



Steeple Views for

“Sharing the “Good News”

OTSEGO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

223 E. Allegan St., PO Box 443

Otsego MI 49078

“Straight Steeple Talk”



2012

February is traditionally a month when we think about mushy stuff like love and our sweethearts and Valentine's Day. Much of the month of February will be dedicated to the theme of Love, especially God's Love for us. John 3:16 says, "God loved the world so much, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." God has set the example of love and how it is to be demonstrated. The Motto of our Church reads that the Otsego United Methodist Church is "A Place Where Jesus' **Love** is Lived." Let us, who make up the Otsego United Methodist Church, be people who live in Jesus' love and demonstrate that love to others.

Let me also mention one way of demonstrating your love to others in our Church. We have many senior citizens who are homebound during the month of February because of the snow and ice. I don't expect the senior citizens of our Church to risk battling the snow and ice to get to Church on Sundays during the winter. However, I want our senior citizens to know that they are loved and appreciated. During the cold and snowy month of February, give one or more of the senior citizens of our Church a call and let them know you are thinking of them. Let me also add that Sharon Doelker, who heads our ministry to seniors, is amazing in how many of the seniors she is able to visit and contact. If you don't know a senior citizen to call, seek out Sharon and she will give you some suggestions. With our quality Audio/Visual System, we can make DVD's of our Church Services that can be shared with the seniors while you visit them. Let's demonstrate our love to the senior citizens of our Church by keeping in touch with them throughout the winter.

Love In Christ,

Pastor Joe

Pastor Joe Shaler – 269-806-9087

otsegoumc@aol.com – Pastor Joe

bgotsegoumc@sbcglobal.net – Barb

WWW.otsegounitedmethodistchurch.com

Office phone – 269-694-2939

Fax number – 269-694-5730

Office Hours: Mon: 9:00 – 2:00 p.m. (Trish)

Tues: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Barb)

Wed: & Thus. – 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Barb)

Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Elaine)

Sunday Morning Worship:

Early Worship – 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 9:15 a.m.

Announcements – 10:50 a.m.

Second Worship – 11:00 a.m.

Fellowship Time after 11:00 a.m. service

(childcare is provided for Infants – 5

In Room #2 downstairs)



PASTOR JOE'S FEBRUARY THANK YOU'S

My first Thank You goes to my Valentine, TERRI, for all she does for the Church and for the Community. Terri is currently leading a women's Bible Study on Sunday Nights. Every Tuesday Morning, she leads a woman's devotion and prayer breakfast. Her ministry at Christian Neighbors keeps her busy helping people in need throughout our community. Often, the work of the Church takes me away from her in the evenings and on the weekends. I thank her for her love, her patience, and her faithfulness and commitment to Christ, to her family, and to the Church. TERRI, I love you.

My second Thank You for this month goes to June Stull and Sharon Doelker. Throughout the year, June & Sharon faithfully visit the Senior Citizens of our Church. They keep up with those who are homebound, in care centers, and in nursing homes. They bake and take goodies, making them the most popular people, by far, with our Senior Citizens. They make my job, as Pastor, so much easier by taking a good portion of the Church visitation ministry on their shoulders. June & Sharon deserve special thanks for how they demonstrate God's love to the senior citizens of our Church by keeping in touch with them.



*February Thank You's
from our Church family*

Pastor Joe, UMW, and our congregation: Thank you so much for all the praying, phone calls, emails and cards you have done for my family. We are saddened by the sudden death of my mother in law Alice Creech. She was such a role model and I will follow by her example. Thank you again, God Bless! Andrea, Matt & Alyssa Creech



*Dear Pastor Joe and Otsego UMC: This is just a note of thanks for the wonderful job you did with the hosting to the District Christmas party. Everybody had a good time. Your hospitality was radical, the food was goood and the program was great. Everybody laughed with Mardy and I sitting on Santa's lap. To God be the glory. Thank you, thank you, thank you!
Rev. Neil Davis, D.S.*



Dear Pastor Joe, We want to thank you so much for your support of Mom during her stay at the nursing home while she was dealing with her loss of independence. She really enjoyed your visits and prayers with her. The funeral service was wonderful and very much like Mom. We have heard many comments from people who thought it was very comforting. Thank you for providing such personal care for the service and for our family. You are truly appreciated!!

