

Olive Branch United Methodist Church

January 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Breakfast at 9am	2 	3	4 Choir 7:30	5 Scouts 6:30p VIM 7pm	6	7
8 Holy Communion	9	10 Trustees 7pm	11 Choir 7:30	12 Clarksville Food Pantry 6- 7:30pm Sing at CedarView 6:45pm	13	14
15 Human Relations Day	16	17	18 Choir 7:30	19 Serving at Your Father's Kitchen 5:30pm	20	21 Men's Breakfast 7:30am ORV Leader Training Day
22 Financial Peace University Preview at Clarksville UMC 6:30pm	23	24	25 Choir 7:30	26	27	28 Volunteers-in- Mission Team Spaghetti Fund-raiser Dinner 4-7pm
29 th 5 th Sunday Carry-in Meal and Mission Moment (VIM Team)	30	31			Church office open Monday and Friday 9am-1pm	Church phone: (513) 932-3943

Pastor Steve Cann
7315 Wilmington Rd., Oregonia OH 45054
(513) 932-3943
www.olivebranchumc.com

Offerings

(Approx. \$7276 per month covers our 2011 budget needs)

Date	Offerings
Nov. 6	\$1128.75
Nov. 13	\$1812.25
Nov. 20	\$2013.75
Nov. 27	\$ 658
Total	\$5612.75

Be sure to read the latest meeting minutes from the Trustees and United Methodist Men and Women on the bulletin board.

Thank You

Thanks to my wonderful church family for their love and support; I used my monetary Christmas gift to buy photo albums of my boys that I put together – I was able to buy them one and one for us to keep at home! Thank you!

--Karen Doney

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for the monetary gift at Christmas. It's a true blessing to serve in our church!

--Judy Schaefer



- January**
- 1 Tessa Duffy
 - 7 Logan Harris
 - 10 Shirley Plymire
 - 11 Karen Doney
 - Dana Storts
 - 16 George Largent
 - 25 Vince Uetrecht
 - Bob Widman

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for the Christmas gift – we are so blessed to have you as our church family!

Ronnie & Linda Fox

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for your gift. More than the money, you all are special to me. May we all have another good year together serving the Lord with our own special gifts and talents given to us by Him.

Love,
Phyllis Nischwitz



- January**
- 8 Ray & Cathy Butler
 - 24 Harley & Shirley Plymire

Dear Olive Branch,
I want to thank you for the beautiful basket of all kinds of goodies; many I used at Otterbein. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

With love,
Velma Cann (Pastor Steve's mother)

Clarksville Food Pantry
Clarksville United Methodist Church holds their Food Pantry on the second **Thursday** of the month from 6-7:30pm. Please feel welcome to join them in bagging groceries, talking to the clients, or in praying for them. **They pass out about 45 boxes of cereal each month, and we are their cereal church. So when shopping for groceries please pick up an extra box of cereal (any kind) for the food pantry and put it in the bin in the Entry.** Thank you!

We want to thank you for your love and generosity you once again have shown us during the Christmas season. You are an unbelievable church! Our hope is that all of you had a blessed Christmas, and we pray God's blessings for you in 2012. Thanks again for your gifts.

Pastor Steve and Karen



Let the Mice Teach Us a Lesson

A few years ago Johns Hopkins University did an experiment with mice. The first group of mice was held tightly in the experimenters' hands so that they could not move at all. The mice struggled, but were immobilized without being injured. Then after a set period of time, they were placed in a tub of water. They immediately sank, having learned that fighting was hopeless.

A second group of mice was held in the lab technicians' hands less tightly. The creatures were given some hope of escaping the grip of the lab technician but without being actually free. After the same length of time, they were also dropped into a tub of water. These mice immediately swam to safety.

It's a parable for us humans. If we come to believe that life's struggles and fights are useless and hopeless – we will sink. Life will beat us. As long as we remain strong in will and hope by continuing the struggle, by God's grace, in time we will not be defeated.

Adapted and modified from *Perceptions* by Maxie Dunnam

Matthew 11:28 *"Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."*

Romans 8:35-39 *"Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,* neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Psalms 55:22 *"Give your burdens to the LORD, and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall."*

2 Corinthians 1:5 *"For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ."*

Psalms 27:14 *"By the power of your hand, O LORD, destroy those who look to this world for their reward. But satisfy the hunger of your treasured ones. May their children have plenty, leaving an inheritance for their descendants."*

Nahum 1:7 *"The LORD is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. He is close to those who trust in him."*

Psalms 18:2 *"The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety."*

Psalms 37:24 *"Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the LORD holds them by the hand."*

Psalms 46:1 *"God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble."*

Psalms 37:23 *"The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives."*

See also: Psalm 48:14, Psalm 73:26, Psalm 31:24, John 14:8.

