

THE CHIMES

DIXBORO UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER

JANUARY, 2006

SAY A PRAYER...

While considering resolutions for the New Year, here is a suggestion. Will you join me in a commitment to say a daily prayer for peace? Here are some suggested prayers from

<http://www.benetvision.org/>.

by Cathy Freeman, Lay Leader

Sunday

Lead me from death to life,
From falsehood to truth.
Lead me from despair to hope,
From fear to trust.
Lead me from hate to love,
From war to peace.
Let peace fill my here,
My world, my universe.

Universal Peace Prayer

Monday

Keep us, O God from all pettiness.
Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.
Let us be done with fault-finding and
Leave off all self-seeking.
May we put away all pretense and
Meet each other face to face,
Without self-pity and without prejudice.
Grant that we may realize that it is the
little things in life
That create differences, that in the big
things of life
We are as one.
And, O God, let us not forget to be kind.

Mary Stewart

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DIXBORO FILM FESTIVAL "Creative Connections"

Jan. 22 – Feb. 26, 6:30 p.m.

Action movies often depict righteous individuals fighting against corrupt or evil society. Romance films feature lonely, isolated persons looking for the true love of a significant other. But consider the value of a supportive community. Relatively few cinematic efforts take on this theme. But whether it's being connected to two or three close friends or being part of a larger congregation, community enriches our individual lives.

For our seventh annual festival of "Religious Themes in Secular Cinema", I have selected five films concerning creative or troubled (or both) characters and how their success or failure at "connecting" with community impacts their lives. No doubt, as we view and discuss, other movies will come to mind. One of them will then be selected by YOU, the participants, to be shown on the festival's concluding evening.

As always, admission is free. Popcorn, soft drinks, and child care are provided.



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Tuesday

I am Peace surrounded by Peace, secure in
Peace.
Peace protects me, peace supports me,
peace is in me.
Peace is mine – all is well.
Peace to all beings, peace among all beings,
peace from all beings.
I am steeped in Peace, absorbed in Peace, in
the streets, at our work,
Having peaceful thoughts, peaceful words,
peaceful acts.

A Buddhist Meditation



Wednesday

The world before me
is restored in beauty.
The world behind me
is restored in beauty.
The world below me
is restored in beauty.
The world above me is
restored in beauty.
All things around me
are restored in beauty.

It is finished in beauty.
It is finished in beauty
It is finished in beauty.
It is finished in beauty.

Native American Prayer

Thursday

Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing
frighten you.
All things are changing. God alone is
changeless.
Patience attains the good. One who has
God lacks nothing.
God alone fills all our needs.

St. Teresa of Avila

Friday

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon; where there
is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope; where there is
darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy!

From a prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Saturday

If anyone speaks ill of you, praise them
always.
If anyone injures you, serve them nicely.
If anyone persecutes you, Help them in all
possible ways.
You will attain immense strength.
You will control anger and pride.
You will enjoy peace, poise and serenity.
You will become divine.

*Swami Sivananda, "Prayers For Peaceful
World" from Benetvision, Erie, PA*

Film Fest continued from page 1...

January 22

“I ♥ HUCKABEES” (2004)

Albert Markovskiy (Jason Schwartzman) secures the services of a pair of “Existential Detectives” (Lily Tomlin and Dustin Hoffman) to investigate a series of strange coincidences in his life. But his greater concern is that a representative from a for-profit corporation (Jude Law) is taking over his non-profit environmental organization. This highly original and (I think) very funny comedy poses a serious question: Is life a random series of mostly painful experiences (chaos) or a means of working out unity and reconciliation (connection)?

(Rated R for language and some disturbing violent & sexual images.)

January 29

“CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS” (1989)

A married eye doctor (Martin Landau) contemplates murder when his mistress (Angelica Huston) threatens to expose their relationship. An idealistic filmmaker (Woody Allen) in need of money, agrees to shoot a flattering documentary on his pompous brother-in-law (Alan Alda). A conscientious Rabbi (Sam Waterston) faces the realization that he is going blind. With the central metaphor of “seeing”, this film explores moral choices and their consequences. “From small infidelities to the meaning of existence”. Considered by many to be Woody Allen’s greatest film, it is definitely his most thought-provoking.

