

the View from HOPE RIDGE



Volume 45
May 2012

*WELCOME * WORSHIP * NURTURE * SEND*
... to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Hope Ridge United Methodist Church Newsletter

As was reading *Memories of God* by Roberta C. Bondi, I found a passage where she reflected on God as Mother. This is not the first time that I have thought about God as Mother, but I know that there is a large part of the church that does push back on this idea. As I look through the scripture, I understand that Jesus often spoke of God as Father. However, as a woman, I recognize that in Genesis 1:27 it says, "So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." In that God created male and female, in God's image.

Roberta C. Bondi wrote: To imagine the world without my mother in it is like conceiving of the darkening of the sun. My life is inseparable from the life of my mother. "Bone of my bond and flesh of my flesh": Adam spoke these words when he first saw Eve, newly formed from his rib. Though they were spoken truly for that pair, they are merely metaphorical for every pair of lovers since. But mothers and children! That is another matter. I am so closely joined to my mother that I am not entirely sure where my mother leaves off and I begin. I am truly formed of the flesh of my mother, bone of her bone.

This shared life with my mother is so complex and so powerful that nothing that I do and nothing that I am falls outside its sphere. This is even true of my life with God, for because of the closeness of my life with my mother, for me to speak only of God as Father is to place this whole realm of my being outside of my identity in God. It is not enough for me to know that I am made, a generic human being, in the image of God who is my Father. I am a woman, and I must know that the image of God in which I am made is also the image of God who is my mother. ...

How am I to think about what it might be to know God as Mother, and myself in the image of God? ... I believe, as I retrieve my experience of my own mother, will I be able to begin to find the God who is my mother, and myself made in the image of that God, as well.

Bondi's questions about knowing God as Mother made me ask about where we see that image of God in the Bible. In Isaiah God says, "As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you" (Isaiah 66:13). We also see images of the womb, love, compassion, guidance, and strength throughout the Bible, all images that we relate to woman and mothers.

Rob Bell reflected, "...Jesus said that God is spirit. And spirit has no shape, it has no form, it has no physical essence I mean, God is in essence beyond male and female. Or perhaps you could say it more accurately: God transcends and yet includes what we know as male and female."

I pray that as each of us comes to know God as Father, that we would not forget to come to know God as Mother, and see the vastness of the characteristics that God has given to all of us. I find the unity in God through Christ leads me back to know that we are all a beautiful part of God's creation. In Galatians 3:27-28 it states "As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

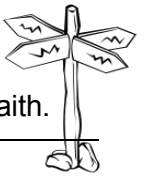
How will you celebrate God our Mother, who created each of us unique, beautiful, and full of gifts, this Mother's day? I pray that as you reflect on your own mother or those who have been loving, caring, guiding, powerful, strong, forgiving, and the supplier of life to you, that you would have the assurance that God created all of us in God's image. Let us celebrate the blessings of mothers in our world, and thank God for the godly women in our lives.

Prayer: *Loving God, thank you for being our Mother, for showing us what it means to bring life, love, guidance, and encouragement. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

Pastor Beth



WELCOME



How we provide *Hospitality* to those in God's house and *Welcome* them to the Hope Ridge Family of Faith.

IN THE KNOW...

PARKING — Regular attendees, please park as far back in the lot as possible, leaving spaces closest to the Worship Center or Chapel doors for our guests. Take advantage of 'valet' parking at 10:30 service. Pull up in the circle drive and let our attendants park the car for you!

WELCOME CENTER — Especially for our guests! Please stop here for a welcome bag, a temporary name tag, and a SMILE.

NAME TAGS — All regular attendees are encouraged to wear their name tag each week. You may know other people's names, but they might not know yours! If you need a nametag (new or replacement), add your name to the slip on the green clipboard at the end of the nametag rack in the Narthex, and one will be made for you. Please return your tag to the rack each week.

INFORMATION DESK — Located under the round window in the narthex. This is where you sign up for events/activities; place prayer requests; and find individual offering envelopes, DVD's of the service, and church information and resources.

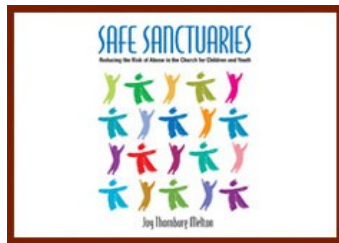
CAFÉ — Fellowship over a cup of coffee, tea or lemonade with a doughnut or some fruit on Sunday morning. The coffee is brewing by 8am. Freewill donations accepted.

