

STEEPLE TIDINGS

FEBRUARY 2010

ISSUE 2-10

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Mission Statement

As followers of Jesus Christ, our mission is to make Christian

Disciples:

by using our spiritual gifts; by practicing the means of grace; and by living our faith.



FEBRUARY

at
HUMC

Chili Cook-off/Supper

Saturday, February 6

6—7:30 PM

Fellowship Hall

Souper Bowl of Caring

Worship at HUMC

Sundays at 10 AM

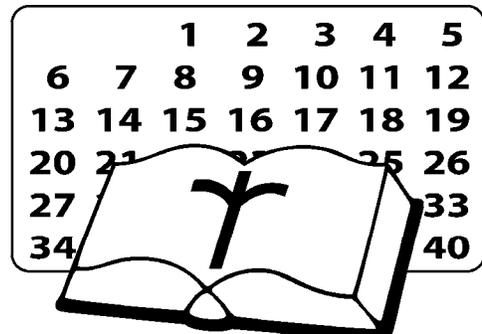


Lenten Sermon Series

Join Rev. Dave every Sunday during Lent for his sermon series ***“We Are The Church.”***

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| February 21 | What is a Church? |
| February 28 | The Power of Prayer |
| March 7 | You Just Gotta Be There |
| March 7 | The Joy of Giving |
| March 21 | The Blessing of Service |

See Page 4 for more information.



Pastor's Message
for Lent

Some Thoughts From Me—Rev. Dave



You know, February is an amazing month. Not only is it the shortest month, but it is also one of the busiest. That busyness takes on many forms; some good, some not. Some we

look forward to; others we dread.

For me, it starts right out on the first day of the month with vacation. Now I realize that vacation doesn't sound very busy, but let's face it, we usually try to cram as much into our vacations as we can. I confess that I am no different. I will probably try to get as much "relaxing" done as possible during that week, which means I'll probably need to come back to work to recover. At any rate, vacation ends with one of my favorite national holidays, Super Bowl Sunday. Okay, I know that it is not *really* a holiday, but let's be honest—it's how we treat it. Many of us will spend the afternoon and evening with friends having a Super Bowl Party. We'll be in Maine with our best friends doing just that. Some of our young people, though, will take advantage of the holiday to remind us of the needs of others as they collect for the Souper Bowl of Caring after church. I hope you will give generously.

Later in the month comes Valentine's Day, and while it is not a major holiday (certainly smaller than Super Bowl Sunday), it is a holiday I enjoy very much. It's not that I need a day to remember to tell Colleen I love her, but it is nice to have that day as an excuse to pamper her a bit. Ironically, this is also the day that our new youth group is starting up. Perhaps that is appropriate, because the presence of this group is one way in which this church says "we love you" to our teenagers.

Then begins one of my favorite times of year, Lent. This year Lent begins on February 17, with the traditional Ash Wednesday service. During this service we will celebrate Holy Communion, receive the sign of the Cross marked in ashes on our forehead, and begin a six week period of prayer and reflection. For many of us, this is a dark time, and not something we especially enjoy. But for me it is a powerful reminder of depth of God's love for me. Because despite my flaws and imperfections (yes, I do have them), and despite my rebellious and sinful nature, God loved me enough to give Himself for me. Maybe it is appropriate that Lent begins so close to Valentine's Day; after all, that is a pretty powerful statement of love. This year we are adding something new to our observance of Lent; a Friday noon prayer service held in conjunction with our sister United Methodist Church here in Enfield (there is more on this elsewhere in Steeple Tidings).

In addition, we will be collecting health kits to send in response to the recent devastation in Haiti, serving dinner at the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen on the 21st, continuing with our current Bible Study on the Psalms, and taking care of the usual array of meetings and daily tasks.

It is hard to believe that so much has been packed into one little month. And as I look back at all of the things I've listed, I can't help but notice that they are all good things. Every one of them is something that either benefits me or someone else directly. There is not an item on that list that I would take off. And therein lies the problem with February (or any month for that matter, because let's be honest again, every month is too busy); it is so filled with good things that we run the risk of crowding out God. I know that sounds silly, but it's true. When my months get busy I find myself hurrying through my personal devotions; focusing more on getting them done than in lingering with God. *See Thoughts on Page 3.*

Thoughts—continued from page 2.

