

THE CHIMES

DIXBORO UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2011

LENTEN PROGRAM

By Rev. Cathy Freeman, Deacon

FAST and HOLD FAST TO GOD

As part of our observance of Lent this year, the Worship Committee is asking the Dixboro congregation to FAST. In Matthew 6, Jesus assumes we fast when he tells us "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full." (Matthew 6:16)

John Wesley told us that fasting is a means of grace – a way to grow closer to God and experience God's grace. The Bible also tells us in many places that we should "hold fast" to God. Fasting is a way to "hold fast" to God. (Isn't that a nice play on the same word, with two meanings?)



The traditional way to fast is to give up food for some period of time. This form of fasting may work for you. But giving up food might not seem like a sacrifice to you or you may not be able to fast from food for health reasons. There are lots of other ways you can give up something that really means something to you as a way to humble yourself and grow closer to God. Fasting can be a way to simplify our lives and strengthen our relationship with God.

Think about ways to eat simpler meals, to reduce, reuse or recycle, to spend less money, or to use your time differently. These are all ways you can FAST.

There are lots of benefits to "fasting" as a way to "hold fast" to God. But there might also be some financial benefits. If you choose a method of fasting that saves you money, we suggest that you estimate these savings and donate them to a ministry project. We will collect donations at the end of Lent for ECHO.

ECHO is a non-profit organization whose vision is "to bring glory to God and a blessing to humankind by using science and technology to help the poor." Among their many projects, they do research and development on agriculture methods that will work in climates where growing food is difficult. Their web-site is www.echonet.org and you can attend one of their farm tours the next time you are in the vicinity of Ft. Myers, Florida.

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT BISHOP'S DAY

All are invited to spend the day with Bishop Jonathan Keaton for day designed to help motivate the local church to serve.

Keynote speaker is Rev. Faith Fowler, pastor at the Cass Community UMC and Executive Director of Cass Community Social Services. All are invited to:

**First UMC, Dexter
Saturday, March 12, 2011
8:30 am – 2:00 pm**

In addition to Faith's message, there will be a worship service and a presentation about "Change the World" by a representative from United Methodist Communications in Nashville.

Registration materials are in the church office.

LAY LEADERSHIP MINISTRIES

Basic Class: For people new to the program who want to recognize and use their spiritual gifts in leading, caring, communicating, and spreading the love of Christ into the world. Participants must attend both classes – Saturday, March 26 and Saturday, April 9 from 9:00-3:30 at First UMC in Howell.

Advanced Classes: For people who are already completed the Basic Class. Saturday, April 9 from 9:00 to 3:30 at First UMC in Howell. Participants may choose classes on “Delivering an Effective Sermon” or “Lay Pastoral Care Giving”.

Registration materials are in the church office.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE *By Cathy Freeman, Pastoral Assistant*

The printed Church Directory will be updated again this spring. Please take a look at the bright red directory and let the church office know if your information has changed.

We would also like to publish email addresses and cell phone numbers. If this is OK with you, please get this information to the church office.

If you are a member or attend here regularly, we plan to publish your address and your phone number. ***If this is not OK, please let the church office know.***

DIXBORO YOUTH NEWS *By Beth Little, Director of Christian Education* education@dixborochurch.org

The youth of Dixboro really have hearts for service. We made sub sandwiches for the Souper Bowl of Caring and raised over \$500 for Food Gatherers. The kids had a great time filling the orders. This will definitely be something we do again. Thank you all for your support!



We've also been busy planning our Easter Sunrise Service for April 24th. The service will be a true Sunrise Service at 5:45 am. The kids are really putting their hearts into it, so I know it will be amazing! We are planning on sleeping at the church the night before so we'll be sure to be ready. I still remember doing this when I was a youth!

Planning for Vacation Bible School is also under way. It will take place the week of June 26th – 30th. Please let me know if you would be interested in helping out this summer. It's a great way to get to know some of our FANTASTIC youth!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE *By Rebecca Horvath, Chair*

Lent begins March 9 on Ash Wednesday. The Worship Committee would like for you to begin to think about the meanings of the word “fast.” In this context, the first meaning and perhaps the only one people think of is to give up food. In the simplest and easiest form, to not eat after supper until the next morning’s “break the fast.”

