



# The United News

April 2010

*The United Church of Ovid*

Growing in God's Word ~ Living in Spiritual Unity ~  
Sharing Faith in Christ

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## Easter Week Schedule

**Palm Sunday**, March 28

9:15 am – Christian Life Classes – all ages

10:30 am – Worship Service

6 pm – Memory Meal Lenten Service

**Good Friday Service** – April 2 at 7 pm

**Easter Celebration** – Saturday, April 3

10:30 am – Easter Egg Hunt, crafts, storytelling & lunch

**Easter Sunday** – April 4

8am – Sunrise Service

8:30 am – Easter Breakfast

9:15 am – Christian Life Classes

10:30 am – Worship Service / no Jr. Church

**Invite a friend to share Easter with you !!**

# The Pastor's Piece...

from the  
desk of...

*Pastor Greg*

## "We Are an Easter People"

A recent poll done in February 2010 asked one thousand plus Americans about their understanding of Easter.<sup>1</sup> The results were telling. According to the poll, 42% of Americans said that Easter signifies Christ's death and return to life. Say what? That means 58% of them didn't get it. For that reason, please indulge your excited pastor for a moment...

### HELLO...EASTER IS ABOUT THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST!!!

This is it folks! The Easter story is our story! As Christ followers, we know that the cross stands empty and the stone has been rolled away. We know that death has been defeated and that the promise of resurrection is ours!

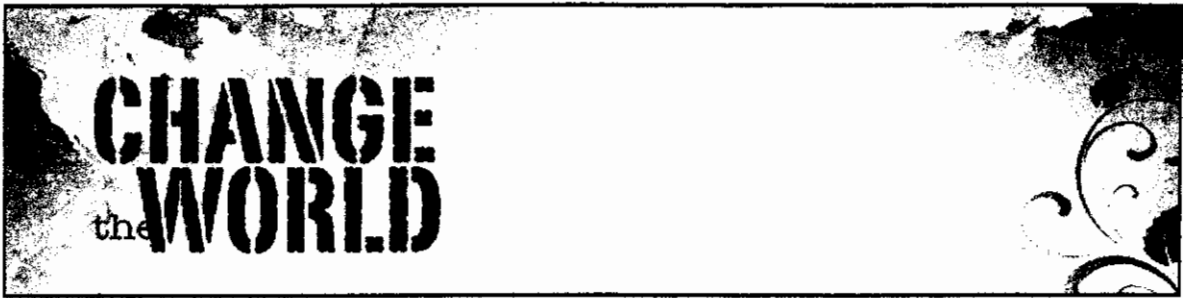
Put simply...Easter is our hope. Easter is our faith. Easter is our promise. We are an Easter people! But unfortunately, 58% of those around us have lost the Easter message in chocolate bunnies, spring breaks, or whatever.

We can do better. We must and will do better. 58% is far too many. Please invite your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and the people you might not even know to this life-changing and life-giving message to be told once more on Easter morning. We'll even feed them physically as well as spiritually! As an Easter people, we can do no less.

(To comment call 989-834-5958 or email: [pastorgreg@unitedchurchofovid.com](mailto:pastorgreg@unitedchurchofovid.com).)

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<sup>1</sup> [www.barna.org/barna-update/article/13-culture/356-most-americans-consider-easter-a-religious-holiday-but-fewer-correctly-identify-its-meaning](http://www.barna.org/barna-update/article/13-culture/356-most-americans-consider-easter-a-religious-holiday-but-fewer-correctly-identify-its-meaning)



**You are the body of Christ and parts of each other. 1 Corinthians 12:27 CEB**

## What if...

on one weekend all around the world, 11 million United Methodists came together to work in their local communities?

## What if...

we unite globally to fight a preventable, treatable disease that kills one child every 30 seconds?

## Would You Help?

April 24-25, 2010. Build community locally. Fight malaria globally.  
Change the world!

## How?

- 1 – On Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, voluntarily do something good for our community.
- 2 – On Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, tell what you did locally and bring an offering for Nothing But Nets to help internationally.

## That's it!



## ***WHAT DOES THAT BELIEF STATEMENT MEAN TO ME AND UNITED CHURCH?***

At the United Church of Ovid, we believe that the church who positively witnesses to others, in words and action, about their Christian faith and their Christian faith family, will be the church others will want to belong to.

