



Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

MARCH 2011

The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;
for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.

Psalm 103:8-14 (NIV)

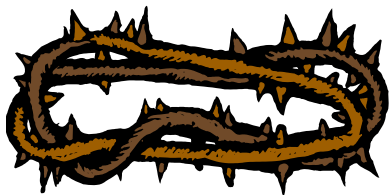


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PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Krista Price



In like a lion out like a lamb! That is the saying we always hear and hope for in the spring. Spring reminds us of so many things: new life, sunshine, storms, baseball, concerts, soccer, outside events/parties and preparing for Easter.

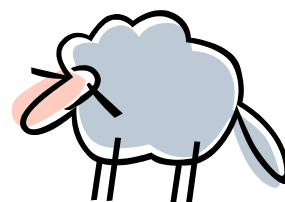
During our Lenten journey this year we are focusing on prayer, fasting and time with God. During the month of March and April, I will be preaching on different kinds of fasts and prayer. My hope is that you will embrace something new that will challenge your heart and life for the coming months. If we are to get in shape for Jesus than we need to build muscle in our prayer lives and instead of dieting, fast to draw us closer to God.

I will be challenging each of you to take on the discipline of prayer and fasting. My hope is that each week you will see your stamina increasing and your results will be amazing = a closer relationship with God through Jesus.

I am excited at what I see in the life of this congregation of growing in the Lord, now I am looking forward to seeing how we will prepare ourselves to finish the race set before us! Like the scripture says, "let us fix our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith." (Hebrews 12:2)

We are doing well my friends, let's keep on serving the Lord together and many will seek Him because of us! Grow, serve and love together!

Serving together,
Pastor Krista



LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

We had a college girl living across the street from us last fall, who owned this little tiny dog. It looked like a cross between a Chihuahua and a tea-cup poodle. Whenever it would see me outside, it summoned all three ounces of its body weight and let out (what it thought to be) the loudest, scariest bark to keep me away. As is my custom with dogs or children for that matter, I scrunch down and offer a friendly smile coupled with some soft spoken words. Most of the time, the dog, or child will drop their defenses and let me pet it. (The dog, not the kids!) I wonder if God has done that for us through His Son Jesus? He sent His son to the lowest of lows in order that no one would be excluded from his grace and righteousness.

In Isaiah 42: 6-7 we read *"I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness."* Part of Christ's mission on earth was to demonstrate God's righteousness and be a light to the Gentiles (all nations). By adopting the form of a lowly servant, our Creator lived, died, descended to Hades to disarm our wrongs. Mart De Haan puts it this way, *"He is coaxing us from the cover of spiritual darkness to call us friends (John 15:15)"* How comforting and reassuring to be chosen as Christ's friends. Because He is our Lord and Master, we owe him our unqualified obedience, but Jesus asks that we obey him because we love Him! How can we still be afraid to trust Him?

In His Grip,
Butch



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

The high and
holy One
became
the meek and
lowly One.





Jumpin' 4 Jesus

The kids at J4J would like to invite you to join them on Wednesday evenings. We would love to share our story with you! Please consider attending Family Night on a Wednesday evening and dropping by the J4J room. We have lots of fun, praise, worship, and prayer to add to the excitement of the evening. You will be blessed when you see the kids' faith grow in new and special ways. Please contact Jane Cox if you are interested in teaching or contributing to J4J in any way.

You are always welcome!!!

J4J

Wed. 6:00-7:30 pm
Age 3 to 5th grade

Something NEW! CAFÉ AGAPE

ATTENTION: Parents of Little Ones and Young Married Couples

Beginning March 2, Café Agape will make its debut during Family Night (6:00-7:30 pm). This is a fellowship group for parents of little ones or young married couples. Please join us in a casual relaxing atmosphere as we fellowship and get to know each other.

Dinner is provided—meaning, no meal preparations or dishes ☺; child care is provided—meaning, adult interaction for you ☺, what more could you ask for??

We would love for you to be a part of Café Agape. You are invited to come whenever you are available—we will meet during Family Night after the shared meal time.

Please invite friends/family that may be interested in being a part of Café Agape too! If you have any questions, please contact Adam or Samantha Baker.

***J4J,
*LinC,
*Café Agape,
*Adult Bible Study,
and
*Child Care
is available
(age 2 and under)**

Everyone is invited--
even if you only want
to share in the
mealtime, we would
love to see you there!

