



# THE LAUNCHPAD

March 2010

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## PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,  
 I still think that the reason Western New York was the source of so many inventions a hundred years ago was that our winters were so long and boring even though, as I've told everyone in the past month – we only receive 49 inches of snow per year in Livonia – compared to over 100 inches in Rochester, Buffalo and Syracuse. Some church members didn't believe my figures so here is one of many websites that confirms them: [http://www.bestplaces.net/city/Livonia-New\\_York.aspx#](http://www.bestplaces.net/city/Livonia-New_York.aspx#). So we here in Livonia have the long cold winter that gives us ice on the lake, snow on the mountains and relatively little precipitation in our driveways. Many of us, therefore, have time on our hands all winter long. I know there are some who spend all that time on line or watching the Olympics on TV. But I have been very impressed with those who put on the Sunday breakfasts, the Wednesday lunches, the Rotary and spaghetti dinners. We really know how to cook for guests here. I've also been impressed with some of our small groups who've supported each other through some crisis situations this winter and with the MOPS moms who seem to be having a great time with each other for their Moms Nights Out. Several of our guys have been working hard on addressing challenges of our building – including putting a planned electrical upgrade into the sound room, addressing some

insulation problems we've had and upgrading the sound system in the sanctuary. The Thrift Shoppe continues to be a superb ministry that pays for itself and serves over one hundred families each week. The church is doing many things well right now. I have been concerned that our lack of Sunday School space would be a "choke point" for making disciples and changing the world. The Sunday School leadership has been studying this issue and preliminary results have indicated that the teachers (with the possible exception of the ones whose class is in the gathering area) do not think that we should add more classroom space yet. I think it is great that our classes have been nicely full – that's much more fun than when the classes are empty – but I still worry that being crowded will stop kids and parents from inviting their neighbors to Sunday School. Our finances are good right now – because you all are giving so fearlessly and because of our fundraisers. We are paying our mortgage, our bills and making payments on our special debt to Gary Thurston (the church builder). But we will have another special need this spring. We will need to pave at least the driveway of the church in order to lessen the dust and noise that our gravel is causing to our neighbors. We sought prices for this project both last summer and the one before that, but we didn't have the money at that time. Now we can afford to do the driveway but when the pavers come it would be good for them to do as much as possible at one time – both because it is more expensive to have them do things piecemeal, and

because it would be good not to have to drive and plow where there are bumps between the paved and graveled sections. I think we all would like to see the area right in front of the front doors and right behind the back doors paved so that our elderly and handicapped people could come in and out without falling on stones. Actually, many of our non-handicapped women have said that the stones are a problem for their heeled shoes, too. So is it Sunday School space, paved parking lot, both things or something else? We need to pray about where God wants us to spend God's resources. I was asked today what percentage of our people are presently in a small group. My guess was about 25%. I look for the day when that figure approaches 90% (Cont. on p. 2)



Open hearts  
 Open minds  
 Open doors

The people of the United Methodist Church welcome you.

(Cont. from p. 1)

because on that day we will almost all be continually growing in discipleship, enjoying and encouraging each other and involved in a ministry that is so challenging that we absolutely have to pray. We will be having another small group leader training this month (Monday March 8 and 22 from 6:30 until we are done) and I have been reading about small groups in Latin America and in Indonesia and they are saying that they tell their churches that almost anyone can be a small group leader. So, perhaps you, gentle reader, could be one, too. I am simultaneously trying to change the face of the other United Methodist churches in Western New York. I'm hoping that this will be approved to be my doctor of ministry project. I believe that healthy small groups are the forgotten essential tool for having transformational churches. Almost all of the disconnected churches seem to know this, but the denominational churches mostly don't. They are still pastor centered affairs, with lots of committees and few lives changed. They are still into individualism as opposed to healthy community. I believe God is calling us to be catalysts to change that. One of the best articles I've seen on why health care costs so much (and continues to rise in cost much faster than wages have) can be found at [http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2009/06/01/090601fa\\_fact\\_gawande](http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2009/06/01/090601fa_fact_gawande) My short summary of the article is that in some places the doctors start routinely ordering way more tests than necessary – not to avoid malpractice suits (the most expensive area in the U.S. is in Texas which has capped malpractice lawsuits at \$250K) but because they get money for all the tests and procedures that they do. The other side of that problem is that some of those procedures have negative side effects and so the patients end up doing worse. Good intentions, rationalizations and sin are everywhere, but the wages of sin sometimes is physical death.

