

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

February 22, 2009

“Ringing Forth the Good News”

Vol. 18; No.4

“Pilgrims on a Journey”

On Tuesday afternoon, February 17th, eleven of our church family will board a Delta flight at Detroit Metro to New York’s JFK and then on to Tel-Aviv, Israel to begin their journey through the Holy Land. Those taking the pilgrimage are Gene Bull, Oneta Coffey, Ilene Heffelbower, Roger Heffelbower, Carolyn Minnette, Frank and Joanie Quinn, Amy and Adam Whitton, and Linda and Jim Tuttle.

This can be highlighted as a “journey of a lifetime”. Standing at some of the places where Jesus stood and walking through the villages in Galilee and the city streets of Jerusalem where Jesus walked, promises always to be a spiritual highlight. Being in the villages around the Sea of Galilee where Jesus was reared as a child, where he called fisherman to follow him and performed so many of the miracles recorded in the Gospels has reinvigorated the story of God’s Son coming to live among us. Even centuries later, standing there, trying to assimilate all that you are experiencing in the moment leaves an indelible impression, and that impression is not on your mind but on your spirit. My hope and prayer for all of us travelling to Israel this week is that we won’t simply be tourists on a trip but pilgrims on a journey.

We travel to a part of the world that contains holy sites of three of the great monotheistic religions of the world – Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. People from each of those religious traditions make pilgrimages to the Holy Land. We go because it’s the birthplace of our heritage. It’s the land of Jesus and we go to be among the people of Jesus. Christians are deeply rooted in this region of Palestine. We go, not just to see the sites, but to gain a renewed sense of our rootedness.

If this journey is anything like my previous pilgrimages to the Holy Land, certain places will leap up out of the history book and out of the pages of Scripture. When I’m least expecting it, some remembrance will tug at my heart and more tightly reconnect me with those early followers of Jesus, who grasped hold of the message that God had come into the world in his Son Jesus. Then they carried the light they had received into their world. Across the centuries, in ways that only God’s Spirit could orchestrate, that flame was passed from one life to another, then to another, and we, today, are inheritors of that good news.

Every one of us has had times when we’ve become nostalgic and maybe we returned to our hometowns or the family farm or the school house or the college campus and reminisced and reconnected with names and places and people who’ve nurtured us and to whom we are deeply indebted.

So we go as pilgrims on a journey to be renewed in mind and spirit and have our souls reconnected with this One who came to earth as Jesus of Nazareth, bringing God to us so that he might bring us to God. Pray for each of us that this might be our experience on our journey to Jerusalem.

-- Pastor Jim



FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Don't miss this annual treat and a chance to not have to cook dinner! Join us on February 24 for a meal of pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, and applesauce. A free-will offering will be taken to support local missions. Dinner will be served from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. **If you would like to help cook or serve, or if you could loan a griddle or electric frying pan, please sign up at the Opportunity Wall.**

LENTEN STUDY: THE JESUS CREED

When asked for the most important commandment, Jesus replied that we should love God with every fiber of our being – with all our heart, soul, and mind. This was a quote from Deuteronomy that all Jews of the time were familiar with and recited daily, called the *Shema*. And then, without being asked, Jesus threw in a twist by quoting Leviticus and said that the second commandment was to “love your neighbor as yourself.” These two statements taken together are called the *Jesus Creed* by Scot McNight in his book of the same name, and in that book he explores why it is significant that Jesus joined these two quotes together.

During the 40 days of Lent, we will be exploring the Jesus Creed together. The Sunday morning sermons will be drawn from that week's readings, and we will have Sunday morning and evening classes to help you understand the Jesus Creed and how it applies to your daily life. Books will be for sale in the narthex after worship services and sign-up sheets are at the Opportunity Wall. Join us in the study of the Jesus Creed. If you are interested in hosting or leading a class meeting on another day of the week, please contact Tom Burns at 944-4003.

INTERVIEWING FOR SUCCESS!

