



THE CHIMES

Dixboro United Methodist Church November/December 2015 Vol. LXII No. 6

A soldier was concluding sentry duty on Christmas morning. He was accustomed to worshipping in his home church on Christmas Day, but he was far away from home in war torn London. He gathered several of his buddies to join him in the search to find a church that was open. As dawn was breaking, they came upon an old graystone building marked, "Queen Anne's Orphanage" and decided to see what kind of celebration was taking place inside. In response to their knock, a matron came to the door and explained that the children were war orphans whose parents had been killed in the bombings.

The soldiers went inside just as the children were tumbling out of their beds. They saw no Christmas tree in the corner and no presents to be opened, so they moved around the room wishing each child "Merry Christmas" and offering whatever was in their pockets as gifts. There was a stick of chewing gum, a Life Saver, a nickel, a dime, a pencil, a pocketknife, a good luck charm, and other small items. One soldier noticed a little boy standing alone in the corner. He asked, "And you – what do you want for Christmas?"

There was a long silence as the boy looked up at the soldier – then he asked, "Will you hold me?" The soldier was moved deeply. With tears in his eyes, he reached out, took the boy in his arms, and held him close.

That story points me to the message of Christmas. God comes to us in human form to embrace us, to hug us to Himself at the time we need Him, in the way we need Him most. The baby born to humble parents in a lowly stable in an insignificant town – is God's way of showing His love for the world in a way that we can understand and respond to.

In the person of Jesus, we see the nature of God in human form. With redeeming love, God embraces us in spite of our sin and failures. With accepting love, God embraces us as we struggle to find meaning and purpose for our lives. With comforting love, God embraces us when we feel lonely, alienated and disconnected from others. With assuring love, God embraces us in the midst of despair and loss, when we feel hurt or betrayed, or when we are fearful and worried about the future. In Jesus, we see that God loves us as we are, never gives up on us, and transforms us into the people we were created to be.

I have experienced God's loving embrace in and through the lives of other Christians – and it has been the experience of God's love in my life that allows me to love others, as well.

I hope you'll take time during this Advent season to reflect upon the ways you have experienced God's loving embrace. Then reach out to others and show them God's love in practical ways. Let someone in need experience God's embrace through YOU this season.

Joyfully in Christ,

Rev. Tonya Arnesen

“In Jesus, we see that God loves us as we are, never gives up on us, and transforms us into the people we were created to be.”

Scavenger Hunt

Susan Engle

Recently, I and two others were invited to visit Tom Freeman's basement to find out what was in his mother Carol Freeman's filing cabinet. Tom brought out the first drawer for us to see.

I was interested in finding items relevant to the church. One paper was titled "Scavenger Hunt - MYF - Summer 1960." It now 55 years later. How many of these 24 items do you think you could find in an hour or so?

"Used paper cup; Dentyne gum wrapper; 1 ft. of rope (exactly); spray of asparagus; ring made from a horseshoe nail; small flat stone; horsechestnut leaf; handful of straw; Queen Anne's Lace flower; polka-dot bow tie; peony seed pod; book of matches with a pretty girl on the cover; blue curler from a home permanent kit; red rubber band; white comb; tootsie roll wrapper; purple clover; Sunday comic section dated June 26; license number of Rev. Craig's car; hockey puck; picture of George Washington; Superman comic book; package of Grape Kool-aid; Top Value stamp."

My best guess today? Fewer than the number of my toes. If I had lived in Dixboro in 1960, probably a lot more!

November - December 2015

Dixboro Devotional:

Where the Church Meets to Pray

READ: Romans 8:35-39

Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Matthew 28:20 (NKJV)

In her late 80s, my Mom was diagnosed with Dementia. Years passed and her illness progressed, requiring the supports provided by an assisted-living setting. My brother, sister, and I divvied up responsibilities related to her care, made sure that each day at least one of us spent time with her, and found ways to add special touches to her days. Hearing Scriptures seemed to interest Mom. Even when she couldn't remember who we were, she would stammer out some of the words as I read from Matthew 6:9-13.

Near the end of her life, Mom was blind and had very limited hearing. One day a wave of despair washed over me as I thought about the depth of her illness and the degree of isolation from the world she was experiencing. The words of Matthew 28:20 came to me, bringing comfort with the reminder that Mom was not alone. She had claimed our Lord's promise that He was with her always. Even when she was so distant from everything around her, nothing had separated her from His loving presence.

-Mary Turfe

Prayer: Loving Father, thank you for the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit as Comforter in our lives. Amen.