OFFERING ENVELOPES — It is recommended you use an offering envelope for your financial gifts to the church. A new 'set' of envelopes is provided each year and quarterly giving statements sent for your tax purposes. Contact church office for a set.

* — An asterisk in the newsletter or bulletin/announcements, indicates pre-registration is requested. Sign up in the black book located on the Information desk in Narthex or by calling the church office.

SAFE SANCTUARIES for our children

Safe Sanctuaries is an overt expression of this congregation in making our church facility a safe place where children and youth may experience the abiding love of God and fellowship within the community of faith. All personnel who work with children or youth at Hope Ridge UMC have passed a state and federal background check.



HOPE RIDGE NURSERY

Our loving nursery coordinator, Cheri Martin, provides care for children up to school age beginning at 9am each Sunday. We require parents to sign each child in and out. Our pager system allows us to quietly notify you if needed during the service.

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS and SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children of all ages are invited to join in the 10:30am Family Worship Service. About 10 minutes into the service, children are invited to join the pastor on the steps for the Children's Moments. Following their prayer, children age 3–5th grade are dismissed to their Sunday School classes. Children up to age 3 can also go to the nursery at this time. If your child is attending Sunday School for the first time, please accompany them to the class to complete registration forms.

Following the worship service, parents should pick up their children from their class room (in Christian Ed wing, past the nursery).



* "INTRODUCTIONS"

This gathering is designed for those new to our congregation. It is an opportunity to have a bite for lunch, meet the pastors, and be introduced to Hope Ridge UMC.

Sunday, May 20 in Youth Room following 10:30 service

* "BASICS"

A 12 week course to make and mature disciples using the curriculum *Following Jesus*.

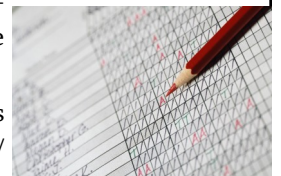
Whether you are considering joining the Church or have been a part of this faith community for some time, this course will encourage and strengthen you in faith and action.

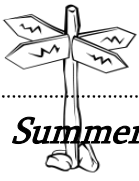
**Monday, 6:30-8pm in Music Room
June 4—August 20 (12 weeks)**

YOU COUNT!

Why we use the Red Attendance Books

- 1) 8:30 service — sign in as you come in to the Chapel.
10:30 service — the red books are placed in chair rows. Please pass down the row to make sure all sign in (especially late comers).
- 2) Record **the names of ALL family members in attendance**. Write "Bill, Sue & Sally Jones", instead of "Jones Family"!
- 3) Please **be legible!**
- 4) **Note any changes in address, phone number or email.**
- 5) A volunteer transfers this information into our membership data base each week.
- 6) The accuracy of this information is vital for our reports to the district/conference. **Thank You!**





WORSHIP — How we Celebrate and Give Thanks to God

Summer Sunday Worship Schedule

will remain the same

8:30am — Worship in Chapel with communion

9:15am — Youth/Adult Sunday School
discussing Sermon Series topics

10:30am — Family Worship in (WFLC)
Combined Children's Sunday School



Up Coming Sermon Series

April 22-May 27

"Adventures of the Apostles"

June 3-August 5

"What's So Amazing about Grace?"

How to Have a More Meaningful Worship Experience

According to the Presbyterian Book of Order, Christian worship "joyfully ascribes all praise and honor, glory and power to the triune God. In worship, the people of God acknowledge God present in the world and in their lives." In other words, **worship isn't about us. It is about God.** In worship, we are to focus our minds and our hearts on only one thing: the true expression of spirits in appreciation, reverence and praise for who God is and what He is doing in our lives.

Many times, this is a challenge. Easily, we are distracted by our busy lives, our lunch plans, perhaps even our wiggly children. In addition, we are frequently wondering what God will "do" for us through worship. Granted, it is always good when the pastor says something we can take home, but the validity of the service does not hang on these criteria.

Instead, the question we should always ask upon leaving worship is not "what did I get?" but "what did I give?" If we can honestly say that for a whole hour, or even for one minute of it, we gave Him our praise, we can depart the service with a sense of satisfaction.

