

# In Between Times

When most of you receive this newsletter, it will still be Christmas. It may not be Christmas day, but may still be in the Christmas season that lasts from Christmas Day until January 6, Epiphany. Church tradition reminds us that Christmas is not a single day but a series of days; not just one big hoorah, but a collection of moments; not just one point in time when we struggle to have everything as nearly perfect as possible, but a period of time to pay particular attention to Jesus' presence in our hearts, in our relationships, in our world.

As much as I love Christmas, I also grow eager for the Church season we enter after January 6, after the close of the Christmas season. We enter the season called Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time refers to a collection of Sundays throughout the year where no other 'special' time is being observed. It's not Lent, it's not Easter, it's not Pentecost or Advent. It's 'just' ordinary time.

I love entering the season of Ordinary Time – because we live much of our lives in ordinary time - waking up, getting dressed, going about our daily activities. Often many days pass without anything particularly special transpiring. Yet we may uncover traces of the sacred precisely in the midst of life's ordinariness.

Our grandsons get a big kick out of some of their grandfather's habits. For instance, my husband, Rip, has been known to eat all kinds of snacks in bed. Our grandsons are *not* allowed to eat snacks in bed in their home, so they think their grandfather is quite exotic. Granddad has been known to devour whole cans of cashews in bed. One night they even discovered him in bed with FOUR open-faced tomato sandwiches, a bowl of olives, and a bag of York's peppermint patties.

Such are the daily quirks of life at our house; such are the small habits that sometimes irritate us, and at other times endear others to us. Such are the small details and habits of our days that leave crumbs of the sacred strewn about the paths of our sometimes gray ordinary days.

In Ordinary Time we are called to remember that it is often in the not-so-fancy parts of life that we stumble into humility; that we sigh into the heart of God; that we extend small acts of kindness; that we are reminded that God came to earth in a small package in a modest setting. We are reminded that God stands near as we go about our routines, as we move through our ordinary days.

As we "unhang" the greens at church, as you take down your own Christmas decorations, as you settle into the cold days of winter, trust and seek God's abiding presence, especially in ordinary moments, in Ordinary Time. I thank God for each one of you, and for the blessing of sharing ordinary times together. May we all stumble upon sacred crumbs God scatters in our path.

*Rev. Noble*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PAGES

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### *Learning In God's House Together*

*"I am the light of the world.*

*Whoever follows me will never walk in shadows but will have the light of life."* John 8:12

### **Happy New Year!**

What ever a New Year's Celebration is—it's really about hope. It's hope that motivates us to turn the page and begin again. It is hope that helps us to reassure us that last year's mistakes will not become patterns and reminds us that we have control over our lives. To believe that this will be a better year than last year! 2011 was an interesting challenge after another type of year; I do believe 2012 will be a better year!

But where does this hope come from? I think it's no accident that New Year's falls one week away from Christmas. For what would New Year's Eve really be without Christmas? The two are inseparably linked in my mind and heart. Because Christ was born into the world we can be reconciled to God. Because of his resurrection we have the power for real and lasting change along with the promise of a glorious and secure future. Because of God's grace we can take a full inventory of our lives with honesty and confess our wrongs and receive forgiveness before starting a new year. We have a Father to thank with gratitude for every good gift we've received and a shoulder to cry upon for the burden's we've had to carry. That's why we can celebrate as we enter a new year.

So instead New Year's Resolutions, I'm leaning on a New Year Revelation- the celebration of Christmas means that God is with us, and that is good news every day of this New Year.

(My thoughts combined with Nicole Johnson)

**Bravo! Bravo!**

### **"You Can't Cancel Christmas!"**

The CHRISTMAS PAGEANT on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>

We are very blessed by the youth and children of West Park UCC!

We had over 30 participate in this year's pageant! Wow!

Our goal is not to have a perfect, blockbuster pageant; it is to teach the message of Christmas thru a live nativity. Allowing all our children from preschool to college to participate, always room for

each child who wants to give the Christmas gift of their own ...like the drummer girl! Jane Vogt and Rachel Gibson Thank you for all your help!