Have you ever noticed how you are drawn to someone who displays a positive attitude about themselves, their friends and their circumstances? A positive attitude is attractive and is contagious!

We need to continually ask ourselves: are we being a positive witness for Christ with our mouth? Are we living as if we are His followers? Are we praying daily for our Pastor and our leaders and supporting them? Are we working as a Christian family to meet the needs of the community? When we are going about our daily lives, are we talking about the good things that are happening with our church and our church family? Does our church building reflect our love for Christ and His families?

Christ isn't looking for perfect people or a perfect building to carry on His work. He is looking for human beings to be witnesses for Him in a world that needs His love. He is the attraction!

Ask, if you just came to town, would you want to belong to the United Church of Ovid?

Submitted by Carol Bashore



**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH... CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**

**IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE...**

**A new water well is being built in...**

**Garin Shega, in southeast Niger**

...thanks to the 2009 "Advent Conspiracy" offering

"Through these wells thousands of lives will be saved from thirst and water-related diseases, and we will be supported in food security through dry season crop cultivation," says Mayor Ousmane Bawa, on the installation of wells in the community of Garin Shega, in the arid Zinder region of southeast Niger. "I want to express my gratitude for this project," adds Bawa, "because giving water is giving life."

The community of Garin Shega, with 2,563 inhabitants in 318 households, is taking part in a well-digging project, with the help of Church World Service and partner organization Nagarta. They are digging ten standard wells, as well as one deep well that will assure water through even the driest times of the year.

The people of Garin Shega are donating their labor to help install the wells. Committees have been created, in which the members are being trained in organizing and training work teams. Residents are also learning about natural resource management--including the benefits of planting trees and how to reduce soil degradation. In addition, several people will train as well diggers and will continue helping their own and neighboring communities into the future.

A similar project In Baourou, 10 wells to enable dry season cultivation were completed and more than 20 hectares (about 50 acres) were cultivated to produce vegetables.

# Easter Celebration

Ⓢ Saturday, APRIL 3 • 10:30-12:30 Ⓢ

Fun for KIDS of all ages!

Bible Time

Bean Bag Toss

Bowling

Craft Stations

Face Painting

Lunch Provided  
Hot dogs, chips,  
and desert.

Egg Hunt

FUN!

Please bring  
an Easter Basket  
or a container to  
collect eggs

GAMES!



• For extra fun color this invite •



**United** GROWING CLOSER TO WHO GOD WANTS US TO BE  
THE UNITED CHURCH OF OVID

989.834.5958

131 West Front Street • Ovid, MI 48866

[www.unitedchurchofovid.org](http://www.unitedchurchofovid.org)

Growing in God's word living in Spiritual unity sharing faith in Christ!

## Easter Celebration

### & Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 3

10:30 am -12:30 pm

This will be a fun filled – inspirational Celebration. There will be a variety of activities for kids including face painting, craft stations, games, Bible time, egg hunt and ending with lunch. Bring our own basket for the Egg Hunt and your cameras!! The adults will enjoy watching all of the kids find their eggs and the surprises inside them.

**If you would like to help donate candy to fill the eggs or help with expenses, please bring to the office before Sun, March 28. Questions, contact Jessi Ladiski at 834-9795.**

## Easter Lilies

If you would like to order an Easter Lily in memory or in honor of someone, please sign on the sheet on the sign-up center. Cost is \$14.

## Easter Greeting Cards

We have greeting cards with a picture of our beautiful sanctuary all in its Easter Glory. Plan on getting yours on the information center in the entrance. Please put your donation in an envelope marked "greeting cards" and place in offering plate or give to Sue in the office. Proceeds will go toward the building fund.

**"Joy is the flag you fly when the Prince of Peace is in your heart"**

-Wilfred Petterson

## Holy Humor Sunday

Sunday, April 18

Our order of worship is going to be done in reverse this Sunday (should be interesting). There will be no Children's Church so that the kids will be able to experience this crazy way of worshiping.

## Upcoming Church Meetings

Official Board -Tues, April 6, 7:30 pm

Finance Team - Tues, April 6, 6:30 pm

Pastor-Parish Mt.-Tue. April 20, 6:30 pm

Education Mt. – Thu, April 15. 18, 7 pm

Trustees Team–Tue, April 27, 6:30 pm



Following another long, tiresome sermon, the folks of Oakwood Church re-affirm the Doctrine of the Resurrection.



