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THE LAUNCHPAD

December 2011

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PASTOR'S CORNER

In the bleak season of winter a light of hope, warmth and beauty appears. Snowbirds linger to see and feel this light. Even secular people give gifts so that they can share in the light. Soldiers have stopped killing for a brief experience of the light. Those who have come to believe that they will not experience the light again sometimes take their own lives out of hopelessness and bitterness. The light does exist – I don't have a pronoun for the Holy Spirit – neither "he" nor "she" nor "it" seems to work – so you have to say "The Holy Spirit" is real and often comes powerfully at Christmas for those who are open to "The Holy Spirit."

As I write this I have been quite sick for a week and a half. I'll have one good day and then one bad – aching, runny nose, coughing, uncontrollable shaking every time I get a chill. It makes me wonder about the grace with which some of our people face life every day. I know that some of our people endure worse pain EVERY DAY than I've been experiencing these

few days – and many of them still go to work EVERY DAY and still are a blessing to the people around them. Perhaps they have some of the light that I have not yet received.

Our Annual Meeting happened on Nov. 20 – the budget and elected the committees for 2012 both can be found in this issue of the Launch Pad. Our district superintendent, Rev. Ted Anderson challenged us to 1. Organize outreach to people we aren't reaching now. 2. Learn with people who aren't attending church such as those at the tavern, school or fire hall. 3. Start a new worship service that will be for people who aren't attending church now. He highlighted the February 4th "Learn to Transform" district workshop day that will be at the Rush UMC. (Karen and I will be doing a full Friday Night and all day Saturday small group leader workshop in conjunction with that event).

Karen and I would like to invite you to an Open House

at the parsonage (39 Main Street, Livonia) from two until five on the afternoon of New Year's Eve. Come share the light.

Finally, I again want to encourage you to pray about who you might invite to the Christmas Eve service. It is the time when most people's resistance to things churchy is the very least of the year. This year will be almost totally musical and our special guest will be the Holy Spirit of God. The family service will be at 7 and the watch night service will be at 11:30. Don't tell me you have family obligations on Christmas Eve, tell your family that you would love to have them join you at church.

Blessings,
Pastor Dan

UMW/UMWC Quarterly Meeting December 3

All women of the church are invited to attend the Women's Group meeting on Saturday, December 3, at 9:30 AM in the gathering area. We will be deciding which missions to fund, and we will be planning for next year.

YOUTH GROUPS

Jr. High Youth Group NEW NIGHT

Fridays, Dec. 2nd & 16th 7-8 pm

In Fellowship Hall use side church entrance.

Grades 6-8th.

Sr. High Youth Group

Every Sunday, 6-7:30 pm

In Gathering Area, Grades 9-12th.

Leaders: Dave Bernacki, Duane Waldron, Matt Finch & Mike Burley

United Methodist Loans and Scholarships 2012

High school seniors and current college students, take note that United Methodist scholarship applications for the annual conference, and the general church will become available in January. Find information about the Bulson Loan at <http://www.unyumc.org/pages/detail/1559> , Upper NY Annual Conference Scholarships at <http://www.unyumc.org/pages/detail/1518> , and General Conference Loans and Scholarships at <http://www.unyumc.org/pages/detail/1434>.

Life Line Screening in our effort to save lives on **Thursday, January 5, 2012 at Livonia United Methodist Church**. I truly value the organizations who believe in our mission to help save lives by offering to support a preventive stroke/vascular screening event. On the Welcome Center you will find a **signup sheet** that is exclusively for our members. This sheet will allow for a chance to get a priority appointment and an opportunity to receive a discount of \$10 off the package price!

THRIFT SHOPPE CORNER NEWS

Hope all had a great Thanksgiving. It is such a wonderful holiday.

Christmas is right around the corner. We have some great treasures for gifts at our Thrift Shoppe and what you spend goes for a great mission for our community and church.

Our total amount for November, 2011 was \$1,760.25 and we donated \$176.00 to the Livonia Food Pantry.

The Thrift Shoppe donated men and women's clothing to the Open Door Mission, doilies for the Town Hall open house, victims of a house fire, and sheets were needed for a first aid course presentation.

Thank you goes to Bruce Johnson for the lovely sign he made us that was soo much needed. You all should stop in and admire our new sign. Thank you Bruce.

Our Thrift Shoppe hours are Thursday and Friday 9:00 – 4:00 and Saturday 9:00 – 2:00. If there is anyone who would like to donate his or her time during those days, even if it is only one hour, please call Beryl at 346-5989.

Come join us for some laughs, fellowship, and fun.

Look forward for info for the following:

Divorce Cares

Financial Peace University

Confirmation Class

Spaghetti Dinner



Wed., December 14th; 5-7 pm

At the United Methodist Church of Livonia. This will be the second Wednesday of every month. Meat sauce, salad, garlic bread & finger food desserts.

