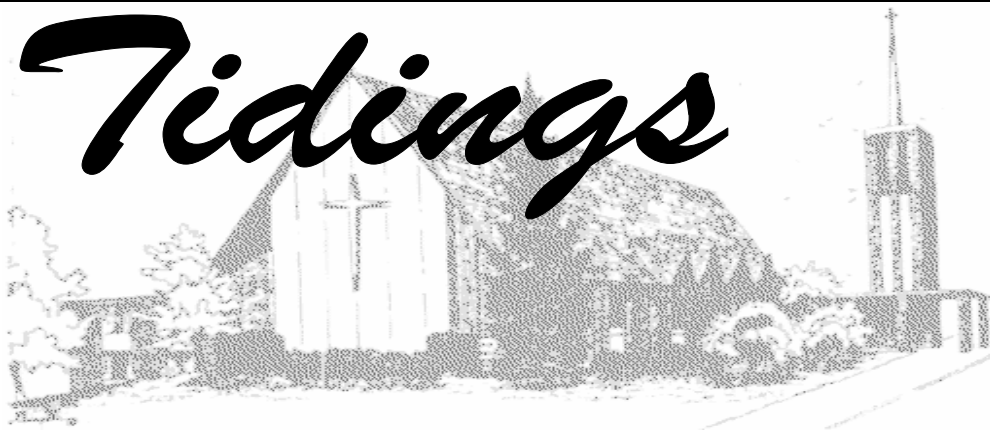


First United
Methodist Church
of Troy

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Tidings



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SUNDAYS

9:30

Traditional Worship
in the Sanctuary
and

Contemporary Worship
in the Christian
Life Center

10:30-10:50

Coffee Hour

10:50-11:30

Sunday School for
All Ages

11:30

One Voice Choir
Practice

6:30-8:00

UMYF

Looking Up

Dear Friends of Troy First

CHRISTMAS NOW, EASTER SOON

Today I took down my Christmas tree and packed away all the ornaments, just as I have done in years gone by.

I have always used this time to reflect on the special events of the holiday season.

But this time something happened.

As I lifted the ornaments from the branches, the pine needles pricked my hands. All of a sudden God spoke to my heart and said, "My hands and feet were pierced on Calvary's cross for you."

CHRISTMAS IS OVER AND EASTER WILL BE HERE SOON.

I had taken most of the ornaments off the tree when a red ball dropped to the floor. Again God spoke to my heart and said "This is my blood that was shed for you, that your sins might be forgiven."

CHRISTMAS IS OVER AND EASTER WILL BE HERE SOON.

As I circled the tree unwinding the glistening garland from the branches, God spoke to my heart and said, "These are the stripes that I bore for you, that you might be healed."

CHRISTMAS IS OVER AND EASTER WILL BE HERE SOON.

I took off the tiny lights, winding them from my thumb to my elbow to form a wreath. And God spoke to my heart and said, "This is the crown of thorns that pierced my brow for you."

CHRISTMAS IS OVER AND EASTER WILL BE HERE SOON.

As I gazed at the bare tree, God spoke to my heart and said, "I was striped naked for you, that you would be spared from your shame."

CHRISTMAS IS OVER AND EASTER WILL BE HERE SOON.

And then I saw a forgotten gold ball shining brightly among the faded branches. God spoke to my heart once more and said, "This is my heaven, lighted by my glory, your place of eternal life."

CHRISTMAS IS OVER AND EASTER WILL BE HERE SOON.

Anonymous

Happy New Year

Rev. Hal

What's Going On in Spirit Seekers?

In January, Spirit Seekers (ages 4 through 5th grade) will be learning about Lydia, an extraordinary Biblical businesswoman who sold purple cloth to wealthy royalty. Her story is told in the 16th chapter of the Book of Acts. Because of Lydia's willingness to respond to Paul's message about Christ, her entire family was baptized and Christianity spread quickly.

We'll be making grape freezer jam, tie-dying pillowcases (purple, of course), producing a puppet play, and learning to play "Down to the River to Pray" on Boom Whackers. This month's activities promise to be purplicious!

Places Where Paul Preached

Eleven of us cruised to Athens, Malta, Rome, and Pompeii in November. Approximately 7 of us will present pictures of our adventures on the "big screen" on Sunday morning, January 4 at 10:50 a.m.

It was an educational experience! And we had a very good time as some of the pictures will show. See you on January 4.