The Youth Group appreciates all of you who contributed to the success of the "Take it home Bake Sale"! Thank You!

Thanks to Margaret Houser and Helen Reed for the Christmas gifts of the advent calendar to each child's family of the church, and the "special guest", party after the pageant with a Holiday Treats for all the children. ☺

**You both make Christmas memories for all of us!**

## Intergeneration Family Faith Formation

### **HIGH 5~ Fifth Sunday Celebration!**

**The youth group will be inviting you to our Souper Bowl of Caring Event and free Community Meal on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> after worship in Barter Hall**



We will be having a Soup and Grilled Cheese fundraiser for all!

**Tickets** a can or box of soup; a freewill offering will be taken

10% of proceeds will be donated to combat Hunger! - 'kids helping kids'

The church will also be collecting cans of soup for the Bread Basket food pantry.



### **Outdoor Ministry 2012 Summer Camp Rally Try out Camp at Pilgrim Hills**

**Camp Event** Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup>. This is a FREE overnight event at Pilgrim Hills, to celebrate Outdoor Ministry for every family member. Please let Ms. Wendy know if you're interested ASAP, they fill up fast! Have a Free, Fun, Family opportunity and learn more about all the options available for 2012! Camp programming includes adult opportunities as well as children.

## Young Adult Faith Formation

### **YOUTH GROUP UPDATE**

\*\*\*\*Epiphany Lock in\*\*\*\*

We will be having our Lock in on Sat. Jan. 7<sup>TH</sup>-Sun., Jan. 8<sup>TH</sup>, we will met at the church @ 7:30. **VERY IMPORTANT !!!**

**Remember to PLEASE Confirm by Thursday if you're attending on Saturday ☺**



We will be planning for 2012's calendar, including fundraisers and for the group to attend the National Youth Event, on July 10-13. This powerful event only happens every 4 years. We will also plan for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ALIVE Music Festival June 20-23.

NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT – JULY 10-13, 2012

NYE will be filled with inspiring youth just like you eager to be in community where they can engage social and human justice and a sacred and safe space to encounter God. Imagine that! National Youth Event is a place for youth to come and learn and experience spiritual and leadership formation. Your NYE Youth Vision Team selected Isaiah 43:19 as your spiritual mantra for NYE 2012. Imagine the new thing God is doing through and with the Stillspeaking Youth of the United Church of Christ, right now. Go ahead. Dare to Imagine! The event will be at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.

**Sat. Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 – 5:00 pm, T.O.R.C.H. ( Teen Out Reach Christian Help) with Church Street Ministries meeting lead by Frannie Millward.**

*Adults are always welcome to join the youth for mission work.*

**Suggestion ~ Use Martin Luther King Day as a day of service! Maybe make it a family project!**

**Winter Jam ~ Christian Music Concert**



Sunday, January 29, 5PM.

We will car pool at WPUCC @ 4pm.

The Wolstien Center, Cost at the door \$10

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**Save the date**

The Jr. High retreat at Pilgrim Hills will be March 3<sup>rd</sup> -4<sup>th</sup>

Youth Leaders this is for you!!!!  
**It's your Turn EOAWRA  
"YOUth" leader's lock-in**



**January 27-28**

Taking the emphasis off youth and putting it on YOU. A time for Taize, journaling, massage, quiet reflection, learning ways to take care of ourselves in the midst of busy youth group schedules. We'll be back at the Radission and Church House in Cleveland. Watch for details.

**Adult Faith Formation**



**Great start for the New Year! New Day! New Time!**  
We are so excited to be offering this opportunity! We want you there!  
**Weekly Adult Bible Study will be on Sunday Mornings,  
before Worship @ 9:00-9:45AM in the Adult class room.**

**~ LADIES, YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN US ~**

Friday, January 27, 6:30 pm- 9:30 pm

Join us at our First Anniversary quarterly Chick Flicks event!

Robin Jessen will be the hostess for the evening,

We'll be watching the classic "Casablanca"

Bring a favorite Bar food; wings, potatoes skins, etc.

After the movie there will be discussion.

Free will offering will be taken for the cost of the meal.