After church, an eight-year-old boy told his little brother: "I don't know all the Ten Commandments. The only ones I remember are 'settle down,' 'act your age,' and 'take that out of your mouth.'"





Can you believe that it is time to start planning for Vacation Bible School?

VBS will be held the week of

Monday, July 12 - Friday, July 16  
from 9 am – 12noon.

Galactic Blast is our program this year. At Galactic Blast Vacation Bible School, our cadets will voyage into outer space praising God. Through daily missions, your kids will see space like never before, gain a new perspective on our planet Earth, and learn easy "green" earth tips they can practice at home. This cosmic combination of faith and fun will have our cadets developing a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Jessi Ladiski at 834-9795 or Sue Casler in the office.

## **Christian Life Classes**

**A Tweens Christian Life Class is now available** for 4<sup>th</sup> graders – 8<sup>th</sup> grade Sundays at 9:15am with AnnMarie & Brenda Wiegel teaching. We will meet in the worship space for opening exercises and then go to the Upper Room above the kitchen for class.

**The Christian Life Class for pre-schoolers up to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade** meets in the basement on Sundays at 9:15 am.

## **Health Kits for Haiti**

**We have packed 104 Health Kits !!!**  
Thank you for all of your donations and help in packing these kits. It was wonderful to be able to send more kits than our goal.

## **UMC-UCC Updates**

Did you know that just about each week, updates from both our mother denominations is posted on our bulletin board here at the church? The updates include news, mission notes, events, and classifieds. You can also subscribe to these updates at [www.westmichiganconference.org/news\\_weekly.asp](http://www.westmichiganconference.org/news_weekly.asp) (for the UMC) or for the UCC email [conference@michucc.org](mailto:conference@michucc.org) asking to be put on the weekly email list. There's so much happening the larger church around us. Check 'em out today.

## **"Seasons of Grief"**

**Bereavement Support Group** – have started on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month at 3:30 pm. Johanna Workman (MAFS), from Heartland Hospice, a grief survivor, will be leading the ongoing classes. Please if you or a loved one or friend is in need of a healthy, safe place to find grief support, pass this along to them. For more information, contact Johanna at 1-888-670-7448.



# YOU CAN BE A LAY SPEAKER

- WHAT:** Basic Lay Speaking Ministry Class (required for Advanced Courses)  
Advanced Class – “Extending the Table”  
Advanced Class – “Lay Speaker Lead Youth”
- WHERE:** Salem United Methodist Church  
2307 West Maple Road  
St. Johns, MI 48879
- WHEN:** Saturdays, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>  
9:30 am – 3:00 pm
- HOW MUCH:** Each class is \$30 and it covers all materials.  
Scholarships from United Church of Ovid are available.
- HOW:** Registration forms are available on the UCO bulletin board.  
Pastor Greg’s and / or Janell Keebler’s signature needed.
- DEADLINE:** Everything needs to be in by April 9<sup>th</sup>. All classes have a 12 person limit and need 6 registrants by April 9<sup>th</sup> to happen.

## Hangin' Basket Flower Sale

It is true – it is time to start thinking about spring and all of the beautiful flowers. The 10" baskets are \$15 each. They will be filled with Million Bells (calibrachoa), Fuchsia, Ivy Geraniums, Non-stop Begonias and Wave petunias in a variety of colors. Contact the office to place an order by April 25. You will be given a voucher to pick up your hanging baskets the week of May 1 – May 7 from Delta Gardens on S. Hollister Road (Steve & Ruth Clarks Greenhouse). The proceeds will be going toward the projection system for our worship area.

## Summer means CAMP

As a lifelong camper, I believe that the camping experience offered by the West Michigan Conference is priceless. Unfortunately, that does not mean free. However, we here at the United Church of Ovid do so want our members to be involved that the church sponsors each camper at half of the camp fee (just contact me if you have questions). Please note that the grades listed are grades completed.

