

Sergeantsville United Methodist Church Circuit Rider

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009

www.sergeantsvilleumc.com



FROM the PASTOR

Do we really know what God wants the church to look like? We know what the early church did from the stories in Acts. We know that Jesus founded the church to carry on his mission; to serve as his hands and voice in the world. He loved broken and lost people. He offered healing and hope and forgiveness. He proclaimed good news of a God who loved prodigal children. I have often thought we could do that job and carry the message better through store front churches rather than large edifices.

Adam Hamilton has said that recent national surveys of young adults reveal a great interest in Jesus, but an antipathy to the church. As one author has put it, "They like Jesus, but not the church." Perhaps this is why, according to one recent poll, only 30% of Americans are in worship on a given weekend.

There are so many conflicting activities on a Sunday that I like to say the people "Take Turns Coming" to church. Many churches and ministers are grasping an idea that Church

should be a verb and not a place to come and worship. We are at a critical time in the life of the church as we know it. There is a

web site I hope all of you will look at called <10thousanddoors.org > which has the concept that we must RETHINK church. There is a movement today in the United Methodist Church which we need to consider.

to make a significant difference in the world.

What are the ministries of The United Methodist Church?

We live out our call to mission and ministry by engaging in ministry with the poor, combating diseases of poverty by improving health globally, creating new places for new people and renewing existing congregations, and developing principled Christian leaders.

We have basic beliefs about the social world, which is summed up in our Social Creed:

We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.

We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind. We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family.

We commit ourselves to:

The rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities;
The improvement of the quality of life; and
The rights and dignity of racial, ethnic, religious minorities.

**"You Pays Your Money"
A Thanksgiving Meditation**

What if church...

...was a verb?

...challenged itself?

...loved radically?

...offered hope?

...was a light for the world?

...got thoughtful words and words into action?

ReThink Church

October 18 - November 1

Who is the United Methodist Church today?

We are an 11 million-strong global church that opens hearts, opens doors, and opens minds through active engagement with our world. We are doers. Committed to social justice, ending hunger, eradicating diseases of poverty, and being the healing faith community as God calls us to be. We accept you for who you are, and guide others searching for deeper meaning. We respect other religions and welcome diverse opinions. We offer thousands of ways to experience church so you can find a journey you can call your own. We aren't striving to be all the same, but

"Let's go over the list once more," I mutter to myself at the check-out stand. "Oatmeal, frying chickens, and a half gallon of



rocky road. Yuban® coffee and a couple loaves of Roman Meal® bread. A gallon of milk about rounds it out." The register whirrs. I plunk down my money.

"Thanks," I say to the checker. "Don't thank me," the grocery checker chuckles. "You pays your money, you takes your choice."

No thanks needed? Your forefathers' hands caressed hard seed grains as they sowed freshly-turned furrows. They knew whom to thank.

"A man scatters seed on the ground," Jesus observed. "Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain--first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come." (Mark 4:26-29)

No wonder Pilgrims gave thanks.

But the average person lives too far from the soil to awe at amber waves of grain. I had glanced at my watch and tapped my foot while the checker worked slowly through the loaded grocery cart ahead of me. So what's to be thankful for? Shorter lines?

Yes, for starters. Women stand in lines for hours in Moscow to buy fresh fruit. The selection on our supermarket shelves would boggle the mind of a Mexican villager.

We thank God for a job to pay for our food--thousands are out of work. We thank God for a warm home and a table to eat at--the homeless live out of their cars at the park.

"But I work hard for what I have," you object. Yes, so does the Chinese peasant bending over in a cold rice paddy.

You pays your money, but you can't buy health. You pays your money, but you can't buy a son or a daughter. You pays your money, but you can't buy rain to water crops in Peoria and Des Moines.

Thank you God, for the gifts you've given which I have no inherent right to. Make me genuinely grateful. Amen.



Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Sergeantsville UMC and Sandy Ridge Church will join together for Thanksgiving Eve Worship at Sandy Ridge Church on Wednesday, November 25th, 7:30 PM. All are welcome.

Purls of Love
Every other Monday
7 PM



Thanks to everyone who contributed to Operation Christmas Child. It looks like we will meet our goal of collection of shoeboxes. The last day for collection will be **November 22nd**. Pastor Lin, Carole and Amelia Vanden Berghe will be delivering all these wonderful shoeboxes personally to the collection center in Yardley, PA.

