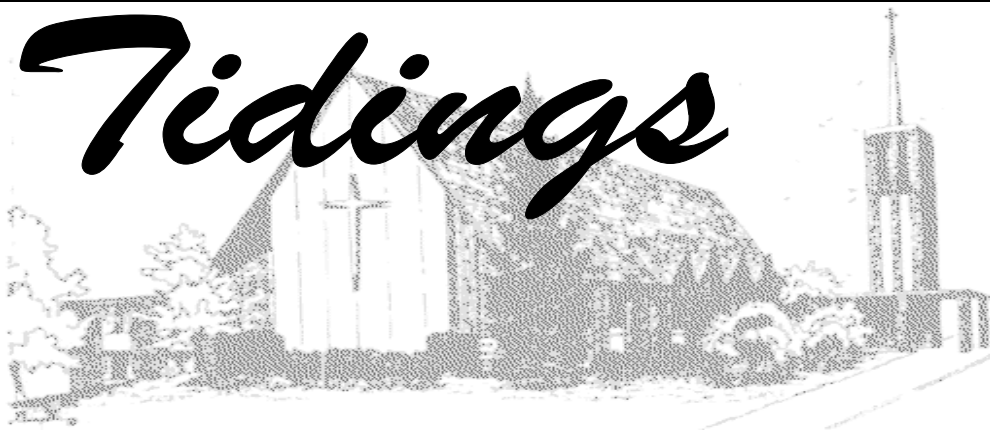


First United  
Methodist Church  
of Troy

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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

## Looking Up

January

“And the shepherds returned..”

I don't know how it is at your house, but there always seems to be more folks around when the tree is put up than when it's time for it to come down. I believe that's why you see more trees still up in the middle of February. People just change the decorations from Christmas to symbols for Valentine's Day and then Easter. I personally think this is a great sign of faith but most people I know don't agree. But please consider -

Last year one of our friends “kept their tree up” until mid-May and the darndest thing happened. They kept watering it and it began to produce new growth. “Unbelievable” was my reaction to the news! But isn't that what is supposed to happen to our lives after Christmas? As long as we water the tree, new growth will appear... Isn't that what happened to the shepherds? “And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen!” (Luke 2:20)

We need to remind ourselves to say with St. Paul, “Thanks be to God for unspeakable gifts.” What was the faith of the early church if it was not a witness to the life and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? What is the faith of the church today if it is not a witness to the signs of presence of Christ in our lives?

“A FIRST COMING”

God did not wait till the world was ready, till ... nations were at peace, God came when the heavens were unsteady, and prisoners cried out for release. God did not wait for the perfect time. God came when the need was deep and great. God dined with sinners in all their grime, turned water into wine. God did not wait till hearts were pure. In joy God came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt. To a world like ours, of anguished shame God came, and God's Light would not go out. God came to a world which did not mesh to heal its tangles, shield its scorn. In the mystery of the Word made Flesh the Maker of the stars was born. We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice, for to share our grief, to touch our pain, God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

*Madeline L'Engle  
A Cry Like A Bell*

And the congregation returned...

*Happy New Year,  
See you in church*

*Rev. Hal*

## “LENTEN LOGOS” is Coming to Troy First !

Looking ahead in 2010, our Wednesday night Lenten Program (formerly **COW - Connect on Wednesdays**) is scheduled to begin on **February 24th** and run for 5 weeks, ending on March 24th with a new name “LENTEN LOGOS.” LOGOS means “word” in Greek and we invite you to grow together in God's Word.

We will provide dinner for all ages, Bible study and activities for children, practice for the Youth Musical, and adult Bible Study. This format follows the LOGOS model, a nationally recognized program that fosters great Christian connections for our children, youth and adults. With the support and participation from our congregation, we will offer fall and spring sessions of LOGOS. We are looking for volunteers of all ages to help with dinner, children's Bible Study and activities. Look for registration forms and more details about the program at the Welcome Center soon.

Please contact Nancy Dolehanty, Education Chair, for more information.



Dear Troy First UMC Friends,

Thank you to your congregation for participating in the Troy CROP Walk. You walked to fight hunger from your doors to the hungry world beyond.

We are grateful to be one of the beneficiaries of your efforts, and we will use it to feed the hungry here in Detroit.

*Sincerely,  
Chris Weemhoff, Finance Director  
Cass Community Social Services*

## Thank you...

...to all who donated shoeboxes over the past year, to those who contributed items for their contents in November, and to the youth who packed them! Operation Christmas Child, who distributes shoeboxes full of school supplies, hygiene items, and toys to needy children all over the world, credited our youth with packing 50 boxes. WOW! Well done! Thank you! One more thing...please pray for the children who receive those boxes, that their lives may be touched and changed by Christ.

## Chocolate, Hugs & Kisses!

It's time again to collect candy and send Valentine's Day wishes to our college students. They "Love" our attention. Please bring your donations in by Sunday, February 7th and drop the treats in the Heart Box on the Welcome Center. The box will be available January 17th—February 7th.

Thank you for supporting this Young Adult Ministry Project.

