

# THE METHODIST MESSENGER

## MAY 2008

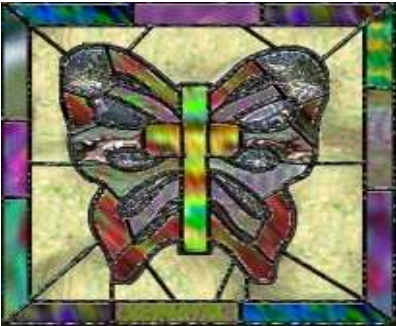
FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
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### SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.  
Fellowship Time 10:45 a.m.  
Christian Educ. 11:15 a.m.

### STAFF

Heather McClendon Sinclair, Pastor  
Adeline Anderson, Youth Minister  
Norma Ryan, Music Director  
Michelle Thompson, Admin Assistant  
Suzanne Bacon, Nursery Care Provider



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## FROM PASTOR HEATHER

During the month of May, we will be exploring *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, by Robert Schnase. Below are the five practices, a scripture to study, and challenges for us as individuals and a congregation. It is my prayer that the exploration of these practices will inspire discussion about how we can strengthen our ministry as we make disciples for Jesus Christ. (The quoted material below is taken from Bishop Schnase book. If you are interested in a copy, please see me.)

Blessings,  
Pastor Heather

### RADICAL HOSPITALITY

"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." (Romans 15:7)

"Christian hospitality refers to the active desire to invite, welcome, receive, and care for those who are strangers so that they find a spiritual home and discover for themselves the unending richness of a life in Christ."

**Challenges:**

- 1) Look at our church building with the eyes of a visitor. How could our appearance be more welcoming? Let the Trustees know what you see.
- 2) Invite a neighbor, friend or family member to church, especially those people who have few or no connections to a loving community.

### INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42)

"Christian disciples strive to develop faith and grow in Christ-likeness through study and learning, and God is best able to form disciples when people do this together and not by themselves."

**Challenges:**

- 1) Attend a Bible Study, especially if you have never done so before. Sundays after worship until 12:15pm there is a class open to all! Come share and be blessed by the ways God touches our lives.
- 2) Read the Bible at home. Pastor Heather has Life Journals and reading plans to get you started.

### PASSIONATE WORSHIP

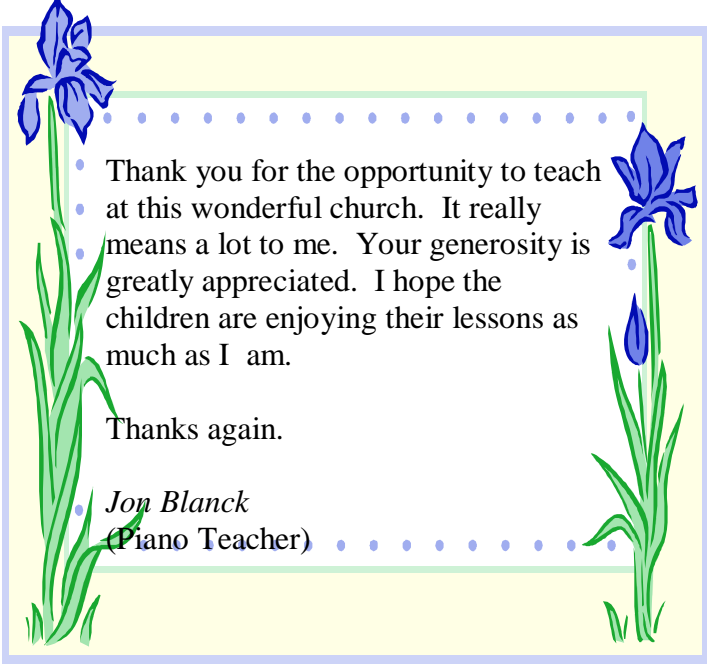
"How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord." (Psalm 84:1-2)

"Worship describes those times we gather deliberately seeking to encounter God in Christ. We cultivate our relationship with God and with one another as the people of God."

**Challenge:** 1) Consider what you bring to worship: greeting, reading, singing, ushering, a heart open to the love and grace of God. What more could you bring, so God will receive more glory?

*Continued on Page 3...*

# MEMBER & OFFICE NEWS



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- Thank you for the opportunity to teach at this wonderful church. It really means a lot to me. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. I hope the children are enjoying their lessons as much as I am.

Thanks again.

