

Sanford United Methodist Church

Messenger



JANUARY 2012

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of the United Methodist Church

If I find time....

"Show me, O Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man's life is but a breath. Man is a mere phantom as he goes to and fro: He bustles about, but only in vain; he heaps up wealth, not knowing who will get it." (Psalm 39:4-6)



If I find time.... We don't have to find the time we just have to use it. The new year is a fresh start. We can change time into life and make every moment count for eternity.

Some things to look for in 2012

How often we say, I will do it if I find the time.... When John Erskine was about fifteen years old his music teacher asked him how long he practiced each day. "Four or five hours", he replied. "Four or five hours at a stretch?" asked the teacher. The pupil nodded. Erskine never forgot the warning that followed. The teacher pointed out that as he went about earning his own living, he would seldom have as much as five hours at a time to practice.

Life isn't composed primarily of large things, it's mostly small ones; it's made up of the minutes and hours, daily interactions with people, of those little habits and decisions we make as we operate every day. When we learn how to use the small pieces of life, we are living the way God wants us to.

If we would build productive lives we have to cherish the shortest snatches of time, in the little spaces between events lies opportunity. There are times in life when we are forced to make every minute count; those are the most productive times. Much can be done in a brief space of time if we learn how to coin minutes into hours and hours into days. Good use of time helps us to be faithful to our highest convictions and gives us the sense that we are living responsible lives as faithful stewards of God's many gifts. "Time wasted is existence; used, it is life." "The best way to kill time is to work it to death." "We spend money to make money; we spend time to save time."

The year 2012 is here and we are pushing forward to fulfill our high calling in Christ Jesus. This year we may expect to stretch out toward the spiritual and in service to our Lord and his church. With God's help, the quality of ministry that we are experiencing would continue. Everything would be done to make each worship experience a deeply spiritual one for all who attend. We are here to help people draw near to God.

We would continue to improve and fine tune our operating system so that it serves us even better. Our church is blessed with capable leaders and faithful disciples. Presently some things are in progress that would lead to better function as we go forward.

You may remember that at the 2011 Church Conference some program committees were reorganized for 2012.

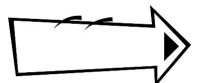
Membership Care would handle all matters relating to membership care and support. Individuals who did the card ministry and visitation would work as members of the Membership care team.

Our membership team is:

Chair, Sally Brozzo, Vicki Sharpe, Kay Crawford, Bev Bitler, Jeanne Sturm, Joy Ware, Sharon Arvidson, Beth Moe, Carmen Adams.

Discipleship and outreach: This team would lead us in the ministry of making disciples of Jesus Christ and in outreach to the people of our community.

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Our Discipleship Outreach Team is:

Chair, Ron Vandenberg, Sharon Raymond, Sharon Arvidson, Luella Glesner, Cassie Foley, Vicki Sharpe, Marlene Glinski.

Stewardship: This team would help us better understand that God has gifted each of us for ministry through the Church of Jesus Christ. Each one is expected to give and serve so that others would hear the good news.

Our Stewardship team is:

Chair, Ira Thumma, Bud Swanson, Jan Biggs, Karen Abbe, Betty Farner.

A door of ministry is open for us. A new day and a fresh start is given us. We need the support of all God's people for the task that is at hand. As the year progresses, we may be calling on you to do more and to give more. Additional people are needed as we reach out in service; a greater outreach would require additional funds.

The increase in money pledged to support this ministry in 2012 is a strong indication that our faithful people are ready to do their part. The steady increase in worship attendance says that people are coming and coming back. Many prayers have been answered. Let us keep our church and its ministry in prayer. Let us come together as one body in Christ. May we be a parade example of what it means to be the body of Christ that is in the world but not of the world.

Adult Sunday School

Our Adult Sunday School has started a new study FaithLink. This is a study for those who want to apply their United Methodist beliefs to current faith issues and world events. This study will cause you to consider your personal views on important contemporary issues and encourage you to act on your beliefs.

Upcoming topics are: The Cost of Freedom, Faith and Government-the Wikileaks Controversy, Advent-A Season of Hope .



Check out what's happening at www.Sanfordumc.org and Pastor Cutting's blog.



STEWARDSHIP

Dec. 2011

Date	Attendance	Offering
Dec. 4	63	\$5,106.00
Dec. 11	78	\$1,413.00
Dec. 18	96	\$3,730.00
Dec. 24	110	



Thank you to the congregation and Pastor Cutting for the generous gift. It is a privilege to serve you for so many years. Thank you to all the volunteers who have put up with me and I hope you all will continue. You all are doing an excellent job. Ruth Ann Wrona

Caring Corner



Our sympathies to the family & friends

of: Doug Hall, Gordon Stuart

Healing: Pat Coveart, Angie Winsor, Duane Winslow

Travel: Those traveling to get back home or the ones heading south after the holidays.

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS AND OTHERS

- Jean Emery** P.O. Box 65, Sanford, MI 48657
- Keith Francis** Colonial Villa, 5007 Universal Dr. Midland, MI 48640
- Pauline Fink** 3606 Sadler Dr., Sanford, MI 48657
- Dorothy Joynt** Stratford Village 2121 Rockwell, Midland, MI 48642
- Shirley Renwick** 2121 Rockwell, Rm. 244, Midland, MI 48642
- Aletha Maticka** Marshall Manor, 1119 Holyrood, Midland, MI 48640
- Bruce Milligan** 5822 N. Lake, Sanford, MI 48657
- Arvella Rogers** Tendercare, 4900 Hedgewood Dr. Rm. 2, Midland, MI 48640
- Ann Weir** 216 Diane Dr., Flushing, MI 48433

Sharon Wishowski, Jake Mc James, Pauline Fink, Janet Eisenberger, Bob Beatty, Kim Wood, Ann Weir, Gary Moe, Oline Robinson

JANUARY MESSENGER

SANFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2560 N. West River Road

Sanford, Michigan 48657

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Anthony Cutting, Pastor

Church Office: (989) 687-5353

Worship: 10:30 A.M.