In person - Duane Alling and Marie Watson, Swapna Bagchi, Alison Iceman, Rev. Rich and Jan Peacock, Jayne Saeger; only in pictures - Rev. Woody Berkompas, Clarence and Maren Vos and Susan Wood.

Interested in Clinton River Ecology?

On Thursday, January 8, at 7:00 p.m., Mr. Dan Keefer will be here to share slides and information about the Clinton River Watershed. He will tell us how the watershed got started and give us an update on the status of the Watershed and tell us how we as a church can participate in its continued development. Of course he will talk about fishing in the Watershed.

Healing Service

On Sunday, January 11th, at 3:00 p.m. there will be a Healing Service in the Chapel. Reverend Art Stone will be conducting the service along with the Stephen Ministers. At this service we will be lighting candles for hope for the new year and experiencing God's healing and everlasting love.

Baptism Class

Baptism classes will be held Sunday, January 11, during Sunday School in Room 209. This class is for both parents of children as well as youth and adults. Childcare is available. Baptism Sunday will be Sunday, January 18, during the traditional morning worship service. Please call the church office (248-879-6363) to let Rev. Hal know of your intent to attend.

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

New Member Class

Adult Membership classes will be held Sunday, February 1, during Sunday School in Room 209. Childcare is available. Membership Sunday will be on Sunday, February 8, during the traditional morning worship service. From 11:30-12:30 we will have lunch as a new member class in Room 209. Please call the church office (248-879-6363) to reserve your place in this class.

Celebrate Human Relations Sunday on January 18, 2008!

Did you know that the United Methodist General Conference established Human Relations Day in 1972 to "recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other?" Each year, Human Relations Sunday is celebrated near Dr. Martin Luther King Day in honor of his dream and to continue his work. Human Relations Sunday is one of six church-wide special Sundays with a specific offering. When our congregation gives generously on Human Relations Sunday, we support a network of grassroots social- and human-service organizations.

You can help make Human Relations Sunday a special day for *all* of God's children. Come, worship with us, and give your special offering on Human Relations Sunday to help ensure each of God's children enjoys justice and equality. Also look for additional information on Human Relations Sunday in the CLC following worship.

First Call for Advent ArticlesReally?

You know, it's never too early to write an article for our 2009 Advent Booklet! And what better time could there be than right now, when we have just experienced the beauty and love of the Christmas season? It seems that people are so busy when fall comes around, that it is hard to find the time to get something together by our November 1st deadline. So - Here's a new idea: While you are packing away treasured boxes and new memories made this Christmas, why not sit down and write a reflection of this year's happenings? The experiences are fresh and new and the winter is such a great time to stay inside and curl up with a book - or the makings of a book - our 2009 Advent Booklet! We would love to hear from you. Please give your submissions to Sheila Wilson or Sara Matthews, or drop off your article in the church office.

A Big Thank You

A Special Thank You to the Families of "Tails from the Manger." What a special year we had! As always, it was a delight to work with the children of Troy First. Thank you for your generous gifts and the support you showed the program throughout its preparation.

*Allison Rhoades, Laurie Urbach,
and Jennifer Voight*

Attention All Church Committee Members

Church Council is calling “all committee persons” new and seasoned for 2009 to attend a Strategic Planning Session January 30-31.

Our strategic planning meeting will be held on Friday, January 30 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. and will reconvene on Saturday, January 31 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Supper will be served on Friday night and lunch on Saturday. Sharing a meal together will allow us to continue conversation in a more casual setting.

Cecile Adams will enthusiastically lead us through the development of our five-year strategic plan. Cecile is the chairperson of the Creative Coaching Center. We are blessed to have her guide us through a process that provides us direction as we move together into the future as a ministry team. All of Cecile’s ministry experiences on the local and national level in the UMC have been focused on the development and nurture of the local church.

Please know that the Church Council is looking for 100% participation from all committee members. If it is only possible for you to attend a part of this meeting, we want to know so that we can include you in that part of the planning process.

Please call Lisa Head at 248-879-6363 or email her at lisaheadclc@sbcglobal.net with your reservation by Sunday, January 25.

*Expectantly Yours,
Roger Steiger, Chair Person, Church Council
Dr. Hal Weemhoff, Pastor*



We received the following note about our Teddy Bear Ministry,

“I received a ‘get well’ bear from your church and compliments of Caeley, Riley and Mary Smith.

I fractured my tibia (leg bone) in two places and they sent the bear to cheer me up, which it certainly did.

Thank you to the church for your kind thoughts, prayers, and the darling bear.

