



# MIDLAND NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2012

## MIDLAND UNITED METHODIST FEBRUARY 1, 2012



### The Right Measure

When I am at a gathering with other clergy, people will often ask about the congregation that I serve. What they are inquiring about is the membership size, average weekly attendance, how many adults and students participate in Sunday School, etc.

While these are measurable tools for evaluating a church, I believe there is more to the story than numbers. Every January, all Wisconsin UMC clergy are asked to complete statistical reports. These reports cover a wide range of information and provide information to the conference about each congregation.

These statistical reports are important because what has been happening the last 40 years is that the United Methodist Church in Wisconsin has been on a steady decline. There has been a significant decrease in the number of members, average worship attendance, number of churches and number of people actively participating within a faith community. In fact, if the current rate of decline continues, in about 40 years, there may not be a Wisconsin United Methodist Church.

It's rather scary, if you look closely at the statistics. Some people are quick to point out that the numbers do not tell the whole story. It's nearly impossible to determine how much individual members have grown in faith during a calendar year.

Within Midland UMC, I pray for two things to happen in 2012:

1. Individual members will discover a deep passion for God. Together, may we grow in faith maturity and become folks deeply committed to our faith;
2. We will make it a high priority to share the gospel's message within our community. We'll provide specific opportunities for people to worship in a welcoming, non-frightening and helpful fashion.

In order for us to work towards these two goals, we must work together. It means we must be willing to take responsibility for our individual spiritual journeys and our spiritual maturing. What helps you grow in faith? Likewise, how might we include different folks at Midland UMC? Who is someone that you can invite and encourage to join us, whether during worship or another event?

During Lent, Holy Week and Easter, we have unique opportunities to invite and encourage people to explore Midland UMC. Together, let's develop and explore the right things that will help us grow individually and together as a faith community during the next 11 months.

See you in worship –

Pastor Dianne



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**February Ushers & Hosts**

Here are our worship servants for February:

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Host</u>
Feb. 5	Mike & Elizabeth Guyer Family	Rick Vielhuber
Feb. 12	Cheryl Schmidt & Kathy Stoltz	Tina Williams
Feb. 19	Sara Danz Family	Kathy Stoltz
Feb. 26	Myhia & Tom Chapman Family	Janet Sylvester

If you are unable to serve the Sunday you are scheduled, please switch with someone else. Thanks for your service!

**Choir Rehearsal**

During Lent, it's wonderful to have special music to help us center and connect with God and God's Word. The Choir will be helping provide music during worship. Beginning on Tues., Feb. 21, we'll be meeting at 1 PM for every Tuesday through Easter. We'd love to have you join us!



**Follow Pastor Dianne's Blog!**

During Advent, Pastor Dianne posted a daily blog. During Lent, Dianne will again post a daily blog to help us focus on why we have this time of Lent before Holy Week and Easter.

To view to Pastor Dianne's blog, please go to: <https://simplewordsoffait.wordpress.com/>. You can sign-up and have the posting delivered automatically to your e-mail when Pastor Dianne posts something.

**Pastoral Coverage While Pastor Dianne is on Vacation**

From Feb. 6 – Feb. 15, Pastor Dianne and Rick will be on vacation. If you need pastoral care during this time, please contact Pastor Cherie Forret from the Mount Horeb UMC at 608-437-3088.

For other needs/questions, please contact SPRC Chair Tim Eastlick at 753-2858 or Church Secretary Terre Carlson at 795-4473.

**Wednesday Night Lenten Soup & Studies**

To help us dig a little deeper into our faith and understanding of Jesus' death this Lent, we will have a Wednesday Night Soup and Study sessions.

We'll begin the evening with a soup and bread dinner at 6 PM, followed by a study on "Final Words from the Cross" at 6:30 PM. This is a DVD that accompanies the Sunday worship services. We'll travel to Jerusalem and learn insights that help us understand why Jesus chose the seven last sayings that he did.

