

The
Newsletter
of the
Saline
United
Methodist
Church



Pastor: Dr. James E. Tuttle
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

September 14, 2008

“Ringing Forth the Good News”

Vol. 17; No. 18

Miracle Sunday ~ September 7, 2008

I/We intend to give to the FUMC Building Fund with a gift to “Miracle Sunday”

Please indicate your intentions

Miracle Sunday Gift \$ _____ (contributed by 9/21/08 to qualify for matching funds)
Miracle Sunday Pledge \$ _____ (to be paid over 36 months / Oct 2008 – Sept 2011)
Other (asset gifts) _____

Notes: _____

Name(s): _____

Thank You for your continued support of the First United Methodist Church of Saline!

The 456 of us who gathered in the sanctuary last Sunday morning celebrated a breathtaking *Miracle Sunday*. The reconciled financial report of the combined cash gifts and pledges totaled nearly \$800,000. Each day this week more envelopes are arriving in the mail or people are bringing their cards and envelopes to the church office.

Also, a couple of people have indicated to me that they were still processing their gift and would be soon transferring either a stock certificate or IRA toward the *Miracle Sunday* offering. Additionally, after all the expenses are paid from last week’s Fair Kitchen, the revenues earned by all of your hard work at that event will be added to the total, and the Antique Auction on September 13th promises to boost the final amount even more.

The people of our congregation have been so generous in their *Miracle Sunday* gifts. Many children, youth and adults have been very creative in finding ways to generate revenue for this special offering. And last weekend, a good many people of our congregation participated in the forty-hour prayer vigil. People were praying for us by name, and praying that God would give each of us wisdom in what we might be involved in this venture.

We are “down to the wire;” the finish line is in sight. If you’ve been out of town or busy with “back to school” preparations that you’ve not had time yet to return your card but are intending to do so, I want to give you a last minute reminder that in order for your gift to be doubled by the generous matching grant that has been offered to us, we need to notify the foundation of our final total of all cash in hand and pledges in a little over a week from now. **To double the value of your gift or your pledge, please respond by Sunday, September 21st.**

For all that so many have done to make this such a high and thrilling moment for our church, all I can say is, “Thank you...Thank you...Thank you!” – Pastor Jim

HARVEST OF THE ARTS OKTOBERFEST

The Saline Downtown Merchants Association is sponsoring the Fourth Annual Harvest of the Arts Oktoberfest on Saturday, September 27 from 9 am to 11 pm in downtown Saline. There will be a juried Art Fair with over 40 artists, an Inspiration Station where our visitors can create an "eco friendly" art bag, kid's activities hosted by "The Scrap Box," and the popular Balloon Twister will be back. The South and West Washtenaw Consortium and Saline High School Culinary Arts Department will sell their popular baked goods (usually sold out by 11:30 am). The Saline Firefighters will offer their chili and will participate in a chili cook-off in competition with the



Culinary Arts students. There will be German food, a Beer Tent offering German style beer and wine, and also a competition for home beer brewers (although no tasting will be offered, due to alcohol licensing laws). Live

entertainment includes German music by Luther Schaible and a 7:30 pm concert featuring Justine Blazer. Trinity Lutheran Church will host a Quilt Exhibit and there will be a walking tour featuring the stained glass in the Historic Downtown Churches. The Saline Farmer's Market will be open in the morning for local produce and baked goods. Details including times of events, artists and updates are available at www.salinehoa.net.

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 16. 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.

UMW MONTHLY GATHERING

The September monthly gathering held on September 16th, will feature Peri Stone-Palmquist, Coordinator of the Education Project for Homeless Youth for Washtenaw Independent School District. The Project's mission is to ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County enroll, regularly attend and succeed in school. Please join us in Room C at 7:00 pm. If you have any questions about UMW, please contact Kay Richmond at 944-6234.

