

# THE CHIMES

DIXBORO UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH  
NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2012

## THINK ABOUT THIS.....

By Rev. Tonya M. Arnesen, Lead Pastor



The beginning of a new year always merits some reflection. It is not so much a time of making new resolutions, but rather, space in which to ponder life and review personal growth. A new year is a good opportunity to look at what guides our thoughts and decisions each day, to look at the person we already are, and the person we want to become.

As I reflect upon this new year, I am also preparing for this Sunday's "Wesley Covenant Service," (on January 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 am) when we will rededicate ourselves – mind, body, spirit, resources, energy and love – to God. As children of God, we rely upon God's promises to us – to be merciful, loving, just and righteous. And as covenant partners with God, we are mindful that God has entrusted Christ's ministry to us in the coming year. The Covenant Service gives us the opportunity to reflect upon God's promises to us – and to renew our promises to God.

As I look to this New Year, **I want to be a person who makes and keeps her promises.** And I am encouraged by these words from Lewis Smedes:

*Yes, somewhere people still make and keep promises. They choose not to quit when the going gets rough because they promised once to see it through. They stick to lost causes. They hold on to a love grown cold. They stay with people who have become pains in the neck. They still dare to make promises and care enough to keep the promises they make. I want to say to you that if you have a ship you will not desert, if you have people you will not forsake, if you have causes you will not abandon, then you are like God.*

*What a marvelous thing a promise is! When a person makes a promise, she reaches out into an unpredictable future and makes one thing predictable: she will be there even when being there costs her more than she wants to pay. When a person makes a promise, he stretches himself out into circumstances that no one can control and controls at least one thing: he will be there no matter what the circumstances turn out to be. With one simple word of promise, a person creates an island of certainty in a sea of uncertainty.*

*When a person makes a promise, she stakes a claim on her personal freedom and power.*

*When you make a promise, you take a hand in creating your own future.*

From Lewis Smedes, "The Power of Promises," A Chorus of Witnesses

No matter what is happening in your life in 2012, I pray that YOU will be one who makes and keeps their promises – so that together, we can have a hand in creating the kind of future that God desires for the world

## **LAY LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

All who serve as leaders at Dixboro (that means you!) are invited to a training event on Saturday, January 21 \*8:30 am to 12:15 pm) at First United Methodist Church in Chelsea.

The Keynote Speaker will be Betsy Martin, Director of High School and Young Adult Ministry at Cornerstone Church in Grand Rapids. There will be workshops on Irresistible Worship, Hospitality, how to use multi-media in worship, Meetings that Matter, Why Small Churches Matter and Building a Youth Ministry.

Registration information is in the church office or on the bulletin board in the hallway across from the Fellowship Hall.

## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

*By Phebe Judson, President*

The Ann Arbor District United Methodist Mission Team will have a business meeting and planning session here in the Dixboro Church Fellowship Hall on Saturday, January 14, 2012. They will meet from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Our UMW will provide a salad luncheon for them and they in turn will donate \$50.00 to the mission work of the UMW.

Our local UMW will have their January meeting on Monday, January 16 at 1:00 pm in the church parlor. Roberta King will provide the program at the meeting.

## **NEWS AND NOTES FROM NURTURE**

*By Robbie Colaner, Chair of Nurture Committee*



We encourage our members to sign-up as Coffee Hour Hosts and Greeters for both the 9:00 and 11:00 services. It's a wonderful way to reach out to our DUMC family and visitors. The sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall.

Our committee continues our goal of "people helping people". In these current hard economic times, be sure to reach out to your Church Family if we can help in any way.

We continue to meet monthly and will keep you posted on our projects.

Have a Happy New Year!

## **FACES OF FAITH**

*By Rev. Cathy Freeman, Deacon*

Local Residents Sharing Global Religions – Sunday, January 15, 2012 from 2:00 – 4:00 at Temple Beth Emeth/ St. Clare's Episcopal Social Hall – 2039 Packard, Ann Arbor.

Everyone's faith journey is unique. Some practice a particular religions, others mix and blend from different traditions. FACES OF FAITH is an opportunity to meet people from our community – *face to face, one on one* – and hear their personal, spiritual stories. Come talk to a Buddhist, Baha'i, Hindu, Sufi, Muslim, Jew, Mennonite, Scientologist, Eclectic, Quaker, Unitarian Universalist, Native American and more. What better way to learn about faith traditions and spiritual paths in our community than to meet with people Face to Faith.

FACES OF FAITH follows a "library" format allowing you, the "reader", to "borrow" 3 different "books", ie. people sharing different spiritual journeys. Sit together, listen and ask questions in a quiet corner for 20 minutes per "book". Purchase coffee, tea, hot cocoa and snacks between "reading periods" and support this wonderful event that brings us closer to understanding and caring for one another. Families and children are welcome!