Gift Certificate Program

Now there are TWO ways to purchase certificates. Purchase directly from Judy Floyd or through email and pay Judy later.

giftcertificates@sergeantsvilleumc.com

Available immediately are the following:

Orders will be placed
November 30th

- Shoprite \$25, \$50, \$100
- Stop & Shop \$25, \$100
- Walmart \$25, \$100
- Shell Gas \$25, \$50
- Borders \$25
- Lowe's \$25
- Longhorn Steakhouse \$25
- Red Lobster \$25
- Gamestop \$25
- WaWa \$25
- Cracker Barrel \$10
- Toys-R-Us \$20
- Crate & Barrel \$25
- TGI Fridays \$25
- Olive Garden \$25
- Regal Cinema \$9.50



Amber, Elaine Austin, Aaron Baker & Family, Louis Bainbridge's son, Barb, Kathy & John Bauer, Judy Bayer, Marge & Walt Beckmann, Phyllis Borzotta, Al Bruckler, Kathe Bryan, Carlos, Denise Clark, John Cochran, Denise Coleman, Sandi Fisher, Janice GaNun, Patty Gares, John Goodwin, Ian Heffernan & Family, Mary Delany Hidzik, John Hill, Karen Humphries brother-in-law, Jake Kaminski, Joyce Kuster, John, Lauren, Lillian, Long Family, Family & Friends of Gene Maddelena, Joe Maresca, Marion, Martha & Carter, Mears Family, Dottie Melovitz, Gayle McCord, Raymond Moore, Robert Newton, Rosedale Family, Sandy, Marilyn Smith, Pat Smith, Laura Shannon, Brianna Wenzel, Mackenzie Wright, Zamowski Family, Teachers & Students, Our President & all elected officials, Our Bishop & District Superintendent, Those who are unemployed and under-employed, Homeless People

CONTINUED HEALING



Daryl Behnke, Brenda, Jim Bush, James Clark, Scott Cline, Dee, Dennis, Estelle, Seymour Feder, Sara Folk, David Fleming, Dorie Fleming, Harriet Fisher, Bob Force & Joann George, Jack & Trudy Grimm, Jeff Gurski, Wendy Hansen, Helen, Bill Holcombe, Jan Irvén, Joann, Johanna, Grover Johnson, Horace Johnson, Julia Johnson, Susie Jorgensen, Red Kerr, LaVera, Caroline Lucas, Louise, Luke, Walter Macak, Rayanna Marrero, Max, Eleanor Miller, Frank Miller, Matthew Miller, Dave Mummy, Tom Nemec, Lois Parker, Emily Popiel,

Phyllis, Riley, Tracy Roksvogg, Bill Schroeder, Sophie, Flossie Srope, Dick Smith, Hazel & Roy Smith, Henry Smith, Jeanette Smith, Anthony Tadero, Tammie, Tim & Family, Elaine VanDuyne, BJ York



Worship Schedule

Nursery

- 11/8 K. Shebchuk
- 11/15 A. Reilly
- 11/22 P. Spurrell
- 11/29 C. Morris
- 12/6 K. Wilson
- 12/13 C. Schroeder
- 12/20 Jane Manley
- 12/27 J. Floyd
- 1/3 A. Reilly
- 1/10 P. Spurrell
- 1/17 C. Morris
- 1/24 K. Wilson
- 1/24 C. Schroeder

Lay Reader

- 11/8 B. Smallwood
- 11/15 E. Vanden Berghe
- 11/22 S. Miller
- 11/29 Sunday School
- 12/6 S, Chiles
- 12/13 J. Manley
- 12/20 Sunday School
- 12/27 L. Swackhamer
- 1/3 B. Schroeder
- 1/10 D. Mueller
- 1/17 C. Cline
- 1/24 J. Ralph
- 1/31 Sunday School

Ushers

- 11/8 R. & A. Vanden Berghe
- 11/15 K. & M. Shebchuk
- 11/22 B. & B. Emery
- 11/29 E. & MB Morris
- 12/6 P. Gares
- 12/13 D. Mueller & S. Miller
- 12/20 E. & A. Vanden Berghe
- 12/27 J. Ralph & G. Guest
- 1/3 B. & B. Emery
- 1/10 E. & MB Morris
- 1/17 P. Gares
- 1/24 D. Mueller & S. Miller
- 1/31 E. & A. Vanden Berghe



The Sergeantsville UMW was recently recognized for their generosity in supporting ChildFund International's Guardians of Children Society. The UMW has been congratulated for its milestone of giving **\$10,038.00 over a period of 35 years!** A mark that has earned them the goal of a Partnership Patron level.

ChildFund International is inspired and driven by the potential that is inherent in all children; the potential not only to survive but to thrive, to become leaders who bring positive change for those around them.

