



# Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

*A church that is growing, praying, and serving to make disciples of Jesus Christ*

## The Otterbein Encourager

April 2014

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### Pastor's Chat

Pastor Nicholas Gleason

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well and blessed. This month we will enter the season of Lent together. This is the season for each of us to concentrate on the holiness of our heart. Holiness was a central concept in the life and teaching of John Wesley, the founder of our Methodist tradition. Wesley believed and practiced that loving God with all of the heart was the foundation for all other Christian living. Wesley built this foundation off the Scripture call for us to be holy, such as this one Peter offers us in his first letter.

*"As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'"(1 Peter 1:14-16)*

I want to invite you to commit yourself to this call this season of Lent. To help you concentrate on being holy, I am passing on some reflection questions from the United Methodist RETHINK Church devotional. There is one reflection question for each week of the season of Lent. I encourage you to spend the time digging into these questions. Ask God for help in understanding your answers. And take the steps to shape yourself to respond more holy in this life you have been given.

### MARCH

5<sup>th</sup>: What are the basic needs in your community? How might you participate in meeting those needs?

9<sup>th</sup>: What are those temptations that rule you and make you turn away from those in need? In poverty, disease and hunger.

16<sup>th</sup>: God is calling you. But to where? And to what?

23<sup>rd</sup>: Where are you encountering Jesus in the unlikeliest places?

30<sup>th</sup>: What is good and right and true?

## APRIL

6<sup>th</sup>: Where do you see the need for a breath of restoration and resurrection?

13<sup>th</sup>: How can common folk with uncommon courage oppose exclusionary Practices and stand together?

17<sup>th</sup>: Who is in need of Christ's love and care this week?

18<sup>th</sup>: How do the choices Jesus made show us how to make such choices ourselves? What are the empires we are called to stand up to?

20<sup>th</sup>: What is it you need to see with new eyes?

Shalom,

*Nicholas*



# Lay Leader's Line

Butch Hackett

In Genesis chapter 22, God told Abraham to take his son Isaac to the region of Moriah and sacrifice him there. It was at least a three day journey for Abraham, but he went and as he was preparing to stab Isaac on the sacrificial alter, God intervened and spared Isaac. In the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter of 1 Kings, Elijah tells a widow to get him some water and some bread. The widow tells Elijah, that she was gathering sticks to prepare one last meal before her and her son would die because they had no food or resources left. But she goes and prepares a small cake of bread for Elijah. God intervened and the widow never wanted for flour and oil again. In Luke 21, Jesus sees a widow give two small copper coins and says that the widow has put more in the treasury than others together. Scriptures do not tell us if the widow received any worldly blessings from Godly intervention, but "I'm sure the reward waiting for her in Heaven was infinite. Consider the following scenarios:

- A fellow church member is moving and you say, "If you need any help, let me know." As you leave, you think "Boy, I hope they don't call."
- You get an unexpected windfall of say \$1000 and you know you should give at least \$100 to the church, but there is a new big screen TV that you've been wanting and it's on sale. You would have just enough if you kept the \$100. You go ahead and give the check to the church, but in the back of your mind you resent it.
- You have often been complemented for your organizational skills and you enjoy organizing parties, events and conferences. You are asked to take charge of Vacation Bible School and you decline because you cherish your free time too much.

The earthly blessings that were bestowed on Abraham and the widow with Elijah as well as the heartfelt words that Jesus spoke about the widow and her offering was the result of the act not the gift! The strength is in the **offering**! What we have to offer God is insignificant. How we offer it is what He wants. God's work will go on without our tithes, time and talents. He doesn't need them. He wants willing participants who will love Him with their whole hearts, minds and should. The unconditional love of the grace He gives us is what He wants from us. He wants us to give unconditionally in return, whether it's giving to Him or to each other. Love should permeate all we do.

In His Grip,

Butch



**THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:**

**Giving is the  
thermometer of our love**

# Intentional Faith



## Family Night

Something for EVERYONE!!


Bring YOUR whole family!

Wednesday Evenings

6:00-6:30 pm Meal & Fellowship

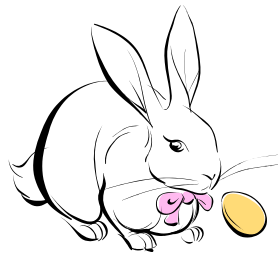
6:30-7:30pm Small Groups

(All Ages)



## Women's Bible Study

Tuesday Mornings at 9:00am  
w/ Sandy Smallhorn



## SUNDAY SCHOOL (Sundays at 10:30am)

Sunday School classes available for all ages—Everyone is

### Preschool Class

(Age 3-Kindergarten)

Meet in Noah's Ark Room  
w/ Sandy Smallhorn

### Elementary Class

(1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade)

Meet in Garden Room  
w/ Jane Cox

### M.S./H.S. Class

(6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)

Meet in Blue Room  
w/ Sean Hackett



### Adult Class #1 (Believers)

Meet in Gold Classroom  
w/ Butch Hackett

### Adult Class #2

Meet in Café Agape Room  
w/ Jim & Carolyn Craig



Please stay and share with us in Fellowship Time

each Sunday following the worship service

(even if you do not plan to stay for Sunday School).