My prayers become more rushed. My focus begins to wander. And before I know it, the joys of the month have become nothing more than burdens, because I've become too busy to enjoy them. Or perhaps I should say I've become too busy to allow God to bless me with them.

Where is all of this leading? Well, that's a good question. I think that where it leads me is to remember that when life gets busy I need to **increase** my time with God, not decrease it. The more I need to get done, the more I need the One through whom all things are possible. Perhaps the lesson of February is that the real issue in my life is not how much I do or don't accomplish, but whom I accomplish it with. As the psalmist says, "unless the Lord builds the house, those who labor do so in vain." (*Psalm 127:1*) Maybe that is Bible speak for "unless the Lord is in charge of the calendar, those who attempt to live with it get pretty tired."

As you go through this month, as you go through every month, may you look to the hills and remember where your help comes from. (*Psalm 121:1*) As you go through this month, may you remember that the One who parted the Red Sea for the Israelites is the same One who can part the busyness of your life to allow the blessings of each moment to shine through. As you go through this month, may you spend ever more time in the arms of the One who gave Himself for you. And may you find peace and rest.

Dave

Did you know that this year Hazardville United Methodist Church is celebrating its 175th anniversary? That's right. For the past 175 years this church has been bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to this community and the world. And we want to celebrate. So mark your calendar with these very special dates.

- April 25** A **celebration of the pastors** who have guided and loved us. We are inviting all of our former pastors back for this very special service, which will be followed by a potluck luncheon and program. There are going to be opportunities to share our memories and even a special photo contest. (Watch Steeple Tidings for more information.)
- May 2** A very **special musical concert** put on by our choir, members of the Community Chorus, and some special guests. This will be a free concert (freewill offering will be taken).
- Summer** An **old-fashioned revival**. Never been to one? Well, we'll take care of that. Watch for more details and the schedule.
- Sept. 19** **Homecoming Sunday**. Bishop Peter Weaver will be here to bring us the message, former members will be invited back, and we will top it all off with a very special luncheon (catered, not potluck) during which we will bury a time capsule. There is a rumor that our pastor may even ride a horse down Hazard Ave. What a day!



And that's not all. We are working on plans for events in November and December as well.

So mark your calendar, watch Steeple Tidings and spread the word. HUMC has something to celebrate!

Lent at HUMC—Rev. Dave



Lenten Sermon Series. What is a church? What does it mean to say, “We are the church?” What do our membership vows mean, and why do we make them? If you’ve ever wondered about these questions, or others like them, we invite you to join us every Sunday during Lent, when Rev. Dave’s sermon series will be *We Are the Church (Whatever That Is)*. This series will invite us to reflect upon what it means to be part of the Body of Christ, to be members of The Church in general and HUMC in particular. Individual sermons will include:

- February. 21** What Is A Church?
- February 28** The Power of Prayer
- March 7** You Just Gotta Be There
- March 14** The Joy of Giving
- March 21** The Blessing of Service

Friday Lenten Services. Hazardville United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church of Enfield are joining together for a very special Lenten Worship Series. Each Friday during lent, we will have the opportunity to gather at noon for a short service of prayer, reflection, and the sacrament of Holy Communion. The service will be held at **UMCE on February 19, March 5 and March 19.** They will be held at **HUMC on February 26, March 12 and March 26.** Both Rev. Williams and Rev. Morgans will lead us in our time of worship. All are invited, and we hope you will plan to attend services at both churches.

Ash Wednesday. Lent begins this year on Wednesday, February 17. We will mark the beginning of this very important season of the Christian Church with a traditional service of the Imposition of the Ashes at 7 PM that evening. The service will provide an opportunity for deep, spiritual reflection; the imposition of the ashes, which remind us of our mortality; and the sacrament of Holy Communion. As is the tradition of the Church, the ashes that we use will be the ashes of last year’s Palm Sunday celebration.



Our church library is getting a new look. Our new librarian, Colleen Williams, is hard at work reorganizing our collection to make it easy for you to find books of interest. Books concerning Prayer and Devotion, Christian Living, Family Dynamics, United Methodist History and Christian Biographies are all available to be checked out. Also please take advantage of the biblical and historical resources that we have as you research Bible passages for Bible studies, prepare to teach Sunday school or simply enrich your spiritual life.

