



Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

JULY 2015

PASTOR'S PERUSALS

By Chuck Trent

Chuckin' Along for the Lord

MAY YOU LIVE IN INTERESTING TIMES, is the worst thing that an ancient Chinese person could say to another one. The Chinese society, much like ours, cherished tranquility even to the point of boredom. So the above statement directed at a fellow citizen was considered to be a curse. We don't mind 'a little excitement,' like the Fourth of July or the County Fair, a professional sporting event or a good old Family Picnic, here in the 21st century, but too much? No thank you.

WHICH ANCIENT CHINESE PERSON WE TICKED OFF, I don't know, but someone as thoroughly cursed us with 'interesting times.' From the wettest June in Illinois history, to divisive supreme court rulings, Greece defaulting on big loans to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Russia's adventures in Crimea and all kinds of things which are being hailed as, the best or worst, things to ever happen, depending upon to whom it is your are listening.

THE COUNTRY WILL BE DESTROYED THIS MONTH, or is it next month, by a vengeful God who is fed up with the direction in which the United States is going, OR the blessings of liberty will be reigned down upon us," pressed down and overflowing," because the country is finally turning in the right direction. Once again, it all depends upon to whom you are listening.

ANCIENT ISRAEL WAS PUNISHED BY GOD for ignoring his commandments in 587 BC, although that had more to do with politics and the king's not honoring financial arrangements he had made with Babylon who was the World Monetary Fund in those days, than it did with God's wrath. (Greece has it so much better than Israel had it.)

THE POINT I HOPE YOU PIC UP HERE is that God most often just allows us to boil in our own oil from the soup into which we have gotten because we didn't check with the Heavenly Headquarters beforehand. That is the way it is with people, families, states and nations. We are so much more creative in punishing ourselves than we know. But since our lives turn in wrong directions, we enjoy blaming God for the less than desirable results.

GOD LOVES US AND GOD HAS SEEN humanity try various things with or without Divine Guidance since the beginning of time. Not even the angels in Heaven know the time and hour of Christ's return, so I am pretty sure that whatever happens in the turbulent months and years ahead, the only one whom we should fear is God, because God is the Creator of all of the doomsday sayers and even those ancient Chinese cursers.

See you in church,
Chuck



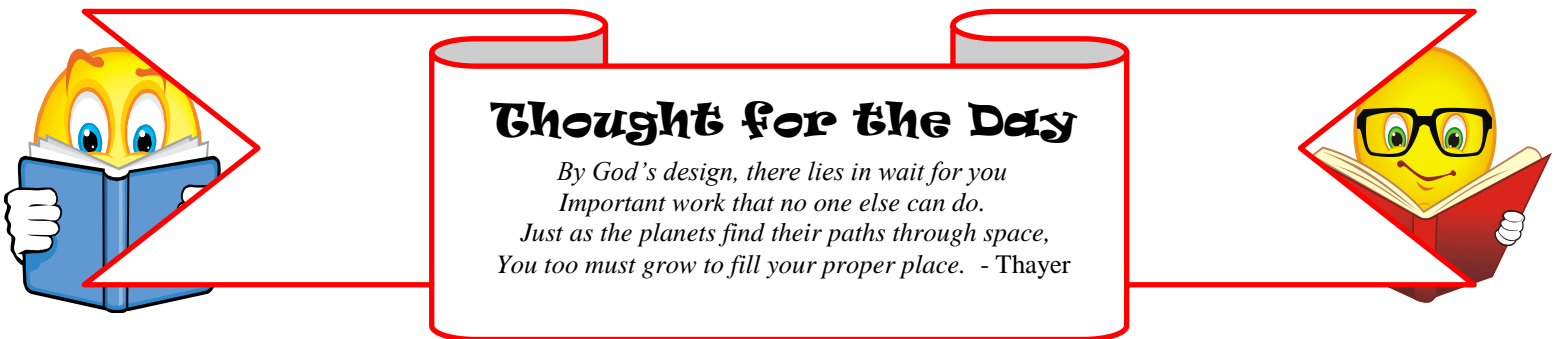
LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

