

The
Newsletter
of the
Saline
United
Methodist
Church



Pastor: Dr. James E. Tuttle

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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

January 27, 2008

“Ringing Forth the Good News”

Vol. 17; No. 2

Springing into Spring

It seems like only a couple of weeks ago you finally packed away all of the remaining Christmas decorations, returned to the mall any item needing exchanging, finished the last bit of fruitcake that had been given to you and dropped a note or two to those who had sent you a card but had been inadvertently left off your Christmas card list. Now you can settle in for a few weeks. Well, don't expect to hibernate for too long. Easter is just around the corner. You know how they say, “Time marches on,” well this year it's sprinting. In fact, March 23rd is the earliest date for Easter since 1818. It's one of earliest dates that Easter can come.

That means that Ash Wednesday is just ten days from now – February 6th. If you're a serious Lenten devotee, you only have nine days to gorge yourself, capping it off at our Pancake Dinner beginning at 5:30 on **Shrove Tuesday**, alias “Fat Tuesday.”

Then we'll launch our formal Lenten journey at the **Ash Wednesday Service on February 6th**. Plan to start out the Lenten Season with that time in the sanctuary when we give serious thought to all that's happening in our life and then open our life so God can again begin the renewing work needed to spring forth resurrection within us.

Also, this is the year for celebrating – celebrating 175 years of being a Methodist congregation in Saline. In the early days of the Methodist movement in America circuit-riding preachers travelled by horseback, going from town to town forming new congregations. The first circuit rider traveled from Toledo to Detroit and points north and west, and then returning by way of Ann Arbor. Our Methodist congregation in Saline was part of one of the second circuit formed in the territory of Michigan. That was in 1833, before Michigan even acquired statehood. We are going to be commemorating our long 175-year heritage in several ways throughout this year.

In the downtown home of Ansyl Ford, **the Methodist Society of Saline was birthed on February 12, 1833**. Within a year or so, our forbearers were constructing their first church building, and we've been building ever since. On **Sunday, February 10th we will be having a 175th birthday celebration**, with two music-filled worship services – a 2008 version of the “Old Time Religion,” a circuit-rider preacher on-site for the occasion, with cake and all in Christler Hall between services. Later on – June 8th we are planning a great Sunday with the “Legacy of Faith Cantata” followed by an old-fashioned church dinner on the lawn. I've heard maybe even a pig roast. Also, a new pictorial directory will be published later in the year. This promises to be a great year.

Now just in case you're beginning to feel tired already about how quickly Easter will be upon us and how much activity will be happening around here this spring, let me remind you that this is a Leap Year, so you do have an extra day on Friday, February 29th to rest up a bit. Take advantage of it, you won't get another “make-up” day until the year 2124. An extra 24 hours should put a little more spring in your steps. – Pastor Jim



IMPORTANT TAX NOTICE

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2007 income tax return until you have received a written

acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church.

Statement were mailed on January 19, 2008; please notify the church office if you had contributions and do not receive a statement, or if you have any questions.



TOOLS & BLANKETS

Church World Service (parent organization of C.R.O.P. Walk) runs a Tools & Blankets program, providing blankets, tents and other emergency shelter items in the wake of a

disaster. Refugees returning home can be helped with tools to rebuild and seeds to replant fields. Families living in drought-plagued areas are helped to dig wells for clean, safe drinking water, and for water to irrigate crops. After the 2004 tsunami ravaged Indonesia, fishing nets and boats helped those devastated peoples get back on their feet. During Lent, UMW will be filling up a Church World Service fishing net in the narthex with paper fish, purchased by you for any amount. Please stop by the table in the Narthex to purchase the fish and when Easter comes, we will see how many fish we have caught in our net for Christ.



FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Back by popular demand!! Come eat all the pancakes, sausage, eggs and applesauce you can on the last night before lent begins, Tuesday Feb. 5th, in the

Fellowship Hall from 5:30 -- 7:00 p.m. There will be a free will offering taken to aid local missions.

