

The
Newsletter
of the
Saline
United
Methodist
Church



Pastor: Dr. James E. Tuttle

Phone: (734) 429-4730

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Email: office@fumc-saline.org

Website: www.fumc-saline.org

Traditional Worship 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School 10:10 a.m.

Contemporary Worship 11:15 a.m.

Summer Worship Hours:

Right Start 8:04 a.m.

Summer Worship 9:30 a.m.

STEEPLE NEWS

*We are a Safe Sanctuary Church protecting and caring
for all God's children.*

March 25, 2007

“Ringing Forth the Good News”

Vol. 16; No. 6

“A Turning around Time”

The season of Lent is quickly wrapping up for another year. On the First of April we will begin the countdown days of Holy Week leading up to the Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. This forty day Lenten time is traditionally set apart for spiritual renewal, preparing us to experience the full joy of Easter. Since Ash Wednesday some of you have taken on some spiritual disciplines during Lent; others have not. But it is not at all too late for each of us to intentionally open ourselves to the life-enhancing presence of the living Christ. On Easter we will proclaim Christ alive and triumphant; as Christ desires to enliven and transform each of us in wonderful life-impacting ways.

In these next couple of weeks, be open to whatever God desires to make known to you – new understandings of faith, new visions of where God is leading, new claims on our life, new growth steps in our faith journey where God wants to lead us. Prepare for Easter, which captivates our mind with the idea of Christ alive and living in us and catapults us forward into the future. But for most of us, there is some deep stuff on the inside of us that needs to be removed before dynamic faith within us is renewed. This is why the Lenten season focuses on the dual theme of turning from and turning toward. This is a turning around time.

To move along on this journey, continue the daily readings in John Indermark's book, *Traveling the Prayer Paths of Jesus*, and join one of the reflection groups either during the Sunday School hour or at 6:30 p.m. Sunday evenings as we look at the prayer Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane and the prayers Jesus prayed on the cross. Also we've planned two special Holy Week services to assist our moving toward Easter:

Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m. - Thursday, April 5th – “Light in the Darkness”

Good Friday 12:00-1:00 p.m. - Friday, April 6th – “The Nails of the Cross.”

Easter Day will begin with a youth-led Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m. followed by breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. The 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services will be joy-filled occasions celebrating Christ alive in our world and in our life.

May this Easter – Easter 2007 – be the most glorious Easter that you've ever experienced. May the Resurrection not only be an historical event that took place in the past in the life of Jesus, but also a contemporary happening today in your life and in mine. This Easter, may Christ come alive in us and live in us. For when that happens, then, indeed, it is **a turning around time**, and life is never again the same. May yours be a truly happy Easter.

-- Pastor Jim

SASS EASTER FOOD BASKETS



FUMC has volunteered to fill & deliver 20 Easter food baskets to Saline Area Social Services on Sunday, April 1st. A list of required items and a sign-up sheet are available at the Opportunity Wall. Please note the request to provide your name or basket number on your basket for tracking purposes. Also, sign-up if you would like to deliver that day. Thank you for carrying on the FUMC tradition of supporting our community. The Community Care Team

New Member Class

Our next new member class will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Lunch is included. Those who choose to join the church will be received on Sunday, April 22, 2007 at the 11:15 service. We encourage all those who are not currently members to consider taking this important step in your faith journey. Becoming a member of a church is not just joining a "club," it is making a public affirmation of your faith in Jesus Christ and of your desire to serve within the Body of Christ. The class covers what it means to be a Christian, the United Methodist Church, and this particular congregation. Childcare is available if needed. Please sign up at the Opportunity Wall, and speak with Laura Speiran if you have any questions or dietary concerns.



HOMELESS SHELTER COLLECTION

During the month of **March** we will be collecting the following items for the Homeless Shelter: **soap, lotion, and shampoo.** Collection items for

April are **towels and washcloths.** These items can be placed in the "blue house" in the Narthex.

Drivers Needed

Meals on Wheels is in need of drivers to deliver meals on the first and second Thursday of the month between the hours of 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Please contact Carol at the Saline Area Senior Center at 429-9274 if you are available to help.

April Friday Night Dinner

Friday, April 6 is the date of the next Friday Night Dinner. The menu will include a choice of Baked Fish or Baked Chicken. Many hands will be needed to assist with this meal. Please sign up at the Opportunity Wall if you are willing to help.

