

LIFELINE-- Winter 2012

CASEYVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
119 W. LINCOLN AVE.
CASEYVILLE, IL 62232

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nueva Esperanza Bible Study
Saturday, February 4th &
March 3rd--4:00-6:00pm

DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP
Tuesday, February 7th &
March 13th at 6:00pm

The Bear Makers
Thursday, February 23rd &
March 22nd at 9:00 am.

COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, March 7th at 7:15 pm

PPR Meeting-Wednesday, March 14-7:00 pm

WOMEN'S NEWS

The Laurel Circle meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday. The circle will meet on February 21st and March 20th at 9:00 am. Contact Sharon Kampmeyer for more details.

MEN'S NEWS

The UM Men's breakfast will be held at the church on February 12th and March 11th at 8:00 am. All men and EMS members are welcome to attend this time of food and fellowship.

"We are Looking For a Few Good Men" to join us for the Happy Cow Men's Fellowship. All men are invited to join us at the Happy Cow Restaurant in Caseyville, on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 8:00 am for breakfast.

CHURCH NEWSLETTER CHANGES



Over the next several months, you will hear about and see some changes to the way our newsletter is done. The next several editions will be combined months. This is an effort to save money. In the Fall of 2012 we will offer you the option of receiving

your newsletter by email, in the mail or you can pick up the latest edition when you come to worship. Articles for the Spring newsletter are due by March 21st.

Thanks, Valarie Mueth-secretary

Ash Wednesday Worship &

Communion

We will begin the observance of the Lenten season with our traditional **Ash Wednesday service on February 22 at 6:30 pm.** Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count). Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. The purpose is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ - his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial and resurrection.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The first Mission Committee fund-raising event of the year will be held on Sunday, March 4th at 11:30 am. Plan now to have lunch in the fellowship hall at the Soup & Sandwich Luncheon.

WALK TO EMMAUS

You might get the idea that this is an outing in the woods. Even though this event is held at a church camp it is actually a spiritual retreat. It is a chance for you to "walk with God" and with others on the same spiritual



journey. The Men's Walk to Emmaus is scheduled for April 19-22. The Women's Walk to Emmaus is April 26-29. If you would like more details, please see Pastor Dave, Barb Kinnison, or Danny & Amy DeWitt.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2/8 GAIL EVANS
- 2/13 VALARIE MUETH
- 2/17 LARISSA EVANS
- 2/18 GAIL SMITH
- 2/21 DORIS THOMAS
- 2/22 RACHEL DURLEY
- 2/23 SAMANTHA TIPTON
- 2/26 SYLVIA BOXDORFER
- 2/26 ALAN MERCKEL

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3/3 CLAUDE CABLE
- 3/4 ZATANNA PENNY
- 3/5 DEANNE HEITKAMP
- 3/10 PHYLLIS SCOTT
- 3/12 SHARON KAMPMEYER
- 3/20 DON McCANN
- 3/22 EVA SANFTLEBEN
- 3/24 VALERIE DURLEY
- 3/30 MARY GOODEN

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WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Caseyville United Methodist Church holds worship each Sunday at 9:30am.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for all ages begins at 10:45am. The Nursery is available for children-- Birth--5 yrs of age

Sunday School is available for children--K thru 2nd in the lower level rooms of the educational building Grades 3--5 and Grades 6--12 meet in the upper level of educational building.

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CHURCH WEBSITE - All news and bulletin information can be found on the church website at:

www.caseyvillechurch.org

Please check it out!

2011 Year End Financial Report

On behalf of the Caseyville United Methodist Church, the Finance Committee wants to thank you for your financial support in 2011. Total monies received by the church amounted to \$171,867.53 with \$129,702.22 designated toward our budget and local expenses. This amount was 89% of our budget goal. We had to use other available funds to meet our obligations, but because of your generous White Gifts, we started the new year with a small checking account surplus.

For 2012 the Finance Committee and the Church Council worked hard to prepare a budget that more accurately reflects our monthly bills. Due to lower conference apportionments and a budget that reflects our actual needs, we were able to decrease our 2012 budget by 3.1% while still giving a 4% raise to our staff. The 2012 budget is \$147,092.25. You can find a copy of the entire budget in the church directory or you may contact the church office for a copy.

