

"A Christ-Centered Family Reaching Out Through Dynamic Ministry"

Lenten Schedule **2012**

Wednesday Night Lenten Studies - Five Top Issues in Biblical Theology

There are many times we have heard the phrase, *Bible Study 101* or *Christian Theology 101*, with *101* representing the idea that it is an introduction course. Churches have too many introduction courses. After years in the pews, Sunday School and Disciple classes and years of growing in Christ, it is time to step it up a bit. Our Lenten study this year will do that. Call it *Biblical Theology 201*. We will look at some very basic issues in Christianity, but with more depth than in a mere introduction class. Join us for one, or all.

Wednesday, February 29, 7 pm

How Do I Read My Bible? *Fundamentalism vs. Wesley's Quadrilateral – Do I take what it says literally, or are some parts figurative, symbolic or poetic?*

Wednesday, March 7, 7 pm

How Do I View Myself? *Calvinism vs. Arminianism – Am I basically depraved and in need of redemption, or being created in the image of God, basically good and in need of forgiveness and a relationship with my Lord? Is my fate predestined, or having a bit of divine freedom granted to me, is my response to God and life in my hands?*

Wednesday, March 14, 7 pm

Will Jesus Be My Judge or Savior? *Justification vs. Judgment – How can the God of love and grace be a God that speaks of vengeance and hell? How could a God of righteousness let someone off the hook for murder and mayhem via freely given love and grace?*

Wednesday, March 21, 7 pm

What Is The Nature of God? *King on a Throne in Heaven vs. the "Ground of Being?" Are there ways to think of God that are comprehensible, but not mythological or child-like?*

Wednesday, March 28, 7 pm

How Should I View Jesus? *Yeshua ben Yosef, Convicted 1st Century Revolutionary, vs. The Eternal Messiah – How did this historical person become the Christ of Faith? Which way should we look at him in the 21st Century?*

Ash Wednesday

February 22, 7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday Service

April 5, 7:00 pm

We will be joined by members from Southlawn UM Church

Good Friday Service

April 6, Noon

At Southlawn UM Church

Easter Sunday Services

April 8, 9:00 & 10:30 am

AMAZING GRACE

A Note From Our Pastor

Dear friends:

I often think of February as “*Love Month*.” Valentine’s Day and all the hearts out as decorations certainly contributes to this, but it is not the only special day in February that makes me think of love as this month’s theme. And while the celebration of romantic love associated with our contemporary Valentine’s Day makes for a wonderful chance at celebrating something important in our lives, it and the other special days in February make me think of love in an entirely different way.

The real Saint Valentine became a martyr after he was executed by Rome for providing protection to Christians who were trying to flee the wrath of Emperor Claudius. Celebrating romantic love in his honor is great, but let us not forget that it was his love of God, liberty and humanity for which he died.

February also gives us Presidents Day, honoring Washington and Lincoln, both born in February. They too put their lives

on the line for God, liberty and humanity. Their love of this country they served is something we should reflect upon this month.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. It is a time for reflection on the love of God we have found through Jesus Christ, and a time to repent if we have not followed Christ’s command to love others as he has loved us.

I invite you to join me in a serious reflection upon the themes of Lent by being in worship on Ash Wednesday, and by joining me the five Wednesdays thereafter for a series of Lenten studies, which I am calling Biblical Theology 201, as these will be a step up from introduction classes. You will find more about these elsewhere in this newsletter.

I pray you have a love filled February.

Blessings!
Pastor David

Grace UMC Staff

Senior Pastor:

Dr. David Schrader

Associate Pastor:

Rev. Lauren Hall

Counseling Pastor:

Dr. Joseph Baunoch

Music Director:

Jim Pickley

Choir Director

Victoria Garrett

Organist/Wedding Coordinator & Membership

Secretary:

Jane Flora

Drummer:

Dan Degucz

Director of Children’s Ministries:

Georganne Limerick

Assistant Director of Children’s Ministries:

Amy Hendrickson

Directors of Youth Ministries:

Ben & Jamie Marlatt

Visitation & Welcome Center Coordinators:

Scott and Cheri Kucela

Church Secretary:

Jennifer Robinett

Custodian:

Tom Wert

Preschool Teachers:

Billie Kloote, Director

Sally Abarr

Martha Moore

Nursery:

Connie Harmon

Lindsay Wilson

Audio Supervisor:

Hal Zoerner

Business Administrator:

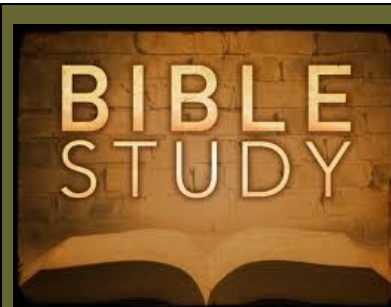
Bob Suter

This year's Lenten Offering will be going to support First United Methodist's Food Pantry. At the Ash Wednesday service, each family will be provided with a cup to take home. The Missions and Outreach Committee encourages everyone to take the money they would have spent on a beverage and instead donate that to the Food Pantry.

Pizza With the Pastors

Sunday, February 19 at 11:45 am

Anyone interested in joining the church or having any questions about the church, call the church office to make reservations for Pizza With the Pastors.



Pastor Lauren and Pastor Nancy Nichols (from Broadway Christian Parish) are offering a short-term Disciple Bible Study: *Psalms*, which begins February 1st. Classes will be Wednesdays at 3:30 pm at Broadway Christian Parish. Interested persons should contact Pastor Lauren or the office.

Bobby Russell Benefit

Sunday, March 4, 2012

3:00 pm-5:00 pm

\$12.00 adult, and

\$5.00 child donation for tickets

Have dinner and entertainment at Grace United Methodist Church. Bobby Russell, a 3 year old little boy who was baptized at Grace Church, was discovered to have non-hodgkin lymphoma in February of 2011. Bobby is the son of Robert and Dawn Russell and the grandson of Joe and Faith Schultz, members of Grace United Methodist Church. Since the onset of the illness, Bobby has been fighting for his life in Indiana hospitals. For a time it was very touchy, but recently Bobby has been diagnosed as being in remission. He still has a year and a half of treatments and hospital visits, but his prognosis is hopeful.

The bills from doctors and hospitals are plentiful. Even with insurance, this devastating disease creates havoc on a family's budget. Non-coverage items, deductibles, and overages add up to a huge financial burden.

The profits from the benefit will help Bobby's family with medical bills that have accumulated since his diagnosis.

Chicago singer Temple Schultz and musician Vijay Tellis-Nayak will entertain participants and provide an enjoyable afternoon of good food and great music. Temple and Vijay are Bobby's aunt and uncle.

Temple, a South Bend native, performs regularly in Chicago nightclubs such as Martyr's, on dinner cruises, at Chicago's churches and many other venues. Temple's music has been referred to as "Intelligent Adult Pop" and her songs are solid and hold up under the simplest of instrumentation. Temple has performed with Peabo Bryson, has sung backup on Oprah Winfrey for Gloria Estefan and performed on many Chicago stages. Temple studied both classical music and jazz at Interlochen Arts Academy and the University of Miami. Temple will be selling her new CD with all proceeds going to Bobby's medical bills.

Vijay began playing piano at the age of five, and at an early age began winning local piano competitions. He attended Northwestern University on scholarship from the Oak Park Arts Alliance and received a bachelor's in Music Technology. In 1999 he completed his masters at Northwestern in Communication studies. He has played with Kick the Cat; many national artists such as Jennifer Hudson, Fareed Haque, Group, and Orbert Davis; with the national touring company of Lion King and Wicked; and at many Chicago venues and churches. Presently he owns Transient Sound Recording Studio in Chicago.

Come and join in an entertaining evening. Tickets are now available in the Church Office.

In addition to the Lenten studies Pastor David is offering, which start February 29, you are invited to join him on this field trip to learn about Hildegard von Bingen, a Benedictine Abbess and one of the most influential medieval mystics in the history of the Christian Church. If you would like to attend this program, please email Pastor David.

We will arrange transportation from Grace Church to Saint Mary's, leaving at 6:00 pm

VISION FROM THE LIFE OF HILDEGARD VON BINGEN

Thursday, February 9, 6:30 pm

Saint Mary's College Vander Vennet Theatre, Student Center

Professor Margot Fassler, University of Notre Dame

Before viewing the film, Dr. Fassler will briefly discuss the fascinating life of the mystic visionary Hildegard von Bingen and her contributions to the field of spirituality.