I was struck recently by an article that said that unless you are spending considerable time with people outside the church and with disreputable people, you are not living a Christ-like lifestyle. Christ was criticized for spending time with the Jerusalem mafia (tax collectors), prostitutes and other sinners. As we are his disciples, we need to be like Christ. Some of you tell me that you have almost no friends outside the church – which the books tell me is normal – but the scriptures tell me is not Christ-like. I sometimes worry that if we start getting too many children of non-effective parents that some families will stop bringing their well behaved children here. But Christ came to save sinners.

On a related but separate note I was struck recently by a person who said they hadn't been to church for awhile because they overheard someone say something they didn't like. I asked if they had talked to the persons and they said they hadn't. I said, "Don't you know that we want sinners in this church?" And they didn't say anything, but it was clear that they didn't want to be in a church where there were that particular kind of sinners. I didn't ask them why they hadn't checked to make sure that they had even eavesdropped accurately. Sometimes I wonder how those early Christians held services in the dark dirty catacombs. How did they face martyrdom with such eagerness and not ask for nicer lions. For some of them taking up their cross and following Jesus was not a metaphor. We still have some growing to do.

Well, enough of my ramblings. I hope you will all come to the special service on Sunday, March 21. I have never heard of a service like the one we will have that day. The 8 a.m. service will be as usual, but there will be no 9:15 service (although there will be Sunday School) and at 10:30 we will have a worship service that will include the actual marriage of our Pastor Apprentice – our son Matthew – and our worship leader – Anne Rodman. All other couples who wish to renew their marriage vows during that service will be invited to do so. It will be a very special day. There will be a wedding reception to follow in the fellowship hall and if you will be attending that, please fill out one of the cards at the welcome center so that we will know how many to expect.

Blessings,  
Pastor Dan

Tuesday, Feb. 9th, these 4 kids, Keagan French, Lindsay Futter, Mitchell Rathbun & Alaina Eck from our UMCL family were inducted into the National Honor Society in the Livonia High school. Out of 30+ students chosen in the Senior High...we had 4! The basis is overall average of 90+, community service, volunteer hours, character, etc. and the selection is made by a board of teachers and administration. Thought it was neat we had 4 great kids from our congregation at church!

### Uth Groups

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

We will continue with a Wednesday night schedule as we go into March 10th & 24th. Times are 6:00-7:00 P.M.

### Spaghetti Dinner,

Wed. March 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.

### 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 McDougall at 243-4612.

**Lenten Luncheons @ First Pres. Church in Livonia Center, Noon Feb 24th-March 31st**

## College Scholarship Program Announced

The United Methodist Church of Livonia has a new college scholarship program for church members. Anyone who has been a member of UMC Livonia for at least one year, who is enrolled, or will be enrolled as a full time student in a college, university or seminary which professes discipleship of Jesus Christ may apply. Selection for awards will be based upon academic abilities, involvement in church and community service, financial need, and potential for future leadership in the church. Application materials may be obtained from the church office at 21 Summers St., Livonia, or by calling 585-346-3511, or by e-mail at [umcl@rochester.rr.com](mailto:umcl@rochester.rr.com). Complete application packets must be received by **April 15, 2010** to be considered.

"Fed by Faith" Sunday, March 14 from 4-6 PM @ Church will feature chili, salad and corn bread.

