

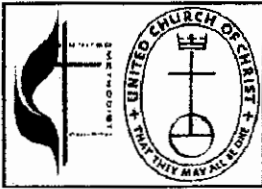


The United News

May 2010

The United Church of Ovid

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



Special Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, May 16, 2010
Following the worship service.

The Time of Fellowship will be in the Library so after worship grab your drink & snack and join us back in the Worship Space.

Everyone is invited to this special congregational meeting, where members will have the right to speak and vote and all others will have the right to speak. This meeting is being called in order to approve or disapprove a parking lot project. Look for more information within this newsletter.



The Pastor's Piece...

from the
desk of...

Pastor Greg

"Moving Too Fast?"

I believe that God answers prayer! I know it to be true because just recently US127 is now 65 mph between St. Johns and Ithaca. Prayer asked for...prayer answered! ☺

But yet, as I drove at the new "posted" speed, there were parts of that highway that seemed even too fast for me. At the Hitching Post or Uncle John's, for example, I just needed to cruise a little slower.

So it goes with things around UCO here of late. I have heard the voices who are asking, "Are we moving too fast on this?" and I want you to know that we need your voice of concern as we celebrate, conversate (a new word!), and deliberate around our future facility. There will be times in this process where we'll need to cruise a little bit slower and I'm ok with that.

But we can't forget the rest of the highway where we are free to run without obstacle. As I noted in the April 9th letter, for many years, we have prayed for a way to better reach our community. For many years, we have searched for God's understanding and direction around that "house on the corner." For even the last two years, I've heard, "someone just needs to do something." Someone has. But more importantly, God has too. The question remains what will be our response.

Bottom line...I have come to appreciate, respect, and even enjoy the process we have of discernment. I have come to appreciate the faith of our official board and the church it represents. I look forward to the discussions we're going to have leading up to May 16th. Things may be moving a little faster, but we are still in this together! Praise God for answered prayer!

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

“Seasons of Grief”

Free Bereavement Support Group

This group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 3:30 pm here at UCO. Johanna Workman (MAFS), from Heartland Hospice, a grief survivor, will be leading the ongoing classes. If you or a loved one or friend is in need of a healthy, safe place to find grief support, this is the place! Feel free to pass this along to others and to contact Johanna at 1-888-670-7448 for more information.

HHHEEELLPP!!!! ☺

We God Needs You

As our ministry expands at UCO, more servants are needed. They aren't necessarily volunteers, but servants because God has placed it on their heart to serve Him. Where has God shaped you for ministry? If you need help in finding that, set up an appointment with Pastor Greg through the church office.

Greeters and Coffee Hour Hosts

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 ongoing ministry? Please contact the church office.

Upper Room Helpers

Each Sunday we have a group of kids that like to use our Upper Room which is why it's there! To make it safer, we'd like to have supervisors up there if possible with the kiddos. If you're willing to watch the kids for a Sunday see the sign-up sheet at the Front Street entrance.

Tech Table Director

We need someone here each week to be sure everything runs smoothly on our next tech table. If you have a servant's heart, a drive for quality worship, and the God-given skills needed. Please send a letter of interest indicating those traits to UCO-Tech Table, PO Box 106, Ovid, MI 48866. This is a volunteer position that will become a paid position in time. Please send your letter ASAP.

Tech Personnel

As we transition into our new system, we need volunteers! So, we are putting together a rotating list of those who are interested in working the sound for our Sunday worship experiences. Training will be provided. See the sign-up sheet at the Front Street entrance.

Children's Ministries

What we prayed for has happened! Our children's ministry has been revived and is growing! If God is tugging on your heart to help in Sunday School, Children's Church, United Kids, VBS, nursery, etc., contact Ruth today (834-1157 or 517-204-7289) or the church office.

Supporters Always Appreciated

We often overlook that many of our ministries only happen to their fullest with you. When you choose to attend, support, and pray for our UCO ministries, they will grow and make a difference in your life, in the lives of those around you, and around the world.

For those who have supported, thank you. For those who haven't, this is your invitation. We can do it better together!

Summer means **CAMP**

from **Janell Keebler**
Camp Coordinator

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: Kids With A Purpose:

Dive In! July 11-17

Wesley Woods: W.O.W. – The Musical!

August 15-21

Middle School Camps (grades 6-8)

Wesley Woods: Radically Active Wonder-

Where the Wild Things Are Aug. 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 Camps (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.

