



# Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

## THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

APRIL 2013



**VBS is right  
around  
the corner!**

**The week of June 23**

At Praise VBS, our purpose is to show kids that they exist not for their own glory, but to give God praise! In a fun way, we hope to show kids what it means to have a high view of our amazing God. We want them to get down and lift God high!

Each day we will focus on an attribute of God and then praise Him in response.

Our two objectives with VBS are to:

- 1) To share the gospel of Jesus Christ
- 2) To teach the importance of the Bible

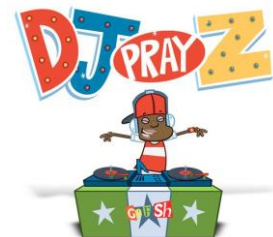
VBS is an amazing outreach project we should not take lightly. We have a huge opportunity to reach out to the children and families in our community and to share the love of Jesus with those who may or may not have heard the message before.

We need your help! Please begin praying for VBS and for the leaders as they begin planning. Our goal is to bring in 50 kids to Otterbein during our VBS week!

We need your support and prayers!!!

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Each family is asked to donate **\$25.00** to help with the costs associated with VBS. Please designate VBS in the memo line of your check or envelope.  
Thank you!

# PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Nicholas Gleason

Dear Friends,

I pray this note finds you well and blessed. Today we begin a new season. We have just celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord together, and now we are beginning the journey of continuing forth in Him. How do we begin to shape our lives around whom He was?

One of the most detrimental things we ever do to ourselves is comparing ourselves to someone else. It's bad because there is always someone around who is smarter or more successful or more effective at making a difference in the world or more attractive or athletic or more witty or more whatever we wish we were.

Comparing is hard to avoid, because the world we live in is always comparing. Look at any company and compare what the CEO makes with what the janitor who cleans her office makes and you'll see what I mean. And yet, if the janitor didn't do his job, the CEO couldn't very well do hers.

I think the world has probably always been this way. But that's not how the church is supposed to be. The apostle Paul says that the church was never intended to be a community of people where anyone is considered more important or more essential than anyone else. Instead the church is intended to be an outpost, a glimpse of the kingdom of God on earth, a community where the way this world works is turned upside down.

We may have heard Jesus' message enough to know how that is supposed to look. It's where the "last" are what? (*First*) And the "least" are what? (*Greatest*)

Now I would guess that many of you have heard this passage from 1 Corinthians about the church being compared to the human body.

What would you say is the most important body part? Maybe you would pick the brain, heart, or the lungs? How about the eyes or ears? Or even possibly the legs or arms?

What would you say is the least important body part? Eyelashes, nose hairs, fingernails, belly button?

But what if a person didn't have eyelashes? Then the eye wouldn't be protected from dust and dirt. And we would eventually all go blind.

If we didn't have nose hairs to filter out particles in the air and keep them from entering our airways, eventually our airways would become clogged. And we wouldn't be able to breathe properly and we would probably get sick.

# PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Nicholas Gleason

Eyelashes and nose hairs may not seem important, but without them, we wouldn't be able to live as well as we do.

Maybe you are someone in the church that is always running things. That's great! Maybe you are an Otterbein Nose Hair. Just as great! We need you. You who are always there, quietly and faithfully doing your part, and helping the body of Christ live and breathe and thrive.

Think about it this way with me. Have you ever done a jigsaw puzzle? I'm not talking about a five piece jigsaw puzzle. I mean one of those five hundred piece jigsaw puzzles?

My grandmother loved those puzzles, and we use to do them together all the time. I remember one time, my grandmother brought over a 2000 piece jigsaw puzzle. It was huge! It took up the entire dining room table, and we spent multiple weekends together putting this gigantic monster together.

And then there was only one single piece left. I was so excited to complete this massive puzzle. My grandmother even gave me the honor of grabbing that last single piece and pushing it into the puzzle. Only...when I looked in the box...*the box was empty!*

So we ran all over the dining room looking for that piece. But the single remaining puzzle piece was nowhere to be found. The puzzle was left incomplete. It was the most frustrating thing in the world.

