PLATTEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Learn God ~ Love God ~ Share God ~ Serve God



"What are we inviting them to?" This is a question I have heard several times recently. I keep telling you to invite your friends to church, and people ask, "But, what are we inviting them to?" Last October several of us attended the Turn Around Church Boot Camp that focused on reaching new people (see p 3). As we were

discussing what we were learning, two pastors asked the same question, "What are we inviting them to?"

We invite people to community. We invite people into relationship with the people of the church, and more importantly, with Jesus Christ.

If you assert that you can believe in God without going to church, I will not argue with you. Believing in God is not the point of church. The church is the community that continues Jesus' work. The church is relationship: loving God and loving people.

Way back in the days of Genesis, God created humanity and said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Genesis 1:18 NIV. We are not meant to believe in God alone. We are meant for community. We are meant for relationship.

God chose a man and woman to begin a family, that would become a nation, that would be a community in a special relationship with God (Genesis 12). Jesus did his earthly ministry in community, in relationship with the disciples. When he ascended to heaven, he didn't tell one person to carry on his work. He told the disciples to continue his work in community, in relationship (see all of the New Testament).

The church is community. The church is relationship. When you invite someone to church, you are inviting them to community. When new people come into the church, the most important thing we offer them is relationship.

In 2013 we bumped up hospitality. We have more greeters welcoming people each Sunday, including greeters opening the main doors for people. Greeting time during worship is taking longer as people are spending more time reaching out to those they know and those they don't. We still have more ideas to help us connect with each other on Sunday mornings, and our Rebuild Group is working on that.

In 2013, as our Church Council continued to flesh out what it means to *Learn God*, *Love God*, *Share God*, *and Serve God*, they decided that the community and relationship offered in small groups needs to be a priority. One of the Church Council's goals for the church for 2014 is to "Develop an ongoing plan that will develop a small group culture within the congregation." The purpose of small groups is learning and growing, but even more importantly, small groups are about community and relationship.

What are we inviting people to when we invite them to church? Community and relationship, with us and Jesus! Invite your friends to church!

See you in church – where we foster those relationships with God and each other!



January 2014

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: 2 Mission COMMITTEE BARELY SENIORS HELP NEEDED TURN AROUND CHURCH MINDY'S CORNER 4 SCHOOL BUS CAFE 6 7 UMW FINANCIAL PEACE 7 UNIVERSITY MIRICLE SUNDAY SMALL GROUP **OPPORTUNITIES** WORSHIP 10 **SCHEDULES CALENDAR** 11



Adopted Families

A sincere thank you from the missions committee for your generous donations of food and gifts for our adopted families. Your gifts made the Thanksgiving and Christmas Season joyous for area families. In addition to the food and gifts purchased, thank you to the toy makers and those who provided the bedding for the cradles and donated baby dolls; Whig UMC and Our House for providing gifts for a family, the Lions Club for providing Christmas trees; Lands' End for the winter coats and warm clothes and to the committee members and helpers who sorted, shopped, packed and distributed baskets and gifts to the families.



Coats for Kids

Thank you for the coats donated for the community Coats for Kids project. The coats were distributed December 10. Also, thank you to the Platteville Cleaners for cleaning the coats.

<u>UMCOR</u>

The UMCOR number to donate to the victims of the Midwest tornadoes is Advance #901670. If you would like to donate, please note "tornado" on your check or envelope and place in the offer plate or mail to the church.

Barely Seniors

Barely Seniors will meet on Thursday, January 9 at 12:00 pm in the fellowship hall with a potluck lunch and program. Table service and beverages are provided. Seniors are asked to bring a dish to pass.

The program will be, James Hibbard, University of Wisconsin– Platteville Archivist. James met previously with Barely Seniors with the focus on Lancaster history. The focus on January 9 will be Platteville and Southwest Wisconsin.

