

VITAL CONGREGATIONS

SHARE COMMON CHARACTERISTICS

"Revitalizing congregations and developing new faith communities is really important to the future of The United Methodist Church," said West Virginia Area Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball. "Churches need to revitalize themselves, and episcopal leaders should be in there, motivating, inspiring and helping them to see what can be done." When Jesus gave the Great Commission, he told his followers, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19a)." That is the mission of The United Methodist Church — to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." We achieve this through vital congregations that equip and empower people to be disciples in their home congregations and in communities around the world.

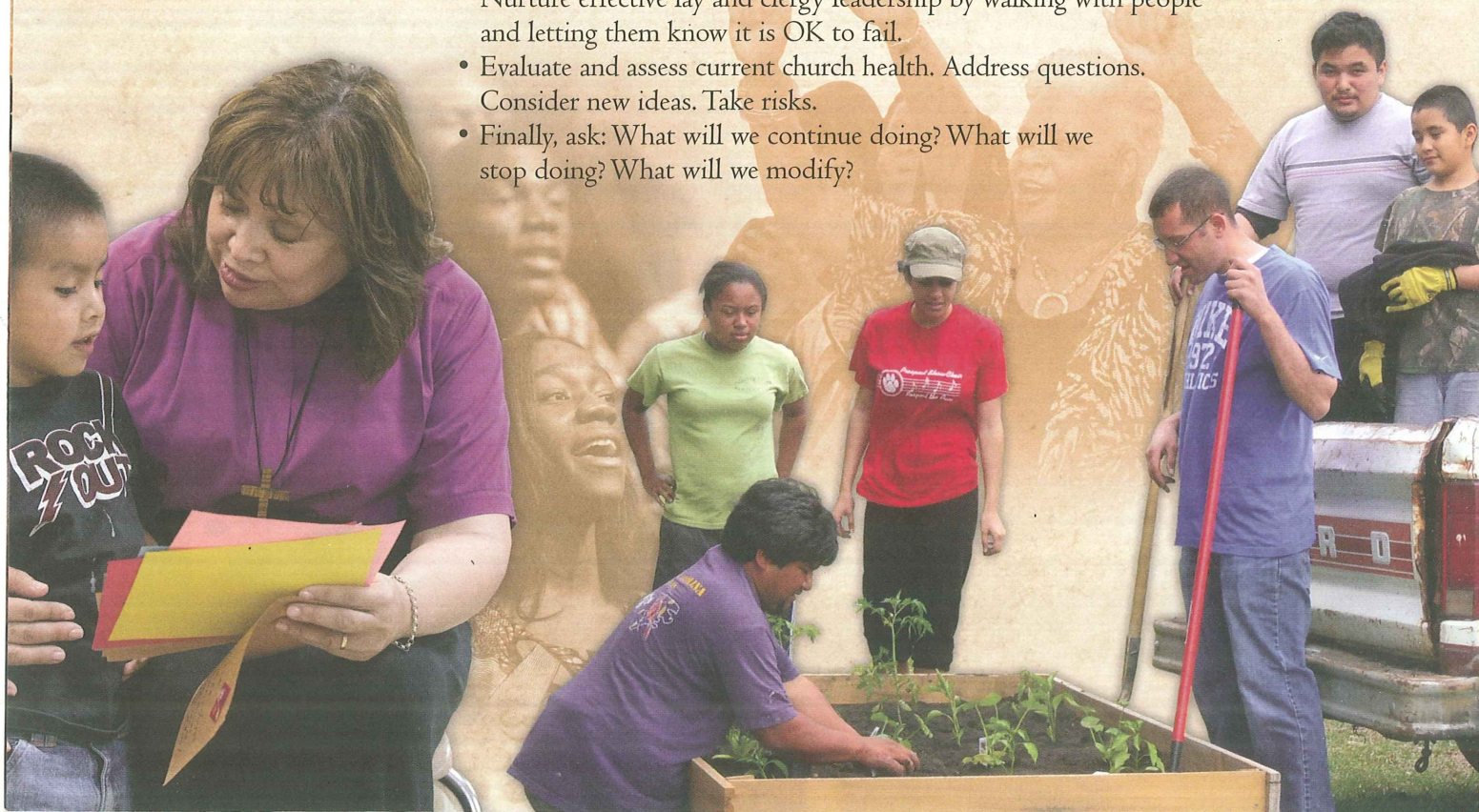
So what is a vital congregation? Here are five common characteristics of vital congregations:

- Inviting and inspiring worship
- Engaged disciples in mission and outreach
- Gifted, equipped and empowered lay leadership
- Effective, equipped and inspired clergy leadership
- Small groups that include children and youth designed to encourage, support and hold disciples accountable in their Christian walk.