Richard & Terri Story, Linda & Dene Hadden, Kathy & Dave Stratton



Dear Church Family, Your unfoiling friendships and care for Mom have been amazing. Your cards and visits meant so much to her, keeping her involved in the church happenings. We really appreciate all your cards, flowers and memorials for our family in our loss of our mother. We are truly blessed to be a part of this loving church family. The family of Lois Story



As I have looked at the financial records and summary of the Otsego United Methodist Church for the past year, 2011, I feel I need to send this **THANK YOU** note out to each person for their faithful financial support of our Church. A Christian Leader named John Maxwell has stated (based on the Bible Verses from Proverb 29:18), "Where there is no vision, the people perish, but without adequate resources, the vision perishes." The Faithful Giving of the people of the Otsego United Methodist Church has enabled our Church to live out our Vision of being a Church where "Jesus' Love Is Lived." Our Church continues to see growth, as people give their lives to Jesus and live their lives for Jesus. Our Worship and Discipleship are led by gifted people faithfully proclaiming the Word of God, while being enhanced with state of the art technology. This has led to wonderful love and unity among the people of our Church. Of course, we have faithfully supported God's Work throughout the world, as we have paid our Ministry Shares to our United Methodist Denomination. Some of the 2011 highlights that our Church accomplished, along with the things sited above include: 1) providing 25-30 scholarships for Children and Youth to attend Camp; 2) providing Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets to families in need throughout our community; 3) providing over \$2000 to people in need through benevolence giving; 4) supporting our Community Food Pantry and Helping Agency, "Christian Neighbors," with over \$3000 in support; 5) repaving of our parking lot and adding extra lighting; 6) purchasing new pew cushions in our Church Sanctuary; 7) continuing our stained glass window refurbishing project; 8) adding a beautiful wooden cabinet for storage in east wing of our Church Sanctuary; 9) remodeling our downstairs kitchen area. A summary of our 2012 budget is as follows:

Congregational Care \$1200
Discipleship \$4330
Evangelism \$600
Fellowship \$1500
Ministry Shares \$24,482
Missions \$5400
Administration \$11,588
Staff Support \$115,130
Trustees \$71,370
Worship \$2850
Youth Ministry \$4100
Total Church Budget \$242,550

Let me also say a special thank you to those who work so hard on our Church Finance Team. They include our Finance Team Leader, Cyndi Trobeck, our Church Treasurer, Craig Childress, our Financial Secretary, Tracy Farnsworth, our Stewardship Leader, Donna Church, and our Stewardship Secretary, Trish Dugan.

Love IN Christ, Pastor Joe Shaler

Lenten Offering to Support “Christian Neighbors”

During the Season of Lent, leading up to Easter, people tend to focus on sacrifices they can make. One way that our Church is involved in sacrificing during this time, is through the yearly Lenten Offering that we take up to support our local Community Food Pantry and Helping Agency, “Christian Neighbors.” “Christian Neighbors” and its director, TERRI SHALER, do an incredible service to help people in need in our community. Because Terri is the Pastor’s wife, our Church has reason to be a leader in this community in its support of “Christian Neighbors.” As our Church takes up this special offering to support the work of “Christian Neighbors,” please give sacrificially, using the Lenten Offering Envelope provided in your program at Church.

Donating to “Christian Neighbors”

Many in our Church are faithful givers to "Christians Neighbors," our community food pantry and helping agency. Your gifts are appreciated, especially by Terri Shaler, the Director of “Christian Neighbors” and Pastor Joe's wife.

Below is an explanation of options for how one may donate to “Christian Neighbors:”

If you donate through our Church, designating your money to “Christian Neighbors,” that money is placed in our Church budget to offset our Church's yearly commitment to “Christian Neighbors.” This past year, that yearly commitment was \$3,000. Of course, you are entitled to a charitable donation on your taxes and your donation will be included on the year end giving statement you get from the Church. This is how your Lenten Offering Envelope to “Christian Neighbors” is handled.

If you donate directly to “Christian Neighbors,” you will receive a “Thank You” note and you will be sent a receipt for tax purposes. “Christian Neighbors” mailing address is P. O. Box 53, Plainwell, MI, 49080. Their building is located at 282 12th Street in Plainwell.

Again, thank you for your faithful giving to this wonderful ministry that helps so many throughout our community.



In February Christian Neighbors will be dovetailing their monthly donation requests with our Scouts' effort of collecting soups in their annual "Souper Bowl" drive effort. More details will be forthcoming as they promote this effort during February. Also, don't forget the Soup Supper's for the month of February as follows:

Feb. 8th – Hope Lutheran Church/Calvary Community @ Hope Lutheran (5-7 p.m.)