Fun

Food



Fellowship



~ 4 ~

Faith Development

FAMILY NIGHT

LinC (Life in Christ)

Wed. 6:00-7:30 pm
6th-12th grade



SOUPEL BOWL OF CARING (tacklehunger.org)

On February 6, 2011, \$56 was collected (for *Coalition For People In Need*); and 65 cans of food were collected (for the Food Pantry). Thanks for your support!



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:

~**Mar 18th-19th** – 30-Hour Famine Event (overnight event at the church)

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

~**Apr 9th & 10th** – "Dead Serious About Life", musical/drama being presented in Martinsville, IL
(*LinC and chaperones will be attending the 2:00 pm showing on April 10th*)

30-HOUR FAMINE EVENT... COMING SOON!

All youth, Middle School and High School, mark your calendars and plan to participate in the 30-Hour Famine event, March 18-19, 2011, at Otterbein UMC. Plan to arrive at the church at 6:00 pm on Friday; pickup at the church will be 6:00 pm on Saturday! If you didn't already pick up a fundraising packet at the Feb 16th LinC meeting, then be sure to get one from the Welcome Center table at church.

Over the next few weeks, our youth will come face to face with the realities of poverty and injustice. They'll learn about—and experience—hunger for themselves. Most of all, they'll get to do something about it: raising money to help feed and care for hungry kids. Here's how it works through World Vision: It takes \$1.00/day, or \$30/month, to help feed and care for one child. The youth at LinC on Feb 16th set as their personal goal to raise \$360, which will help to feed and care for one child for one year! You can help the youth in this effort with your prayers and monetary support. Youth will begin their "fast" starting after lunch on Friday, March 18th, and will have only water and fruit juices for the next 30 hrs. The total dollar amount raised to feed and care for a child (*i.e. "Andinette" who we support on an ongoing basis*) will be determined by the end of the event.

~ 5 ~

LinC (March Schedule)

03/09/11 – Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm

NO LinC or Family Night

03/16/11 – w/ Jessica Watton

03/23/11 – w/ Jessica Watton

03/30/11 – w/ Jessica Watton

04/05/11 – Youth Ministry Team

Planning Mtg (6:30pm)

MIDDLE SCHOOL IGNITION CONFERENCE

On January 28-29, 2011, Lisa McDaniel, Keridwen McDaniel and Debra Bircher attended a Harvest Ministries Conference (*Ignition*) for Middle School students, at Christ UMC, East Moline, IL. They enjoyed the experience (*great music, good relational connections, a great theme about "Who's Your Hero" and "Be a Rebel"—in a good way!*). Lisa says "I've got pictures!". Perhaps we'll see some of them posted on the youth bulletin board in the near future ☺



OTHER NEWS

Winter Jam

The 2011 Winter Jam concert will be March 26 at the Assembly Hall in Champaign-Urbana. Families are invited to join us as we carpool to the concert and worship the Lord with people from all around the area.

The tickets are \$10 and must be purchased with cash or check only at the door.

Featured artists include Newsboys, Kutless, Francesca Battistelli, RED, NewSong, KJ-52, Sidewalk Prophets, Chris August, Jason Castro and Tony Nolan.

More info will follow. Sign-up in the entryway!!

Thank you!
Mucho gracias!
Danke!

Whatever the language, it all means the same. We appreciate all the help at the Pancake breakfast, the branches being picked up, the ice/snow being shoveled, and all the extra help around the church lately! Great job by all who give their time and service!



LET'S BE GREEN!

The monthly newsletter is now available for viewing, saving or printing on our website

www.charlestonotterbein.org

If you would like to join in our effort to be more "green" and reduce paper waste, please email the church office (charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com),

and we will remove you from the paper copy mailing list. We will send you an email each month to notify you when the newsletter is available online.

HELP WANTED!

We are looking for a person for the position of part-time custodian. This person would be working approximately 5 hours per week. To pick up an application, please call the office or see Pastor Krista. The Pastor Parish Team will be reviewing the applications and then will set up a time to interview. The deadline for the applications is March 15th.



BIBLE STUDY

A five week study during the Lenten season will begin on March 17th and end on April 14th. It will be held Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm. If you are interested, we ask that you sign up in the entryway. The book to be purchased is "Prayer" by Phillip Yancey. If you need assistance with the book, please let Pastor Krista know.

Also available:

Women's Bible Study—
Tuesday mornings 9:00-10:00am

Adult Bible Study—
during Family Night on Wednesdays
from 6:30-7:30pm

Meet Joan Hutton...

(Special thanks to Sandy and Kenny Smallhorn for this fascinating article about one of Otterbein's special members!!)

