



# The United News

January 2010

*The United Church of Ovid*

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

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**"Happy New Year"**



**Sunday, January 3**

Chris Robinson will be speaking. Join us for this special Sunday when we have the privilege to hear from one of our communities outstanding high school students. What a great way to start the new year!!



## The Pastor's Piece...

*from the desk of...*

*Pastor Greg*

### **The Kiddos Know**

It's been a couple of weeks now, but I'm still excited, thankful, blessed, and proud of our Children's Christmas Program. First, for the first time in a long time, I was able to be just a parent. Instead of running around dealing with the last minute items, I sat with my wife in a pew and prepared to watch our kiddos along with over twenty others as they were a part of our United Church Christmas program. For that reason alone, it was a ministry to me and my family, but it was definitely more.

Just as a reminder, the kiddos sang that "A Little Means a Lot" and that "God's Done Bigger Things." They challenged us to "Leave a Mark" by continuing the "Legacy of Love" started in that first manger scene. They reminded us that a "Little Bit of Stuff" can do wonders when mixed with a "Recipe of Love." But most importantly, the kiddos were able to get us into "Christmas Groove." To be honest, I can't get these songs out of my head and I'm glad for it.

The prophet Isaiah wrote, there will come a day when, "...a little child shall lead them." (Isaiah 11:6)

Could it be that our children know more about the real meaning of Christmas? Could it be that maybe they know more about faith and community? Could it be that their heart, their passion, their joy will lead the United Church of Ovid into something greater for the Great Cause of sharing the Great Message with those at home and abroad? After that Sunday night, I know so! I say, "Let the children lead!"

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

# ***WHAT DOES THAT BELIEF STATEMENT MEAN?***

Starting in February 2010 newsletter, we're going to be looking at our belief statements and see what they mean to us as a congregation. I'm going to be asking our Official Board to give their input, and I'll be asking you to do the same.

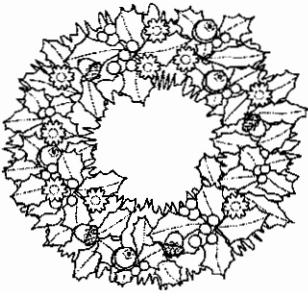
As you've read the nine statements, is there one that really speaks to you? If so, tell us about it! Is there one that you kind of struggle with? Tell us about it. Do you think we need a tenth? Then tell us about it. This page will be reserved for that discussion.

In the meantime, take a look at them once more. May God help us to become the church we believe God is calling us to be!

## **At the United Church of Ovid, we believe...**

- 1 - That the church who loves God and loves one another will be the church that shows unconditional love in faith, family, and community.
- 2 - That the church who prays together, worships together, studies together, serves together, and plays together, will be a church that stays together.
- 3 - That the church who believes, studies, and lives by God's Word, will be the church that offers opportunities to study God's Word for all ages and levels of believers.
- 4 - 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.
- 5 - That the church who reaches out to their community in mission will be the church who has the heart to assist "the least of these" whether near or far.
- 6 - That the church who cooperates with other churches, whenever possible, will be the church who benefits from shared resources, shared vision, and shared calling.
- 7 - That the church who believes that everyone has a Spiritual gift however large or small it be will be the church that fosters and encourages the use of these gifts.
- 8 - That the church who puts more emphasis on what unites than what divides is the church that seeks to embrace and apply God's lessons of love, forgiveness, grace and peace toward all.
- 9 - That the church who believes that God is not done with them yet, will be the church that God can still use.

## Thank You from the Buchner family...



“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. For those who live in a land of deep shadows—light—sunbursts of light! For a child has been born—for us—the gift of a son—for us!”

Isaiah 9:2-7 (Msg)

Dear UCO Friends and Family,

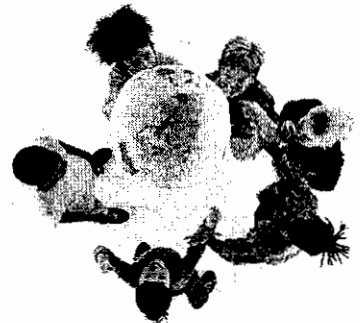
As a family, we want to thank you for the multitude of gifts including your support of the well project. While we enjoy the food and time together as family, we will remember what a blessing it is to be serving Christ in this place. May God bless you and yours in this coming New Year.

*Pastor Greg, AnnMarie, Jamie, and Matthew*

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## U N I T E D K I D S ...

...is meeting weekly on Mondays from 3:30 to 5 pm in the basement of United Church starting up again on January 4<sup>th</sup>! There's fun for everyone between the ages of 4 years old through the 8th grade, who are welcome to bring a friend and join us! The program includes a healthy snack, games & activities, singing, dancing, puppets, and skits. They will even share their talents periodically during our worship services.



