



Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

JUNE/JULY 2011

Father's Day Prayer (by Joanna Fuchs, www.poemsource.com)

Lord, please bless our fathers, these men who mean so much to us,
who are greatly responsible for who we are and who we are becoming.
Bless them for having the courage to do what's necessary to keep us out of trouble,
for making us do the right thing, for helping us build our character, even when it makes us angry;
and bless them for pushing us to do our best, even when they just want to love us.
Bless our fathers for being our protectors, for leading us through stormy times to safety,
for making us believe that everything will be all right and for making it so.
Bless our fathers for quietly making a living to provide for those they love most,
for giving us food, clothing, shelter and other necessary and not so necessary material things,
for unselfishly investing time and money in us that they could have spent on themselves.
Bless our fathers, Lord, for saving some energy for fun, for leading us on adventures
to explore the outer reaches of ourselves, for making us laugh,
for being our playmates and our friends.
Bless them for being our secure foundation, our rock,
for holding on tight to us...until it's time to let us go.
Lord, bless these men we look up to, our role models,
our heroes, our fathers. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



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Happy Father's Day!

PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Krista Price



Wow! It's hard to believe that this will be my last article for the Otterbein church. Six years have surely flown by for us. I do remember though that you weren't too sure about this single 39 (almost 40) year old leading your church. You all loved Sharon's leadership and it was a crazy time of transition. But you eventually embraced the leader God called me to be and challenged me to grow. Now six years later and a married woman with family is yet again time for another transition in both of our lives. It is how we embrace change in these situations that challenge our faith. Jesus was with his disciples only three years, a short time. Yet they were to learn all they could, embrace the challenge and the fact he was no longer with them in physical form, but only spiritual. What did they draw upon? What did they use to strengthen their faith when it seemed hopeless? The Words of Christ and the Holy Spirit that was sent by Christ.

We could argue we don't like something, like the Methodist system, or whatever. But God has called us all to embrace being his disciples for his cause. Pastors come and go, but it is the church that stands in the face of adversity and moves beyond it to the next stage.

I pray you will embrace the next pastor who will move here in July. I pray you will show them the ropes, encourage them, teach them as they teach you, and most importantly love them! They need to feel like they are part of the church family!

If I have taught you anything, I pray I have taught you to first of all be a praying church. Secondly, I pray I have taught you to love others and embrace them. Thirdly, I pray I have taught you to see beyond tomorrow and look to the future with hope. Pray, Study and Love on each other so you can grow into the disciples God has called you to.

I love Paul's words, because he leaves each church with a blessing and encouragement. "Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words: Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet each other with Christian love. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

Serving together with you always,
Pastor Krista



LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

Linda and I have just been blessed with our first grandchild. Her name is Madison Avery Hackett. She was born last Friday (5/20) at 3:59 PM. While waiting in the reception area with the other grandparents, I started thinking about what little Madison has to look forward to. What will the world be like when she is my age? Will the world even be here when she is my age? What can I do to keep her safe from all the dangers and evil that will lurk around her? I glanced up to the waiting room TV and the news was on. The newscaster was sharing the story about Minister Harold Camping's prediction that the world was going to end on Saturday (5-21) at 6PM. Many of Minister Camping's followers had sold their possessions, said their goodbyes and made peace with God as they awaited the Rapture. I thought of how ironic it was that we were about to celebrate a new life while many were expecting and celebrating the end of life as we know it.

Archeologists have discovered writings hundreds of years prior to Jesus' birth that indicate the people at that time also felt the end was near. Generation after generation have all had their "prophets" that call people to repentance because the *'end is near'*. Atheists were taking advantage of these followers, the newscaster reported, by offering to take care of any abandoned pets....for a fee of course! How do we Christians respond to the negative publicity that comes from well-meaning Christian brothers and sisters? How do we instill Christian values to our children when they are bombarded with anti-Christian teachings from television, radio, schools, and peers? I have come to learn that all of these answers can be found in God's Word. I believe that a person who reads and STUDIES the Bible will be well equipped to combat any evil force that may attack them or their families. The key word is study. The difference between reading the Bible and studying the Bible is the same as the difference between wisdom and knowledge. The book of Proverbs tells us that knowledge is good, but there is a vast difference between "knowledge" (having the facts) and "wisdom" (applying these facts to life). We may amass knowledge, but without wisdom, our knowledge is useless. We must learn to live out what we know. We can only gain wisdom by prayerfully reading and studying scriptures. Then we are to share that wisdom with our children.

"Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.....My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in." Proverbs 1:8, 10

Wisdom comes in two ways; it is a God-given gift and also the result of an energetic search. Wisdom's starting point is God and his revealed Word. "For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding." (Proverbs 2:6 and Life Application footnote)

In that sense, wisdom is His gift to us. But He gives it only to those who earnestly seek it. God's wisdom is hidden from the rebellious and foolish, therefore it takes effort to find it and use it. The pathway to wisdom is strenuous, but the reward is tremendous!

Little Madison, I have no doubt that you will be exceptionally smart, but I pray that you will also be wise!

In His Grip,

Butch



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

Wisdom
is not
hereditary!





Vacation Bible School

Shake It Up Café
Saturday, August 6th
9:00am-4:00pm



All kids ages 2 through 5th grade are invited to participate in an exciting day of Bible lessons, crafts, games, activities and much more! Lunch will be provided. Bring your children, grandchildren, friends or neighbors to learn about biblical festivals and explore the Bible as an exciting cookbook filled with recipes for living out God's Word!



Church Camp

We are happy to announce that 12 of our kids/youth will be attending church camp this summer!! Isn't that awesome?? ☺

Please pray for the kids/youth (and their camp leaders!) as they experience many exciting activities, make new friends, and learn more about God. Also, please remember to pray for safe travels for the kids and their families during this time.

Your continued financial and prayer support is greatly appreciated!

We received one conference scholarship from IGRC for \$350 and another scholarship from Martinsville UMC for \$350.

We praise God for these wonderful blessings!

6/14-6/17 Alesia Smyser & Mackenzie Golladay

6/19-6/21 Deece Schwartz & Jade Smyser

6/19-6/24 Mackenzie Wilson, Keridwen McDaniel,
Debra Bircher, & Sean Hackett

6/26-7/1 Christopher & Brandon Schulz

7/10-7/15 Ian McDaniel & Kenny Smallhorn



There is a Time for Everything...

This is A Day of New Beginnings

Pastor Krista has been appointed to serve at Armstrong UMC in Marshall, IL as of July 1. Otterbein has been blessed with the leadership of Pastor Krista for the last 6 years. We are thankful for Pastor Krista and Steve's leadership, service, and especially, the friendships we have made in these last few years. We wish them many future blessings as they faithfully answer God's call in their lives and begin a new journey! Please continue to lift them in prayer as they prepare for the move and the new position that Pastor Krista has been called to.

Farewell

Goodbye

Au revoir



Please Welcome Pastor Nicholas Gleason!

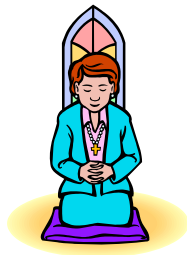
Pastor Nicholas Gleason has been appointed as the new pastor for Otterbein UMC as of July 1. More information will follow as it becomes available. The webpage will be updated with his biography and picture once we receive all of the information. Let's give Pastor Gleason a warm welcome as he joins our church family! Please pray for him as he moves to Charleston and makes the transition in his new leadership role at Otterbein.

Flowers for Sunday Service

One way to honor God is to offer fresh flowers each Sunday on the table in the front of the sanctuary. We would like to do this with your help.

You may purchase an arrangement from the florist, which costs \$30. This can be dedicated as a memorial or a praise offering. You may take the arrangement home after the service. You may donate flowers from your garden: spring flowers—which might include lilacs, irises, peonies, and other blossoms. Bring these in your own vase, and you may take it home after the service.

Those who would like to donate flowers for Sunday service will be signed up for a certain Sunday—a sign-up sheet will be available. Please see Betty Potts.

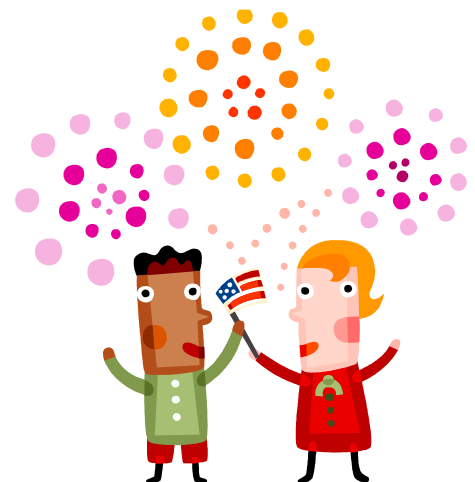


Prayer Vigil

As we experience a transition in our church leadership, it is important to remember to pray for the new direction of Otterbein, our incoming pastor and our previous pastor. More information will be announced in the coming weeks regarding a Prayer Vigil which we will use to encompass Pastor Krista and Pastor Gleason in continuous prayer as they take on their new roles.

