

First United  
Methodist Church  
of Troy

Rev. Hal Weemhoff  
(248) 879-6363  
FAX (248) 879-7552

Volume XXVII Issue 4  
April, 2009  
Publisher: D. Klungle

# Tidings



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



troyfirst@sbcglobal.net  
drhalw@sbcglobal.net  
megwilson42@sbcglobal.net  
donnaKlungle@sbcglobal.net  
lisaheadcl@sbcglobal.net  
cyndi.peltonen@gmail.com  
krawlin1@hfhs.org  
pfabdull@oakland.edu  
swapnabagchi4@yahoo.com

## Sundays

**See insert about  
time change for  
worship services  
and Sunday  
School effective  
April 19.**

### Coming Events

**April 9, 7:30**

Maundy Thursday  
Worship here

**April 12, 8:00**

“Son”rise Service

**9:30** Traditional

Worship in the  
Sanctuary

**9:30** Contemporary

Worship in the CLC

## Looking Up

VITA, VITA, VITA....

Leo Tolstoy brings his monumental classic “War and peace” to a close with three dots...not a question mark, not an exclamation point, simply three dots. It seems that Tolstoy was saying there is more to be said. He could not express a conclusion as if everything had come to an end. Does that not say something to us about life and its eternal qualities?

I thank God for the message of Easter, that death

hath no dominion over life, that in the resurrection of our lord a new hope came into the world. I cannot help but think of the words of Jesus, “I am the resurrection and the life.” John 11:25. This is the eternal truth which is at the heart of the Gospel...What assurance this is for life in a world that has felt threatened by human extinction from the very beginning.

My friends, we live in the promise of Him who said, “Because I live, you shall live also.” It is this fact of faith that allows Christians to face death with mourning and yet

give thanks for life. “Nothing shall separate us from the love of God.”

Perhaps my most personal word on death and resurrection assurance comes from the experience I had during a visit to the catacombs of Rome with my parents, whom I dearly love. On the walls of the catacombs of Rome, where many Christians lived and died because of

their undying faith, we read together the crude etchings of those who laid their loved ones to rest: Vita, Vita, Vita...

(which means Life, Life, Life...) A sense of calm came over me when I felt that holy place as I thought of those loved ones who taught me to love through their love for me.

“Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

May the Joy of Easter be yours.

See you in Church,

Rev. Hal

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*“Because I live, you shall live also.”*

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## Financial Report as of February 28, 2009

### Operations and Ministries

	Feb.	YTD
Budgeted Income	32,333	64,666
Actual Income	28,021	61,537

### Building/Mortgage Reduction

	Feb.	YTD
Mortgage Pmt	17,568	35,136
Actual Income	16,292	26,454

## Haiti Container Project

Ken Englemann and Jan Garrett will be attending the Detroit Annual Conference as representatives of First UMC Troy. The Conference will be filling a container with the following kits which will be sent to Haiti:

Health kit (value \$12)      Layette Kit (value \$35)

School Kit (value \$11)      Sewing Kit (value \$18)

The contents for these kits are listed on a flyer on the bulleting board across from the church office.

If you care to give to this project, either a full kit or the cash value, please give them to either ken or Jan no later than Sunday, May 10. Checks should be made out to Detroit Annual Conference.

## Spring Cleaning? Save those Shoeboxes!

Last November our youth group packed over 45 shoeboxes with small gifts and the message of God's love for children who might not receive any other gift at Christmas time. And they plan to do it again! Naturally packing **shoeboxes** takes - - - **SHOEBOXES!** As you clean out your closets this spring please save your **shoeboxes** (the ones where the lid is separate from the box) for this youth project. They may be placed inside the welcome center in the narthex and the youth will carry them downstairs.

Thanks for sharing your **shoeboxes**, lids, and God's love.

## All Scout Sunday

Sunday, February 8th, 2009, was All Scout Sunday. Both Boy and Girl Scouts participated in the Flag Ceremony and led the congregation in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kurt Leverenz led past and present Boy Scouts in reciting the Boy Scout Oath. Fay Steiger led the saying of the Girl Scout Promise for all Girl Scouts. Participating in the service were Boy Scouts Christian Aurand, Andrew Gordon, Kurt Leverenz, Merrick Rumel, Ethan Van Gorder, Drew Voight, MacLean Wilcock, and Geoffrey Williston.

