



Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

OCTOBER 2012

HARVEST TIME

by Colin Moffett

It steals along the morning vale; The dewdrops of the autumn mist
And through its curtain the sun shines pale; Along riverbank it will persist

Then softly blows the wind of morn;
Over bounteous fields kissed with sun and rain
And whispers in the ears of wheat and corn; Harvest time is here again

It tosses the head of majestic tree; Plucking coloured gems from its crown
Where from the branches falling free; The autumn leaves come winging down

And now there is unceasing toil; From morning sun 'til harvest moon
To gather the bounty from the soil; For winter days are creeping soon

And busy hands gather in the wheat; The earthy potatoes from the drill
The fruit of tree so good to eat; For barns of storage are to fill

Back through the mist of years; Jesus walked the harvest field
And gazed upon the golden ears; When mother earth had produced her yield

And watched it fall to reaper swing; The ripened heads fit for harvest now
After days of growing from the spring;
When seeds were sown behind the plough

Then compared the world to whitened field;
Where dying souls are like falling leaves
Who will reap the harvest field?; And carry home the precious sheaves

Who will seek precious souls to win?; Before scythe of death begins to mow
To tell of Jesus who frees from sin; For they will reap what they will sow

Jesus looks to me and calls to you; Who by His blood our sin relieves
His harvest reapers we are few; But let us work to gather in His sheaves

--www.christart.com

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PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Nicholas Gleason

Dear Friends,

I pray this letter finds you well and blessed. The other day I was driving by an elementary school, as the children were being let out. One little boy, probably in kindergarten, caught my eye. He was so excited to see his Mom (or to be out of school) that he began to run as fast as his little legs could take him. He ran so hard; he could barely keep his backpack from bouncing off his shoulders!

His Mom squatted down to catch him in her arms, but Mom and son's timing was just a tad bit off. And when the son jumped into his Moms arms, he knocked her over. The two just laid there for a second, holding each other as tight as each could.

While I got a good laugh out of that little boy running as fast as he could, and knocking his Mom over, the story also challenges me. I wonder how often my heavenly Father waits for me to run to him in that way?

I went to this clergy gathering last week, and we sang the song "Forever Reign". These lyrics from the refrain begin to tug at my heart:

*Oh, I'm running to Your arms,
I'm running to Your arms,
The riches of Your love
Will always be enough
Nothing compares to Your embrace
Light of the world forever reign.*

"I'm running to Your arms, the riches of Your love will always be enough". That simple statement of truth and grace is enough to cause us to run to God. That is my challenge to each of us, are we ready to run into God's arms?

Most of us are running. Running away from something that hurts us. Running towards something that excites us. But, whatever we need is found in running to those waiting arms of Jesus.

The other thing I want to point out. I wasn't the only one watching that little school boy jumping into his Mom's arms. That little boy caught the eyes of every teacher and parent in the school yard. It had an impact. Deep down, those other parents were probably wishing their kid had greeted them in the same way.

So, "run to Him" and watch what happens. People will notice. People will smile. People will come. And in time, they too will "run to His arms" and discover the richness of His grace and the joy of His church.

Shalom,

Nicholas



LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

This being an election year, along with baseball playoffs, and the NFL getting in gear, makes the last 3 months of this year an interesting one. Passions for a particular political party, baseball or football team seems to reverberate in the air around coffee shop table discussions, employees at workplaces and wherever a group of people are gathered. A person can't help but over-hear debates over who to vote for, the World Series predictions or football both college and pro. It's sometimes funny to hear people lay their rationale for their particular stance and then listen to the response of someone who disagrees with similar rationale for their position. Usually neither side ever convinces the other side. The two parties just agree to disagree.

This raises a question in my mind. Are there times when a Christian *shouldn't* talk about God? Randy Kilgore who writes for 'The Daily Bread' puts it this way; *"In the face of insincere challenges to our faith, silence may often be the best response."* When Jesus was before the Sanhedrin and false evidence was being presented Caiaphas, the high priest, we see Jesus' reaction in Matthew 26:62-63; *"Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, 'Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?' But Jesus remained silent....."* In this hostile exchange with Caiaphas, Jesus chose silence at first. He understood that Caiaphas wasn't interested in the truth. While we don't always know another's heart, we must be sensitive to the leading of the Spirit in every situation that *"we may know how to answer everyone"* (Col. 4:6)

When are some of these times that we might want to be silent? How about at work while on the clock when the discussion is keeping us from being a productive employee? [or] If an answer to a question will move the discussion down a rabbit trail and away from Christ? [or] If someone has shown a continual resistance, we might choose to stop pressing them. Remember, we can be a witness of God's grace with our conduct and work ethic as well.