Joan Hutton was born in Uluberia, India in April 1921. Uluberia is southwest of Calcutta. Her parents were Baptist missionaries. She lived there until she was almost four years old. She recalls many interesting times her family had while living there.

One day her sister Barbara was playing in the sand outside their home. She had always loved things that wiggled and bugs. Looking out, her mother saw Barbara playing with something in the sand so she went out to see what creature had her daughter so captivated. To her horror, she saw it was a baby Cobra!

Their home was on the second floor. It was built on stilts to accommodate the monsoon season. There was a railing around the porch of their home. On this particular day, the neighbor boy, Barbara and Joan were playing on the porch when they saw a monkey sitting on the railing. They started to tease it. It became agitated and started to chase Joan and the boy. Fearful it would bite the children or scratch them, the boy's father had a gun and shot the monkey, killing it. Joan recalled how this really set the missionary work back because the natives believed in reincarnation!

They only had one well to use. It served as their bath tub, laundry facility and their kitchen faucet. All of their drinking water was boiled. They used mosquito nets even back then because of the malaria the mosquitoes carried. Joan knows first-hand about malaria since she contracted it at age 3 ½.

But the most fascinating thing is, her father and GANDHI were close friends! He visited her father often at their home. Even after returning home to the United States, Gandhi continued to write to her father. If you were to read about Gandhi, you would read about a hand held sewing machine Gandhi used. It is mentioned that a missionary gave him the sewing machine. That missionary was Joan's father.

Gandhi had shared with her father that he believed in the Christian ethics. He said he would proclaim he was a Christian but what stopped him was the Christians he had previously met. She said he had a great influence on her father as well as her father had on Gandhi. Joan recalls seeing Gandhi walking away from their home carrying the sewing machine on his back. Her sister Barbara had the letters Gandhi had written their father. When she died, Joan doesn't know what happened to those letters.

She and her family returned back to the United States when she was three almost four years old. Joan had malaria at the time. It was overwhelming for her mother so Joan lived in Ohio with her grandmother upon their return until she was ten years old.

Her father was a minister during the depression. Therefore they didn't live anywhere for a very long stretch. She recalled living on the south side of Chicago. Her father was paid \$5.00 a month. To make ends meet, he had to take on another job as well. Yet she said he never shirked his duties as a pastor. He was there when someone was sick, needed help or just needed prayer. She said that a Baptist minister was called upon to be a minister and usually wasn't as formally educated, thus they took their ministry as just that, a ministry. It was not just a job for them. They were very committed to their congregation.

With times being so hard on everyone, she talked of the toys she and her sister played with. They took catalogs and cut the people out. Then they would "shop" for new clothes for them by cutting out other outfits for them. They would cut out families and play with their paper dolls using only their catalog families and their imagination.

Continued from page 7....

Joan joined her father's church when she was 10 years old, around 1931. In this particular congregation, they had a melting pot of nationalities. There were Mexican, Polish, German, and Italian people attending their church. Many times church would be held in a local forest preserve where it was turned into a family potluck picnic. That sounds more Methodist than Baptist to me!

Joan talked briefly about dating back then. She said it was VERY structured. She said she didn't have many dates because she was considered by her peers as too prim and proper. After all, she was a preacher's child.

She met her first and only true love while attending EIU. After graduation, she married him. His name was Jim Hutton. He was the football coach at small schools. He would bring them from a losing team to a winning team for three or four years in a row before moving on. She tells how Jim was a star quarterback for EIU. Problem was, back then they wore leather helmets. Later in his life, this became the source of some brain damage he suffered prior to his death.

Jim was definitely called to become a minister. She laughs and said he didn't go willingly! She saw him in the living room floor wrestling with who he said was God. This went on for a short while. Jim was arguing with God that he was not minister material! God won and so Jim went to seminary in Chicago and later transferred to Indianapolis.

As a pastor's wife, she found life to be lonely. She never made friends because in her way of thinking, friendship would mean she had favorites. She just couldn't single any certain person out to be friends with. She never had a friend until Jim retired. Her first friend was a Catholic woman who lived across the trailer from her. They were very close!

As a Christian, she said her greatest memory was when her own children joined the church. She felt that they had done something right as parents when their children wanted to join the church.

Joan and Jim had five children, four boys and one girl. Jim Jr. went on to be a minister himself. So Joan lived her life as a pastor's daughter, a pastor's wife and a pastor's mother. To my way of thinking, Joan has truly been blessed!