Feb. 22nd – First Baptist Church of Otsego (5-7 p.m.)



From Your Parish Nurses

February is Heart Month. This information about heart attacks can be found at www.heart.org.

Some heart attacks are sudden and intense, where no one doubts what's happening. But most heart attacks start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. Often people affected aren't sure what's wrong and wait too long before getting help.

Here are signs that can mean a heart attack is happening:

1. **Chest discomfort.** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.
2. **Discomfort in other areas of the upper body.** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
3. **Shortness of breath** with or without chest discomfort.
4. **Other signs** may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

As with men, women's most common heart attack symptom is **chest pain or discomfort**. But women are somewhat more likely than men to experience some of the other common symptoms, particularly **shortness of breath, nausea/vomiting, and back or jaw pain**.

Learn the signs, but remember this: Even if you're not sure it's a heart attack, have it checked out (tell a doctor about your symptoms). Minutes matter! Fast action can save lives — maybe your own. Don't wait more than five minutes to call 9-1-1 or your emergency response number. Calling 9-1-1 is almost always the fastest way to get lifesaving treatment. Emergency medical services (EMS) staff can begin treatment when they arrive — up to an hour sooner than if someone gets to the hospital by car. EMS staffs are also trained to revive someone whose heart has stopped. Patients with chest pain who arrive by ambulance usually receive faster treatment at the hospital, too. It is best to call EMS for rapid transport to the emergency room.

Half of all people having a heart attack wait more than two hours before getting help. Some people feel it would be embarrassing to have a "false alarm." Others are so afraid of having a heart attack that they tell themselves they aren't having one. These feelings are easy to understand, but they're also very dangerous. If you or someone close to you shows signs of a heart attack, call 9-1-1 and get help right away!

Ways to avoid a heart attack include:

- Don't smoke, and avoid other people's tobacco smoke.
- Treat high blood pressure if you have it.
- Eat foods that are low in saturated fat, *trans* fat, cholesterol and salt.
- Be physically active.
- Keep your weight under control.
- Get regular medical check-ups.
- Take medicine as prescribed.
- Control your blood sugar if you have diabetes.



February Birthdays

- 01 Mary Washburn
- 01 Bill Holmes
- 02 Jenna Gower
- 03 Paul Colyer
- 03 Rachel Fogg
- 04 Seth Dugan
- 05 Lloyd Snyder
- 05 Lillian Wiersma
- 07 Donna Church
- 07 Dene Hendricks
- 09 Morgan Greening
- 10 Wilda Adams
- 10 Roberta Berkel
- 11 Brinn Carroll
- 11 Debbie Rysenga
- 12 Ryan Jubenville
- 13 Owen Grile
- 13 Shirley Melton
- 15 Zach Radcliffe
- 17 Roger Burleigh
- 17 Marcia Cornell
- 17 Tyler Jubenville
- 18 Kathy Borgman
- 20 Devin Hicks
- 21 Bill Himes
- 21 Sharon Petrich
- 21 Craig Sisson
- 22 Lisa Eldred
- 23 Marc Burd
- 23 Larry Keefer
- 25 Dustin Mitchell
- 25 Rick Robbins
- 25 Kylee Uramkin
- 27 Denise Allen
- 28 Mathew Mathis
- 28 Tom Matthews



Would you enjoy a ministry working with our Youth at the OUMC? Matt Mills has devoted much of his free time to this ministry and is unable to continue beginning in the 2012/13 school year. If you would like this position you would be working with not only our great teens of the church, but with the other leaders Charlie Hunt, Jena Jacobs & Cindy Jubenville. If you are interested or have questions please call Pastor Joe at 806-9087 or the church office at 694-2939.



for February

- 05 Beth Doerr/Zana Williams
- 12 Alycia Pratt/Angie Uramkin
- 19 Brandi Meyer/Gail Pickett
- 26 Diane Norris/Tina Amos/Karie Loubert



February Fellowship Time

- 05 Fred & Deb Kiel/
Lou & Cathi Deschaine
- 12 Len & Kathy Borgman/
Dennis & Sandra Massingill
- 19 OPEN
- 26 Dave & Louise Hubbard/
Iris & Jay Spencer



Welcome! February Greeters

- 05 Dennis & Sandra Massingill
- 12 Chuck & Cheryl Buchino
- 19 The Forbes family
- 26 Kim, Dean & Reese Olrich