• *Jon Blanck*  
(Piano Teacher) • • • • •

*With Sympathy & Prayers*

Our Sympathy and Prayers go out to the friends and family of  
***Herbert Rollinson***

*We pray the Lord will comfort them in their loss*



## *Happy May Birthdays!*

.....  
*If you or someone you know is missing from this list, please contact the church office to update...and Happy Birthday!*

- 4 Anna Waterbury
- 7 Mildred Johnson
- 9 John Ovesney
- 12 Aaron Egensteiner
- 14 Hazel Lawrence
- 18 Jack Hogue
- 22 Brenda Hogue
- 27 Rebecca Ritter
- 29 Eileen Savary Faulkner
- 29 Ximena Varas
- 31 Skip Sinclair



Dear Rev. Heather Sinclair:


Greetings in the name of the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ!

**Congratulations!** Your church is among 382 churches in the New York Annual Conference that paid 100% of their shared ministry apportionments in 2007. With you, our conference is continuing its progress towards the goal of all our churches sharing in the joy of complete faithfulness to our United Methodist connectional covenant.

Please know that I do not take your fulfilling the connectional covenant of apportionments for granted. I know that it was a result of your hard and conscientious labor in the field of Christ's ministry and your prayers to be faithful to our God who called us to be a church in mission for such a time as this. Thanks be to God that your fulfillment of the Shared Ministry Apportionments bears witness to the heart-warmed United Methodists in mission for the transformation of the world!

May God continue to richly bless and honor your church and its ministry.

With you in Christ's Ministry.  
*Bishop Jeremiah J. Park*



**The deadline for the May newsletter is Friday, May 16th**

**MEMBER & OFFICE NEWS**

...Continued from Cover

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

“You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity.” (2 Corinthians 9:11)

“People who give generously to the church do so because they genuinely desire to make a positive difference for the purposes of Christ and because they want to align their lives with higher purposes.”

- Challenges:**
- 1) Prayerfully consider how you can financially give more to the church.
  - 2) Examine your personal budget and consider if you are doing the best you can with what God has given to you.
  - 3) Consider the church in your will and estate planning.

RISK-TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40)

“The interweaving of lives across culture, class, color, and age boundaries genuinely enriches the congregation and makes Scripture stories come alive in real experience. God strengthens the Body of Christ through mission and service, and God empowers the Body of Christ through witness.”

- Challenges:**
- 1) Support and pray for the mission projects of this congregation and district: Spooner House, Ladles of Love, UMARMY, Haiti Initiative, to name a few. Consider being actively involved.
  - 2) What other risks can this congregation take to live out its mission to minister to the poor, the hungry, the stranger, the homeless, the abused?

Blessings,  
*Rector Heather*

*Financial Update*

The Finance Committee is pleased to report that as of April 30, the church’s income has been sufficient to allow u to pay al of our salaries, bills, and New York Annual Conference Apportionments. After one-third of the year our total ex-penses, 34% of our approved budget, are on track. Our cur-rent position is largely due to our successful Fish Fry and faithful contributors. As we head into the summer everyone is reminded to please keep their contributions up-to-date. Year –to-date contribution statements will be prepared within the next month.

Don Wilson, Finance Chair  
Warren Egensteiner, Treasurer



Upper Room Study

Thursday morning 10:00 - 11:30 am



The Upper Room group has been reading and dis-cussing the book ***Having A Mary Heart in a Martha World: Finding Intimacy with God in the Busy-ness of Life*** by Joanna Weaver. Jesus asked Mary and Martha to “choose the better part.” What part do you choose – closeness with God or the busyness of the world? Join us to help discern what Jesus is ask-ing of you.

Contact Leeann Mead or Dot Brown for more infor-mation.

**COMMITTEE & GROUP NEWS**

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

**ACOLYTE TRAINING SESSION**  
THE ACOLYTE REVIEW AND TRAINING SESSION WAS HELD ON APRIL 12TH. PASTOR HEATHER AND ELAINE WOOD MET WITH THE GROUP, AND OUR ACOLYTES SHARED THEIR PERSPECTIVES REGARDING THEIR SERVICE TO THE CHURCH, AS WELL AS SOME NEW IDEAS. MANY THANKS TO ELAINE FOR HER CONTINUED DEDICATION TO, AND ORGANIZATION OF THIS VITAL ASPECT OF OUR WORSHIP

**Visitation Training**

*"I was sick and you took care of me..."*  
*Matthew 25:36*

Do you feel a call to visiting the sick, shut-in or hospitalized members or our church family? Do you already make such visits but feel you could be better prepared?

**On Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am-1pm, there will be a Visitation Team meeting and training session.** Those who attend will be asked to share in the visitation ministry, especially this summer while Pastor Heather is on maternity leave. Please let Pastor Heather know if you will attend the meeting and call her with any questions. Lunch will be provided!

