

The
Newsletter
of the
Saline
United
Methodist
Church



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Deacon: Rev. Laura Speiran

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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

August 3, 2008

“Worshiping Christ... Welcoming All!”

Vol. 17; No. 15

Five Weeks and Counting...

Miracle Sunday is just 5 weeks away – **Sunday, September 7, 2008** and our goal is to raise \$1,000,000 in one offering. The thrust of *Miracle Sunday* is asset giving rather than income giving. Income giving is income that we assume we will earn over the coming months. In order to give from assets, some will be able to cash in CD's or withdraw money from a retirement fund. Others don't have available liquid assets in their bank accounts and will have to be more creative. Our people are being very ingenious in finding ways that they can give.

For example:

- One family told me that they plan to cash in an old insurance policy that they had purchased to protect the family when their children were young, but now their children are grown and out on their own.
- I've heard of two families who are considering selling some real estate lots on which they had planned to build but no longer are interested in relocating.
- One woman in our congregation thought about some diamond rings that she no longer wears, and is having them appraised and will donate the money earned from this sale as her gift on *Miracle Sunday*.
- One of our members, Kristi Cundiff, will be hosting a Gold Party on August 20, where we can bring old jewelry items for appraisal and sale, providing us with some money toward our gift.
- Edna and Earl Laughrey are looking into the possibility of an antique auction with Braun and Helmer
- Saralyn and Kaylee Klepaczyk began making bookmarks. The first batch sold out last Sunday, so they plan to make some more.
- Our youth will be coordinating a carwash and perhaps a pop bottle/can collection later this month.
- The July Bake Sale netted several hundred dollars that will be donated along with additional funds that will be raised at our August and September bake sales.
- Shirley Padding is coordinating the S.O.S. Project – Sell Our Services. See the Opportunity Wall. We will be able to offer some service for sale to another member of the congregation to be performed during the next 13 months. All proceeds will be added to the Miracle Sunday offering.
- Cheryl Schlaff will be donating all profits from her sales of scrapbook supplies for the month of August.

These are just a few of the creative ways that some of you have thought about that will enhance the church's offering for *Miracle Sunday* on September 7th. What assets – both monetary and material – do you possess that could be invested in expanding the ministry of your church to better reach out to the people of this community? As you're walking around your home or driving to and from work, prayerfully consider how you want to be part of the \$1,000,000 offering on September 7th. If you sincerely pray and seek God's guidance, God will make clear to you the way in which you can add your gift to the gifts of the other members of your church family, producing the material that God will use to create a miracle in this church. Let's work together and wait expectantly to see what will happen as we obediently respond to the Spirit's leading and prompting.

-- Pastor Jim

PRAYING FOR MIRACLE SUNDAY

EVERY DAY at 12:00 noon until Miracle Sunday, which is September 7, 2008 there will be prayer time for Miracle Sunday. We are praying that God will move in a powerful way throughout our church family, that we will be transformed by this event, that our church's mission to the unchurched in our community will grow, that each of us will grow individually in our spiritual lives in this process, and that a million dollars will be given in offering to God on September 7 in order for us to receive the full one million dollar grant offered to us by a private foundation in Michigan. All are welcome to come and pray—for 5 minutes, for 15 minutes, for 30 minutes—whatever your schedule allows. If you are unable to come, please pray wherever you are at 12:00 noon each day. Be looking for a prayer/fasting event as we get closer to the big day!

WHAT'S YOUR VISION?



Your building committee would like to hear your ideas about what our next priorities in ministry, program, and facility space should be. You may speak personally with

any member of the current committee, or write your ideas down and place them in the Miracle box at the Opportunity Wall. The last time we were preparing to build, God laid the same message on most everyone's heart, which was Christian education space and classrooms. Please pray and listen, and share what He is saying to YOU.