Each week, we look for volunteers to help provide the meal. Mindy Roth is coordinating the volunteers for the weekly dinners. If you would like to help provide food, please contact Mindy at 767-2726 or [mindeeroth@yahoo.com](mailto:mindeeroth@yahoo.com).

There will also be a sign-up sheet in the kitchen. You do not have to provide the entire meal. Sign up for the portion you would like to provide.

Our first soup and study group session will be Wednesday, February 29th. Soup and study sessions will continue each Wednesday through March 28th.





## Thank You!

- To those who helped undecorate Midland UMC at the end of Christmas.
- Thanks for all who supported the Big Give! A huge "THANK YOU" to everyone who supported and helped us reach our Christmas Big Give Goal! We raised **\$2,020** for the American Family Children's Hospital! Thanks for helping us give beyond ourselves this Christmas.



## Thanks for the Additional Financial Gifts in December 2011

The Finance Committee would like to thank the many, many families that made additional contributions in December. Because of your generosity, all 2011 church bills were paid. Every year, each United Methodist Church in Wisconsin is asked to pay apportionments. These are monies that go to the Wisconsin Annual Conference to help cover the costs of maintaining the denominational structure in Wisconsin and the larger United Methodist Church. While Midland UMC was not able to fulfill our full apportionment, we were able to submit an additional month's apportionments so that we paid 25% of our total for the year.

Thank you so very much for supporting Midland UMC this past year. Your commitment and generosity allows Midland UMC to continue the very important and effective ministry we strive to do every week.



*Dear "Midland Friend,"*

*I want to thank you so very much for the beautiful bouquet of flowers — the one that was "left in the kitchen." I really like the flowers and have enjoyed them all week. Just looking at the bouquet brings happy thoughts and fond memories of time spent at Midland.*

*Howard and I appreciate the warmth and friendship we always feel with you. It is truly my pleasure to share my God given talent with Midland.*

*Thanks again!  
Rhoda (Howard too!)*

*God loves you and so do we.  
1 Corinthians 1:4*





## Musings from the Marketplace

### Hello from the Marketplace!

I'm so happy I just got back from the program at Rabbi Levi's Synagogue School and from where I was sitting I saw quite a few of you attending too. Wasn't it a wonderful experience! So many of our young people took part and what a variety of performances, some playing musical instruments and others dancing and the children reading from our Holy Book, it was amazing. It is such a blessing to have a Rabbi so dedicated to instructing our young people, all of this has me pleasantly musing.

We need to teach our children so many things, respect for elders, to be courteous, to make good choices, the list goes on and on. What needs to be right at the top of that list is to be instructed in faith, to instill in a child a love for God, To not only teach our children the wonderful history of our people but to show them how people like Moses and Abraham put their complete trust in the Lord. Our beloved Rabbi Levi is dedicated to doing just this.

But we must do our part too. The other day Sarah was walking by my Emporium with her daughter Rachel and was they walked I could hear Rachel reciting the lesson she had learned at the Synagogue the day before. Then they sat down under an olive tree and I could hear Sarah teaching Rachel more about what she had learned. I was reminded of the instruction of our Lord, "These words that I command you today shall be on your heart, you shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk with them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise." It is wonderful that your children have Rabbi Levi's Synagogue to learn of our amazing God but it is our job too, to continue this learning. Whether it's during a stroll through the olive grove or before tucking sleepy children in at night, we must all be teachers.

Well that's it for now, I've got some new fragrances for my scrubs, so stop on by and take a look or you can just yoo-hoo.

*Love, Eunice*



*I was reminded of the instruction of our Lord, "These words that I command you today shall be on your heart, you shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk with them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise."*

### Youth Group News:

Greetings! Hope everyone survived the holidays and are ready to get back into the swing of things :) We just wanted to provide you with the 2012 schedule.

We are meeting every other Wednesday from 6 -7 pm.

