

# Circuit Writer



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December 2011

Whiteland United Methodist Church

309 Main St. Whiteland, IN 46184

317-535-4287

<sup>5</sup>One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. <sup>6</sup>When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time; he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" <sup>7</sup>The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." <sup>8</sup>Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." <sup>9</sup>At once the man was made well and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a Sabbath." (John 5:5-9, NRSV)

I wanted to share with you that I have been re-reading a book by James Harnish, [You Only Have To Die: Leading Your Congregation to New Life](#), in which he shares the story of a congregation that faced closure but turned itself around by understanding themselves differently. They learned to see a future and made the tough choices to move toward that future. I began to consider this again. One illustration he uses is a windshield. He tells of his experience with his congregation and explains that windshields are much larger than rearview mirrors because it is more important to see where you are going rather than where you have been. That is not to say that rearview mirrors are not important—they are. Knowing where have been is important as he writes, "We need rearview mirrors; we dare not forget the things that have shaped and nurtured our lives. But as followers of a risen Lord, the most important things are always on the road ahead of us."

We are a people of the future. We are a people of hope. The coming year has many opportunities for us to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. What is God calling us to do? How are we going to do this? When do we begin? I believe that God is calling us to make disciples not only in our community but also in our surrounding area.

From the time my family and I have arrived, I have witnessed the love and caring that is a part of the fabric of the community of faith here. As we start this year in moving forward, we will be challenged to try new things and to take steps of faith. The passage from John that relates the story of the sick man calls our attention to what is at stake. When Jesus asks him if he wants to be made well, the man does not say yes or no. He makes an excuse so that he does not have to make a decision. He is stuck in the past. He is stuck in what he knows. Jesus commands him to stand up. He makes the decision to follow Jesus and finds health. He is made well. He began to walk. He moved from the spot where he had been and found a better life someplace else. Please note that he took his mat with him and did not leave it.

Jesus calls each of us to 'stand up, take our mats and walk'. I imagine that when that man began to move he probably was sore and stiff from inactivity. He may have even had difficulty knowing how to go forward. Once up and moving though, he was alive again. Our journey will be similar. We may find that it will be painful at first and we may feel uneasy or even unsteady but once moving toward the living Savior on the road ahead of us we will find life.

The future is bright and we are being called to be a part of it. Let us all rise, take up our mats and join the risen Savior on the road ahead.

Peace,

*Pastor Ed*

## DECEMBER EVENTS

- 1st 5pm Free Meal @ UTS  
5:30pm Tutoring @ UTS  
6:30pm Girl Scouts
- 3rd 9am –7pm Bell Ringing @ Kroger for  
Salvation Army  
7pm ACT Up @ UTS
- 5th 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 615  
7pm Ad Council
- 6th 6:30pm Daisy  
7pm Boy Scouts  
7pm WUMC Staff Parish
- 7th 7pm UMWomen Christmas party
- 8th 5pm Free Meal @ UTS  
5:30pm Tutoring @ UTS  
6:30pm Girl Scouts  
7pm Prayer Shawls
- 10th 10am Handbell practice  
6pm Christmas at the Café
- 11th 1pm-3pm Preschool Christmas Programs
- 12th 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 615  
7pm Finance
- 13th 6:30pm Daisy  
7pm Boy Scouts
- 15th 5pm Free Meal @ UTS  
5:30pm Tutoring @ UTS  
6:30pm Girl Scouts
- 16th 7pm Daycare Christmas Program
- 17th 10am Handbell practice
- 18th 4pm Emmaus @ UTS
- 19th 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 615  
7pm Trustees
- 20th 6:30pm Daisy  
7pm Boy Scouts
- 22nd 5pm Free Meal @ UTS  
6:30pm Girl Scouts
- 24th 7pm Christmas Eve Service  
11pm UTS Christmas Eve Service
- 25th Merry Christmas!
- 26th 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 615
- 27th 6:30pm Daisy  
7pm Boy Scouts
- 28th 5pm Free Meal @ UTS  
6:30pm Girl Scouts
- 31st 8pm Youth Lock-in

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & CELEBRATIONS

- 2nd Dennis/Rhonda Clarkson Anniversary
- 3rd Hunter Park
- 4th Jack Privett
- 7th Erin Davis
- 10th Carol Garrison
- 12th Sarah Yeoman  
Mary Hussung
- 13th Ed Knoop  
Cora Metcalf  
Paul McAninch
- 14th Betty Stillabower
- 16th Merrill Kelsay
- 17th Rachel Haveman  
Alberta Coy
- 18th Patty Payne  
Glenn/Becky Haveman Anniversary
- 20th Kay Robson  
Jerry Lasiter  
Chub/Violet Money Anniversary
- 24th Carol Lower
- 25th Wilma Mitchell
- 26th Arnold/Mary Hussung Anniversary
- 27th Bryce Mitchell
- 28th Jonathan Reabe  
Nolan/Wilma Mitchell Anniversary



## WEEKLY SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 9:00 am Adult Sunday School (FH)  
Youth & Children upstairs
- 10:00 am Worship
- 11:00 am Children Sunday School
- 11:15 am Worship at UTS
- 5:00 pm Senior High Youth
- 5:15 pm UTS Praise Team (UTS)
- 6:30 pm Adult Choir Practice

### Mission Committee News

Undies and sweatpants were delivered to 5 elementary schools and were received with much appreciation.

