

First United  
Methodist Church  
of Troy

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# Tidings



[www.fumctroy.org](http://www.fumctroy.org)  
[www.findyourfaith.org](http://www.findyourfaith.org)



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## SUNDAYS

9:30 Contemporary  
Worship in the CLC  
10:00 Traditional  
Worship in the  
Sanctuary  
10:25-11:00 Jr. Church  
11:00-11:20 Coffee  
Fellowship  
11:20-12:00 Sunday  
School for all ages  
12:00 One Voice Choir  
6:30 UMYF

## Looking Up

Dear Christian Friends,

Lent is a six-week period before Easter when Christians all over the world reflect on their own new life through Jesus Christ and their current relationship to God. It is, therefore, a time of study, reflection, and meditation on who we are as Disciples of Jesus Christ and who God is continually calling us to become. There is a wonderful song by Avery and March entitled "We are the Church" which says:

"I am the church,  
you are the church,  
we are the church  
together. All who  
follow Jesus, all  
around the world,  
yes, we're the church  
together!"

All of us within the church must be about God's work in the world. In both word and deed, we must live out our lives as Disciples as if the life of the church depends upon us—because it does! Jesus said:

"You shall be my witness."

"Inasmuch as you have done it  
for the least of these you have  
done it for me."

"Go and make Disciples."

To be a Disciple of Jesus Christ and do these things, we must take this Lenten Season seriously and sincerely focus on practicing living in the presence of Christ so that we can become (once again, and again, and again) the precious present gift of love in the lives of those persons who need a strong sustaining sign of hope and assurance in their daily lives.

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***"Let us stop just  
saying we Love  
people. Let us  
really LOVE them,  
and show it by our  
actions."  
I John 3:18***

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John Wesley would remind us: "The undisciplined life is no more worth living than is the unexamined life." I offer with reverence these words of wisdom because I believe that love informed by wisdom will lead to faithful

living as well as a vital church fellowship.

If Christ is at the Cross Roads of your life (the heartbeat of your life) then I invite you to examine your life so that together we might say: "Yes, we're the church together!" I believe that Easter can only come to the heart that has known it's our Lent.

See You in Church,

Rev. Hal

## We Need...You! All Scout Sunday, February 7th

All present scouts (both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts) are invited to participate in All Scout Sunday on February 7th during traditional worship. This is a chance to celebrate scouting and serve our church. Here's what you need to do:

1. Wear your uniform
2. Report to the chapel at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 7th to rehearse
3. Bring something to the kitchen to share for coffee hour.

Everyone will rehearse the flag ceremony; the saying of the Boy Scout Oath and the Girl Scout Promise. After rehearsing, the scouts will serve as greeters or help set up for coffee hour in the kitchen. Join us to celebrate Scouting! For questions contact Laurie Mitchener or Lee Matthews.

**If you print this newsletter, please recycle it!**



Dear Members of Troy First,

You truly honored Jack Peacock with your friendship, fellowship, and hospitality, all of which culminated in the servanthood of you and your pastor for Dad's Memorial Service.

Thank you very much! God bless you with Shalom/Salaam/Shanti/Peace,

*Jack's Family*

## All the Way from India

I am so blessed to have friends at Troy First UMC. I would like to thank each and everyone of you for all the support and love you are surrounding me and my family with. I am not very friendly with Mr. Computer, so that is why you do not hear from me very often. Thank you all. Hope everybody is doing well, God Bless you all, I love you very much,

*Regards and love,  
Swapna Bagchi*

## BALDWIN WARMING CENTER MARCH 22 – MARCH 25 VOLUNTEER SOON!

Once again, Troy First will participate in the Baldwin Warming Center project in Pontiac. This winter our congregation will be preparing and serving dinner to approximately 60 homeless men and women from **Monday, March 22nd through Thursday, March 25th**. We will leave from church each evening at 6:45 and will return by 10:45.

Many volunteers are required for this outreach ministry. We will need approximately 12 people each evening to register guests, hand out toiletries and blankets, and prepare and serve dinner. In addition, 2 overnight volunteers (1 man and 1 woman) will be needed on a nightly basis.

If you are unable to volunteer your time, please consider donating paper products or money to help cover the cost of this important mission project. If you are ordering Girl Scout cookies, consider ordering an extra box to donate for a Warming Center dessert.