Jan. 18	March 14
Jan. 25	April 11
Feb 8	April 25
Feb 22	May 19
March 7	



May 19th will be a Dells outing to Wizard Quest and then a cook out (more details to follow).

\*In the event of bad weather: if school is cancelled or let out early, then there will NOT be any classes.

Coming soon: March 11th we will have our 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off (is your Chili hotter than Marilyn's?!) We're excited to be hosting this event and look forward to the wonderful submissions!

Thank you to Glen, Liz, Sarah and Nicole for helping out with Youth Group. We are excited for Fred-Allen's newest addition to arrive in February (or March?) and send him our prayers and blessings!

God Bless,  
Myhia, Fred-Allen & Eleanor

Questions or comments: please call Myhia at 712-3402 or email [myhiafhupy@yahoo.com](mailto:myhiafhupy@yahoo.com)  
Fred-Allen at 870-267-3730 or [faself@hotmail.com](mailto:faself@hotmail.com)  
Eleanor at 795-4080 or email [engelel@saukpr.k12.wi.us](mailto:engelel@saukpr.k12.wi.us)

### Adult Sunday School News

The Adult Sunday School lessons for the spring quarter will center on an in depth look at the Gospel of John. The writers teach us that Creation is more than God's one-time action of bringing the world into existence; it involves God's ongoing action of reconciling and re-creating now and in eternity. God's creating Word was, is, and shall be making all things good.

The class meets each Sunday morning at 8:15 am in the Community Room.

Come join us.



## February Worship

# 10

## Dumb Things Smart Christians Believe

People don't set out to build their faith on myths. But somehow falsehoods keep showing up in how many Christians think about life and God. These beliefs are assumed by millions to be rock-solid truth ... until life proves they're not. The sad result is often a spiritual disaster – confusion, feelings of betrayal, distrust of Scripture and loss of faith or anger toward God and the church. We'll wrap up this sermon series in February.

### Sun., Feb. 5

Theme: *10 Dumb Things Smart Christians Believe*

Message: "A Godly Home Means Godly Kids & God Brings Good Luck"

Scripture: Proverbs 22:6, Ezekiel 18:20

### Sun., Feb. 12

Pastor Dianne is on vacation. Join Myhia Chapman and Tina Williams for an uplifting worship service!

### Sun., Feb. 19

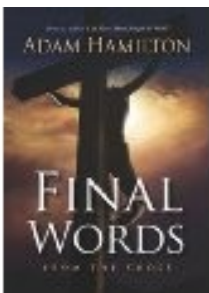
Theme: *10 Dumb Things Smart Christians Believe*

Message: "What about Dead People? Can God Bring Good Luck?"

Scripture: Matthew 7:13-14, John 14:6, Job. 2:4-10

### Wed., Feb. 22 – Ash Wednesday Worship – 6:30 PM

As we begin Lent, we pause and reflect upon our own lives and what God is saying to us. Please join in this deeply personal and meaningful worship service where we will use ashes and communion to help us focus for Lent.



As Jesus hung on the cross, the gospels record seven times he spoke. These are known as Jesus' seven final words. During Lent, we'll focus on Christ's dying hours and his final words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross. Each week, we'll focus on one of the characters at the cross and reflect upon one of the seven final statements of Jesus as we seek to understand the meaning of Jesus' dying words for our lives today.

### Sun., Feb. 26

Theme: *Final Worlds*

Message: "Father, Forgive Them"

Scripture: Luke 23:26, 33-34

### Sunday School News

We would like to say Thank you to all the kids who participated in the Christmas program. You all did a fantastic job. Also Thank You parents for bringing your children to Sunday School and the extra practices.

The Children's offering has \$305. Every year we (Bill and Stacie) receive a World Vision Gift Catalog. The catalog offers many different items to purchase which will be sent to those less fortunate. Most of them going to places overseas. The 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders chose from a list of things to purchase with the offering.