We are to take our delight in worship, not for what it did for us, but for the sheer pleasure and joy it brings God.

May these suggestions and practices help all of us come to worship God with more joy and praise as we recognize who He is and what He has done, and how we can respond to Him with a daily life of praise.

Come to worship with an expectant attitude: One of the best ways to do this is to take the time each week to read the scripture before coming to worship. Ask God to prepare your heart to worship Him as you study, meditate or pray through the text for the upcoming week.

Sing the hymns and share in the responses. Hymns and songs of praise were written to be sung by all the people. The psalmist only said "Make a joyful noise to the Lord..." He did not insist that the noise be melodious! So, we are not excluded even if we sing in monotone. We rob ourselves of a priceless opportunity to worship if we do not sing to the best of our ability, however limited.

Express praise through and with the musicians. When the organist plays and the choir sings, remember these skilled musicians are not "performing" to us but are actually with us in praising God. If their music moves you — give thanks to God, rather than applause to the performer.

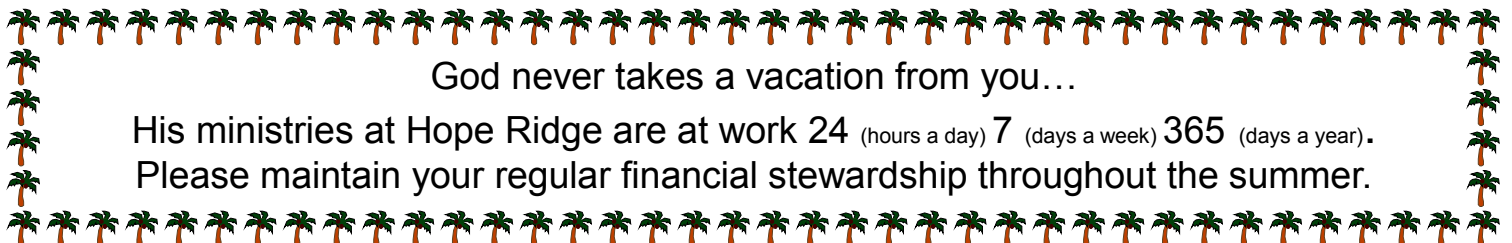
Pray through the prayers of the leader. As the pastor or leader guides everyone in prayer, remember that he or she is lifting up many requests to God. Listen for those sins, hopes or desires which are yours, and know that the pastor is praying for you.

Give of your entire life to God with your offering. The offering in Christian worship is not a collection of money from a captive audience. As we give our monies, may it be a symbolic way of joyfully dedicating our lives, talent and treasure to God in response to His love in Christ. Our financial offering is used to the glory of God through a multitude of service, mission and administrative projects in which our church is involved.

Actively listen for Gods' Word in the Scripture. The reading of God's Word is an essential part of any Christian service. We are purely on the receiving end even though God uses it to speak to us so we may respond. Bring a Bible with you to church so you can mark in it and follow the preacher as the scripture is read aloud.

Converse with God during the sermon. The sermon occupies almost one-third of the entire service. Many would say the congregation must be passive at this time, for the pastor speaks and we have no chance to object or question aloud. In our understanding of worship, the pastor is only the prompter. The true speaker is God. As the sermon is proclaimed, notice how the Holy Spirit is speaking to you and to your deepest needs. Talk with God in the silence of your heart as the pastor's words ring in your heart. Good listening to a sermon is an exhausting activity, for the listeners spend the whole time wrestling with what God is saying to them.

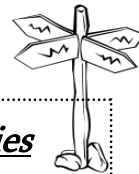
Footnote: These suggestions are set forth as a concluding summary produced by the Worship Study Committee and were adopted by the Session, 2005.



God never takes a vacation from you...

His ministries at Hope Ridge are at work 24 (hours a day) 7 (days a week) 365 (days a year).

Please maintain your regular financial stewardship throughout the summer.



SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS

* = sign up at Information Desk in Narthex or call office.

A/V Group:

At HRUMC there are so many stories that go unheard, so many images unseen. **Beginning in May** we are forming an Audio Visual (A/V) group to help witness and communicate what goes on in the church and the community. Everyone is welcome be a part of capturing the story, if you are interested please contact Pastor Jon Wilterdink, pastorjon@hoperidge.com or at the church ext. 205.

