



THE LAUNCHPAD

June 2010

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PASTOR'S CORNER

I watched the final show of LOST last night. This program has been extremely popular for the last few years with its strong characters and quirky aura of mystery. If you liked it, then you watched it and kept trying to figure out what was going on with the smoke guy and the "others" and the computer guy and even with time shifting. Well, the ending was predicted to have a huge U.S. and Canadian audience so I had to see it and I'm not sure that I understand it totally, but it looked to me as though the whole time on the island for the LOST people might be considered their shared time in purgatory- where time doesn't exactly exist – that they were dead but needed to go through some trials in order to cleanse their souls to prepare them for the next life. Purgatory is only in the Roman Catholic bible, it isn't in the Jewish or Christian bibles, but I was pleased to see Hollywood at least dabble in theology. What I noticed was the stained glass window in the church that was the final antechamber before the next life. That window had square panes with a cross of David of Judaism, a crescent and star of Islam, a cross of Christianity, a ying and yang of Hinduism and several other symbols of current religions. I think the message from Hollywood was the very common belief that this antechamber was where all sincere religions lead people. It makes so much sense doesn't it? It feels good to think that sincere people trying to follow their chosen faith will all arrive at the same place. Most of us want this to be true and most people try to find support for what ever they want to believe. Plus, we know by now that sometimes different people can look at the same things and see them very differently, and there are very bright, very convincing people in each of the current world religions so maybe the safest bet is that they are all right.

There are a few problems with the universal salvation of sincere believers belief though. One big one is that sincere Christians believe that Jesus was resurrected from the dead as he predicted he would be. Islam flatly claims that he wasn't resurrected and wasn't even crucified. That seems like a basic disagreement – not just seeing something from different points of view. That's more like, "is two plus two equal to four or not." Actually, I think that if Jesus wasn't resurrected from the dead then Christianity would have no claim to truth at all. So, either he was resurrected from the dead and Christianity is true, or he wasn't and Christianity shouldn't even exist. But the other common current belief is that nice people go to heaven and if that is true then it doesn't matter whether Jesus was resurrected or not – all you have to be is nice – and you can believe in one nice religion or another nice religion, and as long as you are nice, you'll be fine. ..except the Bible says that no one is really nice and that every human needs the righteousness, forgiveness and love that only comes through the blood of Jesus the Messiah or they will remain self centered in this life and (I hate to say damned) without eternal life in the next. Now that is just very counter cultural and not nice. But it is what the Bible says. I want to thank Phil and Sue Shedlbauer, Mimi and Gary Dutton and John Williams for surveying our congregation this month as part of our process of becoming a more missional church. They will be asking some of you to answer a few questions – possibly between services at the church. The answers to these questions will help our consultants help us. Thank you, too,

for taking the time to give thoughtful answers. Soon after you receive this newsletter (early June), our own Sgt. Steve Shull will be sent overseas to one of our wars (where he is going has already changed a few times). We are grateful for the young men and women like him who are willing to place themselves in harms way, endure physical hardships and perhaps be called on to make war upon others so that their country can keep from being attacked or controlled by other countries. Of course all Christians hate war and seek good relationships in every other way possible, but we honor those who seek to restore loving relationships in this way when it becomes necessary. Please let Steve know that you are praying for him and, of course, that you will be helping Lorie and the kids in his absence. Blessings,
Pastor Dan



Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors

The people of the United Methodist Church welcome you.

Uth Groups

7th, 8th and 9th grade youth group - We are planning to meet on June 9th and 23rd 6:00-7:00 P.M. It's an hour of fun, usually with food, and just a moment or two of seriousness thrown in for good measure. Bring your friends - see you there!

KINGDOM BOUND 2010 at Darien Lakes Theme Park - AUGUST 3 and 4 (OPEN TO ALL YOUTH WHO WILL BE ENTERING GRADES 7-12 THIS FALL) Join us for 2 days of rides, hanging out, and taking in God's Word through the nation's top Christian bands and other performing artists and speakers. More information will be handed out soon - be on the lookout for it. Again, plan on bringing your friends - they'll love it! Duane Waldron & Dave Bernacki

Spaghetti Dinner,

Wed. June 9th; 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.

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.

Pot Luck Lunch, Sunday, July 11, 2010

Following 10:30 am service sponsored by **Fed by Faith**

EVERYONE WELCOME!!!! Join us and bring a neighbor or friend!!!!