Griddles and chefs are needed for the Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper. Please sign-up at Opportunity Wall.



There was an error in the last Steeple News. The wagons for the

Christmas Parade were supplied by John and Carole McConnell and Ken and Lois Baldus. Many thanks to each of them.



Christmas Giving Thank You

Much appreciation to our generous congregation. This years' Angel Tree program served 23 children with gifts on behalf of their incarcerated parents, keeping the parent-child bond of love alive. We again provided S.A.S.S. with 50 food baskets---all delivered on time on the day of a huge snowstorm!

Our presents to the Methodist Childrens' Home were generous and much needed in this year of economic hardship. How wonderful and sharing our church family is!

Community Care Committee

Thank you to the Prayers and Squares Ministry for the beautiful prayer quilt, and to everyone who tied a knot and signed the card. I feel so blessed to have such a loving and caring church family. Thanks also for your continued prayers for Jim.

-Carolyn Beal

INFUSION YOUTH NEWS

Junior High

Bowling Night – Sunday, January 27 we are going to hit the alleys for some bowling together! Join us from 6:30–8:30 p.m. Bring \$8 and a friend!

SpringHill Camp – Just a reminder that all Junior High Youth are invited to attend SpringHill Camp March 7–9 for some fun in the snow and a chance to grow in faith. If you are not signed up and are still interested in going, contact Emily Krach right away. A waiting has been established.

Senior High

Camp Barakel – Just a reminder that all Senior High Youth are invited to attend Camp Barakel February 15–17 for some fun in the snow and a chance to grow in faith. If you are not signed up and are still interested in going, contact Emily Krach right away. A waiting list has been established.

If you are signed up, please pick up your Important Information packet about Camp Barakel from Emily. This includes your “What to Bring” list and “Medical Release Form.” Medical forms and the final \$50 deposit are due by February 6!

Youth Support Team Meeting – Our next meeting time together is February 5 at 8 p.m.



What is the Best Question Ever?

On January 15th, both the WISE AM and WISE PM groups began a new, 6-week study based on Andy Stanley's video series, *The Best Question Ever*. Andy Stanley shows how we can use the Bible as a filter to ask ourselves "what is the wise thing to do?" Each week, we'll view a brief video and use an accompanying study guide for group discussion. Could you use some biblically-based help in your decision-making process? Then come join us! For more information on WISE AM, which meets on Tuesday morning at 9:15 a.m., call Gail Karaman at 429-0651. For more information on WISE PM, which meets on Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m., call Lisa Morrow at 429-3551.



Library News

A committee has begun working to organize the library in room C. Some of the new books they have added to the library are:

A Wesley Family Book of Days - A Wesley Family Book of Days reveals the daily personal devotion, humor, and concerns of parents Susanna and Samuel Wesley, her renowned father, their 19 children and some of the grandchildren.

The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language - verse-numbered edition often referenced by Pastor Tuttle

NIV/ The Message Parallel Bible - verse by verse comparison of two popular Bibles

The Will of God - The phrase "the will of God" is used loosely, says Leslie Weatherhead, and the consequence of that looseness to our peace of mind is serious. Weatherhead's recognition of this problem led him to write *The Will of God*, a classic that has helped more than a million grieving persons better understand the meaning of the phrase.

Please watch the newsletter and bulletin for more information on the progress that is being made.

It's Not Too Early. . . to start honing up your skills . . . the 3rd All-Church Talent Show is coming April 19th, 2008!

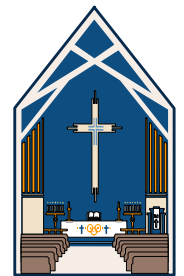


PRAYER GARDEN BRICK SALES

Thanks to the hard work of many people we now have a wonderful Prayer Garden on our church grounds, which includes a lovely brick pathway. We sell bricks and will continue to do this each January and February. The proceeds from the bricks enable us to pay for the landscaping and maintenance of the garden. A *prayer brick* is a wonderful way to memorialize a loved one, honor someone important in your life or have your family name as a permanent part of our church grounds. The cost of a 4" x 8" brick is \$50 and an 8" x 8" brick is \$80. Order forms are available at the Opportunity Wall. Please submit your form and payment by the deadline of February 24. Contact Darlene Heffelbower with any questions at 429-4730.