Upcoming Church Meetings

Official Board - Tues, May 4, 7:30 pm

Finance Team - Tues, May 4, 6:30 pm

Special Annual Business Meeting –

May 16th - following worship.

Pastor-Parish Mt. – Tue, May 18, 6:30 pm

Education Mt. – Thu, May 20, 18, 7 pm

Trustees Team – Tue, May 25, 6:30 pm

Made in Michigan

There is an awesome website that you can order ‘Made in Michigan’ products. Go to: MadeinMichigan.com to check it out.

Christian Life Classes

It takes more than just an hour on Sundays!

Sundays –

9:15 am – Opening in the worship area

After opening...

- LIVE B.I.G. (through third grade in basement)

- TWEEN / YOUTH – (4th through youth in upper room)

- ADULT STUDY (youth through adults in basement adult classroom)

- WORSHIP – CHOIR PRACTICE (worship area)

VBS News



Monday, July 12 - Friday, July 16
from 9 am – 12noon.
Sunday July 18th – VBS Sunday

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

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.

VBS Supplies List

A list will be posted on the education bulletin board at the end of the hallway by the kitchen. This will be updated with new items regularly – so keep checking it out. If you have any science or outer space items that could be used for VBS, please contact the office.

People-Help Needed Also

We need your help!!! If you are interested team leading or being a helper or whatever (☺) please contact Jessi Ladiski (834-9795) or Sue in the office.

Canoe Trip

Friday, August 13

We will be canoeing down the beautiful AuSable river in Grayling. We will have a picnic at 11 am and canoeing begins at 12pm for our 4 hour trip. The cost of renting a canoe or kayak is \$24. Please sign up at the Front St. entrance if you plan on joining us. Any question, call Denise Dennison at 723-7192.

Hanging 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 Rd. (Steve & Ruth Clarks Greenhouse). The proceeds will be going toward the parking lot..

Acolyte Invitational

This Sunday, April 25

After the worship service

Any youth 6th through 12th grade interested in serving Christ through His Light, come and learn what it means to be an acolyte! Join us right after worship service in the Library and meet the other acolytes. We'll talk about what it means to be an acolyte and what an acolyte does. The meeting will last about an hour and light snacks are provided. Hope to see you there. Any questions contact Sue Graham.

Graduation Sunday

On Sunday, May 16 we will be recognizing all of those who are graduating from High School or College this year. There will be a breakfast that everyone is invited to attend at 9:30 am honoring the graduate and their families. Please sign up at the sign-up station for breakfast so we know how much to prepare.

During worship each graduate will be given the opportunity to tell us his or her future plans, as we will pray and honor them.

If you know of someone that will be graduating, please contact the office.

Lugnut Ball Game

The annual outing to the Lansing Lugnuts Ballgame will be Friday, July 30th, 7:05 pm. Tickets are \$10 and we've ordered 100 tickets! Before you faint, let me tell you why.

The Official Board voted to invite the OM Emergency Service families to be our guests. This is our way of expressing appreciation for all they do for the community.

So, if you'd like to be there, we need your reservation. Folks can call the church office or sign-up at the Front St. entrance.

If you can't be there, but would like to support our gratitude to our Emergency Service families, please mark your giving "Lugnut Outreach."

We've set the bar high, but we know that when it comes to family, fun, and fellowship, UCO can do anything! Enjoy a ballgame and enjoy supporting those who serve our family and community.

2010 Lansing National Kidney Foundation Walk

On Sunday, June 13th a group from Ovid will be participating in the walk at Lansing's own Potter Park Zoo. Registration starts at noon and the walk begins at 1:30pm. If you are interested in walking or donating, please contact Alene Ward or Janell Kebler. We are walking because the National Kidney Foundation was so helpful with Dad's kidney dialysis and we are thankful to them for all of the research funding that they do.

The walk is at the Zoo, which means that those participating receive free admission after the walk is over. There is also an automatic prize of a t-shirt for anyone raising over \$100 for their team.

Everyone is Invited

There will be a party for Rev. Bill Dobbs on May 16th from 3 pm – 5pm at the New Life UM Church on 6584 M-46 in Six Lakes, MI. Rev. Bill will be leaving his present position with the conference in July. If you would like to attend his party, call 989-352-7788.

Missionary Luncheon

Elsie United Methodist Church

Wednesday, May 5 @ 12noon

Speakers will be Howard Williams & friends from St. Johns Pilgrim Church in St. Johns. These gentlemen were in Haiti at the time the earthquake hit and they will be sharing their experience through audio and visual means. There will be a free-will offering for Haiti. RSVP by April 28 to Kathy Peters at 862-4481.