FACES OF FAITH celebrates Religious Freedom Day. Sponsored by The Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County. For information, call 1734-424-1553.

(P.S. Sonya Luna, United Methodist Missionary serving the Hispanic community, will be a "book" and tell about her journey to this special ministry.)



## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

*By Sue Engle*

The Thursday morning Women's Bible Study Group will resume on January 12 at 9:30 am to discuss the second half of the book, Why Jesus? by William Willemon, a Bishop of the United Methodist Church. If you will to join us for six weeks, the book may be purchased on-line for \$10.00.

## **FREE FILE CABINET**

*By Joe Coffey, Trustees*

There is a 5-drawer file cabinet available to whoever wants to take it away. 60" x 24" x 36". It is in the church basement. Contact me if you want to arrange to pick it up.

## **NORTHEAST SENIORS EXERCISE CLASS**

The Northeast East Seniors have held an exercise class in our Fellowship Hall on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings for a very, very long time. Circumstances are such that it is getting difficult to continue this class. At the present time, they are not holding the class but there is a meeting on January 8 to determine their future. Information will be shared on their decision after that meeting.

## **WOMEN OF DIXBORO**

*By Phylis Brandon, Co-Chair*

The Women will hold their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, January 5, at 7:00 pm. Bring a favorite book and be prepared to tell the group a little bit about it.

A Women's Retreat will be held at Becky Horvath's house on Friday evening, March 2 and Saturday, March 3. Cathy Freeman will lead this study of the Woman at the Well from John 4.

## **2012 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN**

*By Bob Baird, Financial Secretary*

As of December 19, 2011, Dixboro people have submitted 68 pledges for a total of \$162,005. This is a significant increase for the 2011 Stewardship Campaign where 47 pledges for about \$120,000 were submitted.

Thank you to all who have been so generous.

## **RECURRING EVENTS**

Tuesdays	8:30 am	Exercise Class
	4:30 pm	Dance Class in Fellowship Hall
Wednesdays	6:00 pm	WOW (Word on Wednesdays) – <i>resumes on January 18</i>
	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Practice
Thursdays	8:30 am	Exercise Class
	9:30 am	Women's Bible Study
Saturdays	8:30 am	Course in Miracles
First Sunday		Holy Communion celebrated
Second Sunday		Shelter Meal Ministry
Third Sunday		Bring canned goods to worship
Third Monday	1:00 pm	United Methodist Women
First Tuesday	7:00 pm	Missions Committee
Third Tuesday	6:30 pm	Nurture Committee
First Wednesday	5:00 pm	Worship Committee
First Thursday	7:00 pm	Women of Dixboro
Second Thursday	7:00 pm	Trustees Committee
Fourth Thursday	6:00 pm	Finance Committee

## COMING EVENTS

Sunday	Jan 1	9:00 am	<b>No worship service</b>
		11:00 am	Wesley Covenant Service with Holy Communion
Tuesday	Jan 3	7:00 pm	Missions Committee
Wednesday	Jan 4	6:30 pm	Worship Committee – <b>special meeting time; WOW does not meet</b>
Thursday	Jan 5	9:30 am	<b>No Women's Bible Study</b>
		7:00 pm	Women of Dixboro
Saturday	Jan 7	9:00 am	German Class in Small Conference Room until noon
Sunday	Jan 8	10:00 am	Sunday School classes resume
		12:00 pm	Shelter Meal Ministry
Tuesday	Jan 10	4:30 pm	Dance Class resumes
Wednesday	Jan 11	5:00 pm	<b>WOW does not meet</b>
Thursday	Jan 12	9:30 am	Women's Bible Study resumes
		6:30 pm	Finance Meeting – <b>special meeting time</b>
Saturday	Jan 14	9:00 am	District Meeting of the United Methodist Women until 2:00
Sunday	Jan 15	12:15 pm	New Members Class taught by Rev. Tonya
Tuesday	Jan 17	6:30 pm	Nurture Committee
Wednesday	Jan 18	6:30 pm	WOW resumes
Thursday	Jan 19	7:00 pm	Church Council meeting
Saturday	Jan 21		Dixboro Cooks in kitchen all day
		9:00 am	German Class in small conference room until noon
Sunday	Jan 22	10:00 am	Meeting with Parents of Youth for Youth Group
		12:15 pm	New Members Class taught by Rev. Tonya
Saturday	Jan 28		Dixboro Cooks in kitchen all day

Lord, you have examined me.

You know me.

You know when I sit down  
and when I stand up.

You are the one who created  
my innermost parts;  
you knit me together  
while I was still in my mother's womb.

I give thanks to you  
that I was marvelously set apart.

Your works are wonderful—

I know that very well.

(*Psalm 139: 1-2a; 13-14*)