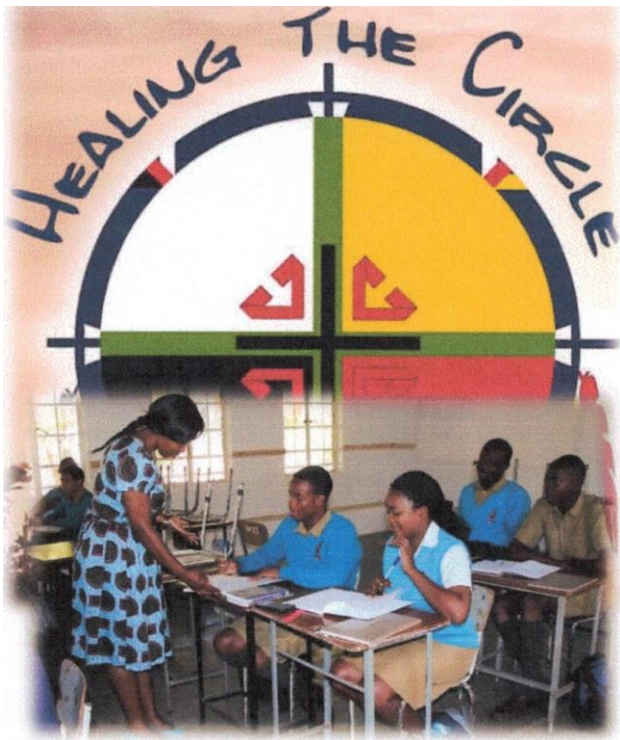
Here we are in the middle of another Major League Baseball Season. Can the St Louis Cardinals' 'Triple A' farm club, Memphis minor league team, provide enough key players to propel the best baseball city in the world to another World Championship? The Cardinals have been plagued this year with numerous injuries to key starting players and have had to rely a lot on the minor league players to keep them afloat. These "call-ups" are referred to as "bench players". These "bench-players" have a tough job. They have to prepare physically and mentally every day as if they were going to be playing. As a rule, it is more difficult for the bench-player to be a valuable asset to the team because as the game goes on, they have to stay mentally alert and physically "loose" in case they are called on to go in the game. Only time will tell. I was deeply engrossed in a game the other day and came up with an analogy between the Cardinals and our Christian walk.

I believe since we are on God's team, we have a responsibility to be a "bench-player" for Christ. Every day we have to prepare mentally and spiritually in order to be ready to 'Go-In-For-God'. Paul tells us in Ephesians 4 starting in verse 11, *"It is he (Christ) who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity of the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."* (NIV) God has given us (His Church) an enormous responsibility- to make disciples in every nation. Opportunities will come our way daily in small things like the choices we make or bigger events like leading another person to Christ. In either case, we have to be ready. We must read the Bible every day. We must pray every day. We must use our gifts for the Kingdom every day. We must be living examples through our giving of our gifts, talents, and resources. It is a tough job being on God's bench, but what a glorious joy it will be when we "get in the game"!

(Still) In His Grip, Butch



ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



Offerings taken at Annual Conference

John Kofi Asmah School, WePoint, Liberia -- Laity Session -- \$5,609.04

Laity from the Illinois Great Rivers Conference raised funds to construct the John Kofi Asmah School, located in the West Point section of Monrovia, Liberia. This year's offering will be to provide funding for furnishing the school.

Africa University Making Dreams Possible Scholarship Campaign

Opening worship -- \$35,602.92 offering

The 2013 Annual Conference approved a \$1 million campaign to raise \$1 million to endow eight scholarships for Africa University students. Currently, the IGRC is funding four scholarships -- two endowed and two non-endowed. When the campaign is completed, the two non-endowed scholarships will be endowed along with eight additional scholarships for a total of 12 endowed scholarships. In deference to finishing the

Imagine No Malaria campaign commitment, the Africa University Committee has delayed starting its campaign until the fall 2014. This offering, combined with the pledges from IGRC churches delivered to Annual Conference by district superintendents, will allow the campaign to continue toward its goal's **completion in 2016.**