*Bible Baseball Night

Tuesday, May 15, 7pm in WFLC

This is a fun night for anyone who likes baseball and loves the Bible — men, women, kids all invited!

Book Club

Monday, May 21 at 7:00 pm in the Library.

May's book, *The Dog That Talked to God* by Jim Kraus.

*Saturday Night at the Movies

7pm in WFLC

May 19 ~ "Finding Nemo"

June 16 & July 21 ~ titles TBA

Movie information at Information Desk or call the church office.

UMW

Wednesday, May 2, 10am

Morning Circle will meet at Pat Rohrbaugh's home.
All women are invited.

Young Adults

Singles or couples in their 20's or 30's
Join Pastors Beth & Jon for a hike.

***Friday, May 25, 6pm**

* Adult Education Classes

Book of Philippians (facilitator, Maggie Gruss)

Sundays April 15—May 20, 9:15am (Music)

Bring your Bibles.

Bible 101 - (facilitator, Pastor Beth).

Wednesday April 18—May 30, 6:30-8:00pm (Conf Rm)

***** No Sunday School May 27 *****

"What's So Amazing about Grace?"

Discussion of sermon series (rotating facilitators)

Sundays June 3-August 5, 9:15am (Conf Rm)

Basics: Following Jesus

(Facilitators, Pastor Beth and Sue Patterson)

Mondays, June 4-August 20, 6:30-8pm (Conf Rm)

Financial Peace University (facilitator, Bob Rader)

Thursdays, June 7-August 23 (Time and location TBA)

Children

Summer Sunday School

After Children's Moments in 10:30 worship service, children age 3–5th grade will be dismissed for a combined class using popular movie themes for topics.

Story Hour

Wednesdays 10-11am

Beginning June 20—August 22

(No July 4 or August 1)

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

"Gadgets Garage"

July 30—August 3

9am—noon

Hey, Folks have you taken notice?

HOPE RIDGE is as busy as a **summer bee hive!**

Our attendance at Sunday worships and Sunday School is increasing. Eight different Boy and Girl Scout troops use our facility each week. AA groups are in the Chapel throughout the week. We also host men's basketball games every Sunday, Barbershop rehearsals every Tuesday, the RC Club on Wednesday, Wii Bowling and a Book Club once a month. 130 youngsters attend our Preschool during the week. Many classes are held -- Bible, Disciple, Exercise, etc. Of course there are the occasional meals and everyday administrative activities. In addition HOPE RIDGE continues to assist with World Wide Missions. ALL GREAT!

However, with all this activity and excitement there are also some concerns.

For Hope Ridge, it currently is a decreased level of financial support by our members and friends. Projections based on first quarter giving indicate there could be a yearly shortfall in pledged and unpledged receipts of \$42,000.

This can be easily corrected by all of us stepping up to the plate and meeting our personal commitment to HOPE RIDGE. A minimal increase of \$5.00 from each family unit a week would make a huge difference. In the event you have any questions, please feel free to touch base with me or any of those on the Finance Committee.

Jan Benroth, Finance Chair



May Celebrations

Birthdays

- | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| 3 | Ann Henk | Kristen Rader | | |
| 4 | Joe Eckerle | Larry Fritinger | Kate Thomas | |
| 6 | Nicki Davies | | | |
| 9 | Jacob Slavick | | | |
| 11 | Steve Monthey | | | |
| 12 | Sharon Eckerle | | | |
| 14 | Jean Hickey | Chad Sullivan | | |
| 15 | Becky Dingeldein | | | |
| 16 | Erin White | | | |
| 19 | Goeff Weber | | | |
| 20 | Glen Dieterle | | | |
| 21 | Alec Pribulsky | | | |
| 22 | Stephanie Sullivan | | | |
| 25 | Owen Hancock | | | |
| 26 | Doug Allcock | | | |
| 28 | Gary Oyler | | | |
| 29 | Corey Bova | Joe Bova | Tom Ohmura | Laura Wells |



Anniversaries

- 1 Ken and Bonnie Lillibridge
- 20 Vic and Cheryl Noviski
- 21 Bob and Carol Snyderwine
- 28 James and Gillian Mowry
- 30 Bob and Linda Bittinger
Jim and Cathy May Krebs
- 31 Diane Hynd

The full calendar is always available on our website.
www.hoperidge.com

Why Go To Church?

