

THE CHIMES

DIXBORO UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER

END OF YEAR 2009

AN OPEN LETTER OF THANKSGIVING

By John G. Park, Preacher

As Thanksgiving approaches I am thankful to Madeline for being herself and for all she does to make every holiday special. If she invites you as company she'll put lots of attention in the details while my invitations are more like, "If you can find it, you can have it."



For Turkey Day Madeline fixes fancy trimmings while I usually bring along some shelled corn to distribute. The old and probably apocryphal story can be found quickly: check five kernels on Google. The tradition is to place five kernels of corn on each plate as a reminder of the sparse winter rations those first few Pilgrim years. Over time, this evolved into each person naming five things for which he or she is thanking God at the family gathering.

I suggest (again) you try it this November 26th and jumping the gun, let me start my list here.

1) I am thankful Santa came early! Yesterday when I came here after lunch I saw two well known members here bringing food for the Food Gatherers box and one of them said, "You weren't suppose to catch Santa." Each third Sunday we ask worshippers to bring an extra item and stock the box. Roberta and Gary King make the deliveries for the Missions Team. I thank God for you all who help feed the hungry of Michigan.

2) I am thankful my closet is full. Like many of us I keep various sizes of clothing for those occasional weight swings. Like us all, I have too much stuff in the closets while others have too little. Fay Edsall is gathering some of our unneeded clothing in boxes by the Office to redistribute to the veterans who are homeless. Fay works with the VA Hospital as she has for years. I thank God I have and can share and for you and Fay who help us care as "People Helping People."

3) I am thankful for the old 17th century hymn, "Now Thank We All Our God, with hearts and hands and voices...." And I know as we sing it on November 22nd on the altar we'll see the cornucopia Carol Weigel prepares each year for the Altar Guild. These annual baskets are always overflowing. I thank God for all the blessings we have, ask to be a wise steward of what I call "mine," and a better one next year. (P.S. Our children and youth sing that Sunday as an extra blessing)

4) I am thankful for new technology that enables us to do stuff better. This is not to say that I have given up my deep dislike for computers but rather I am deeply grateful for those who can make them work. Rev. Cathy Freeman, our Deacon, has the gift as do several others here. We'll be adding pictures to help tell the story, adding news and notes from Committee leaders, and trying to add new names to our family every week. I thank God for your help in writing the story of God's grace in Christ here and spreading the Good News.

5) I am thankful for the leaders in ministry at Dixboro. On November 17th the Church Council meets to look back on 2009 and forward to 2010. Tom Freeman is in charge and welcomes everyone to attend as we make decisions for this Body of Christ gathered here at Dixboro. For 150 years we've been doing the work of Christ in this community. The specifics vary over time. We decide the "what" and the "how" for now. The "why" remains the same, "to make disciples for Jesus Christ." I thank God we are getting it done and I pray each day for you and for the more people we reach with each worship or activity.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving. By the way, what are you thankful for?

- The Preacher

WORSHIP DURING DECEMBER

By Cathy Freeman, Pastoral Assistant



Worship is always a special time for the congregation of Dixboro UMC but even more so during this special season of Advent and Christmas.

Sunday, December 13, 9:00 am – The Joyful Noise Praise Band will lead a special music and drama worship with a Christmas theme.

Sunday, December 13, 11:00 am – The Chancel Choir will present a special Christmas Cantata during the worship service.

Monday, December 21, 7:00 pm – Cathy Freeman will lead a "Longest Night Service" in the Fellowship Hall. This service is meant to provide a quiet time during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. If you need a time to remember loved ones who are no longer with us, if your heart is heavy for any reason, or if you just need to experience quiet and peace during a busy time, please join us for this service. Gingerbread and cider will be served by the Worship Committee after the service.

Thursday, December 25, 5:00 pm – A Christmas Eve service especially meant for families and children.

Thursday, December 25, 7:00 pm – A Christmas Eve candlelight service with Holy Communion.

Thursday, December 25, 11:00 pm – A Christmas Eve candlelight service with Holy Communion.

