



## **GUNNISONVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Est. 1888

October 2008 Newsletter

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Dear friends,

A long time ago the people of Israel embarked on an incredible journey as they threw off their shackles and followed Moses out of Egypt and headed out for the Promised Land. According to Deuteronomy 1:2 this was only an eleven day trip. Yet it took them forty years to complete. Along the way they ended up wandering in the wilderness, going around in circles, getting nowhere fast. They had their ups and downs and all along the way God was with them and provided for all of their needs. Yet the lives of these people were far from the abundance God had in store for them in Canaan, that land “flowing with milk and honey.”

I believe that God wants us to experience Promised Land living. Jesus tells us that he came so that we might “have life and have it abundantly.” Unfortunately, we tend to settle for wandering in the wilderness. The good news is we can learn from the experiences of the people of Israel as they traveled from Egypt to Canaan. That is exactly what we will do in the coming weeks as we share this story of a gracious God caring for his wandering people.

Here is our itinerary:

- |               |                                  |                       |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ➤ October 5   | That’s One Small Step...         | Exodus 14:9-16, 21-22 |
| ➤ October 12  | (pastor on vacation)             |                       |
| ➤ October 19  | What is This?                    | Exodus 16:2-8         |
| ➤ October 26  | Living Water                     | Exodus 27:1-7         |
| ➤ November 2  | All For One                      | Exodus 18:13-24       |
| ➤ November 9  | Milk and Honey on the Other Side | Numbers 13:1-3, 25-33 |
| ➤ November 16 | Tried and True                   | Numbers 20:2-13       |
| ➤ November 23 | Crossing Jordan                  | Joshua 3:9-17         |

Your pastor,  
Mark

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

John Headley	1	Dawn Kelly	23
Walt Sutton	3	Lois Rae Baumer	24
Kris Cable	11	Ande Glasmacher	27
Don Price	13	Jeff Kelly	27
Billy Baker	20	Astrid Glasmacher	30
Dorine Allen	21	Albert Gladstone	31
Charlie Fritz	22	Sean Kelly	31

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

David & Kathy Hundt 4

## OCTOBER HOSTESSES

Faye Hagy 5  
Lois Conrad 12  
Kathy Hundt 19  
Phyllis Rhynard 26

## FLU SHOTS

Visiting Nurses of Michigan will be giving flu shots at Cadgewith Farms Clubhouse:

Monday, October 13 9am to 1pm  
Tuesday, October 14 9am to noon

For additional information call Billie at 346-5764

## TRINKETS AND TREASURES

The annual Trinkets and Treasures event will be held Saturday, October 4 from 9am to 3pm. All saleable items (no clothes, please) are to be brought to the church on Friday, October 3. Proceeds from this sale will go to Missions.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Gunnisonville Finance Committee thanks you for your support during our Commitment Campaign, and year round! Just a reminder to please return your Commitment Card no later than October 5 and to please write your name on the back of the card.

Committees: Please submit any budgeting changes for your area in writing to Johanna Balzer by October 12.

**After Church Breakfast** September 28, 2008

All church members are invited to join us for an after church breakfast. The menu will be: Egg casseroles, hash brown casserole, French toast sticks, orange juice, muffins, etc. There will be a free will offering to defray costs and any profits will be used toward our costs in creating a physical history of you for the future GUMC families and community.

**ANNUAL CROP WALK**

Sunday, October 12 is the date of the annual Crop Walk and Rock-a-Thon. Pledge sheets can be picked up from Laurel Headley or Kathy Hundt.

**SERVICE CLUB**

The next meeting of the Service Club will be held on Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Fellowship hall. Please bring your own sandwich. Everything else will be furnished. Everyone is welcome.

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAY PARTY**

The October birthday party will be held October 19 with a potluck dinner held at 12:30 pm. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

**CHURCH BAZAAR** October 24 and 25

There will be a bazaar from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on Friday, October 24

Luncheon will be served from 11 am to 1:00 pm on Friday

Saturday, October 24 the bazaar will be open at 9 am.

**CHRISTMAS TEA FOR THE LADIES**

Save the afternoon of December 7, 2008 for the Sixth Annual Tea for the ladies and daughters of the church. At 2:00 pm we will be serving a nourishing tea (don't eat lunch) and offer a program. The year's Tea will focus on our memories of our mothers and grandmothers and you will be given the opportunity to relate a short anecdote about yours. This has become one of the favorite gatherings for our women/girls each year and is a lovely way to introduce the Christmas season. Please plan to attend.

**SOMETHING NEW**

This month we started something different with the newsletters. For all of you who have an email address and would like your newsletter sent to you via email, we will be glad to do that for you. For this to happen, just send your email address to either Pastor Mark [mgjohnson@hotmail.com](mailto:mgjohnson@hotmail.com) or to myself [bbest@4wbi.net](mailto:bbest@4wbi.net) and you will be on the list for future mailings.

**CHURCH SCHEDULING**

Scheduling of church events, please call: Florence Hartman (517) 668-0489

**NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

26 October 2008

[bbest@4wbi.net](mailto:bbest@4wbi.net)

Alta Reed submitted the following letter she received from Reverend Paul Scheibner in response to a birthday card signed and sent to him from the Gunnisonville church

Higgins Lake  
9-4-08

Greetings and salutations to the saints of Gunnisonville U.M.C..  
Jumpin catfish.....the belated B'day card knocked my socks off!!!  
I am thrilled, and indeed touched, to read the names and greetings of so many dear friends of earlier years. Here's a collective HUG to all of you!  
Each name brought back precious memories. You really made this a fantastic day!  
You were a church that in our times of trial---rose up and ministered to the minister and his family. We are both well and wish you all the best!  
Paul & Elaine Scheibner

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### **120 YEAR ANNIVERSARY-GUNNISONVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Please plan to join us in the celebration of the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our church sanctuary, November 2, 2008. Although religious services were held in the one room schoolhouse(s) which occupy the S.E. corner opposite the church and in the Gunnisonville pioneer family homes, they had a vision, a NEW SANCTUARY. All joined in to provide labor and materials to build the church and the original pews.