Sign-up sheets will be available in mid February but if you would like to sign up early or have questions, please contact our Warming Center coordinators, Anne and Ron Butterbaugh to reserve your date.

## Stephen Ministers Have a Heart

On February 14th, Valentine's Day, Coffee Hour will be brought to you by the Stephen Ministers of our church. If you would like to meet the Stephen Ministers or look at some of the Stephen Ministry information stop by the display table in the CLC. They would like to meet you and wish you a Happy Valentine's Day.

*Before you print this newsletter  
please consider the environment*

## Library Notes

2010 would be a good year to read something from your Troy First Church Library! Two books that have just been donated and are worth your time are:

1. The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families by Stephen Covey

Mr. Covey has written several books that have been a positive influence on Americans--this is one that could make a difference in your family.

2. The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran

A classic of poetry and philosophy is worth another look, if you read it years ago, or a first reading if you didn't.

There are novels, books about the Bible, biographies, self-help books, books about Methodism--a little bit of everything. CHECK US OUT.

*Jan Peacock, Librarian*

## Youth Auction Coming

Sunday, March 14th, is the date for the 5th Annual Dinner/Auction to benefit the Youth Mission Trip to Spring Grove, PA in July. Join us for a great dinner and a silent auction,

followed by our fabulous LIVE auction. Do you have a service you are willing to offer, event tickets to a game, theater etc., or other appealing items for our auction? Please contact Sheryl VanGorder for questions or drop off your donation at the church office. Deadline for donations is February 28. Tickets will go on sale in February and tickets are limited. Please don't miss this exciting evening.



Also, we are in need of empty baskets in which to package auction items. These may be dropped off at the office as well.

## Scrapbooking is a Monthly Event at Troy First!

You will have plenty of opportunity in 2010 to catch up on your scrapbooking, or even start scrapbooking, as we are hosting events here at church, three months in a row!

February 5/6 is the first Friday/Saturday event, and the flyers are around the church.

March 12/13 is the second weekend that you will be able to get a lot of your scrapbooking done.

April 23/24 is the third weekend date, and that will be to finish up your albums before heading out into your garden.

Watch for flyers, or you can just ask Lisa Head about signing up for one, two, or all three of our scrapbook offerings. You'll have a great time!!! Watch for more information around the church!

## We Need to Hear from YOU!

As of January 4, 2010, we have received commitment pledges for 2010 as noted below. But there is still over 10% of YOU from whom we have yet to hear! Please help us complete our 2010 budget planning by providing your financial commitment ASAP. This year is going to be very difficult for the church and we need to have as much information available to us to make our planning decisions. Thank you!

### Stewardship Campaign Results

YEAR	FUND	# RESPONDING	#PLEDGING	TOTAL PLEDGED
2009	O&M	165	160	\$326,081
2010	O&M	140	139	\$265,097
2009	BLDG	165	132	\$154,293
2010	BLDG	140	119	\$156,923

### December Financials

	Operations and Ministries		Building/Mortgage Reduction		
	December	YTD	December	YTD	
Budgeted Income	\$32,333	\$387,996	Mortgage Payment	\$17,568	\$210,817
Actual Income*	\$43,982	\$381,593	Actual Income#	\$21,877	\$185,974

\*Includes income from Troy Co-op & CLC

#Includes income form CLC

## Have you signed up for LENTEN LOGOS?

Registration forms are now available for our five-week Wednesday night **LENTEN LOGOS** program and there are **exciting opportunities for all ages!** The program runs from February 24th to March 24th for a cost of \$20.00 per child/youth participant. Dinner for parents/workers/adults—\$3.00 (paid on site).



- Rev. Hal is offering a God and Country program for all Boy/Girl Scouts from any troop/pack in grades 3—12. ( 4 weeks only, 4:30-5:30pm) (\$20.00 includes medals, dinner and Lenten LOGOS Program.) Medals for Grade 3—God and Me, Grades 4 & 5—God and Family, Grades 6-8 — God and Church, and Grades 9-12 — God and Life. Contact Rev. Hal for more information. The medals will be presented on Sunday, March 21st, in worship.
- Yoga and Exercise class for Adults (4:30 – 5:30pm) Rachel T. will lead relaxing stretching and strengthening movements incorporating yoga and Pilates techniques. This will be easy to do with no equipment required. Keep your body in shape to keep your spirit and mind in tune.
- Dinner **for all participants** will be served at 5:30pm
- Crafts, music, and recreation for elementary age children (Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) following dinner (6:15 - 7:15pm)
- Musical play practice for middle school and high school students (6:15 – 7:15pm)
- Adult Lenten Study class ( 4 weeks only, 6:15 to 7:15pm, \$10.00 for the workbook.)

