



# Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

## THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

JANUARY 2011

### This Is the Day of New Beginnings

This is a day of new beginnings,  
time to remember and move on,  
time to believe what love is bringing,  
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus,  
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,  
can make for us a world of difference,  
as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,  
step from the past and leave behind  
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,  
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us  
to show and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings;  
our God is making all things new.

*Brian Wren, 1978*



### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>Main Page</b>	<b>1</b>
Pastor's Chat	2
Lay Leader's Line	3
J4J	4
Family Night	4
LinC	5
Sunday School	6
Aflac Insurance	6
Bible Studies	6
Lay Speaking Classes	6
Epiphany Scramble	7
Where is God?	7
Celebrations	8
January Worship	8
Calendar	9

# Happy New Year!

# PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Krista Price

## Happy 2011 New Year!

*Wow! Can you believe it, another year is here! I am amazed at how quickly our life passes us by as we grow older. But one thing that puts it into perspective is that of living out our lives for Jesus Christ! When we are aware of life in Jesus, then the days don't go fast enough where we will be with Him in eternity! So, my friends as we gather and reflect on 2010 and look at our calendars in 2011, my prayer is that we can truly say Jesus was/is present always! We have that promise that Jesus will be with us even to the very end of the age! What an awesome feeling that is to never be afraid of the future!*

*So, let's quickly look back at 2010! We have had our ups and downs, but I saw how God worked in the lives of people of Otterbein UMC. We continue to be challenged by the outside forces of the world (ie: unemployment, relationship issues, health issues and just whatever else gets in our way of giving our full attention to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!), but we know the final outcome! Jesus wins!!!*

*Now let's look forward to 2011! Where can we best serve Jesus Christ in our corner of the world? How can we make disciples of Jesus Christ? My prayer is as we filled out the big sheets of paper (that are still in the hallway waiting to be completely full) about where God is calling us, we can now serve him to the fullest! New people are stepping up to serve as chairs and others are stepping up to new areas of need. We will begin new programs and studies in January. We will also be focusing more on prayer and all year we will focus on Radical Hospitality. So rev up your engines and light the fire within and let the Holy Spirit fall fresh upon the congregation of Otterbein UMC, because look out Charleston, ready or not, here we come! Looking forward to seeing where God will take us on this journey in 2011!*

*Serving Christ with you,  
Pastor Krista*

~ 2 ~



### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Main Page	1
<b>Pastor's Chat</b>	<b>2</b>
Lay Leader's Line	3
J4J	4
Family Night	4
LinC	5
Sunday School	6
Aflac Insurance	6
Bible Studies	6
Lay Speaking Classes	6
Epiphany Scramble	7
Where is God?	7
Celebrations	8
January Worship	8
Calendar	9



# LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

It is the belief of a vast majority of proletariats as well as numerous influential independents that an ecumenical conclave should be sequestered to determine the effect of existentialism on an autocracy. Do you agree or disagree?

I remember when I was growing up, it used to be fun to find out new words and use them around my classmates. One word in particular was “*antidisestablishmentarianism*”. It was fun to say, but the definition was harder than pronouncing the word! People often use large words to impress the listeners or establish themselves as a “well-educated-scholar”, as if they need reassurance that they are somebody.

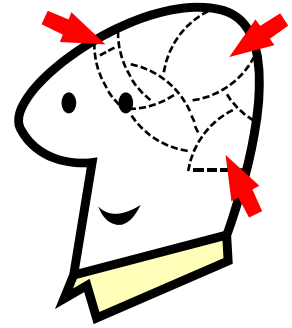
The Apostle Paul was very familiar with these types of individuals. When Paul was addressing the people of Corinth he said, “*And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God.*” (1 Corinthians 2:1) The ‘INSIGHT’ by Dennis Fisher in my devotional says that **Corinth had many Greek philosophers who promoted their own form of worldly wisdom. In contrast, Paul relied upon God’s wisdom based in the gospel as the foundation of divine truth. Within the death and resurrection of Christ is a secret wisdom that human beings on their own do not understand. Yet for those who believe, the Holy Spirit illuminates God’s truth. Worldly wisdom is self governing. Divine wisdom is given by the Holy Spirit.**

When the apostle Paul ministered to people, he didn’t try to impress others. Paul was a brilliant scholar who could have spoke piously or pompously to express the deep things of God in scripture. Yet he did not use lofty language to elevate his self-importance. As we grow in our understanding of God’s Word, let’s follow Paul’s example and guard against parading knowledge for knowledge’s sake. Instead, let’s make a New Year’s resolution together that we will make an effort to be conscious of our audience and take time to let God give us the words we should use. We should be trying to win others for Christ not for ourselves.