--Pastor Steve

What is Financial Peace University?



FPU is the most important step to changing your financial future. It is your Total Money Makeover Program. It

takes the knowledge from God and turns it into real action in our lives through a step-by-step process taught by best-selling author and financial counselor Dave Ramsey.

FPU is a 13-week life-changing program that empowers and teaches you how to make the right money decisions to achieve your financial goals and God's plan for your life. The course includes practical lessons on eliminating debt, building wealth, giving like never before, and much, much more!

Who is Financial Peace University for?

It's for EVERYONE...from the financially secure to the financially distressed. Over 1 million families and individuals have attended Financial Peace University.

Applying God's Word radically changes your life. On average, FPU graduates have paid off over \$5,300 in debt and saved \$2,700 during the 91-day program!

What Will I Learn? In this life-changing program you will learn:

1. Step-by-Step Cash Flow Planning. Luke 14:28: "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it."

2. Debt Snowball Plan Technique to Eliminating Debt. Proverbs 22:7: "The borrower is slave to the lender."

3. How to Invest Wisely. Ecclesiastes 11:2: "Give portions to seven, yes to eight, for you do not know what disaster may come upon the land."

Testimonials. Here's what people just like you are saying about FPU:

"We've actually relieved ourselves of over \$50,000 worth of debt in two years just from using these principles." - Russ and Mary Lee

"It made us sit down as a couple and communicate... and it gave us an instant pay raise!" - Paul and Lynesa Benson

Preview dates will be Sunday, January 22 at 6:30pm OR Thursday, February 2 at 7pm, both at Clarksville UMC. Hope to see you there!

Bring in Your...

Campbell's Labels: sent to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky to help buy school buses & supplies.

Requirements have changed: Campbell's no longer accepts the front labels. You must cut out the **UPC from the back with the "Labels for Education" symbol attached.**

Pop Can Tabs: used by Shriners Burns Hospital to buy games, magazines, and other entertainment items for patients

Large, Commemorative U.S. & Foreign Stamps: sent to Church World Service as a fundraiser (do not bring in common U.S. stamps).

There are cans under the mailboxes to collect all of the above. Thank you!

Health Ministry Article

Our Health Ministry representative Karin Dishon submitted this article for us. Please read!

Helpful Cold Remedies

Being sick with a cold virus for a week or two doesn't mean you have to be miserable. These remedies may help:

- **Fluids:** Drink plenty of liquids. Water, juice, clear broth, or warm water with lemon juice and honey can help loosen congestion.
- **Saltwater gargle:** To relieve a sore or scratchy throat, gargle with ¼ to ½ teaspoon salt dissolved in an 8-ounce glass of warm water.
- **Saline nasal drops and sprays:** These nonprescription products combat stuffiness and congestion. Unlike nasal decongestants, saline drops and sprays used over the long term doesn't cause symptoms to get worse once use is discontinued (rebound effect).
- **Nasal decongestants:** Limiting use of nasal decongestant products – such as Afrin and 4-Way – to no more than three consecutive days generally provides symptom relief without the rebound effect.
- **Chicken soup:** The soothing qualities of a steaming bowl of soup may be due to its possible mucus-thinning and anti-inflammatory effects.

What doesn't work? Worth noting are antibiotics, which destroy bacteria, but are no help against cold viruses. As for zinc, a recent analysis had mixed results and stopped short of recommending it until more research is done. Zinc-containing nasal gels or sprays have been associated with permanent loss of smell.

From November 2011 www.HealthLetter.MayoClinic.com

Trustees

Trustees will meet on Tuesday, January 10th at 7pm. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting. Among items of business will be election of officers, review of plans for a storage building, and a review of insurance. During the month of December, a number of repairs were made to the parsonage and church.

Olive Branch UMC Council Meeting December 13, 2011 at 7pm

Caring People...Sharing Jesus

Our Vision: To be and to be recognized by our community as a faith-filled Body of Christ that embodies Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Faith-Forming Relationships, Education and Experiences and Risk-Taking Missions and Service; doing all this while generously giving of our time, talents and treasures.

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Meeting began at 7:00pm with prayer. Those in attendance were: Pastor Steve, Scarlett Rowland, Linda Fox, Karen Doney, Darren Davenport, Patty Davis, Kris Plymire, Stella Hagemeyer, Julie Malcolm, Judy Schaefer, Terri Hackman, Dana Storts, Paul Schaefer and Donna Akers.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the October meeting were accepted as presented.