UMW NEWS

Esther Circle

Esther Circle will meet on Monday, April 2nd at 12:30 p.m. at the home of Norma Jean West. Kay Richmond will be co-hostess and Carolyn Beal will present the program. For further information, please contact Mary Lirones at 429-7332.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle meets at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 3rd in the parlor. Bring your sandwich for lunch (dessert provided) or come at 1:00 p.m. for the program only. The program will be a Nooma DVD. For further information, please call Shirley Padding at 477-9223.

Hannah Circle

Hannah Circle will meet on Monday, April 9th at 9:30 a.m. in Room H. Dyane Townley will present the program and Susie Loughner will provide refreshments. Childcare is provided. For further information, please call Sylvia Korte at 517-423-7881.

Susanna Circle

Susanna Circle will meet on Monday, April 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor. Carolyn Comfort will serve as hostess and Judy Walls will present the program. Please direct questions to Linda Glaspie at 429-2918.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 6: Friday Night Dinner
April 14: Spring Gala
May 5: Safe Sanctuaries Training



DEADLINES

The next Steeple News deadline is **Monday, April 2nd** at noon. Volunteers are needed to assemble the newsletter **Thursday, April 5th** in Room F at 9:00 a.m. The weekly deadline for the bulletin is Wednesday at noon.

J.O.Y. Fellowship

This is a group for those 55 and older. Come for lunch, fun and fellowship! You are invited to make a \$5.00 donation for the lunch, but it is not required. Our next get-together is April 19, 2007. Please sign up at the Opportunity Wall or call the church office. Our menu is a surprise! We would love to have you join us! Please contact Laura Speiran if you have questions, or if you have any dietary concerns.





175 Years of Christian Ministry in Saline

**Saline First United Methodist Church
1833 - 2008**

On behalf of the committee I would like to introduce ourselves. We are the 175th Anniversary Celebration Committee. That's right, we are celebrating our Terquansquicentennial on Feb. 12, 2008 or as we like to say 175 years of Christian Ministry in Saline. We are just beginning to plan a year of exciting events, historical news flashes and church activities, and we would like to hear from you. We have already started generating ideas but are open, and asking, for any ideas you may have for this wonderful celebration. In addition, we are reviewing the historical folder, but would like new and interesting historical stories you may have about our past. If you have ideas and/or stories, you can contact one of us or put them in the 175th Anniversary Celebration box at the Opportunity Wall.

175th Anniversary Committee

Bonnie Bennyhoff
David Blough
Julie Evans
Earl Laughrey
Edna Laughrey
Rich Merrill
Blair West
Norma Jean West

Thanks,

Rich Merrill - Chairperson

175th Anniversary Celebration Committee

Historical Committee

Carolyn Beal
Jim Beal
Shiela Blough
Chuck Webster

CARR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the Carr Memorial Scholarship are available in the church office. All members of Saline FUMC who are current Saline High School seniors are eligible to apply. They must be planning to enroll in a post high school educational institute in the fall of 2007. All completed applications must be in the church office by Thursday, April 12, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. If you have questions, please contact a member of the Scholarship Committee (Millie Webster, 734-944-6618 or Carole McConnell, 517-423-6373).

FIX UP OPPORTUNITIES



Want to serve? Hate meetings? Then we have a job for you! There is a list of maintenance jobs that need to be done for the upkeep of our wonderful facility. Your Trustees team is inviting you to join them in completing these simple tasks. The list is on the table at the Opportunity Wall, please sign up to help!

ATTENTION GOLFERS!

Get ready, FUMC Golf League and anyone who wants to golf this spring. Talk to your employers now, and let them know that you need to get off work early on Tuesdays!! This year the league will tee off again at the **Rustic Glen Golf Course**, which is just west of Saline on US 12! **Tee time is at 4:37 p.m. beginning on Tuesday, May 1st and ending Tuesday, September 11th!** This should allow us to get all nine holes in early!! This course is a short course and is VERY user friendly! It has wide fairways and allows the beginning golfer to make it to the green with very little frustration! For the more advanced golfer, the tees are set for those long hitters so you'll be able to hang onto the same ball for all nine holes!!! No need for handicaps, no need to even be a 'good golfer' (whatever THAT is) and no need to even keep score! This league is all about the **FOUR F's!!! FUN, FELLOWSHIP, FRESH AIR** and, of course, **FOOD!!**



Cost will be **\$400 per person** for the 20 week league, including cart, **or \$250 per person without a cart**. ***This will include a FREE 18 hole golf outing on any weekend our league chooses in September or October!*** Watch for the sign up sheet coming soon!!! Any questions call Leanne Rimmnac at 429-4730, and sign-up **SOON** at the Opportunity Wall in the Narthex!