This is a wonderful opportunity for your children to experience Christian love in a fun, creative and encouraging environment. If you have any questions or would like to assist, please contact Erica Cook at 517-202-2522 or email at [ericaecook@yahoo.com](mailto:ericaecook@yahoo.com) or Jessi Ladiski at 834-9795 or email at [jsladiski@verizon.net](mailto:jsladiski@verizon.net).

	Children's Church	Nursery	Bread-Welcome Ministry
Leah, Ben, Janelle	Erica Cook, Jessi Ladiski	Linda Lupu	Russ Westbrook
	Renee Denison, Michele Moore	Rosemary Baese	Shelley Shimunec
	Linda Lupu, AnnMarie Buchner	Becky Dahlke	Russ Westbrook
	Sue Casler, Tara Ritter	Janell Kebler	Shelley Shimunec
	Ruth Clark	Sarah McClung	Russ Westbrook
Sarah, Saige, Michael		Michelle Martin	Shelley Shimunec
		Ellen Veale	Russ Westbrook
		Jessi Ladiski	Shelley Shimunec
		Amy Fowler	Russ Westbrook
Assie, Janelle, Leah		Sarah McClung	Shelley Shimunec
		Ben Cook	Russ Westbrook
		Sherry Kast	Shelley Shimunec
		Michelle Martin	Russ Westbrook
		Kathy Bracey	Carol Bashore
		Denise Dennison	Shelley Shimunec
		Stacie Ralison	Russ Westbrook
		Rosemary Baese	Carol Bashore
		Sarah McClung	Shelley Shimunec
		Linda Lupu	Russ Westbrook
		Rosemary Baese	Carol Bashore
		Becky Dahlke	Shelley Shimunec
		Janell Kebler	Russ Westbrook

place, please contact the office.  
You !

### Christmas Love Gift Thank You !!

Thank you my church family for the Christmas love gift. It was greatly appreciated. May God Bless you in the New Year. Dee Ritter

Thank you for the 'Love Gift' at Christmas time. I enjoy bringing you my gift of music thru out the year. I pray that 2010 brings you new hope. Love in Christ, Carrie Hier

Thank you to our church family for the Christmas gift, it is appreciated very much. May 2010 be physically and spiritually healthy for each and everyone of you and may the Christ of Christmas be in your hearts all year long.

Bud & Willann Casler

Thank you for all of the love and grace that you show me throughout the year. I am truly blessed to have the job that I have. God Bless. Sue Casler

We Thank Those Who Serve - Sundays January 2010					
		Lay		Sunday	
		Reader	Greeters	Fellowship	Acolyte
January	3	Janell Kebler	Denney & Carolyn Long	Renee & Jody Denison	Melanie,
	10	Linda Lupu			Cassie
	17	Ruth Clark			Michael
	24	Gwen Kelley			Lauren
	31	Sue Casler			Meghan
February	7	Kirk Baese			Jacqleen
	14	Bruce Wiegel			Ben
	21	Dave Hunt			Janelle
	28	Ruth Clark			Melanie
March	7	Gwen Kelley			Lauren, C
	14	Leah Lupu			Jacqleen
	21	Dave Hunt			Saige
	28	Don Herrington			Meghan
April	4	Carol Bashore			
	11	Lois Bracey			
	18	Kirk Baese			
	25	Bruce Wiegel			
May	2	Janell Kebler			
	9	Linda Lupu			
	16	Ruth Clark			
	23	Gwen Kelley			
	30	Sue Casler			

If you would like to serve some  
Thank

## Acolyte Fund

Our special Acolyte Fund is running low. This fund is used every year to present a \$300 Award to our graduating acolytes that have served for 2 years or more. We have \$142 and 2 acolytes that will be graduating. The United Women have voted to match total donations that is given to this fund from the congregation up to \$300. Lets keep this Award going in memory of Don Thayer who started it.

## Thank You!!

Thank you all for your concerns, calls, prayers and speedy recovery. Your thoughtfulness is so greatly appreciated. The church family is dear to me. Your presence in my life has certainly been helpful for many years. I love each and everyone of you.

Love in Christ. Lena Trowbridge.