Livonia Methodist Women's Circle

The next meeting of the **United Methodist Women** and the Livonia Methodist Women's Circle will be on August 28 at 9:30 in the gathering area. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Anyone willing to work on **craft projects** for the fall craft sale at the Turkey Dinner on September 25, please contact Jean Geer for more information.

Weight Watchers Group Mondays

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

THRIFT SHOPPE CORNER NEWS

The Thrift Shoppe was very very busy the month of April. Our total amount for the month of April was **\$2,484.85.** We donated **\$248.00** to the Food Pantry. We will be donating 10% to the paving of the driveway at the Summer Street church the month of May. We have made this year Jan - May \$8,815.00.

Our Thrift Shoppe donated items to the Mama Cindy's military fund, Props & Clothes for the Livonia Middle School Play, clothes to the Open Door Mission, women and children's clothes to the YWCA, Salvation Army, and the Livonia Fire House. We would like to thank everyone who has donated his or her time to work in many different areas and also donated items for us to sell.

Please come and join our great mission for our church and community.

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 Margaret Downey.

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

Dear Friends,

Spring has arrived in Eskisehir. It is such a joy to go outside and enjoy the lovely weather. I hope you all have opportunities to enjoy God's wonderful gift of Spring.

Church news:

Please pray for those attending a new class that Salih is teaching on the Old Testament. The young men who attend are both college students. Thank you for praying for the college girls. Please especially keep Birgul in prayer. She has suffered much in her past and at times has trouble understanding how to relate to Father God and his love.

Ismael, a young man in prison, has been transferred to a work prison. This is a special blessing because where he was before he suffered much for being a Christian. The persecution is not as bad where he is now. He is due to be released in ten months. Please pray for Salih's visits, that they will be times of real encouragement for Ismael.

Please pray for the Korean couple that are working with us. Gengis and Suna have two teenage children. Their daughter Esra, plays keyboard for worship and Gengis plays guitar. All of them need prayer for learning more Turkish. The other couple who are working with us, Daniel and Priscila, need prayer concerning Priscila's american citizenship. She is from Brazil and has been told she must go back to the States twice. Once just for fingerprints and the second time for the actual test and swearing in. Please pray they will find a way not to have to go to the States twice. It may be possible for her to get fingerprinted in Greece. The embassy here will not do it.

We continue to see people coming to the church every week with questions. Please pray for those who are truly seeking God that they will not fear man and be bold. Please pray for God's protection on our church and our congregation. Not all those who visit the church have good motives.

Family news:

Thank you for praying for our family. Sercan is doing well in school. He still struggles with speaking both in Turkish and English. He is a very shy boy even with his mom and dad. Please continue to pray for Michael's adoption. We had thought it would be possible to try again here in Eskisehir but we have learned we must go to a different city.

May God richly bless you all with much joy. Thank you for your prayers and support. God is growing His church in Turkey and we are grateful for your help.

Joyce

Missionary in Turkey



JUNE

- 1 Mike Mallaber
 2 Ashley Coakley
 3 Audean Galigardy
 4 Scott Sciera
 Phillip Tilton
 Linda Reuther
 4 Dakota Fugle
 5 Cynthia Morgan
 9 Marc Connolly
 Melyssa Lembke
 10 Marlene Pike
 12 Eric Gott
 Shirley VanDerMeid
 14 Ron Palmer
 Ron Fugle
 15 Cathy Clancy
 Tom Lemen
 18 Sarah Howard
 19 Kevin Rathbun
 20 McKenzie Mallaber
 21 Ellen Jopson
 22 Charles Braun
 22 Jean Geer
 23 Hannah Weldy
 Hailey Weldy
 25 William Reuther

BIRTHDAY'S

- 26 Wynne Woodruff
 Bonnie Thorp
 27 Roma Emery
 Hanna Mae Thompson
 28 Steve Futter
 Dave Tilton
 30 Sally Schubert

ANNIVERSARIES

JUNE

- 10 William & Linda Reuther 1972
 12 Ed Jen Dutra 1993
 13 Doug & Darcy Young 1981
 13 Wayne & Karen Malinowski 1982
 15 Clif & Bonnie Wright 1985
 16 Jack & Nancy VanDerMeid 1956
 19 George & Nancy Rice 1982
 20 Dan & Margaret Downey 1960
 20 Dave & Jean Geer 1959
 20 Bill & Carol Ewert 1993
 24 Christine & Paul Cruso 2000
 26 David & Karen Coty 1999
 27 Lance & Sandi Jischke 1998
 27 Gary & Carol Parisella 1970