Everyone Welcome!!!

### 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.  
UPDATE :

Our Thrift Shoppe has been very busy helping many people within our county. We were able to provide a lady from Chances and Changes with clothing and household items, including a TV. Business has grown greatly from 2008 to 2010. Margaret and her crew work hard at this Outreach Mission and can be proud of the service they provide to our community.

2008-\$10,739.20

2009- \$21,019.12

Jan 2010 -\$1,851.00

Feb 2010-\$1,977.50

**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](http://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.**



## THANK YOU

I want to give a huge Thank you everyone that worked, or came to my send-off party . The support I received was truly overwhelming and makes it much easier to leave knowing my family is in good hands. I know I can not thank everyone personally, but their are a few names that I want to publicly say that without their support, my party wouldn't have been the success that it was. .

Barb and Keith Alexander

Bonnie and Peter Crichton

Bonnie and Cliff Wright

Linda and Steve Futter

Cathy and Clara Clancy

Kathy and Dan Ely

Sue Magin

And especially the **Wonderful** members of the Serendipity Group who made the delicious soup and chili. They served and cleaned in the kitchen until the very end.

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To give everyone an update on the mission that I was assigned to. We are going to Iraq to move troops and supplies out of the country and end the

involvement of the U.S.Armed Forces in the conflicts that happen in that country. May God bless all of you and I will see you sometime next summer

Thank you again

Steve Shull

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**Thank you** so much to everyone at Livonia United Methodist Church for being such a gracious hostess for our 2nd Spaghetti dinner! Thank you especially to the Serendipity group - Marty, Sally and all the men and women who helped in the kitchen and dining room. Thank you also to those who came out on that cold, wintry, snowy evening to enjoy the warm, delicious spaghetti! Approximately 145 people came out on February 10th. We raised \$752.00 to assist seniors and those with disabilities maintain an independent lifestyle at home. We couldn't have done it without you! Thank you!!

Most Sincerely,

Christa Barrows, Program Director Faith in Action

## Annual Lenten Fish Dinners

### ***"Best Fish fry in Western NY"***

Avon United Methodist Church

130 Genesee St.

**Fridays March 12, 19 & 26...and April 16<sup>th</sup>**

Haddock baked or batter-fried

Baked potato, coleslaw, rolls,

applesauce and scrumptious desserts.

Adults: \$9.00 Seniors: \$8.00

Child(ren) 4-11: \$4.00 Child(ren) 3& under: Free

## ***Library News!***

The library will be making some videotapes and audiotapes available soon. Some homes may not have the equipment for these, so we would like to be able to loan it. We are asking if anyone has any tape recorders or combination television/videotape machines that they would like to donate to the church library, please let Bonnie Crichton (585-243-2819) (email: [swampdwellers@att.net](mailto:swampdwellers@att.net) ) know. [We do not have the facilities to repair equipment, so if it doesn't work, please dispose of it elsewhere - thanks.]

## ***Women of the Church News!***

Save the date for the next meeting: April 10, 2010

All women of the church are invited and needed.

--Bonnie Crichton

## ***"Seasons" Women's Conference 2010***

By Grace Ministries is excited to announce "Seasons", a two-day women's conference held on March 19 and 20 at Elim Gospel Church in Lima, NY. Our emphasis during this conference will be to recognize that not only do we experience several different seasons throughout our Christian walk, but that each season has a unique and intricate design, working in symphony to bring us closer to the glory of God. This will be an incredible time of worship and Biblical teaching. It will leave you feeling refreshed, recharged and ready to take on whatever challenges and opportunities may come during *your* personal seasons of life.

Doors open Friday Evening at 6 PM with a special time of worship led by Derek & Heidi Levendusky, followed by a powerful message from Sherrie Anderson. A continental breakfast will be served Saturday morning starting at 8 AM.