Adults \$6, child 10 yrs. and under \$3.

ZUMBA CLASS

The classes are Tuesdays @ 6 pm, and Saturdays @ 11:30 am. Cost is \$10.00 per person walk in, but if anyone wants to purchase a pre-paid punch card for 10 classes it brings the cost down to \$8.00 per class. Led by Sandy Spencer, ques. sandysmail@rochester.rr.com.

Library News

The Library is still available for you to use. Even though folks have moved and rearranged things, you are still welcome to sign out and read the books and use the tapes. We are hoping that we can get better organized this summer. We are looking forward to serving you.

--Bonnie Crichton, Librarian

Iraqi Refugees living in Turkey . . . An update

One step in the resettlement process is to complete a Church World Service "Interest" form. This form indicates that UMCL is interested in assisting a specific family, ie, *the Nwel family*, in relocating to the Rochester area. The form is submitted to the Department of State, the agency through which all refugees enter the US.

UMCL was notified in November that the Dept of State, for various reasons, has decided to stop accepting *Interest* forms from stateside relatives, friends, or churches. *This does not mean the Dept of State is not accepting refugees.*

Jim Morris, at Catholic Family Center in Rochester, says "..... our lack of ability to file the form does not hold up the family's own overseas processing which runs on a timeframe and process completely independent of whether there an *Interest* form is filed or not."

UMCL will be passing the *Interest* form on to Joyce Kurtbas, our missionary in Turkey, in case it is helpful for overseas processing.

So that's where we are. We'll continue to update you here as information becomes available.

Eileen Dutton

Introducing Our Newest Members

We welcomed new members on Sunday, November 20. We would like to introduce them to you.

Debra and Douglas Churchill are happily married and live on Livonia Center Road in Lima. They have two sons, Brian and Stephen. They have transferred their membership from Greece United Methodist Church to join us.

Sarah and Steve Hoff live on Jenks Road in Lima. They have one daughter, Stacey. They have transferred their membership from Rush United Methodist Church to join us.

Shirley Long has moved into the Lake Glen Apartments and is now closer to her daughter, Karen Finch (Pastor Dan Finch's wife). She has transferred her membership from Grace United Methodist Church to join us.

Phillip and Susan Schedlbauer live on Big Tree Road in Livonia. They have a daughter, Erin, and a handsome grandson. They have transferred their membership from the United Church of Christ in Honeoye to join us.

Bill Shull lives on Poplar Hill Road with his wife, Kim, and their two sons, Nathan and Logan. Bill has grown up in the church and now is officially a member.

Whether a long-attending person or someone quite new to our area and church, we are glad that these folks have made it "official". We look forward to many years working alongside them as we further the kingdom of Christ here in Livonia and beyond. Through thick and thin we are "in the trenches" together. Let us rejoice together always!

IGNITE SERVICE – Friday's 7:00 pm

Is Serving food and would like donations of soup, casseroles, cookies, please find sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center counter.

Hi Friends,

I want to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving day. Even though we can't find any turkey in Turkey we are still filled with thanks to our God for all His blessings.

Church News:

We have learned that our good friend, Tonin will not be able to return to Turkey. When he tried to enter Turkey they stopped him in the Turkish airport and would not allow him a visa. And they told him he can not return to Turkey for 5 years. Our church is so sad that he can't return. He was leading our college group and leading worship. He was a strong leader in our church and we will miss him, especially his good sense of humor. Please pray for Tonin, that God will give him a vision for what he should do now. Please pray for our church as we desperately need more leaders to work with us. We are praying that God will open a way for Tonin to come back.

There is a special police type group in Turkey. They spy on churches among other activities. I wrote before about how one of their spies became a Christian. We have been told there is another spy in our church. We don't know if this is true or not. Please pray that if there is one they will come to Christ. One of our members was recently taken for questioning by this police group and spent the night with them. He was not mistreated but was not free to leave when he wanted. Please pray for courage for our brothers and sisters.

We desire to see people more involved with praying. Please pray for our brothers and sisters to come together more and pray. Everyone has different pressures on their time but it is very important that we all can meet and pray with one another.

Esther's House:

We are grateful to our friends in Sweden for helping us. Our director, Margaret came from Sweden to visit and brought clothes. Please pray for our work with the refugees, that God will help us to give them the physical, emotional and spiritual support they need. We are having some trouble from our old landlord who sued us. Although we have done nothing wrong he won the court case and now we have to pay some large fines. Please pray that God will supply the funds we need.

