

# The Parish Portrait

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March 2012

## From the Pastor's Desk

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Lenten journey has begun. It is a journey that takes us to the cross of Calvary where we see just how much God loves us! In the shadow of this cross our lives are forever transformed as the love of Christ reaches out to us offering us salvation and the blessed assurance of a loving God who will care for us here and hereafter.

I have a special story for you about the cross that was shared in *The Evangelical Beacon*, Nov. 1992, p. 31:

One night, Officer O'Hanlon was strolling through the streets of England when he heard a little child crying. He looked around to see a small boy sitting in a storefront sobbing. The child looked up at O'Hanlon and said, "I'm lost. I don't know how to get home."

The officer tried to elicit some useful information from the child, but the boy had absolutely no idea where he lived. Then O'Hanlon remembered that in the center of the town was a church with a huge, lit cross on top. It was easily visible from where they were standing, so he pointed to the cross and said, "Do you live anywhere near that?"

The boy jumped up, excited, and said, "Yes, I know where that is. Take me to the cross and I can find my way home."

As we continue the journey of 2012 may we all continue to look to the Christ of Calvary, for truly the way of the cross leads home.

In Christ,  
Greg Leigh, pastor



## United Methodist Youth Fellowship

The UMYF is working hard planning and practicing for their dinner theater coming up Sunday, March 25th. Dinner is served at 6:00 pm in the church social room, and the play will be performed in the sanctuary around 7:00 pm. Dinner includes chicken, cheesy mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, bread, and dessert and will be served by the UMYF members.

After dinner, several members will be acting in the play, *Jess Goodnuff*, which shows why "just good enough" isn't enough to have eternal life. Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased from any UMYF member or leader. Members are: Mallory and Sydney Bowen, Ally Fegley, Matt Holden, Jordan Miller, Taylor and Katie Hughes, Cora and Hali Finrock, Riley and Brady Guest, Ashley Dealey, Kenadie Speith, Tyson Bollenbaugh, and Nick, Olivia, and Hannah Leary. UMYF leaders are Jean Leary, Ashley Holden, and Brett and Allison Hammons. The funds raised will be used for various service projects the youth support. Please come out and support the young people of our church!

## **United Methodist Women**

### UMW Purpose

“The organized unit of the United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.”

Convoy United Methodist Women will meet on Wednesday March 7th at 7pm in the CUMC social room. Person: Judy Bowers. Greeters: Linda Baer, Cheryl Hoover. Hostesses: Lynn Johnson. Topic: prayer and self denial.

### **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.”

March Collection items are Spaghettios w/Meatballs, pull tab container. For more information contact Vicki Saylor or Shawna Putman.



*UMYF rehearse for dinner theater*

### **Food Pantry**

The food pantry would like to thank everyone for all the generous donations. 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.

### **Trustees**

The trustees are working to free up storage space in the church garage located at the back of our parking lot. There are currently items that were used during the annual Farm Focus event, and there are aluminum storm windows that also are no longer currently used anywhere on the church property. If you would like to see any of the items, please contact a trustee member. Items that remain will be disposed of properly.

The trustees are currently working on the parsonage projects and things are reportedly going very well. If we can get some before and after pictures we will share them in a future issue.

### **Flower Calendar**

There are still openings on the flower calendar for this year if you would like to sign up.

## Does a Heart Good

The caring hearts and generosity of our church family never ceases to amaze me. We are blessed with talented giving souls who continually reach out to our own members scattered afar and to those who are in need of a helping hand and Gods good news.

Our church family received a few thank you cards and I would like to share some of them with you here now. The original cards can be seen in the vestibule.

*Shawna Putman, coordinator of the Loaves of Love program wrote, "We are humbled by the overwhelming contribution that you have all made possible. Your support has made the weekend meals possible for the students."*

*"Your overwhelming support means a great deal to our community."*

*Grace Klinger wrote in response to her college care package, "I want to thank you for all the love and support from my church family. The sweets have been a reminder of the sweet thoughts that continually sent my way. I want to return the thoughts and thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything."*

*Derrick Baksa wrote, "I'd like to thank everyone for several care packages I've received at college. It's always nice to get something from home in the mail and its very much appreciated! Thank you!"*

## Hoop it Up for Life

The Pregnancy Life center will be hold an free throw shooting contest Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at Trinity Friends Church located at 605 N. Franklin St in Van Wert from 9am -12 noon. The cost will be \$5 dollars or a best will offering to participate, but not mandatory.

## Calendar of Events

Joyful Noises	Wednesdays 3-4:30pm
Adult Choir Practice	Wednesdays 6:30pm
UMW Meet	Wednesday March 7th at 7pm CUMC social room
Administrative Board	Thursday March 22nd 7:00pm
Trustees	Wednesday March 21st 7:00pm
Lions Club Meetings	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday monthly
Confirmation Class begins	Sunday March 18 <sup>th</sup> 12:00-1:30pm
Maundy Thursday	Thursday April 5 <sup>th</sup> 7pm Communion, movie
Good Friday Service	Friday April 6 <sup>th</sup> Location TBA
Easter Sunday Service	Sunday April 8 <sup>th</sup> 7am

## Prayer Concerns

Madge Wilson, Dr. John Benya, Kay Bennington, Mary Smith, Troy Hammond, Madison Ringwald, Sondra Shepherd, Vickie Troyer, Genia McOmber, Dick Burden, Care Placke, Madalyn Emerick, Derek Hill, Deb Casterline, Helen Anderson, Annabelle Miller, June Burns, Walter Hartsock, Rosalee Burns, Don Dawson, Stan Miller, Gerald Harting, Marcia Davies, Mrs. Hughes, the family of Doyle Schmid, the family of Helen Evans, Alyssa Stemen and infant Tracen, Unspoken Requests.

Vancrest/Convoy: Romaine Feasby , Betty Fortney, Irene Adams, Dwight Smith

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.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## Comic Relief



But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. - 2 CORINTHIANS 2:14 NIV

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

***Enter to Worship...Depart to Serve***

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