

West Farmington
United Methodist Church
THE COURIER – MARCH 2011



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Note from the Pastor:

As we approach the Lent and Easter season it's appropriate to stop and reflect on what is coming up. Observing Lent is not a denominational thing or whether we are liturgical or not. Lent helps us to put the Christian life into biblical perspective. It's a time to practice saying "no" to ourselves in little things so we can say a bigger "yes" to God in the bigger decisions of life.

Easter is a great time to ask people to come to church and to consider issues of life, death, resurrection, and to consider Jesus. As we prepare for Easter through Lent, I would challenge you to take time to pray for your unchurched families and friends. I encourage you to pray that your friends will be open to an invitation to come to church, to check out the Christian view, and to consider the Christian faith.

Olympic athletes don't win a medal without years of discipline and practice. It takes training, practice, sweat, and tears to be worthy of the gold. Military leadership comes from years of progressing up the ranks. Combat experience is an essential requirement for the highest officers. A CEO isn't selected from the latest hires in a company. Sometimes ugly years of deals and compromise proceed the position of president of a corporation.

We judge an athlete, a soldier, or a corporate leader a cheat if that person tried to avoid the essential struggles necessary to reach a position worth of admiration. Struggle before the success is the expected pattern in almost every part of life, almost every part, except, some assume, for the Christian life. Somehow there is the mistaken notion in some Christian circles that coming to Jesus means an endless supply of ease and freedom from troubles. To be fair, the eternal destiny of those who trust Jesus as Savior is salvation from judgment and condemnation, and nothing is more freeing than that reality, but ease and freedom from trials are for our future in Christ and not necessarily our present. Jesus said that in this world we would have troubles. He repeatedly told his followers that the same troubles he experienced were to be expected for his disciples. All of the writers of the New Testament were itinerant preachers who lived poorly, were mistreated, rejected, mocked and most died a martyr's death.

Lent reminds us of the essential reality that before we can truly experience joy, we must experience testing and trials. As the Apostle Peter reminds us:

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that

W. Farmington UMC Prayer Marker –Feb. 27, 2011

Hospitalized:

Special Needs:

Please remember our shut ins.

Dorothy Anthony 6931 Hennig Dr. Citrus Hts, CA 95621	Betty Klouda 5837 Old St Rd W. Farmington	Richard Petrick Cortland Healthcare 369 High St. Cortland, OH 44410
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Ernestine Woodford Clearview Lantern Sts 596 Champion Ave #206 Warren OH 44483	Marjorie Heil 5600 Larson W W. Farmington	John Fluharty 1140 S Main St. SW Warren OH 44485
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March Birthstones are the Aquamarine and the Bloodstone.

March Flowers are the Violet and the Daffodil

Military Update

Staff Sergeant Phil Rabadeux, grandson-in-law of Eileen and Cliff Belden has been shipped out to Afghanistan this past month of January 2011. He is at a place in Helmand Province, near town of Kajaki. He will be there at least 7 months. He is in charge of a unit, part of the 2nd Radio Battalion out of Camp Lejeune, N. C. He recently lost a young man, age 21, in action and they need our prayers.

His wife Amanda remains at home with their 16 month-old son Waylon (at the age of getting into everything). Eileen's daughter Margie is soon flying down for a nice visit to break up the time of separation.

Please keep the whole family in your prayers.

Mark Your Calendar for March:

New Member Class – see Pastor Jim to schedule a time for a class – will then join on 3/27.

Every Sunday – Adult Sunday School at 9:30am and Children’s SS during Worship.

Every Monday - Kids Klub after school program, 3:30-5:30pm

Every Monday - Choc/peanut butter Eggs – 9am & 6pm shifts

Every Tuesday - Windsor House Nursing Home Worship Service – 10-11am.

Every Tuesday (starting 3/8) - “24 Hours That Changed the World” Bible Study – 7pm - parsonage

Mar 7 Trustees meeting at 7pm; Administrative Council at 7:30pm

Mar 9 United Methodist Women at 10am at the church.

Mar 9 Bristol Area Ministerial Association (BAMA) at WFUMC at 9am in parsonage.