Are you out of work? Are you concerned you may soon be out of work? Would you like to polish up those interviewing skills? Come to the workshop, “Interviewing for Success!,” on Monday, March 2 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at the church. Topics discussed will include what to say, how to prepare for putting your best foot forward, and more. This will be taught by our own Sally Schmall, an experienced career guidance counselor. Please R.S.V.P. to Rev. Laura Speiran in the church office. Everyone is welcome (you may invite a friend); however, the class size will be limited to 20 people.

ADULT MINISTRY CLASSES 2009

Sundays at 10:10 am

Ray Vander Laan Video Series – Room G

A 20-minute video of the Holy Land, followed by discussion led by Patsy & Keith Held.

Social Principles – Fellowship Hall

Learn about the United Methodist Social Principles as facilitated by Rob Robbins.

Parenting Class – Parlor

Facilitator Susie Treber will be continuing with the book, *The Culture-Wise Family*.

Book of John – Room C

This is an in-depth Bible study with discussion led by Bruce Moss and Dave Drenning.

Foundations – Room F

Deacon Laura Speiran will facilitate this class explaining & discussing basic Christian beliefs.

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

Short Term New Testament Class – Room H

Books are available in the church office to be used with this class led by Kay Edmonds.

FOUNDATIONS SUNDAY SCHOOL

CLASS ENCORE

The Foundations Sunday School Class is being repeated this semester in Room F. This class covers basic Christian beliefs, with discussion. We are using a book called *Beliefs of a United Methodist Christian*, by United Methodist Bishop Emerson Colaw; however, reading outside of class is not required. If you are new to Christianity, or if you have been around a long time and have questions, this is the class for you. If you do not have a Bible and would like one, you will be given one. This is a very easy-going class with refreshments and opportunities to get to know one another. If you are interested in just one topic, feel free to sit in for just that class. Fliers with the topic assigned to each week are available at the Opportunity Wall. Questions? Please ask Rev. Laura Speiran in the church office.



The beginning of Lent will be on Wednesday, February 25. The Ash Wednesday service will be at 7:00 pm on that day. Please mark this time of reflective worship on your calendars.

Nurses Needed

Nurses are needed to take blood pressures on the 2nd Sunday of the month between services. If each of the nurses in our congregation participated, it would involve only one Sunday a year. Please sign up on the Opportunity Wall. You will be sent a reminder and all the information you need to complete the task. Please take an hour this year to make sure that our congregants are healthy and their blood pressure is under control. Thanks so much. Please call Sharell Gehrke, Parish Nurse Coordinator with any questions (517) 423-7478.

THERE'S A CHAIR FOR YOU IN ROOM G

Come and join us during the Sunday School hour for the Ray Vander Laan series. We watch a 20-minute video of the Holy Land every week. Ray Vander Laan, an ordained minister and teacher/historian, is our tour guide to this ancient world of Jesus. He will open your eyes to the land and culture of Bible times and will show us how it still matters today. Ray Vander Laan brings the Bible to life with his fascinating insight and knowledge of Bible times. We follow the video with discussion and prayer. You will leave the class every week with more understanding and awe of our Savior, Jesus Christ. If you haven't gone to the Holy Land, this is certainly the next best thing. Our class is a very relaxed setting. Come when you can, even sneak in late. We'll meet weekly for the rest of the school year.

KEEP MAKING PEACE

Keep Making Peace is a one day seminar being held on March 21 from 9:00-3:00 at Central United Methodist Church in Lansing. The keynote speaker, Anna Baltzer, is a Jewish American Columbia graduate, Fulbright scholar, granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, and volunteer with the International Women's Peace Service. She will present "Life in Occupied Palestine: Eyewitness Stories and Photos." Additional speakers include Imam Mohammed Mardini, of the American Muslim Center in Dearborn, Lydia Wylie Kellerman, a member of the Michigan Peace Team in the West Bank and Rev. John Boley, pastor of FUMC in Mt. Pleasant with a presentation on United Methodism in the Middle East – A Report from General Conference. If you would like additional information or are interested in attending this seminar, registration forms are available at the Opportunity Wall.