FALL NEW MEMBER CLASS

There has been a change made in the schedule. The fall new member class was previously scheduled to be held on six Sundays during the Sunday school hour. It will now be held on one day, Saturday, October 18 from 9:00 am to 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 church, 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 on your faith journey. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Rev. Laura Speiran, who will be facilitating the class. Please call the church office to register (429-4730) or sign up at the Opportunity Wall.

MINISTRY FAIR – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

Sunday School classes start on September 21st

The Ministry Fair is set up in the Fellowship Hall. Plan on attending between worship services to see all of the activities, studies, and programs that our church offers. There is something for everyone. Committees will be setting up Thursday and Friday, September 11 and 12. Please have information about your ministry available and ready to display.

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 September 18 at 12 noon. If you have never been to J.O.Y., but have thought about coming, this is the month to try us out! Please sign up at the Opportunity Wall or call the church office. Contact Rev. Laura Speiran if you have questions, or if you have any dietary concerns.

ACOLYTES NEEDED



Acolytes are needed for the 9:00 am worship service. If you are in the 2nd grade or older, you are welcome to be a part of this ministry.

If you have not been a part of this ministry in the past and are interested in participating, please contact Linda Klepaczyk at 429-0441 for further information.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CORNERSTONE

"For you are my hiding place; you protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of victory."

Psalm 32:7 NLT

On Thursday, September 11th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm we will be offering a Grief Guidance Session for any and all parents and Children's Ministry Leaders who need and want support in processing death and dying. There will also be information on how to talk to your children about death in a healthy Christian way. Laura Speiran will lead this session which will help us understand, pray and talk through our own adult thoughts and feelings so we can in turn help our children through difficult times.

New date for the required R.O.C.K. in LOGOS Parent Meeting ~ Tuesday, September 16th 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Please sign up at the Opportunity Wall or email Leanne at leanne@fumc-saline.org. See you there!

September 24th R.O.C.K. in LOGOS kicks off the ministry year with SALINE SPIRIT WEEK. Wear Saline Area School attire. *Go Team!*

Grief Support for Parents will be offered on Thursday, September 11 at 6:00 pm and again on Monday, September 15 at 6:00 pm. Please join us if you would like guidance in talking to your children about death.

The next Safe Sanctuary Training will be held on Saturday, September 13th from 9am – 11:30 am. Please sign up at the Opportunity Wall in the Narthex or contact Leanne Rimnac.

Children's Sunday School Open

House will be held on Sunday, September 14 from 10:10-11:10 am. Meet and greet our awesome Sunday school teachers, and enjoy some food, fun, and fellowship!

Please note that Sunday school classes will not be in session on that day. Children's Ministry Registration Forms will be available at this time and must be filled out. **NEW THIS YEAR:** If your child(ren) are enrolled in the R.O.C.K. in LOGOS Ministry and you have filled out their paperwork, you do not need to fill out a Children's Ministry Form. See you on Sunday, September 14.



MUSIC TOGETHER CLASSES

Music Together classes for children ranging from newborn to age 5 and their parents or caregivers will again be offered at FUMC this fall. The new session begins in September and features weekly classes of wonderful music activities including singing, movement, and instrument play. Daytime and evening classes are taught by Angela Schmidt and Nicole Lampman, registered Music Together teachers. Interested families are invited to attend a free demonstration class in the coming weeks. Please call Angela Schmidt at 429-3385 for available times and to make a reservation. For more information about Music Together and the fall class schedule, please visit www.HandInHandMT.com

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Is coming to church a new thing for you? Or have you been coming for years, but still have questions on what Christianity is all about? Have you wondered how the United Methodist Church interprets things? Do you consider yourself a Christian, but feel that something is still missing from your life, and you are wondering what this is? If any of these apply, you are invited and encouraged to come to the *Foundations Class*, from 10:10-11:10 am, beginning Sunday, September 21. We will be using a book entitled, *Beliefs of a United Methodist Christian*. Copies will be available in class, if you wish to do outside reading. If you do not have a Bible and would like one, please come to this class and we will give you one! Please direct any question to Rev. Laura Speiran, who will be the facilitator.