My grandmother, seeing how upset I was, colored a piece of paper to look like this missing puzzle piece, and then taped that piece of paper to the puzzle so it looked finished. But it wasn't the same thing.

And this church is not the same thing without your piece added to the puzzle. We need each other to be whole. The brains and hearts, the eyelashes and nose hairs, all of us, to be all that God brought us to be and to do the mission and ministry that the Holy Spirit is empowering us to do.

This is what the season of Lent was all about. Challenging each of us to grow and strengthen ourselves as teammates. We can't complete the task Jesus gave us alone. We need each other. We need the gifts you have been blessed with. We need you to complete what God started in us.

On Sunday, there is a place for you. I pray your piece will not be missing.

Shalom,

*Nicholas*



# LAY LEADER'S LINE

**Butch Hackett**

One of the recurring stories that we hear at church during the Lenten Season is found in Matthew 21:1-11. It's the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. Most of us have heard this story a hundred times, but have you ever taken the view of the donkey? I mean if I were the donkey laboring along carrying a man; seeing all of these people laying palm branches and cloaks down on the road in front of me to make my stepping easier, it would make me think that they really appreciated me! Finally, I got the recognition I deserved! All the people taking time out of their day to sing me praises! Isn't it easy to fall in the worldly trap of putting yourself first? One of the things that I have learned as the result of our recent Bible studies is that while we all have gifts and abilities that we are good at or enjoy, doesn't mean that those are the only gifts we are to use to bring glory to God. I used to think that I needed to look for areas in the church to serve that matched my interests or talents. I have come to the realization that sometimes God will place in your heart a desire to, as William Shatner might say, "Go where you have never gone before!" Why? If you think about it, if you serve in an area that you never have or weren't good at and you complete the task, you could give God more of the glory because you know that it had to be His hand that was guiding you. If we do what we always do or enjoy doing then we could be like the donkey and think that any compliments or praise would be for us. As we continue on our journey of faith and grow in Christ we should think that we are the donkey. We are Christ-bearers that should humbly go about our daily routines reflecting the one we're carrying. This Easter, won't you take a look at your heart and listen to the "donkey-whisperer". He might be leading you to a place you never been, but I'll guarantee you that He will not lead you astray!

In His Grip,

Butch



## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

Let us pray, not for lighter burdens,  
but for stronger backs!

# Intentional Faith Development

## Thursday Night Bible Study on the book "Crazy Love"

10 Week Bible Study, Led by Derek Hennig beginning April 18 at 6:30pm

"Have you ever wondered if we're missing it? It's crazy, if you think about it. The God of the universe--the Creator of nitrogen and pine needles, galaxies, and E-minor--loves us with a radical, unconditional, self-sacrificing love. And what is our typical response? We go to church, sing songs, and try not to cuss.

Whether you've verbalized it yet or not. . .we all know something's wrong.

Does something deep inside your heart long to break free from the status quo? Are you hungry for an authentic faith that addresses the problems of our world with tangible, even radical, solutions? God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. Because the answer to religious complacency isn't working harder at a list of do's and don'ts--it's falling in love with God. And once you encounter His love, as Francis describes it, you will never be the same.

Because when you're wildly in love with someone, it changes everything."



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 welcome!

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 ☺

These families have signed up to provide the refreshments for the month of **April:**



April 7  
April 14  
April 21  
April 28

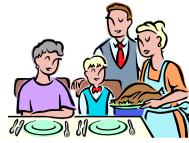
Linda & Phyllis Hackett  
Loretta Buell  
Pastor Nicholas  
Crystal Schulz



# Join us at **FAMILY NIGHT**

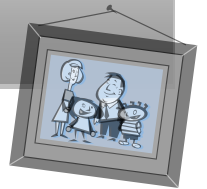
Wednesdays  
6:00-7:30pm

...a time of Faith, Fellowship,  
and Fun with your church Family!