In His Grip,

Butch



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

Christianity
is a way
of walking
as well as
a way of
talking.



Intentional Faith Development



Women's Bible Study *Tuesday Mornings at 9:00am w/ Sandy Smallhorn*

All women are invited to share in a time of Bible study and fellowship with other women in our church family.

BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Evenings from 6:30-8:00pm



Mary Hennig will be leading another Beth Moore study this fall called "James: Mercy Triumphs." They will meet Thursday evenings, beginning September 13 and going through November 1. *James, Jesus' own brother, started out as a skeptic. See how one glimpse of the resurrected Savior turned an unbeliever into a disciple in this 8 session DVD study.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL (Sundays at 10:30am)

Preschool Class (Age 3-Kindergarten)

*Meet in Noah's Ark Classroom
w/ Sandy Smallhorn*

They will be hearing stories from the "Young Reader's Bible," and will be singing, playing games, and doing crafts for their time together.



Elementary Class (1st-5th grade)

*Meet in Garden Classroom
w/ Jane Cox*

They are using the "Mary Kay Warner Children's Study," where they will come to see Christ as their primary source of wisdom, guidance and protection. They will engage topics such as: bullying, cheating, fear, forgiveness, and trusting God.

Middle School/High School Class

*Meet in Sanctuary
w/ Sean Hackett*

They are using a Movie/Bible Study Series, "To Save A Life." Jake Taylor had everything--a beautiful girl, champion in basketball and beer pong, and everyone loved him. Then an old childhood friend commits suicide, and Jake began to wonder what he could have done to save his friend's life. His youth pastor told Jake he needed God, so Jake became a Christian. However, things began to spin out of control, and that's when Jake really began to realize what it meant to be a Christian and to save a life!

Adult Class #2

*Meet in Café Agape Room
w/ Jim & Carolyn Craig*

They are using an 8-wk Max Lucado study with DVD component, "Next Door Savior," exploring how they can experience a fresh encounter with Jesus--"He's near enough to touch...strong enough to trust." This experience will help them to understand how a Jesus who is Lord of the universe, is also close enough to hear their heart's cry.



Adult Class #1 (Believers)

*Meet in Gold Classroom
w/ Butch Hackett*

They are using a study book "Oprah, Miracles, and the New Earth," by Erwin Lutzer. They will review the Erwin Lutzer critique on the true nature of contemporary spirituality, tracing its roots across a range of false belief systems and back to its first appearance in the garden of Eden. It remains essential to carefully discern between truth and...The Lie. They will be using scriptures along with Dr. Lutzer's teachings to help strengthen them to discern the positive from the negative influences that bombard our lives on a daily basis.

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!!!

Please note that they will not be meeting on October 31.



J4J (Jumpin' for Jesus)

Age 3-5th 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 (some ideas include crocheted necklaces, table runners, or pillowcases to sell in the craft bazaar or give to shut-ins, cancer patients, nursing homes, etc)

LinC (Life in Christ)

6th-12th grades
w/ Adam Baker

The youth will be using a practical discipleship curriculum in a four-volume series,
Soar, Thrive, Follow, Think,
biblically discussing issues that matter to students today.

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...



**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 ☺

See Butch Hackett if your family is interested in
helping to provide the refreshments and the
opportunity for us to have this time together.

**CHOIR PRACTICE
THURSDAY EVENINGS
at 6:00PM**



**ALL ARE WELCOME
TO JOIN THE
CHOIR. LET'S MAKE
a JOYFUL NOISE TO
THE LORD!**



Chili & Bazaar Day

**Saturday, October 27
10:00am-2:00pm**



Food donations are needed to help prepare the chili and other
items that will be available. Please see Wayne or Jane Cox for
info on how to donate food or your time in helping set-up, serve
and clean-up. There will also be a craft and baked goods bazaar
happening at the same time in the double classroom. If you
have items to put into the bazaar, please see Dorothy Cox. We
would like a variety of hand-crafted and homemade goods!
Please price your items before bringing them to the church.

Wade Hennig (son of Doug and Mary
Hennig) recently moved after accepting a
teaching job in Wyoming, IL. If you wish
to contact Wade, his new address is:

**12225 N. Woodcrest Dr.
Apt. 209
Dunlap, IL 61525**



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 (*November 2012*) will be
printed and distributed around the end of October.
The deadline to submit articles or information in the
November newsletter will be Thursday, October 18.
Please contact Samantha Baker or email the church
office if you have information to include.

But Let Us Encourage One Another (Hebrews 10:25)

COMMUNITY EVENTS



**Get some exercise! Have fun!
Meet new people! Help feed the hungry!**

It's not too late to sign up for the
25th annual Coles County CROP Hunger Walk,
which will be **Saturday morning, October 6**
beginning and ending at Wesley UMC.
Register at 8 a.m. and begin walking at 8:30 a.m.

