

**THE CHIMES**

**March 2010**

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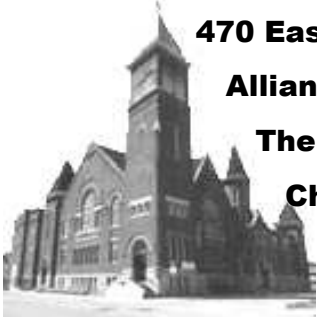
**Christ United Methodist Church**

**470 East Broadway Street**

**Alliance, OH 44601-2698**

**The Rev. L. Chris Martin**

**Church: 330-823-7136**



*“The Church on The Hill”*

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**THE CHIMES  
MARCH 2010**

***TO SERVE GOD BY SHARING COMPASSION AND LOVE***



**IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU; IT'S NOT ABOUT ME**

In his book, *It's Not About Me*, Max Lucado tells the story of a village priest in medieval Europe gathering the members of his church together for a very special Lenten service. “*Come tonight,*” he told them, “*for a very special sermon on our Lord Jesus.*” The congregation obliged the priest by showing up in great numbers on the appointed evening. To their complete surprise no candles illuminated the sanctuary. In fact, the room was in total darkness. The congregants groped their way to the pews and took their seats. The priest was nowhere to be seen. Soon they heard him walking through the nave toward the Chancel. When he reached the crucifix that hung on the wall, he lit a small candle. Without speaking a word, he shed light on the pierced feet of Jesus, then his side, then one hand, and then the other. Lifting the small candle, he illuminated the blood-masked face and crown of thorns. With a breath of air, he blew out the candle and walked out of the church.

**(Continued)**

## IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU; IT'S NOT ABOUT ME - Continued

The lesson the priest taught his congregation that night is a lesson that we need to learn again today. Lent is not about you; nor is it about me. The season of Lent is about God and the profound sacrifice God made in sending his only-begotten Son to be crucified on the cross of Calvary for the sins of the whole world; your sins and mine. It's a simple message that often gets mired down in enough theological rhetoric to fill the number of books required to launch a medium-sized branch library. It's a simple message, and yet for centuries folks have been unable to grasp the depth of its significance. In fact, the jury is still out on whether we, even now, fully grasp the significance of God's unmerited love and grace being catapulted onto the human stage in the form of one who preached, taught and healed for three years before the political and religious authorities of the day became so threatened by him and his message that they sought a way to silence him. The words Jesus spoke were abhorrent to the religious authorities and the ruling Romans trying to keep the lid on a seething cauldron of political, national and religious unrest that was just a few degrees from the point of boiling.

In spite of or because of the weak and cowardly demeanor of Jesus' closest followers, the authorities arrested Jesus without incident, put him through the mockery of an unjust trial, condemned him to death and carried out the sentence by nailing him to a cross on a rise of ground known as Golgotha outside the walls of Jerusalem. Because Jesus died, was sealed in a tomb hewn out of solid rock, and rose victorious from death, you and I are promised that "*even though this tent we live in is destroyed; we have a building from God, not made with human hands; eternal in the heavens*" that will accommodate us, and all whom we love, for eternity.

And so, during Lent, let's remember that the solemn and contemplative nature of this season is not about you; nor is it about me. First and foremost, it's about God's profound love for us – a love that encouraged him to send his only-begotten Son that we might have life; even life eternal.

Remember the brief story with which I began? When the priest reached the crucifix that hung on the wall, he lit a small candle. Without speaking a word, he shed light on the pierced feet of Jesus, then his side, then one hand, and then the other. Lifting the candle he illuminated the blood-masked face and crown of thorns. With a breath of air, he blew out the candle and walked out of the church. During this holy penitential season of Lent, may we do nothing more; may we do nothing less.

I'll look for you in church this Sunday.