## Family Night Meals

Offered to participants at no cost (donations are accepted, as you are able).  
Feel free to join them anytime for a meal and fellowship (*you do not have to stay for the sessions beginning at 6:30 to participate in the meal!*). And you do not have to come every week—come when you can ☺ You are always welcome!!!



### J4J (Jumping for Jesus)

Age 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
w/ Jane Cox

Learning the Books of the Bible with  
DVD series "What's in the Bible?" from  
Veggie Tales Creator Phil Vischer.

### Women's Group

w/ Samantha Baker

*Join the women for a devotional and various  
hands-on mission/craft projects each week.  
They are currently working on a quilt.*

### LinC (Life in Christ)

6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades  
w/ Adam Baker

The youth have been taking turns  
leading the lessons. It's been a  
rewarding experience for the leader and  
for their peers.

### Men's Group

w/ Jim Craig

Discuss a weekly question (taken from "Living  
With Questions"), and discuss and implement  
ways the men can serve both inside the church  
and out into the community.



# Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together...



## Youth Fundraiser

The youth group will be selling Little Caesar's Pizza Kits during the month of April to help fund their summer mission trip. They are planning to go to Louisiana to help Hurricane Katrina victims in June. Please help support our youth as they reach out to help people throughout our country!



## Please Note!

If you need to reach Pastor Nicholas:

Cell Phone: (740) 513-6199

Home Phone: (217) 345-2046



## Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter (May 2013) 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 18. Please contact Samantha Baker or email the church office if you have information to include.

## MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

Pastor Nicholas will be holding membership classes during the months of April and May. These classes will be for those who wish to become members and for those members who want a refresher course. Stay tuned for further details.

# 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>
2/24	\$ 805.75	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 1,379.25)
3/3	\$ 2,106.85	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 78.15)
3/10	\$ 2,183.45	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 1.55)
3/17	\$ 1,157.00	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 1,028.00)
3/24	\$ 1,120.00	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 1,065.00)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,373.05</b>	<b>\$ 10,925.00</b>	<b>(\$ 3,551.95)</b>



## BUILDING FUND

### Current Balance

2/24	\$ 2,232.89
3/3	\$ 3,017.89
3/10	\$ 3,362.89
3/17	\$ 2,126.34
3/24	\$ 2,186.34

Monthly Mortgage Payment \$ 1,356.55

## MONTHLY EXPENSES

### PAID BY LOOSE PLATE/TITHE

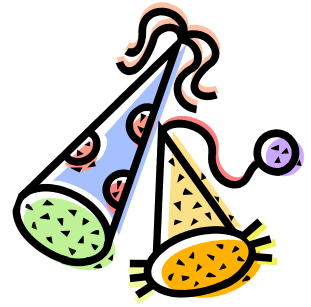
Ameren CIPS (Church)	\$ 450.00
City of Charleston (Water Dept)	\$ 12.00
Conf. Group Health Ins. (Pastor)	\$ 1,525.00
Consolidated Comm. (Church)	\$ 125.00
County Office Products (Copier)	\$ 78.00
IGRC Missions	\$ 1,053.00
IGRC Pension (Pastor)	\$ 836.00
J&J Lawn Care	\$ 200.00
Janitor/Secretary Wages	\$ 535.00
Maintenance Supplies	\$ 50.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 125.00
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	\$ 46.00
State Farm Ins. (Bldg & Work Comp)	\$ 279.00
Worship Service	\$ 30.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 8,729.00</b>
<b>Weekly</b>	<b>\$ 2,182.25</b>

*Give and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.*

**--Luke 6:38 (NLT)**



# Celebrations



## Birthdays

4/5	David Schaaf
4/7	Mary Cavanaugh
4/11	Elizabeth Bircher
4/16	Lindsey Rice
4/17	Judy Harrison
4/20	Dorothy Cox
4/21	Joan Hutton
4/24	Jamie Hackett
4/26	Keridwen McDaniel
4/26	April Payne
4/28	Tom Blair
4/28	Daniel Lewis