But another meaning is moving and doing too rapidly. We'd like for you to think about how you can slow down and appreciate the things and the people around you. Notice the awakening of spring from skunk cabbages and pussy willows to sunny forsythia. Say “thank you” and “you're welcome” for the little favors of each day. Slow down when preparing and eating food; savoring each bite and think of those who have little to eat.

The third meaning is what John Wesley urges us to do, “Hold fast to the Lord.” Is your faith firmly fixed in the love and teachings of Jesus? Are you loyal to your church and others who depend on you? This is a good time to read and meditate to prepare for the joyful message of life everlasting.

Cathy Freeman has prepared a guide on fasting during Lent and how we can share our abundance with those less fortunate. (see related article on Lenten Program) I am collecting frugal recipes to share thoughtfully during Lent. I'd love to include your recipes if you get them to me.

MISSIONS UPDATE

By Roberta King, Chair of Missions Committee

A Lenten Potluck will be held Thursday, March 24 at 6pm. Maggie Porter, Faith Coordinator from Habitat For Humanity, will provide the program. Come and celebrate this ministry we share with our community. Dixboro UMC has pledged \$2,000 for the Good News House in 2011.

We will send \$400 to Mohamed Niangadou in Mali for a school scholarship. Dixboro UMC will send \$350 to the House By the Side of the Road. This organization provides clothing and household items to those in need in Washtenaw County. We will send \$350 to our sister church in Liberia.

Three special collections will be taken in 2011. They are One Great Hour of Sharing, Peach With Justice, and Student Day.

Missionary Salary support will go to Charissa Shawcross for work at the Joy-Southfield Clinic. In addition, our Ministry Jubilee projects are listed on the Mission Bulletin Board

Thank you Dixboro for your generous support of Missions.

DIXBORO DIAMOND

By Bobby Knutilla, Eagle Scout



Thank you for your contributions to Bobby Knutilla's Boy Scout Eagle project to build a t-ball field on the Village Green. He is a third of the way to his goal. If you like, you may still contribute to his project. Make checks payable to "DUMC" and write "Scout Project" in the memo line.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

By Bobby Knutilla

Many of you know me as a member of DUMC, but I am also a Life Scout with Boy Scout Troop 4 in Ann Arbor. For my Eagle Scout project, I am creating a small t-ball field in the northwest corner of the Village Green. The Trustees have developed long range plans to improve the area and to promote more usage of the Village Green. My proposal to install a ball diamond fits these plans and has been approved by the Trustees. With the help of volunteers, I plan to install a new backstop, landscape the field, and install base paths, bases, a home plate, benches and a pitching rubber. This project will benefit the greater Dixboro community and the church.

Thank you for your generous contributions. So far I have collected \$595, well on my way to my goal to raise \$2,246. Any amount is helpful and will go directly toward the completion of my project. Leftover funds will go to the Trustees for the Village Green renovation. If you are unable to give a donation and would like to still help with my project, I would be happy to tell you the planned workdays of my project.

Thank you all for your help. I am very excited to begin working and especially completing my project. If you have any questions or comments about my Eagle Scout project, feel free to contact me.

THANK YOU FROM REV. MARK SPAW

We received a letter of appreciation from Rev. Mark Spaw, Ann Arbor District Superintendent, because we paid our 2010 Apportionments in full! He say, "Please express my profound gratitude to the God for you and those you serve who arose to the challenge of 2010... and are working to do so again in 2011. May Christ's spirit bless you and all you love."

RUMMAGE SALE

By Sandy Bowers, Coordinator

The Women of Dixboro will be sponsoring the Spring Rummage Sale this year: **April 7, 8 and 9**

Save up your treasures to donate for the sale, sign up to help set up, staff or clean up the sale, and invite all your friends!