In His Grip,

Butch

**PS.** By the way, antidisestablishmentarianism is defined as “*the doctrine or political position that opposes the withdrawal of state recognition of an established church.*” Clear as mud now?



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Main Page	1
Pastor’s Chat	2
<b>Lay Leader’s Line</b>	<b>3</b>
J4J	4
Family Night	4
LinC	5
Sunday School	6
Aflac Insurance	6
Bible Studies	6
Lay Speaking Classes	6
Epiphany Scramble	7
Where is God?	7
Celebrations	8
January Worship	8
Calendar	9

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

It’s not the words we  
know that show  
wisdom, but how and  
when we use them.



## Jumpin' 4 Jesus

### J4J January Schedule

- 1/5 Christmas Party  
(re-scheduled)
- 1/12 "Your Name" Lesson
- 1/19 "Your Name" Lesson
- 1/26 Salvation Focus

# J4J

**WED. 6:00-7:30 PM**  
**AGE 3 TO 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

Due to the holiday "busy-ness" and some unwelcome bad weather ☺, J4J only had two meetings in the month of December. The first evening was spent making crafts and yummy treats that were given as Christmas gifts to our shut-ins. The kids did an excellent job decorating special jars and preparing Chex Mix with the help of LinC. The other evening we shared together focused on the song "Every Move I Make." Here we also learned about the story of Joseph and how God is always with us, even when we don't understand why things happen the way they do. Even when it seems like the kids are full of energy and may not be paying attention, they can sure surprise you sometimes. ☺ Several of the kids shared their personal experiences and saw how God is always working in their lives. **Praise the Lord!!!**

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Main Page	1
Pastor's Chat	2
Lay Leader's Line	3
<b>J4J</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Family Night</b>	<b>4</b>
LinC	5
Sunday School	6
Aflac Insurance	6
Bible Studies	6
Lay Speaking Classes	6
Epiphany Scramble	7
Where is God?	7
Celebrations	8
January Worship	8
Calendar	9



## **FAMILY NIGHT**

**START-UP JANUARY 12!!**

The (postponed) LinC and J4J Christmas parties will be held on Jan 5, 2011. The Family Night Winter Session will run Jan 12 through March 30, 2011. Come for a meal and fellowship at 6:00 p.m., and then join us for an hour-long session afterwards if you wish to become involved (something for everyone).

Sometimes the weather changes our plans for us. A general rule is that if the Charleston Schools are canceled that day, then we will not be meeting. If you are unsure whether we're meeting, contact Pastor Krista, Jane Cox, the Bakers, or the Craigs.

**FAMILY NIGHT**

**Fellowship**



**Faith Development**



**Food**



**Fun**

# LinC (Life in Christ)

Wed. 6:00-7:30 pm  
6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade

## LinC CHRISTMAS PARTY:

Because of bad weather in December, the LinC annual Christmas Party has been rescheduled for Weds, Jan 5, 2011, 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Refreshments will be furnished! **Bring a new or gently-used (*serious or funny*) gift, suitable for guys or gals, for a gift exchange.** The only thing we ask is that if the gift is "gently used" that it works or IS useable.



## LinC (Jan Schedule)

1/5 - (Rescheduled) Christmas Party  
1/12 - w/Steve Price  
1/19 - w/Steve Price  
1/26 - w/Steve Price

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Main Page	1
Pastor's Chat	2
Lay Leader's Line	3
J4J	4
Family Night	4
<b>LinC</b>	<b>5</b>
Sunday School	6
Aflac Insurance	6
Bible Studies	6
Lay Speaking Classes	6
Epiphany Scramble	7
Where is God?	7
Celebrations	8
January Worship	8
Calendar	9

## UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS:

Here are some upcoming 2011 youth events that we're hoping to participate in if we have the interest, the chaperones, and the money. If you are able to assist with any of these events (drivers, chaperones, food, monetary support, etc) please let one of the members of the youth ministry team know:

~**Jan 28 & 29** - Middle School "Ignition" Conference, E. Moline, IL

~**Feb 2** - Souper Bowl Sunday (we'll be collecting cans and money for the Food Pantry and for the Coalition for People In Need throughout the month of January—watch for more information after the holidays)

~(dates t/b/d) - 30-Hour Famine Event

~**Feb 25 - 27** - Sr High "Fire-Up Conference", Troy, IL (or Sr. High YAR the same weekend?)