Prayer Focus: Individuals diagnosed with dementia.

Want to Share Your Story?

Dixboro United Methodist Women have established a goal for 2015-16 related to enhancement of faith relationships among church members. The plan to do a home-grown bi-monthly version of *The Upper Room* in The Chimes was adopted. Many of us find *The Upper Room* a great supplement to personal devotions, and its format of Scripture references and personal reflections is inspiring and instructive. Why not get to know each other better and enhance faith relationships by giving interested church members an opportunity to publish a personal testimony using the format from *The Upper Room*? We encourage folks of all ages to prayerfully consider sharing an experience from their journey of faith. If you'd like to participate, please submit your contribution of approximately 150 words to Zack for publication. Please direct any questions to Mary Turfe: maryt810@yahoo.com



www.DixboroChurch.org

Don't Forget to Check Our Website!

Check our website regularly to stay up to date with what's going on with our church. We have the calendar, pictures, and news posted regularly. You will also find our weekly bulletins along with this CHIMES (and previous editions) for view and download.

Rev. Tonya M. Arnesen
Lead Pastor

Rev. Mary Hagley
Minister of Children and Youth

Rev. Cathy Freeman
Deacon Emeritus

Zack Belsky
Director of Music Ministry
Administrative Assistant



dumc@dixborochurch.org

Like us on Facebook!

(734) 665-5632

5221 Church Rd.

Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Joy To The World

An Original Christmas Story
by Peggy Moran

Please join us on December 6 at 5 pm to hear the story of Ruby Smith. The program will be followed by a Pasta dinner. Donations will support the Youth Mission Trip.

All Church Caroling and Party.

Please join us at 2:30pm Dec. 13 to go caroling at Superior Woods Assisted Living, followed by a Christmas Party at church until 5pm. We will carol first and then come back to church. Bring a favorite snack to share and a \$5 or less gift to participate in our white elephant gift exchange, if you would like. All ages are welcome to join us in celebrating the Birth of our Savior!

Our Continued Support of Food Gatherers



Amy Knutilla

For many years, Dixboro Church has been donating non-perishable food to Food Gatherers. It has been our tradition to bring non-perishable food items to church on the third Sunday of the month, but you may donate anytime. The donation box is found in the hallway outside of fellowship hall. Accepted items include canned and dry goods, unopened and in their original packaging with labels, in good condition (no dents, bulging, or rust) and which are within 6 months past their use-by date. You may donate other perishable items directly to Food Gatherers, located at:

1 Carrot Way, Ann Arbor, 48105.

See www.foodgatherers.org for more information. Let the nice people at Food Gatherers know you are from Dixboro Church! Year-to-date for 2015, we have donated over 500 lbs.

Dixboro Team Walks to Stop Hunger

Amy Knutilla

Over two dozen adults, youth, (and one dog!) from Dixboro Church walked at the 41st Annual Washtenaw/Ann Arbor CROP Hunger Walk on October 11th. Dixboro Church members, friends, and families joined them by donating \$1,401 to help stop hunger. We had many new walkers with us this year, and it was a beautiful day! What a wonderful opportunity to help fight hunger and poverty, aid refugees, and support the vital self-help developmental programs for which Church World Service has been known

for 60 years. Seventy-five percent of the money raised by CROP supports Church World Service programs in some 80 countries around the world. 25% of what we raised helped local agencies in Washtenaw County. Let's have even more walkers next year!



Choral Music Opportunities:

Janet Zinn

The Dixboro United Methodist Church Chancel Choir sings traditional selections during each Sunday service at 10:00 am. Weekly rehearsals are on Thursday night at 6:30 pm in the Choir Room. Contact Zack Belsky for more information.

The Plymouth Oratorio Society will perform its annual concert, featuring the Mozart Requiem and S. Barber's Agnus Dei, and Adagio for Strings, on Sunday, May 1, 2016 at 4:00 pm at the Plymouth First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Rd, in Plymouth. Open to all singers (no auditions), the season begins on Monday, January 4, 2016, and rehearsals are held each Monday night at 7:30 pm at Plymouth FUMC. For more information, talk with Janet Zinn (734-453-5176 or jntz@umich.edu).

The Annual Ann Arbor Community Messiah Sing takes place on Saturday, Dec 12, 2015 at 3:00 pm at St. Claire of Assisi Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard in Ann Arbor. Open to all and just for fun, this is an unrehearsed reading of the Handel's Messiah. See their Facebook page (Ann Arbor Community Messiah Sing) or direct questions to Meg Gower (megower@yahoo.com).