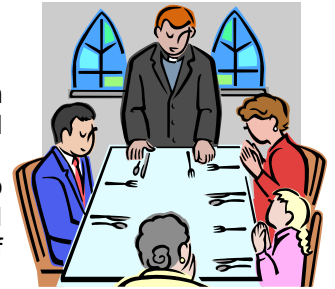
Some Christians have a hard time regularly attending church for a variety of reasons, but with the right pastor and the right place that encourages you to grow in faith, your relationship with God will benefit immensely. Here's a great story about the importance of church.

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me those meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

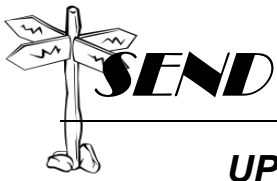
Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment.



MAY BIBLE READINGS

Readings for the week will also be included in the calendar portion of the announcements page of the bulletin!

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| May 1: 2Sam 5:1-10; 1Chron 11-12 | May 2: Ps 133 | May 3: Ps 106-107 |
| May 4: 2Sam 5:11-6:23; 1Chron 13-16 | May 5: Ps 1-2/15/22-24/47/68 | May 6: Ps 89/96/100-101/105/132 |
| May 7: 2Sam 7; 1Chron 17 | May 8: Ps 25/29/33/36/39 | May 9: 2Sam 8-9; 1Chron 18 |
| May 10: Ps 50/53/60/75 | May 11: 2Sam10; 1Chron 19; Ps 20 | May 12: Ps 65-67/69-70 |
| May 13: 2Sam 11-12; 1Chron 20 | May 14: Ps 32/51/86/122 | May 15: 2Sam 13-15 |
| May 16: Ps 3-4/12-13/28/55 | May 17: 2Sam 16-18 | May 18: Ps 26/40/58/61-62/64 |
| May 19: 2Sam 19-21 | May 20: Ps 5/38/41-42 | May 21: 2Sam 22-23; Ps 57 |
| May 22: Ps 95/97-99 | May 23: 2Sam 24; 1Chron 21-22; Ps 30 | May 24: Ps 108-110 |
| May 25: 1Chron 23-25 | May 26: Ps 131/138-139/143-145 | May 27: 1Chron 26-29; Ps 127 |
| May 28: Ps 111-118 | May 29: 1King 1-2; Ps 37/71/94 | May 30: Ps 119:1-88 |
| | | May 31: 1King 3-4; 2Chron 1; Ps 72 |



— Our acts of Stewardship: how we **Share** the message of Jesus Christ to transform the world.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Flag Day Remembrance

Sunday, June 10 following 10:30 worship service.
Dedication of flagpole, recognition of our public servants,
and a strawberry social!

Convoy of Hope — Lake Co. Fair Grounds Saturday, June 23

More information on ways you can serve,
will be coming as the day approaches.
There will be a collect box in the Narthex for new tennis shoes
through June 13.

Children of Eden, the musical June 29 and 30, 7pm Hope Ridge UMC

!!! LOCAL MISSION TRIP !!! Nehemiah Project of Cleveland August 5-8

Watch announcements for an informational meeting date.

End of Summer Picnic & Worship at Sunset Saturday, August 25

Admission: Bring someone who does not regularly attend HRUMC!

Berea Children's Home

Our name has changed, but our Services haven't!

We recently changed our name to **Guidestone**, to reflect the wide breadth of services that we provide to children and families in NE Ohio and Columbus. 90 cents of every dollar donated to Guidestone is used to help individuals break the cycle of poverty and start on a path to better life. With your generous gifts, those we serve are adopted by loving families, complete their GED, and change their lives for the better

Though our name has changed, our commitment to providing the best services to children and families has not.

Honor a Special Woman on Mother's Day



Purchase a carnation for \$2 and honor a special woman in your life. Honorees will be listed in the bulletin on Mother's Day. Flowers will be donated to a local nursing home following worship. Proceeds from the sale of the flowers will go to support Forbes House (shelter for women/children).

Order forms will be in the bulletin or call the church office.

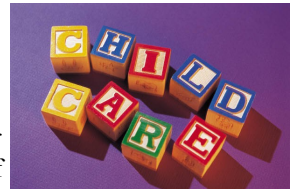
Box Tops and Labels for Education



An 'easy' Mission of the church is to turn box tops and can labels into cash that will support the UMC mission work going on at the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky.