Take Note!

The next newsletter (*August*) will be printed and distributed around the end of July. The deadline to submit information or articles will be **July 25**. Please email the church at charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com if you have information to include.



Meet Raymond and Sharon Johns...

After arriving at the Johns' home Sharon led us to their sitting room where Raymond was. I noticed a painting on the wall of a very young and beautiful couple. It was Sharon and Raymond (with hair!) Ken took the recliner and I sat in the rocking chair. We felt totally welcome. So welcome and at home feeling that shortly after sitting down Ken fell asleep in the chair.

Raymond was born in Hutton Township, back behind Fox Ridge State Park. I asked him if he gave his mother any grief growing up and he kind of smiled and said, "I don't know." Sharon said his mom used to tell how she could clean him up and he would stay clean until they were ready to leave. She chuckled and said she didn't know that side of him. Then five years later, Max joined the family. Then four years after that Rex (the baby) came along. Raymond denies being any type of instigator of trouble between him and his brothers but somehow I doubt that.

They grew up on a farm and did the typical farm things. They had chickens, cows, pigs and goats. There were the normal farm chores to be done as well as the farming of the land. His mom made three big meals a day. They ate very well. He grew up in the depression and because they ate so well, he didn't even realize how hard people in the big city of Charleston were having it.

Sharon was raised in Charleston. Compared to Raymond's way of life, she considered herself a city girl. She was three years old when her mother who was six months pregnant was fatally burned in an accidental fire. Her father tragically died when he was only thirty two years old of what they called stomach complications. So her grandparents raised her.

She grew up during the depression as well. Her experience was much different. She recalls people losing their jobs and the stress it caused everyone. This included her close family members.

He went to the Charleston High School (what is now Jefferson Elementary). Sharon did too. They didn't really know each other very well in school. They had a class together and that was about it. I asked Raymond what attracted him to Sharon. He said the short skirt she wore. Sometime after they had graduated, three couples went out on a date. Raymond and Sharon were not a couple then. A picture of Sharon wearing a short skirt was passed around. When Raymond got ahold of it, he kept it. Later on he called her and thus the romance bloomed. It must have been a good match because they have been married 62 years come August.

After they got married, Sharon became introduced to the hard work of farming. She had to learn to milk cows, which she admits took her much longer than it did Raymond. She even had three hundred chickens. They would sell the eggs and milk to help make extra money. She did confess she had no clue that Raymond didn't like chicken very well. It took a long time to find this out.

Sharon finally went to work at Eastern Illinois University. She worked there for 26 years. Raymond worked for Trissler part time and farmed. It finally came to the point he had to decide which career path he wanted. Selling seeds required a full time commitment at the same time planting on the farm required him. So he committed to being a salesman.

Continued from page 7....

He was very successful at his new job. It required he travel around and talk to people. This was a natural talent for him. He knew his product well and he knew farming needs also. Raymond has several plaques and trophies around his house showcasing his achievements as Salesman of the Year. He even won a trip to Hawaii. Sharon was able to go with him. They had a great time.

Raymond said he didn't know how to cook. Sharon started to tell a story about him boiling water on the stove in a plastic pan but he stopped her before she could finish. Besides he said he didn't need to know how to cook because that was what Sharon was for.

They both enjoyed several trips to the Grand Ole Opry. Once she retired, Sharon went on several trips. They have been to New York City and Washington DC. Sharon has been to Australia, France and London. While she was in London she told about a practice parade she saw for the Queen's birthday. It was elegant complete with horse drawn coaches and mounted guards.

They have one daughter, Sherry. Until she was born there were only grandsons. So she was a welcome surprise. She was born 9 months and 3 weeks after their wedding day. Sharon said Raymond's mom was always thankful for the 3 weeks on the end of that 9 month date. Sherry was a good child growing up. Sharon didn't remember going through the teenage years because Sherry didn't cause her much trouble. Raymond would take her out on the tractor and let her steer as a child.