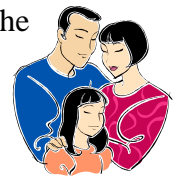
LENTEN PRAYER CHAPEL

This year throughout the season of Lent, starting Wednesday, February 6 through Easter Sunday, March 23, we would like to invite you to take some time to be quiet. Be still. Decompress. Wrestle with God. Listen to what God wants you to hear. Pray. Reflect. There will be a special space set up in Room C this year called the prayer chapel that will be open for you to do just that. There will be some prayer stations that will invite you to sit with God and will give you some direction in your prayer time. There will also be space to just gaze at the cross and be quiet. It's a space for you and God. It will be open any time the church is open. Come before a meeting. Come between worship services. Come during your lunch hour. Just come.



PARENTING SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

We have decided to continue studying the book *Revolutionary Parenting* by George Barna in this class. We are currently meeting in the Parlor during the Sunday School hour (starting at 10:10 am). This class is open to any adult interested in Christian parenting ideas. Newcomers are welcome to join this group at anytime and will benefit from the casual group discussion. Call Susie Treber if you have any questions at 429-1840.



New Member Class in January



Our winter New Member Class will be held on Saturday, January 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be included. Those class participants who choose to join will do so on Sunday, January 27 at the 11:15 worship service. All adults who are not currently members are invited and encouraged to attend, even long-time United Methodists! This is a large congregation, and we want you to be a part of a small group in order to meet people and learn about what goes on here. Topics to be included are: what it means to be a Christian, church history, Wesley theology, and ministries of Saline First United Methodist. Please sign up at the Opportunity Wall, or speak with Deacon Laura Speiran. Childcare is available, if needed. If you are interested in joining the church, but are unavailable in January, a spring class will be held in a one-day format on Saturday, April 12, 2008.

UMW NEWS

UMW Sunday

UMW Sunday is February 3. The UMW will be leading both worship services. Later that day, we will be leading the worship service at the EVH. Since many circles and the unit are not meeting in January, please look for sign-up sheets at the Opportunity Wall to participate in these events

To Ladies of all Ages ~ The Ladies High Tea, which was previously held in January, is scheduled for April 13 in the Fellowship Hall at 2:00 p.m. Mark your calendars and we'll see you then in your spring finery!

Hannah Circle will meet on Monday, February 4th at 9:30 a.m. in Room H Sylvia Korte will present the program and Sue Herrick will provide refreshments. Please note that childcare is available. We welcome new members at any time. Please join us! For further information, please contact Sylvia Korte at 517-423-7881.

Esther Circle will meet Monday, February 4th at 12:30. The hostess will be Elaine Carter and the program will be given by Mary Lirones. This will be the circle's pledge meeting.



Here is a Food Ministry Everyone Should Know About!

Angel Food Ministries, a non-profit, non-denominational organization, began in 1994 as a small outreach ministry serving a rural community in Georgia. The goal was to help neighbors who needed a hand up in a tough economic time. Today, Angel Food Ministries can be found in over 3,200 communities in 35 states and helps feed over 500,000 families a month.

Angel Food partners with churches and community organizations throughout the country to help distribute food to those in need. For \$30.00 you can receive a box of food containing both fresh and frozen items. Our food items are top quality – we buy our food from major food producers throughout the country to ensure the best food comes to your table.

Here is a website with more information:

<http://www.angelfoodministries.com/>

The nearest participating church in our area is Ann Arbor First Church of the Nazarene on Packard.