Financial Commitment for Africa University Making Dreams Possible Scholarship campaign pledge by Districts:

Cache River District - \$82,401

Embarras River District -- 31,147

Illinois River District -- \$91,259

Iroquois River District -- \$50,112

Kaskaskia River District -- \$61,289

LaMoine River District -- \$47,164

Mississippi River District -- 64,281

Sangamon River District -- 61,354

Spoon River District -- \$52,332

Vermilion River District -- \$26,750 TOTAL

FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS: \$568,089

CONFERENCE GOAL: \$1 million



Act of Repentance offering for Dayspring UMC -- \$9,618.15

An unannounced offering was held during the Act of Repentance service Friday morning. Funds will go to the Dayspring UMC to help with completing their church building and paving the church's parking lot.



Rev. Nick Gleason was ordained!

Service of Ordination and
Commissioning, Friday evening
Ordinands' Holy Land Pilgrimage
\$5,626.36

Each spring, Bishop Keaton sponsors a pilgrimage to the Holy Land for the class of newly-ordained clergy from the conference. By having a grounding in the Scripture by walking where Jesus walked, pastors are nurtured early in their ministry which has a direct impact for the rest of their lives. These funds will help offset part of the \$3,200 cost for the 10-day trip for each ordinand.

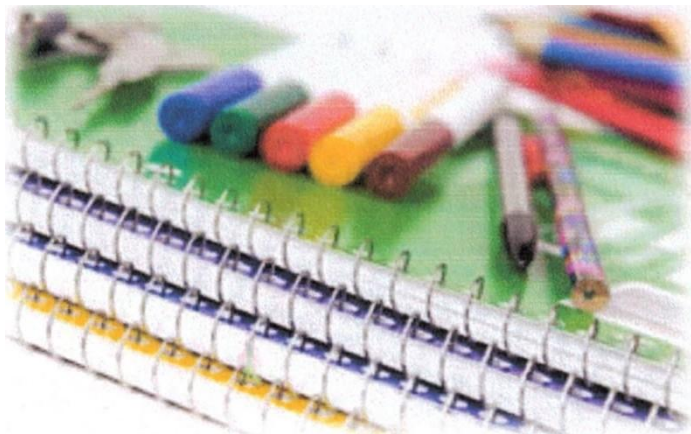
Tom Brown Scholarship, Wiley College -
- Saturday morning - \$6,166.26

The Tom Brown Scholarship is one which assists a student of Wiley College, one of the 11 historical Black Colleges. Beginning in 1987, the former Central Illinois conference, named a scholarship in memory of the Rev. Tom Brown, a long-time supporter of the Marshall, Texas-based school. Rev. Brown was often the one who stood at the microphone after the presentation by the visiting Black College intern and would move that the annual conference session take up a special offering for Wiley College. Rev. Brown's daughter, Sharon Brown, is the director of Kumler Outreach Ministries in Springfield.

Other Highlights of Annual Conference

IGRC recognized by UMCOR for \$6.8 million for disaster response over the last 10 years!

165 Churches brought in school Supply donations to MMDC: 4,797 pounds of school supplies and \$890 in monetary contributions for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center which will be sent as school bags to a Native American school in the Dakotas.



MMDC June/July Urgent Needs:

Hand towels (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", no kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels)

Bar soap

Baby gowns/sleepers

Work gloves (leather palm necessary)

Please bring donations to church & Chuck & Linda will see that they are delivered.

The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, the 5 Wesley Foundations, and the conference Young Adult Committee sponsored their first "Buy One, Give One" lunch. During lunch, 50 volunteers packaged 1400 pounds of rice equaling 1400 meals. These are being donated to Peoria First UMC's Loaves and Fish ministry, who will share a portion with other feeding ministries in Peoria. This was all done in less than an hour!

GENERAL CONFERENCE & JURISDICTION DELEGATES ELECTED

Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference were elected during the respective clergy and laity sessions. Elections were completed in the allotted four hours.