Thank You

A special thank you to the UMW, Joe and Susan Luben, Lynn Shaw, Friendship Ministry, and Hands and Feet Outreach for the cookies and special things done for our family. Marilyn and Kim Setzer

WEBSITE FOR ELLA NADIG

For updates on Ella Nadig's condition, please visit www.carepages.com, then register and enter "ellamarch2007". Please keep Ella and her family in your prayers. She is the granddaughter of Carroll and Sandy Nadig.



LADIES SPRING GALA

April 14th

Spring is just around the corner

and we intend to celebrate!

Women and girls, make your plans now to attend the Ladies Spring Gala on Saturday, April 14th. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. for a time of mingling with your friends while enjoying punch, then a delicious dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m., and entertainment will follow at 7:00 p.m. The dinner menu will include pork loin, potatoes, veggies, salad, rolls and sherbet with dessert bars. Entertainment will be provided by the St. Paul's Ecumenical Gospel Choir. Tickets will be available for purchase in the Narthex between services on March 25th, April 1st and April 8th. Ticket price is \$10 if purchased in advance or \$12 at the door on April 14th. If you have questions about buying tickets or would like to purchase them by mail, please contact Linda Glaspie at 429-2918. Those of you who have attended the Gala in the past know that the atmosphere is especially festive with individually hosted and decorated tables. If you would be interested in hosting a table, please contact Kay Richmond at 944-6234 for details. Proceeds from this event will benefit Brighter Future for Children and Youth and St. Paul's Ecumenical Gospel Choir.



Zone

"Resurrection Tuesday"



March 27th, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The Friendship students and their families will be sharing together the "joy" and "excitement" of **Easter** at **Zap Zone** this season! Through this experience, it is our prayer that the students may get a better understanding of our **JOY** in **Jesus' resurrection and victory over death** with a shared life eternal for all that know Him! Our extended prayer is that this experience may also help them to understand that as Christians, our goal is to live in this joy, anticipation, and excitement everyday of our lives! Please pray for this event for our students and their families this week! And please know that there's always room for more Friendship Staff! Please contact any of the Friendship Staff or Roger Heffelbower through the church office at 429-4730. On behalf of the Friendship Ministry, staff, students, and families, we wish you all an "**Exhilarating and Joy-Filled Easter Season!**"

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CORNERSTONE

Lil' SAINTS Preschool will be hosting an OPEN HOUSE on Thursday, April 26th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Watch for details! Contact Kathy Kirkland for information at 429-4528.

Kids In Action!



Throughout the month of March, the kids of R.O.C.K. in LOGOS and Sunday School have the opportunity to greatly affect the lives of people at our sister church in Liberia. The Teegbeh United Methodist Church wants to start a tree farm to help support their members who live in desperate poverty. For one American dollar, kids can purchase a seedling to start their tree farm! There will be a display in the hall of the education wing where kids can deposit their money. The money needs to be in a sealed envelope with their name on it. As the children bring in their money, we will place a tree on the wall with their name on it. Watch with us as our tree farm "grows" through Sunday, April 1st. Money can be deposited on either Sunday mornings or Wednesday afternoons at R.O.C.K. in LOGOS. This is a very tangible way to get our kids involved in missions. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Kirkland at 429-3414 or Linda Klepaczyk at 429-0441.

INFUSION YOUTH NEWS

Junior High

Lazer Tag at Zap Zone – Join us on Sunday, March 25th for a special night of games and pizza from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Bring \$10 and a friend! Safe Sanctuary parents are needed to join us. Talk to Emily to let her know if you can help!

Senior High

BattleCry Stadium Event – Tickets have been purchased and Hotel Reservations have been made for an awesome weekend of worshiping God, gaining momentum with a purpose, and uniting with other Christians on April 13-15. If you have missed the deadline and are interested in this event talk to Emily about add-on tickets today!

Easter Sunrise Service - Help make Easter Worship an awesome experience! The Senior High Youth will be leading our congregation's Easter 7 AM Sunrise Worship on Sunday, April 8th. Wednesday, April 4th we will spend some time at W3 planning and preparing and on Saturday, April 7th we will have a rehearsal. If you have any ideas or are interested in helping in any way talk to Emily now!!

TAX REPORTING FOR CASH CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

While primarily for pension reform, the Pension Protection Act enacted by Congress in August 2006 includes provisions pertaining to public charities and charitable contributions. One of the most important IMMEDIATE changes was in the method that cash contributions are to be recorded. It states that ALL cash contributions of ANY size are to be substantiated by either a bank record (such as cancelled check), or a written letter/statement from the charitable organization. This communication must include the name of the charity, the date of the donation, and the amount of the donation. Up until this change, donors could use "other reliable written records" for donations up to \$250 without a cancelled check or receipt.