*Sandy Sands  
Higher Education*

## Calling All Girl Scouts

Once again the Finance Committee has approved the Girl Scouts 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 Christian Life Center during coffee hour on January 10th and 17th. 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 19th. If you have any questions, please call Laurie Mitchener.

## What Do We United Methodists Really Stand For?

Many of us blithely offer our answer to this question in the form of a prepared creed, responsive reading, scripture, or quote. However, in our everyday world of complex issues the answer to this question becomes much more difficult. Do our personal convictions and decisions (including what we chose to ignore) reinforce what we claim to stand for as Christians?

The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church provide a summary of stated convictions that seek to apply the Christian vision of what is "just and right" to basic social, economic, and political issues. They have been characterized as a conduit between faith and practice or what some of us would refer to as "walking the talk".

These Social Principles were just updated at the recent General Conference of the United Methodist Church. Church and Society work area is conducting a three-night series of classes, "An Introduction to the New Social Principles" on Sunday evenings, January 17, 24, and 31, 2010 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the church. This educational series will not only provide you with an understanding of the Social Principles and where they came from, but should give you an opportunity to explore and assess your personal views on current peace and social justice issues, e.g. war, poverty, individual rights, and environmental stewardship.

You can sign-up for "An Introduction to the New Social Principles" in the CLC during Coffee Hour or contact Judy Stone by January 17, 2010.



## Calling all Scrapbookers!

February 5/6, 2010 will be the next dates that we are hosting a marathon Scrapbooking Crop in our Christian Life Center. On Friday night, from 6pm-midnight, for the low price of \$18.00, you will be able to scrap for a full six hours, including dinner and snacks! On Saturday, for \$45.00, you can scrap with a light breakfast and lunch from 8am-4pm. Combine both Friday and Saturday for the discounted price of \$55.00. We're hoping that many new scrapbookers as well as the usual veterans will be eager to join us for this fun weekend! Reserve your spot today, and please tell a scrapbooking friend about this event! Register w/payment to Troy 1st.

## FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2009

### Operations and Ministries

	November	YTD
Budgeted Income	32,333	355,663
Actual Income*	35,048	337,611

### Building/Mortgage Reduction

	November	YTD
Mortgage Pmt	17,568	193,248
Actual Income#	21,038	164,097

\*Includes income from Troy Co-op and CLC #Includes income from CLC

## Growing Up Methodist

The holidays always bring a time of reflection for me. The decorations in the church are like a trip down memory lane and so many things tumble pell-mell through my thoughts. Christmas pageants, Christmas Eve services, Communion, Contemporary Worship, Sunday School classes, MYF and UMYF, CLC activities, Livewires camping, bowling league, golf league, Circuit Riders, YMAR, UMW, SOS week, Baldwin Center, Youth Club, VBS, youth mission trips, rummage sales, Sue's plays, Stained Glass Candy, Stephen Ministry, DISCIPLE Bible Study and the list goes on and on. How many more can you add? It reminds me of how very blessed we are to be members of this branch of God's Church.

I was a teenager before I realized that other people didn't have the same perspective and beliefs about God and church membership. As I grew up, my family and my Church family modeled those values that are most important to me in a Christian life. My parents taught us that this is "Our Church" and we are the ones who take care of it and make everything work. When there was conflict with someone else, I was shown by their example to remember even though I might not agree with or even like that person, they are still a part of our Church family. I give "Thanks" that others often "give me a break" and accept me with all my faults and quirks. I regret very much those times that my personal opinions kept me from "giving a break" to someone I didn't agree with or even like too much.

The Methodist Church is different from other denominations because the Pastor is appointed by the Bishop. He is not hired by the individual congregation. I remember when my mom was Chairman of the Trustees and the Pastor did not agree with a decision about a project the committee had made. She just calmly told him that their decision would stand because "this is our church and you will be leaving eventually." Over these many years good times and bad have come and gone for both me and our Church. In the 60's we had a Sunday when it seemed we might have to close the doors. I imagine there were other hard times in the past 175+ years. Together we have kept the Faith, worked on the tough problems, celebrated the wonderful blessings, and held fast to our purpose of "Gathering all generations for worship, discipleship, and ministry." I ask you to join me as together we work to find God's way to get through the struggle ahead.

Thank You for being there in my life and for seeing me through baptism, confirmation, marriage, births, celebrations, crisis, weddings, grandchildren, deaths and all the many parts of living. God Bless You All.

*Jayne Saeger*

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

## All Scout Sunday, February 7th

Both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will be recognized during worship on Sunday, February 7th. They will serve as greeters, participate in a flag ceremony, and host coffee hour. This is a chance to celebrate scouting and serve our church. Please plan to join us on February 7th. Look for more details in the next Tidings. For questions, contact Laurie Mitchener.

## Library Notes

A wonderful donation has been made to our church library by Judy Stone! These four books are about peace and war.