Clergy elected to General Conference are (in order of election): Rev. Sylvester Weatherall, Spoon River District Superintendent; Rev. Andy Adams, Champaign Quest UMC; Sara Isbell, Chatham UMC; Rev. Robert Phillips, Peoria First UMC; and Rev. Chris Ritter, Geneseo First UMC.

Laity elected to General Conference are (in order of election): Rhonda Whitaker, Neoga Grace UMC; Bunny Wolfe, IGRC Coordinator of Missions and Outreach; Bobby Davis, Maryville St. Luke UMC; Kimberly Woods, Braceville UMC; and Steve Schonert, Olney First UMC.

Joining the General Conference delegation to form the IGRC Jurisdictional delegation includes:

Clergy: Rev. Randall Robinson, Danville St. James UMC; Dr. Roger Ross, Springfield First UMC; Rev. Janice Griffith, Executive Assistant to the Bishop; Rev. Rose Booker-Jones, Iroquois River District Superintendent; and Rev. Beth Fender, IGRC Coordinator of Discipleship and New Streams.

Laity: Larry Weber, Fairview Heights Christ UMC; Marian McCray, Granite City Namoki UMC; Anish Hermon, Bloomington Quest UMC; Fred Iutzi, Carthage First UMC; and Carol Sims, administrative assistant to Preachers' Aid Society and Benefit Fund.

Alternates are Rev. J. Keith Zimmerman, retired; Nicole Cox, associate pastor, Springfield First UMC; Rev. Dennis Price, Troy UMC; Melissa Calvillo, Carthage First UMC; Carolyn Yockey, Normal First UMC; and J. LaVon Wilson, Springfield Grace UMC.

NOTE: The United Methodist Church's top legislative body will meet at the Oregon Convention Center, the largest convention center in the Pacific Northwest, on May 10-20, 2016.

General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church which meets once every four years. The conference can revise church law, as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs.

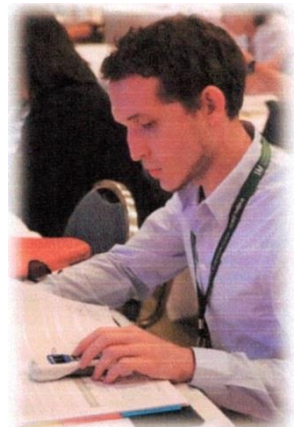
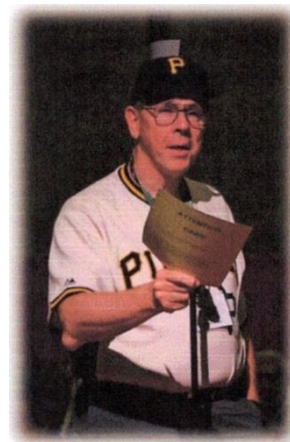


THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016

Annual Conference -- B the numbers

Total 2014 membership is 129,587, down 2,338 from 2013. Average worship attendance for 2014 is 59,200, down 1,669. Professions of faith for 2014 is 1,915, down from 2,202 in 2013. Giving to missions for 2014 was \$1,119,528, compared to \$1,472,900 in 2013.

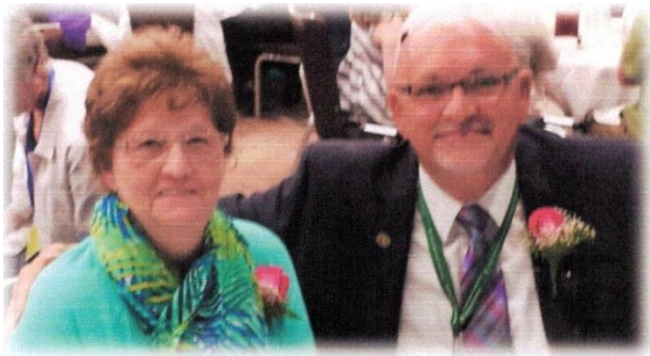
Bishop Jonathan Keaton ordained nine elders in full connection and three deacons in full connection. He commissioned nine provisional elders and one provisional deacon. Two pastors had their orders recognized and became provisional elders and one was elected to associate membership. A total of 25 pastors, representing 584 years of service, retired. Ten churches, totaling 1,498 years of ministry, have closed or are closing following annual conference.