United Methodist Women—Linda Borio



United Methodist Women

First 2010 UMW Meeting Wednesday, February 10, 10:30 AM Enfield United Methodist Church, Brainerd Road

Join us for our first UMW meeting for 2010 at the **Enfield United Methodist Church**. As we've done in the past, February will be for our Valentine Care packages to our college students and military. We will also send Valentine cards to those unable to get to church

Both church's will be collecting items for the care packages. Our college students have requested "snacks". So with that in mind, think about small packages of nuts, candies, gum, granola bars, microwave popcorn packets, etc. We have also been including Guidepost magazines, so if you happen to have some you are not saving for yourself, we would appreciate them. You know those stories never "get old". Reader's Digest is also another small magazine we could use. If you are unable to get out and purchase items, we could always use cash donations. It usually costs approximately \$5.00 to mail each package, so the cash donations would be a really big help since our mailing costs come close to \$100.00 when we add in the postage for the packages, the cost of the cards and postage for mailing.

If you haven't already notified Rita (at HUMC) or Dorie (at EUMC) with the name and address of your college student and or military person, please do so immediately. We need addresses prior to the meeting since we put the labels on the packages during the meeting.

Plan to bring a sack lunch; the ladies at EUMC will provide drinks and dessert. (Word has it Enfield may also have a hot pot of soup available.)

This meeting is a wonderful social meeting, so I encourage all women to come and participate.



HUMC'S CHILI COOK-OFF/SUPPER **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2010** **6-7:30 PM**

**COME TASTE AND FEAST. IF YOU LIKE CHILI, THIS IS THE PLACE TO BE.
WE INVITE YOU TO TASTE AND JUDGE AT HUMC'S FIRST CHILI EVENT.**

TICKETS ARE \$8.00

**CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 860-749-7098
OR SEE NANCY DYER OR MARIE PRIOR AFTER WORSHIP.**

**HAZARDVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
330 HAZARD AVENUE, ENFIELD, CT**

Outreach—Cathy DiSalvo



In 1990, a Super Bowl Sunday prayer inspired a group of young people to do something more than celebrate a football game. They created the Souper Bowl of Caring, and have mobilized youth across the country to raise more than \$50 million for people in need.

On Sunday February 7th, millions of Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join young people around the US as we all demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others. We will hold soup pots at our church doors on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 7, 2010. Drop \$1 (or more) in the soup pot as you leave worship.

After the church service we will be selling soup (including dessert) with the proceeds to be added to the Souper Bowl collection.

None of the money is sent to the Souper Bowl of Caring headquarters. The money collected here will be split between the Enfield Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen and the Enfield Food Shelf. Organizers only ask that each participant report their collection so national totals can be determined and announced.

Those who need help may not know that you cared, but God will. For more information on the Souper Bowl of Caring visit www.souperbowl.org. *Sponsored by the Outreach Ministry of HUMC.*



The Sunday School students will be starting the MMM(Methodist Memory Market). They will memorize different Bible verses and will earn M-Bucks to spend at the market.

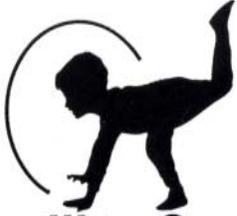
We would like members of the Congregation to donate new or used items that the children would enjoy "buying" with their M-Bucks. You can even donate something you find at a tag sale that another child once enjoyed. This will not only promote our Christian Education, but will make it a fun experience, as well as a learning experience, for the students. Any questions, please contact Kathie Kelley, Superintendent, at 860-763-1260.



Do you have any contemporary Christian fiction books you would like to donate to our church library? We are in need of books by authors such as Dee Henderson, Jerry Jenkins, Tim LaHaye, Janette Oke, Lori Wick, Karen Kingsbury and Frank Peretti. Please see Colleen Williams for details.



Here Wee Grow! — Phyllis Phelan



Here Wee Grow!

**February's
Focus
is Community**

When you think of “community” what do you think of? The local grocery store, the dentist down the street, the bank at the corner? “Community” at **Here Wee Grow!** is a little different. We first think of the community as our home with our families; then the neighborhood where we live; we travel to school and think of our classroom community; this is followed by our teachers being a part of our school community; we have our school in the church and the church workers become more of our community; we finally venture outside the walls of our school into the ‘community’ we live in with its grocery stores, fire stations, pizza places, post office, etc. The month of February will be about our entire “Community”. It should be a nice way to learn more about the people around us and the places we live, work, play and frequent from time to time.