**Pastor L. Chris Martin**

**SPC RUSSELL, RYAN L.**  
**4-2 SBCT A 2-12FA**  
**APO, AE 09344**

Son-in-law of Sheila and Dan Gard, husband of Beckey, who has been deployed to Iraq for a tour of duty. He is an Alliance native and would appreciate any cards or letters.

### OUTREACH FOR COLLEGE / SERVICE PEOPLE

A project started by the United Methodist Women to maintain contact with college students/military personnel having a birthday the month of each Chimes issue continues as a church-wide outreach. Birthdays in March are:

22 Scott Thomas, 1972 Clark Avenue Box 1126, Alliance OH 44601-3993

29 Amanda Montgomery, PO Box 1350, Spanton 906B, Akron, OH 44309-1350

## LENTEN STUDY CONTINUES ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

Participants from both Christ and Union Avenue United Methodist Churches in this year's Lenten Study of the book *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*, by renowned author and pastor John Ortberg, seem enthusiastic and animated in their discussion of what it means to move outside their comfort zones and to risk doing and thinking new things. Following a brief opening, participants view a brief DVD segment by author John Ortberg that jump-starts the discussion for the rest of the class time. Topics to be discussed include: What's Water Walking, The Tragedy of the Unopened Gift, Find Your Calling and Get Your Feet Wet, Facing Our Challenges – Conquering Our Fears, Good News for Cave Dwellers and Learning to Wait On Our Big God.

Day-time classes are held at Christ Church on Thursdays from 10 until 11:15 a.m. Evening classes are held at Union Avenue Church on Tuesdays from 7 until 8:15 p.m. Classes sessions, scheduled through Thursday, March 25, are taught by Pastors Wilhelm, Innerst and Martin on a rotating basis. Participant's books and class schedules/teaching assignments are available in the church office. Plan to join this enthusiastic group of learners and risk-takers soon! Try getting out of the boat!

## THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING IS SUNDAY, MARCH 14

On the fourth Sunday in Lent, United Methodists around the world are invited to share in a special offering known as ***The One Great Hour of Sharing***. The monies received undergird the mission and ministry of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), which is the disaster-response agency of the United Methodist Church. Whenever or wherever natural or manmade disaster strikes in this country or around the world, UMCOR responds with medical supplies and personnel, food, water, blankets, clothing – whatever assistance is needed. UMCOR is often the first agency on the scene and the last agency to leave, long after the television cameras and news commentators have pulled out. UMCOR has been challenged dramatically in recent months with the devastation caused by the earthquake in Haiti and other crises throughout the world. The ***One Great Hour of Sharing*** offering covers the costs of doing business for UMCOR so that 100 cents of every dollar given to UMCOR can be used to alleviate human suffering. A descriptive leaflet and offering envelope will appear in the worship folder on March 14 to facilitate your gift to ***The One Great Hour of Sharing***. Your generous support of this annual appeal will help to spread the love of Jesus Christ to those who need it most. Thank you for your consideration of this special offering.

## THE ME I WANT TO BE

**BREAKING NEWS:** For those appreciating this year's Lenten Study of the John Ortberg book, *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*, Pastor Chris Martin announces his plans to facilitate a discussion of Ortberg's newest publication (January 2010) entitled, *The Me I Want to Be – Becoming God's Best Version of You* in the weeks following Easter. Over the course of five sessions, participants will read and discuss Ortberg's powerfully insightful new book, work through exercises designed to help apply what they're learning, and be challenged by in-group teaching on DVD that will point the way toward a deeper relationship with the One who delights in each of his made-to-order creations. "When I am growing toward the me I want to be," Ortberg shares, "I am freed from the one I pretend to be. I no longer try to convince people I am important while secretly fearing I am not." Packed with this kind of honest reflection, Ortberg's new book will raise the sights of believers who may have settled for less than God's best version of themselves. Far more than any cookie-cutter path to spiritual success, *The Me I Want to Be* brings a life-changing message for each one who is willing to explore it: Be yourself. The sessions include: Discovering the Spirit, Renewing My Mind, Redeeming My Time, Deepening My Relationships and Transforming My Experience. Dates and times for this study group will be announced at a later date. Watch for them in the Sunday morning worship folders and in the April edition of ***The Chimes***.