Mar 9 Ash Wednesday Carry-In Dinner at 6:30pm then Ash Service at 7:15pm

Mar 10 “24 Hours That Changed the World” Bible Study – 10 am – parsonage

Mar 10 Worship Team meeting at 2 pm at the church

Mar 13 BAMA Lenten Service at Bristolville UMC at 6pm

Mar 18-19 Scrapbooking with Denise McDowell

Mar 20 BAMA Lenten Service at Bristolville Church of the Brethren at 6pm

Mar 27 Baptism and Reception of New Members during Worship -

Mar 27 Noisy Collection HOLD your coins and \$\$\$ for April 3 for One Great Hour of Sharing!!!

Mar 27 BAMA Lenten Service at N. Bloomfield UMC at 6pm (Pastor Jim is the speaker)

No more monthly Roast Beef Dinners:

The Administrative Council Voted on Jan. 3 to discontinue the regular monthly Roast Beef Dinners due to decreasing attendance and the difficulty in getting help. Thanks for your past support.

can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you, ... In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perished even though refined by fire – may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.” 1 Peter 1:3-7.

Easter is coming – don’t forget the end of the story. Don’t ever get so engrossed in the reminders of deprivation during Lent that you forget that tears are temporary and the end of the story is Eternal JOY!

Be Blessed and Be a Blessing!!!

Pastor Jim

Prayer: (which I took from one of my on-line devotionals)

Lord God, Your Son has closed yesterday's door, therefore Your people don't have to live enslaved to sin or shame anymore. Not because we've been strong and good and noble, but because You have transformed our lives. You've changed our course of direction. Even though You've left us on foreign soil, as aliens and strangers, we have a home in heaven. And sometimes we get pretty homesick!

Hear the prayers of Your people as we call out to You. Give us self-control on those occasions when we're tempted to moralize and put people down. Make us aware that a godly life preaches an unforgettable message to the unsaved. Help us remember that we're soldiers away from our home in heaven, living in a culture that's lost its way and is in desperate need of Jesus Christ. Keep us easy to live with, strong in faith, unbending in our convictions yet full of grace toward those who are bound by sin and captured by habits they cannot break. Enable us to shock this pagan culture with lives that are authentic, that stay balanced, that are still fun, and that ultimately glorify You, O God . . . just like Jesus did.

In His great name we pray. Amen

(Day by Day, *Charles Swindoll, July 2005*)

LENTEN THEMES – Something to think about

- Many Christians fast a meal or a day per week during Lent. This is a good time to focus on Stewardship of our bodies through proper diet, exercise, and regular medical check-ups.

OUR FRIENDS IN NEED OF PRAYER .

David Albrecht	Donna Fiest	Justine Pickett
Bryce	Angie Foft	Kyle Quinn Jr.
Susan Arden	Jackie Gingerich	Kim Roseblossom
Jerry Armstrong	Kathy Granados	Mike Shinosky
Issac Atkins	Dale Hickox	Katlin Smith
Esther Burr	Howard Hillier Jr.	Elise Sprong
Jeff Cape	Dona Hites	Tootsie Stephens
Joan Chambers	Katy Hites	Julie Sternagle
Ray Chambers	Billy and Sharon	Debbie Swindler
Matt Chandler	Hodge	Holly Fusselman
Slater Chaplain	James Hungerford	Walker
Ed Cleer	Jesse Jilg	Laura Walsh
Michael Cleer	Margret Klinger	Chad Webb
Erma Coffey	Jen Knepper	Brittany Williams
Michael Cross	Blanche Marcello	Justin Woodworth
Ray Cross	Leann Miller	Kate Woodworth
Shirley Cross	Ellie Musial	Richard Yocum
Tom Darno	Brian Puhalsky	Wayne York
Sherry Desenberg	Ethan Puhalsky	Beth Young
Haley Dorshock	Rick Padavan	(Silvernail)

Please Note: Let Pastor Jim know of any changes and/or additions. Their name, Status or condition and your name. Please use the cards in the pews.

Up Coming Greeters

3/6	John & Nancy Brandon
3/13	Jackie, Jack & Emily Mitton
3/20	Pam Monroe
3/27	Carol Jean Goddard

Tuesday night and Wednesday morning Bible Study: “24 Hours That Changed the World” by Adam Hamilton.

