

The Parish Portrait

Volume 1, Issue 20

March 2012

From the Pastor's Desk

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Doomsday prophets claim that on December 21st at 11:11 a.m. of this year the world will come to an end. To quote the great preacher Harry Emerson Fosdick: "Let it end, we can get along without it!"

Rev. Fosdick was merely echoing the same faith of Paul in Romans 8:38-39

³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Come what may, the unseen hand of the Lord will continue to lift us up.

It's like a church that the Rev. Suzanne E. Watson tells about, Saint David's Episcopal Church in San Diego, California. From the parking lot, she notes, a long, winding path leads to the sanctuary, landscaped with trees and plants indigenous to the Holy Land. Walking through the olive trees and fragrant flowers, the first thing that a visitor sees is a solid, even cracked, unfinished concrete portico extending from the worship space. The stark brokenness of the entry is startling. Even more shocking is the support, or lack thereof; it appears to be held up by two massive concrete pillars, but when one looks closely, the pillars stop two inches below the overhang. It appears that there is nothing supporting the massive, cracked concrete structure.

A wary guest asked, "Is it structurally sound?" "The answer is yes; it was constructed in full compliance with the state's building codes. But the architects intentionally designed the real support



to be invisible. The entry to that sanctuary represents all people as we come to Christ broken and unfinished," says Rev. Watson, "and although we have many visible and tangible supports on our Christian path, such as scripture, worship, the sacraments, and our faith community, that last 'two inches' of our Christian journey is built on faith. Faith in things that we cannot see."

Therefore children of faith, continue to walk throughout this year of 2012 with unwavering confidence. For the unseen hand of God is upon you and nothing can separate you from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In Christ,
Peace - Greg Leigh, pastor

Food Pantry

The food pantry would like to thank everyone for all the generous donations. Meat has been donated and is showing up in the freezer and cupboards. Thank you to the Glenn Gehres family for the gift of venison and to Courtney Gehres for taking on the food pantry as a college project. All the area churches have been so faithful this past year. Thanks to the Carl Etzler family for the gifts of hams and groceries. Meat continues to be a need, as well as laundry soap and health care items such as shampoo, deodorant and toothpaste.

Thank you to Bob & Tim Wertenberger, Anne Stewart & Jimmy Rivera for helping those in need and continually stocking the shelves with the many donations.

United Methodist Women

Convoy United Methodist Women will meet on Wednesday February 1st at 7pm in the CUMC social room.

Administrative Board

The administrative board will meet on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00pm through the fall and winter until May. The administrative board would like to invite all administrative board to attend. We are deciding on the direction of many important issues that face our church family. For more information contact Rick Mollenkopf.

Loaves of Love

Loaves of Love, is an outreach program designed to feed Crestview Elementary students whose families may not have enough food for the weekends. Every Friday, participating students will receive free food items that are both nutritious and easy to prepare and eat. The church is accepting donations of food items each month. We will be assigned an item, and if you wish to make a cash donation, drop it in the offering plate and label "Loaves of Love."

February Collection items are granola bars or Nutri-Grain bars. For more information contact Vicki Saylor or Shawna Putman.



Valentines Dinner

A Valentines Dinner will be held on February 12, 2012 at 11:14 a.m. in the CUMC social room. The menu will consist of pork loin, chicken breast, potato, vegetable, dessert and drink. A free will offering will be accepted. All proceeds will be used by the mission team going to Louisiana in February.

"Souper Bowl Sunday"

The CUMC will host a "Souper Bowl" event in the church social room on Sunday February 5, 2012. The event will be in honor of Super Bowl XLVI in Indianapolis, Indiana.



All can participate in game day event by donating a can or two of soup to the Helping Hands Food Pantry. The goal is collect XLVI (46) cans of soup.

I will do this with pleasure

Someone has said that if Christians really understood the full extent of the power we have available through prayer, we might be speechless. Did you know that during WWII there was an advisor to Churchill who organized a group of people who dropped what they were doing every day at a prescribed hour for one minute to collectively pray for the safety of England, its people and peace? There is now a group of people organizing the same thing here in America if you would like to participate: Every evening at 9:00 PM Eastern Time (8:00 PM central) (7:00 PM Mountain) (6:00 PM Pacific), stop whatever you are doing and spend one minute praying for the safety of the United States, our troops, our citizens, and for a return to a Godly nation. If you know anyone else who would like to participate, please pass this along. Our prayers are the most powerful asset we have. Please forward this to your praying friends.