Ever need reassurance of your faith? Are you looking for the means to recognize and counter false teachings in your faith walk? The Adult Bible Study Group facilitated by Bruce Moss and Dave Drenning, will be starting a study based on the three letters of the apostle John which are 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John. This in depth study and discussion will follow the conclusion of our earlier study of the Gospel of John. We will meet in room G on Sunday morning from 10:10 – 11:00 am beginning September 21. All adults are welcome to attend.

DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN

There will be a four-week therapeutic support group for women experiencing divorce. This group will meet beginning Wednesday, October 1 for four consecutive Wednesdays from 5-6 pm and will be facilitated by Sally Schmall, MSW. There is a limit of 6 women in the group. Please contact Rev. Laura Speiran, Minister of Congregational Care to register.

INFUSION YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Junior and Senior High Fall Kickoff PARENTS meeting will be on Sunday, September 14.

Junior High Parents – 10:00 -10:30 am in the Jr. High Room (Room E)

Senior High Parents – 10:30 – 11:00 am – in Sr. High Room (Youth Room in the basement)

Parents, YOU are extremely important to the health of our youth ministries! Join us to learn more about what we will be doing throughout the year and how you and your child can be involved. Students are welcome to join the meeting too.

Junior and Senior High

SEE YA AT THE POLE RALLY (SYATP) – Sunday, September 14 at Keystone Community Church, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. We are going to join together with other Saline junior and senior high youth groups in worship, games, preparation and prayer to get psyched up for the student led SYATP happening on Wednesday morning, September 24. It will be an awesome time together!

Junior High Youth Group

Join us Sunday nights 6:30 – 8:00 pm for a new year of youth group which includes games, snacks, discussion, friends, and fun! Please join us.

Dinner & Drama – All 7th and 8th graders are invited to Dinner and Drama on Wednesday nights from 5:30 – 7:00 pm starting September 24. It's a chance to eat together, followed by a time of preparing and practicing skits and dramas for worship. Come every week if you can, but the dinner table is always open whenever you can make it. No registration or payment is required but a freewill donation to help cover the cost of meals will be accepted.

Confirmation Class Information

If you (or your child) would like to participate in the Confirmation Class we would like to gather your information to prepare us for this year's new class. Confirmation Class begins for young people in 7th grade or older and is intended to give each student the knowledge necessary to make an informed decision to 'confirm' their faith and their desire to become full members of the church. Confirmation Class for new students will begin on Wednesday September 17 with a Parent/Student meeting from 7:00 – 8:00 pm. The class is a 2 year class with a weekly Wednesday meeting from 7-8 pm through May the first year, and a monthly Wednesday meeting from 7:00 – 8:00 pm through May the second year. Second year students will begin Confirmation Class this year on October 8.

Please contact Emily Krach at the church (429-4730 x32) or krachem@hotmail.com by September 14 to provide the name of the student and their grade and to answer any questions you may have about being a part of the Confirmation Class. We look forward to another great year of Confirmation Class.

Senior High Youth Group

Wild Worship Wednesday's i.e. W3 – It's a night of connecting with friends and connecting with God made just for high school students. Join us on Wednesdays, 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm for W3. Make worship a part of your Wednesday night!

Fall Rummage Sale Sign Up Time – Set up is September 15-19 and the sale is on September 20. All Senior High Students and parents are needed to help make this a successful Rummage Sale. Proceeds will support our July 2009 mission trip. Please sign up at the Opportunity Wall.

JOB OPENINGS

CUSTODIAN POSITION AVAILABLE

We are in need of a week day custodian at the Church. The hours would generally be 20-25 per week at the rate of \$13.11 per hour. Responsibilities include cleaning all areas of the church building, trash removal from the building, and proper room set ups for activities. A more detailed list of responsibilities and application forms are available in the church office.