To ensure your contributions to FUMC are recorded properly, and that they will show up on your year end statement, please neatly include your name and address on all contributions that are not in a numbered church envelope. Also please carefully review your quarterly statements for accuracy. If you do not have envelopes and would like some, please notify the church office. (Note: your church envelope numbers change at the beginning of each calendar year, so please discard any old envelopes.)

All organizations that rely on charitable contributions deeply appreciate your efforts to support them, and want you to receive the full tax benefit, along with the JOY that comes from sacrificial giving.

Liberia Partner Church

Rev. Michael Clemmer from the Ann Arbor District was in Liberia in February. He hand carried a greeting to our partner church and then brought back this letter in return:

Greetings once more from the William Teegbeh Church Family. I write to let you know how we will forever remain grateful to you and the entire Saline First U.M.C. Your email dated Feb. 12, 2007 was received, here are the answers:

--The church decided to plant palm and rubber trees. Palms and rubbers are productive trees that will be able after four or five years to support other ministries of the church.

--Our most important needs for now will be soap, bedsheets, shoes for adults and children, Bibles, pens, pencils, and a few pills for headache and a few dollars for the purchase of trees, as one tree is \$1.00US.

The money mentioned in your Feb. 1, 2007 email [this is the \$2,000 to help them finish their building] has not been received, but when it is received, it will carry us a long way.

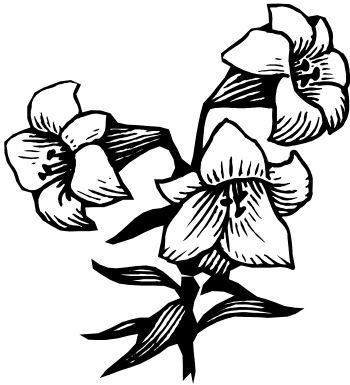
I am grateful to God for all your efforts and this is a gift from my children's ministry to yours [there were several beaded necklaces in the envelope]. I hope and pray that these two ministries will visit each other someday.

*In Christ I am,
Rev. Richard James*



PRAYER CONCERNS ~ Ihla Donaldson; Doug Beard's mother, Nadine; Wanda Beard's mother; Ray Schlaff, Jr.; Walt Sauter's family; Steve Anderson & his parents; Paul Lowe; Martha Anderson; Kathy Stuk; Dorothy Paul; Debra Holbrook's mother, Nell James and her family; Lloyd "Harpo" Herrst; the grandmother of Pilar and Scot Graden; Sharell Gehrke; the family of Michael Vincent's nephew; Elise's mom; Pastor Jim; Gillian Hess; Dan Wenger; Tom Eby; Ella Nadig; Bobbe Hinsman; Linda Adebiyi; Jan Turosky; family of Ron Panches; Jean Rhoades; Eric Ellicott; Jack Allen's daughter; David Babcock's friend, Bob; Bill Hespen; those with problems at work; those families moving due to the closing of Pfizer; victims of domestic violence. **PRAISE/CELEBRATIONS** ~ For Charlie Evans' wife who will be joining him in Michigan soon; John Lockwoods progress and return to Michigan; successful heart surgery for Griffin Wick; Laura Speiran passed her commissioning interview; Melissa Hogue & Nick Muscato on their nuptials; Dottie Barnes' successful surgery; Mikey Pesco's return home and back to school following his heart surgery; the very successful Rummage Sale which earned over \$2,600 for Mountain Top; Will (LB) Minnette's quick recovery; Martha & Bob Seward's new grandson, Victor Robert Vero Bodine; Doris Sekerka's successful surgery.

Military personnel and families to keep in our prayers ~ Billy Kirkland, son of Kathy & Bill Kirkland; J.T. St. Denis, nephew of Kathy & Bill Kirkland; Bennett Phipps, brother of Rachel Wislocki; Bill Paul, nephew of Bonnie & Tom Riggs; Timothy Frisbee, grandson of Florence & Ernie Busch; Nick Gilveli, grandson of Martha Gilveli; Kevin Raymond, son of Susan Raymond; Bobby Singh, son-in-law of Paulette & Mike Suchy. Tim Jones, son of Penny & Doug Jones; Dan Erlwein, friend of Dave & Susan Hares; Sam Spicer, grandson of Lois Royal; Erik Maddock, son of Don & Andrea Maddock; Doug W. Beard, son of Doug & Wanda Beard; Mark & Brad Nadig, sons of Carroll & Sandy Nadig; Nathaniel Held, son of Keith & Patsy Held; Jeff & Ryan Housner, nephews of Deb & Pete Belaire; Aaron Friese, friend of Scott & Peggy Klapper; Sergeant Eric Coppernoll; John & Ryan Engel cousins of Patti Hogue; Russ Bodine, son-in-law of Martha and Robert Seward; Erik Anderson; son-in-law of Beulah Morton, Edgar Groom.