This is a wonderful time to reconnect with your church family ☺



Let us continue to remember our shut-in and homebound members.  
Please remember them in your prayers and feel free to visit or send a card ☺

### Francis Adkins

Odd Fellow Rebekah Home  
201 Lafayette E  
Mattoon, IL 61938  
*Birthday: 5/25*

### Joan Hutton

Hilltop Conv. Center  
910 W. Polk Rm. 209  
Charleston, IL 61920  
*Birthday: 4/21*

### Fern Pearcy

Odd Fellow Rebekah Home  
201 Lafayette E  
Mattoon, IL 61938  
*Birthday: 6/12*

### Raymond Plath

Brookstone Estates  
314 Lincoln Hwy. Rd  
Charleston, IL 61920  
*Birthday: 3/10*

### Eleanor Rice

Heartland Christian Village  
101 Trowbridge Rd  
Neoga, IL 62447  
*Birthday: 2/9*

### Tom Watson

2200 Madison Ave.  
Charleston, IL 61920  
*Birthday: 8/10*

## 2014 Worship Leaders

Please check the website for a current list of Worship Leaders for 2014. These include Greeters, Acolytes, Ushers, Family Cross and Children's Moment Leaders. We appreciate your involvement in our weekly worship service.

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

### Please Note!

If you need to reach  
Pastor Nicholas:

Cell Phone: (740) 513-6199  
Home Phone: (217) 345-2046



### Family Night

We could still use your help in providing supplies for Wednesday Family Nights.  
Here's how you can help...

- Donate canned fruits, cake/brownie mixes, frosting, peanut butter & jelly, salad dressings, pudding cups, Rice Krispies & marshmallows, Apple Juice or Lemonade Mix (*Place them on the "Family Night Supplies" shelves in the room across from the kitchen*);
- Donate \$\$ for paper & plastic supplies & teaching resources. Cash in an envelope, or a check marked "Family Night", can be placed in the offering plate.





# Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together...



## Newspapers

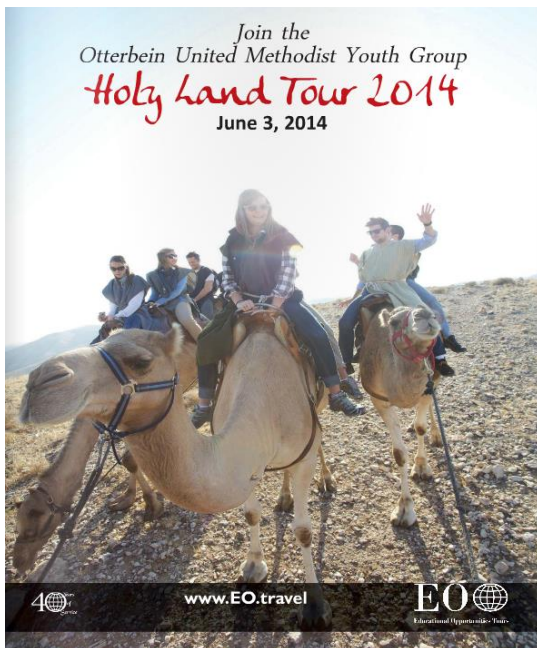
Betty Potts would like to thank everyone who has brought newspapers for her. She really appreciates it, and she could always use more if you have extras 😊



## Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter (*May 2014*) will be printed and distributed around the end of April. The deadline to submit articles or information in the May newsletter will be

**Thursday, April 17.** Please contact Michelle Price or email the church office if you have information to include.



## Summer 2014 Youth Trip

The youth and young adults have begun planning for the Summer 2014 Mission Trip. They will be going to the Holy Land in Israel.

Please remember them in your prayers as the preparation & fundraising begins! Please also pray for their hearts to be ready for this amazing and life-changing experience.

The first fundraising event has already begun. The "Money Wall" can be found in the hallway. Take an envelope & fill it with the amount of money listed on the front of the envelope. Please return the envelope in the offering plate on Sunday morning.

# But Let Us Encourage One Another (Hebrews 10:25)

# FINANCE REPORT

Please note the following figures and reports provided by the Finance Team.