Sherry has one son, David. He works for Mariott. He is now in San Antonio, Texas. He worked in Boston for a long time. He was glad to be out of there. He said he did not like Boston at all.

Raymond likes doing yard work and having coffee with his friends at the coffee shop. On occasion they still play cards with friends. Their favorite game to play is Uno. That is because they can talk while they play.

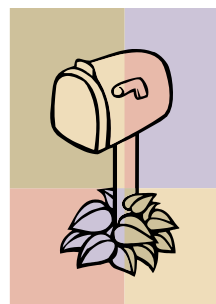
Now I have saved the best for last. Try and picture this. Sharon and Raymond took Ball Room Dancing classes. Is it possible we might see them on Dancing with the Stars?

Raymond and Sharon currently reside in Charleston. If you would like to send a special note or visit, their address is:

**RAYMOND & SHARON JOHNS
2223 STONER DR WEST
CHARLESTON, IL 61920**

***Written by Sandy Smallhorn*

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



Celebrations

June Birthdays

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



July Anniversaries

7/8 Michael & Hilary Donley
7/13 Danny & Rachel Schwartz



June 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

July Birthdays

7/1 Kendra Smyser
7/2 Mary Hennig
7/3 Hilary Donley
7/7 Darren Hackett
7/8 Danny Schwartz
7/11 Kayla Donley
7/12 Dave Hackett
7/23 Toody Hackett
7/23 Jacob Mohon
7/27 Jason Anderson
7/29 Brad Bircher

Summer Worship

June Worship Leaders

	<u>6/5</u>	<u>6/12</u>	<u>6/19</u>	<u>6/26</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Jim & Carolyn Craig	Dan & Vickie Bircher	Marty & Loretta Buell	Betty Potts
<u>Acolyte</u>	Debra Bircher	Ian McDaniel	Deece Schwartz	Christopher Schulz
<u>Ushers</u>	Betty Potts Evan Price Shelli Blair Lisa McDaniel	Jim Craig Samantha Baker Betty Potts Steve Price	Bill Snider Jerry Payne Butch Hackett Jim Hackett	Adam Baker Derek Hennig Judy Harrison Betty Stoner
<u>Family Cross</u>	Larry & Melody McGrath	Brad Bircher & family	Marty & Loretta Buell	Tom Watson



July Worship Leaders

	<u>7/3</u>	<u>7/10</u>	<u>7/17</u>	<u>7/24</u>	<u>7/31</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Ken & Sandy Smallhorn	Butch & Linda Hackett	Bill & Judy Harrison	Jim & Toody Hackett	Rachael Bircher & Stephen Ray
<u>Acolyte</u>	Kenny Smallhorn	Mackenzie Wilson	Keridwen McDaniel	Tyvon Johnson	Deece Schwartz
<u>Ushers</u>	Butch Hackett Linda Hackett Jessica Watton Krista Snider	Larry McGrath Melody McGrath Bob Stoner Betty Stoner	Bill Harrison Harold Hackett Lisa McDaniel Rose Snider	Dan Bircher Brad Bircher Sandy Smallhorn Phyllis Hackett	Doug Hennig Mary Hennig John McDaniel Lisa McDaniel
<u>Family Cross</u>	Wanda Chasteen	Bill & Rose Snider	Raymond & Sharon Johns	Ray & Alice Seeley	Jim & Toody Hackett



JUNE 2011



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



JULY 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>Kendra Smyser</i>	2 <i>Mary Hennig</i>
3 <i>Hilary Donley</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5	6	7 <i>Darren Hackett</i> <u>Prayer/Fasting</u> <u>Tech</u> 5:00pm	8 <i>Danny Schwartz</i> <i>Michael & Hilary Donley</i>	9 <u>Arts Council</u> 9am-3pm
10 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	11 <i>Kayla Donley</i> <u>Finance Mtg.</u> 6:30pm	12 <i>Dave Hackett</i>	13 <i>Danny & Rachel Schwartz</i>	14 <u>Tech</u> 5:00pm	15	16
17 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	18	19	20	21 <u>Tech</u> 5:00pm	22	23 <i>Toody Hackett</i> <i>Jacob Mohon</i>
24 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	25	26	27 <i>Jason Anderson</i>	28 <u>Tech</u> 5:00pm	29 <i>Brad Bircher</i>	30
31 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am						

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

JUNE/JULY 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

Website: www.charlestonotterbein.org

All are welcome!



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