\$100 worth of medicine which will multiply and become \$1,100 worth of medicine

\$101 for 13 small farm animals. 10 ducks, 2 chickens, & 1 rabbit. "As the animals multiply, families can sell surplus food for extra income."

\$100 for a goat and 2 chickens. "With a pair of chickens and a goat, you'll provide a steady supply of eggs, milk, and meat to feed children and save families."

On the following Sundays, the children will go to Sunday School first, then join their families for communion:

Feb 5

March 4

April 1

May 6

There will be no Sunday School Easter Sunday, April 8.

See you in Sunday School.



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### Summer Mission Trip Opportunities

The Wisconsin Volunteers in Mission (VIM) group of the Wisconsin UMC is committed to helping and assisting folks who have experienced challenging situations. VIM groups share their time, talents and money for specific projects. As the group serves God and others, people's lives are changed.

This summer, there are many opportunities for people to serve on mission trips. Some are a weekend; others are a week-long, some are even a bit longer. There are opportunities to serve in Wisconsin, help the folks of Minot, North Dakota who have endured flooding, help people affected by tornadoes in Joplin, Missouri as well as other opportunities.

If you are interested in a VIM trip, please contact Pastor Dianne and ask for the brochure.

### Midland UMC's United Methodist Women Offering Camp Scholarships for Kids & Youth

The Wisconsin Annual Conference offers excellent camps for kids and youth. Midland UMC's UMC encourages kids to attend the camps by offering scholarships to help offset the cost of the camp. The UMW has increased their scholarships from \$75 to \$100 for 2012. Camping materials are available. For more information about the scholarships, please contact Janet Sylvester at 798-4542.

### Leadership Commitment Sunday

Many, many folks help with the various ministries at Midland UMC. It truly is a group effort to handle the various ministries and projects we have every year.

Thank you to the many folks who have committed to serving in 2012. On Sun., Feb. 5, we ask anyone who has committed to serve in a leadership role or on a committee or team or ministry area to publically make a commitment to Midland UMC.

Before Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, people who have agreed to serve in ministry areas will receive a Leadership Commitment Card in the mail. Please sign and bring this card with you to worship on Sun., Feb. 5. During worship, we will ask that you come forward and commit to serving God and Midland UMC. If you are not able to be in worship this day, please return your Leadership Commitment Card to the church office before Feb. 5 and we will pray over your card and ministry area during worship.



# February 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
5 8:15 AM Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship with Communion and Kid's Sunday School 6-7:30 PM Confirmation	6 Pastor Dianne on vacation	7 Pastor Dianne on vacation	1 1 pm Candlelight meets at church, Tina hosting	2 1:30 pm Circuit Clergy meets in Verona	3	4 9-11:30 am SPRC Training at Platteville UMC
12 Pastor Dianne on vacation 8:15 AM Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship and Kid's Sunday School	13 Pastor Dianne on vacation 6 PM Men's Group	14 Pastor Dianne on vacation 4:30 - 5:30 PM Black Earth Food Pantry 3:30 PM Helpers Arrive	8 6-7 pm. Youth Group meets Pastor Dianne on vacation	9 Pastor Dianne on vacation	10 Pastor Dianne on vacation	11 Pastor Dianne on vacation
19 8:15 AM Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship and Kid's Sunday School Chapman Baptism Confirmation Retreat	20 10 AM Pastor Dianne meeting in Sun Prairie	21 10 AM Pastor Dianne meeting in Verona 1 PM Choir Rehearsal	22 9:30 am Assemble Newsletter 6:30 pm. Ash Wednesday Worship	23 1-4 PM Pastor Dianne meeting in Sun Prairie	24	25 9:30. am Christian in Action Food Pantry
26 8:15 AM Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship and Kid's Sunday School Olson Baptism	27	28 1 PM Choir Rehearsal	29 6 pm. Lenten Soup & Study			
						18 Confirmation Retreat