February Anniversaries

- 01 Lewis & Denise Siegel
- 09 Tom & Jerrie Matthews
- 11 Chuck & Naomi Barton
- 17 Ken & Sherry Schumaker
- 22 Jim & Sue Cornell
- 22 Charles & Barb Davis
- 25 Karl & Amie Hardesty



Once again this year our ambitious Boy Scouts, Sam Jacobs, Gabe Mills and Ethan McDonald, are in a friendly competition with the girls of Brownie troop 80150 from the OUMC. The boys will be attempting to bring in 500 canned goods while the girls are attempting to bring in 500 BOXES. All of this hard work will benefit not only themselves but the Christian Neighbors program. They will start on Boy Scout Sun., Feb. 5th, and end on Girl Scout Sun., March 11th. They then will celebrate with a pizza party for all the kids.



Once again our Youth are planning their Youth Mission trip for 2012. Following are the details:

2012 Youth Mission Trip to The Pittsburgh Project

8th-12th grade youth are eligible to go

June 24-30th.

\$50 non-refundable deposit due by March 1st with the total cost of trip at \$360 plus travel expenses.

There will be fundraisers to help with this cost.

If you are interested in going or have any questions please call Jeff Farnsworth (271-1208) or Tracy Farnsworth (217-0915) for more information.

Also, our youth have the following events planned for February:

Senior High – Feb. 16th – Casting Crown Concert at Van Andel in Grand Rapids.

February 26th – Youth Sunday for both Sr. & Jr. High Youth.



Valentine's Banquet

Our Yearly Valentine's Banquet will be happening this year on Sunday Evening, February 19, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Player's Grill (the old Fireside Inn), 1290 W. M-89, Plainwell, MI. Chuck & Tera Kinnane, along with Todd & Anna Starr will be hosting and hostessing this year's event. The cost for this event is \$20 per person and it will include a first class meal, a rousing program of entertainment

organized by the Kinnane's and the Starr's, and others surprises that you will have to see to believe. Come experience the new location and new excitement this event will offer. A sign-up sheet will be located on the bulletin board in the main hallway at Church. Please sign up in advance and pay your \$20 directly to Chuck or Tera Kinnane. We are looking forward to seeing you on Sunday Evening, February 19, at 5:30 p.m. at the Player's Grill in Plainwell. Our slogan is "This Valentine's Day, I'm A Player."

P.S. On Sunday Morning, February 12 (the Sunday prior to Valentine's Day and the week prior to the Valentine's Banquet) Rev. Dan Minor (the father of Anna Starr) will be teaming with Anna in presenting the Sunday Morning Sermon and Church Service on the theme of love and promoting attendance at the Valentine's Banquet.



Valentine Tea
Saturday, February 11 2012
1:00p.m. - 3:00p.m.

The United Methodist Women are hosting a Women At Risk (WAR) jewelry party. All are welcomed and please bring all of your friends. Come and hear/see a brief DVD of how this wonderful organization has helped thousands of girls/women out of slavery worldwide by creating circles of protection. Over 800,000 people are trafficked illegally across borders each year worldwide. WAR International's passion is to provide safe places to turn crises into stories of hope. Each purchase literally lifts a woman or child to safety! Hundreds of items will be available at this event for you to see, purchase and take home with you; which were produced by the rescued women from their safe houses.

All products are made in a fair-trade environment. 90% of all proceeds goes directly back to the women and their programs; 10% is used to cover WAR International costs.

Items that will be available are handcrafted from pearls and semi-precious stones, scarves, PJ's, books, purses, hand-woven baskets, Thai silk, Uganda magazine bead jewelry and many other items.

Please join us for this very special Valentine Tea to bring help and hope to thousands.

Blessings,

The United Methodist Woman and their mission effort

Matthew 13:45 & 46

***The Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant searching for a Pearl of Great Price.
When he discovered it, he sold everything to own it.***



Mission trip project

The mission team going to Midwest Mission Distribution Center would like to take with them 20 layette kits for distribution around the globe. Many women do not have swaddling clothes with which to welcome their child into the world. Layette kits provide basic supplies for their baby's needs. Each kit includes the following items:

- 6 cloth diapers, 2 shirts or one-piece body suits, 2 baby washcloths, 2 gowns or sleepers, 2 diaper pins and 2 receiving blankets.
- We already have 20 baby sweaters that will be added to the kits.
- All items must be new. Only items on the list can be included in the kits. Additional or extra items, though given with good intentions, render the kit unusable and must be removed.