December brings an opportunity to donate hats, scarves and gloves. All sizes are needed from children to adults. There will be containers at both church entrances to collect these items.

Extravagant Generosity is one of the five practices of a fruitful congregation. I am proud to be a part of this loving and giving church. Thanks to all!

As always I am open to suggestion and questions.

**Violet Money**

535-4715

### Church Directory

We need help location the following people. We would like to contact these members and invite them to worship with us. If you can give us an address or even a phone number would help. Thank you.

Boerner, Michael and KariAnn

Britt, Jerrilyn

Christan, Corey

Clay, Jack and Katie

Daniels, Jeff

Degolyer, Traci

Dinkel, Melissa

Elewitz, Jessica

Gardner, Joanna

Heck, Katie

Hise, Mary

Holzer, Gail

Mitchell, Debra

Mitchell, Kristen

Ryan, Shawn

Sink, Artemus

Stoll, Robert and Deborah

### Thank You!

Dear Congregation on Whiteland United Methodist Church,

The staff and students of Pleasant Crossing would like to thank you for the donation of children's clothing, socks and undergarments. It is so helpful to have extra clothing at the school for unfortunate accidents that sometimes occur.

Once again your congregation has generously shared with us at PCES. Thank you very much

Sincerely,

**Mr. Magnuson, Principal**

**The Staff & Students of Pleasant Crossing Elementary**

### Holiday UMW News

I am so looking forward to our Christmas party on Wednesday, December 7th! We are all to bring a plate of goodies to share and then we will fix a plate to deliver to shut-ins. The fellowship is always warm and friendly. There will be a great program to enjoy. I hope to see a good turn-out. And spouses are invited to come for the Christmas program.

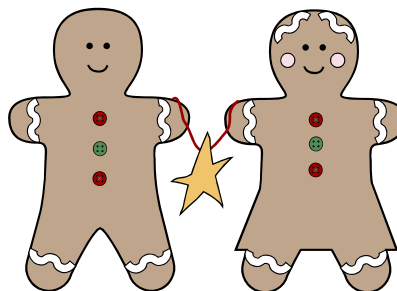
A very good program and film was presented last month at the UMW Circle Meeting.

For more information and/or a ride, call

**Vicki Camden**

535-4731 (home)

313-4216 (cell)



## December Events at the Café

We had a couple of wonderful events at the café in November. Eighty or so youth and their parents and grandparents enjoyed the youth band night. Four teen bands each played a set. Dishpan Pie provided a great concert of folk and traditional music to accompany our lasagna and desserts, with about 65-70 people attending.

Now it's time to catch the holiday spirit! There are several ways to do that this year at Under the Sun Café.

At the **Dessert Theatre** on Saturday December 3rd, you can enjoy yummy desserts, funny improv, songs and drama provided by the A.C.T. Up! Improv Group. The café opens at 6:00 pm for dessert and conversation, and the improv starts at 7pm. Everyone is welcome and there is no cover charge.

**Christmas at the Café**, our annual holiday party for the community, features a free meal (donations welcome), Christmas music with our friends Circle City Steel and a visit from Santa on Saturday, December 10th. Dinner service begins at 6pm and the music starts at 7pm. This year we'd like to help Santa provide a gift for each person under age 18 who attends. If you'd like to help with this, you contribute cash (place check in the offering plate made to Under the Sun Café-Christmas or give to Ginger Murphy). If you would like to volunteer to help serve the meal and support the activities, let Ginger know that as well. Of course, you can always come listen, eat and enjoy!



**The Café by Candlelight.** Our candlelight Christmas Eve gathering will include music, readings, a mediation and Communion. Prepare for Jesus' birthday by remembering with us the night of His birth.

### **Ginger Murphy, Communications Coordinator**

Under the Sun Café: When you eat, you give!

[www.underthesuncafe.com](http://www.underthesuncafe.com)

### **Come Celebrate!**

On Sunday January 1st everyone is invited to come celebrate Kenneth Demaree's 80th birthday. The reception will take place in Fellowship Hall from 2pm-4pm. No gifts please, but he would really enjoy a card or note with some remembrance of past years. Come and enjoy remembering old times with him!