WOMEN OF DIXBORO
By Phylis Brandon, Co-Chair

The next meeting is on Thursday, March 3 at 7:00 pm. We will have a book club with a twist. Please bring any book you have read and loved and be ready to spend 5 minutes or so telling everyone about why it is so great. If you are willing, you could bring the book and loan it to another book lover.

In April we will sponsor the annual Rummage Sale on April 7, 8 and 9. Sandy Bowers is coordinating this effort and needs lots of help so please volunteer by contacting her or the church office.

The May Salad and Dessert Dinner is just around the corner – Thursday, May 5. All women are invited to attend and we hope some of you will sign up to be hostesses. A hostess provides the place settings and decorations for her table. She may elect to invite people to sit at her table or open her table to all attendees. See Phylis Brandon or Cathy Freeman to sign up or for questions.

THE DIXBORO COOKS ARE AT IT AGAIN!
By Barbara Scheffer

Due to the overwhelming success of casserole sales, the Cooks are back at it. Watch the bulletin for specifics for ordering, pick up days, and use of the proceeds from this church fundraising event.

Just in case you are wondering, the meatloaf and mashed potatoes (a big hit last time!) will be one of the options.

The Cooks: Meredith Burr (Chief Cook and Bottlewasher), Shirley Koch, Pat Blom, Elaine Sanford, and Barbara Scheffer (Co-Cooks and rest of the Bottlewashers)

UMW NEWS
By Phebe Judson, President

The United Methodist Women had to cancel both the January and February meetings due to inclement weather. I hope the weather cooperates so we can have our March meeting on Monday, March 21 at 1:00 pm. We will plan when we will go and visit the new location of The House by the Side of the Road. That is the organization that gives out used clothing and small household items to the needy. We have given used clothing many times and will continue to do that as long as we receive the items to take there. Anyone who has items to donate can bring them to the church and the UMW will sort them and deliver them to the House By the Side of the Road. (They especially need dishes, pots and pans and bedding.)

BISHOP'S SEAT COVER PROJECT



The Order of Deacons will once again coordinate the Bishop's Seat Cover Project at this year's Annual Conference in May. NEW children's underwear (get it? seat covers?) is collected and given to appropriate non-profit agencies for their clients. This is because many agencies distribute used clothing but health departments frown on the distribution of used underwear.

A box to collect your donations is in the Parlor and Cathy Freeman will deliver these to Adrian on May 19.

NEWS FROM NURTURE
By Madeline Kingston-Park, Nurture Committee Chair

Thanks to all who donated, set-up, bought and sold at our Used Book Sale. We do appreciate your recycling efforts and support of our committee. We will use the proceeds to continue and develop new and various projects. Be looking for the ways we will be welcoming our new minister in the next couple of months. You will have the opportunity to participate and we think they will be fun and helpful to her. We continue to meet on a monthly basis and are always open to your ideas and thoughts on ways we can serve you as the Nurture Committee. Thanks again.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES

By Adelaide Ammon

One Click helps the General Board of Global Ministries 10-fold:

Last February, The General Board of Global Ministries named 9 global initiatives to establish a new way to bring the needs of people around the United States and the world to the attention of all United Methodists. Committed United Methodists around this country have pledged up to \$10,000 a dollar at a time for each person who signs up to be an advocate for the project. Go to www.10-fold.org for details on the projects: Haiti Recovery, Children's Health and Wellness, Training Church Leaders, Church Planting Worldwide, Justice for Our Neighbors, Clean Water and Sanitation, Healthcare in Africa, Sustainable Agriculture, and Missionaries. Once the page for the project is activated, you may click on it once each day and get another of those dollars pledged added to the total for that project. You may also add your own donation whenever you want. It's a simple thing to click on button on a computer screen, but this click can mean so much for someone who has so little.

Renewing the Promise of the Statue of Liberty

The United Methodist Church is one of the faith communities in the Interfaith Immigration Reform Coalition. This group seeks to encourage discussion and passage of humane immigration reform that welcomes immigrants and helps them find success in this country. This year, our Bishop, Reverend Jonathan D. Keaton, has joined the coalition New Year's Resolution to advocate for humane legislation to regulate immigration in this country. Go to www.interfaithimmigration.org for the resolution and information on being a part of this effort. There are videos about the project at www.youtube.com/faith4immigration.

