

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

December 21, 2008

“Ringing Forth the Good News”

Vol. 17; No. 24

The airwaves have been filled with talk and more talk about bailouts. It was Wall Street, then Main Street. Then there are those living on a side street, who often get marginalized in any attempt at stimulating the economy. The current concern, particularly for us in Michigan, is on bailing out America’s big three automakers. I confess that the more I try to assimilate all the arguments for and against the various proposals, the more confused I become.

Sending money in some direction or another is intended to bailout something that’s in trouble. Sometimes that’s the only idea we humans can come up with to remedy the situation. However, God thinking was not limited like ours. In just a few days we will again be remembering God’s great bail-in, if I can coin a phrase. God didn’t merely throw resources our way or toss a lifeline into the sea of humanity. God chose to bail in to where we are; as St. John put it, “to pitch God’s tent in our camp.” God entered into our life-circumstances to experience life from the inside out. God didn’t send some thing to us; God sent someone – his Son...God came in person.

As much as I struggle to understand it, I’ll never fully grasp how sending a baby would grab the attention of the world, but it did. We look to Washington...to the powers on high. We look for a knight in shining armor; God sent a baby. In our worst scenarios we look for a handout; God chose to extend his hand in. We cry out for some one to get us out of the mess we’re in; God, on the other hand, chose to enter into that mess with us, ultimately giving his life for us, in order that the very life of God might reside in us and change the mess through us.

This God-action that we remember each Christmas wasn’t simply a divine stimulus program...a high-powered transfusion/injection to get back on track so we could go back to doing life as we always have. No! It was a transference...an infusion of divine life into our life and world, so that we might do life drastically different than ever before. Jesus’ coming was the inauguration of God’s Kingdom on earth. By his coming, Christ announced that it would no longer be “life as usual on Planet Earth.” Christmas was the first day of a new day.

Christmas is not just a cutesy little day, now Americanized with overdoing, overbuying and overeating, so we can end each year on a high note. Christmas, in time, would upset this world’s appplecart. Why do you think that the angels didn’t bother awakening Jerusalem’s religious leaders to tell them about the birth of the Christ Child? Why was Herod, the Roman political appointee, so interested in the whereabouts of this infant King? Why would Joseph and Mary soon after Jesus’ birth be forced to escape, becoming refugees in Egypt? Why would Christ’s earthly ministry cause such uneasiness among the political, social and religious elite of his day? 33 years later, why would the authorities put him to death, causing God to raise him up victoriously? It’s because something earth shaking was taking place. And it all visibly coalesced in a manger stall in a little town called Bethlehem.

As you gather here on Christmas Eve and with friends and family on Christmas Day remember: Remember the one who bailed in...who came to reclaim the world and to redeem us and all of creation. In moments of quietness and amid the momentum of chaos, remember and rejoice in the one who came, who will come and who comes today if we will receive him. – Pastor Jim



SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES IN DECEMBER

*Wednesday, December 24
Christmas Eve*

Family Service 5:00 pm
Communion Service 7:00 pm
Candlelight Service 11:00 pm

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Service at Brecon Village 10:00 am

Sunday December 28

10:00 am Continental Breakfast
11:15 am Worship Service

INFUSION YOUTH UPDATE

Senior High

Life Together Groups (LT) — Christmas Potluck is on Sunday, December 21 at 4:00 pm at Emily's.

Christmas and Holiday Schedule — W3 will not be meeting on December 24 and 31. LT Groups will not be meeting December 28 or January 4.



Mountain T.O.P 2009 Summer Mission Trip — If you are currently

in 9th–12th grade and would like an opportunity to serve God and love others next summer, please pick up an information packet about our Mountain T.O.P. summer mission trip happening July 11–19. The deadline for registration, including your \$75 deposit, is December 17. Parents and adults will be needed to help meet Safe Sanctuary guidelines of 2 adults for every 5 students, adult participants are needed by March 1 to make the trip possible. Please talk to Emily Krach with any questions and get an information packet today.

30 Hour Famine – January 2–3, 2009 — The 30 Hour Famine is your chance to be a part of an international youth movement to fight hunger. We will be fasting from noon on Friday, January 2 until 6:00 pm on Saturday, January 3 to raise money to help provide food and clean water for those without it. We will meet at the church at 6:00 pm on Friday for our first “non-meal” together. We will be doing activities and supporting one another throughout the fast. We will break our fast together at 6:00 pm on Saturday. You can help raise support throughout the month of December leading up to the famine dates by picking up your famine packet today!

Hunger by the numbers: More than 26,000: That many kids under age 5 die every day – most from preventable causes like hunger, poverty, disease, or

all three of those problems. That's around 9.7 million children each year. The solution: Will Starve for Food

Camp Barakel Winter Retreat – February 13–15 2009

— It's a weekend devoted to playing in the snow, connecting to God and people, and drinking hot chocolate. Cross country skiing, tubing in Snow Valley, ice fishing, snow football, hockey, ice skating, good music, and challenging messages from God's Word are all a part of the weekend too. Pick up a registration flyer today. Registration and deposit of \$40 is required by January 7. Space is limited. The total cost is \$90. The final \$50 is due before February 4. All forms and money can be given to Emily, with checks made out to FUMC. Financial assistance is available. Parents/Adults who are Safe Sanctuary trained are also needed to join us as loving support for our group. Please talk to Emily if you have any questions.