"Faith can move mountains'? —
That's actually a little *disturbing*."

"Moving Mountains"

Parking Lot Update

from Pastor Greg

Well, here is your parking lot project update.

The History – Many of you receiving this newsletter also received a letter that went out on April 9th that detailed some of the background that led us up to this point. (If you would like a copy of that letter, please contact the church office.) Basically, we've been praying for "something to happen" and God provided the opportunity!

Regarding the house – Basically, at this point, the house on the corner of Clinton and Gratiot has been dropped and the site leveled. The official board has authorized the finance committee to pay the Dennison's back for the property and their efforts so that the property will eventually belong to the Untied Church of Ovid.

Regarding the parking lot – The official board has called a "Special Annual Business Meeting" for Sunday, May 16, 2010 following our worship service. This special congregational meeting, where members will have the right to speak and vote and all others will have the right to speak, is being called in order to approve or disprove a parking lot project which we have concluded may cost up to \$70,000.

Where's the funding coming from – As noted in the letter, a generous person has offered to loan the church \$100,000 for the completion of the parking lot project. Please note that this is a loan that will need to be paid off with interest. The trustee and finance teams are already at work and final numbers will be available at the May 16th meeting.

For more information – As always, everyone is invited to join the meetings leading up to May 16th including the official board meeting on Tuesday, May 4 at 7:30 pm. Please direct any questions you may have through the church office, and we'll try to give you the best answers that are available.

Bottom line, moving mountains is a serious, but rewarding business. If you're willing, we can do it together! (See Matthew 21:20-22.)



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

At the United Church of Ovid, we believe that the church who reaches out to their community in mission will be the church which has the heart to assist “the least of these” whether near or far.

I believe it means that I am asked to share what I have with others. I am not asked just for financial means of sharing because when I look at myself and my life I see I have been blessed in so many ways. Sometimes prayer leads me to sharing my time, sometimes I share through the prayers themselves as a link in the prayer chain, and so on.

For our church I believe it means that we are the community, one in the same, and that by reaching out through love to our neighbors near and far, we understand that giving is receiving and that by helping others we are helping ourselves. It is an exercise, a stretching of our hearts, to show compassion and love through missions toward others.

The Bible has many examples of how we are asked to reach out such as the scripture where Paul quotes a saying from Jesus “...It is more blessed to give than to receive.”(Acts 20:35); and when Jesus taught us using the parable of the Good Samaritan “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39)

Reaching out to others as a church family without expectation of recognition or getting something in return heals our hearts and minds.

Praise and Prayer List

Last Updated: April 20, 2010

We give God praise for: Good neighbors / Chris & Becky (Geisenhaver) Vincent marriage / wonderful Easter Celebration / committed responses – able leaders / blessings / ongoing ministry of UMCOR / property purchases and future plans for parking lot

We pray for the health & healing of: JoAnn Gilbert – hospitalized - sister-in-law of Nancy Hehrer / Richard Mead – test / Gerald Pulver – hospital – uncle of Alene Ward / Ann Lupu – hospitalized – mother of Dan Lupu / Ralph Hornbeck – home-recovering / David Green – recovering from heart surgery // Karen Cook – breast cancer – mother of Ben Cook / Carol Lee Blangsted – bone cancer / Leona Karber – severe pain / veterans who suffer from PTSD (pain that slowly destroys) / Pastor Bob Prange - health / Julie Richardson – serious hip problems – daughter of Russ & Sally Kioski / Kai Richardson – feet problems – grandson of Russ & Sally Kioski / Roy Wilson – Alzheimer's / Hans Schmidt – health issues / Pastor Becky Morrison – surgery // Jerry Davis –home recovering / Andrea Bashore – testing- grandson of Larry & Carol Bashore / Frank & Gerry Winkler / Tim Bolton – Throat cancer – Brother-in-law of Kirk Baese / Lewis Crall – back surgery- father of Debbie Conklin

We share our sympathy with the families of: Debbie Phillips / family of miners / Pete House // Ruby Dunham

We lift up our general requests of: stressed out college students / people of Haiti, China 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: Mary Ann Mizga – at Hazel Finley / Margo Martin – health / 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.