Here Wee Grow! has enrolled two more new students. We welcomed Nate and Ethan and a week later we say welcome to Clarissa and Kylah. These two young ladies are in our two-day three-year old class. We welcome all our new friends to our school!

Our enrollment is now up to 85 students. We have opened registration for the fall 2010 and we have a least one if not two visitors coming in on most days. This is great news for our school and the work we are doing to create a positive and engaging learning environment for young children. It’s an exciting time at **Here Wee Grow!** We hope all of you share in the EXCITEMENT!

Our accreditation is moving along. Our candidacy application (all 147 pages of it!!!) was mailed on January 23. It’s a good feeling to have this on the way to Washington and out of my hands. Of course now we have lots of loose ends to tie up and get things in order before we receive word of our ‘window’. This is a time frame of when the NAEYC validator will visit us. The 15-day window gives you a chance to block out some of the days you have other things going on. The validator will contact me the night before she plans to come, and then the visit will take place. This visit could take place as early as late February or as late as May or June. We’re just waiting.....

This is the news for now. As always we ask for your continued support and most of all your prayers

Until next time. . .

Is your kitchen missing some dishes? If so, they just might be here at HUMC. Please see Pat Owens following worship to locate those missing items. You can find these on the small table in the middle of the kitchen next to the sink . If these items are not picked up by the end of February, they will be donated. Thank you.



To that wonderful volunteer production staff...Heartfelt thanks to the gracious, considerate production staff whose nimble fingers made short work of our January issue of Steeple Tidings. . . **Pat Owens and Nancy Dyer. . .**

with special thanks to Don Niemann for all his support and help.

Heritage Notes—A Page from our History — Alice Allen

**History of the Methodist Episcopal Church of
Hazardville, Connecticut, written for the
One Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of
the Church
by Dr. John L. Bridge**

(Continued from last month.)

There probably always has been a Sunday morning collection taken. In a financial report of January 1904, account is given of weekly offerings as well as box collections. Pew rents \$1137.00; weekly offerings \$486.00; Box collections \$240.00. Another report of February 22, 1913: Pew rents \$1110.00; weekly offerings \$491.00; box collections \$243.00.

During the first fifteen years of the church's history the entire expense of running the church did not exceed \$400.00 yearly. The pastor's salary was \$300.00; sexton not more than \$50.00; lights \$10.00 or \$12.00; fuel \$20.00. In 1853 the total expenses of the church were \$800.00. Pastor's salary \$1200.00; sexton was paid \$150.00; organist \$75.00; lights cost \$49.49 and \$59.00 was paid for fuel. In 1911 total current expenses were \$1952.00 and benevolence collections (World's Services) \$2767.00.

Beginning with the erection of the first church building in 1835 our congregations have given generously for building two churches and three parsonages and have made many improvements on these structures. The church officials never felt easy when there were debts on their properties and paid these debts as soon as possible. Our people did not confine their giving to merely local causes. I believe it safe to say that during the last fifty years more has been given by our church for the spread of Christianity outside of the village than in it.

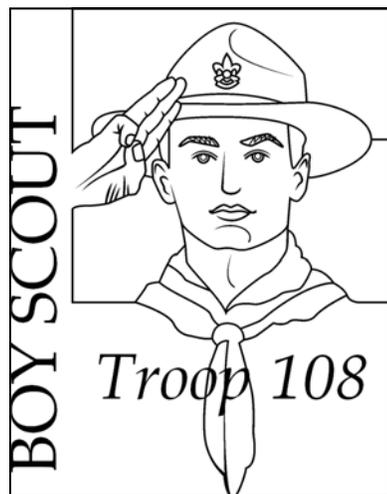
No history of the church would be complete without mention of music. In the days of long ago, singing was nearly as important as preaching. For many years three hymns were sung at regular preaching services. Singing was one of the chief parts in Sunday School Services, and prayer meetings were at least one third singing. In prayer meetings no musical instrument was used. I find nothing in the records to indicate that

stringed musical instruments such as bass viols were used in our church as was done in the Congregational Church in town. A melodeon was probably the first musical instrument used. In the spring of 1863 a cabinet organ was bought, at a cost of \$200.00, for the regular preaching service, and a melodeon at a cost of \$60.00 for use in the Sunday School. In 1885 the first pipe organ was installed. In 1869 the salary of the organist was \$50.00 a year. In 1889 it was raised to \$75.00. Sixty years ago there were a large number of good voices to be heard in the choir and in prayer meetings. There were a large number of good bass singers. David Gordon was our choir leader for fifty years and he led singing in our prayer meetings which he usually attended during all that time. We have probably made more improvement in our musical instruments than in anything else except lighting. It would be interesting to see our first melodeon beside the organ we have today. *(To be continued next month.)*



Submitted by Alice Godard Allen

Troop 108— *Bill Munsell*



Boy Scouts of America's 100 Anniversary is here ... so lets see where it leads us.

