



THE LAUNCHPAD

February 2010

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PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

Karen and I want to invite all of you to the wedding of our son, Matthew James Finch to Anne Rodman on March 21, 2010 – during the morning worship service. We hope that you will join us as we celebrate together as a community – as the “y’all” of the Bible that I’ve been preaching about all through Philippians (and the rest of the New Testament). As Paul says, “You (all) will make my joy complete...” if you show your love for each other and if you share this joy with us.

Those of you who read this newsletter and who don’t listen to our services on WYSL or on the internet and who haven’t been with the church in worship during January may not have heard our “good news.” The best news is that several of our high school students and their parents are examining their faith and considering whether or not they will make a public confirmation of their baptisms. Another item of good news is that we have received the full \$24,000 that we needed to complete the \$100,000 for the balloon payment on the church mortgage. This is more amazing because you came through even though we have been experiencing the worst recession of the last 60 years. You did not let fear rule you. You prayed and responded by faith. Some of our people are unemployed or underemployed or were otherwise unable to step up in this way. Perhaps they helped Sally and Ed with the spaghetti dinners. Those spaghetti dinners were the difference in putting us over the top.

Some other good news is that the United Methodist Committee on Relief or UMCOR is alive and well even though two of their top executives were killed in the Haiti earthquake. I’m so grateful that the world is at work in

Haiti and I’m proud of our United States response through the military to save lives and begin rebuilding this ravaged country, but the churches were there before the earthquake and the churches will still be there when everyone else is caught up in working on the next great tragedy. I remain convinced that UMCOR is the best organization there is for helping people in trouble. The Red Cross is great and it is huge and there are times when you need huge so I support the Red Cross. But UMCOR doesn’t take big percentages of disaster gifts and spend them on executives’ salaries or more advertising. All of UMCOR’s overhead is provided every week by churches like ours as we give our normal tithes and offerings. Then, when disaster strikes, all the monies given go to help the people that the givers intended to help. We have seen this work for decades now and so I urge you, that if you feel a call from God to give toward the Haiti disaster (or any other) to give through UMCOR. If you give through the church I suggest that you just write “Haiti” on your check or envelope and we will make sure that UMCOR Haiti receives it.

Did you know that we have a former national 4-wheeler champion among us? Christopher “Buck” Lynn has offered to teach a 4-wheel safety course to anyone who is interested. This is a test – if a few of you might be interested and call the church office (346-3511) then we will offer this course for you and the community. Buck will be marrying Rossanne Pernicone here at the church May 29th.

Our prayers are with Steve Shull as he is deployed to the Middle East by the United States Army Reserves. The church is accepting applications for the temporary position of church custodian while Steve is gone. The church and especially his small group is being called to support his family while Steve is away.

February is Valentine’s Day for the

rest of the world. That isn’t a real church holiday – but I always remind the husbands and boyfriends not to forget it. I guarantee you that she is hoping that you will tell her again how much she means to you. Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her.

Finally, I am about to do a new round of Small Group Leader trainings for our church and for several other churches. This extremely important and very rewarding ministry may be exactly what you have been looking for. If you’d like to talk about this, then I’d like to talk to you.

Blessings,
Pastor Dan



Open hearts

Open minds

Open doors

The people of the United Methodist Church welcome you.

Uth Groups

Attention 7th, 8th and 9th Graders and their parents:

The Youth group dates for February have been changed to Feb. 3 and Feb. 24 - both are Wednesdays. We will continue with a Wednesday night schedule as we go into March. Times are 6:00-7:00 P.M.

Also, Spring Fling at Houghton College on March 26 (an "all-nighter!"), with us returning to Livonia the morning of March 27. Plan on attending. Details to follow. We will need parent chaperones and parent drivers both ways PLEASE. Contact Duane Waldron

Spaghetti Dinner,

Wed. Feb. 10th; 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. The dinner will benefit Faith In Action.

Cardio/aerobic

The United Methodist Church of Livonia will be hosting cardio/aerobic classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 PM. Classes are taught by Kathy Olson. Please bring your own water bottle, floor mat, sneakers and light hand weights.

Book Store & Gifts

If they want to special order any specific book or new bibles for Christmas gifts/ to see Lori Shull. All profits will be starting scholarships for those who would like to attend Summer camps at Asbury & Findley. Will be open between services only.

Disciples Class: we are looking to start in April when our snow birds return. If interested please call Cheryl mc Dougall at 243-4612.