Treasurers' Reports:

- Charge balance \$3556.72
- Church checking \$13,437.88 as of 12/13/11; \$5203 of this is already allocated for Mission, Youth and Your Father's Kitchen ministries
- Trustees checking \$ unknown
- Sunday School \$ unknown

Unfinished Business:

- Charge Conference Compensation Report for 2012 needed to be altered a bit due to the availability of a Health Savings Account for the Pastor that will be offered by the Conference. The bottom line numbers remain the same. Dana moved to rescind the Section 105 deduction that was previously approved, and Kris seconded. Motion carried. Donna then made motion to adjust our 2012 Pastoral Support Budget accordingly; Paul seconded. Dana made motion to adopt the presented new budget for 2012; Judy seconded. Motion carried.
- Terri Hackman is looking into the possibility of supporting Green Meadows with food deliveries outside of the monthly food pantry at Clarksville UMC. Many do not have transportation to get to the food pantry.

New Business:

- Church Builder's Club from West Ohio Conference – Judy made motion, seconded by Dana, to send \$200 to them. Last year donations were made through them to

Water's Edge in Mason. Motion carried. This is a budgeted item.

- January 29 is a 5th Sunday Mission Moment – motion made by Karen, seconded by Dana, to give the funds to the Volunteers in Mission Team.
- January 21 – District Annual Training Day – at Armstrong Chapel UMC in Indian Hill. More info to come.

Committee Reports:

Lay Leader: Julie Malcolm. No report at this time.

Discipleship/Nurture: Kris Plymire. Actively looking for a replacement for herself in 2012.

Youth Leader: Jenn Butler. Youth Christmas Party Dec. 17 from 4-6pm.

Worship: Judy Schaefer.

- Christmas Eve at Clarksville 8pm
- Christmas Day at Olive Branch at 10:30am
- Judy and Phyllis have been taking a turn once a month playing piano for Oregonia-Harveysburg UMC as they do not have a piano player.

Finance: Dana Storts. No one has had questions regarding the Charge Budget for 2012.

Evangelism/Outreach: Terri Hackman.

- Trip to Green Meadows Saturday – gave hats, scarves, gloves, socks and candy to each person in 20 trailers.
- Team visited Pastor Darnell Tingle at Oregonia church on Sunday to welcome him to the community
- Will hand out goodie bags and scripture on Thursday at Sugartree Ministries (Your Father's Kitchen)

Global Ministries: John Bolerjack. No report at this time.

Communication: Karen Doney. Always seeking articles of interest.

Membership: Linda Fox. We lost Craig Beckett since our last meeting. Linda and Pastor will discuss membership issues in the New Year .

Historian: Stella Hagemeyer.

- Earnestly seeking donations for the Red Stocking program through the end of the month – these gifts help those who can't afford services at Otterbein.
- Plymire family has attended Olive Branch for five generations. Stella will submit an article soon for the newsletter.

Health Ministry: Karin Dishon. Call her if you would be willing to share any home health aids such as wheel chairs, shower chairs, bedside commodes, etc.

PPRC: Paul Schaefer. Chair for next year must come from Olive Branch; Paul Gibson is willing to serve. Pastor Steve made motion, seconded by Karen, to accept. Motion carried.

Trustees: Paul Schaefer.

Many small problems are cropping up with the church – heating, etc.

UMW: Karen Doney. Had a wonderful lunch at the Hammel House on December 1. Women's Advent Service on Nov. 28 was a wonderful evening of fellowship and worship that was attended by approximately 110 ladies. Next year, we will ask the men to help with parking, as that was a big issue, especially in the rain. The skit and solo were heart-warming, and the actors' and directors' hard work is greatly appreciated! \$245 was earned for mission work during the craft sale.

UMM: Jim Gibbs.

- Paul reported that the men will be delivering 30-40 Christmas dinners to the needy in the area.
- GOBA will stop over June 22nd at the Clinton County Fairgrounds – great fund-raising opportunity for the men or the women. Start planning!

VIM: Judy Schaefer. February 25-March 3 – to Picayune – hope to have 4-5 from Olive Branch and the same from Faith Community. Spaghetti Supper fund-raiser will be held on January 28th.

Pastor Steve's remarks:

- Finished first Financial Peace University class last week; well attended and appreciated by all attendees.
- Next class will be held in January on Sunday nights at Clarksville UMC
- Open House at the parsonage Dec. 18 from 3-5:30pm

Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 7pm.
Pending Minutes submitted by Secretary Karen Doney

Training Day

Workshops are being offered to church leaders at a training day on January 21. Sounds like there's something there for everybody! If you are new to a position or want to learn what else God might be calling you to do for His family, you might want to participate. I think there's time for up to four of the workshops in the day's schedule.

You can check them out at this link to see what is offered. Please let Karen or me know if you wish to attend. You can register on your own, but if we get five or more from our church we can go for \$50.