The aim of this study is to help us better understand the events that occurred during the last 24 hours of Jesus’ life. We will be using a 40 Day Devotional (\$8) along with the book by the same name (optional - \$18). Whether you are a longtime Christian or simply curious about the story of Christ’s crucifixion, you are invited to join us on this inspiring journey. Starting Tuesday nights, March 8 at 7 pm and Wednesdays at 10 am (note the first week will be a Thursday morning) at the parsonage. This is a video, scripture, and discussion type study for seven weeks, ending Holy Week.

United Methodist Women (UMW) mission project for Easter – The Beatitude House.

Enclosed or available for pick up at the church are Special Offering Boxes to be used during Lent and returned at Easter. The UMW would like to support this local ministry that helps young homeless women and children get back on their feet through education, training, jobs, housing, and counseling. This is a separate outreach from our regular monthly mission collections. Let us continue to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

Support your local Fire Department!

Don’t forget the spaghetti dinner on the fourth Saturday of every month! Mean consists of Spaghetti, Meatballs, Salad and dessert.

All the proceeds go to purchase fire department needs. Please consider joining the ladies auxiliary to help. You could join as a part time helper or a full time member.

Remember—Many hands make light work!

Call Laura Walsh at 330 978 9683

Or Kim Largen at 330 889 2964 for details!

Support Your Local Fire Department!

Looking Ahead: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING – April 3

Necessities of life include food, shelter, and clothing. However, many people around the world lack these basic necessities. The **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering makes those necessities a reality by sharing the goodness of life with those who hurt.

Additionally, when a catastrophe occurs, your offerings to the **One Great Hour of Sharing** enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to reach out and ease the pain and suffering by providing humanitarian aid of food, shelter, peace and hope. The current relief efforts in Haiti are examples of this kind of ministry assistance.

By giving to the **One Great Hour of Sharing**, you enable UMCOR to keep the promise of **100% of designated gifts going to specific causes**. UMCOR receives no World Service money to conduct its mission. That is why your faithful support of the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering is crucial. Save your donation from the Marc Noisy Collection and we will put it towards OGHS.

The Poetry Corner

**"March bustles in on windy feet
And sweeps my doorstep and my street.
She washes and cleans with pounding rains,
Scrubbing the earth of winter stains.
She shakes the grime from carpet green
Till naught but fresh new blades are seen.
Then, house in order, all neat as a pin,
She ushers gentle springtime in."**

- Susan Reiner, *Spring Cleaning*

**"Springtime is the land awakening.
The March winds are the morning yawn."**

- Lewis Grizzard, *Kathy Sue Loudermilk, I Love You*

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 1	Amy Boyk
March 4	Bob Stevens
March 5	Mathew Stephens
March 6	David Stephens Jr
March 7	Carol Jean Goddard
March 7	Leila Siezkowski
March 8	Joyce List
March 9	Kristen Gilbert
March 12	Joan Hickox
March 12	Kim Woolf
March 15	Jack Burbach
March 21	Kristen Walsh
March 26	Nicholas Lenney
March 27	Shirley Cross
March 28	Nicole Walsh
March 30	Anne Gerlt
March 30	Lloyd Adams
March 31	Stephanie Watts

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 1	Bob & Joan Hickox
March 21	Jim & Starr Spangler
March 23	Brian & Denise McDowell
March 30	Jack & Betty Burbach
March 31	Elwyn & Florence Satterlee

Looking Ahead

April 2 Western Reserve District Spring Conference and Leadership Workshops, 9:30am – 3:00pm, at Painesville Harvey High School, 26 Workshops to choose from.

April 22 - We will be hosting the BAMA Good Friday Service at 7:00pm with Pastor Roger Norton as guest speaker. It will be Tenebrae style service where we leave in silence, therefore our social time will be at 6:00pm. We will need to provide cookies and desserts!

April 24 – Easter Services at 8:30 am (followed by a breakfast) and 10:30 am.

The Western Reserve Spring District Women's Gathering

(sponsored by the District UMW)

Will be held at Andover United Methodist Church on April 9, 2011. The theme will be "Casting Your Nets". The speaker will be from the East Ohio Church and Society on Immigration. The mission giving for the gathering will be paper products, personal care products, and pet supplies. These will be distributed to food pantries and organizations in most need. The cost for the meeting will be Packets \$3.00 and Lunch \$5.00.