PIZZA/PIZZA—pick up date at church Feb. 20, 10:30—Noon; Troop 174 Boy Scouts are taking orders for pizza from Feb 1-20 to raise money for a High Adventure Seabase Trip. UMW will sell again later in the spring.

Fed by Faith –Feb. 21, 4-6pm @ Church

Beginning in February, a new endeavor to reach out to serve led by Linda Futter, Alan Harrer and Melinda Sciera.... **"Fed by Faith"** will provide a light, hot meal for individuals and/or families in our community who are struggling financially. This is *not* a church fellowship activity or a fund-raiser. It is the seedling of Alan's vision for UMCL's own "soup kitchen". Information will be posted at local food pantries and at our own Thrift Shoppe, as well as circulated to pastors, school personnel and others in the area who are in a position to identify those in need. We will begin on a once-a-month schedule. UMCL volunteers will be needed to help cook, serve and clean up. There will be a sign-up poster in the gathering area. Please lift this endeavor in prayer. As Paul said to the Philippians, "Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others". Philippians 2:4

Weight Watchers Group Mondays

@ 6:15 pm at Church. If interested please join us. We have a great group.

Thrift Shoppe

Every Fri. 9 am-3 pm & Sat. 9 am-1 pm @ 6 Spring Street.

Also for donations and drop offs—

Monday, 9 am– 1 pm.

Thrift Shoppe (oh. that pe!) is still looking for folks who will substitute at the desk on an as needed basis. Please sign up at the church or call Cheryl Mc Dougall 243-4612. thank you.

Wednesday Social Luncheons @ Church, Noon Feb 3-17th then during lent, lunch will be served at the Livonia Center Pres. Church

Join us for homemade soup and sandwiches, devotion and activity.

Church Family Updates

Please stop by the table outside the sanctuary and in the binder provide updates for the following:

Birthdays Anniversary Telephone #'s

If you are new to our church within the past year you probably are not on any of these lists please check and add your name.

Custodial/Maintenance Position

For our Church, 15 hours weekly
Please contact the office 346-3511
if you are interested.

Teresa House High Tea

Fund raiser for Teresa House, a
comfort care home in Geneseo, NY
\$10 per person
Tables of 4, 6 or 8
March 13, 2010 at 2:00 (doors open
for setting up at 1:30) at the UMC
of Livonia tea and sweets provided;
you create your own theme and deco-
rate your 80 inch round table
Call Teresa House @ 243-1978 for
reservations or more information

Parents,

Please be reminded that Sunday
School begins at 9:15 and ends at
10:15. Please do not leave your
child in his/her classroom before
9:10. Teachers need time to finish
lesson preparation cannot provide
supervision for children. Thank
you!

Marty Waldron & Amy Evans

"Thanks" To Bonnie Wright, Connie Orme,
Marty Heuer, Sally Schubert for cleaning
during Shull's vacation.

Tuesday, March 16, 2010 will be a **District Day** in
the Genesee Valley District. There will be three
sessions on this day to present the changes which will be
effective July 1, 2010 as it relates to the local church and
clergy.

A morning session will be for Clergy; an afternoon
session will be for Retired Clergy; and an evening
session will be for Laity. All three sessions will be
held at Victor UMC located at 106 East Main
Street, Victor NY 14564.

We are asking you to spread the word to your con-
gregations. More information will be forthcoming
however we would ask that you hold the date on
your calendar.

SMALL GROUPS

YOU are welcome and encouraged to join a
small group, the joy, friendship, belonging!

Family Matters Group (Rhonda & Chip How-
ard 346-9478)

God & Games Group (Sarah Hoff, 624-3653
or sarah.hoff@earthlink.net)
2nd and 4th Thursdays 6:30-8:30 at Sarah's 7114
Jenks Road, Lima. Bible study, snack and games
(board or card).

Men's Group (Russ Mosher 624-4711)
Sundays, 8:00 am in conference room.

Women's Group (Ronda Howard 346-9478)

Couple's Group (Alicia Mahnke 346-5606)
Every other Friday @ Church.
Dinner-dish to pass 5-6 pm; Bible study 6:15-
7:30 pm
Childcare available call Alicia 346-5606 for
more info.

Parents in Transition (Mimi Dutton 367-2069)
Parent(s) with older kids or empty nesters, here's
a group for you. Bring a dish to pass supper, Bi-
ble Study (call Linda Futter 346-6199 for when
and where).

Serendipity Endeavors
Helping hands, serving our community.
If this group interests you, please call Marty
Heuer at 346-5397.