"While all congregations have some aspect of vitality," said Greater New Jersey Area Bishop John R. Schol, "highly vital congregations grow over time, engage more people in ministry and are more generous in giving to mission."

He encouraged United Methodists to address "adaptive spiritual challenges." The following are some suggested steps.

- Call and develop spiritual leaders who cast a meaningful vision and lead the congregation toward that vision. As a result, the local church connects with the community, makes new disciples and engages people in mission.
- Retool and learn how to connect with the nominally religious and non-religious people in the community.
- Eliminate anything that inhibits the journey to becoming more vital.
- Be adventuresome. Experiment with ministries to reach people in the community.
- Be authentic. Offer real answers from real people, not play-it-safe platitudes.
- Offer inspiring worship that moves people to make a commitment to Christ and to engage in ministry and mission.
 - Nurture effective lay and clergy leadership by walking with people and letting them know it is OK to fail.
 - Evaluate and assess current church health. Address questions. Consider new ideas. Take risks.
 - Finally, ask: What will we continue doing? What will we stop doing? What will we modify?



CUMC Going Above and Beyond

April Missional Giving

Mission money collected this month will go to **Hillcrest Family Services**. Hillcrest Family Services is a non-profit organization that assists adults and children in need of help. Every day, Hillcrest builds confidence in hundreds of people and families. We're a place where compassion is commonplace. Where our passion soars and faith restores.



If you would like to give to a different ministry, just write it on your envelope, but if you don't, it will go to this month's cause.

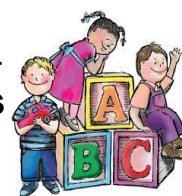
Food Pantry Giving

We collected 18 items for our March collection. Thank you to everyone who brought something in! For the month of April we are collecting Canned Tuna. We will be collecting these until April 21.



Gingerbread House Preschool

We are looking for wonderful people who would love to help us financially. If you are interested in donating to help support Gingerbread, please contact us at gingerbreadpreschool@hotmail.com. **Open house for next years children will be held Friday, May 6 at Gingerbread Preschool.**



When pride comes, then comes disgrace; but wisdom is with the humble.
Proverbs 11:2



Church Council Meeting

February 8, 2016

Minutes

Present: Becky Upmann, Pastor Jeff, Mary Gensler, John Walker, Art Finnigan, Lois Finnigan, Dawn Gobrecht, Marlene Stewart, Tina Cruse, Lisa Diedrich, Tara Teasdale.

Agenda:

Opening Prayer: Jeff gave us some information about good things that have been going on at church. We prayed.

Church Council Chair Report:

4-7 Year Plan- Art went through that each committee leader needs to read this and give monthly updates on how their committees are doing with it.

Art Discuss The Book- Autopsy of a Deceased Church- Art gave an overview of the book. We gave each chair a book to read. We will discuss it at a later meeting.

Pastor Report: Motion to Approve calling a Charge Conference for Pastoral Candidacy of Ed Santiago: This was approved to do during the March meeting.

Leadership Summit- During the March 14th Meeting we will be having a leadership summit. We will do the meeting first then come back for Council Meeting.

Pastor's Report

January was a month of highs in attendance and giving.

Blessed by comments on the Here I Am to Worship cards during this sermon series.

11 men came to sign their Resolutions in church this month.

Have been asked by the Camp & Retreat Ministries to lead a Men's retreat this fall sponsored by the WI annual Conference.

Lots of Pastoral counseling sessions this month.

Investment Tri-Fold will be sent out in the March newsletters.

Attended Monthly Circuit meeting.

Led 4 funerals this month.

Confirmation is moving along.

Secretaries Report: Everyone looked over the report. There were a few mistakes. After they are corrected, it was approved.

Finance Report:

Brad and Jeff will be doing a narrative budget to send out with a postcard.

Becky and Tina will be making the new pledge cards. Get more inspiring information in hopes to improve giving.

Budget was approved by consensus.

Old Business: None

Newsletter content deadline: 20th of the month

Committee Reports

Trustees:

- John reported that they haven't had a meeting this month.
- John will meet with Church Mutual to discuss our insurance.
- Looking to fix the lights in the sanctuary.
- They will be doing some maintenance.
- Waiting on a quote for the electrical downstairs.
- Mediacom is coming to help with the internet problem.
- Getting quotes on storm doors, the back porch and fencing at the parsonage.