Church Nursery Help Needed

Platteville United Methodist Church is looking for nursery workers that LOVE children and Jesus! Our open positions are on Sunday mornings and special events. Applicants must pass a background screening and be reliable. Preference will be given to those with previous childcare or early childhood education experience. If you are interested in this paid position, please contact the church office.

Coffee Hours are a time of fellowship and are held immediately after each Sunday morning service. Our members, friends, and visitors are heartily welcomed to join us for a snack and a cup of delicious coffee or juice!

Coffee Hour is a wonderful opportunity to catch up on news with friends and acquaintances that we do not get a chance to talk to during the week. Visitors are especially encouraged to mingle during Coffee Hour. You are certain to feel at home and may even make a new friend or two.

If you would like to volunteer to host a coffee hour (it's easier than you think, and so appreciated) please sign up in the folder in the lobby or contact Jennifer in the church office.

IRA Charitable Rollover for 2013

Congress has reauthorized the IRA Charitable Rollover for 2013! This means that members of your congregation aged 70 1/2 or older, who have a Traditional or Roth IRA, can make a charitable gift from their IRA directly to your church or any other United Methodist Ministry **before December** 31, 2013. Their gift may qualify for their required minimum distribution and they will not have to pay federal income tax on the amount given from their IRA to charity.

Please contact the church office if you are interested in using this IRA rollover to fund your church's operating budget, contribute to a special church fund, like the elevator fund, or establish a permanent endowment fund to benefit your church in perpetuity.

The Cap Club met on Dec 3rd. Members present were Pastor Brenda, Tom Lindahl, Jim and Carol Kirkpatrick, Dee Gray, Dolores Hutchison, Tom and Nancy Ziegenfuss, and Hank and Judy Bossenbroek.

Everyone had good reports on the people they visit. Also reports on the communion that was taken to our members that are unable to come to church. We all wrote on Christmas Cards to be sent to all of the shut ins.

Our next meeting will be on Feb 4th @ 10:00. Cap Club wants to wish everyone a Very Blessed Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.

Blessings from the Cap Club



Reaching New People: Turn Around Church Boot Camp

The Weekend of October 25-27 Tom Lindahl, Steve Lozeau, and Warner Smidt joined Mindy, Jennifer, Pastor Elizabeth and Pastor Brenda and representatives from nine other churches from our region, as well as many others from Northern Illinois, at a training in suburban Chicago. The Turn Around Church Boot Camp focused on reversing the decline churches are seeing by focusing on ways to reach new people. Eight of our Southern Wisconsin churches were so excited by what we experienced that we have signed up for group coaching that will begin in January. We have received

a grant from the Conference for half of the cost and participants of the group that went have pledged to pay for the rest of the cost of coaching, so it will not cost the church anything.

Be sure to be in worship January 12th as the group shares what they learned about the state of the church, how our pastor can reach new people by getting out of the office and into the community, and new ways of thinking about inviting people.



Whew! We made it through another semester and the students all survived finals thanks to our nice final bags. The students were super thankful to receive them. I received a text from Katlyn, a freshman entering her first college finals week, "Thank you so much! That was so sweet!" Final bags

are important because they are a great way to show that we care for our students. I want to thank everyone who helped make the final bags a success this semester! I could not have done these without you!

I do have to say I am a little sad to see winter break come. This always means the students return home and I will miss seeing them weekly. However, I am super excited to say that I get to see 8 of them a week early and spend on entire week with them! We will be heading to Nashville for the mission trip then to the Passion conference! I am so excited for this! I hope you are excited to hear about it when we get back! We will be having a brunch and sharing about our trip on January 26 at 9:45 in Fellowship Hall!



November was a fun month! We had the ReFuel conference which I will apologize for it not being in this newsletter. I would like the students that went to inform you about it and what they learned so that will be in next month. I will give you a glimpse of what happened. Picture 300 students in a room each sitting on the floor praying asking God to come closer to them so they could grow to know him more. If there ever is a moment in ministry

where you are able to get a glimpse of everything you're working for, this is it. The moments when the ones you have been trying to lead closer to God step out, want him on their own and want more of him. Among the 300 there we had 5 of our students attend Each of them grow closer to God which I will let them explain in their own words next month.