Retirees challenged to continue in ministry

The Retiree Class of 2015 was challenged by one of their own to stay connected even in retirement.

Referring to the second verse of the song Hymn of Promise, Rev. Mark Myers said he firmly believes that the key to the future life and growth of The United Methodist Church is to be found rooted in the experiences and continued ministry of the church's retired pastors. "Take some trips, visit the grandkids, relax and enjoy life," he said. "But heal and stay healthy; age gracefully and remember the words, 'From the past will come the future; what it holds a mystery. Unrevealed until its season something God alone can see.'"



**Rev. Brad & Donna Henson
Retired!
Son of the Otterbein UMC**

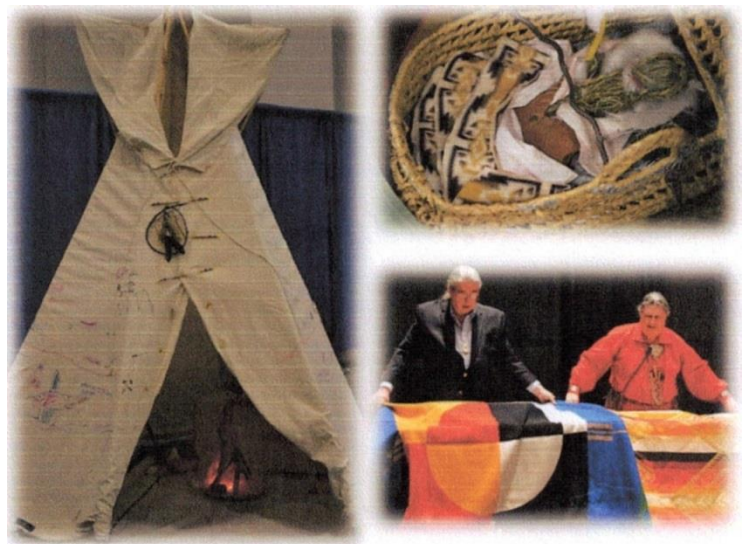
Annual Conference -- Camping proposals 3 Camps Closing

In the end, the conference session voted 492-292 to adopt the proposal of the Commission on Camping and Retreat Ministries and urged the Commission to grant a non-profit group, Jensen Camp Foundation, the right of first refusal on the sale of **Jensen Woods Camp in Timewell, Ill.** The other two camps closing will be **Living Springs Camp in Lewistown, Ill., and Epworth Camp in Louisville, Ill.** During the debate, supporters of the various campsites urged delay of any action to sell the campsites, enabling supporters to develop strategy plans or put into place local management of the site while the

conference would remain owners of the property. "Let our past be our guideposts not our hitching posts," said the Rev. Beverly Wilkes-Null during the debate. "As a parent of a camper, I understand the difference between ministry and real estate."

Keep the 'united' in United Methodist

As we continue on in our Annual Conference journey, as we explore the importance of the healing circle; of repentance, forgiveness, love, grace, healing, and unity, may we remember that it starts with knowing that strength can be found in differences, that our church is fortified by variety of thoughts and beliefs. We are one body with many parts, seeking to serve God through our differences, united behind our shared mission.



Cabinet urges to 'step up your faith'

Rev. Sylvester Weatherall encouraged lay and clergy members to step up their faith by ensuring Jesus is in the house, that Jesus is the reason we invite others to church and that Jesus is worth the trip.

Utilizing the story of Jesus and the paralytic in Mark 2, Weatherall asked, "There are 318.86 (2014) million people living in the United States today. With all of those people, why isn't every church, represented in this room, filled to capacity?"

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

Jim & Bertha Anderson

13250 E Cty Rd 210N
Charleston, IL 61920

Joan Hutton

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

Tom Watson

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



Eleanor Rice

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

2015 Worship Leaders

Please check the website for a current list of Worship Leaders for 2015. These include Greeters, Acolytes, Ushers, Family Cross and Children's Moment Leaders. We appreciate your involvement in our weekly worship service.

Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter (*Aug 2015*) will be printed and distributed around the first week in August. The deadline to submit articles or information in the June newsletter will be Thursday, July 23. Please contact Michelle Price (217) 549-7285 or email the church office if you have information to include.

Please Note



If you need to reach
Pastor Chuck Trent

Cell (618) 262-3409

chucktrent47@gmail.com

Youth Group

Wednesday Evenings

6:00-6:30 pm Meal & Fellowship

Led By: Sean Hackett

FINANCE REPORT

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

Not, how much of my money will I give to God, but how much of God's money will I keep for myself.



— John Wesley

MONTHLY EXPENSES PAID BY LOOSE PLATE/TITHE

Ameren CIPS (Church)	\$ 495.00
City of Charleston (Water Dept)	\$ 26.00
Conf. Group Health Ins. (Pastor)	\$ 1,525.00
Consolidated Comm. (Church)	\$ 93.00
IGRC Missions	\$ 1,062.00
IGRC Pension (Pastor)	\$ 836.00
Childress Mowing	\$ 160.00
Janitor/Secretary Wages	\$ 494.04
Maintenance Supplies	\$ 50.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 40.00
Chuck Trent	\$ 2,380.26
Chuck Trent TV/Hse. Phone	\$ 120.00
Payroll Taxes	\$ 41.00
Postage	\$ 49.00
Print Co (Newsletter)	\$ 24.00
SS Material	\$ 72.00
Upper Room/Devozone	\$ 27.00
<u>State Farm Ins. (Bldg & Work Comp)</u>	<u>\$ 285.15</u>
TOTAL	\$ 7,779.45
Weekly	\$ 1,245.00

Monthly Mortgage Payment \$ 1,356.55

With the need to replace the sound system and emergency lights along with other expenditures that may arise on our work day if you are lead to contribute please designate monies to the Capital Improvement Fund. Thank you! Finance Team



★ **HAPPY** ★
BIRTHDAY!

Celebrations

Birthdays

7/1	Kendra Smyser
7/2	Mary Hennig
7/3	Hilar Donley
7/8	Danny Schwartz
7/11	Kayla Donley
7/27	Jason Anderson
7/29	Brad Bircher



Happy Anniversary

Michael & Hilary Donley	7/08
Dan & Rachel Schwartz	7/13



July Worship Leaders



Greeters

Butch & Linda
Hackett

Doug & Mary
Hennig

Marty & Loretta
Buell

Marcia Lawhead
Betty Potts

Acolyte

Kayla Donley

Tyvon Smallhorn

Ian McDaniel

Deece Schwartz

Family Cross

Austin Hackett

Pastor Chuck

Sean Hackett

Randy & Becky Rice

Ushers

Mary Hennig
Doug Hennig
Rose Snider
Bill Snider

Betty Potts
Linda Hackett
Bonnie Tribby
Sandy Smallhorn

Tom Blair
Marty Buell
Larry McGrath

Austin Hackett
Christopher Schulz
Alesia Smyser
Debra Bircher

Children's Moment

Carolyn Craig

Pastor Chuck




Jane Cox





July 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Youth Group</u> 6pm-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	2 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	3 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	4 
5 <u>Worship</u> 9:30am Special Ad Council Meeting after worship	6 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm Finance Meeting 6:30p	7 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	8 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Youth Group</u> 6pm-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	9 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	10 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	11
12 <u>Worship</u> 9:30am	13 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	14 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	15 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Youth Group</u> 6pm-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	16 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	17 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	18
19 <u>Worship</u> 9:30am	20 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	21 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	22 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Youth Group</u> 6pm-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	23 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm Newsletter Articles due	24 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	25
26 <u>Worship</u> 9:30am	27 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	28 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	29 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Youth Group</u> 6pm-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	30 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	31 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	

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



Happy July 4th



THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

JULY 2015



Sunday Morning Worship

9:30 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)

www.facebook.com/groups/CharlestonOtterbeinUMC

All are welcome!