*We have three designated places where you can direct your offering. **Budget:** funds are used to pay any church budgeted item. **Local fund:** used to pay local operating expenses only. **Building fund:** used to maintain and improve our building/properties. All "other" designated offerings are not a part of our budget, but are funded solely by donations given to those specific ministries. Designating your offering to budget or local gives us more flexibility in handling our day to day expenses.*

Total money in all church accounts is \$108,160.90. Once again, thank you for your generous commitment to the work of Jesus Christ through this church. If you have any questions, thoughts, or suggestions regarding church finances, please feel free to speak with me.

David Mueth, Finance Chairman.

This past fall my mind has been on the past as well as the present. We are today, after all, the result of what has been done in our past. In December this became very real and poignant with the death of my mother on December 15. She had a very definite influence upon me, to the point where the way she raised me is almost like the tracks a train runs on - unless I go off the tracks, I live by the rules she taught me. Rules of courtesy, good manners and hospitality.

One of those rules is to never “drop in” on someone unannounced - you always call first. Another was that if you were in someone’s home and it became obvious that lunch or supper time was nearing you excused yourself and went home - you did not stay so long that politeness would force someone to invite you to dinner as they might not have much food in the house. Another rule was not to use the restroom in a store unless you bought something ... those were for customers. These ideas of good manners came from growing up poor but with a sense of nobility - in her mind, there was a right way to behave. I am the result of my past and the influence that she had upon me in my earlier days.

We as a church are the result of our past as well, and a result of the influence of our spiritual heroes. We have a sense of right and wrong, good manners and hospitality here in Caseyville that comes out of the past and into the present. As the pastor, sometimes I feel like the curator of that past - I remember and share the memories of it. This fall, Clara Merkel has been on my mind. And Orville Mueth, and Louis Kampmeyer. They have been alive in my memories all fall, things they said and did and the times I spent with them and with many others. I sometimes wonder if they smile down upon us or shake their heads in a mild exasperation with us. Seeing as they are with God now, I think that they have an even wiser, deeper understanding of what a church should be about. **The writer of the letter to the Hebrews talks about that reality in Hebrews 12:1-2:**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

There’s a lot of substance in these two verses. First, there is the awareness that those who have gone before us are watching over us to see what we do with the responsibilities we have

inherited from them. They are surrounding us, and cheering us on in “the race that is set before us” which is to do the will of “Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.” We are moving along a trail that Jesus prepared and went first, before us, and whom these who surround us followed Him. Jesus is the perfecter of our faith, helping us when we are less than perfect, both to learn from our mistakes and to persevere until the goal is reached.

Jesus endured the cross, endured the shame and suffering of it, as He moved toward God’s will ... and he is an example to us to lay aside “every weight” that would hinder us, and “sin which clings so closely.” Perhaps for you there are problems that seem like hurdles as you run to follow Christ. Perhaps the path is easier, but exhaustion makes it hard to keep your feet going. But we do not run alone ... Christ is watching. And so are so many, many others, including the pioneers of this church. Sometimes I wonder what they would think ... but more often I notice something good that they did, and it reminds me of the example that they set.

We live in a world that some say is constantly changing. Certainly, some things change - like fashion and technology. But the truth of our faith, and what is important to human beings hasn’t changed a great deal over the years. The old values of truth, loyalty, frugality and hard work are still worthwhile today. And the older values listed in the New Testament, such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, generosity, trustworthiness and self control (Galatians 5:22-23) are still valuable today. And the faith we practice is still a value to help people change lives and mend hearts that are broken.

Ahead on the racecourse, the path goes around a corner - we can’t see into the future. But we know that Christ has gone before us and knows what lies ahead of us. We know that the brave people of our own past surround us and encourage us. Let us move on into the future with confidence - there is much that remains for us to do as a church - to love God with all our hearts, minds, souls and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. If you need to rest for a moment, then rest (and pray), but when you are rested - let’s go onward with God, for the best is yet to be.

Pastor Dave