SPRC:

- Ed Presented Pastoral Candidacy and SPRC approved it.
- Discussed Saturday night Service. Tara stated that she may not be able to open the church every Saturday night during planting season. Committee will be sending this to council. They asked Tara to make a list of what she does so the volunteers know what they will be volunteering for.
- **MOTION:** Request council to discuss if they can help the Saturday Night Service. SPRC will not take responsibility.
- Next meeting scheduled for March 13th after 10:30 service.

Memorials:

- Mary reported no new information.
- Trustees are working on how to use the money the best.

Nurture & Care: Haven't met postponed until Feb 20th at 9am.

Fellowship Group:

- Pam discussed that they had a few funerals. All went well.
- Will be having a meeting with those who use the kitchen to discuss best ways to utilize the space.

Outreach:

- Marlene reported that they met on the 31st.
- They will be doing a mission for College Kids.
- The pasty bake will be April 9th.
- Next meeting Feb 28th.

Youth: No One here to report.

Christian Education: Nothing to report.

Additional Committees:

- Tina will be taking the Advanced Lay Leadership Class.

Next Meeting March 14 @ 7pm.

Submitted by: Becky Upmann

From Our Parish Nurse.....

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Any moment your eyes are off the road or your hands are off the wheel, you put yourself in a dangerous driving situation. Even sending what you believe to be a quick text message takes your eyes off the road for an average of five seconds. This is similar to driving 100 yards — or the length of a football field — at 40 mph with your eyes closed, which is something you certainly would never want to chance. That's why it is always necessary to avoid any and all distractions while driving, no matter how small or brief they may seem.

April is nationally recognized as Distracted Driving Awareness Month, so now is a perfect time to share some tips to help you beat distracted driving from AARP Driver Safety. The four tips below are designed to help you minimize the distractions that can make driving needlessly more dangerous:

1. **Unplug** — Keep your cell phone in an accessible place but not in one where you can see it light up for every notification you receive. Your cell phone should also be on silent mode. Just because your hands aren't on your phone doesn't mean the distraction has been eliminated. If a phone call or text message is really important, it's best to pull over into a safe location — preferably a parking lot — before using your phone. You can then safely return to your drive. Features built into our cars can give us a false sense of safety. More than 30 studies have shown that hands free devices do not make driving any safer because the brain remains distracted by the conversation. Studies have also shown drivers talking on hands free devices can fail to see up to 50% of their surroundings.

2. **Refuel** — Drowsy driving is distracted driving, so never drive when you're too tired, and focus on your health. Make sure your sleep routine isn't affecting your morning commute. Aim to get the recommended amount of at least 7.5 to 8 hours of sleep every night. Don't forget to energize with breakfast before you get in your car, so you're not scrambling to unwrap your granola bar at a red light. Moreover, adopt a habit of drinking water regularly throughout the day. Staying hydrated helps you think with clarity, which is critical when driving.

3. **Focus** — Even though roadways are improving shapes and cars are becoming more high-tech, the driver remains the most important part of the driving experience. In a French university study of 1,000 drivers who were at fault in a collision, thinking about things other than driving — or “mind wandering” — was found as the main cause for nearly 50 percent of the collisions. Therefore, only drive when you're mentally and physically fit to do so. When you're behind the wheel, pay attention to what's happening all around your vehicle. Frequently scanning your mirrors and watching your speed will provide you with more control over your vehicle.

4. Secure your cargo — Rustling and falling items can distract you from the road. How often have you taken your attention off the road because you heard something fall in the back seat? While you can't prevent every distracting noise, you can prevent loose items from startling you in the event of sudden braking by securing your cargo. Also, never place smaller items on your lap or on the floor near the driver-side foot pedals — such as phones, shoes, small bags or purses.

Resource: AARP.ORG/driversafety

This page is provided by our Parish Nurse for Centenary UMC:

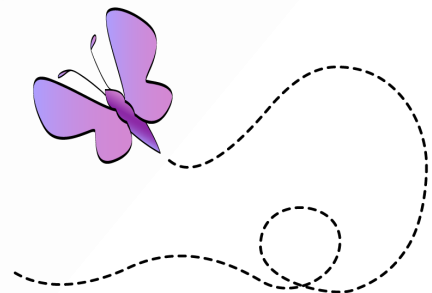
Marlene Stewart, RN, BSN, PN, WCC
(608) 293-1193

Please feel free to call her with any health questions you might have.