Grace Kids In Action

Campout With the Pastors! First through sixth graders will be travelling to Camp Tecumseh on February 11th-12th. We will be sliding, rock climbing, making candles, playing group games, and getting to know each other! We will leave Saturday at 7:30 am and return about 3:00 pm on Sunday. The cost is \$35 for kids and adults, but scholarships are available. To register, call the church office or send an email to georganne1@aol.com.

Winter Olympics in January! It was a great day for playing group games in the Great Hall! We had many children join us for games, an obstacle course, and snacks. Thanks to Melodie Ringer, Jenny Fox, and Beth Kummeth for making this event possible!

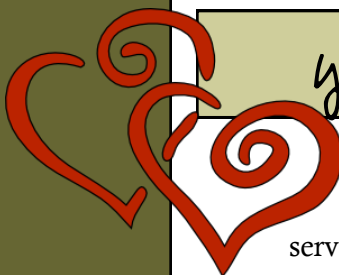
Sunday School: Fifth and sixth grade class is enjoying a new curriculum, *Building A Heart of Faith* for Tweens. Don't miss any of it!

Kindergarteners through fourth graders are experiencing *People Who Made A Difference* in the Bible and how they can make a difference in our community. We will be making a difference by participating in a few mission projects and baking muffins during Sunday School to give away. We hope you will join us in making a difference!

Mission Projects:

Project WARM: We are collecting pre-packaged snacks, such as granola bars, tuna snacks, and trail mix bags.

Soup-er Bowl Fundraiser: On Super Bowl Sunday, February 5th, look for some of our children standing at the back of the sanctuary after worship with soup bowls! They are collecting money for the Soup Kitchen at 1st United Methodist.



Youth News

Happy Valentine's Day! No need to go to the store to buy that special someone some chocolate... the youth have all you need! You can find the youth with the chocolate bars in the Welcome Center and Great Hall after the services on Sundays or in the office during the week.

Upcoming Events

The youth have some great events for the month of February planned! On February 5th we will begin the evening with a youth worship service at 5:30 and then kick back and watch the Super Bowl! For Presidents' Day weekend, we will celebrate Christ's love for us with a lock-in! Details will be in the youth newsletter.

Open Gym

Join Ben on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 to play some basketball in the Great Hall! There will be no Open Gym on February 20.

Join us for Sunday School!

Come join us for Sunday School every Sunday morning at 10:30 in the youth room.

The Youth Ministry program helps teenagers (7th-12th grades) challenge themselves to explore how their faith connects with their everyday lives.

Check out our website gracemethodist.org/youth-ministries.htm for complete details of our newsletter and calendar!

Lent 2012 Gospel Reading Plan

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

March

- Wednesday, Feb. 22 Matthew 1-2
- Thursday, Feb. 23 Matthew 3-4
- Friday, Feb. 24 Matthew 5-7
- Saturday, Feb. 25 Matthew 8-9
- Sunday, Feb. 26 Catch-up, meditation,
memory verse selection
- Monday, Feb. 27 Matthew 10-11
- Tuesday, Feb. 28 Matthew 12-13
- Wednesday, Feb. 29 Matthew 14-16
- Thursday, Mar. 1 Matthew 17-18
- Friday, Mar. 2 Matthew 19-20
- Saturday, Mar. 3 Matthew 21-22
- Sunday, Mar. 4 Catch-up, meditation,
memory verse selection
- Monday, Mar. 5 Matthew 23-25
- Tuesday, Mar. 6 Matthew 26-28
- Wednesday, Mar. 7 Mark 1-2
- Thursday, Mar. 8 Mark 3-4
- Friday, Mar. 9 Mark 5-6
- Saturday, Mar. 10 Mark 7-8
- Sunday, Mar. 11 Catch-up, meditation,
memory verse selection
- Monday, Mar. 12 Mark 9-10
- Tuesday, Mar. 13 Mark 11-12
- Wednesday, Mar. 14 Mark 13-14
- Thursday, Mar. 15 Mark 15-16