Family news:

We weren't able to find a turkey but we are still looking forward to a special day to thank the Lord for his goodness to us. Sercan is doing better in school and we continue to pray for him to be better at remembering things. Michael is a normal three year old who loves to talk and eat. Please pray for Salih and I that we will understand how best to teach our boys about the love of God. With the news that Tonin will not be back we are feeling discouraged and greatly need the Lord to show us what we should do. The joy of the Lord is our strength. We had a recent visit from our friend, John from England and it was very encouraging for us. The Lord used John to help remind us that God is always with us in our battles.

May the Lord give you strength for the battles that you are facing daily. He is our source of strength and peace. May you all have a very happy Thanksgiving Day! Thank you for your support and prayers.

Rejoicing In Jesus,

Joyce
Missionary in Turkey



BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER

- 1 Judith Day Savage
Clara Drake
Bill Ewert
- 3 Noel Cronmiller
- 4 Douglas Young Jr.
- 5 Avery Stahl
Leah Kramer
Jennifer Smith
- 7 Bobby Phillips
- 8 Brian Sciera
Stephen Churchill
- 11 Barbara Blum
Bruce Johnson
Valerie Maxwell
- 12 Tom Dutton
- 12 George Rice
- 13 Joanne Palmer
- 14 Douglas Young Sr.
Betty Lou Barber
- 15 Joanne Heinsler
- 16 Cherie DeWater
- 17 Dave Woodruff
- 18 Carrie Adamson
Morabito
- 22 Judy Baker
Cody Cronmiller
Desiree Weldy
- 23 Carlton Maxwell

- 24 David Baker Sr.
David Baker Jr.
- 25 Dottie Woodruff
- 26 Erin Schedlbauer
- 27 Ed Dutra
Jamie Carestio
Matt Rowe
Kyle Barcomb
- 28 Janet Marshall
Mandy Freeberg
- 30 Daniel Ely
- 31 Haley Woodruff

Prayer Concerns

Sylvia Woolston— at Mount Morris Nursing home
Dick Woodruff— at Murry Hill Nursing Home, Dottie Woodruff's husband
Joyce Kurtbas—our missionary to Turkey
John & Wynne Woodruff
Shane Howard
Heidi Rowley—Margaret Downey's great niece.
Kristie Rush—cancer—friend of Sue Nietsche
Anne Mawson's father, Parkinson disease
Terry Proctor, in rehab at Mt. Morris
Niece going through a rough time—
Gary Parisella
Cliff Keppen, Jr.-Cancer-Dawn
McMurtry's dad
Doreen Barcomb-looking for a job
Al & Kay Clancy— medical issues
Joyce Lasch's 7 yr old friend—very ill
BettyLou Barber—Dean Meyer,
Jayne Richardson

ANNIVERSARIES

December

- 1 Dave & Linda Woodruff 2000
20 David & Judy Baker 1975
23 Pat & Susan Magin 1972
28 Larry & Marlene Kramer 1985
29 Garry & Mimi Dutton 1978

Anne Mawson—The Zipp family
George Gauer, blood disorder, needs a lung transplant
Pete, liver cancer, Bill Hendrix's father-in-law
Carrie Burley—mursa infection—Mike & Flint Burley's Mother
Donna Blasko-throat cancer-Kim & John Gebo's aunt
Neal Nehrbass—Parisella's bother-in-law
Kirstie Mosher...her platelets went back down —Sharon Mosher
Sandy Reandean— Lupus—Betty Lou Barber's niece
Gilbert Rowley-health concerns—
Dick's dad
Debra Price, spot on lung, John Hall's niece

Sympathy went out to Meg Lemen and family, her mother Elizabeth Greene passed away.

Sympathy went out to Dick Rowley and family, his mother passed away.

Sympathy went out to Joan Luckebach, her husband, Norman passed away.

Operation Christmas Child.

Thanks to all the people that have been providing shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

The tally :

- UMCL 106 boxes
- South Livonia 25
- St Matts 4

Confirmation Class 2012

This class is offered every even numbered year from January to Pentecost (this year – May 27) for anyone who wishes to be baptized or to publicly confirm their infant baptism. The class is led by Pastor Dan with a great deal of help from the parents of the young people. This class is for high school age or above. High schoolers are expected to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. We will visit several other Christian churches and a synagogue, mosque and messianic church as part of the class. We will study and discuss the basic beliefs, history and practices of Christianity. The tentative times for our weekly meetings will be Sunday nights from 4:25 until 5:30. First class will be January 8, 2012 at 4:25. Questions – dandelion7@juno.com.

Heifer Project

November’s Spaghetti Dinner fundraising half the profit went to the Heifer Project. We were able to send \$822 including individuals who wanted to donate. We purchased a heifer and one share in another heifer, one water buffalo and a flock of chickens. Thank you to all who contributed and ate spaghetti!!!