Girl Scouts participating were Lydia Blakely, Alyssa Goff, Carly Gordon, Lauren Jakobiak, Claire Matthews, Lauren Matthews, Molly Mitchener, Lane Ann Rumel, Fay Steiger, Kaleigh Truelove, Krista Williston and Sarah Williston. The Flag Ceremony was led by Lee Matthews, Keith Van Gorder and Scott Williston. In addition to taking part in the service, the scouts served as greeters and coffee hour hosts that Sunday. Thank You Scouts!

## A Mailbox Surprise

One of my favorite times during a typical day at college is when I go and check my mailbox. It may not be everyone's favorite part of day, but it certainly is that of a college student. I don't usually get a lot of mail, and I'm sure that other students can relate. I do get an occasional letter, which is always a great surprise, but I especially love getting packages. The day before Valentine's Day, I got a package notice, and I picked up the package and saw that it was from my church. Back at my room, I was excited to find many Valentine's goodies and little notes from the children at church. This was certainly a wonderful surprise to receive. It reminded me that I am loved and the congregation prays for college students. I am sure that the other college students would agree. I felt very special and I was glad to see that the children were involved in sending caring cards. Thank you very much, Troy 1st, for sending all of your college students thoughtful goodies for Valentine's Day. It sure brightened up my day! Your prayers and caring notes are very much appreciated.

~Becky Head~

## BetterWorldShopper.org

The FaithLink Adult Sunday School class ends up discussing quite a few topics! On March 1st we discussed "shopping with a conscience." We wanted to know where to get information so we could buy from companies who didn't use child labor, were environmentally friendly, and paid fair wages. In researching this, I came across what looks like a helpful site. You can check out 20+ different types of products (clothing, cars, cereal, office supplies) and see rankings of companies based on these and other issues. It is [betterworldshopper.org](http://betterworldshopper.org). I found it really interesting so thought I'd pass it on.

Jan Peacock

Again, this year Troy First will be participating in the 18th annual CROP Walk on May 3, 2009. The money raised through pledges is used to support programs of Church World Service. Twenty-five percent of the money raised stays in Michigan. Some of



the local agencies that benefit are Troy People Concerned and the Baldwin Center. You may pick up your CROP Walk Pledge information at Coffee Hour in the CLC on April 5th, April 19th and April 26th. There will be a table set up with CROP information. People who choose not to walk will have an opportunity to sponsor a walker.

## A Big Thank You

"The staff, board of directors, and volunteers of Rochester Area Neighborhood House (RANH) thank you for your donation of \$400.00. your contribution will support our outreach work that helps feed, clothe, and/or provide financial assistance for a specific bill our client(s) are unable to pay.

Your contribution to RANH is notice and greatly appreciated. Our supporters' generosity has allowed us to sustain our efforts for over 40 years. Thank you for the confidence you have shown in RANH. If we can provide any additional information about the services we offer, including presentations, job coaching and counseling, please contact me anytime."

With gratitude,  
Kim Spampinato  
Executive Director

## Native American Ministries

Troy First will be celebrating Native American Ministries on Sunday, April 26th. Whether it's providing shelter for victims of domestic violence, filling food pantries, or starting new churches, this special offering is one way United Methodists honor Native Americans. Your gifts also provide scholarships to Native Americans attending United Methodist and other approved schools of theology. Please give generously and support this ministry.

Envelopes for this offering will be in the pew racks on Sunday, April 26.

Betty Kalvoda, Outreach Committee

## Membership and Evangelism presents:

### A Spring Fling, Potluck lunch and Games

Sunday, April 19, after Sunday School until around 2:30. Bring a dish to pass and your favorite game to share. Frisbees and kites are welcome, weather permitting. Just bring your dish to the kitchen before worship. Everything will 'magically' be ready after Sunday School. Beverages and table service supplies by M & E. This event is open to everyone.

Questions? Call Robin Ostergaard or Jim Wilson.

### Baptism Class

A baptism class will be held on Sunday, May 3, during Sunday School time in Room 209. This class is for both parents of children as well as youth and adults. Childcare is available. Baptism Sunday will be on Mother's Day, May 10, during the traditional morning worship service. Please call the church office (248.879.6363) to let Rev. Hal know if you plan to attend. Thanks.

### Troy People Concerned Food Pantry

Thanks to all those who have brought non-perishable food items for our TPC food pantry. Corwin Hanson took 52 bags to the food pantry for 2008. If you would like to help people in Troy in need, you may bring non-perishable food items and toiletries and put in the bin marked for TPC that is located in the Mercer hall. They are taken to the food pantry located at St. Anastasia Catholic Church about every two months.

## United Methodist Women News

There are no circle meetings this month because of Maundy Thursday, April 9. Worship service is at 7:30 here at Troy First. Easter is Sunday, April 12.