Divorce Cares (Gene & Sue Nietzsche)
We will begin a new session in May 2010

Single's Group (Sue Bell 346-6299)
Will resume soon @ Church w/ Dinner, Fellow-
ship.....

Marriage Bible Study (Erin & Dave Bills 346-
5915) Thursdays, 7:00 pm please call for info.

****NEW** Small Group**

If you are interested in forming a group of health care pro-
fessionals (nurses, NP, PA's etc) then please contact
Cheryl Long at zumalong@gmail.com or 346-
2636

Please contact the Church office (346-3511) if
you would like to start a group or have an idea
for a group you would like to have start.

Need health resources or support services for yourself, an aging family member or a disabled loved one? Do you know about the many health resources available to you? *NY Connects Livingston County* can help! Call 1-888-443-7520 or visit www.NYConnectsLivingstonCounty.org. Friendly, knowledgeable case managers can also help connect you to resources and services! This is a confidential, FREE service! Available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week; supported by local organizations.



Health kits for Haiti:

The UMC of Webster is a regional collection site for Health kits for Haiti. Drop off at the church (**169 East Main St, Webster**) weekdays – 9:30 am to 4:30 pm – **deadline, February 12**. February 14th they will be taken to the next stop. [A change in the health kits – NO toothpaste](#)...instead, please attach an envelop on the outside of kit – with \$1 in it for toothpaste. UMCOR will buy the toothpaste – ensuring that no expired toothpaste is shipped. Bulk quantities of single items may also be donated. Kit contents: see <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies/health-kit>.

Health kit contents: place inside a gallon Ziploc bag

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", No kitchen towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, No child-size brushes)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

\$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

(NOTE: UMCOR Sager Brown is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the

Willie Santiago to visit Genesee Valley District

The Church is alive and well in Cuba!

Willie Santiago from the Cuba Connection Ministries will be here in the Genesee Valley District ... March 18-26! Willie is a Methodist who works ecumenically and with government agencies in Cuba to bring about the transformation of lives for Jesus Christ. He has a tremendous story to tell of Christians and the Church alive in Cuba today! Call Betsy in the District Office (585-340-9525) to reserve a time to share with Willie! Willie would delight to speak at breakfast, lunch or dinner...with United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men...or United Methodist Youth...the whole church! He could be part of a Worship experience...Bible Study...special meeting...Be creative...Willie is! Let's turn out to give Willie a warm and hospitable Genesee Valley District welcome by inviting him to be part of something! Thanks for extending the connection...and for seeking to understand mission!



February

- 2 Colby Wright
 7 Becca Malinowski
 Bill Reome
 9 Chip Howard
 10 Leigh Thompson
 11 Karen Finch
 12 Leigha Tilton
 Connie Orme
 Brian Churchill
 15 Justin Baker
 14 Graceanne Thompson
 16 Alyssa Reome
 17 Ellie DeClerk
 Lisa Mallaber
 Erin Bills
 18 Brian Baker
 Pat Titus
 Ed Eck
 Wayne Malinowski
 19 Mike Marshall
 20 Richard Noyes
 Doug Churchill
 Leonard Broseker
 21 Scott Bishopp
 23 Terry Foster
 Alexia Woodruff
 24 Melinda Sciera

BIRTHDAY'S

- 24 Rev. Dave Geer
 26 Amy Freese
 27 Paige Mahnke

ANNIVERSARIES

- February
 7 Tom & Eileen Dutton 1993
 12 John & Melinda Sciera 1983

Joyce and I would like to extend a heartfelt "Thank-you" to everyone for all the prayers and support over these last few months as we suffered the loss of my sister Melanie, Aunt Wilma and my niece Pam. It has been a rough period in our lives but with the support of our church family and the grace of God, we will come out of it. Again, thanks to All!!
 Tim Lasch

Emergency Response Training

In the midst of the most turbulent storms, UMCOR is on the ground to help rebuild, walk with survivors and stay until the job is done.

UMCOR's domestic disaster response personnel and specially-trained early response volunteer teams stand ready to be dispatched as storms develop.

Are you in the picture? When the storms come, will you be ready? If others cry out will you go?

The next UMCOR Emergency Response Training in upper New York is **March 13, 2010 at Clifton Springs United Methodist Church. Register by February 28 by phone or email to Roger Cullen, rcullen1@rochester.rr.com (585-582-6375).** Roger Cullen, 9 Fox Hollow Lane, Ionia, NY 14475; Ph: (585) 582-6375

Prayer Concerns

Sylvia Woolston— at The Water's of Houghton

Inez Stekl—in nursing home in Canadagua

Cynthia Lanphear— alzheimers— Karen Malinowski's mother.