Junior High

Christmas and Holiday Schedule

— There will be no Junior High Youth Group on Sunday December 21, December 28 and January 4. Dinner and Drama will not be meeting on Wednesday December 17–January 7. First Year Confirmation Class will not meet December 24 or 31.



December Celebration – Join us at Youth Group TONIGHT from 6–8:30 pm for Christmas Caroling followed by a Christmas Celebration.

SpringHill Winter Retreat – March 6–8 2009

— It's time to think about the best Junior High Winter Retreat ever! Snow tubing, broomball, activities in the gym and game room, swimming in the giant pool, snowboarding, fun worship, awesome dramas, and a powerful speaker are all part of a SpringHill Retreat. Pick up a registration flyer today. Registration and deposit of \$50 are required by January 11. Space is limited. Total Cost is \$125; the remaining balance is due before February 22. Return your registration and check made out to FUMC to Emily. Financial Assistance is available. Parents/Adults who are Safe Sanctuary trained are also needed to join us as loving support for our group! Talk to Emily if you have any questions.

UMW Sunday Afternoon

Food! Fun! Entertainment! Join us on Sunday, February 8 from 2:00 to 4:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Come dressed in your tea attire...maybe even come wearing your tea-era!

UMW NEWS

UMW Datebooks for 2009 are now available for pick up in the Parlor. There is one copy for each UMW member. Many thanks to Sue Herrick for all her hard work in preparing these booklets.

Esther Circle will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, January 5th in Room H. This will be a planning session for our meetings and mission projects for the upcoming year. Now is a perfect time for prospective members to visit and see what we are all about. Please join us! Childcare is available. Please contact Janet Moss at 944-7251 with any questions.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Jesus is always at the center of a Stephen Minister's ministry. He initiates Stephen Ministry by calling you to follow him in the path of servant hood. He is your source of strength and power as you serve. And the goal of your service is that his name be glorified. Maintain this Christ-centered focus by sharing Christ's compassion with others, relying on Christ to be the caregiver, using the skills Christ has given his people, and modeling the trustworthy character of our Savior Jesus Christ. This ministry requires 8-11 hours per month of time from your life. The same amount of time that many of our other ministries require from their volunteers. Would you to learn a new set of skills? Consider becoming a Stephen Minister. A new training session will begin in January. If you have questions, please call Bobbe Hinsman, Training Coordinator at (734) 429-0716.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Many of you have asked about the status of the church directories. At this point we have completed one cycle of editing and sent the directory back to Universal Church Directories. They will make the corrections and send a copy back to us for one additional cycle of editing.

Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be closed on December 25, December 26, and January 1. The office hours will be 9:00 am – 1:00 pm on December 29, December 30, December 31, and January 2.



Christ the
Savior
is Born

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*

Register Now for Session II of R.O.C.K. in LOGOS!

We are now accepting registrations for the Winter/Spring session (Session II), January 14 to May 13 (Carnival Day). A drop box, along with registration forms for new families, is available at the Opportunity Wall in the Narthex. There is no fee for Pre-K thru Kindergarten, but a registration form must be on file. Returning families do not need to fill out a registration form, but please let us know if any of your information has changed. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Herrick at 429-4235.



A big thank you to Clarke Macy and Blair West who drove all the way to Florida for the PET Project. Florida, Ohio, that is! Clarke and Blair picked up the PET frames that had been donated by Tom Andrews. Our PET Project now has 18 frames to build up. Look for more details soon.

Thanks!

Will Minnette

Thank you to the Senior High Youth for the Care Package I received during the week of college exams.
Katie Brehmer

CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONGS

Warm up your voice and join us for two opportunities to spread holiday cheer this season:

- Sunday, December 21, 3:00 pm at Brecon Village Auditorium
- Tuesday, December 23, 7:00 pm at Saline Evangelical Home Dining Room

These are 4-Star, FUN holiday events, so bring your voice to either one or both sing-a-longs. Your participation will be greatly appreciated by the residents! Cookies and punch will be provided. For more information, contact Doug Cogger (944-0103) or Doug Beard (944-0444).

Winter Card Party

Mark your calendars for First United Methodist Church of Saline's next church-wide Winter Card and Game Party. We are gathering on Saturday, January 10 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm in Room O/P. Please bring a snack, your friends, and your favorite games!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

A special called **Church Conference** is scheduled for **7:00 pm Tuesday, January 20, 2009**. The purpose of this session is to decide on the building drawings for the next addition of our long-range building master plan. Our architect will present conceptual drawings, the Building Committee will respond to questions, and we, as a congregation, will vote on moving forward with the addition. Assuming an affirmative vote, we will then vote to empower the Building Committee to select the General Contractor and sub contractors. The final action is to approve the mortgage needed to compensate for the 3-year pledges made on Miracle Sunday and any additional funds required to complete the 2nd phase of our building expansion program. Every one is invited and all members of First UMC of Saline are voting members of the Church Conference. Put this date on your calendar, plan to attend and add your input regarding what we will be building next spring.