INFUSION YOUTH UPDATE

Senior High

Mountain T.O.P. Update—Coming July 11–19 2009			
<u>Students Registered</u>	35	<u>Adults Required</u>	14
<u>Adults Registered</u>	9	<u>Adults Still Needed</u>	5

Talk to Emily Krach if you would be willing to give a week of your summer to be a part of making Mountain T.O.P. possible. All participants must be registered by March 1 for us to take part in Mountain T.O.P.

Junior High

SpringHill Winter Retreat March 6–8: 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. The remaining balance for this \$125 event is due before February 22. 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.

Junior & Senior High Youth

Winter Jam – Join us for a night of rockin' Christian music - Toby Mac, Hawk Nelson, The Afters, New Song. Coming March 14 to EMU. Tickets are only \$10 at the door. Sign up with Emily. We will meet together at the church at 4:30 pm.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CORNERSTONE

For no word from God will ever fail.....Luke 1:37

Be sure to check out the "Raising Spiritual Champions" insert – a tool for parents to use at home to aide in raising children to be spiritual champs!

February 28: Vision Forward Team dinner
At Pizza House at 6:00 pm

Are we PURPOSEFUL, PRACTICAL, and IMPACTFUL? What can we be doing better? Take a look at our Children's Ministry Effectiveness Model, give your input and return it to Leanne Rimnac. Be a part of the Children's Ministry Visioning. You can pick your copy up in the Narthex at the Opportunity Wall anytime. Please contact Leanne if you have any questions Leanne@fumc-saline.org or 429-4730, ext. 409.

Safe Sanctuary Training Dates:

Saturday, February 28: 9:00–11:30 am
Thursday, March 19: 6:30–9:00 pm
Saturday, April 18: 9:00–11:30 am

UMW NEWS

The next UMW Executive Board Meeting will be held on February 25 at 10:00 am in Room C.

CHURCH CALENDAR

There are a few adjustments in viewing the church calendar. The church calendar is now located in the mail room. The mail room is directly across the hall from the main office. We will post 3 months of calendars at that location. If you would like to view past the posted wall calendar, please visit our church website at www.fumc-saline.org. Click on the Calendar of Events link. Use the arrows at the top of the calendar to navigate between months.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

4th Annual All-Church Talent Show
Saturday, April 25 at 6:00 pm
Start Practicing Now!



THANK YOU!

The Mountain T.O.P. Youth would like to say a special thank you to those who supported them by buying pretzels from the Pretzel Bake. Your support raised over \$1,100 towards our summer mission trip. We would also like to thank Benny's Bakery for faithfully letting us use their dough cutter and giving us pretzel salt. Thank you to all those who worked hard to make the fundraiser possible!

THANK YOU!

We thank everyone for their prayers, phone calls, cards, and flowers during Nadine's long battle with cancer. We appreciate the support during her illness and funeral.
Doug & Wanda Beard

THANK YOU!

Carlos and I wish to thank our church family for the visits, gifts and especially your prayers during his recent illness and hospitalization. We know that his return to health was due to the prayers lifted up in his name. Again, thank-you and God Bless.

B and Carlos Melendez

WHEELCHAIR NEEDED

The church would like to have one more wheelchair available for use. If you have an extra wheelchair and would like to donate it to the church, please contact the church office at 734-429-4730. Thank you.

HOPE CLINIC

Please join Hope Clinic at the 2009 Worship Celebration on Friday, March 6 at 7:00 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church located at 1500 Scio Church Road in Ann Arbor. This will be a time of sharing songs, prayer, scripture and testimonies in honor of the marvelous things God has done for Hope Clinic.

PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE

The City of Saline assessor's office is responsible for setting annual assessments on property within the City of Saline. We realize that the past few years have been challenging for some of our residents that may have had health or career setbacks. We are asking for your help in reaching those property owners that may be having difficulties in paying their bills. There are packets available at the Opportunity Wall entitled the City of Saline Hardship Exemption Guidelines and Application Form. Please pick one up if you or someone you know is a Saline resident that is having financial difficulties. The Tax Board of Review will be meeting the week of March 16 and again in July and December, to review any applications for relief. This program is meant to help those property owners that are seriously having difficulties. Any interested applicants should visit the assessor's office at City Hall or call the number listed below. Questions can be directed to Catherine Scull at 734-429-4907, x2208.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES

If you had a photograph taken for the church directory this is a reminder to pick up your free directory at the church. They are displayed alphabetically on a table in the narthex and are labeled with each family's name. If you did not have a photograph taken then you do not have a directory available to you at this time. We are taking orders to purchase additional directories and that sign up sheet is on a clipboard at the directory pick up table. The cost of the additional directories is \$12.00 each and the money is due at the time of pick up. We will also have an address/telephone directory (no photographs) available in March for those who wish to have one. If you have questions, please contact the church office at office@fumc-saline.org.

INTERESTED IN ADOPTION?

Every child deserves to be loved. If you would like to learn more about adoption, we invite you to attend a free information meeting at Adoption Associates, Inc. in Farmington Hills on Tuesday, March 17 at 7:00 pm. This presentation offers information on building families through domestic and international programs in China, Ethiopia, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Russia, and Ukraine. To R.S.V.P., please call Adoption Associates, Inc. at 248-474-0990.

FINDING FREE OR LOW COST HEALTH CARE

During these difficult economic times, Michigan's health care safety net is more vital than ever to the well-being of our residents. However, many people in need may not be aware of how to access safety net services available to them at low or even no cost. With the release of the "How Can I Get Free or Low Cost Health Care for Me & My Family?" website, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is helping to raise that awareness.

The Webpage is www.michigan.gov/healthcarehelp and acts as a portal for finding free or low cost health care resources available throughout Michigan. The site links to pages with information on a variety of programs including: community health centers, free clinics, community mental health service programs, community dental care programs, assistance with prescriptions, breast and cervical cancer screening and treatment programs, local public health departments, family planning, information on Medicaid enrollment, and a number of other resources. In many cases, the site links to directories or lists by Michigan County to help people locate nearby help with health care.

The "How Can I Get Free or Low Cost Health Care for Me & My Family?" web page is a part of the commitment of MDCH to assist all Michigan residents in finding and accessing affordable, quality health care. For additional information, or for suggestions to improve the site, feel free to contact the MDCH Health Planning and Access to Care Section at (517) 241-2966 or HPAC@michigan.gov.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN SPECIAL

LIVING SITUATIONS ~ Alice Tonks, Anna Reese, Juleen Dodge, and Linnie Mae Scott who are at the EVH. Lois Gray who is at Bortz Health Care. Phyllis West who is at Sunrise, and Don Rapp who is at Herrick Manor.

PRAISE/CELEBRATIONS ~ Mike and Laurie Stoianowski on the birth of their granddaughter, Lorilyn Julene Stoianowski; Susan Webster's successful knee surgery; Bug Melendez on her engagement to Noah; Kim Setzer's cousin, Jennifer who is expecting a baby; Brad Digi released from the hospital.



OUR SYMPATHIES TO ~

Doug & Wanda Beard on the loss of his mother, Nadine Beard; Doug & Wanda Beard on the passing of her niece, Sherri; Tim & Donna Miller & family on the loss of his father; Earl & Cindy Austin & family on the loss of her mother, Louise Rioux; the Wetzel family on the loss of Luke & Amy's father, Mike; the Crawford family on the passing of their Gran, Jean Lowe; Jeff and Jennifer Cunkle on the loss of his grandfather.