Building Committee Members: Dale Padding, Brian Hogue, Darlene Heffelbower, Dale Adkins, Tim Griffin, Dave Drenning, Pam Heffelbower, Jim Tuttle.



GET IN THE CAR!

"Get in the Car" is willing to go anywhere and do just about anything. Volunteers are needed to assist in the Fond du Lac, Wisconsin clean-up of homes from the flooding June 13, 2008. You need not be ERT trained; you will receive training before you leave. Teams consist of 6-8 people. The local church will provide food, supplies and showers for volunteers. If interested, please contact Duane Townley - DTTOWN@aol.com.

GOT GOLD?

Are you looking for a unique way to donate money for Miracle Sunday? There will be a gold party here at the church in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, August 20, at 6:30 pm. Turn your unused, outdated, broken, mismatched, or otherwise unwanted gold or platinum jewelry, as well as coins, crowns, etc. into CASH! Get top dollar for your 10K, 14K, 18K, or 22K gold items (white gold will also be accepted). Simply bring your gold to the party, and Michigan Gold Recyclers will determine the karat purity, weigh it, and pay you cash on the spot. Of course, you are under no obligation to sell and precious stones will be removed so you may keep them. The party is from 6:30-8:00 pm. This is an open-house style of party, meaning that you can come, have refreshments, and leave at your leisure. There will be envelopes so you can make donations to Miracle Sunday in your name. Please RSVP to Kristi Cundiff at 944-8428 if you are planning to attend. She needs to plan for refreshments, and Michigan Gold Recyclers needs to know about how much cash to have on hand.



SCRAPBOOKS & MIRACLE SUNDAY

For the month of August, Cheryl Schlaff will be donating all the profits from the sale of the scrapbook supplies she sells to Miracle Sunday. So, if you have been meaning to order an album, or any other scrapbook supplies (pens, paper, refill pages, stickers, punches, bags, or organizers), please contact Cheryl by August 30 so she can get those items for you and you can also help support the fundraising for Miracle Sunday. Then, come join other scrapbookers on Saturday, August 23 from 1:00-6:00 pm in Room F for a time of fellowship and fun as we work on our albums. Contact Cheryl at 417-3951 or at cheryl@fumc-saline.org for more information.

AUCTION FOR MIRACLE SUNDAY

FUMC of Saline is hoping to coordinate an auction to help raise additional funds for Miracle Sunday.

Be watching for details on when and where you can donate items in good to excellent condition for an "antique" auction.



Please call Edna Laughrey at 429-4468 if you have questions on this.

SUMMER BAKE SALE

The Mission team will sponsor another summer bake sale on Sunday, August 10. We will have baked goods available in the church kitchen after the Right Start Service and after the 9:30 Sanctuary Service. The proceeds from this sale, as well as the July and September bake sales, will benefit the Miracle Sunday fund. Contributions of baked goods are appreciated. Please contact Marsha Gilbert at 944-2024 for more information.



UMW SUMMER PICNIC

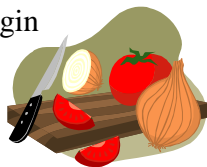
Let's celebrate summer and this wonderful weather! The United Methodist Women are holding the "always delicious and fun" annual Picnic Potluck in Kay Richmond's shady backyard at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, August 12. This is an important gathering, as we will be electing new officers for 2009. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service. In the event of inclement weather, the potluck will be held in the church Fellowship Hall. If you have childcare needs, please contact Janet Moss at 944-7251. Please direct other questions to Kay Richmond at 944-6234.

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 on August 21, 2008 at 12 noon. Please sign up at the Opportunity Wall or call the church office. Please contact Rev. Laura Speiran if you have questions, or if you have any dietary concerns.