A rest stop will be available for the 3-mile walk. A mini-walk
of one mile is planned for those seniors and families with
young children who would like a shorter distance.

How Can You Help?

● ***Be a walker*** by registering with Pastor Nicholas.

Or if you can't walk,

● ***Be a sponsor*** by donating money to one of the walkers.

See Pastor Nicholas if you want more information
on how to be involved.



Coles County Habitat for Humanity will hold its
annual Habifeast on **Saturday, October 6** at the
Immaculate Conception Parish Center in Mattoon,
Illinois from **4:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.** We invite
you to celebrate a year of accomplishments, enjoy
some great food, and listen to some wonderful music
as you dine. Tickets for pot roast dinner with all the
trimmings are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children
under 12. You can purchase tickets by calling the
Habitat office at 348-7063. They will also be available
at the door.

~ 7 ~

NEW LIVE REVIVAL

at Paris OUMC
(406 W. Washington, Paris, IL)

September 30-October 3

at 6:30pm each night

*w/ Evangelist Matt Henson
(son of Brad Henson)*

An energetic, dynamic, vision-casting
adventurer for Jesus is one of the best ways
to describe Rev. Matt Henson. Matt brings
a fresh perspective and energy to the
church and her ministry. He specializes in
Youth/Young Adult Ministry, Evangelistic
Preaching, and Mission Experiences, using
his experience and passion to proclaim the
message of Jesus Christ to all people.

Matt is the Executive Director and Lead
Evangelist for *Living the Adventure
Ministries*, a ministry he founded in 2007.
Matt brings a fresh perspective and energy
to the church and her ministry. He
specializes in Youth/Young Adult Ministry,
Evangelistic Preaching, and Mission
Experiences, using his experience and
passion to proclaim the message of Jesus
Christ to all people.

Matt and his wife of fifteen years, Nancy,
live in Albion, Illinois with their four sons
(Elijah, Micah, Judah, and Isaiah).

Matt served at the Charleston Otterbein
UMC in 1996 as a Youth Minister and
Hume & Fairmont United Methodist
churches in 1997-99.



"The OTTERBEIN HUBBUB"

- **"Hub"** means **"focal point"**... may our ministry focal point always be God-focused!
- **"Hubbub"**, a word for "noise"...may we come together serving in the way God created us to serve and make **"a joyful noise"** in the process!
- **HUB Leader**... one whose goal is **"H-elping to U-tilize the B-ody"** (of believers at Otterbein)

WHAT'S THE SEPTEMBER HUBBUB?

- **Family Night Women's Group** – We are crocheting necklaces to put in the October church bazaar. We have also learned to make pillowcases to be donated to the Conkerr Cancer organization. Our pillowcases will go to the Children's Hospital in Springfield, IL (*with a drop-off point for collection of them right here in Charleston*)! We will also be learning to make Fall and Holiday table runners, and other interesting projects (*not all of them sewing!*) If you have a project we can work on together on Weds evenings, please let us hear about it ☺ Check out the display so far on the Welcome Table in the entryway, and as items are added to it!
 - **How can you help?** **1)** Come join us on any Weds evening; **2)** donate fabric pieces to make pillowcases (*it takes a yard to make one pillowcase*); and/or **3)** donate \$\$ toward the purchase of craft supplies (*checks payable to Otterbein UMC/Family Night, or see Samantha Baker or Carolyn Craig*).
- **Family Night Meals & Fellowship Time** – When Otterbein folks meet, we like to eat! Be reminded... there's a meal every Weds at 6 pm, and sessions for all ages from 6:30-7:30 pm. Even if you can't stay for the sessions, please come for the meal and fellowship!
 - **How can you help?** **1)** Donate nonperishable food items throughout the year... especially Apple Juice (for the kids), and large cans of fruit (*leave them on the west kitchen counter*); **2)** donate \$\$ toward the purchase of paper products and other meal supplies (*checks payable to Otterbein UMC/Family Night, or see Jim or Carolyn Craig*); **3)** "buddy-up" with a friend and sign up to bring an entrée for the meal one Weds evening (**Oct 10th, 17th, and Nov 28th are still open!**) **4)** volunteer to furnish dessert one Weds evening (*for about 40 people... when we don't get volunteers, Samantha Baker fills in to bake something from donated boxed mixes*). (**Oct 3, 10, 17, 24 and Nov 14, 28, and Dec 5 are still open!**) See Carolyn Craig, please!
- **What's New In The Pew?** – Please take note of the NEW "Connect Cards" in the songbook/Bible rack in each pew. If you notice a visitor sitting near you, please encourage them to fill out a Connect Card and place it in the offering plate. Even if you're a member of the church, or have been attending for a long time, you can also use the card to turn in a special prayer request, or to request information on a number of different topics. Take a look next time you're in the pew ☺
- **Welcome Folders** – On the Welcome Table in the entryway of the church, as well as on the bulletin board by the kitchen, there are available Welcome Folders describing what Otterbein UMC is all about. This is another excellent tool to hand to a visitor and a good conversation-starter as well ☺