A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

By Stephanie Cloutier, Director of Christian Education

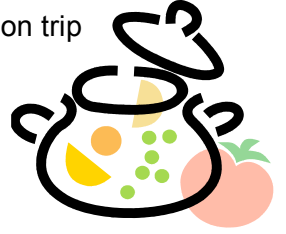
A special event for families will be held on Saturday December 5th from 1-4 pm. At this free activity, you will experience the Village Marketplace of Bethlehem - you'll taste, see and smell what daily life was like when Jesus was born. You'll find shops and activities for kids of all ages- bring a friend!!

If you do not have children at home and can volunteer some time on December 5 to lead an activity or act as a villager, please contact me at 665-5632 or education@dixborochurch.org

FUND-RAISERS FOR MT. TOP MISSION TRIP

By Stephanie Cloutier, Director of Christian Education

The Dixboro Youth will be traveling to Mt. TOP in the Appalachian area of the US on a mission trip again next summer. There will be many fund-raising activities to pay for this trip and here is information about two of them:



Sunday, November 22 – An ever-popular Soup Sunday where you can eat a bowl of delicious home-made soup during the Coffee Hour or take some home for later.

Sunday, November 22 – *Sunday, December 20* - Amaryllis and Paperwhite bulb baskets and also evergreen arrangements will be available for sale in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to Lori Brandt for coordinating this event!

NEW LOVE, NEW MERCY

The Stewardship Campaign for the 2010 fiscal year reminds us of Lamentations 3:21-24

*But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in God.'*

Letters asking for your pledges and contributions have been mailed. Please prayerfully consider your financial commitment to Dixboro and return your pledge card to the church office by the end of November.

MISSIONS REPORT

By Roberta King, Missions Chair

Our Missions Committee will once again sponsor a Christmas gift-giving project for the boys residing at the Methodist Children's Home Society in Redford, MI. The boys range in age from 5 to 17. Each boy's "wish list" will be provided on a poster in our Fellowship Hall. Choose a boy and his gift request and then write your name on the line next to the gift. Then shop and bring your gift unwrapped and labeled with the boy's name to our church parlor by Sunday, December 6. We surely hope that you will enjoy participating in the much-appreciated giving!

DIXBORO GHOST FESTIVAL

By Peggy Moran, Co-Chair

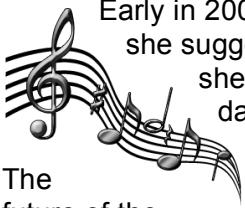
Chris Martin and I are happy to report that the Dixboro Ghost Festival was a fun evening even with the rainy weather. We thank everyone who stepped up and helped out when Chris had to leave and help with her father's illness.

We would love to hear from everyone how they enjoyed the night and what we can do to improve the event if we have one next year.

The night's profits were just over \$200 and will go to the apportionments.

FUTURE MUSIC PROGRAM

By Cathy Freeman, Music Visioning Committee Chair



Early in 2009, Janice Clark had a meeting with the Staff/Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) in which she suggested that Dixboro should begin to think about what a music program would look like after she finishes her career as Music Director here. She has not announced a specific retirement date but knows that this phase of her life will begin shortly.

The future of the music program at Dixboro and to provide input to the SPRC that will be helpful when the need to search for a new Music Director becomes a reality. SPRC asked Cathy Freeman to chair an ad-hoc, short-term committee to discuss the

The following people were on the Music Visioning Committee: Joe Coffey, Linda Coffey, Robbie Colaner, Cathy Freeman, Becky Horvath, Harriet Rash, and Will Smith.

This committee has published a report to the Staff/Parish Relations Committee. It is too long to include in The Chimes but copies will be sent out by email and will be available in hard copy on the table outside the church office. Please contact the church office at 66-5632 if you would like a copy mailed to you.

ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE ON DECEMBER 9

By Pastor John Park

This year's Annual Church Conference with District Superintendent, Rev. Tom Macauley, will be Wednesday, December 9, at 7:30 pm. All committee chairs are expected to attend and all church members are encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity to review the many successes from the past year and to make commitments on how we will continue to do God's work for the next year.