~**Mar 26** - Winter Jam, Champaign, IL (the whole family can attend this!)

~**Apr 9 & 10** - "Dead Serious About Life", musical/drama being presented in Martinsville, IL



## M&M FUNDRAISER

Thanks for your support on the recent LinC fundraiser! There are still M&M tubes being turned in. The proceeds now total \$279.86. If you haven't had a chance to turn in your M&M tube, you can still give it to Jim Craig. (*\$14 worth of quarters fills a tube*).

Maybe we'll reach \$300 in proceeds before the end of the year ☺

# OTHER NEWS

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is available for all ages following fellowship time after Sunday morning worship.

### Classes for preschool through high school:

Pre-K/Kindergarten:	Noah's Ark	Led by: Shelli Blair
1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> grade:	The Garden	Led by: Jane Cox
6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade:	Confirmation	Led by: Pastor Krista
9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grade:	High School	Led by: Jerry Payne

### There are two adult classes available:

The Believers:	Studying <u>When a Nation Forgets God</u> by Erwin Lutzer—a 7 part series that parallels some things that are happening in America with Nazi Germany (Led by Butch Hackett—in the Fellowship Hall)
???’s:	Studying the book of Acts (Led by Steve Price—in the gold classroom)

**Please feel free to join us in a Sunday School class.  
It is an excellent opportunity to grow in your faith.  
You are welcome to attend these classes any time!**

Also, please be reminded that every Sunday after worship, there is a fellowship opportunity for everybody! The UB Loyal-Hospitality Group provides coffee and doughnuts/refreshments in the kitchen immediately after worship.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

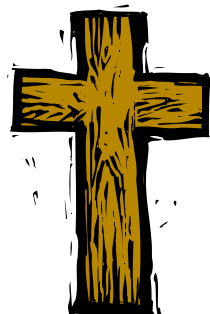
Main Page	1
Pastor's Chat	2
Lay Leader's Line	3
J4J	4
Family Night	4
LinC	5
<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Aflac Insurance</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Bible Studies</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Lay Speaking Classes</b>	<b>6</b>
Epiphany Scramble	7
Where is God?	7
Celebrations	8
January Worship	8
Calendar	9



Otterbein church members may qualify for Aflac insurance. Evan Price is an Aflac agent and can assist you if you have questions regarding the coverage options. Please contact Evan at 345-5843 for further information.

### Please Note!

District Lay Speaking Basic Classes will be held at Effingham Centenary UMC. The classes are from 2-5pm and will be Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, and Mar. 6 and 13. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Carol Martin (217) 342-5886 or the District Office (217) 347-3915.



## **Bible studies**

Pastor Krista will be leading the Bible study "Liquid" on Wednesday evenings (during Family Night) beginning in January.

Stay tuned for further information regarding the Thursday night Bible study—sign-up sheets will be at the welcome table in the entryway.

## Can you unscramble these words relating to Epiphany?

(ANSWERS BELOW)

- |                  |               |              |           |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1. ABBY UJSES    | 2. HZRBAATLA  | 3. HMRYR     | 4. SAACRP |
| 5. LHDCI         | 6. IAYEPPHN   | 7. FSTEA     | 8. RYAM   |
| 9. STGFI         | 10. WMEEINS   | 11. KNGI     | 12. AIMG  |
| 13. SNKFEIERANNC | 14. HROTME    | 15. EMOLICRH | 16. SART  |
| 17. GFONIFRE     | 18. EMTHELBHE | 19. UEASTRER | 20. ODLG  |

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Main Page	1
Pastor's Chat	2
Lay Leader's Line	3
J4J	4
Family Night	4
LinC	5
Sunday School	6
Aflac Insurance	6
Bible Studies	6
Lay Speaking Classes	6
<b>Epiphany Scramble</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Where is God?</b>	<b>7</b>
Celebrations	8
January Worship	8
Calendar	9

### Where is God?

A couple had two little boys, ages 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous. They were always getting into trouble and their parents knew that, if any mischief occurred in their town, their sons were probably involved.