Conferences are always fun, beneficial, and like Miracle Grow to our faith, but it's the daily watering and sun that make our faith grow strong. This is easier when done in community, which is what Merge strives to provide for students. This month we have enjoyed community on early release days, Wednesday night meetings and a girls trip to Galena. It is such a blessing to work with these students and be a part of what God is doing!



So are you convinced yet that God really loves to use small groups and would love to show you more of him through a small group? I sure hope so. I love small groups. In fact I just got done having some members of the small group I am a part of over for dinner. It was great! I cooked a homemade meal, they arrived at 6:00, and we sat around the table and talked about our lives and faith for 3 hours. It was great. I love those people. It is so cool how God uses small groups to break down barriers and bring us closer to each other and him. I love learning from others and

also sharing what I have learned. In January, there will be 2 small groups starting. On January 14th, John and Deb Putnam will lead "Love to Stay" by Adam Hamilton, on Wednesday, January 15, Jan Merfeld will begin leading "The Extreme Self Care" group. January 16th our Thursday afternoon group will begin Volunteer Rocket, on . In February, Jason and Jennifer Fiedler will lead Financial Peace University on Sunday evenings beginning February 9th. Please see page 8 for the details of these groups. Or the small group brochure is available at the information booth.

It is a great dual! Whoever you are, we have a group for you!



Platteville United Methodist Church encourages members to initiate ministry and community programs that reach out to the Platteville area. "School Bus Café" was a potential community program that I had been thinking about for some time. I have been the "Life Enrichment Coordinator" (Activity Director) at "Our House Assisted Living" for several years and enjoy coming up with new and interesting crafts and activities. I have a seven year-old-daughter Leah who loves craft activities and has

little interest in sports programs. She is always interested in an after school snack and something to do. I love kids so the opportunity to create a safe environment for snacks and a fun activity for Pre-K -3rd Grade was a need I felt could be helped by School Bus Cafe. Pastor Brenda Whitford, a former Pre-K teacher herself, and PUMC Church Council enthusiastically supported the program which launched on November 7 and is every Thursday 3:45pm-4:45pm. Our Pre-K through Third Grade students enjoy a healthy, nutritious snack after school every Thursday. Snack time is followed by crafts or other activities such as story time. School Bus Café is free for students. Platteville UMC adults volunteer weekly to provide supervision for the students. The two Platteville Optimist Clubs have recently contributed funds to help this after school program get off the ground. Several area business owners such as Tom Sigwarth owner of Country Kitchen and Dairy Queen, have been early supporters of School Bus Café. We hope area businesses and service clubs follow their example for this worthy program. For more information, contact Tracy Harle at (608) 778-4045 or

Platteville United Methodist Church, 1065 Lancaster St., Platteville. Phone (608) 348-9508.









- 1 Michelle Koeller
- 2 John Ambrosius
- 2 Judy Bossenbroek
- 3 Elizabeth Whitford
- 4 Lenny Glass
- 5 Earl Appenzeller
- 5 Bill Soles
- 6 Delbert Rupp Sr.
- 6 Cailey Jones
- 7 Tom Scanlan
- 8 Dolores Hutcheson
- 8 Lauren Becker
- 9 Spencer Olds
- 9 Will Hollingsworth
- 10 Deb Schroedl
- 10 Allison Demaree
- 10 Aubree Hromadka
- 12 Tracy Harle
- 14 Pam Catellier
- 15 Mia Simmons
- 18 Norenne Masbruch
- 18 Jacki Hardy
- 19 Kathy Flaig
- 21 Janet Millard
- 22 Jerry Burkard
- 22 Richard Trewartha
- 24 Ron Rewey
- 24 Jim Bruun
- 24 Nancy Ziegenfuss
- 25 Nancy Fairchild
- 25 Jocelyn Gile
- 27 Roy Schroedl
- 28 Kallena Pluemer
- 30 Deb Putnam
- 30 Lindsay Hollingsworth