Being that some are unfamiliar with the camp experience, I thought that I'd give you a few suggestions:

Elementary Camp (some camps starting with Kindergarten)

- Crystal Springs: Kinds With A Purpose: Dive In! July 11-17

- Wesley Woods: W.O.W. – The Musical! August 15-21

Middle School Camp (grades 6-8)

- Wesley Woods: Radically Active Wonder – Where the Wild Things Are August 1-7
- Wesley Woods: Christians Hyped About Our Savior – Friend Request: Jesus August 8-14
- Lake Michigan: God Seekers: "Plugged In" to My Grace July 11-17

High School Camp (grades 9-12)

- Wesley Woods: Live Out Loud – Seeing Things Upside Down June 20-26
- Lake Michigan: High School Extreme Challenge: The Tabernacle of Faith June 27 – July 3
- Lake Louise: Radical Community: Dirt July 18-24

Big Kids Camp (College – Grave)

- Crystal Springs: You Are... May 28-31 (this one is just \$120!)

A full listing of all camps is available in the camp brochure found on the table at the entrance of the church. Also, feel free to visit the camp web page from [www.westmichiganconference.org](http://www.westmichiganconference.org).

## Camp Sunday Sunday, April 11

A special guest speaker will be speaking about camps and will be able to answer any question you may have. Plan on coming to worship service for this opportunity to learn more.

Our camp coordinator is Janell Kebler.

## Praise and Prayer List

Last Updated: March 24, 2010

**We give God praise for:** New births in Carrie Hier family / committed responses – able leaders / blessings / ongoing ministry of UMCOR / property purchases // wonderful memories of Joanne Wiegel who left us 3-22-09 to be with the Lord

**We pray for the health & healing of:** Karen Cook / strength fro Uncle of Jim McClelland / Pat Erickson / Ethel Mulder – heart problems / Norma Bates – seriously ill – sister-in-law of Janis Roy / Leona Carver // Mary Ann Mizga – home with 24 hour care / Randy Scott / Pentagon police officers // Cathy Hendericks – heart tests / family friend recuperating from open heart / Kirk Blizzard – health issues – friend of Joanne Decker / Gail Peters – cancer – friend of Lois Bracey

**We share our sympathy with the families of:** Gerry Price / Elmer Thornton / Frances Westbrook / Donna Riechman // Carl R. Moore –childhood friend of John Graham / Brian Geisenhaver / family of the Pentagon shooter / Shirley Watson – sister-in-law of Carol Watson / Verona June Goodall – cousin of Russ Westbrook / Robert Patarick / Wayne Kline

**We lift up our general requests of:** people of Haiti and Chili and all who in or serving in countries with natural disasters // our community as we make decisions around our school system / our school board and administration and teachers / our township and village over fire and ambulance facilities / those with house fires / traveling mercies / people that are shut in / couples who are having marital issues

Prayers on the three lists below will remain until we receive some update or request.

**We lift up those who are experiencing longer term healing and treatment:** Doris Darling – Alzheimer's / Alyce Bond – multiple health problems – sister of Carol Watson / James White – healing / Brad Behrens – stroke / Larry Howland – cancer / Arvilla Bunnell – strength and healing – aunt of Steve Clark / Clyde Gilbert –brother of Nancy Hehrer / Emily Ann Pruse – healing of ear / Sally Kioski / Jean Loznak – cancer / Connie Parmenter / Gary Wilkins – cancer / Louise Rees – Home from OHC / Chris Wilkins - cancer / Buddy Ilgenfritz - home / Mary Ann Wittenberg - cancer / Laurie Higgins- cancer / Kate Kelly / Joan Bracey - Alzheimer's / Katie & Faith Heinze – Niemann-Pick Dis.

**We lift up those who have served or are serving in our peacekeeping efforts worldwide:** Barry Hunt, Josh Wiegel, Pete Carpenter, Kevin Hehrer, Bret Fell, Kori Sheldon, James King, Greg White, Bob Wienry, Mike Kimmel, Nicholas Passmore, Doug Betts, Chris Sodman, William Piwowarski, John Westbrook, Keith Burba, Robert Allen, Ted Olson, Kurt Doten, Scott Meyers, Tony Wieber, Jason Spencer, Dallas Blooding, Jason Westbrook, Emily (Moore) Berlo, Al Berlo, Neil Hegle, Brian Moody, Arin Monahan, Jarred Luckhardt

**We remember those who are continually in our thoughts:** shut-ins / RAVE families / UMC & UCC leaders / Christian churches in our community & around the globe / local, state, national, world leaders / those affected by famine, disease, & persecution, nationally and internationally, because of natural and human-made disasters / those in our community who need a relationship with Jesus.