The boys' mother heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children, so she asked if he would speak with her boys. The clergyman agreed, but asked to see them individually. So the mother sent her 8-year-old first, in the morning, with the older boy to see the clergyman in the afternoon.

The clergyman, a huge man with a booming voice, sat the younger boy down and asked him sternly, "Where is God?"

The boy's mouth dropped open, but he made no response, sitting there with his mouth hanging open, wide-eyed. So the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, "Where is God!!?" Again the boy made no attempt to answer. So the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face and bellowed, "WHERE IS GOD!?"

The boy screamed and bolted from the room, ran directly home and dove into his closet, slamming the door behind him. When his older brother found him in the closet, he asked, "What happened?"

The younger brother, gasping for breath, replied, "We are in BIG trouble this time, dude. God is missing - and they think WE did it!"

[www.basicjokes.com](http://www.basicjokes.com)



- ANSWERS:**
1. Baby Jesus
  2. Balthazar
  3. Myrrh
  4. Caspar
  5. Child
  6. Epiphany
  7. Feast
  8. Mary
  9. Gifts
  10. Wisemen
  11. King
  12. Magi
  13. Frankincense
  14. Mother
  15. Melchior
  16. Star
  17. Offering
  18. Bethlehem
  19. Treasure
  20. Gold

# Celebrations

## BIRTHDAYS

1/2	Joan Johns
1/4	Randy Rice
1/5	Cathi Riley
1/7	Natalie Holloway
1/9	Derek Hennig
1/12	Gino Bellantoni
1/15	Jim Hackett
1/16	Marty Buell
1/22	Debra Bircher
1/26	Tabatha Bircher
1/26	Kaden Donley
1/31	Barbara Carr
1/31	Rex Johns



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Main Page	1
Pastor's Chat	2
Lay Leader's Line	3
J4J	4
Family Night	4
LinC	5
Sunday School	6
Aflac Insurance	6
Bible Studies	6
Lay Speaking Classes	6
Epiphany Scramble	7
Where is God?	7
<b>Celebrations</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>January Worship</b>	<b>8</b>
Calendar	9

## January Worship

	<u>1/2</u>	<u>1/9</u>	<u>1/16</u>	<u>1/23</u>	<u>1/30</u>
<b>Greeters</b>	Doug & Mary Hennig	Betty Potts	Harold & Phyllis Hackett	Rick & Sharron Waltrip	Dorothy Cox
<b>Acolyte</b>	Kenny Smallhorn	Keridwen McDaniel	Debra Bircher	Christopher Schulz	Brandon Schulz
<b>Ushers</b>	Brad Bircher Butch Hackett Sandy Smallhorn Judy Harrison	Wade Hennig Steve Price Dan Bircher Wayne Cox	Mary Hennig Krista Snider Rachael Bircher Tabatha Bircher	Toody Hackett Rose Snider Phyllis Hackett Betty Stoner	Derek Hennig Evan Price Jessica Watton Adam Baker
<b>Family Cross</b>	Steve & Krista Price	Jim & Bertha Anderson	Bill & Judy Harrison	Rex & Joan Johns	Bob & Betty Stoner

# JANUARY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <i>Joan Johns</i>	3 Finance Mtg <b>6:30 pm</b>	4 <i>Randy Rice</i>  Women's Bible Study <b>9am</b>	5 <i>Cathi Riley</i>  J4J & LinC Christmas parties <b>6pm</b>	6	7 <i>Natalie Holloway</i>	8  Arts Council <b>9am-3pm</b>
9 <i>Derek Hennig</i>	10	11  Women's Bible Study <b>9am</b>	12 <i>Gino Bellantoni</i>  Family Night <b>6:00-7:30pm</b>	13	14	15 <i>Jim Hackett</i>
16 <i>Marty Buell</i>	17	18  Women's Bible Study <b>9am</b>	19  Family Night <b>6:00-7:30pm</b>	20	21	22 <i>Debra Bircher</i>
23	24	25  Women's Bible Study <b>9am</b>	26 <i>Tabatha Bircher</i> <i>Kaden Donley</i>  Family Night <b>6:00-7:30pm</b>	27	28	29
30	31 <i>Barbara Carr</i> <i>Rex Johns</i>					

# THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

JANUARY 2011

---

Sunday Morning Worship  
Sunday School

9:00 am  
10:30 am

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

Phone: (217) 345-5843

Email: [charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com](mailto:charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com)

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

**All are welcome!**



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