**November STEWARDSHIP RECORD
Unified OFFERINGS**

Pledges & Envelopes.....	\$ 18,206.67
Loose Offering.....	\$521.61
Pledges for Mortgage.....	\$8,390.00
— Fund Raising	\$4364.60
Building use.....	\$510.00
Sunday School.....	\$45.90
Thurston Fund.....	\$200.00
Ignite	\$348.50
Starting balance (2011)	\$5,093.51
Total Income for the year to date ..	
\$363,839.77	
Total Expenses for the year to date ...	
\$361,831.40	
Ending balance as of Nov	\$7,001.88



Those Remembered Sunday, November 20th

Norman Luckenbach 11/13/11— Joan Luckenbach & Church
Tammy Gordon—11/11—Joan Luckenbach
Joe Shannon—10/11—Fran Shannon & Family
Amy Low—8/11—Fran Shannon & Family
Jackie Shannon—1/11—Fran Shannon & Family
Grace Shannon—3/11—Fran Shannon & Family
Marg Foos—10/11—Fran Shannon, Annabelle Foos & Family
Dean Stanley—6/18/11—Shirley Long & Finch Family
Martha Denietolis—5/11—Shirley Long & Finch Family
Alice Rowley—10/8/11—Dick & Karen Rowley
John Vance—11/15/11—The Young Family
Shirley VanDerMeid—9/1/11- Sue & Gene Nietsche
Grace Lockwood—8/11—Clif & Bonnie Wright
Theresa Swift—2-13-11—Eunice Gerould
Mildred Kurtz—5-6-11—Eunice Gerould
Harvey Rader—Spring/11—Gladys & Russell Smith
Bret Hoefen—11/12/11—Lee & Sharon Auble & The Murphey's
Richard Noyes—5/11—Susan Bell & Church
Bill White—2/15/11—Church
Glenn Wingate—5/6/11—The Schubert's
Betty Forman—5/1/11- Ed & Sally Schubert
Amanda Hanna—6/22/11- Gary, Carol & Matt Parisella & The Hanna Family
Shirley VanDerMeid—9/1/11—The VanDerMeid Family
Margaret M. Kemp—6/13/11—Jim & Dolly Kemp
Demyrl Harter—11/11—Margaret Downey
Lois Wingate- 9/29/10- Beverly Rawlings
Eric Vandlievert—8/24/11—Steve & Laurie Parfitt, Jamie Rossborough & Family
Brent Rossborough—11/7/11- Steve & Laurie Parfitt
Ken Parfitt- 12/19/10—Steve & Laurie Parfitt
Laurie Burdick—3/20/11—Joanne Heinsler
George—9/11—Joanne Heinsler
Joseph Gordon- 3/24/11—Joanne Heinsler
Butch Kenyon—10/11—Joanne Heinsler
Ricky Torres—7/11—Joanne Heinsler
Jonah Silverberg—4/11—Joanne Heinsler
Georgie Caldarelli—4/11- Sarah Howard
Jack Blair—7/11/11—Dave & Linda Woodruff
Charlotte Gilbert—9/27/11—John & Melinda Sciera & Family
Billy Cook—7/6/2008—Sonia Miller & Bill Cook
Marilyn Sarr- 10/11—Woodruff Family
Jack Chapman—2/28/11- Carol & Bill Ewert
Al Barone—11/15/11- Carol & Bill Ewert
James Jordan—The Finch, Jordan & Peck Families

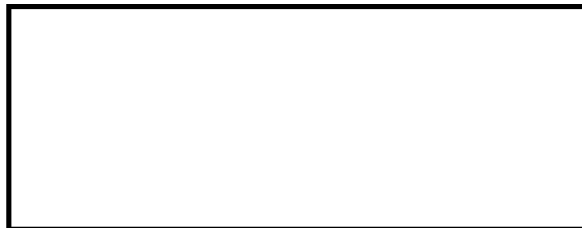


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"BUILDING OUR WORLD
AROUND CHRIST"

**Christmas Eve
Services**

7:00 PM
Family Service
11:30 PM
Candlelight Service

Services @ UMCL

Friday Services **IGNITE @ 7 pm**
Sunday Services **8:00, 9:15, 10:30 am**
Sunday School **9:15 am**
Jr. Church **10:45 am**
Sr. High Youth Group Sundays 6-7:30 pm
Jr. High (6-8 gr.) Friday, Dec. 2 & 16, 7-8 pm
Christmas & New Year's Days 10:00 am service only

Spaghetti Dinner, Wed., Dec. 14th; 5-7 pm
With Jam session in Sanctuary 4-7 pm

Christmas Cantata, Dec. 18 @ 4 pm in Sanctuary

Blood Drive, Thursday, Dec. 29th 1-6

Meetings
Dec. 6th SPRC @ 7:00 pm
Dec. 27th—Small Group Leaders meet @ Pastor Dan's 7:00 pm