## LOOSE PLATE/TITHE

	<u>Amt Received</u>	<u>Amt Needed</u>	<u>Over/(Short)</u>
2/23	\$ 1,479.50	\$ 2,011.00	(\$ 531.50)
3/02	\$ 1,690.00	\$ 2,011.00	(\$ 321.00)
3/09	\$ 2,946.00	\$ 2,011.00	\$ 935.00
3/16	\$ 1,141.00	\$ 2,011.00	(\$ 870.00)
3/23	\$ 1,809.01	\$ 2,011.00	(\$ 201.99)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 9,065.51</b>	<b>\$ 12,066.00</b>	<b>(\$ 989.49)</b>



Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!

--Malachi 3:10 (NLT)



## MONTHLY EXPENSES

### PAID BY LOOSE PLATE/TITHE

Ameren CIPS (Church)	\$ 450.00
City of Charleston (Water Dept)	\$ 12.00
Conf. Group Health Ins. (Pastor)	\$ 1,525.00
Consolidated Comm. (Church)	\$ 92.00
IGRC Missions	\$ 1,053.00
IGRC Pension (Pastor)	\$ 836.00
Childress Mowing	\$ 160.00
Janitor/Secretary Wages	\$ 535.00
Maintenance Supplies	\$ 50.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 40.00
Nicholas Gleason	\$ 3,084.00
Nicholas Gleason TV/Hse. Phone	\$ 120.00
Payroll Taxes	\$ 41.00
Postage	\$ 44.00
Print Co (Newsletter)	\$ 24.00
SS Material	\$ 72.00
Upper Room/Devozone	\$ 27.00
<u>State Farm Ins. (Bldg &amp; Work Comp)</u>	<u>\$ 285.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 8,450.00</b>
<b>Weekly</b>	<b>\$ 2,011.00</b>

## BUILDING FUND

### Current Balance

03/02	\$ 1,461.78
03/09	\$ 1,946.78
03/16	\$ 2,536.78
03/23	\$ 1,130.23

Monthly Mortgage Payment **\$ 1,356.55**

# Celebrations



## Birthdays

4/20 Dorothy Cox  
4/26 Keridwen McDaniel  
4/26 April Payne

Happy Anniversary  
John & Lisa McDaniel  
4/5/2014



## April Worship Leaders



	<u>4/6</u>	<u>4/13</u>	<u>4/20</u>	<u>4/27</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Jim Hackett	Austin & Sean Hackett	Dan & Vickie Bircher	
<u>Acolyte</u>	Deece Schwartz	Omarion Smallhorn	Mackenzie Wilson	Jade Smyser
<u>Ushers</u>	Sean Hackett Betty Potts Tom Blair Shelli Blair	Clinton Tribby Bonnie Tribby Jim Craig	Marcia Lawhead Rick Waltrip Bob Stoner Sandy Smallhorn	Deece Schwartz Mackenzie Wilson Kenny Smallhorn Christopher Schulz
<u>Family Cross</u>		Tom & Shelli Blair	Marcia Lawhead	Clinton & Bonnie Tribby
<u>Children's Moment</u>		Doug Hennig		Jane Cox





# April 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am</p> <p><u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>2 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6:00 PM</p> <p><u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm</p>	<p>3 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>4 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>5 <i>John &amp; Lisa McDaniel</i></p>
<p>6 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am</p>	<p>7 <u>Finance Meeting</u> 6:30 PM <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>8 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am</p> <p><u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>9 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm</p> <p><u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm</p>	<p>10 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>11 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 <i>Palm Sunday</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am</p>	<p>14 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>15 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am</p> <p><u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>16 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm</p> <p><u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm</p>	<p>17 <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b></p> <p><u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>18 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 <i>Easter Sunday</i> <i>Dorothy Cox</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am</p>	<p>21 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>22 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am</p> <p><u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>23 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm</p> <p><u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm</p>	<p>24 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>25 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>26 <i>Keridwen McDaniel</i>  <i>April Payne</i></p>
<p>27 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am</p>	<p>28 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>29 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am</p> <p><u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm</p>	<p>30 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm</p> <p><u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm</p>			

# The Otterbein Encourager

APRIL 2014

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Sunday Morning Worship  
Sunday School

9:00 a.m.  
10:30 a.m.

**Otterbein United Methodist Church**  
**2175 E. Harrison**  
**Charleston, IL 61920**

**CONTACT US:**

(217) 345-5843 (phone)  
charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com (email)  
www.charlestonotterbein.org (webpage)



Find us on **Facebook** at [www.facebook.com/charlestonotterbein](http://www.facebook.com/charlestonotterbein)

**All are welcome!**

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Charleston, IL 61920