Do you remember or can you imagine the 1909 Ford Model T and the American Flag with 48 stars? That's how long ago Scouting for Boys began. Does this stagger your mind? Can you even imagine how many boys have enjoyed scouting programs over the years. This is America's most successful youth organization. The members of Troop 108, scouts, parents and adults have said how proud and thankful they are for the Sponsorship for 72 years. The banner we carry in parades proudly displays, "Sponsored by the Hazardville United Methodist Church since 1938" and is displayed in the William E. Munsell Scout Lodge for all to see.

What a better time to pay honor to Scoutmaster Peter Uricchio of Troop 108 Boy Scouts of America.

Profile of Scoutmaster Peter Uricchio. It seems that Peter was always the person in charge — a leader, hard-working boy who started in Troop 93 that was sponsored by the Hazardville Fire Department. Two of his cousins were already members of Troop 93, so you might say he had an in. Peter was a great scout, enjoying the outdoor programs in particular. He attained the rank of Star Scout.

Over the years he was active in the St Martha's Church, especially in their Annual Carnival, member of their PTA and a tour guide for children and adults at the Enfield Lego Complex. Peter also donned a Santa Claus hat at the Lego Christmas parties and enjoyed playing with the children who were active with Lego blocks, helping them to use their imagination (with Peter's help) to construct interesting objects. Peter was a sharper one (parent guide) for Saint Martha's Church Ski Club at Sundown in Barkhamsted. He was very versed and gave talks to all attending on how to prevent, recognize and treat frost bite and other safety rules and suggestions.

Matthew, Peter and Mary Ellyn's oldest son, was interested in Cub Scouts, and when he earned the Arrow of Light Badge he joined Troop 108 along with some of his buddies. Peter joined, too. This was in 1993 and Peter became Scoutmaster with less than a dozen scouts. He started to put together programs to build Troop 108. Today we have 49 registered scouts and 11 Assistant Scoutmasters, 5 very dedicated active parents that help tie and plan the many programs we have today. Peter's wife, Mary Ellyn, is very dedicated in many ways of the troop's operation; she's Peter's right hand.

At a regular Troop Committee meeting in January 2007 Peter Uricchio was elected a Life Time Member of the Troop .

In 2008 the Connecticut Rivers Council awarded Peter with a very deserving plaque for his 20 years of scouting. For many years Peter worked for Lego as a floor supervisor and, more recently, when Lego moved to Mexico he was promoted to Training Specialist, spending many weeks there training Mexican associates. As of this writing Peter is credited with 29 Eagle Scouts, three of which are Matthew, Andrew and Nathan of the Uricchio Family.

We are very lucky (honored) to have the Uricchio family leading Troop 108 and to have the Hazardville United Methodist Church sponsorship since 1938. Our most sincere thanks for this Community Outreach.

Boy Scouts of America, based on Character, Citizenship and Fitness.



What's better than curling up with a good book on a cold and snowy day? Take a look at the selections that are available in our church library. You might just find the perfect book to help take the chill off of a cold winter's afternoon.



SANDRA BUTCHER BECOMES NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF U.S.S.V.I LADIES AUXILIARY

Sandra Butcher was sworn in on Tuesday, January 19, 2010, at Patrick Air Force Base facility as National President of the Ladies Auxiliary of United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. Sandra previously has held the National Secretary/Treasurer and the National First Vice President positions of U. S. SubVettes and takes over immediately as National President. She looks forward to leading the ladies of Submarine Veterans in their charity and community work of the sub sailors in today's Navy, as well as supporting the men of the U.S.S.V.I.



MANY THANKS TO HUMC

Thank you so much for the cards, calls and prayers during my recent illness. They were greatly appreciated.

Betty Mientus

I wish to bend in prayer for all the visits, drivers for Doris, the phone calls, the prayers and the outpouring of Love during my stay in the hospital and the weeks that followed as I to build my strength back. God bless you all. God loves you and so do I.