Responses for the Gathering need to be in by April 2, 2011. Please discuss with other ladies because all are welcome and try to attend. It is a delightful event, fun, entertaining and educational. Good chance to meet new friends and reacquaint yourself with old friends. Time is usually about 9:00 a.m. till around noon. A time well spent, just ask some of us who have been there.

Neighbor Updates

If you have some information about a friend of the church who has moved away feel free to contact me with an update and the contact information so we can keep in touch with old friends!

Wfchurchnews@aol.com

Jim and Katie Richards had a beautiful baby girl
2-8-11 at 9:33 p.m. EMERY LILIAN----EMMY FOR SHORT.
8lbs 4oz. 21 inches

New Address:
Ralph Nellis
7000 SR 88, Apt #5
Ravenna, OH 44266
Cell: 4440-477-0760

Continuing Series in our Church GriefShare

Have you or someone you know lost a loved one in the last year or so? A new series coming to our church in January may be just what you need. The series is called GriefShare. It is part of an international ministry to those who are grieving. The series features a weekly video/discussion/share time. The sessions will be led by Pastor Shirley Stoops-Frantz, who has led many of these sessions in the last ten years. Pastor Jim will be assisting her, along with Vicky Harklerode and Shirley's husband, Allen.

Each session begins with a 30-40 minute video, utilizing testimonies and advice and affirmation from some of America's leading counselors in the field. Most of the names will be those you have heard before. Following the video, the group will explore the topic of the evening, with opportunity for input. There is no requirement to talk, but the video and discussion will be beneficial for everyone.

Some of the video topics include "When Your Dreams Fall Apart," "The Seasons of Grief" and "Growing through Grief." The series will last ten weeks, but each session is self-contained, meaning there is no attendance requirement.

Refreshments will be available each evening, provided by our church. There is no charge for the series, but we will accept a donation toward the required workbook.

The sessions are from **6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, January 9 through March 20** in the church fellowship hall. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Shirley at 330-889-3894 or Pastor Jim at 330-889-3345.

DID YOU KNOW??

The Ladies Auxiliary of the West Farmington Fire Department has raised over \$52,000 dollars to buy equipment for the Fire Department. The Ladies Auxiliary was started by Eileen Belden in 2005.

A Story to Ponder

Author Unknown

One Sunday morning an old cowboy entered a church just before services were to begin. Although the old man and his clothes were spotlessly clean, he wore jeans, a denim shirt and boots that were very worn and ragged. In his hand he carried a worn out old hat and an equally worn out Bible

The church he entered was in a very upscale and exclusive part of the city. It was the largest and most beautiful church the old cowboy had ever seen. The people of the congregation were all dressed with expensive clothes and accessories.

As the cowboy took a seat, the others moved away from him. No one greeted, spoke to, or welcomed him. They were appalled at his appearance and did not attempt to hide it.

As the old cowboy was leaving the church, the preacher approached him and asked the cowboy to do him a favor.

“Before you come back in here again, have a talk with God, and ask him what he thinks would be appropriate attire for worship”. The old cowboy assured the preacher he would.

The next Sunday, he showed back up for the services wearing the same ragged jeans, shirt, boots and hat. Once again he was completely shunned and ignored.

The preacher again approached the man and said “I thought I asked you to speak to God before you came back to our church”.

“I did”, replied the old cowboy.

“If you spoke to God, what did he tell you the proper attire should be for worshipping in here?” asked the preacher.

“Well, sir, God told me that He didn’t have a clue what I should wear. He said He’d never been in this church.

LENTEN THEMES – Something to think about

- The Lenten theme of “Dust to Dust,” is a good time to think about our own mortality. The cross of Jesus forces all of us to think about life and death. Do you have a will that reflects how you wish your estate to be distributed? Did you know that 70% of Americans do not have a will? If you should die without a will, the state of Ohio DOES have one for you, but it will not reflect your wishes for your estate. Lent is a time to prepare a will, to ask ourselves what we want our life to be remembered for, and what our final act of Christian stewardship might be.