DENTAL ASSISTANT

Hope Dental Clinic has a rewarding full time opening for an experienced **dental assistant**. The clinic is seeking to fill this position immediately. C.D.A. or R.D.A. certification required. Please email resumes to blewis@thehopeclinic.org.



The Klepaczyk family would like to express their sincere appreciation for the overwhelming response and support of Saralyn and Kaylee's Miracle Sunday bookmarks. They were able to raise \$775.00! What an awesome experience for us all as we saw what "miracle" God had planned for us as a family. The girls were simply blown away as people rallied around them and encouraged them. This will truly be a summer they will never forget. We are blessed to be part of this church family. Much love and thanks,

Dean, Linda, Saralyn and Kaylee Klepaczyk

FREE WORKSHOP FUTURE DRIVERS AND PARENTS

Is your teen anticipating drivers' education in the next 1-2 years? Come to "Dare to Prepare," a free workshop by AAA Michigan and sponsored by our church. It will be held on Tuesday, October 7, 2008, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at First UMC of Saline. The graduated driver's license will be explained, as well as state requirements for obtaining one, what to look for in a driving school, practical tips on teaching teens to drive, parent resources and more! Refreshments will be served, and there will be a drawing for a \$50 gas card! The director of the drivers' education program for Saline Community Ed will be in attendance and available for questions. Please call the church office, 429-4730, to RSVP. This is open to the community, so tell your friends!

INFORMATIONAL SEMINAR ON FUNERAL PLANNING

There is a community-wide informational seminar on what is involved in planning a funeral for yourself or a loved one on Thursday, October 16 at 2:00 pm at Saline First UMC in the Fellowship Hall. This seminar is being presented by Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home. This is a sensitive topic that people do not like to discuss, but what better way to handle things than to plan ahead and also let family know what your wishes are. Also, if you are a caregiver for an elderly parent, come and get your questions answered, so you can plan effectively and compassionately for the future. Different options, costs, and concerns (such as Advance Health Directives, Medicaid) will be discussed. Please note that this is an informational seminar only—nothing is being sold. Rev. Laura Speiran will be there to offer a planning worksheet on a funeral service that can be used for any church. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served. Questions? Please contact Deacon Laura in the church office.

GRIEF SUPPORT - KEYSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Keystone Community Church (located on Saline Water Works Road) is sponsoring an 8-week grief workshop, *From Grief to New Hope*, beginning on Thursday, October 2. It will run for 8 consecutive Thursdays, 7-9 pm .New Hope Center for Grief Support, a Christian-based bereavement outreach center located in Northville, Michigan, will be presenting this free workshop. Each week's session will begin with a lecture about a particular aspect of grief followed by small groups led by trained facilitators. The intention is to have groups with a similar loss in common. For example, those who have gone through the loss of a spouse, or parent, etc. Combining education about the grief process, normalizing the symptoms and walking alongside

others who are experiencing a similar loss has proven to be the very best way to help people who are facing the death of a loved one. If you know someone who is dealing with the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, or another significant person in their lives, please let them know this program is available. For more information please contact Keystone's Care Ministry Director, Dee Dee Rhoades - 734-944-5397.

PRAISE/CELEBRATIONS ~ B and Carlos Melendez and the youth and adults from Cass Avenue; for family guidance; for our Christian family; an incredible visit to the P.E.T. Center; Bonnie Bender's good medical report; Annette Parker's daughter Jessica's surgery went well.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN SPECIAL LIVING SITUATIONS

~ At EVH we have Alice Tonks, Anna Reese, Juleen Dodge, Chuck Heiserman, and Linnie Mae Scott. Phyllis West is at Sunrise and George Irelan is at Heartland.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO ~ Bonnie Bender and family on the death of her uncle; the family of Mary Heckman on her passing; Dick Schoenfeldt on the death of his aunt; the Brenner family on the loss of Luke Brenner. Milt Sackett and family for the passing of his sister.