Bill Munsell



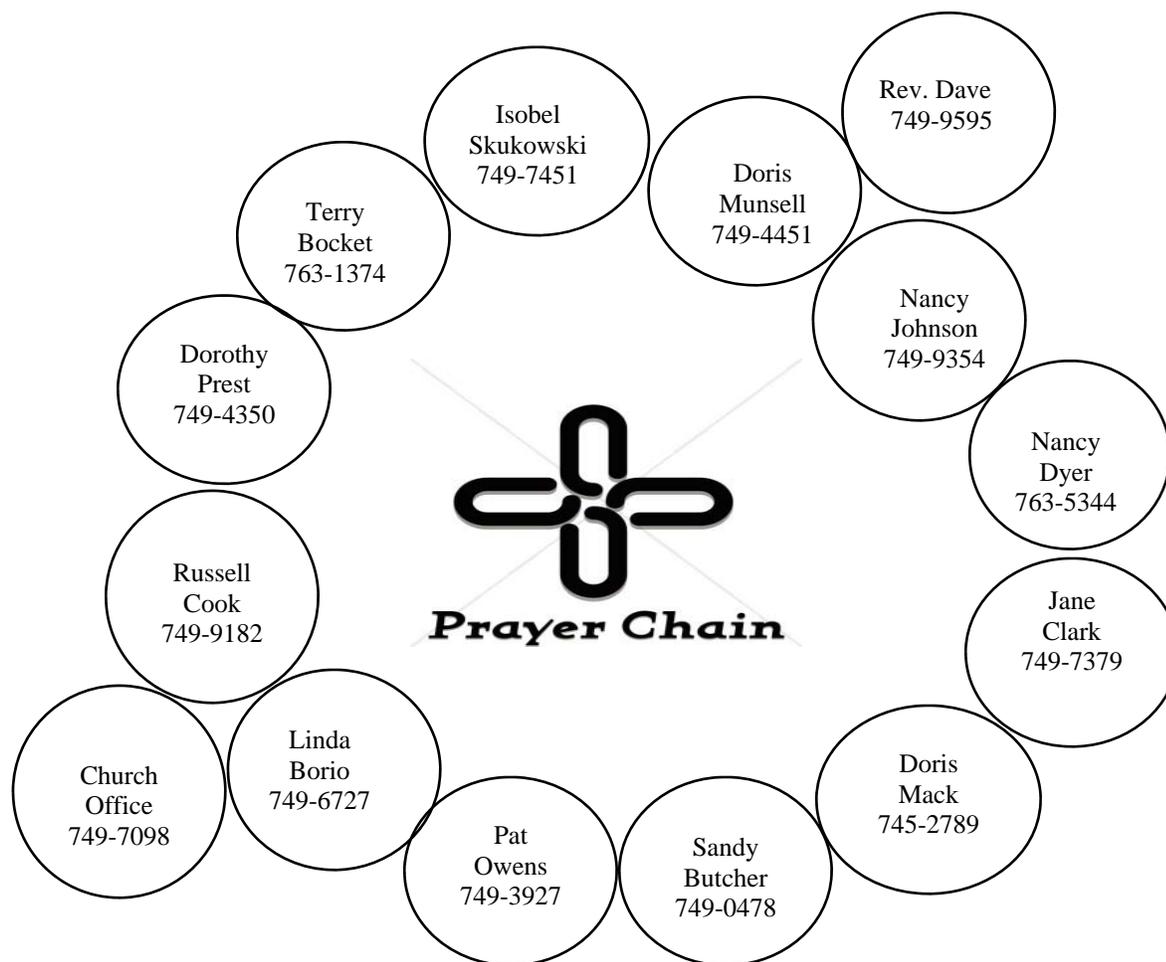
DEVASTATION in HAITI

UMCOR is asking for help in assembling Health Kits for the victims of Haiti.

Please place the following **new** items in a sealed one-gallon plastic bag and place in the box in the library at HUMC. We will ship them out for you. Estimated value of each kit is \$12.

- 1 hand towel (15"x25" or 17"x27" (not kitchen towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (not pocket-sized)
- 1 metal nail file or fingernail clippers (toenail clippers)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes in original wrapper; not child-size)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages
- \$1 for each kit for UMCOR to purchase toothpaste in bulk

NOTE: Do **NOT** include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits, as they would have to be removed and delay the shipment.



