



Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

JUNE 2013



PRAISE VBS

Mark your calendars
for Go Fish Praise VBS, a
4 evening program beginning
June 23 through June 26
from 6:00-8:00pm,
for kids ages 3 through 6th grade.

Invite your friends, family, neighbors or any other
children you have contact with. This is a wonderful
opportunity to share the love of Jesus with our
community!

We will be asking for donations for food and
supplies needed throughout the week. In a few
weeks, there will be a sign-up sheet for items that we
need. We thank you in advance for your support and
your prayers for a successful VBS!

Please contact Samantha Baker for more information
on how you can help. Registration forms are
available on the entryway table.



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Also, if you are able, each
family is asked to contribute
\$25.00 to help toward VBS
expenses. Please mark your
check or envelope "VBS" to
ensure your gift is designated
properly.

PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Nicholas Gleason

I try and go to the gym. But it seems kind of counterproductive because the idea is to impress women, but there are women at the gym and they can see me bench-pressing 65 pounds. And I don't think they're saying, 'Check out the guy in the dress socks. I saw him do one chin-up and then fall on the ground.'

MIKE BIRBIGLIA

Dear Friends,

I pray that you are well and blessed. I have been enjoying the beautiful spring weather we are having. Whenever the weather gets nice, I always start thinking about getting back into shape. I even spent a little bit of time this week looking into a gym membership. I have needed to lose a few pounds for a long time now. (No comments necessary!).

But a gym is a difficult place to go when you are looking to lose weight. Do you know what I mean? It seems like the people who go to the gym, are the men and women who really don't need to go to the gym. Most of the people in a health club are strong and fit and in shape and showing it off at every opportunity.

It's hard to be around those people when you are just getting started. Nothing acts as a greater hurdle to getting into shape as having to work around people who don't look like they have an ounce of fat on their perfectly sculpted bodies.

My experience at the health club has me reflecting on Levi son of Alphaeus. In Mark 2:13-17, Levi is introduced when Jesus meets him collecting taxes. And Jesus gives him a simple invitation, "follow me".

So Levi does. And later Levi throws a party for Jesus. But I imagine this was not the kind of party we have ever gone to, except for those of us who have been to college! This was a frat party.

While this is happening, the Pharisees and the Teachers of the Law begin to mutter. It is never good when people begin to mutter. They begin asking why Jesus would eat with sinners and tax collectors, people who have done something wrong.

Sinners are people who have become religious outcasts because they failed the "Love your God" test. Tax collectors were those who worked for the Roman government against their own people, and as a result, failed the "Love your Neighbor" test.

However, Jesus overhears their muttering, and in return, he responds with an illustration from the world of health care. He describes the healthy and the sick. In Jesus' analogy, the sick were the people who were willing to acknowledge their sin and their brokenness.

PASTOR'S CHAT (CONT. FROM PAGE 2)

Pastor Nicholas Gleason

The healthy, and I don't know if Jesus was the type of guy who used air quotes, but you can almost sense the air quotes as he states the healthy. The healthy were people who were just as sinful as the sick, but weren't willing to acknowledge it. They were the ones who came thinking they were fine. Thinking they had it all taken care of. The sick were the honest people. The righteous were the ones who were in denial.

There is a hard lesson for us in those classifications as we look at this text. People who don't acknowledge their need for Jesus won't be able to experience him in a meaningful way. Sometimes we can live in denial. Or we try to compare ourselves to people who are not as healthy as ourselves. And we can say, "Well, at least I'm not like him."

It's easy to fall into that trap. We don't want to feel ashamed. We don't want to feel embarrassed. We don't want to face our imperfections. But Jesus makes it clear, if we don't confront our brokenness, our hurt, our needs, we will never discover the fullness of His redemption power. And we miss out on what the community of faith in Jesus Christ has to offer.

And it has me wondering, when we come to this Church, do we see it as a health club or a hospital?

Do you come to Church to show off how healthy, and fine, and perfect you are? It is a place you come to show your spiritual fitness and strength?

Or is this a place you can lay it all down at the altar? Do you come to the presence of Christ, admitting your need for Him and his redemption power? Do you come to your brothers and sisters in Christ, admitting your need to be lifted up to Him?

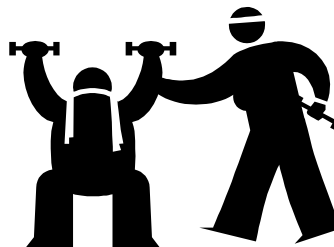
When you picture the Church, do you picture it as a health club or as a hospital?