<http://orvumc.org/leadership-day/descriptions/>

--Judy Schaefer

Volunteers in Mission Making Plans

The Mission Team is making plans for a return trip to Picayune, MS Feb. 25 – Mar. 3, 2012. This will be the seventh year our church has supported a team to southern Mississippi for repairs and rebuilding since Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. The first planning meeting is set for Thursday, Jan. 5, 7:00 PM at Olive Branch UMC. Anyone interested in learning more about the trip is welcome to attend.

Our annual fund-raiser, a spaghetti dinner, is scheduled for Saturday, January 28 serving from 4-7 PM. We hope you are able to join us that evening for good food, fellowship, and support of our mission to be the hands and heart of Jesus. Thanks to all who have supported our work to date with purchases of candy, shirts, and canned goods. With so many worthy projects and non-charitable organizations seeking funds I am humbled by your continued generosity to the works in our church.

--Judy Schaefer

MEMORIES OF OLIVE BRANCH UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
Minutes from 1908 to 1997

Our historian, Stella Hagemeyer, has reviewed the UMW records from our inception in 1908 and highlights here for us some of the most interesting happenings. We will share an bit of our heritage each month – thanks to Stella – enjoy!

Continued... Jan. 10, 1927 was all day sewing for the Rutledge family, making dresses for the children.

Oct. 6, 1927 paid \$138 to have the Church papered and painted.

July 3, 1929 approved \$27 for blinds for the Church windows.

Oct. 3, 1929 had a Halloween Party at the Olive Branch School and made a profit of \$27.30 (this was a yearly money making project).

Dec 1929 had their annual Christmas Party with gifts not to exceed 10 cents (every Christmas there was a party for the children with Santa).

June 1930 everyone was saddened by the death of Anna Wilkerson. She did so much to help organize the Ladies Aid in 1908 and served as President for 14 years.

The ladies reported sales of aprons and door stops (for money-making projects, the ladies sold Jell-O, cards and stationery, and the ladies were often ask to contribute the price of a dozen eggs).

Aug 7, 1930 it was approved to give \$30 on the salary of Rev. Tucker.

June 1931 the ladies approved to purchase a rug for the front of the Church, the cost was \$10. The ladies sold the quilt that they had made for \$25 and the ladies made plans to serve lunch for the corn husking contest.

November 1931 they changed janitors from Freeman Millard to Francis Plymire paying \$3.00 per month (later they decided that was too much and would pay only 50 cents per week).

The Ladies sent cards to Ann Attlesey in the hospital. We all know at her death in 1973 she left her estate to the Church. The Church sold the farm (except for 12 acres) and received a total of \$107,689.93. and it is now valued at approximately \$214,000.

December 1931 the ladies had an oyster supper and made plans for a wood cutting for the Church (wood used in stoves for heat).

January 1932 approved to buy song books for the Church also to pay for book racks. A Thank-you was given to Granville Farris for donating fire wood for the Church.

February 1932 was the annual all day meeting when they invited their husbands. They always met in their homes and on this day it was recorded “the day was somewhat disagreeable but 23 men and 34 ladies and 3 children had a great day”.

July 7, 1932 they voted to give a quart of milk every day for a baby, the cost was 5 cents per quart and it was given for several months. The ladies also met the next Wednesday to sew for the family. August 1932 the family expressed their appreciation for the milk and the clothes made by the ladies for the family.

September 1932 the ladies agreed to pay \$25 on the salary of Rev. Russell and a committee was appointed to plan for the annual home coming on the second Sunday in October.

September 1, 1936 Rev. Russell reported the parsonage has been repaired at the cost of \$170 but Butlerville and Pansy are unable to pay their share, so the ladies agreed to pay the full amount.

May 3, 1938 several ladies attended the District Meeting in Wilmington and every one enjoyed the pot luck lunch.

October 1938 the members voted to have someone clean the Church for the Homecoming. Eva Wilkerson charged 40 cents an hour and the bill was \$33.40. The Halloween party will be Oct. 29 in the new corn dryer at John Settlemyre's and each member is asked to bring two pumpkin pies or doughnuts.

December Celebrations



Live Nativity at Clarksville UMC
December 10th



Christmas Gifts to Customers
at Your Father's Kitchen on December 15th



"Wonderful Joy" Cantata- December 18th
Way to go Choir!

Pastor Steve and Karen hosted a lovely Open House at the parsonage after the Cantata – we all enjoyed the Sloppy Toms!



Caroling at Hagemeyer Farm
December 22nd

Speaking of the Hagemeyers...Stella was honored at the United Methodist Women's luncheon on December 1st for her many years of service to our organization. If you need something done, just ask Stella! :)

She and Maynard hosted carolers from our church on December 22nd, and we enjoyed many snacks, beverages, and of course, great hospitality! Thank you!

Also, Miss Stella celebrated her 90th birthday on December 23rd at a party given by her family. She has had a busy month!

"The Lord is My Shepherd"

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter.

Little Ricky was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

(out of the mouths of babes...)