A Note on Borrowing Church Furniture

As garage sale and graduation party season approaches, the church will be getting numerous requests from people wanting to use tables and chairs for their events. If you are thinking about using them, please contact either Eugene Uehling (608-347-4188) or Pam Harker 608-482-1579).

They will discuss costs, check the church calendar for availability, and make the necessary arrangements.



*The people you love need the transforming grace that only Jesus Christ can bring.
Invite the people you love to Jesus!*

April Birthdays

1	Jadyn Meyer	13	Lexi Olson
1	Garrett Paulson	14	Riley Gobrecht
1	Heath Poppy	14	Jean Edge
1	Bruce Russell	14	Pam Harker
1	Makaylah Santiago	14	Shay Lierman
2	Chet Scott	16	Janet Wymore
3	Marlene Stewart	17	Brianna Hinzman
4	Dan Sigwarth	17	Lois Finnigan
5	Debbie Russell	18	Conner Crotty
6	Mick Curran	18	Keith Wymore
6	Todd Hauser	20	Terri Byrd
6	Dennis Redfearn	21	David Ingram
8	Marvin Russell	21	Marsha Kremer
10	Aletris Sandlin	23	Harry Blackburn, Sr.
10	Kevin Shawcross	24	Nick Reddington
10	Rich Wotnoske	24	Sharon Woodworth
11	Sandy Russell	28	Anna Hartung
11	Joelle Sigwarth	29	Madison Wymore
12	Austin Ubersox	29	Dylan Gile
13	Jean Anderson	30	Crystal Metcalf

April Worship

April 3 & 6

Lazarus & the Kingdom
(The Kingdom that is coming, but is also already here)

John 11:1-44

April 10

Guest Preacher

April 13

TBD

April 17 & 20

No Partiality in Christ: the
Second Chapter of James
Part 1: The Rich & The Poor

James 2:1-4

April 24 & 27

No Partiality in Christ: the
Second Chapter of James
Part 12: God's Mercy on the
Marginalized

James 2:5-7

April Anniversaries

5 Dan & Brenda Whitford
19 Dennis & Joy Redfearn
22 Albert & Shirley Gensler
23 Joe & Julie Thompson
25 Larry & Donna Foley

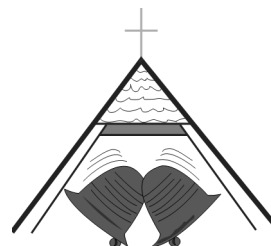


April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00 Hymn Worship 9:00 Adult & Child SS 10:30 Praise Worship 11:45 Potluck 12:30 Resolution for Men 7:00 Confirmation Class		6:30 Sacred Rhythms group 6:30 Grief Group	5:30 Meal 6:30 Praise Worship		Pastor Jeff's Day Off	Pasty Bake 7:00 Lay-Led Worship
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 Adult & Child SS 9:00 Hymn Worship 10:30 Praise Worship 11:45 Trustees Mtg. 7:00 Confirmation Class	Noon Retired & Re-Fired 6:00 Finance mtg. 7:00 Church Council mtg.	6:30 Grief Group	5:30 Meal 6:30 Praise Worship		Pastor Jeff's Day Off	7:00 Lay-Led Worship
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 Adult & Child SS 9:00 Hymn Worship 10:30 Praise Worship & Biker Blessing 11:45 Youth Group 7:00 Confirmation Class		6:30 Grief Group	5:30 Meal 6:30 Praise Worship	4:30 Food Pantry	Pastor Jeff's Day Off	7:00 Lay-Led Worship
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00 Adult & Child SS 9:00 Hymn Worship 10:30 Praise Svc. 7:00 Confirmation Class	Noon Retired & Re-Fired	6:30 Grief Group	7:00 Special Needs mtg.		Pastor Jeff's Day Off	7:00 Lay-Led Worship



The Chimes



*Saturday Evening Lay-Led
worship at 7:00*

*Sunday Morning Hymn
Worship Service at 9:00 -
music by Tina Cruse*

*Sunday Morning Praise
Worship Service at 10:30 -
music by Ed Santiago*

*Wednesday Night Praise
Worship Service at 6:30 -
music by Ed Santiago*

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See page 4
for more
information

A Vision For Our Church

"Centenary UMC will continue to be THE place to be for weekend worship. People will often drive by this church and think, 'That place is packed: I wonder what I'm missing?' Through our church culture and worship atmosphere we will provide the spiritual spark for people to see God in their daily lives and grow in their understanding, ministry and faithful relationship with Him."