Sunday School: 9:10 A.M.

PERMIT NO. 4

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE

SANFORD MI 48657



November 2011 Food Pantry Report

People served 57

Households 19

Give Certificates given: 34

Items in: 1,714

Items out: 1,892

Items donated: \$+ 89 Sanford UMC
\$+121 St. Agnes Catholic
\$+ 57 St. Paul Lutheran Church
875 Food Bank of Eastern MI
\$+ 37 Community of Christ
\$+ 91 Curves of Sanford

Current needs: crackers, jams/jellies, tooth brushes & toothpaste.

The Sanford Pantry has been blessed with gifts of food, money and volunteer time. Thank you! A very Merry Christmas, and a Blessed 2012 to all our donors.

Please keep our volunteers and the clients they serve in your prayers.

Peace!

Earl and Kay Crawford



UMW news for January

Our December meeting was a beautiful time for fellowship, a short business meeting and Christmas program. The next UMW meeting is January 17, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. Join us.

At the end of 2011, your UMW disburses monies made during the year on rummage sales and apple pies.

Donations are:

\$200.00 Christmas Closet

\$500.00 Back Pack Buddies

\$500.00 Shelter House

\$500.00 Open Door

\$500.00 House of Mercy

\$500.00 Child Smile

\$500.00 Mid MI Action Agency

\$325.00 for two adopted families from Meridian Schools.

Happy New Year!!

Submitted by Jeanne Sturm

JANUARY MESSENGER

SCHEDULE

LITURGISTS

Jan. 1 Carol Becks
 Jan. 8 Judy Gorthy
 Jan. 15 Pat Gruber
 Jan. 22 Roger Sharpe
 Jan. 29 Ruth Sutton

USHERS

Jan. 1 Curt & Beth Moe, Jim & Sally Brozzo
 Jan. 8 Leonard McJames, Ron Vandenberg,
 Don Decker, Earl Crawford
 Jan. 15 Rick & Cassie Foley,
 Mike & Judy Gorthy
 Jan. 22 Dennis & Jan Blevins,
 Roger & Vicki Sharpe
 Jan. 29 Gary & Brenda Boots,
 Dorothy Francis, Phyllis Seloom

GREETERS

Jan. 1 Verna Gould, Vicki Sharpe
 Jan. 8 Sandy Houtman, Sue Dexter
 Jan. 15 Jan Biggs, Bill Lackie
 Jan. 22 Luella Glesner, Carolyn Maynard
 Jan. 29 Mitch & Ronda Bowen

COMMUNION STEWARDS FOR JANUARY

Brenda Boots and Ruth Ann Wrona

COUNTERS

Jan. 1 Sharon Arvidson, Verna Gould, Ruth Ann
 Wrona
 Jan. 8 Bob & Sharon Raymond, Curt & Beth Moe
 Jan. 15 Gary & Brenda Boots, Bob & Sharon
 Raymond
 Jan. 22 Leonard & Lois McJames, Ruth Sutton
 Jan. 29
 subs Mike & Judy Gorthy, Ira & Sue Thumma

ALTAR FLOWERS

Jan. 1 Pat Gruber
 Jan. 8 Ruth Ann Wrona
 Jan. 15 Ira & Sue Thumma
 Jan. 22
 Jan. 29 Earl & Kay Crawford

TRUSTEE FOR JANUARY

Gary Boots (back up Leonard McJames)

SNOW REMOVAL

Jan. 2-8 Dick Moore
 Jan. 9-15 Gary Boots
 Jan. 16-22 Rick Goodwin
 Jan. 23-29 Bob Raymond
 Jan. 30-Feb. 5

January Happenings



Happenings

10:30 a.m. each Tuesday Bible
 Talk Back

6:00 a.m. each Wednesday
 Chancel Choir

Jan. 3rd. SPRC

Jan. 10th. 6:30 Trustees

Jan. 13th. Adult Social

Jan. 17th. 1:00 p.m. UMW

Jan. 25th Ad Council

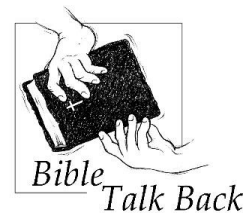
What A Blessing

More and more people are pledging to support our church financially. To date we have 57 pledges for the 2012 budget for a total of \$126,830. At this point we need additional monies to meet anticipated expenses.

We need your support.

Bible Talk Back

If you are looking for some new thing to do in 2012, try Bible Talk Back. It's informative, lively and totally fulfilling-each Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.



The Great Lakes Loons

The Great Lakes Loons want to invite you to join them for a group outing at Dow Diamond on one of their Fellowship Nights:

Sunday, June 3rd, Thursday, July 12th, Tuesday, August 7th.

If you are interested in planning an outing for your church or would like more information, please contact one of our Group Sales Coordinators, Eric Ramseyer, 837-6166 or Matt Hoffman, 837-6136.