<http://www.annarbournazarene.org/>

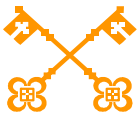
There's no financial qualification for the program; anyone can participate. You do have to go in person to sign up and pay. You also have to pick up the food in person on a specified day and time. If you have any questions, please speak to Deacon Laura in the church office.



Come Back to Me: A Lenten Journey with Jesus

Every day, but especially during Lent, we are invited to return to God with all our heart. Accept the invitation to journey with Christ ever closer to the Father, using Scripture of the season, guided meditation, music, movement and journaling. Reflect on your own life experiences as you accompany Jesus from His temptation in the desert to His Resurrection. Basic movements will be taught which can be done by anyone, regardless of experience or physical limitation. This Prayer in Motion event is being held at Sienna Heights College in Adrian on Saturday, February 16th. For further information visit www.prayer-in-motion.com or call 734-429-7754.

Creed and Christ



A companion book to the current sermon series on the Apostles Creed can be picked up at the Opportunity Wall. A \$3 donation is requested to cover the cost of materials.



EVANGELICAL HOMES

OFFERS HOME CARE

Evangelical Homes of Michigan is pleased to announce the establishment of two home health care programs to meet the needs of the residents of Washtenaw County and the surrounding areas.

The purpose of home health care is to promote independence and maximize strengths and abilities, while improving overall well-being and offering support for family caregivers.

Shared Care Services, Inc. provides private duty services that are paid for privately or through an individual's long-term care insurance. Shared Care Services can provide companions or homemaker assistants to assist with meal preparation, light housekeeping, running errands and companionship. Home health aides and certified nursing assistants provide personal care and assistance with activities of daily living. Professional nursing services are also available. All prospective clients receive a free assessment by a registered nurse.

Shared Services Home Health Care is a *Medicare-certified* home health agency which provides not only nursing services, but also therapy services (physical, occupational, and speech), social work, as well as home health services. Evangelical has an extensive network of service providers to supply these services, as well as many others, that will support individuals in their return to optimum health.

For more information about these services, please call their office at 734-222-4000.

Laura Speiran
Church Ambassador
First United Methodist Church

Our Sympathies to ~ Paul Tull and family on the passing of Jackie Tull; Shirley Riggs on the passing of her husband, Frank; the Terence Houser family on the loss of Argyl.

Please pray for those in special living situations.

At EVH we have Alice Tonks, Paul Tull, and Anna Reese. Mary Toth is currently in Hospice Care at EVH. At Sunrise we have Phyllis West. At Arbor Hospice we have Ruth Akans. Genny Singleton and John Heggeton are at Heartland.

Prayer Concerns ~ Jim & Carolyn Beal, Mary Ruhl, Ruth Akans, Chuck Heiserman, Dallas Milem, Bud Gray, Stan Sekerka, Wayne Haupt, Kathy, Lisa Marshall, Betty Sellers, Mary Carol, Samantha Sherson, Eric Firavich, Charles Edmonds, Sandy Zemba, Paul Adamkowski, Ricky Richmond, Bonnie Bender, Helen Seitz, Dale Brown, Carol Barks, Tom Cole, Sr., Elizabeth, Dustan Colyer, Sandra Purcell, Tammy Dyess, Bill Minnette, Barbara Vincent & her mother, Art Singleton, Joan Barbret's friends, Shawn Manning, Mark Quinn, Betty Gustafson, Eberle family, Townley family, Lisa & her children, friends having a hard time, Cherry family.

Praise/Celebrations ~ For all of our military; for the birth of Noah Scott, grandson of Peggy & Scott Klapper; Judy Mayo's recovery; for the committee who created our 175th Anniversary signs and banners - Sheila Blough, Carolyn Comfort, Wilma Heggaton & Caryn Datson; for Don Force's successful surgery; for our Christian friends who help us in times of need; for those on the Gulf Coast Mission Team; for the birth of Lynn & Jack Shaw's first grandchild.