*All are encouraged to bring a friend! Please confirm with Robin Jessen or Ms. Wendy*



**Retreats**

**☺ Save the date ☺\*\*\*\*\*All Church Retreat May 25-27, 2012\*\*\*\*\***

**Our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Retreat!**

If you have ever been, first time, whatever... plan on joining the celebration for this very special retreat! Watch for details!

*I'm too blessed to be stressed and I'm expecting the Best! Peace & Light, Ms. Wendy*



Pastor Noble, I appreciate the comfort you brought me with your presence and prayers. To my sister, Janet, my thanks for the time you spent with and for me. In re-reading my get well cards, I count the many ways each of you, my dear church family, made me feel better. With every card I thought of the friends who sent them. Your prayers and thoughts mean so much to me. Pastor Noble, Janet and you, my friends, healed me faster than any medicine. Love and thanks. Jean Clark

*The members and friends of West Park UCC would like to thank Beth Campbell-Maddaluno for donating the proceeds from the sale of her father's book to the Steeple Chase Capital Campaign. The \$150 in proceeds from the book was a welcome gift to the congregation and a fitting tribute to a man who dedicated his life to the ministry, Thank you Beth!*

Thank you to all who sent cards and made phone calls to my sister, Jean Clark, with their concerns. A special thanks to Rev. Noble for being at my side in the emergency room, praying. It was a great help. Thank you and God Bless, Janet Gorman

*Thank you to Rev. Charlotte, Jim & Marilyn Furry, the Friendship Guild and all the friends who sent me Birthday cards for my 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday. God Bless and love, Pearl Degnan*

Thank you to my wonderful church family for the get well wishes, cards, calls, and the numerous visits at the hospital and at home from Rev. Noble. I will be thrilled to be back at church. I miss all of you, thank you again – your kindness is very much appreciated. Your sister in Christ, Madeline Schilling

#### **OUR LECTIONARY FOR JANUARY 2012 – Pink Envelope: CUE**

##### **January 1: New Year's Day**

##### **Worship ~ Communion**

Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

##### **January 8: Epiphany Sunday**

##### **Worship ~ L.I.G.H.T. ~ Installation of 2012 Officers and Boards ~ Coffee Hour**

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

##### **January 15: Second Sunday after Epiphany**

##### **Worship ~ L.I.G.H.T. ~ Boards & Committees**

I Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; I Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

##### **January 22: Third Sunday after Epiphany**

##### **Worship ~ L.I.G.H.T.**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; I Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

##### **January 29: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

##### **Worship ~ L.I.G.H.T. ~ Free Meal and Souper Bowl Lunch**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; I Corinthians 8: 1-13; Mark 1:21-28

**Our very own Girl Scout Troop #1494 went Christmas caroling on Truax and took up a food collection. They collected 10 bags of food and \$20 which they donated to the Bread Basket. Way to go girls and thank you for supporting the Bread Basket.**

## Fellowship, Fund-Raising Highlight Steeple Chase Brunch

A total of 86 people attended a special fund-raising brunch in celebration of the dedication of West Park UCC's new church steeple on Sunday, November 20. The brunch featured a cheesy omelette bake, sausage, French toast sticks, muffins and hash browns, along with a coffee and hot chocolate bar with all the fixin's. A number of church members hosted fund-raising tables during the festivities including Sue Carter, Beth Campbell-Maddaluno, Holly Sinnema and Lynne Rice. Following brunch, Bob and Marlene Arcuri were recognized for the leading role they played in overseeing the renovation and replacement of our church steeple and balcony earlier this year. In addition, the more than 100 people who have contributed to The Steeple Chase campaign – as well as the Board of Trustees – also were acknowledged, in addition to all those who assisted with planning and preparing the brunch. As of last Sunday, the brunch and fund-raising tables raised a total of \$851, with additional fund-raising revenue likely still forthcoming. Total expenses were \$213.64 for the brunch, so \$637.36 will be allocated to The Steeple Chase Campaign, getting us that much closer to our \$125,000 fund-raising goal. Thanks to everyone who lent their support to this event, as well as continues to keep the church in its prayers. – **The Steeple Chase Campaign Committee**

**Low Impact Exercise** – Want to stay active during the long winter months? Join us Monday evenings in the Chapel at 7:00 p.m. for a free hour of exercise and fellowship. The regulars attending are Dolores Holliday, Doug & Debbie Miller, Debbie Lamb, Louise Gamary, Beth Iannaggi, Pat Rust and Nora Litchney. Talk to any of us if you have any questions. Hope to see you!