CATCHING UP

Yes, folks, the end of the year is quickly approaching and it appears as though our intent to pay the end of the year bills could fall a bit short. Some of you have had to cut back on what you had hoped to give this year due to job loses or financial reversals and we understand that. Please take a look at the Third Quarter report that Pam mailed out to all of us in October as this may help you to determine if your giving is where you thought it would be at this time. If you have questions, please contact Pam (734-429-4730 x42 or pam@fumc-saline.org) before the end of the year. Our intent is only to get our bills paid by the end of the calendar year.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN SPECIAL LIVING SITUATIONS ~ Alice Tonks, Anna Reese, Juleen Dodge, and Linnie Mae Scott who are at the Evangelical Home; Phyllis West who is at Sunrise; Lois Gray at Bortz Health Care; Emily Bailey who is at the University of Michigan Hospital.

PRAISE/CELEBRATIONS ~ For our wonderful Christmas decorations; the donation of 18 P.E.T. frames; Angela Graham doing fine; for all the children and adults who worked so hard putting the Children's Christmas program together; Dolores Muscott's improvement in her health; Rob Fowler's recovery; for friends; for the members of our congregation who share Christmas Carols with others; our Friendship Ministry and all who make it possible.



OUR SYMPATHIES TO ~ The family of Dorothy Finkbeiner on her passing; the Minnette family on the passing of Will's aunt, Mary Tooke; Linda and Doug Dillon and family on the passing of her sister, Patty Morgan; Lois Gray and family on the passing of her husband, Bud; the family of Rev. Ken Christler on his passing; Joyce & Mitch Noble and family on the passing of her sister-in-law, Nancy Sharkey; Joni and Dave Coxton on the passing of her father, Michael Radke; Milt & Dorothy Sackett on the passing of his brother, Herbert.

PRAYER CONCERNS ~ Elizabeth Gasparovic, Marge Stoddard, Wanda Beard, Emily Bailey, Dee & Paul Applegate, Carol Curry, Mary Lee, Mary Anne Butler, Jill Morrison, Amy Altenburger, Louis Pinterelli, Roger Ott, Paulette Nichols, Jane, Geoff Acree, the Brenner family, Jacquelyn Macy, Dawn Fowler, Dorothy Heath, Peggy Klapper, Jean Hoyer, Tom Riggs, Steve & family, Gene Becker, Julia Waits, Ardis, Arleene, Edward Francis, Stephen Reading, Aletha Eberle, Rick Tyler, Doris Schmerberg, Ann Holm, Sally B, Sheral & daughter, Betty, the family of Steve Stamper, Virginia Trevithick, Carolyn Cunkle, family of Kathy Thornton, Mary Domeier, Mabel Smith, Marilyn, Rick Tyler, Dong Yun Yoon, those facing unemployment, those going through tough times, those facing surgery, those dealing with mental illness, those feeling overwhelmed.



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; Nick Turosky, son of Jan Turosky; Tom Carter.



CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 21, 2008 – JANUARY 3, 2009

21 Sunday 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Sunday School 11:15a Contemporary Service 4:00p LT Potluck 6:00p Disciple I Missions Bake Sale	22 Monday 10:00a Shawl Ministry 3:00p GS Troop #824	23 Tuesday	24 Wednesday Christmas Eve Worship 5:00p Family Service 7:00p Communion Service 11:00p Candlelight Service	25 Thursday Christmas Office Closed 9:00a Cass Ave. Christmas Mission 10:00a Brecon Worship	26 Friday Office Closed	27 Saturday Youth Set-up and Rehearsal
28 Sunday No Sunday School One Worship Service 10:00a Brunch 11:15a Worship Service 6:00p Disciple I	29 Monday Office Hours 9:00-1:00 7:30a Stephen Ministry	30 Tuesday Office Hours 9:00-1:00	31 Wednesday Office Hours 9:00-1:00	1 Thursday New Year's Day Office Closed	2 Friday Office Hours 9:00-1:00 6:00p 30 Hour Famine	3 Saturday 30 Hour Famine

****A current church calendar can be viewed on our web site at www.fumc-saline.org**

DEADLINES

The next Steeple News deadline is **Monday, January 5 at 12:00 pm.** Volunteers are needed to assemble the newsletter ***Thursday, January 8*** in Room F at 8:30 am. The weekly deadline for the bulletin is Wednesday at noon.

Worship Attendance:

Dec. 7 – 754
 Dec. 14 - 798

Head Ushers:

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

Greeters:

Dec. 21 - Bredernitz Family & Walls Family
 Dec. 24 – 5:00 Rosati Family, 7:00 Bennyhoff Family
 11:00 Gary & Lu Ann Chriscinske
 Dec. 28 - Evans Family & Wharton Family
 Jan. 4 – Brehmer Family

Welcome Center:

Larry & Francie Woods

First United Methodist Church
 1200 North Ann Arbor Street
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