Don Merwin —cancer of the throat—friend of Bev Rawlings

Joyce Kurtbas—our missionary to Turkey

John & Wynn Woodruff

Bill Evans—congestive heart failure- Roger's father

Bill & Shirley Vandermied— Conesus Lake Nursing Home

Dave McLaughlin—throat cancer

Tom Walker— Cancer

Don LeFeber—stroke— Lucille's husband

Shane Howard

Heidi Rowley—spot on her lung, Margaret Downey's great niece.

Betty Lou Barber—kidney stones—recuperating at home

February Sermon's

Feb. 7th— "Healthy Confidence Through Prayer" Philippians 4:2-9

Feb. 14th— "Contentment in All Things" Philippians 4:10-23

Feb. 17th—Ash Wednesday Services 11:30 am & 7:00 pm

Feb. 21st— Lent Luke 4:1-13

Feb. 28th— Lent Luke 13:31-35

Quote of the Day. "He didn't think of the ramifications, I guess. You can't expect the whole world to know what this ritual is all about. I would suggest, pray on the plane and put the tefillin on later on. Pray, and fulfill the ritual later." *Rabbi Shmuel Greenberg, White Plains, NY, on a young man from his congregation who caused a panic on board a jet as he put on the small leather boxes attached to leather straps that observant Jews wear during morning prayers. A flight attendant thought it looked ominous, as if the young man were wrapping himself in cables or wires, and the plane was diverted to Philadelphia.* (New York Times)

**JANUARY STEWARDSHIP RECORD
Unified OFFERINGS**

Carried Forward from 2009.....	\$4,033.35
Pledges & Envelopes.....	\$ 17,502.00
Loose Offering.....	\$608.89
Sunday School.. ..	\$65.81
Pledges for Mortgage.....	\$13,219.25
Fund Raising	\$2,390.00
Building use.....	\$600.00
Total Unified Income	\$36,029.30
Total Expenses for January.....	\$26,245.83

Benev. Income: UMCOR (Haiti).. \$865.00

Balloon Payment....\$3,900.00



A Holy God; a surrendered life; a fearful thing

By Rick Warren

Richard Baxter once said, “A surrendered life in the hands of a holy God is a fearful thing.”

That’s where we need to be as we lead our congregations toward total surrender to God.

What does it mean to be surrendered to God? The Bible’s word for surrender is also the word for brokenness. We know from the Bible that God uses broken vessels. It’s a divine principle.

The greatest example of this is Jesus. In Luke 22:42, Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” (NIV) In the New Testament, ‘cup’ always represents suffering. When Jesus looked into that cup, he saw every sin ever committed. You know that – every sin committed by me, and by you, and by the members of our congregations.

He saw every reason why I shouldn’t be a pastor; yet, he still called me to be one. He saw every reason why you shouldn’t be a pastor; yet, he still called you to be one. Get this – he saw every attack made upon you because you are the leader of your congregation. He saw every lie told about you; he saw every misunderstanding caused by selfish intentions; he saw betrayal. Yet, he still called the people of your congregation to be his own, and he asked you to be their shepherd.

Jesus looked into that cup of suffering and saw he’d be shouldering the blame for all those sins. He was the good Shepherd. He looked into that cup of suffering and said, “Father, if it is possible take this cup away from me. But nevertheless, not my will but your will be done.” That’s surrender! That’s total submission to the Father. That’s brokenness.

It shows us a divine principle: God takes us, he breaks us, he blesses us, and then he uses us. But, in order to use us, we need to be broken of our own sin and pride, just as Isaiah cried out, ‘I am a man of unclean lips,’ when he came face-to-face with Holy, Holy, Holy, the Lord, God, Almighty.

God will never “reject a broken and repentant heart.” (Psalm 51:17 NLT)

God cannot use us to the fullest extent until we come to our own Gethsemane. We need to come to a place, and then remain at that place, where we say, “Father, not my will, not my ambition, not my desire to be popular, not anything, but *your will* be done.”

When we do that, God will do all kinds of amazing things through us. But it starts with brokenness. God will never “reject a broken and repentant heart.” (Psalm 51:17 NLT) He promises us that.

I’ve told my staff many times we don’t want to hire anyone who hasn’t had problems in life. They’re usually not very effective in ministry. I want people who have been broken. It makes people more real; it makes them more honest.