Prayer Concerns

Sylvia Woolston— at The Water's of Houghton
Lois Wingate—assisted living facility in NC
Cynthia Lanphear— alzheimers— Karen Malinowski's mother.
Don Merwin —cancer of the throat-friend of Bev Rawlings
Joyce Kurtbas—our missionary to Turkey
John & Wynne Woodruff
Bill & Shirley VanDerMied— Conesus Lake Nursing Home
Dave McLaughlin—throat cancer
Tom Walker— Cancer
Shane Howard
Heidi Rowley—waiting for a stem cell match, Margaret Downey's great niece.
Lynn, pneumonia—Paul Cruso's uncle
Kim—Wegener's Granulomatosis, an autoimmune disorder— Steve Hoff's riding instructor
Kristie Rush—cancer—friend of Sue Nietsche
Daniel Hall—Prisilla Hall's son
Lynn Johnson—fluid in lungs-Prisilla Hall's brother
Maxine Johnson-housing situation-Prisilla Hall's sister
The Shull Family as Steve will be shipping over seas soon.

What is Women of Faith?

It is a faith-based inter-denominational organization that provides hope and encouragement to women of all ages and stages of life.

Their message is: God loves you regardless of where you are in life.

Their approach: Humor and Honesty—Real women sharing how God helps them deal with real issues of life.

This year’s Conference Theme: “Over the Top” based on Roman’s 11:33 which says, “Have you ever come on anything quite like this extravagant generosity of God?”

Conference Dates and Times: Friday, October 8, 10:00 am – 3:30 pm, 7:00 pm—9:30 pm,
Saturday, October 9th, 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Ticket Cost: Conference including 2 free box lunches, only \$89

Video Clip: www.womenoffaith.com -- PLEASE take a look!

I would be honored to have you as part of the Linda Woodruff group. If you are familiar with computers, it’s so easy! At the website www.gps.womenoffaith.com you will click on “Find a Group,” then type in for the name “Linda Woodruff” and click on search. Click on my group and in the next screen, click on “join group.” You will give some basic information and then I will be able to contact you and guide you further. Not familiar with computers? No problem! Just call me at **245-9952** or email me at Lindawomenoffaith.yahoo.com.

MAY STEWARDSHIP RECORD as of May 25, 2010
Unified OFFERINGS

Pledges & Envelopes.....	\$15,459.17
Loose Offering.....	\$484.70
Sunday School.. ..	\$114.85
Pledges for Mortgage.....	\$11,072.11
Fund Raising	\$2,037.37
Building use.....	\$590.00
Reimbursement.....	\$58.75
Total Unified Income	\$29,816.95
Total Expenses for May.....	\$27,969.36

Starting balance	\$4033.35
Total Income for the year to date ..	\$148,657.70
Total Expenses for the year to date ...	\$151,956.85
Ending balance.....	\$734.20

Total raised for Parking Lot.... \$5,738.00

Total cost of Parking Lot....\$30,000



Summer movie rentals that might bless you and yours:

Jesus was a master of metaphor, telling parables that could visually represent complex truths about God and humanity. Some movies today incorporate those elements. These films from 2009 have characters who are redeemers or who experience redemption to some degree.

1. "Up," directed by Pete Docter

"It's got talking dogs piloting fighter planes and a house that floats to South America on the strength of a thousand balloons, but the most outrageous thing about 'Up'? It's a summer blockbuster that's head-over-heels for the joys of marriage. Here lifelong commitment isn't a burden; it's an adventure."—Josh Hurst

2. "The Blind Side," directed by John Lee Hancock

"The Touhys, a well-to-do white family, can't ignore the needs of a homeless African-American boy. Instead of just lending a hand, they make him family. This real-life story of NFL player Michael Oher shows a great example of Christian compassion. We can't save the world, but we can love the ones God puts in our path."—Camerin Courtney

3. "Invictus," directed by Clint Eastwood

"This is much more than just another sports movie or 'another Clint Eastwood awards season movie.' It's a beautiful portrait of forgiveness and a model for how reconciliation can happen in reality, and how politics can employ things like sports and poetry in the service of national renewal."—Brett McCracken

4. "The Road," directed by John Hillcoat

"Despite the bleak and sometimes terrifying post-apocalyptic milieu, this film—based on the book by Cormac McCarthy—stands out from other recent end-times flicks in its tenacious, audacious insistence on hope in the midst of darkness. Plus it's one of the most loving father-son relationships ever depicted on the big screen."—Mark Moring