Please keep the following in your prayers:

If you have a name to add or notice a name that is missing, please contact Isobel Skukowski or the church office.

Roger Avery, Berta Clawson, Louise Heald,
Molly Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Betty Mientus, Leroy Miller
Mary Nickerson, Christine Riley, Eric Sackett, Peg Smith,
Ron Uricchio, Asa Waller, Gloria Wages

Pray also for these Members:

Beryl Comparetto at Parkway, 1157 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT
Babs Baker, Redstone Rehab Facility, 135 Benton Dr, E.Longmeadow, MA
Mildred Doreski at Blair Manor, 612 Hazard Avenue, Enfield, CT
Hildegard Waller, Suffield House, 1 Canal Road, Suffield, CT

In Christian Sympathy

Ernest Jensen and family on the death of his wife, Linda.
Karen and Axel Anderson on the death of Karen's son, David DeBattista.
Eliot McIsaac and family on the death of his brother.



Children's Page

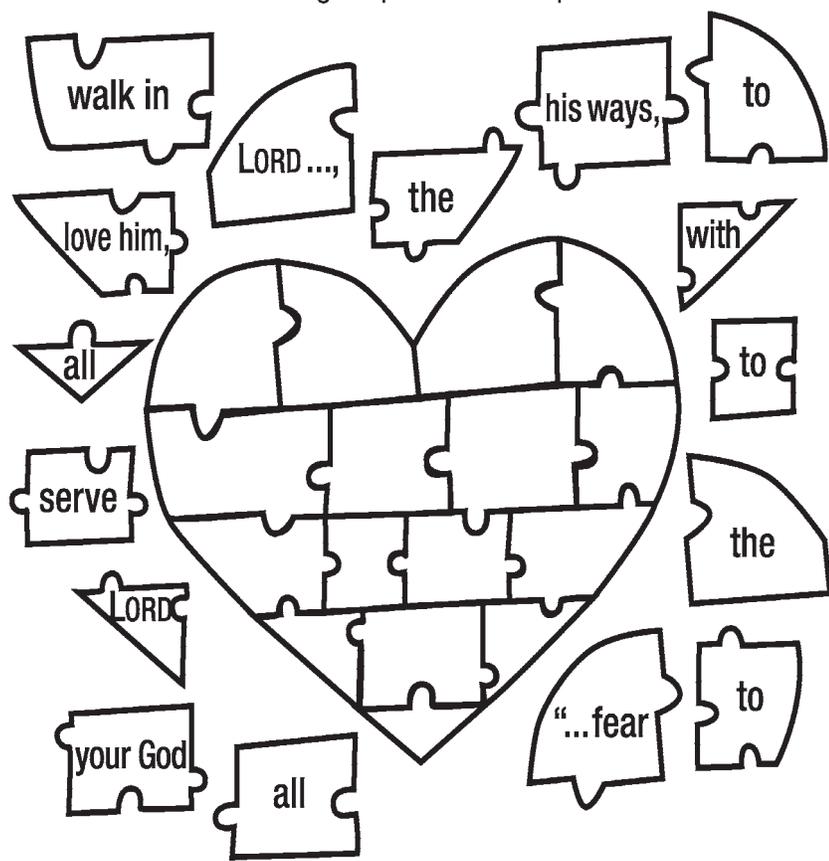


Just for KIDS

Our first love

In Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV), Israel is asked a question that's also for us to answer: "What does the LORD your God ask of you?"

To find the answer, write the words from the puzzle pieces on the matching shapes in the completed heart.



... your heart and with all your soul ...

* A JAR OF *

Love and Appreciation



Sometimes we forget to show love and appreciation to people who are closest to us. Use this fun craft to let everyone in your family know how much you care.

What you need:

- Plastic jar with lid
- Heart-shaped foam pieces
- Heart-shaped stickers
- Glue
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil or crayons

What you do:

1. Decorate the jar and lid with heart-shaped foam pieces and stickers.
2. Cut out 2" or 3" heart shapes from the construction paper.
3. On each paper heart, write what you appreciate and love about your family and each member. Have all family members do this, too.
4. Place the heart messages inside the jar. Fold them in half, if necessary.
5. On each day in February, pull out one heart and read the message aloud to the family.
6. Notice the changes in your family when everyone feels loved and appreciated!