Tragedy befalls us and leaves us confused. Life doesn't turn out as we had planned. World events bring on unspeakable horrors in the lives of innocent people. The unimaginable happens and we are left asking, *Why? Why did God let this happen. Why didn't God heal my loved one?. Why did God give me these desires and no way to fulfill them?*

It was during the tumultuous era of World War II that Leslie D. Weatherhead, a British Methodist clergyman, preached five sermons on understanding the will of God for the congregation at City Temple in London. These sermons became the classic book, The Will of God, which has helped hundreds of thousands of Christians explore how God's will is related to God's character and ultimate intentions for us. The discussion will be led by George and Jane Berquist.

Participation fees are reasonable. Volunteer assistance is needed with dinner prep, children's programs and table leaders (hosts) are also needed. Guests are encouraged and welcome. Visit the Welcome Center for registration forms. Please call the office or Nancy Dolehanty with your questions.

## Successful Blood Drives Need More Than Blood Donors

If you can't give blood at our quarterly drives, you can still be a part of this lifesaving effort.

During the many years I've worked with Red Cross on blood drives in churches and other organizations, I've seen that, when the trained volunteers are from the hosting organization, the event runs more smoothly.

For a while, Troy First had a group of trained volunteers prepare packs, register donors and host the cookie table. The list of Troy First people who've completed the Red Cross training is growing shorter. This training is held several times throughout the year at the Red Cross center on Telegraph Road, and takes less than two hours. Occasionally, if there are changes in procedures, training needs to be updated. If enough people are trained, our volunteers would only need to work three-hour shifts to cover our blood drives.

In addition to donors and trained volunteers, we also need people to help provide a light meal for the volunteers and Red Cross staff. And cookies! We always need cookies for cookie table.

If you're interested in being a part of helping Troy First save lives, please call Bernona Fry for additional information.

*Bernona Fry*

## Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

On behalf of its co-chairs, Jill Woods and Lisa Byrd, a BIG "thank you" to all our Hostesses at this year's Snowflake Christmas Tea. Your cooperation and creativity helped bring together a beautiful evening with our church family and friends!

We couldn't have done it without the help of UMW officers and church members who helped with greeting guests, the punch table and set-up and tear-down for the event. A special thanks to Scott and Patti Aurand for their table organization for our feast as well as all our handsome male servers who gussied up for the occasion and made it so wonderful!

Finally, a big thank you to Reverend Hal for letting us know about a very special group of entertainers. The Dickens carolers from St. Paul United Methodist church provided a fabulous performance and sing-along to close our event.

Thank you again to everyone who made this event such a delight.

## Dear Friends,

Many thanks for your prayers, cards and good wishes during my recent hospitalization and recovery at home. I am not totally well but am feeling much better. I know your care and concern was a big help.

*Sincerely,  
Jean Sheren*

## UMW 2009 Mission Giving

The United Methodist Women gave \$9,329 to 24 different organizations during 2009 to help others in Troy, Michigan, the United States and around the world. Thanks to all of you who participated in the rummage sale, book sale, cookie walk and individual offerings to make this possible.

## Call For Prayer Shawls and Baby Blankets

The United Methodist Women are collecting prayer shawls and baby blankets to be taken to the UMW National Assembly in April. These will be given to those in need or sold to support UMW missions. Suggested sizes are:

Prayer Shawl: triangle 65" long and 32" center back, rectangle 19" x 69" or 14" x 70"

Baby Blankets: 30" x 30"; 32" x 32"; 36" x 36"; 38" x 38"

These are suggested sizes only and should not limit your creativity. Items can be knitted, crocheted or sewn. Purchased items are acceptable, but please no used items.

Look for a collection box in Mercer Hall. You may contact Ann Goff with questions.

Thank you for your participation in this ministry.

## Ruth Circle February Program

For the February 11th program, "For the Love of John," Megan Steiger is asking those women planning to attend to bring along a photograph of themselves with a loved one. Both framed and unframed photos are welcomed.