**IMPORTANT – IMPORTANT – IMPORTANT – IMPORTANT – IMPORTANT – IMPORTANT – IMPORTANT**

### **CONGREGATION EMBARKS ON SPIRITUAL/STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS**

Shortly after March 1, the entire congregation of Christ Church will embark on a process of Spiritual/Strategic Planning. The leaders of our church have invited the Reverend Dr. Allan H. Zagray, Consultant to Quality Congregations, to guide us in this venture. Dr. Zagray is a retired United Methodist Pastor who offers us the experience of more than 50 years of creative pastoral experience including six as Akron District Superintendent and thirteen as a consultant. His ministry as a consultant has touched the life of more than 115 congregations during the past six years, either through direct consultations or through pastor participation in one of Dr. Zagray's "Excellence in Ministry" Learning Groups.

The Administrative Council has named a team of persons to work with Dr. Zagray as they seek to engage the entire congregation in a search for an answer to the question: "***What does God want Christ Church to be and to be doing in the next three to five years?***" Members of this team are Mark Locke, Facilitator, Dick Diser, Sheila Gard, Tyler Kinser, Connie Pyers, Lew Shields, Amy Starkey, Jim Williams and Pastor Chris Martin.

By coming to work with the staff, Leadership Team and the entire congregation over a period of several months, Dr. Zagray will provide guidance for a sound Spiritual/Strategic Planning process that will offer a sense of God's direction for the future of our church. The goal is collaborative (rather than confrontational) change as together we seek to discover God's will for us and make plans to bring that future into reality. During the planning process, the traditional spiritual discipline of discernment will be coupled with Quality Management techniques used by growing segments of the church.

The premise of this process is that we can improve the way we do things in the church if we are willing to ascertain the current reality of our life together and then open ourselves to the leading of God's Holy Spirit who offers us direction into the future God has in mind for us. As we move into this time of seeking a new direction for our congregation we ask each person related to the congregation to do two things:

**PRAY** – Asking that each person involved in the planning process will be open to the guidance of God's Spirit and that together we may know what God intends our church to be and to be doing in the next three to five years.

**PARTICIPATE** – Events are planned that will involve the leaders of the church along with events that will involve the entire congregation. Watch the Sunday morning worship folders and ***THE CHIMES*** for further announcements of the times and circumstances of these events and plan to participate fully in each of them. We believe that God can speak through the entire church body as together we seek to know and do God's will.

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### **CHRISTIAN OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY**

We recognize a need in our community by collecting funds, food, personal and household items to help the Salvation Army in its outreach. The Christian Outreach Committee reminds you that there is always a shopping cart in the Lounge for donations, and that the third Sunday of each month is designated as Food Pantry Sunday. March 21 is the next date for donations of non-perishable food items, paper and cleaning products, and cash donations to be counted for delivery to the Salvation Army. In February 48 items and \$42.50 were collected. Your response for this much needed community program is appreciated. Thank You!

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

*"In a bulb there is a flower . . . There is a hidden promise . . . something God alone can see"* says the hymn and once again Congregational Care will be furnishing bulbs in pots to be delivered to our visitation members in celebration of the Easter Season. Volunteers are needed to bring these wonderful reminders of life springing anew to those who find it impossible to be present for worship in this holiest of seasons. There will be a sign-up sheet in the lounge on March 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The potted bulbs will be available on Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> and delivery should be made during Holy Week. A large vote of thanks is due to Rev. David and Mildred Hostetler for their leadership on this project.