I think what Jesus is getting at is this needs to be a hospital. It is place we can come and bring whatever wounds us or hurts us or holds us back so we can experience the fullness of his redemption.

My prayer for all of us, individually, and as a community of faith, is that we will come into this place without pretext or pretending, into the arms of Jesus Christ, the one who loves us and saves us and promises us everything we need.

Peace,

Nicholas



LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

My two year old grand-daughter, Madison, loves to have my wife and I sit on the floor with her and help her stack all of her over-sized Lego blocks on top of each other until we have used them all. We will meticulously snap the pieces together until the structure stands three to four foot tall. After Linda and I spend all of this time to get the blocks just right, Madison gives us a sly grin and hits the tower to knock all of the pieces on the floor. She then starts clapping and says, "Yeah!" and then the process starts all over.

This exercise in futility started me thinking how this activity is a lot like our adult life. Some of us will spend our lifetime creating a home, family, financial security, only to see it all fall apart by losing our jobs, getting a divorce, stock market crash, or death. What is our reaction to such things? Do we 'melt into mental –madness'? Do we go into a red-faced relentless rage? Or do we smile, clap and say yeah?

Of course, I'm just speaking metaphorically about the clapping and saying "yeah", but to me Madison's reaction would indicate that we don't put 'things' ahead of eternity.

I am reminded of the rich young ruler in Matthew 19:16-22, who asked Jesus what he must do to have eternal life. Jesus responded in verse 21 (paraphrased); "*Sell all you have and follow me*" I'm also reminded of the two parables in chapter 13 of Matthew about the hidden treasure and the pearl merchant in which both of the men in the parables sold all they had for the valuable thing they found.

Is Jesus telling us that all believers must sell everything they own in order to have eternal life? I don't think so. My footnote in the Life Application Bible puts it this way: We are responsible to care for our own needs and the needs of our families so as to not be a burden on others. We should, however be willing to give up anything if God asks us to do so. This kind of attitude allows nothing to come between us and God and keeps us from using our God-given wealth selfishly. **If you are comforted by the fact that Christ did not tell all his followers to sell all their possessions, then you may be too attached to what you have!**

We should go through each day thankful for what we have and be willing to offer anything and everything to further God's Kingdom. Maybe this is why Jesus told the disciples after they were trying to keep the children away from Him, said "*Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.*" Matt. 19:14

Madison has the right perspective. Don't let what you build up in your lifetime become a barrier between you and God.

In His Grip,

Butch



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

The two great tests of character are
wealth and poverty.

Intentional Faith Development

During the summer, we will be taking a brief break from several of our regular activities. They will resume in the fall--stay tuned for details!

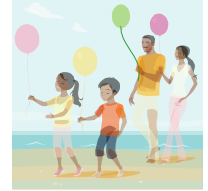
NO Sunday School

NO Fellowship Time

NO Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

NO Wednesday Night Family Night

NO Thursday Evening Bible Study



Enjoy the summer with your families!

Please remember our shut-ins in your prayers! Their addresses are below if you'd like to visit or send a special note to let them know that we are thinking of them ☺

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

321 West Van Buren
Charleston, IL 61920
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, Rm. 102
Neoga, IL 62447
Birthday: 2/9

Tom Watson

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

~ 5 ~



Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together...



Egg Cartons

The Murdock Food Pantry is in need of egg cartons. If you have any, please bring them to the church and Crystal Schulz will deliver them to the food pantry.



MISSION TRIP

Please remember the youth and chaperones as they travel to Louisiana for the Summer Mission Trip during the first week of June.

Newspapers

Betty Potts is in need of newspapers. If you have extra ones, please bring them to the church or contact Betty to make arrangements to pick them up.



Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter will be a Summer newsletter (July/Aug 2013) and will be printed and distributed around the end of June. The deadline to submit articles or information in the Summer newsletter will be **Thursday, June 20.** Please contact Samantha Baker or email the church office if you have information to include.



Please Note!



If you need to reach
Pastor Nicholas:

Cell Phone: (740) 513-6199

Home Phone: (217) 345-2046

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>
4/28	\$ 1,070.00	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 1,115.00)
5/5	\$ 1,970.00	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 215.00)
5/12	\$ 1,669.00	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 516.00)
5/19	\$ 1,396.00	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 789.00)
TOTAL	\$ 6,105.00	\$ 8,740.00	(\$ 2,635.00)



BUILDING FUND

Current Balance

4/28	\$ 2,354.79
5/5	\$ 2,924.79
5/12	\$ 1,923.24
5/19	\$ 1,933.24

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
<u>Worship Service</u>	<u>\$ 30.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 8,729.00
Weekly	\$ 2,182.25

Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.