Margaret Smith

P.S. I am Mary’s mother-in-law , also Riley and Caeley Smith’s grandmother.”

Calling All Scouts!

Sunday, February 8th, 2009 has been reserved as **Scout Sunday**. Whether you are a Boy Scout or a Girl Scout, this day has been set aside to honor scouting and you. Mark your calendar for the second Sunday in February and plan to greet, participate in worship, and serve at coffee hour. Our Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will serve together to make this a special day. For questions or to volunteer to help, contact Laurie Mitchener.

It's Girl Scout Cookie Time Again!

Once again the Girl Scouts will be selling cookies during Coffee Hour. If you are a Girl Scout and would like to sell cookies at the church, please join us at the Girl Scout table in the CLC during Coffee Hour on Sundays, January 11th and 18th. Please wear your vest or sash and your best Girl Scout smile.

The sales each morning will be divided equally among the girls participating. Each Girl Scout will receive a list of her cookie orders by January 20th. If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Mitchener.

Set aside February 8th to participate in “Scout Sunday.” Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts will greet, participate in worship and help serve at coffee hour. It’s a chance to both serve and celebrate you!

Thanks for Participating!

Thanks to all of you who showed up; the **First Annual Advent Church Family Festival** was a great success!

On Saturday, November 22, over 80 people came to the church and had breakfast (thanks M&E), crafts for the kids (thanks Education) and decorated the church (thanks Worship). In just over two hours, pancakes were eaten, candy houses were frosted and the church was transformed for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Because so many of you participated, many hands did, indeed, make for light work. We’ll see you next year!

Jennifer Fry, Co-Chair, Worship Committee



Children's Choir

We have had such a great response with the Wednesday night children’s musical practice, we are continuing with a children’s choir every Wednesday night from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. This choir is for all children in K-5th grades.

The children would then sing periodically during worship. The children have also been invited to sing one of the songs from the musical at the 4:30 Christmas Eve service. Cyndi Peltonen and Laurie Urbach will be the leaders.

Please let Cyndi Peltonen know if your child or children would be interested in this choir. She would also like to know if your child would be available for the 4:30 Christmas Eve service. You may call the church office at 248-879-6363 with the name and grade of your child. The first practice would be on January 7, 2009, at 6:30—7:15 p.m.



Address Changes

If you have a change in your address and/or phone number, please call the church office so we may keep our records up-to-date.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP *** Volunteers needed

Activity	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
Greeters	Bill and Sally Schaper	The Bauer Family	Art and Judy Conley	
Ushers	Ed Freeland Marie Leverenz Liz Sidner Doug Smith	Duane Alling Ben Olesen Tom Stevens Marie Watson	Patti Aurand Chris DeVilling Corwin Hanson Bob Himes	Terry Pritchett Lyle Pushman Roger Steiger Chuck Tincknell
Crucifer	Emily Woods	Dylan Woods	Andrew Aurand	Christopher Churay
Acolytes	McKenzie Gordon Zachary Gordon	James Hendrickson Lauren Matthews	Jason LaCombe Geoffrey Williston	Kurt Leverenz Beth Rhoades
Sound Engineers	Steve Olsavsky	Joe Meek	Kaj Ostergaard	Rick Wright
Coffee Hour Hosts				
Monday Counters	Judy Conley Linda DeVilling Bunny Schultz	Joyce Berard Ben Olesen Lee Ann Teagan	Jane Egermann Nancy Heffron Jayne Saeger	Duane Alling Lisa Head Julie Olsavsky
Trustee on Duty	Art Conley			LaNae Michael
Altar Flowers				
Jr. Church	Allison Rhoades Music	Lori Ann Rumel Lee Ann Teagan	Julie Olsavsky Anna & Kara	Tom Stevens Cindy Blakely
Faith in Action	Remain in Church for Communion	Kelly Gordon	Marie Leverenz	Karen Carl
Nursery (Newborns-Crawlers)	Lisa Michaux Gwen Simon Tina Olesen	Jane Berquist Melissa Meek	Angela DiBartolomeo Chris Knoper	Mary Robertson
Toddlers (Walkers-2s)	Geoffrey Williston Gary Williams	Jessica Urbach	Jennifer Rivera	
3/4 Year Olds	The Mitchener Family	Ann Goff Katie Kuiper	Sharon Ostrander Kristen Truelove	Jill Woods Emily Woods

The Memorial Book focus for the month of January is for the following:

January 4 in memory of Paralee Pasley perpetuated in Brass Offering Plates,

January 11 in honor of Jessica Lal perpetuated in Library Books for Teens,

January 18 in honor of Jessica Lal perpetuated in Youth Ministries, and

January 25 in memory of Debbie Lou Prosser perpetuated in Landscaping for the Memorial Garden.