FAIR KITCHEN

The Saline Community Fair will begin on September 1, 2008. The First United Methodist Church of Saline runs a full service kitchen beginning September 2, which includes a lunch and dinner menu. It takes many volunteers to fill all of the necessary slots to make things run smoothly. You will be able to sign up for a volunteer job in which you'll join others in a time of hard work and fun. Please mark your calendars for September 2 through September 6. The sign up sheets are currently available in the Narthex. Please keep in mind that from August 29 through September 4 we will be accepting donations of tomatoes from your garden.



DISCIPLE CLASSES RESUME IN SEPTEMBER

Have you thought about taking a Disciple class? Disciple I is a beginning study of the Old and New Testament. This study is a pre-requisite for other disciple classes. The other Disciple classes include Disciple II, III, IV, and Jesus in the Gospels. These classes are 30-34 weeks in length and are a study of specific books in the Bible.

If you prefer a short term study of 8 weeks, there will also be classes available which include studies of the Old or New Testament. These studies do not require Disciple I as a pre-requisite. These classes will begin in September, but informational brochures and a sign up sheet are available now at the Opportunity Wall.

THANK YOU

To My Friends at First United Methodist Church of Saline: thank you for your cards, letters, flowers, and visits. I really enjoyed them. Eulah Escott

LIL' SAINTS PRESCHOOL

It is now open enrollment for the 2008/2009 school year. The preschool will be open Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm beginning September 9. Lil' SAINTS Preschool; a place where your child belongs, and a place where he/she can become all they were created to be. Contact Kathy Kirkland at Kathy@lilsaints.org for more information.

2008 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

A bulletin board is currently displayed in the hall near room A. This board is designed to display the pictures of our 2008 High School Graduates. Your name and future plans will be printed as well so that the congregation may identify you as you are lifted in prayer your first year past high school. Please bring your wallet sized picture to the church office to either Rev. Laura Speiran or Emily Krach. Please make sure that your name and future plans are printed on the reverse side of the picture.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CORNERSTONE

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever!"
2 Peter 3:18

REGISTER NOW for the 2008-2009 R.O.C.K. in LOGOS Ministry year. Parent Packets are available at the Opportunity Wall in the Narthex. Contact Sue Herrick or Leanne Rimmnac with any questions you may have.

Do you love to foster Christian relationships? Is there a tiny tug at your heart to minister to adults? The R.O.C.K. in LOGOS Ministry is in need of a Table Parent Coordinator for the 2008-2009 ministry year. Please contact Leanne Rimnac if you are interested. This is a great way to be a part of the big picture: God's picture.

The next Safe Sanctuary Training dates are as follows: August 23 from 9:00–11:00 am and September 13 from 9:00–11:00 am. We are a Safe Sanctuary church, and this training is required before you are allowed to help with any of our ministries involving children, youth, or vulnerable adults. There is a sign up sheet at the Opportunity Wall. Please contact Leanne Rimnac by calling 429-4730, x409 if you have questions or concerns.

INFUSION YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Junior High

August 3 — 6:30–8:00 pm – Join us for a night filled with Random Acts of Kindness. Spend some time finding ways to give back.

August 10 — 6:30–8:00 pm – MEET at MILL POND PARK – PARENTS invited. Student and Parent Cookout and Games in the park – come hungry and ready to play.

August 17 — 6:30–8:00 pm – Student led Game Night. You choose the fun, everyone joins in.

August 24 — 6:30–8:00 pm – End of summer blowout party. Be prepared to get wet and messy.

Senior High

August 6 — 8:00 pm – W3 (Wild Worship Wednesday) summer style in the youth room.

August 13 — 6:00–10:00 pm – W.O.W. (Wild Outreach Wednesday) – Video Scavenger Hunt & Pizza. Bring a friend.

August 20 — 8:00 pm – W3 (Wild Worship Wednesday) summer style in the youth room.

August 27 — This will be the last W.O.W. of the summer. All incoming freshmen are invited. Join us at Curtis Park at 8:00 pm for a cookout and worship.