Congregational Care Committee  
Peg Williams, Chairperson

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## PACK AND TROOP COMBINE FOR SCOUT AWARDS NIGHT

Boy Scout Troop 50 and Cub Scout Pack 50 combined for dinner and award presentations last Monday at Christ United Methodist Church. Over 100 Scouts, family members and guests gathered in the Church Fellowship Hall to eat and recognize awards earned by the Scouts.

Tiger Cub Nicholas Mikes received recognition beads for activities surrounding tours of the Alliance Police station, WDPN radio station and a Mount Union College boys basketball game.

Wolf Den 8 members Erik Ayers, Hunter Frank, Michael Shields, Eric Dunn and Michael Burse earned a yellow advancement bead.

Zachary Smith, Zakary Sanders and Evan Yost earned their Whittling Chip for carving and a red advancement bead toward their Bear rank.

In Den 5, Austin Minear, Jacob Shields, Noah Gehret and Charles Raymond earned the Showman Activity Pin and Adam Brady, Dustin Bowman, Shields, Minear, Gehret, and Raymond were presented the Webelos Badge.

Devin Russell earned the Readyman Activity Pin.

The highest rank that a Cub Scout can earn, and the only Cub Scout badge that can be worn on the Boy Scout uniform, is the Arrow of Light. Evan Ayers, Blake Brown and Dakota Guy were presented the Arrow of Light and 'Crossed Over the Bridge' into Boy Scout Troop 50.

The Communications Merit badge was earned by Robert Anthony and Troop 50 advancements to Tenderfoot were recognized for Zachree Bertram, Brandon Handy, Zakary Chapman, Joshua Shields and Dalton Snyder.

Winter Camping is an integral part of the Boy Scouting program and Polar Bear camping awards, including tent camping in the single digit weather of Super Bowl weekend, were presented: First Year to Dalton Snyder, Zachree Bertram, Joshua Shields, Brandon Handy and Donnie Greenamyers. Second Year Polar Bear went to Benjamin Kelley and '40 plus' year award to Scoutmaster Keith Crewson.

Both Troop and Pack were presented their annual Charter from the Buckeye Scout Council. Troop 50 sponsored by Christ United Methodist Church for the 80th year and Pack 50, also sponsored by the Church, for its 5th year.

The rigatoni dinner was prepared by Susan Diser, Midge Mohr and Dave Austin of the Pack Committee, relish trays prepared by Cub Scouts of Bear Den 4 and three cakes decorated in the Scouting theme were baked and decorated by Jennifer Ayers.

Sunday, February 14, both the Pack and Troop will celebrate Scout Sunday at the CUMC 10:45 am worship service. All are welcome and invited to the celebration.

The Pinewood Derby for Pack 50 will be held on March 8 at 6:30 P.M. in Fellowship Hall.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN - MARCH 2, 2010 UNIT MEETING - 7:00 P.M.**

Program given by Cindi Martin: "Poverty"

Hostesses: M&M Circle

Greeters: May Smyth Circle

"Bodacious" Baked Potato Luncheon  
Sunday, March 14, 2010  
UMW Fund-raiser  
in Fellowship Hall

**MARCH CIRCLE MEETINGS:**

*A Call to Prayer and Self Denial*  
15 \*12:30 P.M. Dorcas Circle  
Lakeview Terrace, Copeland Oaks  
\*7:00 P.M. M&M Circle: TBA  
16 \*9:00 A.M. Margery Mayer Circle  
Western Reserve Room, Copeland Oaks  
\*7:00 P.M. May Smyth Circle: TBA

**April 6, 2010 Unit Meeting** 7:00 P.M. - Program given by Sheila Gard: "Food and Faith"  
Hostesses: May Smyth Circle Greeters: M&M Circle

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**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED - 2010 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - MARCH 5**

*Let everything that has breath praise God*  
First Christian Church  
10:45 A.M. Coffee Hour Program - Noon

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**NEW 2010 UNITED METHODIST WOMEN READING PROGRAM BOOKS**  
*(In the Church Library)*

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH:**

*A MONK IN THE INNER CITY* by Mary Lou Kownacki

The author, a Benedictine nun and peacemaker, serves in the inner city of Erie, PA, surrounded by families trying to survive and keep hope alive amid drugs, violence and despair.

**NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY:**

*TOO MANY IRONS IN THE FIRE AND THEY'RE ALL SMOKING* by Cynthia Bond Hopson

This little book offers a month's worth of wisdom, advice and encouragement for women in 31 short daily meditation.

*LIVING WITH PURPOSE IN A WORN-OUT BODY* by Missy Buchanan

This book offers spiritual encouragement for senior adults who are frail and struggling to find purpose at this stage of life. (Large Print)

*SACRED SPARK* by The Reverend Lisa K. Sykes

This is the true story of a child affected by mercury poisoning and the work of his mother an United Methodist cleric, to alert her church, the nation and world to the dangers of mercury-containing vaccines.

*THE OTHER GAME* by Phil Dahl-Bredine and Stephen Hicken

Readers learn about democracy, economic well-being, the environment and cultural and spiritual values from Mexican campesinos, while visiting villages that have existed for thousands of years. This is a BONUS book and is also under the category of EDUCATION FOR MISSION.

## CE CORNER

Over the next several months, we will spend some time getting to know our church neighbors a little better. One of the ones that I can see from my office window is a Catholic church. It appears that we have been neighbors for a number of years. This church is called St. Joseph's Church in Alliance and is located at 427 E. Broadway Street. It is a part of the larger Catholic Church (or Roman Catholic Church) which happens to be the largest Christian church in the world with greater than a billion members. It is reported that over one half of all Christians and more than one sixth of the world's population are Catholic. The Church's highest earthly authority in matters of faith, morality and governance is the pope. Currently Pope Benedict XVI holds supreme authority in concert with their College of Bishops.

As early as 1848, mention had been made of a priest visiting early settlers in the Alliance area and in 1859 a Father Eli Lindesmith rented a room over a store on Main Street in which Bishop Rappe of Cleveland, OH celebrated the first Sunday Mass. BY 1881 more room was needed and land was purchased on the corner of Linden and Broadway-the present location. By 1930 although the church had become too small for the growing congregation; they needed a larger building. Thus, the present sanctuary was dedicated in 1941 and received extensive renovation in 1994.

Likewise, there were people of the Episcopal Methodist faith who had begun to organize themselves and worship in this area as early as 1839. They purchased a wheel-wright shop to use as their first meeting place. Like St. Joseph's Church, as congregations grew, larger quarters were needed and a new Methodist church was built on East Main St around 1866 with a transition from the Main St. Church to this present location: to the "Church on the Hill" in 1898.

How does the Catholic Church define its mission and carry out its ministries? We will take a look next time.

Peace,

Dr. J  
Minister of Christian Education

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**LENTEN LUNCHESES** from Noon to 1:00 P.M. are held each Monday in Lent at the First Baptist Church, 1659 West State Street. Church Women United assist with the lunches. Pastor Rick Sams of First Friends Church will be the speaker March 1, 2010 and the other speakers are as listed below:

March 8	Rev. Gordon Thomas, First Baptist Church
March 15	Rev. Doug George, Salem United Methodist Church
March 22	Rev. Andrew Hagle, Beechwood Christian Church
March 29	To Be Announced

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### MARCH GREETERS

7 Betty Coleman and Craig Coleman  
14 Pat and Bruce Helsel  
21 Durlan and Alice Dumm  
28 Dolores Carli and Peg Charlton

**THANK YOU.** The 2009 year was a trying economic year for most. I can't say enough how much your improvement in the participation of your *shared ministry* means to so many. Thank you for your commitment and sacrifice towards this goal. Blessings to your congregation in the new year.