The Memorial Garden Book focus for the month of January is in memory of Barbara Ann Berkompas.

Remember our friends in the Armed Forces:

Joe Agius, James Barrows, John Bridges, Danielle Cermak, Rohan Corera, James Courter, David Evans, Alex Hackett, Scott Kaler, Chris Mile, Jared Purcell, Jamie Smith, and Shawn Teagan.

Ingredients for a Successful Cookie Walk

What makes a good cookie walk? Well...lots of cookies! On December 14th, the CLC was filled with hundreds, no thousands, of cookies in all shapes, sizes and flavors! (Thank you to everyone who baked.)

What do you need next? Workers - chocolate makers, table setters and cookie plate personnel. (Thank you to all who helped.)

Follow up with three illustrious judges. Kudos to Scott Aurand, Bob Himes and Roger Steiger for performing their job tastefully.

Prize winners come next with a "secret" family recipe, a brand new cookie and a variation on a family favorite. Congratulations to 1st place winner Sall DeGriek for her chocolate chip cookie bars. Marie Watson took 2nd place with her "Chai Girl" cookies and Carol Bauer garnered 3rd place for her "Toffee Squares."

Thank you to all you customers for helping raise over \$600 for mission projects. All of you made it a successful cookie walk!

Laurie Mitchener, Cookie Walk CoChair

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Office Closed	2 Office Closed	3 3:30-8:30 CLC LL in use CLC Floor
4 Epiphany Communion No Faith in Action 10:50 Pastor Rich's presentation on Paul's Journey for Sunday School classes in the Sanctuary	5 6:30-8:30 CLC in use	6 7:00 Finance in the Chapel 8:00-10:00 CLC in use	7 10:00-11:30 Faith & Fun Play Group in the CLC 6:30-7:15 K-5 Children's choir practice begins	8 9:15 UMW Executive Board @ Jan Garrett's 6:30-8:30 GLDG Board Meeting 7:00 Fly Fishing Fellowship in the Chapel	9 9:15 TCP Board Meeting in 207 w/ childcare in 208	10 7:30 Men's Breakfast in the Kitchen
11 Baptism class during Sunday School 3:00 Service of Hope & Light in the Chapel	12 6:30-8:30 CLC in use	13 6:30 Stephen Ministers in Youth Room 7:00 SPRC in the Chapel 8:00-10:00 CLC in use	14 9:30 Space Usage in CLC LL 6:30-7:15 K-5 Children's choir practice	15 9:30 Ruth Circle @ church 7:00 Church & Society in Chapel 7:00 Education in 207 w/ childcare in 208 7:15 Faith & Friends 7:30 Deborah Circle @ Eunice	16	17 12:00-5:00 CLC in use
18 Baptism during Worship	19 Office closed 9:30 Baldwin 6:30-8:30 CLC in use	20 7:00 M&E in Room 207 7:00 Outreach in the Chapel 7:00 Trustees in Room 209 8:00-10:00 CLC in use	21 7:00 Facilities Team in Youth Room 6:30-7:15 K-5 Children's choir practice	22 10-12 LaLeche in Youth Room	23	24
25 Bells play during traditional worship	26 6:30-10:00 CLC in use	27 11:30 Fellowship Luncheon 6:30-9:30 GLDG in CLC 7:00 Church Council in the Chapel	28 6:30-7:15 K-5 Children's choir practice	29	30	31
					Strategic Planning Conference in the CLC 6:30-9:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.	

Every Sunday	Every Monday	Every Tuesday	Every Wednesday	Every Thursday	Every Saturday
9:30 Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary and Contemporary Worship in the CLC 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:50 Sunday School for all ages 11:30 One Voice Choir practice in the Chapel 6:30-8:00 UMYF	4:30-5:15 Genesis Handbell practice 5:30-6:40 Jubellee Handbell practice 6:45-8:15 Bellissima Handbell practice	9:30 Staff Meeting in the Chapel 1:30-6:30 Oakland Homeschoolers' Music, Inc. in the building	11:00 Pastor's Roundtable with lunch 6:30-7:15 Children's choir practice 7:30-9:00 Chancel Choir practice in the Chapel	7:00 Band rehearsal in the CLC 7:15 Recovery, Inc. in the Chapel	9:00-10:00 Kim in the Sanctuary