ICE CREAM & IDEAS



If you have not yet attended one of our informative sessions about Miracle Sunday and had an opportunity to share your thoughts and ask your questions, please plan on attending one of our final meetings. They will be held on August 3, August 5, August 10, August 11, and August 12 at 7:00 pm and on August 7 at 1:00 pm. Please continue to pray and to listen to see how God wants to use you during this time.

FALL NEW MEMBER CLASS

There has been a change made to the schedule. The fall New Member class was previously scheduled to be held over six sessions. It will now be held on one day, Saturday, October 18, from 9:00 am–2:30 pm.



This class will cover topics such as: what it means to be a Christian, church history, Wesley theology, vows of membership, stewardship, and what goes on here at Saline First United Methodist Church. If you are thinking about making this church your home, or have questions about what that would mean, you are encouraged to attend. There is no cost and lunch is provided. Free childcare is available, if needed (please give one week's notice). Participants of the class who choose to join will be received as members on Sunday, October 19 at the 9:00 am service. Church membership can be a significant step in your faith journey. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Rev. Laura Speiran, who will be facilitating the class. To register, please call the church office (429-4730) or sign up at the Opportunity Wall.

PRAYING WITH BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT

God continually calls us deeper – to trust, have faith, and surrender to His will. This can be easy to do when things are going the way we think they should, but quite difficult when God's plan doesn't exactly line up with ours. Times of change and transition often increase our stress and challenge our faith. Join others who have experienced a Prayer in Motion retreat to focus on this vital calling from God. Use scripture, guided meditation, music and body movement to engage your whole being in prayer. Bring a journal for some quiet reflection. Basic movements will be taught which can be done by anyone, regardless of experience or physical limitation.

Date: Saturday, September 20, 2008

Time: 9:30 am–3:30 pm

Cost: \$40.00 (includes lunch)

Leader: Janene Ternes (Spiritual director & founder of Prayer in Motion)

Location: Manresa Jesuit Retreat House
1390 Quarton Rd.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Registration: Phone: 248-644-4933 or online at www.manresa-sj.org

For further information contact Janene Ternes at 429-7754 or visit her website at www.prayer-in-motion.com.

SCHOOLS SUPPLIES DRIVE FOR LOCAL STUDENTS IN NEED

The Education Project for the Washtenaw Intermediate School District and Saline Area Social Services is in need of school supplies for several hundred of their clients. These children are victims of joblessness, homelessness, or broken homes, and these supplies are part of a program to help these kids remain in school. If you would like to help, please purchase any of the following items and place them in the specially marked box in the Narthex.

Spiral notebooks	Compasses
Pocket folders	Children's markers
Loose-leaf paper	Pens
Solar calculators	Pencils
Ruler with metrics	Colored pencils
Protractors	Erasers

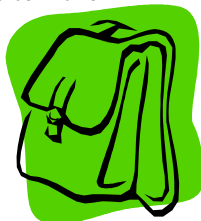
The Mission team thanks you for your support of our programs.

FILL A BACKPACK – A MINISTRY TO THE CHILDREN OF MEXICO

“There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.” Deuteronomy 15:11

In Mexico, parents are required to pay for tuition and supplies so their children can attend public schools. This is a heavy burden for many families living at or below the poverty level. We have been asked to help by providing basic school supplies for these children. This ministry has already been blessed through the gift of a large number of new backpacks. The Missions team is asking you to help by filling one or more backpacks with the needed supplies. Many families find this opportunity to be a great and simple family mission project.

We will distribute the backpacks after the worship services in early August. Each backpack contains a short list of school supplies. Please purchase the supplies, pack them in the bag, and return it to church. We will have collection boxes in the Narthex to receive the backpacks, and we will promptly package and ship them to Tapestries of Life Ministries, who will distribute them for us. You may also contribute to the cost of shipping the backpacks to Mexico, which is about \$5.00 per backpack.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN SPECIAL LIVING SITUATIONS ~ At EVH we have Juleen Dodge, Alice Tonks, Anna Reese, Linnie Mae Scott, and Chuck Heiserman. At Sunrise we have Phyllis West. Genny Singleton is at Heartland.