Easter Flowers

The chancel of the Sanctuary will be adorned with Easter flowers for Easter Morning Worship Celebrations.

The plants are available at a cost of \$13.00 per plant of either 6" potted Tulips, Daffodils, Hyacinths, or Single

Easter Lilies from Saline Flowerland. They may be designated in memory of loved ones, in honor of someone, or to the glory of God.

Donors may pick up the plant after worship service on April 8th. You may mail the form to the church office or place it in the offering plate. Orders must be received no later than **Tuesday, March 27th**. Please submit your payment with your order. Make your checks payable to FUMC. If you have any questions, please contact Darlene Heffelbower in the church office at 429-4730.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ORDERS IS MARCH 27th.

Please print your order information.

On memo line of your check write: Easter Flower Fund

This plant is given in memory of:

This plant is given in honor of:

This plant is given to the glory of God: _____

(Plants are \$13 each) I prefer: Tulip ____ Hyacinth ____ Daffodil ____ Single Lily ____

Your Name: _____

Telephone: _____

CALENDAR FOR MARCH 25 – APRIL 7, 2007

25 Sunday <u>Missions Bake Sale</u> 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Cancer Support 10:10a Sunday School 10:10a Lenten Study 11:15a Contemporary Service 12:30p Baby Shower 4:00p LT Groups at Emily's 6:00p Disciple II 6:30p Lenten Study 6:30p Junior High	26 Monday 10:00a Shawl Ministry 7:00p Church Council	27 Tuesday 9:15a WISE AM 4:45p Music Together 6:30p Friendship Ministry 6:30p HOMMIES 7:00p WISE PM 8:00p Youth Support	28 Wednesday 9:00a Bible Study 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Prayer Ministry 12:30p Quilting 3:00p ROCK in LOGOS 6:00p Disciple I 6:30p Cub Scouts #9 6:30p Praise Team 7:00p Confirmation 7:00p UMW Exec Board 8:00p – WWW	29 Thursday 9:15a Music Together 6:15p Orchestra 6:30p Music Together 7:00p Choir 7:30p Bells	30 Friday 6:00p Stephen Ministry	31 Saturday
1 Sunday 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Cancer Support 10:10a Sunday School 10:10a Lenten Study 11:15a Contemporary Service 3:00p EVH Service 4:00p LT Groups at Emily's 6:30p Junior High 6:00p Lenten Study Potluck	2 Monday 10:00a Shawl Ministry 12:30p Esther Circle 7:00p Staff Parish	3 Tuesday 12:30p Ruth Circle	4 Wednesday 9:00a Bible Study 9:30a Prayer Ministry 12:30p Quilting 6:00p Disciple I 6:30p Cub Scouts #9 6:30p Praise Team 8:00p – WWW	5 Thursday 7:00p Maundy Thursday Service 7:30p Flying Club	6 Friday 12:00p Good Friday Service 5:00p Friday Night Dinner 6:00p Stephen Ministry	7 Saturday 2:00 Widows Support Group

Head Ushers:

Charlie Bender, Carlos Melendez, Carl Snow
 Darlene Heffebower, Patti Hogue

Worship Attendance:

March 11.....512
 March 18.....581

Greeters:

Traditional Service:
 The Nichol's Family
 Contemporary Service:
 Jan Wegner
 Karen Faust

Welcome Center Hosts:

Traditional Service:
 Al and Carol Tondreau
 Contemporary Service
 Pat Videki
 Susie Treber

OUR SYMPATHIES TO ~ The family of Wava Hammond on her passing; Molly Coy & family on the passing of her mother, Jean Lumpert; Lee VanDer Wende on the passing of her father, LeRoy; the Barbret family on the passing of Joan's aunt, Lucille Petermeier.

*Mission Bake Sale
 March 25th – Enjoy goodies
 while supporting Missions!*

First United Methodist Church
 1200 North Ann Arbor Street
 Saline, MI 48176

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