Submitted by: Carolyn Craig, HUB Leader

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>
9/2	\$ 392.00	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 1,793.00)
9/9	\$ 2,834.83	\$ 2,185.00	\$ 649.83
9/16	\$ 1,727.00	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 458.00)
<u>9/23</u>	<u>\$ 1,126.17</u>	<u>\$ 2,185.00</u>	<u>(\$ 1,058.83)</u>
TOTAL	\$ 6,080.00	\$ 8,740.00	(\$ 2,660.00)



For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

--2 Corinthians 9:10 (NLT)

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



BUILDING FUND

Current Balance

9/2	\$ 2,037.19
9/9	\$ 2,762.19
9/16	\$ 2,832.19
9/23	\$ 2,982.19

Monthly Mortgage Payment **\$ 1,356.55**

Celebrations

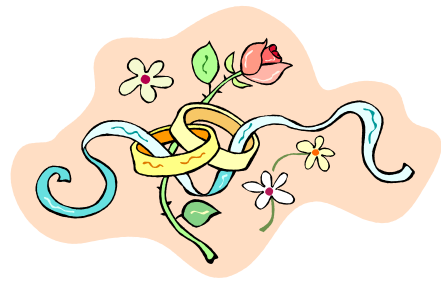


Birthdays

10/8	Jade Smyser
10/12	Cord Hackett
10/13	Sue Payne
10/16	Christopher Fitzpatrick
10/17	Rick Waltrip
10/23	Lisa Clark
10/23	Eli Tanner
10/25	Rose Snider
10/28	Wayne Cox
10/29	Bill Snider

Anniversaries

10/11	Tom & Shelli Blair
10/14	Ray & Alice Seeley
10/18	Butch & Linda Hackett
10/20	Marty & Loretta Buell



October Worship Leaders

	<u>10/7</u>	<u>10/14</u>	<u>10/21</u>	<u>10/28</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Jim & Carolyn Craig	Dan & Vickie Bircher	Rick & Sharron Waltrip	Dorothy Cox & family
<u>Acolyte</u>	Alesia Smyser	Mackenzie Wilson	Jade Smyser	Tyvon Johnson
<u>Ushers</u>	Butch Hackett Brad Bircher Adam Baker Derek Hennig	Marty Buell Dan Bircher Linda Hackett Melody McGrath	Harold Hackett Jim Craig Sean Hackett Derek Hennig	Austin Hackett Bill Harrison Phyllis Hackett Cathi Brockman
<u>Family Cross</u>	Pastor Nicholas	Butch & Linda Hackett	Jim & Carolyn Craig	Dorothy Cox
<u>Children's Moment</u>	Samantha Baker	Carolyn Craig	Sandy Smallhorn	Jane Cox



OCTOBER 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am	3 <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>Building in Use-AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	4 <u>Choir 6:00pm</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-8:00pm	5	6 <u>Crop Walk</u> Register at 8:00am at Wesley UMC
7 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	8 <i>Jade Smyser</i> <u>Finance Mtg</u> 6:30pm	9 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am	10 <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>Building in Use-AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	11 <i>Tom & Shelli Blair</i> <u>Choir 6:00pm</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-8:00pm	12 <i>Cord Hackett</i>	13 <i>Sue Payne</i>
14 <i>Ray & Alice Seeley</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	15	16 <i>Christopher Fitzpatrick</i> <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am	17 <i>Rick Waltrip</i> <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>Building in Use-AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	18 <i>Butch & Linda Hackett</i> <u>Newsletter Articles Due</u> <u>5 Mile 10am</u> <u>Choir 6:00pm</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-8:00pm	19	20 <i>Marty & Loretta Buell</i>
21 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	22	23 <i>Lisa Clark</i> <i>Eli Tanner</i> <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am	24 <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>Building in Use-AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	25 <i>Rose Snider</i> <u>Choir 6:00pm</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-8:00pm	26	27 <u>Chili & Bazaar Day</u> 10:00am-2:00pm
28 <i>Wayne Cox</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	29 <i>Bill Snider</i>	30 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am	31 <u>Building in Use-AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm			

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

OCTOBER 2012

Sunday Morning Worship
Sunday School

9:00 a.m.
10:30 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)

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

All are welcome!



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