Why do we need our hearts broken? We need broken hearts over what’s happening in the world. Bob Pierce, who founded World Vision, said it like this: “Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God.”

God is looking for spiritual leaders who have surrendered everything to him.

May you and I both become that kind of leader for Christ.

Mission News from Turkey

Dear Friends,

The New Year celebration in Turkey is a big holiday. People buy gifts for each other and children look forward to Santa coming. Many people are looking forward to changes in the coming year. We know that our God is in control and we can trust him to care for us each day.

Church News:

There was a large gathering for Christmas. Many people came to celebrate our Lord's birth. Many refugees came and a couple people who are curious about Christianity. Even though we are having rather cold weather, the church is still being visited by those who want to know more about Jesus. Bibles and other materials are often given out but what often reaches people is what they see among the Christians. The love of God is drawing people to Christ.

There continues to be much opposition faced by our young members. One young man who works for a grocery store and lives at home has been attending for a while. His father recently told him to stop going to church. Another young college student fears returning to her family for the holiday because they may learn she is a Christian. So often it is opposition from family members that is the hardest to face. Please pray for Yigit and Birgul as they deal with their families.

We are thankful to God that we were able to expand our sanctuary. We now have more room for everyone to sit comfortably. It is a joy to worship together with all our brothers and sisters.

Family News:

The Lord is helping me adjust to the loss of my mom. It is good to be busy with my boys and my little church family here. Thank you all for praying for me. Please continue to pray for Michael's adoption. It was not started this month but we hope it will be started in February.

Please pray for good health for all. I am not doing very well. I was healthy for two weeks but now again I have some kind of respiratory infection. Please pray for Priscila, she is due in mid February to give birth to their first child. She and Daniel have only been in Turkey a short while but have become a special part of our fellowship.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. God is so faithful and we rejoice in all He is doing in Turkey.

Rejoicing in Jesus,
Joyce

Happenings @ UMCL

Social Lunch Every Wednesday @ noon
Feb 3-17th (then during lent, lunch will be served at the Livonia Center Pres. Church)

Cardio/aerobic classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays
from 6:30-7:30 PM

7-9th grade youth group will be on **Wed.** Feb. 3 and Feb. 17, 6-7 pm.

Spaghetti Dinner, Wed. Feb. 10th; 5-7 pm
Proceeds will go the Faith In Action

Feb. 17th—Ash Wednesday Services
11:30 am & 7:00 pm @ Church

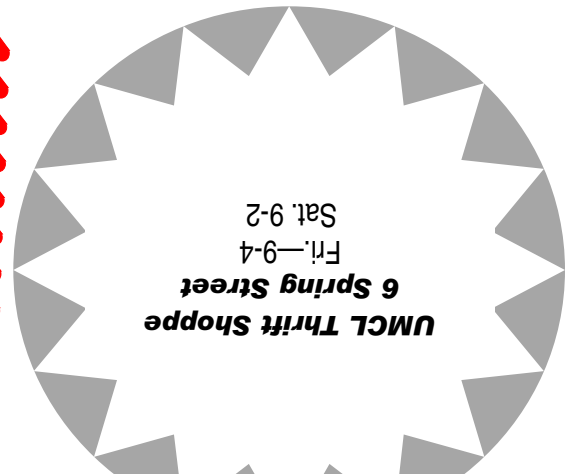
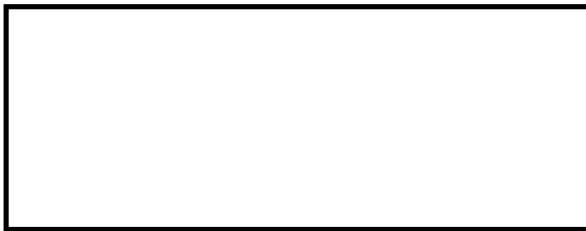
PIZZA/PIZZA—pick up date at church Feb. 20, 10:30—Noon

Fed By Faith—Feb. 21, 4-6pm @ Church
Soup & Sandwich Dinner 4-6 pm in FH

Meetings
Feb. 15th—Trustee's Meeting @ Church 7:00 pm



"BUILDING OUR WORLD
AROUND CHRIST"



UMCL Thrift Shoppe
6 Spring Street
Fri.—9-4
Sat. 9-2

Address Service Requested

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Livonia, New York 14487-0023
Phone: 585-346-3511
www.livoniamethodistchurch.com
Email: UCL@frontier.net
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