5. "The Soloist," directed by Joe Wright

"This true tale of the unlikely relationship between a newspaper columnist and a musically gifted, mentally ill homeless man is a testament to the power of friendship. There are no easy answers here, and the homeless problem among the mentally ill is clearly epidemic, but for both of these men, care and companionship are transformative."—Lisa Cockrel

6. "Where the Wild Things Are," directed by Spike Jonze

"Jonze re-imagines Maurice Sendak's tale of high-spirited rebellion as a meditation on childhood insecurity in a messy world in which nothing—families, forests, even the sun—lasts forever. 'Wild Things' knows both a child's drowning sense of trying to hold together a broken family and the comfort of a mother's embrace, a calm center in a storm of uncertainty."—Steven D. Greydanus

7. "District 9," directed by Neil Blomkamp

"Using aliens and spaceships, 'District 9' actually gives new perspective on humans—their ugliness, racism and greedy self-preservation. Perhaps because it shows a realistically dark world, we can see what shines. And because the main character is a complex mash-up of good and evil, his ultimate redemptive choice is powerful."—Todd Hertz

8. "The Hurt Locker," directed by Kathryn Bigelow

"A group of soldiers spend their days in combat and their nights shooting it out in video games; they see violence as macho and cool, but we see it as a deadly addiction. A lot of war movies turn our hearts to anger, but this one fills us with compassion for the people whose lives are caught in the crossfire."—Josh Hurst

9. "Julie & Julia," directed by Nora Ephron

"It's rare to see happy marriages portrayed in Hollywood—after all, no tension is boring. In contrast, 'Julie & Julia' presents us with not one, but two, marriages in which the husbands and wives genuinely love one another and stand ready to support, encourage and laugh together. A feast, indeed."—Alissa Wilkinson

10. "Up in the Air," directed by Jason Reitman

"The core characters may not always behave honorably, but that's the point of this cautionary parable about investing more in selfish pursuits than in relationships. How sadly ironic that Ryan Bingham so skillfully helps others find hope and meaning in unemployment, yet can't find any in his own cocoon—though there's hope even for him."—Russ Breimeier

College students: Sure you could study for a semester in Italy or France – but everyone does that. Not everyone studies for a semester in Bethlehem. I have supported the Bethlehem Bible College for several years and have found Dr. Awad to be an outstanding Christian. He recently sent out this invitation to U.S. college students:

Dear Friends of Bethlehem Bible College:

The Bethlehem Bible College announces the new International Student Program (BBCISP) of one semester of study this fall 2010.

Bethlehem Bible College is an interdenominational Christian Bible college located in Bethlehem, Palestine. The College offers a BA program in Biblical studies and Christian Education as well as a MA program in Christian Ministry that combines high academic standards with a deep spiritual commitment to Christ. It is accredited by the Palestinian Ministry for Higher Education and Middle East Association of Theological Education (MEATE). For further information please see: <http://www.bethbc.com/gpage.html>

The BBC would like to cooperate in conjunction with you and your Christian institution to bring students for one semester of study abroad.

The students would study abroad in the Land of the Bible under highly-qualified BBC professors. The focus of the semester is two-fold: academic studies combined with experience of the Land of the Bible.

We believe that this opportunity for students to study at the BBC located in the Land of the Bible is unique and important.

We appreciate your cooperation in this exciting new venture and we pray that you will see the bright future in partnering with us.

For further information and inquiries, please contact: om@bethbc.org

In His Name,

Dr. Bishara Awad

President,

Bethlehem Bible College

I was given your name as a possible resource to help me identify a male counselor over the age of 21 who may be interested in volunteering as a camp counselor with me this summer. The date is August 1-6th at Camp Asbury. The camp is a sports camp for 4th & 5th graders. Please give your contacts some thoughts and let me know if there is anyone that I could contact to help me in the endeavor.

Thank you,

Linda Haight

585-330-0818

The United Methodist Church of
Livonia

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



"BUILDING OUR WORLD
AROUND CHRIST"



Happenings @ UMCL
Sunday Services 8:00, 9:15, 10:30 am
Sunday School 9:15 am

Spaghetti Dinner, Wed. June 9th; 5-7 pm

Graduating Senior Sunday, June 20th
@ the 10:30 Service

Meetings

June 21st—Trustee's Meeting @ Church 7:00 pm

June 22nd—Small Group Leader's @ Pastor Dan's, 7:00 pm

Blood Drive on Thurs., July 1st from 2-7