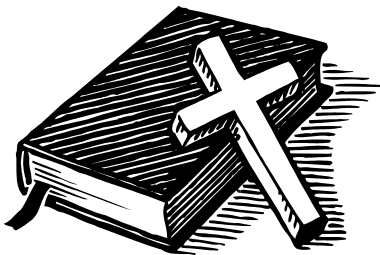
*Please remember the E & G Committee is still doing Love Letters. If you know someone who could benefit from a letter of encouragement and support, please see Tricia Melton or any E & G member and we will be happy to write one and have WPUCC members sign it.*



January Coffee Hour and Greeters.

The January Coffee Hour is Sunday January 8th right after worship. IT IS NOT NEW YEAR'S DAY. We are in desperate need of baked goods and other treats. Pickings were slim in December. Please check with Ken and Patti Jacko if you would like to bring a treat or help. Ken and Patti supply salsa, chips, crackers, punch, coffee and tea. The signup sheet has been discontinued.

ALSO, CHECK the new Greeters signup sheet at coffee hour. Greeters provide a smile and a handshake before worship to all who enter our sanctuary on Sunday. You are only need to be available before worship about 9:30am. It's a wonderful opportunity to show the happy face of West Park United Church of Christ to all who enter.



### Lenten Devotionary 2012

It's time to think about the Lenten Devotionary. The deadline is Sunday, January 29, 2012. The devotionary will be available Sunday February 19, 2012. Ash Wednesday is on February 22, 2012.

Please take a few minutes to consider writing for our Devotionary. It really means a lot to our members to have this ministry.

Patti Jacko, Lenten Devotionary Editor

**January 14, 2012 (Saturday afternoon at 1pm) - "un" hanging of the greens, putting away Christmas Decorations (NO POTLUCK SCHEDULED)**

**FRIENDSHIP GUILD  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012, NOON**

Guild members and their guests are still recalling the delicious Christmas Luncheon, interesting program presented by Barb Sutton and especially the bargain buys at the individual tables that helped make Christmas shopping and entertaining easier.

Our meeting in January will begin with the Brown Bag Lunch at noon. Hostesses Helen Reed and Margaret Houser will provide beverages and dessert. We will reminisce about the Guild's past history and its future as together we discuss the present life of the Guild. Please plan to attend this important meeting. Your ideas and input are important.

**HOT MEAL UPDATE**

We served 30 + people from the community!! This couldn't happen without the support of all of you who helped by donating food items and your time to cook, serve, socialize, and clean up. Those who attended seemed very grateful for the meal, fellowship, and non-perishables to go. They look forward to our next meal January 29. Sincere thanks to all.



*DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS*



2	Jillian Mincik	10	Judy Sommer	19	Debbie Schuerger
4	Cindy Ellsworth	12	Margaret Borrelli	20	Kim Kozlak
	Margaret Houser	15	Michael Carter	22	Pat Rust
	Hannah Szabo		Julie Schleich	23	Doris Sloane
6	Lisa Gibson	16	Chuck Kline	24	Ivonne Marin-Miranda
7	E. Jim Zmina		Betty Miller	29	Corey McFadden
10	Florence Boughner		Felix Miranda		
	Janice Jones	17	Larry Renette		

*(Don't forget to use your Birthday Envelopes!)*

*ANNIVERSARIES*

*Helen & Sam Saccone  
01-05-1934 - 78 years!*

*John & Myrtle Ittu  
01-15-1949  
Jeffery & Gail Kantura  
01-31-1989*

Please call the church office if you are ever omitted or if your Birthday or Anniversary is incorrect.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS AND PLANTS PAGE 8.