Anniversaries

3 Ben & Laura Grossman

12 Rob & Jill Hasker

18 Merlyn & Viola Kuehl





I would like to thank my church family for the prayers, prayer shawl, visits and phone calls following my recent surgery. The caring words, cards and food brought comfort and peace as I recovered. It is such a blessing to know that we have a Gracious God who is at work in our congregation. Gratefully, Cecile Hoffman

Special thanks to the money counters, Rita Elver, John Ambrosius, Mary June Rewey, Katie Cottingham, Ellen Carnahan and Carol Kirkpatrick. Your help is deeply appreciated. Norma Meisel, Financial Secretary.

"Financial update" - As has been shared periodically throughout the year, we made some staff and program additions to our budget in 2012 that we did not want to cut in 2013. In order to continue our forward momentum in mission and ministry, through a combined effort of the Church Council, Finance Committee and Trustees, we passed the 2013 budget with a \$23,000 deficit. As of November 30, our actual budget deficit is \$9,092. The good news is the deficit is 56% less than anticipated. Thank you for your continued generosity toward the mission and ministry that we do together. We have a challenge before us to try to end the year with as little deficit as possible. It is still hopeful that we could end the year in the black.

January Schedule

There will be NO UMW General Meeting or Rebekah Fellowship Group this month.

A BIG thank you to Rosemary Anderson and Barb Browning for Chairing the Christmas Fair and all those who supported them by helping to make it a success.

Our Christmas Stocking offering went to the UM Madison Hospitals Chaplaincy Program (UMHM). The following excerpts from a letter from Pastor Jane Zekoff explains why. "The UMHM committee sends to the UMW of the Wisconsin conference our deepest gratitude for the years of support you have provided for the ministry of visitation in the Madison hospitals.

In 2013, UMHM which is a half time ministry, had a budget of \$23,000. We rely on designated mission gifts from local churches, UMWs, and individuals to fund 70% of our budget. We could not do this ministry if it were not for the gifts from UMW members and units here in Wisconsin. Thank you!

In 2013, over 2,200 patient and family pastoral visits were made by the chaplain to United Methodists who live outside the Madison area but who came to Madison for hospitalization. In addition, Rev. Zekoff made over 125 contacts with UM pastors to keep them informed about patients who asked that their pastor be notified. Over half of the visits were with families who no longer had a connection with a UM congregation, but who were grateful to share in conversation and prayer as they struggled with illness and changes in their lives"

We are all in mission together.



Financial Peace University Coming Soon We all need a plan for our money. Financial Peace University

(FPU) teaches God's ways of handling money. Through video teaching and small group discussion, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and give away more than you ever thought you could! FPU classes meet for an hour and a half each week for nine weeks.

A free class preview will be offered January 26th at 6:00 pm. Class will start February 9 at 6:00 pm at PUMC. Child care will be available if desired. Jason and Jennifer Fiedler will be facilitating this class. Please contact Jennifer if you are interested or come to the free preview on January 26th.

People regularly tell me that they would give more money away to missions if they didn't have so much debt. Here is a plan. Dave Ramsey keeps the Bible central without being preachy and speaks in an entertaining way. Ramsey says, "Imagine what the people of God could do for the Kingdom of God if they were debt free." ~Pastor Brenda

Be Part of a Miracle

Many members of our congregation and others who use the church could use an elevator when going between the Sanctuary and fellowship hall. Visitors to the church for funerals, Vacation Bible School, Christmas Bazaar, Harvest Dinner, etc. have mentioned that having the use of an elevator would be very helpful. It would be helpful for our older members as well as young families with strollers. It would also be useful for moving heavy things like tables and chairs between floors for special events. Adding an elevator to the church is a major resource investment. Some might say that getting an elevator would be a miracle. Informational meetings to explain the details of an elevator for the church will be held after each service on January 12th. Hopefully any questions you may have will be answered at these informational meetings. We are designating January 26th as Miracle Sunday when contributions will be totaled and hopefully there will be enough money to fund an elevator. You could be a part of making the miracle happen.