(Rated PG-13 for mature subject matter.)

February 5

“THE HOURS” (2002)

In 1929, Virginia Woolf (Nicole Kidman in her Oscar-winning role) battles mental illness as she begins her latest novel, Mrs. Dalloway. In the 1950’s, a suburban housewife (Julianne Moore) finds solace and escape by reading it. And in the present day, a literary editor (Meryl Streep) seems to be “channeling” Mrs. Dalloway’s experiences as she plans a party for an AIDS-stricken friend

(Ed Harris). These three parallel story lines serve to connect author, reader and character in a drama about despair, suicide and, ultimately, the affirmation of life.

February 12

“CRADLE WILL ROCK” (1999)

The Great Depression may be raging and in Europe war clouds are gathering, but in 1930’s New York city, the arts are flourishing. Young Nelson Rockefeller (John Cusack) has commissioned Diego Rivera (Ruben Blades) to paint a mural for the grand lobby of the new Rockefeller Center. Meanwhile, the Roosevelt Administration’s Works Progress Administration has commissioned Marc Blitzstein (Hank Azaria) to compose an opera which will be produced by a young Orson Welles (Angus MacFadyen). Actor Tim Robbins (“The Shawshank Redemption”) turns filmmaker in this fact-based comedy-drama about the uneasy relationship between those who create art and culture, and the business and political interests who provide the financial resources. The large cast also includes Susan Sarandon, Bill Murray, John Turturo, Emily Watson and Joan Cusack.

(Rated R for language and brief nudity.)

February 19

“WONDER BOYS” (2000)

Prof. Grady Tripp (Michael Douglas) is having a bad day: His wife has left him, his college-student boarder (Kate Holmes) has a crush on him, his editor (Robert Downey, Jr.) is in town pressuring him about his long-overdue new novel, his married mistress, Sarah (Frances McDormand), is pregnant with his child, and his star writing student (Tobey Maguire) has just shot Sarah’s husband’s dog. A quirky comedy about creativity, success, addiction, moral choices and personal responsibility. Also, what does it mean to “be there” for each other? Is being there enough?

(Rated R for language and drug use.)

February 26 TO BE ANNOUNCED (The People’s Choice)

DISCOVERING SPIRITUAL GIFTS:

Have you ever wondered what God has called you to do? Have you wondered if you would hear or understand a call from God? Paul suggests in three of his letters to early congregations of Christians that God gives each of us gifts, spiritual gifts, that are uniquely our own but also necessary to the success of the church as a whole. Discovering what our spiritual gifts are and how to develop them in the service of Jesus Christ is an undertaking for every Christian and a journey for each congregation in using the gifts of members to "make disciples for Jesus Christ."

During this next year, the DUMC Council on Ministries will offer ways you can explore what each of the gifts Paul mentions means. We started by reading an extraordinary book by Dan R. Dick, titled "Revolutionizing Christian Stewardship for the 21st Century: Lessons from Copernicus." Rosemary King happened upon this book first and brought it to Pastor Ferris. He, in turn, suggested it to several people on the council. Nearly all of us have read it now and we are

excited by the ideas that Reverend Dick outlines. What we plan is a monthly process outlining one or two spiritual gifts, so we all begin to understand what they mean. Over the year, if you want to participate, you will have a chance to discover what your spiritual gifts are. Mr. Dick also talks about how congregations have spiritual gifts too and how discovering the talents of the congregation can lead to renewal and new ways of looking at "church work" for us all. We hope, by the end of the year, that we will know what our DUMC gifts are too.

Look for the first steps in this process in January. We hope you will want to share in this voyage of discovery with us. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to talk to members of the Council on Ministries: Wendy Harter, Angela Charnetski, Spence BeMent, Paul Carson, Becky Horvath, Janice Clark, Stephanie Cloutier, Barbara Scheffer, Charles Hocking, Adelaide Ammon, or Pastor Ferris.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS:

GET OUT YOUR CALENDARS! **Vacation Bible School** is planned for June 26 – June 30, 6:00-8:00 pm, for pre-school thru 5th grade. Want to be part of the fun? Help us make this year better than ever! A planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18 at 10:00 am at the church. We can use your enthusiasm and help so we are looking forward to seeing you then.