Thanks to Susie Baska for the submission

Pam's Story

In a recent email, I read about a woman named Pam, who knows the pain of considering abortion. More than 24 years ago, she and her husband Bob were serving as missionaries to the Philippines and praying for a fifth child. Pam contracted amoebic dysentery, an infection of the intestine caused by a parasite found in contaminated food or drink. She went into a coma and was treated with strong antibiotics before they discovered she was pregnant. Doctors urged her to abort the baby for her own safety and told her that the medicines had caused irreversible damage to her baby. She refused the abortion and cited her Christian faith as the reason for her hope that her son would be born without the devastating disabilities physicians predicted. Pam said the doctors didn't think of it as a life, they thought of it as a mass of fetal tissue. While pregnant, Pam nearly lost their baby four times but refused to consider abortion. She recalled making a pledge to God with her husband: If you will give us a son, we'll name him Timothy and we'll make him a preacher. Pam ultimately spent the last two months of her pregnancy in bed and eventually gave birth to a healthy baby boy August 14, 1987. Pam's youngest son is indeed a preacher. He preaches in prisons, makes hospital visits, and serves with his father's ministry in the Philippines. He also plays football. Pam's son is Tim Tebow. The University of Florida's star quarterback became the first sophomore in history to win college football's highest award, the Heisman Trophy. His current role as quarterback of the Denver Broncos has provided an incredible platform for Christian witness. As a result, he is being called The Mile-High Messiah. Tim's notoriety and the family's inspiring story have given Pam numerous opportunities to speak on behalf of women's centers across the country. Pam Tebow believes that every little baby you save matters. I pray her tribe will increase! May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always!

Thanks to Susie Baska for the submission

Calendar of Events

Joyful Noises	Wednesdays 3-4:30pm
Adult Choir Practice	Wednesdays 6:30pm
UMW Meet	February 1 st at 7pm CUMC social room
Administrative Board	Thursday February 22 nd 7:00pm
Trustees	Wednesday December 21 st 7:00pm
Lions Club Meetings	1 st & 3 rd Monday monthly
33 rd Annual Convoy Fire & EMS Pancake Day	February 4 th 6am until 2pm
Souper Bowl Sunday	February 5 th CUMC social room
Pickle Jar Sunday For The Hamptons	February 5 th
Valentines Dinner	February 12 th 11:14 CUMC social room
Ash Wednesday Service	February 22 nd 6pm-7pm communion
The Songsters	February 26 th 9:30am service. Pot Luck Dinner to follow performance

Prayer Concerns

Dr. John Benya, Kay Bennington, Kelly Hale, Mary Smith, Troy Hammond, Madison Ringwald, Sondra Shepherd, Vickie Troyer, Genia McOmber, Dick Burden, Madalyn Emerick, Derek Hill, Deb Casterline, Helen Anderson, Annabelle Miller, June Burns, Walter Hartsock, Rosalee Burns, Derrick Baska, the family of Scott Custer, Unspoken Requests. Vancrest/Convoy: Romaine Feasby, Betty Fortney and Irene Adms Hearth & Home: Jim Ryan

Contemporary Service

A Contemporary Service is offered every Sunday morning at 11:11 a.m. This is held at the former Hall Lumber office downtown, located along the railroad tracks east of Main Street. It's a service filled with songs and praise. It is a casual and more relaxed service than 9:30 service. We still offer all the same sacraments.

The Service is hosted by our praise band called "Crossroads". Members include:

Guitarist Pastor Leigh Lead Vocal Jeff Gleckler, Keyboard Laura Leigh, Drums Fred Fegley, Bass Guitar Jordan or Jon Leigh.

Casual dress such as jeans, T-Shirts, and ball caps are acceptable at this service. Refreshments are offered to be enjoyed throughout the service. Not on time for the beginning, not a problem. You're welcome to come in and join us whenever you get there. It's very informal. You're always welcome to come join us.

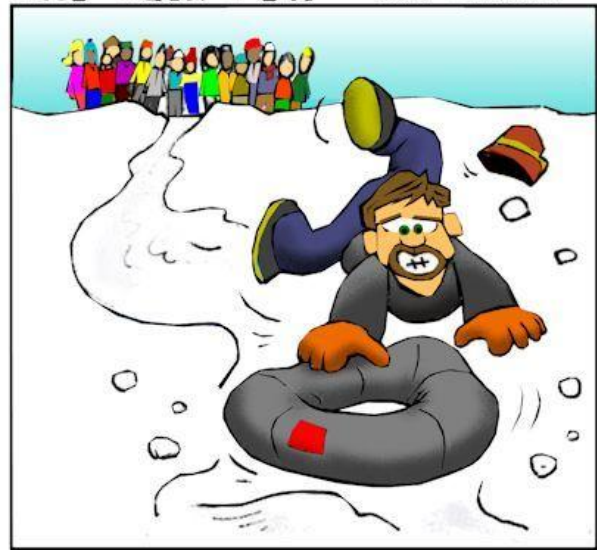


Convoy United Methodist Church
Sycamore and Main
P.O. Box 128
Convoy, Ohio 45832

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Comic Relief

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



In the **SNOW TUBING JOURNEY** of life.. We have the 'FREE WILL' to ride the tube sitting, laying, or foolishly **STANDING** .. BUT you are all 'PREDESTINED' to the bottom of the hill.

Don't forget to check us out on the web at www.convoyumc.org for service streaming and more content about what's going on at Convoy United Methodist.

Enter to Worship...Depart to Serve

Mailing Address
Street Number and Name
City, State 98765-4321