Church Women United States Assembly is in Livonia Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18.

There is no Fellowship Lunch in April.

### Can you spare some gently used clothing and small household items?

**When: June 13th UMW Rummage Sale.** (Items needed June 7-9.) If you're able, please bag/box your donations in separate categories. Tax receipts will be available. (Have no rummage? Please ask a friend for some!)

**What to bring - examples:** clothing; accessories (no jewelry); books, CDs, DVDs; decorative items; pictures, frames, lamps; kitchen gear; linens, fabric; small appliances/equipment; tools.

**What not to bring:** Please don't bring individual items which are larger or heavier than a folding chair; also, no computer equipment or exercise bikes. Due to new children's product safety law, don't bring kids' toys or equipment. Questions? Please contact Jan Chamberlain.

### M&E Needs Your Help!!!

In order for our Spring Fling on 4/19 to be a success, we could use a few extra hands to help 'magically' set up after coffee hour and clean-up after lunch and games. Remember, many hands make light work! Questions?? Call Jim Wilson or Robin Ostergaard.

The Worship Committee is once again offering you an opportunity to buy lilies, tulips or hyacinths to decorate our sanctuary in an array of colors. Please indicate your choice on the form below, supply the necessary information and enclose a check made payable to Troy First UMC for \$7.50 for each plant by **Sunday, March 29** (absolute deadline). You may pick up your flowers after the 9:30 worship service on Easter Sunday.



How many? Lilies \_\_\_\_\_ Tulips \_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinths \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed (\$7.50 each) \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No.

## WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

\*\*\* Volunteers needed

<i>Activity</i>	<b>April 5 (Palm Sunday)</b>	<b>April 12 Easter</b>	<b>April 19</b>	<b>April 26</b>
<b><i>Greeters</i></b>	Duane Alling Marie Watson	The Abdo Family	The Clay Family	Paul and Cheryl Barnes
<b><i>Ushers</i></b>	Ed Freeland Marie Leverenz Chris DeVilling 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
<b><i>Crucifer</i></b>	Anna Olsavsky	Jackson Steiger	Tess Van Gorder	Rachel Voight
<b><i>Acolytes</i></b>	Jacob Carl Geoffrey Williston	Brianne Abdo Jessica Abco	Annie Drake Jason LaCombe	Grace Voight Victoria Aurand
<b><i>Sound Engineers</i></b>	Steve Olsavsky	Rick Wright	Jerry Michaux	Jane Egermann
<b><i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i></b>	***	***	Church & Society	***
<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	Duane Alling Lisa Head Julie Olsavsky
<b><i>Trustee on Duty</i></b>	Art Conley Rick Wright	Ralph Truelove	Bill Schaper	LaNae Michael
<b><i>Altar Flowers</i></b>		Easter Flowers		
<b><i>Jr. Church</i></b>	Allison Rhoades Music	Lori Ann Rumel Lee Ann Teagan	Julie Olsavsky Anna & Kara	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	Ann Goff Katie Kuiper	Sharon Ostrander Kristen Truelove	Jill Woods Emily Woods

### Walk the Labyrinth

Pray for Floyd Cobb, Pauline and Larry Jose, Kate Krupa, Mildred Pardue and Lois Parrott.

Pray for our members of the Armed Forces: Joe Agius, James Barrows, John Bridges, Danielle Cermak, Rohan Corera, James Courter, David Evans, Alex Hackett, Angela Hackett, Scott Kaler, Chris Mile, Jared Purcell, Jamie Smith and Shawn Teagan.

Our Memorial Book focus for April 5 is in honor of Susan Olesen perpetuated in a Chancel Choir Anthem; for April 12 in honor of Larry and Pauline Jose perpetuated in Assisted Listening Devices; for April 19 in memory of Byron H. Kumler perpetuated in Sound System Chancel Microphones; and for April 26 in memory of Grace Timmerman perpetuated in Sound System Chancel Microphones.

The Memorial Garden Book focus for the month of April is in memory of Raymond Arnold Kiddle.

Once again for Easter our chapel will be transformed into a sacred walking place to journey with Christ. This ancient prayer tool may be used by youth, families, singles and believers of all ages.

This canvas labyrinth was a gift in memory of David Harfst and Lisa Byrd's parents, Ray and Lillian Kiddle.

We invite you to put prayer into motion by walking the labyrinth! The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, April 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m.

Thursday, April 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m.

Friday, April 10 from 10 a.m. until noon

Saturday, April 11 from 10 a.m. until noon.

There will also be instructions here to guide you.