Labels and box tops can be dropped in the respective bags on the UMW bulletin board in the hall connecting the WFLC and Chapel.

OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE



Cherie Martin, the Staff Coordinator for Nursery Care at Hope Ridge, is in need of an assistant(s) on Sunday mornings. This is an important ministry to children and families by providing a responsible environment for ages infant through 4 years during worship services and Sunday school.

This opportunity is open to a person, couple, and/or teen. If you can volunteer in this area and would like further information, please contact the church office or Cherie Martin in the nursery on Sunday mornings.

Prayerfully consider this opportunity.

Our children need you!

Servants in Action

Linda Kallay

2011 Hope Ridge United Methodist Women Woman of the Year / Special Mission Recognition



Each year the United Methodist Women of Hope Ridge United Methodist Church, which includes each woman of our congregation, take special joy in recognizing a woman we designate as "Woman of the Year." She is recognized and honored for her servant's spirit expressed within our community of faith and beyond. Her name is placed on our plaque of Hope Ridge Women of the Year along with those who have been honored before her. In addition, she is presented with a Special Mission Recognition pin presented by United Methodist Women's groups throughout the United States to individuals who demonstrate a participation in Christ's mission to others – within their own faith communities, and outward in service in the local community, the nation, and the world through our shared mission giving and service.

Our Woman of the Year for 2011 is a familiar and usually smiling face in our church, whether she is greeting long-time friends or new visitors to our worship service. She is involved in the work of the United Methodist Women through her willing hands and spirit as we work on UMW fundraisers or whole church potlucks or other activities. She contributes through her time, her resources, and her prayers.

She willingly stepped directly into the role of the UMW Presidency without benefit of years of prior experience. Her leadership skills and willing hands led us faithfully, within this church and in the effort to become more involved with other UMW groups on the District Level.

When personal considerations led her to give up the presidency, she lovingly pledged her ongoing support for the efforts of the United Methodist Women and is currently serving as the chair of our Nomination Committee for the 2012-2013 year.

The Executive Committee of the Hope Ridge United Methodist Woman, lovingly, joyfully, and proudly presents, on behalf of all the women of this church, the 2011 Woman of the Year award and Special Mission Recognition to Linda Kallay!

Faith in the COMMUNITY



TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES.
A FAIR TRADE RETAILER

In recognition of National Fair Trade Day, Hope Ridge will once again host a *Ten Thousand Villages* sale on **May 10-13**. 90% of our proceeds are returned to Ten Thousand Villages, one of the world's largest fair trade organizations, based in Akron, PA. Proceeds from this sale will help skilled artisans in some 38 countries receive a fair price for their products.

Featured items include hand loomed textiles, pottery, jewelry, baskets, toys and a variety of nativities.

We are looking for volunteers to help out before, during and after the sale. Set-up will be in the conference room on Thursday, May 10. Friday, the sale hours are 11:00 - 6:00. Saturday, the hours are 9:00 - 3:00. We will leave the items out in the conference room for Sunday, and we will pack anything left over to return to Ten Thousand Villages after church on Sunday and on Monday, if necessary.

The sign-up at the information desk in the narthex or contact Carol Benroth. You can tell any possible shoppers that there is no admission fee to attend.

Preschool News

The school year has flown by! Graduation time is approaching -- it is always difficult to say good-bye to children moving on to kindergarten.

We will be closing the school year with a flurry of activities including a final *Fun Friday* called "Take me out to the Ballgame". There will be picnics, graduation ceremonies and many tearful good-byes. Our parents' group, POPS, will be hosting an end-of-year party for all preschool families at Zero Gravity on the 18th.

We continue to register for classes in the fall. Please call the preschool office for an information packet or to schedule a visit.

Alice Griffith, Director

"Where children love to learn and learn with love..."

UMW's Annual Rummage Sale

Sat, June 2, 2012

8:30am-2:30pm

You may bring donations to the Narthex after worship on Sunday, May 27—Thursday, May 31.

No items accepted on Friday, June 1, so that we can complete set up.