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 Coppernoll; 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.

PRAYER CONCERNS

~ Kathy Kirkland, Annette Parker's daughter, Jessica, Geoff Acree, Tim Miller's father & mother-in-law, Jacquelyn Macy, Patricia Morgan, Carter Beil, Rich Oberfill, Lisa Marshall, Dave Luttenbacher, Donna & Katarina Cody, George & Nola Irelan, Stan Sekerka, Gail Karaman, Rose Everhart, Darren Blanchard, Justin Sweet, Dick Nelson, Bonnie Kowalski, Louis and Lou Pintarelli, London Charles, the family of Jean Robinson, Gus & Barbara, Lisa, Gene Bull's daughter/grandchildren, Cheryl Schlaff, Richard Angaran, Bonnie Bender, Phil Knapp, Jan Turosky's mom, Mary Martin, Kathy Whitfield, Joe Barton, successful surgeries, those who do not believe in Jesus, safe travels, the family of Ben Rodgers.

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 14 – SEPTEMBER 27, 2008

14 Sunday 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Children's Sunday School Open House 10:10a Ministry Fair 10:10a Stephen Ministry Peer 11:15a Contemporary Service 6:30p Jr. High Youth	15 Monday 10:00a Shawl Ministry 6:00p Vision Forward Team 6:00p Adult Ministry 6:00p Rummage Sale Set-Up 7:00p Finance 7:00p Community Care	16 Tuesday 9:15a WISE 4:45p Music Together 6:00p ROCK in LOGOS Parent Meeting 7:00p UMW Monthly Gathering Rummage Sale Drop-Off 9am – 8pm	17 Wednesday 9:30a Bible Study 12:30p Quilting 6:30p Praise Team 7:00p Confirmation Class 8:00p Sr. High WWW Rummage Sale Drop-Off 9am – 8pm	18 Thursday 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Prayer Ministry 12:00p JOY Fellowship 6:15p Orchestra 7:00p Choir 7:00p Cubs Den 1 7:00p Breast Cancer 3-Day Meeting 7:30p Hand Bells Rummage Sale Drop-Off 9am – 8pm	19 Friday 12:30p RNL Coord. Rummage Sale Drop-Off 9am – 5pm	20 Saturday 7:30a – 1:00p Rummage Sale
21 Sunday BAKE SALE 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Sunday School 11:15a Contemporary Service 1:30p Baby Shower 6:30p Jr. High Youth	22 Monday 10:00a Shawl Ministry 7:00p Church Council	23 Tuesday 9:15a WISE Potluck 4:45p Music Together 6:30p HOMMIES 7:00p Down Syndrome Support Team	24 Wednesday 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Bible Study 10:00a UMW Exec 12:30p Quilting 3:00p R.O.C.K. in LOGOS 5:30p Jr. High Dinner/Drama 6:30 Praise Team 7:00p Building Committee 8:00p Sr. High WWW	25 Thursday 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Prayer Ministry 10:00a Brecon Worship 6:15p Orchestra 7:00p Choir 6:30p Music Together 7:00p Cub Scout Pack 461 7:00p Stephen Ministry Peer 7:30 Hand Bells	26 Friday	27 Saturday 1:00p Scrapbooking

DEADLINES

The next Steeple News deadline is **Monday, September 22 at 12:00 p.m.**
 Volunteers are needed to assemble the newsletter **Thursday, September 25** in Room F at 8:30 a.m.

Worship Attendance:

Aug 31 - 338
 Sept 7 - 456



Head Ushers:

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

Greeters:

Sept 14 9:00a Hovde Family
 11:15a Graden Family
 Sept 21 9:00a Hovde Family
 11:15a

Welcome Center:

Doris Sekerka

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

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