May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:15am Christian Life Classes 10:30am Worship	3 3:30pm United Kids 7:00pm Boy Scouts	4 9:00am Library in use 9:00am Paint Class 10:00am OHC Serive 12:30pm Sr Luncheon 6:30pm Finance Mt. 7:00pm BS Leaders Mt. 7:30pm Official Board Mt.	5 7:00pm Choir	6 12:30pm Sr. Luncheon	7	8
9 9:15am Christian Life Classes 10:30am Worship	10 3:30pm United Kids 7:00pm Boy Scouts	11 9:00am Paint Class 12:30pm Sr Luncheon 3:30pm Seasons of Grief 5:00pm Family Center in Hall 6:00pm Girl Scouts	12 7:00pm Choir	13 12:30pm Sr. Luncheon 6:00pm Wedding Counseling	14 4:00pm Girl Scouts	15
16 9:15am Christian Life Classes 9:30am Graduation Breakfast 10:30am Worship 11:30am Annual Congregational Meeting 1:00pm Family Center in use	17 3:30pm United Kids 7:00pm Boy Scouts	18 9:00am Paint Class 12:30pm Sr Luncheon 12:30pm Lenten Mt. 6:30pm Paster-Parish Mt.	19 7:00pm Choir	20 12:30pm Sr. Luncheon 7:00pm Education Mt.	21	22 11:00am Family Center in use
23 9:15am Christian Life Classes 10:30am Worship 1:00pm Family Center in use	24 3:30pm United Kids 7:00pm Boy Scouts	25 9:00am Paint Class 12:30pm Sr Luncheon 3:30pm Seasons of Grief 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Trustees Mt	26 7:00pm Choir 8:00pm Music-Worship Mt.	27 12:30pm Sr. Luncheon 6:00pm Wedding Counseling	28	29
30 9:15am Christian Life Classes 10:30am Worship	31 9:00am Memorial Day - Office Closed					

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

May Birthdays

Birth date	Name
05/01	Martin, Greg
05/03	Bashore, Carol
05/04	Martin, Cal
05/06	Parker, Opal
05/06	Ladd, Jenna
05/06	Taylor, Bryon
05/07	Crosslan, Dale
05/07	Givens, Lynn
05/07	Wesenberg, Ariel
05/08	Farver, Maxwell
05/10	Bracey, Elizabeth
05/10	Orweller, Hannah
05/14	Perry, Randy
05/15	Casler, Willann
05/15	Barton, Eva
05/15	Davis, Kasondra
05/15	Davis, Amy
05/16	Taylor, Cassie
05/16	Bracey, Brian
05/16	Hunt, Loren
05/17	Cook, Pam
05/18	Dennison, Denise
05/19	Meredith, Jerry
05/19	Mills, Barb
05/20	Astle, Sawyer
05/21	Zemla, William
05/21	Taylor, Chloe
05/21	Barrett, Gunnar
05/23	Batora, Karen
05/25	Stevens, Carol
05/25	Ward, Gene
05/27	Swanson, Elaine
05/28	Paksi, Connie
05/28	Todosciuk, Jordynn
05/29	Kioski, Sally
05/31	Wrather, Joan
05/31	Chadwick, Cari

May Wedding Anniversaries

5-4	Chad & Cathy Wilkins
5-5	Tom & Jackie Sandbrook
5-14	Clarence & Lena Trowbridge
5-15	Don & Michele Moore
5-17	Ron & Connie Paksi
5-31	Aaron & Sarah McClung

May Worship



“Acting on Acts” Series

Being the Church We Started to Be

Sunday, May 2

“Ascension and an Upper Room”

Acts 1:1-14

Sunday, May 9 - Mother’s Day

“Mother Lydia” - Acts 16:6-15

Sunday, May 16 – Graduation Sunday

“Unknown Gods” - Acts 17:16-34

Sunday, May 23 - Scouting Sunday

“Pentecost” - Acts 2:1-21

Sunday, May 30 -- Memorial Weekend

“One Named Publius” Acts 28:1-10

Community Missions

Personal Care Products

United Church of Ovid

Monday - Friday 9am-12noon

Food Banks

Elsie American Legion Hall

Monday & Wednesday 8am-9am

Elsie Free Produce (Amer. Leg. Hall)

1st Tuesday & 3rd Thurs. each month, 8am

Ovid Mt. Hope Church 834-0222

1st & 3rd Wednesday from 7:30-8:30 pm

Caring Kitchen

Church of the Living Word

A great meal is served free every 3rd Tuesday from 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Baby Pantry

Located at 150 E. Main St., Elsie

2nd & 4th Tuesdays 11am - 5pm