Max Anderson for the Elevator Task Force

WINTER SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Love To Stay

Tuesdays, 6:30 pm Starts: January 14

In this book, Adam Hamilton explores how, with God's help, we can make love last. Drawing upon a survey of thousands of couples and singles, interviews with relationship and marriage therapists, the latest research in the field, and wisdom from the Bible, Hamilton looks at what it takes to create and sustain healthy, meaningful romantic relationships across the course of a lifetime.

Duration: 6 weeks

Leaders: John & Deb Putnam

Cost: \$13

Location: John & Deb's house

Financial Peace University

Sunday evenings, 6:00-7:30pm Beginning February 9, 2014

We all need a plan for our money. Dave Ramsey will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more all from a Christian perspective!

Duration: 9 weeks

Leaders: Jason & Jennifer Fiedler

Cost: \$100 (includes all materials)

Location: PUMC Wesley Room

Volunteer Rocket

Thursdays , 1:30 –3:00 pm Starts: January 16, 2014

Volunteer Rocket is a step-by-step program to help gain, train and retain volunteers with all the how-to coaching, done-for-you resources, and real church examples and interviews. It's delivered in seven modules of coaching. Each module comes with a coaching video, listening quide and an eBook.

· Duration: 7 weeks

Leader: Jan Weier & Peg Meyer

No Cost

Location: PUMC Youth Room

The Art of Extreme Self-Care

3rd Wednesday of month 6:30pm Starts: January 15

Starts. January 13

A sane and sensible program that gives you permission you need to dramatically upgrade your life in to all that God created you to be!

Duration: 12 months (once per month)

Leader: Jan Merfeld

Cost: \$12

Location: PUMC Wesley Room

Just a friendly reminder of the weekly announcement and newsletter deadlines.

Weekly Announcements

Wednesday morning

Newsletters

3rd Friday of the month

Please have any articles to the office no later than Friday afternoon. This will ensure that your article will get in the newsletter. Dates are posted in the weekly announcements, newsletter and sent out by email.

Commitment cards continue to come in. So

far we have received 82 commitment cards for a total pledge of \$223,033 for 2014! This is \$34,869 more than what those same families gave this past year. Although 25 families have taken Pastor Brenda's challenge, and although it comes \$7,800 short of the challenge goal, you can see that many families increased their giving without indicating they were taking the challenge. For her giving purposes, Pastor Brenda considers her challenge met! Commitment cards continue to be collected. If you have not yet returned yours, please place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Although there are still many pledge cards out, and the budget has yet to be created, it looks as though the 2014 budget may very well be balanced without making any cuts in ministry! The Platteville UMC congregation has shown that you do indeed value the ministry that we do together!

Would you like to receive you newsletter electronically? If you would, please contact Jennifer in the church office.

Office Hours

9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.; Monday-Friday

Contact Information

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Web: www.plattevilleumc.org

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Mindy Freiburger freiburgerm@gmail.com 608-778-4607

Sunday School Superintendent

Ellen Carnahan ellen.carnahan ellen.carnahan ellen.carnahan ellen.carnahan ellen.carnahan ellen ellen

January Usher Schedule

8:30 a.m. Calvin Koeller & Lynn Schlager

11:00 a.m. Joe & Alice Clifton

Readers Schedule

January5	8:30 a.m.	Nancy Fairchild
	11:00 a.m.	Tom Scanlan
January 12	8:30 a.m.	Max Anderson
	11:00 a.m.	Warner Smidt
January 19	8:30 a.m.	Sara Koeller
	11:00 a.m.	Amy Pohle
January 26	8:30 a.m.	Deb Putnam
	11:00 a.m.	Mike Mair