## Anniversaries

4/5 John & Lisa McDaniel

4/14 Daniel & Tabatha Lewis



## April Worship Leaders

	<u>4/7</u>	<u>4/14</u>	<u>4/21</u>	<u>4/28</u>
<b><u>Greeters</u></b>	Butch & Linda Hackett	Doug & Mary Hennig	Rex & Joan Johns	John & Lisa McDaniel
<b><u>Acolyte</u></b>	Brandon Schulz	Christopher Schulz	Tyvon Johnson	Ian McDaniel
<b><u>Ushers</u></b>	Derek Hennig Jim Hackett Bill Snider Rose Snider	Clinton Tribby Bonnie Tribby Larry McGrath Melody McGrath	Crystal Schulz Marty Buell Wayne Cox Phyllis Hackett	Ian McDaniel Alesia Smyser Debra Bircher Mackenzie Wilson
<b><u>Family Cross</u></b>	Tom & Shelli Blair	Rick & Sharron Waltrip	Betty Potts	Randy & Becky Rice
<b><u>Children's Moment</u></b>	Samantha Baker	Carolyn Craig	Sandy Smallhorn	Jane Cox



# APRIL 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	2 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> <b>9:00am</b> <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	3 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b> <u>Family Night</u> <b>6:00-7:30pm</b> <u>AA Mtg</u> <b>8:00pm</b>	4 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	5 <i>David Schaaf</i> <i>John &amp; Lisa</i> <i>McDaniel</i>  <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	6
7 <i>Mary Cavanaugh</i>  <u>Worship</u> <b>9:00am</b> <u>Sunday School</u> <b>10:30am</b>	8 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>  <u>Finance Mtg</u> <b>6:30pm</b>	9 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> <b>9:00am</b> <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b> <u>Nurture Mtg</u> <b>6:00pm</b>	10 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b> <u>Family Night</u> <b>6:00-7:30pm</b> <u>AA Mtg</u> <b>8:00pm</b>	11 <i>Elizabeth Bircher</i>  <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	12 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	13
14 <i>Daniel &amp; Tabatha Lewis</i>  <u>Worship</u> <b>9:00am</b> <u>Sunday School</u> <b>10:30am</b>	15 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	16 <i>Lindsey Rice</i> <u>Women's Bible Study</u> <b>9:00am</b> <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	17 <i>Judy Harrison</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b> <u>Family Night</u> <b>6:00-7:30pm</b> <u>AA Mtg</u> <b>8:00pm</b>	18 <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b>  <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b> <u>Bible Study</u> <b>6:30-7:30pm</b>	19 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	20 <i>Dorothy Cox</i>
21 <i>Joan Hutton</i>  <u>Worship</u> <b>9:00am</b> <u>Sunday School</u> <b>10:30am</b>	22 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	23 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> <b>9:00am</b> <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	24 <i>Jamie Hackett</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b> <u>Family Night</u> <b>6:00-7:30pm</b> <u>AA Mtg</u> <b>8:00pm</b>	25 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b> <u>Bible Study</u> <b>6:30-7:30pm</b> <u>Ad Council</u> <b>6:30pm</b>	26 <i>Keridwen McDaniel</i> <i>April Payne</i>  <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	27
28 <i>Tom Blair</i> <i>Daniel Lewis</i>  <u>Worship</u> <b>9:00am</b> <u>Sunday School</u> <b>10:30am</b>	29 <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>	30 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> <b>9:00am</b> <u>Soup Stop</u> <b>10:30am-1pm</b>				

# THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

APRIL 2013

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Sunday Morning Worship  
Sunday School

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

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

**CONTACT US:**

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

**All are welcome!**

Otterbein United Methodist Church  
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Charleston, IL 61920