GRAB A CUP OF COFFEE AND A COOKIE AND JOIN US FOR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL, every Sunday at

10:15 to 10:45 am in the Conference Room.

The Children's Film Festival starts January 22 coinciding with the Annual Dixboro Film Festival! Bring the whole family. We will be showing child-appropriate films in the Nursery Room. Popcorn and juice will be provided! Some of the movies showing will be: "Toy Story", "You're in Love, Charlie Brown!", "Mary Poppins" – watch the bulletin board for a complete listing!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK....

Cathy Freeman went before the Ann Arbor District Board of Ministry on Dec. 5 and unanimously and enthusiastically approved as a candidate for ordination as a Deacon in the United Methodist Church. She joins **Jack Amick** in the process of becoming a member of the clergy in our denomination, bringing to a total of 9 the persons who have experienced God's call to ministry through Dixboro Church. (*See the display case across the hall from the Church Office.*)

I serve on the District Board of Ministry and it has been a privilege for me to affirm Jack and Cathy as they have come before us to describe how God has been working in their lives. It makes me proud that Dixboro church has nurtured such talented and dedicated Christians. It also makes me proud of our denomination that such persons are recognized and affirmed for the divine spark that is within them.

Jack plans to be finished with his student work at Boston University School of Theology this Spring. Then he will come before the Detroit Annual Conference to be commissioned. Thus, he will be ready to be appointed to serve as the pastor of a congregation within the geographic limits of the Conference (the Eastern half of Michigan's Lower Peninsula and the U.P.). Following two years of pastoral experience he is eligible for ordination as an Elder in full connection.

Cathy has become a student at the Methodist Theological School of Ohio (METHESCO). She is also moving toward ordination, but in the relatively new classification of Deacon, rather than Elder. Deacons perform their ministries in the world at large, serving as counselors, educators and a variety of other specialized callings, often creating their own positions and relating them to local congregations.

As the Apostle Paul says, "...there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord... (1 Corinthians 12:4-5). So it is in the United Methodist Church. And Cathy and Jack are living examples of how these gifts and services can be utilized.

Small Group ministries have begun in Dixboro Church. Six persons completed an 8-month training using materials developed by the Willow Creek Association for use with their own small groups program. Now these couples and individuals are starting, or about to start, groups of their own.

Cathy & Tom Freeman are forming a group of mission-minded persons to take responsibility for the monthly meal at the Delonis Center & Shelter for the Homeless. This has been a long-term commitment for Dixboro Church and the Freeman's are hoping that this group will provide a stable roster of volunteers.

Marla and Michael Johnston are coordinating a series of events for younger families and newcomers (remember last Summer's "Campout in Brandon Park"? Christmas caroling through the streets of Dixboro?) Other events and get-togethers are being planned.

Betty DeWolf is leading two Bible Study groups (Sunday, 10:00 a.m., Thursday, 9:30 a.m.) and hopes to develop a Seniors Group. And Bob DeWolf is interested in coordinating a group of people interested in maintaining the historic Dixboro one-room schoolhouse.

If you are interested in being part of any of these groups, contact the person or persons responsible. If you are interested in being part of another training event for small group leaders, contact me.

**Shalom,
Rev. John Clair Ferris**

CALL FOR “MENTORING” VOLUNTEERS

Are you interested in being a Mentor?
The Washtenaw County Youth Mentoring
Program matches adult volunteer mentors
with at-risk youth in the community.
They are in need of volunteers who want
to make a difference in a child’s life.
Contact Jennifer Johns, Coordinator,
(734) 971-7178

JANITORIAL SERVICE LISTING...

I have had a request to list the names
of those we have asked to clean the
sanctuary on a once- or twice-per year
basis, usually the Saturday before the
Sunday service. I will continue to send
out letters with your date and instructions
for the cleaning procedure. We are
hoping this will be of value on a monthly
basis as well as being listed in the weekly
bulletin as usual:

Joanne Hocking, Church Secretary

January Saturdays:

7, Gary & Kathy Harrison
14, Pat & Bob Salisbury
21, Tom & Nancy LaLonde
28 Chappuis family

February Saturdays:

4, Gary & Roberta King
11, Eddie Martin
18, Charnetski family
25, Bob & Connie Amick