***Written by Sandy Smallhorn*

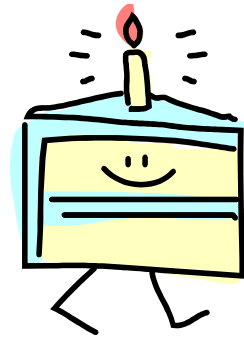


Joan currently resides at
Hilltop Convalescent Center in Charleston.
I'm sure she would love to receive a card or
letter or have a visitor stop by!

**JOAN HUTTON
C/O HILLTOP CONVALESCENT CENTER
910 W. POLK AVENUE
ROOM 209
CHARLESTON, IL 61920**

Please remember all of our homebound members and those who live in nursing homes!

Celebrations



Birthdays

3/2 Rachel Schwartz
 3/3 Richard Dennis
 3/3 Lisa McDaniel
 3/5 Nicole Hackett
 3/5 Mercedes Roberts
 3/6 Judd Hackett
 3/13 Linda Hackett
 3/15 Crystal Schulz
 3/20 Cody McVaigh
 3/25 Doug Hennig
 3/31 Samantha Tanner

Anniversaries

3/14 Wayne & Jane Cox
 3/19 Bill & Rose Snider



March Worship

	<u>3/6</u>	<u>3/13</u>	<u>3/20</u>	<u>3/27</u>
Greeters	Jim & Carolyn Craig	Dan & Vickie Bircher	Butch & Linda Hackett	Rachael Bircher & Stephen Ray
Acolyte	Jade Smyser	Brandon Schulz	Debra Bircher	Kenny Smallhorn
Ushers	Samantha Baker Steve Price Rose Snider Doug Hennig	Rick Waltrip Krista Snider Toody Hackett Butch Hackett	Rex Johns Brad Bircher Tabatha Bircher Mary Hennig	Sandy Smallhorn Betty Stoner Marty Buell Dan Bircher
Family Cross	Adam & Samantha Baker	Jim & Carolyn Craig	Ken & Sandy Smallhorn	Richard & Paula Dennis

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Women's Bible Study 9:00-10:00am	2 <i>Rachel Schwartz</i> Family Night 6:00-7:30pm	3 <i>Richard Dennis</i> <i>Lisa McDaniel</i> Prayer/Fasting Tech 5:00pm Choir 5:30pm 5 Love Lang. 6:30-7:30pm	4	5 <i>Nicole Hackett</i> <i>Mercedes Roberts</i>
6 <i>Judd Hackett</i>	7 Finance Mtg. 6:30pm	8 Women's Bible Study 9:00-10:00am	9 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm	10 Tech 5:00pm Choir 5:30pm 5 Love Lang. 6:30-7:30pm	11	12 <i>Building in Use--</i> Arts Council 9:00am-3:00pm
13 <i>Linda Hackett</i>	14 <i>Wayne & Jane Cox</i>	15 <i>Crystal Schulz</i> Women's Bible Study 9:00-10:00am	16 Family Night 6:00-7:30pm	17 Tech 5:00pm Choir 5:30pm Bible Study 6:30-7:30pm	18 LinC-- 30-Hour Famine 6pm begins	19 <i>Bill & Rose Snider</i> LinC-- 30-Hour Famine 6pm ends
20 <i>Cody McVaigh</i> 1 st Day of Spring	21 Newsletter Articles Due	22 Women's Bible Study 9:00-10:00am	23 Family Night 6:00-7:30pm	24 Tech 5:00pm Choir 5:30pm Bible Study 6:30-7:30pm	25 <i>Doug Hennig</i>	26 Winter Jam Concert at Assembly Hall
27	28 Trustee Mtg. 6:30pm	29 Women's Bible Study 9:00-10:00am	30 Family Night 6:00-7:30pm	31 <i>Samantha Tanner</i> Tech 5:00pm Choir 5:30pm Bible Study 6:30-7:30pm		

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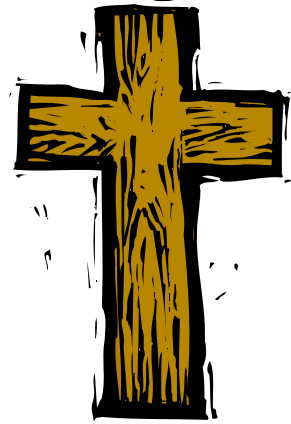
Sunday Morning Worship
Sunday School

9:00 am
10:30 am

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

Phone: (217) 345-5843
Email: charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com
Website: www.charlestonotterbein.org

All are welcome!



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