PRAYER CONCERNS ~

Elizabeth Gasparovic, Marge Stoddard, Mary Lee, Wanda Beard, the Brenner family, Carolyn Cunkle, Peggy Hintz, the Garner family's cousin/nephew, Matt (friend of Aidan & Siga), Jack Porter, King Hanna, the Hespen family, Angela Biofille & family, Don Rapp, Sebastian Moustirats, Joyce Noble, Rachael Smith, Teresa Clark, Kenny Bowen, the Donofrio family, Lauren Rentull, Gerti Klager, the family of Phil Pherson, the P.E.T. Project, the family of April Pawalk, Josh, Ed Doub, Carlos Melendez, Laurie Stewart, Jean Rosenberger, Neil Penny, Rose Escott, family relationships, senior citizens who live alone, teens trying to make good choices, those suffering from depression, those who have been abused, those who have lost power, our friends on the trip to the Holy Land, families of plane crash victims, people facing job loss.

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; Tom Carter; Rachel Smith, wife of Jeff and mother of Keegan, Faith and Gideon.

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 22, 2009 – MARCH 7, 2009

22 Sunday Chrysalis Weekend 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Sunday School 11:15a Contemporary Service 4:00p Offsite LT Group 5:00p Disciple III 6:00p Disciple I 6:30p Jr. High	23 Monday 10:00a Shawl Ministry 3:00p GS Troop 824 7:00p Church Council	24 Tuesday 9:00a Lil' Saints 9:30a WISE 1:00p Gym America 4:45p Music Together 5:30p Pancake Supper 6:30p Friendship Ministries 6:30p RNL Coord. Mtg 6:30p HOMMIES 7:00p New Testament Class	25 Wednesday 9:00a Lil' Saints 9:00a Stephen Ministry Training 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 7:00p 1 st Yr Confirmation 7:00p Ash Wednesday Worship 7:00p WISE PM 8:00p Sr. High WWW	26 Thursday 9:00a Lil' Saints 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Prayer Ministry 9:30a Saline Ministerial 10:00a Brecon Worship 7:00p Choir 7:00p Cubs Den 1 7:00p Cubs Den 2 7:00p Cubs Den 3 7:00p Cubs Den 5 7:30p Hand Bells	27 Friday 6:00p Wedding Rehearsal	28 Saturday 9:00a Safe Sanctuaries Training 4:00p Wedding
1 Sunday 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Sunday School 11:15a Contemporary Service 3:00p UMW Worship Service at EVH 4:00p Offsite LT Group 5:00p Disciple III 6:00p Disciple I 6:30p Girl Scout 1309 6:30p Jr. High	2 Monday 7:30a Stephen Ministry Peer A 9:30a Hannah Circle 10:00a Shawl Ministry 12:30p Esther Circle 3:00p GS Troop 824 5:30p Interviewing for Success 7:00p Staff Parish 7:00p Susanna Circle	3 Tuesday 9:00a Lil' Saints 9:30a WISE 12:30p Ruth Circle 4:45p Music Together 7:00p Print/Online Media TF 7:00p New Testament Class	4 Wednesday 9:00a Lil' Saints 9:00a Stephen Ministry 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Bible Study 12:30p Quilting 3:00p R.O.C.K in LOGOS 5:30p Jr. High Dinner/Drama 6:30p Praise Team 7:00p 1 st Yr Confirmation 7:00p Pack 461 Leaders 7:00p WISE PM 7:00p Building Comm. 8:00p Sr. High WWW	5 Thursday 9:00a Lil' Saints 9:15a Music Together 9:30a Prayer Ministry 2:00p Saline DI 6:00p Brownie #792 6:00p Chrysalis Set Up 6:15p Orchestra 7:00p Choir 7:00p Cubs Den 1 7:00p Cubs Den 2 7:00p Cubs Den 3 7:00p Cubs Den 5 7:30p Hand Bells 7:30p Flying Club	6 Friday Chrysalis Weekend	7 Saturday Chrysalis Weekend

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

DEADLINES

The next Steeple News deadline is **Monday, March 2 at 12:00 pm.** Volunteers are needed to assemble the newsletter **Thursday, March 5** in Room F at 8:30 am. The weekly deadline for the bulletin is Wednesday at noon.

Worship Attendance:

Feb. 8 - 520
 Feb. 15 - 445

Head Ushers:

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

Greeters:

Glen and Nancy Jedede
 John, Neil and Philip Zemba

Welcome Center:

Karen & Dave Landis

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