The Staff/Parish Committee will meet with Tom Macauley at 6:45 on this date, right before the Church Conference.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN FEED US!

By Helen Snedeker

The United Methodist Women had a very successful Turkey Dinner with a profit of \$1,399 which will go toward the church mortgage. A special thank you to our church family who helped in so many areas.

Put February 27, 2010 on your calendar for the annual Ham Dinner.

EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS

We would like to thank our church family for the cards, prayers, and warm memories that Dixboro UMC provided us at the passing of my brother, Richard D. Leslie. - Jack and Helen Snedeker

For each and every kindness, and there were many, thank you. Being remembered was a very special gift. Once again, thank you and God Bless You. -Sincerely, Mary Taggart

WOMEN OF DIXBORO

By Phylis Brandon, Co-Chair

Our planned fall retreat was cancelled due to low attendance. We will reschedule for late winter/early spring. Please let Cathy Freeman or Phylis Brandon know if you are interested. More announcements in the coming months.

Once again, we will provide two families with Thanksgiving Dinners. We deliver all the 'fixings' on Tuesday before Thanksgiving, so they can prepare their own meals....there will be a sign-up emailed to all the women in the church who are welcome to sign up to provide the necessary ingredients...also welcome are household items that anyone can use, ie shampoo, soap, detergent and/or gift cards for Krogers, Meijers, etc. There will be baskets in the parlor to start collecting non-perishables.

At the meeting on Thursday, December 10, there will be a labyrinth set up in the Fellowship Hall. Cathy Freeman will provide some background on the history of labyrinths and information about how people use them for prayer and meditation. Then there will be an opportunity to walk and pray on the labyrinth.

ANNUAL COOKIE WALK

By Patty Fragner, Women of Dixboro

The Women of Dixboro will sponsor the "Cookie Walk" again this year on Sunday, December 20. For those of you who don't know about this time-honored DUMC tradition, here's how it works: Wonderful homemade Christmas cookies are lovingly baked by women (and children and men, too, I bet!) and brought to church to sell to the members during fellowship hour on a designated Sunday in Advent. An interested customer will purchase a can to fill, and then walk through the cookie display, choosing the cookies of his/her choice along the way, until the can is full. It's great fun and a super fundraiser. Please plan to participate and join in the fun!



Any cookie donations will be gladly accepted by the Women of Dixboro! Just bring your contributions by 8:45 a.m., December 20. In the meantime, please drop off empty coffee cans in the church kitchen, if you've got them!

Please contact Patty Fragner if you have questions. Thank you in advance for your support.

REPORT ON THE DIXBORO FAIR

By Peggy Moran, Fair Committee Chair

The Dixboro Fair Committee is pleased to present the Church with a gift of \$1200. The Dixboro Fair was a great success this year thanks to the great participation of the congregation.

This year the committee decided to gift \$1,200 to the Church's apportionments. The gifts were also made of \$1,000 to the Humane Society of Huron Valley, \$1,500 to the Dixboro Schoolhouse Fund, and \$1,000 to Habitat for Humanity.

The Dixboro Fair in the past three years has given the majority of revenue to the local charities - our fund raising and advertising states that all profits are given to the chosen charities. The committee is proud of this statement and most individuals and business are impressed with our commitment. The

committee is also aware of the congregation's talents and hours of service to the Fair so the committee strives to maintain a balance between Church and outreach programs.

2009 was an excellent year for the Dixboro Fair and we were been lucky that the weather cooperated!

This year when the day started all expenses were paid. Our goal is to maintain this tradition. Decisions have already been made to improve the cost and quality of food for next year. New booths have also inquired about the fair. We see August 7, 2010 as a busy day for the Church. Mark your calendars now,

2009 YEAR-END FINANCIAL INFORMATION

By Robbie Colaner, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee wants you to know the good news that even in these hard economic times we're in a pretty good place financially. Even with pledges being down, we're able to pay our operating expenses for 2009 and have plans for 2 important expenditures. The Building Renovation Mortgage and Apportionments.