WHAT WE CAN SELL:

Dishes, pots and pans
Kitchen & gardening supplies (clean)
Holiday decorations, and other decorative items
Kid's toys
Tools
Linens, bedding (please measure & mark sizes)
Jewelry

Small working kitchen appliances, computers & TVs.
Collectibles
Crafty materials (including partially completed projects)
Small sporting equipment (bats, balls, skates, etc)
Furniture and lamps, framed art,
Adult & kid's clothes (clean & wearable, working zippers, no holes)
Cookies/brownies, packaged for sale at lunch (available all day).

We now need VOLUNTEERS

Set up after church on May 27 * Sort, arrange, & price Monday—Friday that week * Sell and clean up on Saturday, June 2.

Or just come when you can to help.

Sign-up sheets are in 'the black book' on Information Desk.

Questions? Call Stephanie Sullivan 283-5964, or Pat Meyer, 352-0885

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

As you read this, General Conference is in session. What does a typical day look like at the Tampa (Fla.) Convention Center, where the conference is happening? A marathon!

At the 2008 General Conference, officials decided to eliminate the one Sabbath day delegates normally had and made it a work-day. As you might expect, their attempt to save money elicited negative feedback from delegates, who were utterly exhausted from 11 straight 15-hour days with no breaks except for meals.

This year we have Sunday as a free day until 7 p.m. There are two other changes. We have worship in the evenings rather than first thing in the morning, which allows delegates to engage in legislation when they are the most alert. The "business" day ends at 9:30 p.m., rather than 10:30 or 11 p.m., which has often happened in the past.

During the first week, our day began with meetings, caucuses and prayer. Then we met in legislative committees until supper. The day closed with evening worship and plenary. Dominating the second week will be legislation and conference business.

At almost every meal, we have opportunities to hear special presentations. There are dozens of displays as well as a large Cokesbury store.

We'll drag ourselves home totally spent — but immensely grateful — for the privilege of representing you in making decisions on behalf of The United Methodist Church.

--Adapted from an article by the Rev. Laurie Haller, West Michigan Annual Conference delegation chair, Jan. 8, 2012

**The General Conference of the United Methodist Church is meeting in Tampa, FL, April 24—May 4.
Hold all those in attendance in your prayers as they make important decisions for our denomination.**



Thank you to all of you who helped to support my Eagle Scout Project by participating in the April 15 pancake breakfast. \$703 was raised towards the project of improving the landscaping and signage at Hope Ridge. I plan to begin the physical part of the project in mid June. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely, Joseph Snyderwine

From LaMuth Middle School

Thank you to the team who worked to spruce up our school and grounds last week.

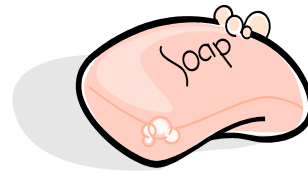
From Russell Hobart's family (Joan and Lynne, daughters)

Thank you very much, ladies, for helping us prepare for dad's funeral. We truly appreciate your efforts.

God is like.

DIAL SOAP

Aren't you glad you have Him? Don't you wish everybody did?



The U.S. POST OFFICE

Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet nor ice will keep Him from His appointed destination.

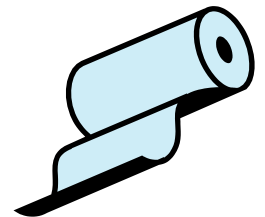


Chevrolet. . . .the heart beat of America

Maxwell House. Good to the very last drop

Bounty

He is the quicker picker upper... Can handle the tough jobs... And He won't fall apart on you.



One six-year-old daughter, Lisa, had a need to ask questions ... lots of questions. Finally, one day, her mom had had it. "Have you ever heard that curiosity killed the cat?", Mom asked in exasperation.

"No," replied Lisa.

"Well, there was a cat, and he was very inquisitive. And one day, he looked into a big hole, fell in, and died!" Lisa was intrigued: "What was in the hole?"



New Delivery of The View

As of this month, we will no longer be mailing *The View* by bulk mail.

- Anyone with an email address, will ONLY receive *The View* electronically.
- If you do NOT want to receive the electronic copy of the view, you can 'opt out' by contacting the office either by phone or email.
- Our homebound members, or those without email, will receive a hard copy by mail.
- Additional hard copies of *The View* will be available:
 - a) In the office or on the Information Desk in the Narthex.
 - b) Contact the church office (440-352-2141 or hopeoffice@hope ridge.com) to have a copy mailed to you.