 6:30 p Pilates	THURS. 8 pm CODA	FRI. Rev. Hayward's Day Off	SAT.
FEBRUARY						
			1 7 pm Stephen Ministry	2 7 pm Choir	3	4 9 am- 12:30 pm Emmaus 10 am-12 pm Preschool Open House
5 2-3 pm Youth Group	6 6:15 pm Children's Chr 7 pm B. Bells 7 pm Ndl/ Knot 7 pm Aug. 9	7 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm Book Club	8 6:30 am Men's Breakfast 6:30 pm Dulcimer	9 7 pm Choir	10	11 9 am- 12:30 pm Emmaus
12 BOY SCOUT SUNDAY 6:30 pm Youth Group	13 6 pm Girl Scouts 6:15 pm Children's Chr 7 pm B. Bells 7 pm Ndl / Knot 7 pm Aug. 9	14 6:30 p Boy Scouts 7pm Committee Night	15	16 1:30 pm Compass Group 7 pm Choir	17	18 8 am-1 pm Emmaus
19 2 pm UMW at Stow Players 2 pm Youth Group meets at church for- Whirlyball	20 6:15 pm Children's Choir 7 pm Needle/ Knot 7 pm Aug. 9 	21 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm G.R.O.W.	22 6:30 am Men's Breakfast 6:30 pm Dulcimer 7 pm ASH WED. Service	23 6 PBS Work- shop in 200 7 pm Choir	24	25 8 am-1 p Emmaus  Spaghetti Dinner 4-7 pm
26 2 pm Youth Group goes sledding 7 PM LENTEN STUDY	27 6:15 pm Children's Choir 7 pm Needle or Knot 7 pm Aug. 9	28 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	29 