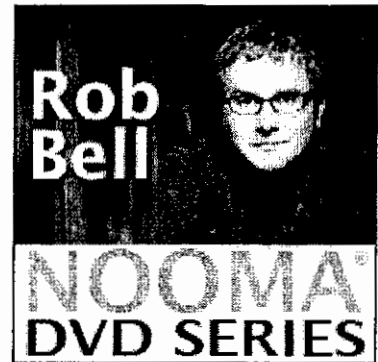
Thank you to the United Women for my prayer quilt. I like it because it is pieced and so soft. It will keep me warm this winter. God Blessings, Calista Reed

## ADULT CHRISTIAN LIFE CLASS – SUNDAYS - 9:15 AM

*Jump in any time – each class is independent of the others.*

Jesus lived with the awareness that God is doing something, right here, right now, and anybody can be a part of it. Wherever he went, whatever he did, Jesus started discussions about what matters most, because for Jesus, God is always inviting us to open our eyes and join in. NOOMA is a series of short films that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus. NOOMA is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion.

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

HHHHHHEEEEEELLLLLLPPPPPP!!!!!!!!!!!! ☺

### Nursery Care

The 2010 Nursery Schedules are in your mailbox in the Library. If you would like to help as a stand-in or have any other questions, please contact Rosemary Baese at 834-2841.

### Greeters and Coffee Hour Hosts

There are plenty of opportunities for you to be involved in both of these necessary areas. Please sign up at the sign-up table and contact the church office if you have any questions. (Would you like to help coordinate this important ministry? Please contact the church office if interested.)

### Care Calls Ministry

Imagine...living alone, having no one to talk with or to check on your well-being. The homebound right here in our community faces this situation every day. One phone call each week and when a situation arises could make a big difference. The Village of Ovid has asked us to consider starting such a ministry. Interested? Please see Pastor Greg.

### Children's Ministries

What we prayed for has happened! Our children's ministry has been revived and is growing! But, that growth will stop if we don't have the volunteers we need. If God is tugging on your heart to help in Sunday School, Children's Church, Upper Room Supervision, United Kids, etc., contact Ruth Clark today (834-1157 or 517-204-7289).



## ***Hot Topics Continue***

### **Is the world ending in December 21, 2012? The Mayan Calendar Debate**

This month's topic is the end times and specifically 2012 and the Mayan calendar debate that still has a life of its own even though the movie has completely bombed at the box office. Like the multitude of "end of the world" predictions, this one is getting far too much hype. The movie's premise is that since the Mayan calendar stops at December 21, 2012, the world will stop on that day as well...oh really...let's take a closer look at the facts.

#1 - God doesn't need our calendar or the Mayan calendar. He has is own calendar. God does not need our calendars to determine when the second coming of Christ will be and He definitely won't look toward ancient civilizations that have long since vanished from the earth to make His decision. And not even Jesus, when he walked this earth, could answer the when question. (Reread Matthew's 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> chapters.)

#2 - The Mayan calendar will just roll over. The Mayans designed their calendar as a "long count" calendar. It operates much like the odometer on a car. Yes, on 12/21/2012 it will reach 100,000, but like many of the cars I've owned, it will just roll over and keep going. And since when do "lost civilizations" hold some mystical knowledge. Their culture ceased in the first century because it didn't work...period.

#3 - We need to follow the money. The hype around the calendar didn't happen until this movie came out. Bottom line...the movie company sponsoring this movie was the original source for the Mayan calendar debate. Things that make me say, "Hmmm...."

#4 - Only God knows and we're OK with that. As Christians, we believe that God determines when Jesus will come again and change the world. Notice I didn't say "end" the world. Revelations is clear that there will be a "new heaven and a new earth...all the former things will pass away..." This is will a great time for those who believe and a struggle for those who don't. Therefore, our mission remains the same, "Go and make disciples..." while "loving God and loving one another" by God's grace.

In fact, let me make my own prediction. Come Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, if the Bishop still has me here and the Lord hasn't taken me or us up already, I will be happy to tell you what a complete farce this whole Mayan Calendar prediction is! Relax. God is still in control and His plan is perfect and His love for us is in tact. No matter what the date on the calendar, whatever calendar you might use, we can trust He has everything all together. He always has...He always will.

***Next month: Sexual and Domestic Abuse***

## Praise and Prayer List

**We give God praise for:** A wonderful Christmas Eve celebration / Howard Bryant who celebrated his 103 birthday on Christmas Day,

**We pray for the health & healing of:** Joe Denison – cancer – brother of Jody Denison / Bob Senison father / Becky Geisenhaver – high blood pressure // Katie Grim – rare pregnancy difficulty – sister-in-law to Erica Cook / Arvilla Bunnell – surgery – Aunt of Steve Clark / Kenneth Mead – terminal throat cancer – friend of Gene Ward / Steve Rudat – hospital / Sheldon Parker – prostate surger – brother of Lois Bracey / had mass removed – niece of Lena Trowbridge