1) Unbowed A Memoir by W. Maathai is the story of the first African Woman and the first environmentalist to win the Nobel Peace prize. She continues to plant trees and help restore democracy in Kenya. BIO MAA

2) Stolen Voices Young People's War Diaries from World War I to Iraq is made up of diary entries kept during the many wars of this era. Those who appreciated Anne Frank's diary will find this compelling also. 172.4 FIL

3) Alice Walker's Why War is Never a Good Idea has amazing illustrations and quite an impact for such a short book. FIC WAL

4) Then for children at J303.6 RAD is What Does Peace Look Like - a non-threatening way to discuss peace with children.

These books will be out on a table for awhile – or keep note of their call numbers so you can find them later.

P.S. I'm working to completely update the list of our books so we can have it available on a shelf or table.

*Jan Peacock*

## Human Relations Sunday

On January 17, 2010 United Methodists all over the world will be celebrating Human Relations Day. Everyone will have an opportunity to give a special offering to help provide food for the needy, childcare, and after-school tutoring. Outreach programs include helping former prison inmates, homeless services, and job training. Because of these tough economic times more than ever giving is so important to children and adults who are in need. There is an envelope in this Tidings and there will be extras in the pews for you to give generously to support this ministry.

## Lost

One greenery container from Mercer hallway. If you find it, please return to Lisa Head. Thank you.

## New Year's Resolution for Better Health

Buy a low-fat cookbook and prepare five of its recipes each month.

Keep the cupboard junk food free for one month.

## **VISION**

Our vision is to be a Christ-centered, nurturing congregation recognized for reaching out to all and serving those in need.

## **MISSION**

Our mission is to gather all generations for worship, discipleship, and ministry.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

### ***GATHER ALL GENERATIONS***

We strive to provide opportunities for spiritual growth that appeal to all generations, inspiring us to invite others to share in the love of Christ.

### ***WORSHIP***

We strive to provide a worship experience that includes inspiring music, messages, scripture, prayer, and silence.

### ***DISCIPLESHIP***

We strive to provide learning experiences that help people believe in and accept God's promises.

### ***MINISTRY***

We strive to provide a variety of opportunities to serve others as followers of Jesus.

## WORSHIP LEADERSHIP \*\*\*\*Volunteers Needed

Activity	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
<b>Greeters</b>	Matthews	Ostergaard	Clay	Freeland	UMYF
<b>Ushers</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	UMYF
<b>Crucifer Bible Carrier</b>	Rachel Voight Joe Meek	Jacob Carl Dominic Gordon	Trevor Elliott Missy Clay	Jason LaCombe Jackson Steiger	Molly Mitchener Tess Van Gorder
<b>Acolytes</b>	Grace Voight Jessica Moore	Jessica Carl Andrew Gordon	Beth Rhoades Meghan Rhoades	Alex Simon Lauren Matthews	Kurt Leverenz Elise Leverenz
<b>Sound Engineers</b>	Steve Olsavsky	Joe Meek	Kaj Ostergaard	Jane Egermann	
<b>Coffee Hour Hosts</b>		<b>If you wish to help, call Jeff Boelter.</b>			
<b>Monday Counters</b>	Judy Conley Jane Egermann Lyle Pushman	Joyce Berard Ben Olesen Lee Ann Teagan	Jane Egermann Nancy Heffron Jayne Saeger	Marie Watson Julie Olsavsky	<b>February 1st Monday Judy Conley Jane Egermann Lyle Pushman</b>
<b>Trustee on Duty</b>	Art Conley Rick Wright	Ralph Truelove	Bill Schaper		
<b>Altar Flowers</b>			The Byrds Kelsey's 20th birthday		
<b>Jr. Church</b>	Allison Rhoades Music	Lori Ann Rumel Lee Ann Teagan	Michelle Williston	Tom Stevens Lyn Moore	Noisy Sunday No Jr. Church
<b>Faith in Action</b>	Remain in church for Communion	Kelly Gordon	Marie Leverenz	Karen Carl	Noisy Sunday No FIA
<b>Nursery (Newborns &amp; Crawlers)</b>	Lisa Michaux Gwen Simon Tina Olesen	Jane Berquist Melissa Meek	Angela Di Bartolomeo Christine Knoper	M. Robertson	Julie Geggie
<b>Toddler Room (Walkers-2 year olds)</b>	Geoffrey Williston Gary Williams	Jessica Urbach	Jennifer Rivera		
<b>3 &amp; 4 Year Olds</b>	The Mitchener Family.	Katie Kuiper Ann Goff	Sharon Ostrander Kristen Truelove	Emily and Jill Woods	Meena Macwan



Cookies, cookies and more cookies lead to many Cookie Walk "Thank You's!"

Thank you to all the bakers. We couldn't do it without you. You—and your cookies—exceeded all our expectations.

Congratulations to our "Bake Off" winners. First place—Carole Bauer; second place—Martha Blair, and third place—Jan Peacock!

Thank you to all our workers; both on Saturday and Sunday. A special thank you to our judges: Chris DeVilling, Lyle Pushman and Art Stone.

Thank you to all our buyers who purchased cookies, candy and breads. You made it the most successful cookie walk ever.

Your purchases will allow the United Methodist Women to donate over \$900 to missions.

Thank you all for a job well done.

*Laurie Mitchener  
LaNae Michael  
Co-Chairs*