We're sure you're all aware from the various church bulletins and from John's Preacher's Notes, that the income from the 3 grocery cards has decreased due to changes in their policies.

These programs are still very important to us, even though they no longer provide enough income to pay the monthly mortgage payments. The good news is that various church groups, committees and individuals are covering the shortfall for the mortgage payments through the end of the year. We thank you all.

Of equal importance, as a church we are committed to meeting our obligation for paying our 2009 Apportionments. Unless something magical happens, we'll probably have to use the money from our savings account. The good news is that we have a savings account.

Looking forward to 2010, we'd like to present a strategy to the entire congregation. We'd like to suggest that everyone in the congregation commit to making one additional week's giving between now and the end of the year.



The Finance Committee has projected that this additional giving should generate about \$3,000. This money would start rebuilding our savings account. - a very good way to start off 2010.

We're hoping for one additional weeks giving, more would of course be accepted.

Friends always show their love. What good are brothers and sisters if not to share trouble?

(Proverbs 17:17)

EFT PLEDGES 2010

By Robert L. Baird, Financial Secretary

This past year, DUMC began using electronic funds transfers (EFT) for the 2009 pledge year. For this first year, the program worked out well for both the members and the Church. With this program, you choose whether to pay your pledge from a credit card, a savings account, or a checking account. The amount you pledge is automatically deducted from your account based on the authorization you set up.

For New Pledge Authorizations

For first time authorizations, contributors need to complete an "Authorization Form" to provide the proper account or credit card information. For an Authorization Form, please contact either the Church office, Tom Little, or Bob Baird.

For Authorizations Currently on File from 2009

The authorizations already setup during 2009 are still active and will continue until you decide to cancel them. I will change the amount of your deduction based on your pledge for 2010.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

By Ingrid Sheldon, Treasurer

Many of you have taken the Finance Committee's plea to heart and have made an extra pledge payment or gift to help our church. We had sufficient revenue during the month of October to reduce our current year's deficit by \$3,100 to a negative \$15,394. Last year's deficit was almost \$20,000 at this time in the fiscal year. Our general giving Year To Date is down \$1800 compared to a year ago. Times are difficult, and your efforts are much appreciated. We must also celebrate any and all efforts to "save" money for our church which also contributes to reducing our deficit.

In addition, our church has received several "extra" gifts towards reducing our mortgage. By the end of November that balance will be below \$40,000. Thank you to committees of the church and individuals for making this possible. We just received a check from Busch's that will almost cover the November mortgage payment of \$654. Please continue to use your grocery cards. It is a very quiet, but significant, way to support Dixboro United Methodist Church as we share our love both here and globally.

“But now God’s way of putting people right with himself has been revealed. It has nothing to do with the law, even though the Law of Moses and the prophets gave their witness to it. God puts people right through their faith in Jesus Christ.”

(Romans 3:21-22a)

Dixboro UMC As of 10/31/09 REVENUE	October	YTD 2009	Budget	Difference	YTD Actual as % of Budget	YTD 2008
---	---------	----------	--------	------------	------------------------------------	----------

General Giving	19,116.36	152,805.01	210,000.00	57,194.99	72.76%	154,606.80
Special Collections, Designations, Other	2,227.36	27,884.00	30,000.00	2,116.00		45,466.55
TOTAL REVENUE	21,343.72	180,689.01	240,000.00	59,310.99		200,073.35
EXPENSE:						
Conference/District Related	4,149.10	33,192.80	41,491.00	8,298.20	80.00%	34,673.60
Church Related						
Missions, special collections, PHP, scholarships	2,204.00	10,230.85	3,500.00	0.00		6,853.46
Payroll	2,861.96	31,369.54	39,415.05	8,045.51	79.59%	32,917.70
General church operations	2,415.15	32,356.33	45,680.35	13,324.02	70.83%	38,993.73
Committee	38.55	3,237.55	6,000.00	2,762.45	53.96%	5,051.84
Special Project:	0.00	17,713.74	26,500.00	8,786.26		36,555.74
Total Pastor related expense	6,369.16	63,895.40	80,430.00	16,534.60	79.44%	60,963.49
Total Parsonage Related	86.15	3,789.90	4,625.00	835.10	81.94%	3,521.37
Total Schoolhouse expense	29.31	296.42	625.00	328.58	47.43%	505.03
TOTAL EXPENSE:	18,153.38	196,082.53	248,306.40	36,282.74	78.97%	220,035.96
CHURCH RELATED INCOME (LOSS)	3,190.34	-15,393.52	-8,306.40			-19,962.61