# April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 9:00am Maunday Thursday 12:30pm Sr. Luncheon	<b>2</b> 9:00am Good Friday 7:00pm Good Friday Service	<b>3</b> 10:30am Easter Celebration - egg hunt
<b>4</b> 7:00am Easter Sunday 8:00am Sunrise Service 8:45am Easter Breakfast 9:15am Christian Life Classes 10:30am Worship	<b>5</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>6</b> 9:00am Paint Class 10:00am OHC Service 12:30pm Sr Luncheon 6:30pm Finance Mt. 7:00pm BS Leader Mt. 7:30pm Official Board mt.	<b>7</b> 7:00pm Choir	<b>8</b> 12:30pm Sr. Luncheon	<b>9</b> 6:30pm Wedding Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 3:00pm Wedding- Becky Geisenhaver & Chris Vincent
<b>11</b> 9:15am Christian Life Classes 10:30am Worship	<b>12</b> 3:30pm United Kids 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>13</b> 9:00am Paint Class 12:30pm Sr Luncheon 3:30pm Seasons of Grief 6:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>14</b> 7:00pm Choir	<b>15</b> 12:30pm Sr. Luncheon 7:00pm Education Mt.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:00am 4th day mt. 9:00am Girl Scouts in Hall
<b>18</b> 9:15am Christian Life Classes 10:30am Worship	<b>19</b> 3:30pm United Kids 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>20</b> 9:00am Paint Class 12:30pm Sr Luncheon 6:30pm Pastor-Paish Mt.	<b>21</b> 7:00pm Choir	<b>22</b> 12:30pm Sr. Luncheon 6:00pm Wedding Counseling	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:00am Family Center in use
<b>25</b> 9:15am Christian Life Classes 10:30am Worship	<b>26</b> 3:30pm United Kids 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>27</b> 9:00am Paint Class 12:30pm Sr Luncheon 3:30pm Seasons of Grief 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Trustees Mt.	<b>28</b> 7:00pm Choir 8:00pm Music-Worship Mt.	<b>29</b> 12:30pm Sr. Luncheon	<b>30</b>	

## April Birthdays

Birth date	Name
04/01	Hansen, Jan
04/04	Reichert, Helen
04/05	Phillipson, Emma
04/06	Phillipson, Ricky
04/06	Applebee, Logan
04/08	Fry, Anna
04/08	Martin, Michele
04/09	Taylor, Pete
04/10	Graham, David
04/12	Strachota, Tom
04/15	Verellen, Victoria
04/16	George, Norma
04/17	Kast, Olivia
04/18	Sandbrook, Rachelle
04/18	Davis, Katelynn
04/19	Anderson, Adam
04/19	Parsons, Talan
04/21	Geisenhaver, Greg
04/21	Cerny, Scott
04/21	Hebeler, Carter
04/22	Parmenter, Marge
04/22	Stevens, Kaitlyn
04/23	Sandbrook, Lauren
04/23	Graham, Madeleine
04/24	Trowbridge, Lena
04/24	Martin, Larry
04/26	Givens, Richard
04/27	Powell, Ella
04/28	Martin, Mariel
04/30	Case, Sandy

## April Wedding Anniversaries

- 4-13 Larry & Carol Bashore
- 4-20 Dave & Kay Stilwell
- 4-21 Rick & Evelyn Bush

If you have any additions or deletions please contact the church office.

## April Worship

**Friday, April 2 – Good Friday**

*“The SHAPE of the Cross”*

**Sunday, April 4 - Easter**

*“Being SHAPed by the Empty Tomb”*

**Sunday, April 11 Camp Sunday**

*Special guest Seminarian John Baker-Streevy*

**Sunday, April 18 Holy Humor Sunday**

*“Doing it All Backwards”*

**Sunday, April 25**

**Change the World Sunday**

*“Changing the World”*

## Community Missions

### Personal Care Products

United Church of Ovid

Monday - Friday 9am-12noon

### Food Banks

Elsie American Legion Hall

Monday & Wednesday 8am-9am

Ovid Mt. Hope Church 834-0222

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday from 7:30-8:30 pm

### Caring Kitchen

Church of the Living word

A great meal is served free every 3<sup>rd</sup>

Tuesday from 5:30 – 7:30 pm

### Baby Pantry

Elsie United Methodist Church

Located at 150 E. Main St., Elsie

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays 11am - 5pm