**We share our sympathy with the families of:** Tracey Bossel / Joe Courter / 53 yr old who ran into the back of a semi

**We lift up our general requests of:** traveling mercies / people that are shut in \ People having a hard time during the Christmas season / Brighton Hospital rehab / Ovid Town Hall meeting / travel mercies / Dr. Huff and Dr. Park – legal situations continue / local fire and ambulance facilitates / couples who are having marital issues / Local government / state and national government

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:** Sally Kioski – hospitalized / Jean Loznak – cancer / Norma George – recovering from back surgery / Connie Parmenter – cancer of esophagus / Gary Wilkins – cancer / Louise Rees – Home from OHC / Chris Wilkins - cancer / Buddy Ilgenfritz - home / Clyde Gilbert - Health issues / Mary Ann Wittenberg - cancer / Laurie Higgins- cancer / Kate Kelly / Sharon Lawrence - breast cancer / Joan Bracey - Alzheimer's / Katie & Faith Heinze – Niemann-Pick Disease

**We lift up those who have served or are serving in our peacekeeping efforts worldwide:** 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

# January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 11:00am Hall in use
<b>3</b> 9:15am Christian Life Classes 10:30am Worship	<b>4</b> 3:30pm United Kids 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>5</b> 9:00am Paint Class 9:30am OHC Service 12:30pm Sr Luncheon 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Finance Mt. 7:30pm Official Board Mt.	<b>6</b> 7:00pm Choir	<b>7</b> 12:30pm Sr. Luncheon 7:00pm Emmaus Mt.	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:15am Christian Life Classes 10:30am Worship 1:00pm Hall in use	<b>11</b> 3:30pm United Kids 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>12</b> 9:00am Paint Class 12:30pm Sr Luncheon 3:30pm Seasons of Grief 6:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>13</b> 7:00pm Choir	<b>14</b> 12:30pm Sr. Luncheon	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 1:00pm Hall in use
<b>17</b> 9:15am Christian Life Classes 10:30am Worship	<b>18</b> 3:30pm United Kids 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>19</b> 9:00am Paint Class 12:30pm Sr Luncheon 6:30pm Pastor-Parish Mt	<b>20</b> 7:00pm Choir	<b>21</b> 12:30pm Sr. Luncheon 7:00pm Education Mt.	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:15am Christian Life Classes 10:30am Worship 6:00pm Leadership Mt.	<b>25</b> 3:30pm United Kids 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>26</b> 9:00am Paint Class 12:30pm Sr Luncheon 3:30pm Seasons of Grief 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Trustees	<b>27</b> 7:00pm Choir 8:00pm Music-worship Mt.	<b>28</b> 12:30pm Sr. Luncheon 7:00pm Emmaus	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9:15am Christian Life Classes 10:30am Worship						

## January Birthdays

Birth date	Name
01/01	DePond, Dave
01/01	Lupu, Dan
01/03	Parmenter, Victoria
01/03	McPherson, Donovan
01/04	Vanderhoof, Barb
01/05	Richardson, Kai
01/06	O'Bryant, Dee
01/06	Baese, Rosemary
01/07	Sandbrook, Tom
01/10	Ladiski, Jim
01/10	Dahlke, Becky
01/10	Kirschensteiner, Avery
01/12	Sinclair, Dave
01/13	Hunt, Julie
01/14	Paksi, Ron
01/15	Bancroft, Audrey
01/18	Cook, Matt
01/20	Huntoon, Fred
01/22	Clark, Steve
01/23	O'Bryant, Ashley
01/23	Kast, Sherri
01/23	Foerch, Erik
01/25	Strachota, Gerald
01/25	Darling, Doris
01/25	Vanderhoof, Ed
01/25	Kelley, Melva
01/25	Carman, Brad
01/27	Taylor, Nathan
01/28	Hunt, Irene
01/31	Pierce, Brittany

## January Wedding Anniversaries:

7-Greg & AnnMarie Buchner

14-Dick & Julie Hunt

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

## January Worship

**Sunday, January 3**

Chris Robinson will be speaking

**Sunday, January 10**

Remembering Our Baptism Sunday

401 Graduate Sunday

*"Three Questions Worth Contemplating"*

**Sunday, January 17**

*"Ten Prayers God Always Says Yes To"*

## Upcoming Church Meetings

Official Board - Tues, Jan. 5, 7:30 pm

Finance Team - Tues, Jan. 5, 6:30 pm

Pastor-Parish Mt. - Tue, Jan. 19, 6:30 pm

Education Mt. - Thu, Jan. 21, 7 pm

Trustees Team - Sun, Jan. 26, 6:30 pm

## 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

Wed 12noon - 4pm - by appointment only

### 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