The doors to the new sanctuary opened on Sunday, November 4, 1888 and has been serving the community throughout the years,

There will be a special time in the morning service followed by an afternoon celebration beginning at 3:00 pm and closing with an old fashioned Chicken Pie Dinner for everyone.

Just as the pioneer families joined to create a beautiful sanctuary and continued to work on programs to serve the community, our present day congregation continues serving in the same way. We salute your continued dedication and hope that you will plan to join us in celebration of the Gunnisonville United Methodist Church on November 2 and beyond.



**A HISTORY OF PASTORS SERVING  
THE  
GUNNISONVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
1860-2008**

The Gunnisonville Episcopal Church opened its doors for its first service on November 4, 1888; however, our oral history indicates that religious services were held in this community beginning shortly after the arrival of the Elihu Gunnison family in 1833. Meetings were held in the different family homes of the community. Since the church was closed for ten years in the late 1920's and some of the documents were kept in the homes of faithful members, areas of our history are dependent upon that oral history.

In the beginning the church was known as the Gunnisonville Episcopal Church, but went by other names during its history. After being closed it was reopened by Reverend Carl Seipp in 1937 as the Gunnisonville Community Church. Later, it became Gunnisonville Methodist Church until it was again officially closed by the Methodist Church in 1952. During that time we remained open as an independent church and again as the Gunnisonville Community Church until it resumed operation as a Methodist church in 1956.

A search of the internet by Alta Catherine Reed in 2007 resulted in obtaining the following listing. Reverend W. S. Atterbury in 1837 and H. Hall as the presiding elder with James Roberts preacher in 1862.

**CIRCUIT RIDERS**

Records show we were served by the following circuit riders beginning in 1860. They were: A.L. Crittenden, H. Law, George Bradley, William Stafford, Charles Chick, Henry Jordan, William Swift and John Merrihew.

**OFFICIAL RECORDS**

1885 Reverend McNutt	1927-1937 Church closed
1888 Reverend Duncan Ward	1937 Reverend Carl Seipp
1895 A.W. Barnes, Pastor	1938 Reverend C. Harry Moon
1919 Elder Seipp	1945 Reverend J. Oliver Hall
1927 Reverend G. M. Simon	1949 Reverend Earl Champlain

1952-1956 Church Closed\*\*  
 1952 David Gorton\*\*  
 1956 Reverend Ray Birdsall  
 1957 Reverend Herbert Hengst  
 1960 Reverend John Keith  
 1965 Reverend Bill Cessna  
 1967 Reverend Marcel B. Elliot  
 1970 Reverend Ted Otto  
 1972 Reverend Daniel Miles  
 1975 Reverend Paul Scheibner  
 1978 Rev's. Lynn & Tom Pier-Fitzgerald

1984 Reverend Charles Smith  
 1989 Reverend Carl Staser  
 1991 Reverend Tom Peters  
 1994 Reverend Ray Field  
 1998 Reverend Nancy Bessemer  
 2003 Reverend Tom Truby  
 2006 Reverend Beatrice Robinson  
 2007 Reverend Mark Johnson

\*\*During the period of 1952-1955 we were served by David Gorton as an interim minister. He was a student who agreed to pastor our group during the time of our closure by the Methodist Church. David's grandparents were the Krause family who had originally donated the land upon our church is located.

Lois Rhynard Baumer  
 Historical Committee



September Birthdays

Birthday Committee



# Sunday School Update

## ***October's B.i.G. Idea***

We believe that stories of faithful kings help us to be faithful leaders for God.

## ***October's B.i.G Theme***

The Stories of Kings

## ***October's Bible Verse***

The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice. Psalm 97:1

***October's Lessons.*** This month the children will be hearing Bible stories about some of the kings of Israel and about Jesus as the King of kings.

### **October 5:** David, 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 10

The children will hear the Bible story of David as shepherd king chosen by God. The children will learn that God chose David and was with David. They will understand that God chooses each of us and is with us to make us our best.

### **October 12:** Solomon, 1 Kings 2:1-4; 4:29-34

The children will hear a Bible story about Solomon and will recognize that Solomon was great because he was taught to be faithful to God. The children will consider how others help us to be faithful to God.

### **October 16:** Josiah, 2 Kings 22:1-13; 23:1-3

The children will hear the Bible story of Josiah, a boy who became king. They will learn that Josiah helped people follow God. The children will discuss ways that they can help others follow God.

### **October 26:** Jesus, King of Kings, Luke 2:21-22; Revelation 17:14b

The Sunday school class will hear the many names of Jesus. They will learn that there are many kings, but Jesus is the one to follow!

For additional ideas and activities, be sure to check out the Live B.I.G. website, [www.iliveBIG.com](http://www.iliveBIG.com).

**On Sunday, October 11** the Sunday school will make a trip to Huckleberry Railroad. Huckleberry Railroad is located in Genesee County about 1 hour from here. The group is planning to leave at about 10:00 am and will enjoy lunch there. Huckleberry Railroad is decorated for Halloween and has special activities planned around the holiday. The children of the church and their Sunday school teachers invite all to come with them. Please contact Ande or Kathryn for more information.

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