The heart of ChildFund International remains the one-to-one connection made through child sponsorship. Their work began in 1938 with an effort to

build orphanages for the children who had been left without homes or families in the wake of the second Sino-Japanese War. These orphanages were funded by individuals in America who “sponsored” an orphaned child in China. This approach continues today. What began as a modest effort to build and operate orphanages, has evolved into a global force working for children encompassing the globe. Their area of excellence and great strength is their deep understanding of children's experiences of deprivation, exclusion and vulnerability, and dedication to placing those experiences at the center of their policy and practice.

This organization works in 31 countries, assisting approximately 15.2 million children and their family members, regardless of race, creed or gender. A distinctive approach focuses on working with children throughout their journey from birth to young adulthood, as well as with families, local organizations and communities globally to create the environments children need to thrive.

Way to go Sergeantsville UMC! We are proud of your dedication too!



MEALS ON WHEELS Are You 60 Years or Older?

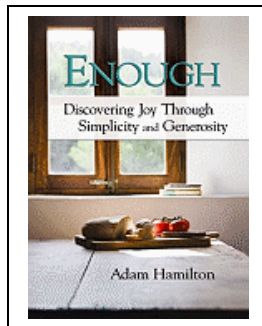
Then chances are Meals on Wheels can make a difference in your life.

The Meals on Wheels mission is to assist the homebound elderly/disabled of Hunterdon County to maintain their independence by enhancing their nutritional health, thereby avoiding unwanted institutionalization.

In addition to the Weekday Meal Delivery Program, Weekend Meals delivered on Friday's are also offered for those who are alone on the weekend. A sodium controlled menu is available upon request.

If you are interested in this service for yourself or if you know of someone that might benefit from this, contact Meals on Wheels in Hunterdon at 908-284-0735.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY



Sundays 4 – 5 PM in Advent led by Past Lin Smallwood.

Money has great power in our lives. *Enough* is an invitation to rediscover the Bible's wisdom when it comes to prudent financial practices. In these

pages are found the keys to experiencing contentment, overcoming fear, and discovering joy through simplicity and generosity. This study could change your life, by changing your relationship with money. Our Bishop has requested that we study this book. Cost of the book is \$8.00. You may request a copy through the church office.

Sergeantsville UMC NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY



January will bring a new photo directory for the church. We will be taking on this project ourselves!!!! Look for information regarding appointment scheduling after the Christmas season.

Magazines for SAFE

SAFE in Hunterdon's Art Therapy Program is in need of magazines for art projects for the children and women. Drop off your magazines in the basket in Fellowship Hall.



NOVEMBER

7 th	2-7 PM	Kingwood Roast Beef Dinner
7 th & 8 th		Thanksgiving in the Country
8 th		No Sunday School
10 th	7 – 9 PM	Disciple I Class
11 th	7 – 9 PM	Disciple II Class
16 th	7 – 8:30 PM	Purls of Love
17 th	7 – 9 PM	Disciple I Class
18 th	7 – 9 PM	Disciple II Class
19 th	7:30 PM	UMW Meeting
22 nd		LAST COLLECTION FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
24 th	7:30 PM	Trustees Meeting
24 th	7 – 9 PM	Disciple I Class
25 th	7:30 PM	Thanksgiving Eve Combined Worship at Sandy Ridge Church
29 th	4 – 5 PM	First Sunday in Advent Begin “Enough” Advent Study, No Sunday School
30 th	7 PM	Purls of Love



DECEMBER

1 st	7 – 9 PM	Disciple I Class
2 nd	7 – 9 PM	Disciple II Class
5 th	3 PM	Set up Christmas Tree
6 th	12 PM	Children’s Christmas Party & Covered Dish Luncheon
6 th	4 – 5 PM	“Enough” Advent Study
14 th	7 – 8:30 PM	Purls of Love
15 th	7 – 9 PM	Disciple I Class
16 th	7 – 9 PM	Disciple II Class
17 th	7:30 PM	UMW Meeting
19 th	3 PM	Cantata Choir Rehearsal @ Independence Manor Flemington
20 th	11 AM	Choir Christmas Cantata Performance
20 th	4 – 5 PM	“Enough” Advent Study
22 nd	7:30 PM	Trustees Meeting
24 th	11 PM	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
28 th	7 – 8:30 PM	Purls of Love
29 th	7 – 9 PM	Disciple I Class
30 th	7 – 9 PM	Disciple II Class



ON GOING MEETINGS

Monday	7 PM	AA
Tuesday	10-11:30 AM	Faithful Friends Fellowship
Thursday	7 – 8 PM	Choir Practice

WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday Worship	9 AM & 11 AM
Children Sunday School	9:45 AM
Adult Sunday School	10 AM



CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Lin Smallwood – Pastor	Church Physical Address:	Church Mailing Address:
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Pastor Cell Phone: 908-303-1891		
Email: churchoffice@sergeantsvilleumc.com		
Website: sergeantsvilleumc.com		