The day unfolds with a message from Cherrise Phipps, founder of The Daughters Are Gathering Ministry. You will have an opportunity to attend a break-out session, take part in a panel Q&A and then Sherrie will wrap up the conference with a final word. Lunch will be served on Saturday.

Make plans now to be a part of this outstanding conference - you won't want to miss it! For more information, ticket pricing and registration please visit us online at [www.bygraceministries.org](http://www.bygraceministries.org). Early registration and group rate discounts are available.

## Spring Fling at Houghton College

### **DRIVERS NEEDED:**

To transport youth group members and chaperones to Spring Fling at Houghton College on Friday, March 26 (meeting at the church at 5:30 and dropping us off at Houghton – approx. 45 minutes one way). We will also need drivers to pick us up at Houghton the next morning at 7:30 and bringing us back to the church. Please contact Duane Waldron (346-5873) if you can help with this. Thank you!

### **YOUTH GROUP EVENTS:**

**Spring Fling at Houghton College** (Open to all students who are currently in 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades) – an overnight event involving games and activities (inflatables, swimming, sports of all kinds), food (they feed us twice!), a concert by Station 2 and an illusionist who performs and presents the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.

If you and your friends would like to go, do the following:

- parents please fill out a registration form (get from Pastor Dan, Duane Waldron, Dave Bernacki or online at [springflingonline.tk](http://springflingonline.tk))
- return the filled out form and \$20.00 (cash or check made payable to United Church of Livonia) to Duane Waldron or Dave Bernacki **BY OR ON MARCH 8**
- show up at the church by 5:30 on March 26 (you do not need to bring many things – a swimsuit and towel if you would like to swim, a backpack or small duffle bag to keep your things in – everyone is responsible for carrying and looking after their own things)
- bring a smile and a desire to have a great time with hundreds of other kids
- any parents who would like to help chaperone are welcome to come along (we ask that all chaperones not drive down and back due to safety reasons following an overnight event) – let Dave Bernacki or Duane Waldron know that you will be chaperoning the event with us

Contact Duane Waldron (346-5873) with any questions

**“Kingdom Bound 2010”** COMING IN AUGUST – at Darien Lakes Theme Park (Rides, Christian performing artists and nationally known speakers) August 1-4. Mark your calendars now. Those of us who went last year had a great time and this year is certain to be just as wonderful. This will be open to all students who will be in 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grades this fall.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

Looking for a pick me up which includes job satisfaction, free entertainment and at times, a physical "work out"? Consider working with our children during the Sunday School Hour! The time commitment is just one hour a week...from 9:15 - 10:15, but the rewards are infinite.

Our Children's Ministry is a growing part of our church. While our classrooms are busting with energetic little (and not so little!) ones, our staff is continually challenged to provide spiritual leadership and teaching through curriculum that is engaging and life changing.

Prayerfully consider volunteering to be a part of this exciting ministry. Helpers, teachers, and substitute teachers are needed in every classroom from our pre-schoolers to our high schoolers. Please see Marty Waldron or Amy Evans for questions about our Children's Ministry Program.

**PS— We are planning on having Sunday School on the 21st of March**



**March**

- 1 Joyce Lasch
- 3 Gary Parisella  
KaeLim Williams  
Jen Dutra
- 6 Scott Morgan  
Sue Bennett
- 7 Michael Auble
- 8 Robert Webb  
Tim Stahl
- 9 Mary Ann Thompson  
Jadelynne Heinsler
- 10 Stacey Wright
- 13 Kim Shull  
McKenna Adams  
Craig Barcomb
- 14 Katie Morgan
- 16 Gene Nietsche
- 17 John Coakley  
Lorie Shull
- 18 Matthew Stahl
- 19 Alan Harrer  
Cory Blum
- 20 Eric Morgan
- 20 Arlene Grouse
- 21 Kevin VanDerMeid  
Sara Reome
- 23 Margaret Hungerford