## Welcome our Newest Staff Member!

The Staff Parish Relations Committee and Education Committee are pleased to announce that Sue Wesp has been hired as our Children's Sunday School Coordinator. In that role she will be responsible for coordinating and planning the Spirit Seekers Sunday School and Junior Church Programs for our elementary age children. Sue has been a member of Troy First for many years and has been very active in our children's ministry programs, serving as the Junior Church Coordinator for the past three years and as a leader in the Spirit Seekers program for several years. She is currently employed by the Avondale Schools as a special education para-educator. Sue has lots of experience and enthusiasm and we are very fortunate to have her serve at Troy First in this important position. Please welcome her to the Troy First staff.

*Nancy Dolehanty  
Education Work Area Chair*

## WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

\*\*\* Volunteers needed

<i>Activity</i>	<b>February 7</b>	<b>February 14</b>	<b>February 21</b>	<b>February 28</b>
<b><i>Greeters</i></b>	Boy & Girl Scouts	Bill & Joyce Rampenthal	Leverenz Family	Aurand Family
<b><i>Ushers</i></b>	Ed Freeland Marie Leverenz Doug Smith Mary Smith	Karen Carl Ben Olesen Tom Stevens Marie Watson	Patti Aurand Chris DeVilling Corwin Hanson Bob Himes	Terry Pritchett Lyle Pushman Roger Steiger Chuck Tincknell
<b><i>Crucifer Bible Carrier</i></b>	Ashley Sadlier Geoffrey Williston	Derek Miller Gary Williams	Joseph Meek Annie Drake	Emily Woods Dylan Woods
<b><i>Acolytes</i></b>	Sarah Williston Merrick Rumel	Jamie Millier Aaron Goudie	Alexa DiBartolomeo Jessica Moore	Robert Ostrander Jessica Carl
<b><i>Sound Engineers</i></b>	Steve Olsavsky	Joe Meek	Jane Egermann	Kaj Ostergaard
<b><i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i></b>	Boy and Girl Scouts	Stephen Ministers		
<b><i>Monday Counters</i></b>	Judy Conley Linda DeVilling Bunny Schultz	Joyce Berard Ben Olesen Lee Ann Teagan	Jane Egermann Nancy Heffron Jayne Saeger	Marie Watson Julie Olsavsky
<b><i>Trustee on Duty</i></b>	Art Conley Rick Wright	Ralph Truelove	Bill Schaper	
<b><i>Altar Flowers</i></b>		Stephen Ministers		
<b><i>Jr. Church</i></b>	Allison Rhoades Music	Lori Ann Rumel Lee Ann Teagan	Michelle Williston	Tom Stevens Lyn Moore
<b><i>Faith in Action</i></b>	Remain in Church for Communion	Kelly Gordon	Marie Leverenz	Karen Carl
<b><i>Nursery (Newborns-Crawlers)</i></b>	Lisa Michaux Gwen Simon Tina Olesen	Jane Berquist Melissa Meek	Angela DiBartolomeo Chris Knoper	Mary Robertson
<b><i>Toddlers (Walkers-2s)</i></b>	Geoffrey Williston Gary Williams	Jessica Urbach	Jennifer Rivera	
<b><i>3/4 Year Olds</i></b>	The Mitchener Family	Katie Kuiper Ann Goff	Sharon Ostrander Kristen Truelove	Jill Woods Emily Woods

### Need a Summer Job? Looking to God for Help?

Would you like to serve Christ this summer? Do you have what it takes to share your faith journey with others? Are you creative and spontaneous? Outdoor and Retreat Ministries has several positions available for persons who wish to serve the Lord in a staff position. We have the purple brochure available in the office, or you can get it online at: [UMCCamps.org/employ.htm](http://UMCCamps.org/employ.htm)

Maybe you've considered a job at local fast food restaurants. Maybe you are good at baby-sitting or pet-sitting, or house-sitting. Here's an opportunity to look to God, and consider serving Him, while working at your summer job. Summer employment in the Detroit Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is waiting for your application! May God be with you as you job hunt and apply.



### The Cookies Are Coming! The Cookies Are Coming!

February 21st is the date to pick up the cookies ordered from the Girl Scouts. Look for the Girl Scout table in the Christian Life Center during coffee hour. Thank you for supporting the Girl Scouts!

### The Good Old Days

Office employees will daily sweep the floors, sut the furniture, shelves and showcases.

Each clerk will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's business.

Clerks will each day fill lamps, clean chimneys, trim wicks and wash the windows once a week.

*Anonymous*