NOVEMBER

Connect. Grow. Serve.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship -Holy Communion	2	3 <i>8:30 am Exercise Class</i> <i>4:30 pm Indian Dance Class</i>	4	5 <i>8:30 am Exercise Class</i> 9:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:50 pm Joyful Noise	6	7 8:30 am Course in Miracles <i>8:45 am German School</i>
8 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 5:30 pm DUMY	9	10 <i>8:30 am Exercise Class</i> <i>4:30 pm Indian Dance Class</i>	11 <i>5:30 pm Italian Cooking Class</i>	12 <i>8:30 am Exercise Class</i> 9:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:50 pm Joyful Noise	13 <i>6:00 pm Michigan Folk School</i>	14 8:30 am Course in Miracles <i>8:45 am German School</i>
15 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship -Bring Canned Goods	16 12:00 pm Abigail Circle Potluck	17 <i>8:30 am Exercise Class</i> <i>4:30 pm Indian Dance Class</i> <i>6:00 am Italian Cooking Class</i> 6:30 am Vision Team Meeting	18 <i>5:30 pm Italian Cooking Class</i>	19 <i>8:30 am Exercise Class</i> 9:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:50 pm Joyful Noise	20	21 8:30 am Course in Miracles <i>8:45 am German School</i> <i>10:00 am Michigan Folk School</i>
22 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:15 pm Church Council Meeting	23	24 <i>4:30 pm Indian Dance Class</i>	25 <i>5:30 pm Italian Cooking Class</i>	26 <i>8:30 am Exercise Class</i> 9:30 pm Women's Bible Study	27	28 8:30 am Course in Miracles
29 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	30	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #000;"> Office Closed—Thanksgiving </div>				

Bold = Dixboro Church Events · *Italic = Community Events*

Please visit dixborochurch.org for more information, and the most up-to-date calendar.

dumc@dixborochurch.org

734-665-5632

DECEMBER

Connect. Grow. Serve.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>8:30 am</i> Exercise Class <i>4:30 pm</i> Indian Dance Class	2 <i>5:30 pm</i> Italian Cooking Class	3 <i>8:30 am</i> Exercise Class 9:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm SPRC Meeting 6:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:00 pm Charge Conference 7:50 pm Joyful Noise	4	5 8:30 am Course in Miracles
6 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship -Holy Communion 5:00 pm Christmas Pageant and Dinner	7	8 <i>8:30 am</i> Exercise Class <i>4:30 pm</i> Indian Dance Class	9 <i>5:30 pm</i> Italian Cooking Class	10 <i>8:30 am</i> Exercise Class 9:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:50 pm Joyful Noise	11	12 8:30 am Course in Miracles <i>8:45 am</i> German School <i>10:00 am</i> Michigan Folk School
13 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Cookie Walk 12:00 pm Shelter Meal 2:30 pm Caroling and Christmas Party	14	15 <i>8:30 am</i> Exercise Class <i>4:30 pm</i> Indian Dance Class <i>6:00 pm</i> Michigan Folk School 6:30 am Nurture Team	16 <i>5:30 pm</i> Italian Cooking Class	17 <i>8:30 am</i> Exercise Class 9:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:50 pm Joyful Noise	18	19 8:30 am Course in Miracles
20 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship -Bring Canned Goods	21 1:00 pm Abigail Circle	22	23	24 <i>8:30 am</i> Exercise Class 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Office Closed Christmas	26 8:30 am Course in Miracles <i>8:45 am</i> German School <i>10:00 am</i> Michigan Folk School
27 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	28	29 <i>8:30 am</i> Exercise Class	30			

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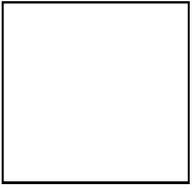
Dixboro United Methodist Church
5221 Church Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE CHIMES

DIXBORO UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER

November/December 2015



Rev. Tonya M. Arnesen, Lead Pastor
Rev. Mary Hagley, Minister of Children and Youth
Rev. Cathy Freeman, Deacon Emeritus
Church Phone: (734) 665-5632

Worship Schedule:
Sunday School for All Ages at 9:00am
Sunday Worship at 10:00am

Email: dumc@dixborochurch.org
Web site: www.dixborochurch.org

"The mission of the Dixboro United Methodist Church is to develop and sustain disciples of Jesus Christ through worship, education, outreach, and nurture."



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