**NOTE FROM PASTOR HEATHER**

Friends,  
Many of you have been asking about my plans following the birth of our child in June. I have requested, and been granted by Bishop Park, in consultation with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, eight weeks of maternity leave beginning on around June 15, followed by two weeks of vacation, returning August 24. During that time, the ministry of pastoral care will be coordinated by Ximena Varas and John Mead and covered by a newly formed Visitation Team. Ordained clergy in the area will provide emergency coverage, including funerals. Day-to-day business will be covered by Michelle Thompson in the office. More details and contact information will be forthcoming in the June Messenger.

If you any questions or concerns, please contact me or Don Dains, chair of SPRC. I believe this will be a time of great growth for the lay ministry of the church and a reminder that you are all ministers of this congregation. God's grace and your love for each other are your greatest strengths. Skip and I ask for your blessings and prayers as we embark on this new and life-changing journey!

Blessings,  
*Pastor Heather*



**SERVING US IN WORSHIP**

**Leaders:**

- May 4 Rose Ann Haakerud
- May 11 Moises Varas
- May 18 Lindsay Evans
- May 25 Bob Yamnicky

**Acolytes:**

- May 4 Olga Nyange, Leann Misencik, Ximena Varas
- May 11 Moises Varas, Katie Iorfino
- May 18 Benedict Nyange, Alyssa Wood
- May 25 Leatitia Nyange, Alisha James

**Communion Prep:** Pat Fitzsimmons, Sue Rollinson

**Communion Servers:**

- May 4 Rose Ann Haakerud
- May 11 Cindy & Danielle Iorfino
- May 18 Lorie & Lindsay Evans
- May 25 Adeline Anderson & Cindy Lidman

**Greeters:** Phil Easman & Lucia Arriagada

**Nursery Care:**

- May 4 Sue Jensen
- May 11 Diane Klepacky
- May 18 Linda Loglisci
- May 25 Dot Brown

*God Was Here & I Was Out to Lunch*

God calls us by name all the time ...but we rarely even notice, let alone answer. In the well know style of James W. Moore (*Yes Lord, I have sinned, but I have several excellent excuses and if God has a refrigerator, your picture is on it*), this class will explore some of the ways that God uses to call us.

From learning to recognize His hands in some simple situations to how He expects us to respond to His call, we will have fun going through multiple examples of daily occasions in which we give the busy signal back to God. It's not that we want to ignore Him; we are just out to lunch. Yes, receiving a call from God is not only for pastors, He wants all of us to participate...that figures!

And when we miss these opportunities, we miss His gifts and surprises; so you don't want to miss this class! It requires no advance preparation and will meet on **Sunday mornings during the education hour from 11:15 AM to 12:15 PM in the lounge from April 6th through June 1st.**

**UMYF NEWS**

Coordinating Calendars and people is a huge challenge. Here is the latest and the greatest from your youth minister. I hope I might see some or all of you at these events.

**May 4th** Regular meeting  
**Noon -2pm**  
**2-4pm Emmaus Reunion**  
**4-6pm Emmaus CORE meeting**

**May 16th 7-9 pm** Dress rehearsal for Dinner Theater. This is mandatory for all those participating in UMARMY.

**May 17—3-10 p.m.**

**May 18th** - NO MYF. Pray for Patience and not Anger.

**May 25—No MYF.**

**June 1-** Day at the Lake—Noon to 5 p.m. (Note DATE CHANGE)

**June 8—Church Picnic & Games after Church.**

**July 27—August 2nd -UMARMY**  
Tool Training (To be Announced)

Peace and Blessings

*Adeline*  
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**FURNITURE NEEDED**

An acquaintance who has moved into senior housing is in need of a small kitchen table with a couple of chairs. If anyone has one or knows of someone who has one, please call me at 929-1852.

Many thanks.

*Jean Ovesney*

# MYF - FUMC Shelton Presents:


## Dinner Theater

Sat. May 17, 2008  
6-9 pm

### Price:

Adults \$12.00  
Seniors \$10.00  
10 + under \$6.00

Proceeds  
to benefit  
UM ARMY



### Menu:

- salad
- choice of beef, chicken, fish
- potatoe
- vegetable
- dessert
- coffee

Join  
us for a  
night of  
fun!

## Paper Bag Auction

## *Women's Fall Retreat*

*Save the date!* The Women's Retreat will be **October 10-12** at the Incarnation Center in Ivoryton. We are looking forward to another relaxing, meaningful weekend together. Make your reservation now to assure that you will have a spot for a lovely fall experience.



The cost is **\$170** for 2 night, 5 delicious meals, program materials, and craft supplies.

A deposit of **\$70** (check made out to First United Methodist Women) will reserve your spot. If you would like to be on the planning committee please leave your name in the Church Office. If you have questions, call Ann Singletary, 929-3832 or Pastor Heather or member who have attended previous retreats.