January Greeters Schedule

January 5	8:30 a.m.	Hank & Judy Bossenbroek
	11:00 a.m.	Helen Cardin & Sheena Rice
January 12	8:30 a.m.	Jane Peoples & Lynn Dew
	11:00 a.m.	Tom Scanlan & Dawn Drake
January 19	8:30 a.m.	Jan & Jean Digman
	11:00 a.m.	Steve & Colleen Lozeau
January 26	8:30 a.m.	Pete & Lisa Mumm
	11:00 a.m.	Woodworth Family

January Worship

December 29th

Journey: God With Skin On Matthew 1:20-23 Communion Both Services 8:30 Special Music 11:00 Blind Faith

January 5th

Mike Mair 8:30 Special Music 11:00 Holy Rollers

January 12th

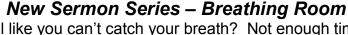
Tom Lindahl and others
Reaching New People:
Report from Turn Around Boot Camp
8:30 Special Music
11:00 Blind Faith

January 19th

Breathing Room: What Are We Afraid Of?
Installation of Church Leaders
Human Relations Day
8:30 Special Music
11:00 Blind Faith

January 26th

Breathing Room: In Our Finances
Miracle Sunday: Special Offering for the
Elevator
8:30 Special Music
11:00 Blind Faith



BREATHING ROOM

Ever feel like you can't catch your breath? Not enough time or money? In our attempt to get the most out of life, it's easy to lose control of our lives. What we need is a little breathing room. This month we begin a new 4 week sermon series called "Breathing Room." We'll talk about how God intended for us to live, how we got into this mess in the first place, and how we can find breathing room in our finances, our schedule, and our relationships. Be sure to invite your friends to this practical sermon series! Life is better with breathing room.

JANUARY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 School Bus Café 3:45 pm	3	4 Girl Scouts
				Brenda on Vacation Jan 1-15		
5	6 6:45 am Breakfast Praver	7	8 3:30 pm Merge 45	9	10	11
8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	6:45 am Breakfast Prayer Group at Country Kit. 1 pm Blood Drive 5:15 pm Yoga w/Val		5:15 pm Yoga w/Val 6:00 pm Worship Committee 6:30 pm Holy Rollers & Redeemer 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Merge	12:00 pm Barely Seniors 3:45 pm School Bus Café Trustees 7:00 pm		
8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Elevator Info. meeting 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	13 6:45 am Breakfast Prayer Group at Country Kit. 5:15 pm Yoga w/Val	14 4:15 pm Yoga w/Val 5:00 pm Missions 6:30 Love To Stay Small Group Campus Ministry—Mission Trip & Passion Conference	15 5:15 pm Yoga w/Val 6:30 pm Holy Rollers & Redeemer 6:30 pm Extreme Self Care Small Group	16 1:30 pm Small Group 6:00 pm Church Council 7:00 pm Finance	Newsletter Deadline	18
19 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	20 6:45 am Breakfast Prayer Group at Country Kit. 5:15 pm Yoga w/Val	21 4:15 pm Yoga w/Val 6:30 Love To Stay Small Group	22 3:30 pm Merge 45 5:15 pm Yoga w/Val 6:30 pm Holy Rollers & Redeemer 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Merge	23 12:00 pm Newsletter Assembled 1:30 pm Small Group	24	25 Girl Scouts
26 Miracle Sunday 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Campus Minis- try Brunch/presentation 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	27 6:45 am Breakfast Prayer Group at Country Kit. 5:15 pm Yoga w/Val	28 4:15 pm Yoga w/Val 6:30 Love To Stay Small Group	29 3:30 pm Merge 45 5:15 pm Yoga w/Val 6:30 pm Holy Rollers & Redeemer 6:30 pm Merge	30 1:30 pm Small Group	31	



PLATTEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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