Nelson to lead Rainbow Assembly for Spring 2011 term

Caraline Nelson, daughter of John & Diane Nelson, of Burton, Ohio, was installed to lead the W. Farmington Rainbow Assembly #116 of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls during its spring term as Worthy Advisor. Cara has chosen “Veggie Tales” as her theme for the term; her motto is “God is bigger than the Boogiemán.” Her mascots are ducks, symbols are bubbles & bunnies; colors: tomato red, carrot orange, squash yellow, and cucumber green; her flower is the carnation, and her scripture is Psalm 56:3. Her projects for the term are to donate to the Gabe’s My Heart Chemo Duck Program, Relay for Life, and to participate in the statewide project Honor Flights. Social events include: Cleveland Zoo, Statewide Dance, Tri-Youth Day, Car Wash, and doughnut and sub sandwich sales.

Serving as installing officer for the day was Miss Katie Nevison, Past Worthy Advisor of W. Farmington Assembly and Grand Confidential Observer. She was assisted by Brittany Strickland as Installing Chaplain, Helen Hedrick as Installing Marshal and Kate Faler as Installing Recorder.

The other officers installed for the term are: Sister of Charity - Haley Spangler, Sister of Hope - Tina Murray, Treasurer - Katie Nevison, Drill Leader - Rachael Bickford, Confidential Observer - Audrey Drago, Outer Observer - Sara Sieczkowski, and Choir members: Katie Jackson, Samandra Hopkins, & Caitlyn Jones.

Rainbow Girls are girls between the ages of 11 – 20 who want to give service to their community, build strong leadership and public speaking skills, and make life-long friends. The assembly also sponsors Iris Pledge Group for girls ages 7-10 for girls to learn about service, patriotism, and fun fellowship.

The assembly now meets at the Burton Masonic Complex on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays at 10:00am in Burton, Ohio. All majority members are encouraged to come at and visit them at their new location. For more information about W. Farmington assembly or information on how you can join this premiere character building & service organization for girls please visit their website at: www.mastermason.com/WFarmington116 or call their Mother Advisor, Roxanne York, at (330) 240-5116.

Roxanne York - Public Relations chair
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LENTEN THEMES – Something to think about

- Lent is a time where sacrifice is emphasized. Your sacrificial giving to the church is even more critical during these difficult economic times but remember that God's sacrifice for us remains unchanged. Thank You for your gifts to do God's work.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS:

When you give to this church you allow our Trustees to maintain our building so that even the building proclaims the glory and greatness of God to this community. Thank you for what you give to West Farmington United Methodist Church to support this ministry.

When you give to this church you are helping us to make plans for this summer's vacation Bible school where we seek to bring God's love to the children of our community.

Many of our high school youth are making plans to attend college next fall. When you support the ministry of our church, we pay our shared ministry askings which helps to provide scholarships for United Methodists in college and seminary. We are laying a foundation for the future through these ministries. Thank you for what you give to West Farmington UMC so we can invest in the future of our young people and our church.

When you give to our church we are able to participate in caring for senior citizens through Christian Caring Community Activities Senior Center and Day Care in the Ohio Valley District. This ministry serves senior adults in Lansing, Brookside, Bridgeport, Barton, Blaine, and Colerain. Thank you for all you give to support our senior citizens.

When you give to our church, we pay our shared ministry askings which supports several dozen after-school programs around this annual conference. Many of these programs provide an alternative in areas infected with drugs and gangs. We are changing the lives of future generations through every child saved through these ministries. Thank you for your giving to West Farmington UMC and the ministry we share as United Methodists.



Army:

Josh Berg; Bill Stewart; Lindsey Romack Canete; Felix Canete Jr.; Gregory Clisby; Josh Hall; Philip Lancaster; Mark Mahon; Tammy Rodriguez; Justin Loza; Grant & Haley Crandall

Navy:

Kris Stribling; Tim Walker

Air Force:

Mychael Bulford; Erik McIntosh; Brian Hray

Marine:

Phil Rabadeux; Cory Reed; Daniel Nellis Jr.;

Army Reserves:

Marine Reserves:

Ryan Romack; activated

MI National Guard:

Jim Richards Jr.;

Coast Guard:

Alfonso Estades

THANKS!

Middy would like to extend a big thank you to all the wonderful friends and family that attended the party for Melvin's birthday on Feb. 13. She and Melvin thank you all for the many cards and gifts. Middy would also like to say an extra special thank you to all of those who helped with setting up, serving, and tearing down the party. And of course a special thanks to Pastor Jim for his efforts in making the day special.

Thanks again! Middy and Melvin Smith