Members of the congregation can contribute all or parts of these kits in a receptacle under the coat racks near the office.

Last year, Midwest distributed 721 layette kits. In addition, they sent out 58, 119 health kits, 5,452 cleaning buckets, 9,624 school kits, 662 sewing kits, 83 birthing kits, 22,109 Haiti school bags, 110 Haiti teacher school bags and 130 school desks.

We never know where we will be involved when we go to Midwest, we just know that the work we do will benefit someone in need somewhere in the world. We will be among nearly 2,000 volunteers from 21 different states and representing 360 churches who volunteer more than 30,000 hours of service during the year. We add just a small part to this total, but it always feels like time well spent. There is still time to be added to the mission team going to Midwest from April 18-21. See Donna Church for additional information.

Look for a Taco Bar this spring with the proceeds to help support this mission trip.







Thank you!

A great big thank you to everyone who helped with or contributed to our apple dumpling project in 2011. Our total sales from apple dumplings were \$7,533.45. I especially want to thank those who extended extra effort in September when I was away and to those who provided lunch under the leadership of Joyce Gilliland. It was much appreciated. Also thank you to those who brought coffee break treats for everyone. All this help lightened the load and made the job much easier. And didn't we have a good time working and fellowshiping at each of the bakes!

Donna Church
Project Coordinator



February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Girl Scouts – lower Fellowship Hall	2. 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study	3.	4. 12-5:00 p.m. Upper Fellowship Hall in use
5. 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. – Worship 10:50 a.m. – Announce's 11:00 a.m. - Worship 12:00 p.m. – Fellowship Time 6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study – U.F.H.	6. 4:00 p.m. TOPS	7. 7:30 a.m. B.Y.H. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. – Bell practice 7:30 p.m. – Classic Choir practice	8. 5-7 p.m. Soup supper @ Hope Lutheran – for Christian Neighbors 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Girl Scouts – lower Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m. Finance Team meeting – Library	9. 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study	10. Middle School Valentine Party – Upper Fellowship Hall	11. 1 – 3:00 p.m. Upper Fellowship Hall in use – <i>Women At Risk Tea</i>
12. 9:15 – Sun. School 9:30 a.m. – Worship 10:50 a.m. – Announce's 11:00 a.m. – Worship 12:00 p.m. – Fellowship Time 6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study – U.F.H.	13. 4:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Mission Team meeting – Upper Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m. Trustees meeting - Library	14. 7:30 a.m. B.Y.H. 4:30 -6 p.m. – T.K.D. 6:30 p.m. – Bell practice 7:30 p.m. – Classic Choir practice 	15. 6:15 – 7:30 p.m. – 4H Club – Lower F.H. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Girl Scouts – lower Fellowship Hall 7:00 P.M. – Leadership Team meeting – Library	16. 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17.	18.
19. 9:15 – Sun. School 9:30 a.m. – Worship 10:50 a.m. – Announce's 11:00 a.m. – Worship – 12:00 p.m. – Fellowship Time 5:30 p.m. Valentine's Party	20. 4:00 p.m. TOPS  PRESIDENTS DAY	21. 7:30 a.m. B.Y.H. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. – Bell practice 7:30 p.m. – Classic Choir practice	22. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Girl Scouts – lower Fellowship Hall 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. C. N. Soup Supper @ 1 ST Baptist - Otsego 	23. 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study	24.  EAG Day	25. Upper Fellowship Hall in use all day
26. 1 st Sun. of Lent 9:15 – Sun. School 9:30 a.m. – Worship 10:50 a.m. – Announce's 11:00 a.m. – Worship – 12:00 p.m. – Fellowship Time - YOUTH SUNDAY	27. 4:00 p.m. TOPS	28. 7:30 a.m. B.Y.H. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. – Bell practice 7:30 p.m. – Classic Choir practice	29. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Girl Scouts – lower Fellowship Hall			

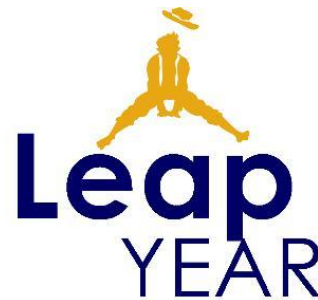
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February



February 2012						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

OTSEGO UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

“Where Jesus Love Is Lived”