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday	Nov 16		Cathy at Conference Training in Flint
		1:00 pm	United Methodist Women
		7:00 pm	Planning Meeting for "A Night in Bethlehem"
Tuesday	Nov 17	7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	Nov 18	6:30 pm	Nurture Committee
Sunday	Nov 22	10:00 am	Soup Sunday to benefit Mt. TOP Mission Trip
Saturday	Dec 5	1:00 pm	A Night in Bethlehem Family Event until 4:00
Monday	Dec 7	6:30 pm	Worship Committee
Tuesday	Dec 8	7:00 pm	Missions Committee
Wednesday	Dec 9	6:45 pm	Staff Parish Committee meets with Tom Macauley
		7:00 pm	Trustees Committee
		7:30 pm	Church Conference with Tom Macauley
Thursday	Dec 10	7:00 pm	Women of Dixboro
Saturday	Dec 12	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
Sunday	Dec 13	12:00 pm	Shelter Meal Ministry
Monday	Dec 14		Cathy at Conference Training in Flint
Tuesday	Dec 15	6:30 pm	Staff Parish Relations Committee
Wednesday	Dec 16	6:30 pm	Nurture Committee
Sunday	Dec 20	10:00 am	Cookie Walk
Monday	Dec 21	1:00 pm	United Methodist Women
		7:00 pm	Longest Night Service
Thursday	Dec 24	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service for Families and Children
		7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship

11:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

RECURRING EVENTS

Mondays	10:00 am	Northeast Seniors Exercise Class
Mondays	5:30 pm	Golf at Rolling Meadows Golf Course (April-Oct)
Tuesdays	4:30 pm	Dance Class in Fellowship Hall
Tuesdays	7:30 pm	Joyful Noise Band Practice
Wednesdays	10:00 am	Northeast Seniors Exercise Class
Wednesdays	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Practice
Fridays	10:00 am	Northeast Seniors Exercise Class
Saturdays	8:30 am	Prayer/Meditation Group
Sundays	8:00 am	Service of Word and Table Worship Service
Sundays	9:00 am	Contemporary Worship Service
Sundays	10:00 am	Sunday School Classes
Sundays	11:00 am	Traditional Worship Service
First Sunday		Holy Communion celebrated
Second Sunday		Shelter Meal Ministry
Third Sunday		Bring canned goods to worship
First Monday	6:30 pm	Worship Committee
Third Monday	1:00 pm	United Methodist Women
Second Tuesday	7:00 pm	Missions Committee
Third Tuesday	6:30 pm	Staff/Parish Relations Committee
Second Wednesday	7:00 pm	Trustees Committee
Third Wednesday	6:30 pm	Nurture Committee
Second Thursday	7:00 pm	Women of Dixboro
Fourth Thursday	7:00 pm	Finance Committee
Second Saturday	8:00 am	Men's Club in Fellowship Hall

“Give thanks to the Lord, because God is good; God’s love is eternal.”
(Psalms 136:1)

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday, November 15	1 Samuel 1:4-20 Psalm 113 Heb 10:11-14, 19-25	Sunday, November 22	2 Samuel 23:1-7 Psalm 132:1-12 Revelation 1:4b-8
----------------------------	---	----------------------------	--

	Mark 13:1-8		John 18:33-37
Sunday, November 29 United Methodist Student Day	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Thess 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36		
Sunday, December 6	Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6	Sunday, December 13	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18
Sunday, December 20	Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:47-55 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45	Sunday, December 27	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52