April

- Friday, Mar. 16 Luke 1-3
- Saturday, Mar. 17 Luke 4-5
- Sunday, Mar. 18 Catch-up, meditation,
memory verse selection
- Monday, Mar. 19 Luke 6-8
- Tuesday, Mar. 20 Luke 9-10
- Wednesday, Mar. 21 Luke 11-12
- Thursday, Mar. 22 Luke 13-14
- Friday, Mar. 23 Luke 15-16
- Saturday, Mar. 24 Luke 17-18
- Sunday, Mar. 25 Catch-up, meditation,
memory verse selection
- Monday, Mar. 26 Luke 19-20
- Tuesday, Mar. 27 Luke 21-22
- Wednesday, Mar. 28 Luke 23-24
- Thursday, Mar. 29 John 1-3
- Friday, Mar. 30 John 4-6
- Saturday, Mar. 31 John 7-9
- Sunday, Apr. 1 Catch-up, meditation,
memory verse selection
- Monday, Apr. 2 John 10-12
- Tuesday, Apr. 3 John 13-15
- Wednesday, Apr. 4 John 16-18
- Thursday, Apr. 5 John 19-21
- Friday, Apr. 6 Isaiah 53
- Saturday, Apr. 7 Psalm 22

*...when you received the word of God, which you heard from us,
you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the
word of God, which is at work in you who believe.*

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NIV)

*Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.*

Psalm 145:3 (NIV)

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Congratulations to Don Lord on the birth of his grandson, Marcus Edward Lord. Parents are Chris and Paula Lord.



To Our Grace UMC Family,
We would like to thank you all for remembering us over the Christmas Season, and especially for all the prayers said for Bobby and our family this past year. It has been quite a blessing to us to have such a wonderful support group. Your care and God's love has warmed our hearts and comforted our souls. May God's blessing be with you all!

*The Russell Family
Robert, Dawn, Joey and Bobby*

Dear Grace,
Thank you for the generous gift of \$105.00, and thank you for helping us eliminate substandard housing in St. Joseph County one family at a time.

*With much gratitude,
Jim Williams*

With Sympathy...

...to Michele Russo due to the loss of her mother.

...to the friends and family of Norman Beach.

...to Linda Lamar due to the loss of her father.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY



IN THE MILITARY

Major Eric DeRue
1st Lt. Pietrus Titus Engelbrecht
SSG Ronald Fink
PVT Ryan Gensinger
Ginger Joseph
LCPL Chris Meyer
SPC Jon Meyer
Sarah Miller

CMDR Douglas Perry
AFSS Cole Shepard
CPL Jason Rhodes
Captain John Hecker
CPL Nick Romitti
AB Kyle Romitti
Zachary Cramer
Blake P. Ringer

Dear Friends,
Your donation of \$280.00 is making a real difference in the lives of the women and children of St. Margaret's House.

*Sincerely,
Kathryn A. Schneider*

Mission Support

Thank you for your generosity last year. Through Mission and Outreach we donated \$19,073. Organizations we supported include:

- Africa Pension
- Broadway Christian Parish
- 1st UMC Soup Kitchen
- Children Of Abraham
- Family Justice Center
- St Margaret's House
- Camp Millhouse
- Habitat For Humanity
- Chiara Home
- Food Bank of Northern Indiana
- Meals at Broadway
- UMCOR
- Clothesline Project
- Children's Dispensary
- Pastor in India
- CROP Walk
- Project WARM
- Muscular Dystrophy

Sunday Worship Service Schedule:

9:00 am & 10:30 am

Church Office Hours:

9 am - 4 pm Monday—Friday

Prayer Focus for February

Do you ever wish you were more faithful in prayer? Have you promised to pray for someone and then realized you failed to pray? Paul instructs us in his letters to the Thessalonians to: *“Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) Although this sounds simple, it is never easy. Our lives are seldom quiet and often chaotic.

The following suggestions may help:

1. Set aside a regular time to commune with your God.
2. Focus on the attributes of God
3. Quiet yourself as you enter the Holy of Holies
4. Share the deepest concerns of your heart with the One who knows you best
5. Listen for God’s response
6. Follow all instructions
7. Be quick to express gratitude
8. Throughout the day practice using Breath Prayers*
9. Hum a favorite hymn
10. Recite a favorite scripture
11. Return again and again; asking, seeking, knocking, and listening



** A breath prayer is simply calling upon God as we inhale and expressing a brief prayer as we exhale.*

Celebrate the joy that comes

The goal is to follow Jesus’ example and stay connected to our Creator so that we *“do nothing on our own but always speak just what the Father has taught us.”* (John 8:28) More and more we are to live lives that are pleasing to God. *“May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance.”* (2 Thessalonians 3:5)

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