PRAISE/CELEBRATIONS ~ Pastor Jim as he begins year 10 of his ministry with us; Dustin Colyer's good medical results; Stan Sekerka's continued recovery; our awesome Sr. High Mountain T.O.P. mission team; for God's love.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO ~ Walt and Nancy Byers and family on the passing of her father, Paul Tull; Lloyd and Judy Whitehead on the death of his mother; Steve and Mary Beth Bredernitz and family on the passing of their brother in law, Jeff; Donna Cody and family on the loss of her father; Millie Shedd and family on the loss of her grandson, Jayden; Jean Scruggs and family on the death of her sister.

PRAYER CONCERNS ~ Lisa Marshall, Terry Tippet, Dave Luttenbacher, Bonnie Bender, Gertrude Wurst, Pat Videki, Elizabeth Gasparovic, Jo Hovey, Justin Sweet, Darren Blanchard, Lois Gray, James Farley, family of M.J. Curran, Nancy, Jessica, Wayne, & Julia Brown & family, Kevin Sullivan, Matthew Richmond, Chuck Heiserman, Patti Morgan, Jim Hirst, GM retirees, those who are hurting, safe travel, those in job interviews, those with health concerns, Miracle Sunday.



MILITARY PERSONNEL AND FAMILIES ~ J.T. St. Denis; Bennett Phipps; Timothy Frisbee, son of Pam & Gene Frisbee; Nick Gilveli; Kevin Raymond, son of Susan Raymond; Bobby Singh; 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 Coppennoll; John & Ryan Engel; Russ Bodine, son-in-law of Martha and Robert Seward; Joseph Miller; Nathan Miller, son of Jeff & Susan Miller; Benjamin Cripe; Derek Burge; Justin Burge.

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. *Matthew 11:28-30*

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 3 – AUGUST 16, 2008

3 Sunday 8:04a Right Start Service 9:30a Worship Service 10:00a Bridal Shower 11:00a Christ Riders – New Boston 3:00p EVH Worship Service 6:30p Jr. High Youth Group 7:00p Ice Cream & Ideas	4 Monday 10:00a Election Set Up 10:00a Shawl Ministry 7:00p Staff Parish	5 Tuesday 6:00a Elections 9:30a WISE 7:00p Ice Cream & Ideas 7:00p Print/Online Media Task Force	6 Wednesday 12:30p Quilting 7:00p Building Committee 8:00p Sr. High WWW	7 Thursday 9:30a Prayer Ministry 1:00p Ice Cream & Ideas 6:00p Wedding Rehearsal 7:30p Flying Club	8 Friday 5:00p Wedding	9 Saturday 1:00p Bridal Shower
10 Sunday BAKE SALE 8:04a Right Start Service 9:30a Worship Service 11:00a Christ Riders – Pinckney 6:30p Jr. High Youth Group 7:00p Ice Cream & Ideas	11 Monday 10:00a Shawl Ministry 7:00p Trustees 7:00p Ice Cream & Ideas	12 Tuesday 9:30a WISE 6:00p UMW Picnic 7:00p Membership/ Evangelism 7:00p Ice Cream & Ideas	13 Wednesday 12:30p Quilting 7:00p Building Committee 8:00p Sr. High WOW	14 Thursday 9:30a Prayer Ministry	15 Friday	16 Saturday 10:00a HOMMIES

DEADLINES

The next Steeple News deadline is **Monday, August 11th at 12:00 p.m.** Volunteers are needed to assemble the newsletter ***Thursday, August 14th*** in Room F at 8:30 a.m.

Worship Attendance:

July 20 - 370

July 27 - 344



Head Ushers:

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

Greeters:

Blair and Norma Jean West

Welcome Center:

Doris Sekerka

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