Deuteronomy 15:10 (NIV)

Celebrations



Birthdays

6/1	Nicholas Gleason	6/16	Sandy Smallhorn
6/2	Tiffinie Watson	6/16	Henry Clark
6/3	Harold Hackett	6/17	Dan Bircher
6/4	Melissa Rice	6/18	Jane Cox
6/6	Drew Schwartz	6/19	Alesia Smyser
6/8	Mandy Buell	6/24	Brandon Schulz
6/12	Fern Percy	6/24	Michael Donley
6/13	Martin Clark	6/25	Sharron Waltrip
6/15	Jayna Menser	6/25	Rachael Bircher
6/16	Christopher Schulz		



Anniversaries

6/7	Dan & Vickie Bircher
6/9	Doug & Mary Hennig
6/20	Rex & Joan Johns
6/22	Jerry & Sue Payne
6/26	Richard & Paula Dennis



June Worship Leaders

	<u>6/2</u>	<u>6/9</u>	<u>6/16</u>	<u>6/23</u>	<u>6/30</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Dan & Vickie Bircher	Betty Potts & Cathi Brockman	Tom & Shelli Blair	Ken & Sandy Smallhorn	Dorothy Cox & Family
<u>Acolyte</u>	Kayla Donley	Mackensie Williams	Omarion Johnson	Jade Smyser	Brandon Schulz
<u>Ushers</u>	Tom Blair Shelli Blair Bill Snider Rose Snider	John McDaniel Jerry Payne Jim Hackett Derek Hennig	Sandy Smallhorn Doug Hennig Butch Hackett Linda Hackett	Dan Bircher Rick Waltrip Sean Hackett Ron Hall	Keridwen McDaniel Alesia Smyser Kenny Smallhorn Ian McDaniel
<u>Family Cross</u>	Harold & Phyllis Hackett	Doug & Mary Hennig	Brad Bircher & Crystal Schulz	Daniel & Tabatha Lewis	Bill & Rose Snider
<u>Children's Moment</u>	Samantha Baker	Carolyn Craig	Brad Bircher	Jane Cox	Pastor Nicholas





JUNE 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <i>Nicholas Gleason</i>
2 <i>Tiffinie Watson</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am	3 <i>Harold Hackett</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Finance Mtg</u> 6:30pm	4 <i>Melissa Rice</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	5 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	6 <i>Drew Schwartz</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	7 <i>Dan & Vickie Bircher</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	8 <i>Mandy Buell</i>
9 <i>Doug & Mary Hennig</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am	10 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	11 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Nurture Mtg</u> 6:00pm	12 <i>Fern Percy</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	13 <i>Martin Clark</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	14 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	15 <i>Jayna Menser</i>
16 <i>Sandy Smallhorn Christopher Schulz Henry Clark</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am	17 <i>Dan Bircher</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	18 <i>Jane Cox</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	19 <i>Alesia Smyser</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	20 <i>Rex & Joan Johns</i> Newsletter Articles Due <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	21 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	22 <i>Jerry & Sue Payne</i>
23 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>VBS</u> 6:00-8:00pm	24 <i>Brandon Schulz Michael Donley</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>VBS</u> 6:00-8:00pm	25 <i>Sharron Waltrip Rachael Bircher</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>VBS</u> 6:00-8:00pm	26 <i>Richard & Paula Dennis</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>VBS</u> 6:00-8:00pm <u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	27 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	28 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	29
30 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am						

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JUNE 2013

Sunday Morning Worship
Sunday School

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

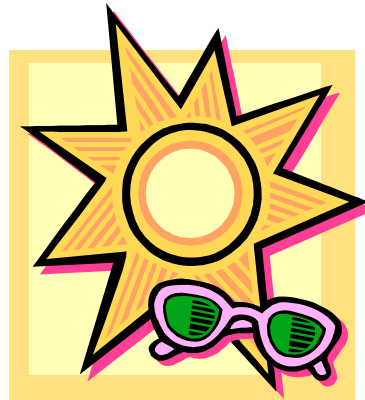
Offerbein United Methodist Church
2175 E. Harrison
Charleston, IL 61920

CONTACT US:

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

Find us on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com/charlestonotterbein

All are welcome!



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