Military Personnel and Families ~ J.T. St. Denis; Bennett Phipps, brother of Rachel Wislocki; Timothy Frisbee, son of Pam & Gene Frisbee; Nick Gilveli; Kevin Raymond, son of Susan Raymond; Bobby Singh, son-in-law of Paulette & Mike Suchy; Dan Erlwein; Sam Spicer; 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; Aaron Friese; Sergeant Eric Coppemoll; John & Ryan Engel; Russ Bodine, son-in-law of Martha and Robert Seward; Edgar Groom, son-in-law of Beulah Morton; Joseph Miller; Dave Hayes; Nathan Miller, son of Jeff & Susan Miller; Benjamin Cripe, Derek Burge, Justin Burge.

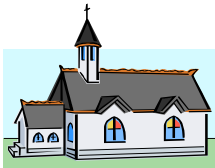
The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary and His understanding no one can fathom.
Isaiah 40:28

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 27 – FEBRUARY 9, 2008

27 Sunday 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Sunday School 11:15a Contemporary Service 3:00p Downs Syndrome Group 4:00p LT Group at Emily's 5:00p Disciple I 6:00p Jesus in the Gospels 6:30p Jr. High Youth Group	28 Monday 10:00a Shawl Ministry 6:30p Girl Scout Troop #1309 7:00p Church Council	29 Tuesday 9:15a WISE AM 4:45p Music Together 7:00p WISE PM	30 Wednesday 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Neighborhood Bible Study 12:30p Quilting 3:00p ROCK in LOGOS 5:30p Jr. High Dinner and Drama 6:30p Praise Team 6:45p Cub Scouts #9 7:00p 1 st year Confirmation 7:00p Sanctity w/o Starch 8:00p Sr. High WWW	31 Thursday 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Prayer Ministry 12:30p Disciple IV 6:15p Orchestra 6:30p Music Together 7:00p Cub Scouts #5 7:00p Choir 7:30p Bells	1 Friday	2 Saturday
3 Sunday 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Sunday School 11:15a Contemporary Service 5:00p Disciple I 6:00p Jesus in the Gospels 6:30p Jr. High Youth Group Gulf Cost Misson Team Returns	4 Monday 9:30a UMW Mtg. 10:00a Shawl Ministry 12:30p Esther Circle 6:30p Girl Scout Troop #2019 6:30p Girl Scout Troop #1309 7:00p Susannah Circle 7:00p Staff Parish	5 Tuesday 7:30a Stephen Ministry 9:15a WISE AM 12:30p Ruth Circle 4:45p Music Together 6:00p Prayer Chapel Set Up 7:00p WISE PM 7:00p Scout Leaders 7:00p Print/Online TF Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper (5:30)	6 Wednesday 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Neighborhood Bible Study 12:30p Quilting 3:00p ROCK in LOGOS 5:30p Jr. High Dinner and Drama 6:30p Praise Team 6:45p Cub Scouts #9 7:00p Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7:00p 1 st year Confirmation 7:00p Sanctity w/o Starch 8:00p Sr. High WWW Prayer Chapel	7 Thursday 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Prayer Ministry 12:30p Disciple IV 6:15p Brownies #794 6:15p Orchestra 6:30p Music Together 7:00p Cub Scouts #5 7:00p Cub Scouts #1 7:00p Choir 7:30p Bells 7:30p Flying Club Prayer Chapel	8 Friday Prayer Chapel	9 Saturday Set up for 175 th Anniv. Prayer Chapel

DEADLINES

The next Steeple News deadline is **Monday, February 4th** at noon. Volunteers are needed to assemble the newsletter **Thursday, February 7th** in Room F at 8:30 a.m.



Head Ushers:

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

Greeters:

Dorotha Green
 Doris Sekerka
 Graden Family
 Larry and Carol Osterling

Welcome Center

Doris Sekerka
 Kay Richmond

Worship Attendance:

Jan 13 – 547
 Jan 20 - 526

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