Jessica Vargo, Conference Treasurer

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Mindy and Scott Thomas  
March 1, 1986

Gay Lynne and Frank Christy  
March 12, 1983

Denny and Sue McCammon  
March 17, 1973

Robert and Joyce Tolerton  
March 19, 1986

Dan and Sheila Gard  
March 20, 1976

Robert and Mary Beth Hunter  
March 28, 1981

Boyd and Jean Webster  
March 29, 1957  
\*\*53 Years\*\*

Janet and John Fisher  
March 30, 1974

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

4 Brian Skidmore  
9 John Webster  
10 Brad Bolog  
12 Nickie Orwick  
14 Chris Martin  
17 Winifred Hickson  
17 Paul Whipple  
17 Pat Richmond  
18 Craig Post  
21 Michelle Fedor  
22 Scott Thomas  
22 Courtney Webster  
27 Lew Shields  
27 David Austin  
27 Steven Reisch  
28 Robert Locke  
29 Amanda Montgomery  
31 Wilbur Couchie

*The Chancel Bell Choir will be participating in  
the Copeland Oaks Palm Sunday Vesper  
Service, 7:00 p.m., March 28, 2010*

## LITURGISTS FOR MARCH

7	Haven Ackley (8:30)	Victor Lee (10:45)
14	Haven Ackley (8:30)	Keith Noble (10:45)
21	Haven Ackley (8:30)	Bill Sol (10:45)
28	Haven Ackley (8:30)	Diane Hisey (10:45)

**The district's leadership training event has been re-scheduled for Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.** Registration forms are available on the bulletin board near the church office. Same place: Church of the Lakes UMC and same time: 8:00 am - 12:15 pm.

## USHERS FOR MARCH

Jim Greiner, Captain

John Christian	Mike Greiner
Arnie Hirvela	Charlie Manypenny
Keith Noble	Bill Sol
Ward Tuttle	Dave Williams

## Early Service Ushers

Ed Ackley  
Steve Diser

**TELLERS FOR MARCH**

- 7 Diane Hisey and Mildred Hostetler
- 14 Jim Greiner and John Essick
- 21 Julie Greiner and Larry Pyers
- 28 Pat Helsel and Marilyn Ruff

**TELLERS FOR APRIL**

- 4 Jill Greiner and Donna Essick
- 11 Cindy Magda and Bruce Helsel
- 18 Diane Hisey and Bill Messenheimer
- 25 Nancy Sandifer and Mildred Hostetler

**VISITATION MEMBERS FOR MARCH**

- 7 Donald Ray Alton, 2350 Cherry Ave. #23 Care Center, Alliance, OH 44601-5022
- 14 Freda Jurs, 2040 McCrea St. #137A, Alliance, OH 44601-5999
- 21 George Custer, 2040 McCrea St. #144B, Alliance, OH 44601-5999
- 28 Corinne Ruby, 800 S. 15<sup>th</sup> St., #9186, Sebring, OH 44672-2050



**EASTER 2010 - LILIES FOR THE ALTAR**

As in years past we have beautified our church at Easter time by placing many lovely lilies in memory of and/or in honor of loved ones and friends. In order that you might have another option for your Easter Memorial there is the World Service Fund that you may prefer to give to, in lieu of a lily.

Orders for lilies to be placed in the church for Easter must be in by MARCH 28. The price of the lilies this year will be \$8.50. Orders may be placed in the offering plates or sent to the church office. NO ORDERS will be taken after MARCH 28. ALL ORDERS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED WITH THE MONEY AND ORDER FORM. Donors names and those to be memorialized or honored will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin, April 4, 2010.

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MY NAME (Given by)\_\_\_\_\_

- I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER A LILY FOR THE ALTAR AND WILL TAKE IT AFTER THE 10:45 A.M. EASTER MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE, APRIL 4.
- IN LIEU OF A LILY I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO THE WORLD SERVICE FUND.

THIS LILY OR DONATION IS IN MEMORY OF (Please print names)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

OR IN HONOR OF (Please print names)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT INCLUDED \$\_\_\_\_\_