2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO COLLECT FOR HAITI

There are two ways for churches to participate in the 2011 mission projects sponsored by the Annual Conference:

Purchase Medicine Boxes – A medicine box includes 18 essential drugs and will provide medicines for 1000 people for up to 3 months. Each medicine box costs \$455. The deadline to purchase medicine boxes is April 1.

Purchase Medical Supplies – Medical supplies may be purchase but **only those that are specified**. A flyer showing the needed items is displayed on the Mission Bulletin Board by the Choir Room.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday	Mar 1		Missions Committee
Wednesday	Mar 2		Worship Committee
Thursday	Mar 3		Cathy at Interview with Board of Ordained Ministry
		7:00 pm	Women of Dixboro
Friday	Mar 4		World Day of Prayer
Saturday	Mar 5	9:00 am	German Class Planning Meeting
Sunday	Mar 6	6:30 pm	Movie Night
Thursday	Mar 10	7:00 pm	Trustees Committee Meeting
Friday	Mar 11		Cathy on Vacation Through March 18
Saturday	Mar 12	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
		8:30 am	Ann Arbor District Bishop's Day
		10:00 am	Dixboro Cooks using kitchen all day
Sunday	Mar 13		Daylight Savings Time Begins
		12:00 pm	Shelter Meal Ministry
		6:30 pm	Movie Night
Monday	Mar 14		Cathy on Vacation Through March 18
Tuesday	Mar 15		Cathy on Vacation Through March 18
		7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	Mar 16		Cathy on Vacation Through March 18
		6:15 pm	Nurture Committee – cancelled
Thursday	Mar 17		Cathy on Vacation Through March 18 – cell phone 734-323-4149
			John on Vacation Through March 21 – cell phone 734-660-4238
		5:00 pm	Pinewood Derby Set up in Fellowship Hall
Friday	Mar 18		John on Vacation Through March 21 –cell phone 734-660-4238

Cathy on Vacation Through March 18 – cell phone 734-323-4149
Northeast Seniors Exercise Class cancelled due to Pinewood Derby

Saturday	Mar 19		Dixboro Cooks in kitchen all day
		8:00 am	John on Vacation Through March 21
Sunday	Mar 20		Pinewood Derby in Fellowship Hall All Day
			John on Vacation Through March 21
		6:30 pm	Allegra Smith Preaching at 9am and 11am
Monday	Mar 21		Movie Night
			John on Vacation Through March 21
		1:00 pm	United Methodist Women
Thursday	Mar 24	6:00 pm	Lenten Potluck sponsored by Missions Committee
		7:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
Saturday	Mar 26	10:00 am	Fellowship Hall Rented by Burns Family
Sunday	Mar 27	6:30 pm	Movie Night

***Praise the Lord our God and worship at God's sacred hill. The Lord
our God is holy!***

Psalm 99:9

RECURRING EVENTS

Sundays	8:00 am	Service of Word and Table Worship Service
Sundays	9:00 am	Contemporary Worship Service
Sundays	10:00 am	Sunday School for all ages
	11:00 am	Traditional Worship Service
Mondays	10:00 am	Northeast Seniors Exercise Class
Tuesdays	8:15 am	Exercise Class
	4:30 pm	Dance Class in Fellowship Hall
Wednesdays	10:00 am	Northeast Seniors Exercise Class
Thursdays	8:15 am	Exercise Class
	9:30 am	Women's Bible Study
Fridays	10:00 am	Northeast Seniors Exercise Class
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
First Wednesday	6:30 pm	Worship Committee
Third Wednesday	6:30 pm	Nurture Committee
First Thursday	7:00 pm	Women of Dixboro
Second Thursday	7:00 pm	Trustees Committee
Fourth Thursday	7:00 pm	Finance Committee
Second Saturday	8:00 am	Men's Club in Fellowship Hall

***Jesus answered, "Whoever drinks this water
will get thirsty again,
but whoever drinks the water that I will give
will never be thirsty again. "***

John 4:13-14