**BIRTHDAY'S**

- Dan Finch
- 24 Madison Adams  
Emma May Phillips
- 25 Breagh Rawlings
- 26 John Woodruff
- 28 Susan Magin  
Karlee Shull  
Sue Bell  
Caitlin Mahnke  
Deb Churchill
- 29 Lois Wingate  
Kirstie Mosher  
Joan Luckenbach

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**MARCH**

- I Bill & Shirley VanDerMeid 1947
- II Dan & Karen Finch 1972
- 12 Mark & Debbie Rathbun 1991
- 17 Gordon & June Wingate 1951
- 20 Marlene Pike & Henry Adams 1992
- 25 Mike & Gwen Stephens 1972

**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.

**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, recovering*
- Jack Gilman, taken to Strong, Scott Gilman's father*
- Steve Shull, reserve duty stationed away from his family*

March Scripture

Third Sunday in Lent

March 7th— Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8, 1Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-19

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14th— Joshua 5:9-12, Psalm 32, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21st— Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126, Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8

**8:00 am service, no 9:15 service, Matt & Anne’s Wedding Ceremony @ 10:30 am**

Palm Sunday

March 28th— Liturgy of the Palms

Luke 19:28-40, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 22:14, 23:56

If you are looking for a resource for group Bible study that follows the preaching schedule from now until Easter you can download studies for each week at:

[http://www.emmausjourney.org/reflecting\\_sundays\\_reading.cfm](http://www.emmausjourney.org/reflecting_sundays_reading.cfm)

This is a Roman Catholic resource so a little translation may be necessary, but the questions are great and should lead to great group and family discussion that we hope will open the door for God’s Word and Spirit to do it’s work within us.

**FEBRUARY STEWARDSHIP RECORD**

**Unified OFFERINGS**

<b>Pledges &amp; Envelopes.....</b>	<b>\$13,420.00</b>
<b>Loose Offering.....</b>	<b>\$509.33</b>
<b>Sunday School.. ..</b>	<b>\$60.12</b>
<b>Pledges for Mortgage.....</b>	<b>\$10,127.25</b>
<b>Fund Raising .....</b>	<b>\$1,414.78</b>
<b>Building use.....</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>Total Unified Income .....</b>	<b>\$26,031.48</b>
<b>Total Expenses for February.....</b>	<b>\$33,385.52</b>

<b>Starting balance .....</b>	<b>\$4033.35</b>
<b>Total Income for the year to date ..</b>	<b>\$64,915.26</b>
<b>Total Expenses for the year to date ...</b>	<b>\$59,931.35</b>
<b>Ending balance.....</b>	<b>\$9017.26</b>

**Benev. Income: Radio.. \$15.00**

**Balloon.... \$260.00**

**UMCOR...\$170.00**



## Happenings @ UMCL

**Lenten Lunch Every Wednesday @ noon**  
Feb 24– March 31st lunch will be served at the Livonia Center Pres. Church

7-9th grade youth group will be on **Wed.** March 10 and March 24, 6-7 pm.

**Spaghetti Dinner**, Wed. March 10th; 5-7 pm

**Red Cross Blood Drive**, Thurs., March 11; 1-6 pm

**Teresa House High Tea** March 13, 2010 at 2:00  
(doors open for setting up at 1:30)

**Fed By Faith—March 14, 4-6 pm @ Church**

will feature chili, salad and corn bread. Everyone Welcome!!!

**Matt Finch & Anne Rodman's wedding—March 21st**

Only two Services for the day are 8:00 am church service & 10:30—Wedding ceremony

### Meetings

March 15th—Trustee's Meeting @ Church 7:00 pm

March 23rd—Small Group Leader's @ Pastor Dan's, 7:00 pm



March 14th

"BUILDING OUR WORLD  
AROUND CHRIST"



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

Address Service Requested

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Phone: 585-346-3511  
www.livoniamethodistchurch.com  
Email: UMCL@rochester.rr.com

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