We have 2011 Church Directories available in narthex and UTS. Thanks to Pauline Dixon, Barbara Demaree, Helen Shultz, Merrill Eddy, Allison Belcas, and everyone who filled out information sheets and made corrections! Please help us keep the directory up to date by notifying the office by phone, email ([office@wumc-in.org](mailto:office@wumc-in.org)) or letter, when you have changes.

**Becky Haveman**

### Fall Fish Fry

Our Annual Fish Fry, which was held on October 7th and 8th was, again, very successful. We had sales of \$2,826.95. Our expenses were \$1,404.33 leaving us with a profit of \$1,422.66. This money will go into our general fund.

Eric Banister and I would like to thank those who helped make our fish fry a success. Those who made cookies and brownies, fried fish, made sandwiches, collected money and filled orders, thank you for all of your help.

We started having fish fry's in 2004. It was to be a time where we could make a little money for projects we wanted to help with and to get our church members working together and getting to know each other a little better. I believe we have been successful on both accounts.

I have been organizing these fish fry's since the very first one. I think it is time for some new leadership to take on this job and I have asked Eric Banister to take this on. He has agreed to do so starting with the Spring Fish Fry which will be held in May 2012. This is a tentative date and an exact date will be set early next year. Eric will need everyone's support when the time arrives, I am sure that you will support Eric as you have me. I am not going anywhere, I will be there to help Eric wherever he needs me. However, I will NOT parade up and down in front of the church in a fish costume!

Again, thanks to all who have helped me throughout the years. There have been so many of you and without your help our fish fry would not have been the success it has been.

**Merrill Eddy**

### Fall Party

Our fall party and trunk-or-treat was a great success! The only "problem" we had was that we ran out of candy! The turn out was so great that you could hardly move around in Fellowship Hall. There were 74 children accompanied by parents and grandparents. Next year we are planning to have more activities outside.

Thank you to everyone who donated candy, food and their time. A special thanks to those who staffed the party and also to the Daycare who participated and helped clean up.

**Christian Cruze**  
**Becky Haveman**

### PowerPoint/Media Operation Schedule

**December**

**PPT Creation: Tina/Paul  
McAninch**

**Dec 4: Dave Ketterer**

**Dec 11: Nolan Mitchell**

**Dec 18: Steve Sowder (Susan creating)**

**Dec 25: Tina/Paul McAninch**



### **Daycare News**

Our Daycare Christmas Program is Friday December 16th from 7pm-9pm, there will be punch and cookies afterwards.

Daycare Book-Exchange is December 22nd with our Happy Birthday Jesus Party.

The Daycare will be closed Friday December 23rd and Monday the 26th. And again on Friday December 30th.

We wish all of you a very blessed and Merry Christmas!

### **Daycare Fundraiser!**

Guardian Angel Daycare Ministry will be selling DiscoverIndy Savings Books for \$25 and Food and Fun Express Book for \$10 as a fundraiser. Visit the Church office for more information!

### **Guardian Angel Preschool**

Christmas Programs are Sunday December 11th.

1:00pm Blue & Purple classes

2:00pm Yellow & Red classes

3:00pm Orange & Green classes

Christmas parties will be held Monday December 19th for the Blue class and Purple class. And Tuesday December 20th for the Yellow class, Red class, Orange class and Green class. Please bring 20 stocking stuffers to share! Small, inexpensive items are encouraged! Example: pencils, stickers, candy, etc.

The last day of the semester is Tuesday, December 20th. The second semester will begin on Thursday January 5th!

*Merry*  *Christmas*

## WUMC joins the Social Networking World!

As some of you may already know, Whiteland United Methodist Church now has a Facebook page! You can 'like' the page to stay up-to-date on important information and upcoming events. And now you can follow WUMC on Twitter! On Twitter you send out short (usually no more than 140 characters) messages called "tweets". You will also be update about important info you may need to know as well as events coming up. People can follow you and vice versa; their updates will show up on your timeline and your updates on theirs. The timeline is also called you homepage. Make sure you follow @WUMC1 and don't forget to like the page on Facebook!

Let me know if you have any questions,

**Allison Belcas**



### Greeters, Ushers, Nursery Attendants & Liturgists Schedule

December	4th	11th	18th	25th
<b>Greeters</b>	Michelle and Eric Banister	Wilma and Nolan Mitchell	Kathy and Dean Houseman	Violet and Clarence Money
<b>Ushers</b>	Steve Sowder Jerry Lasiter Dean Houseman Nolan Mitchell	Glenn Haveman Jack Privett Kenneth Demaree Clarence Money	Michelle Banister Violet Money Kathy Houseman Wilma Mitchell	Steve Sowder Jerry Lasiter Clarence Money Wayne Fansler
<b>Nursery Attendant</b>	Brenda Chandler	Stephanie Allender	Kathy Houseman	Volunteer needed
<b>Liturgist</b>	Barbra Demaree	Steve Sowder	Volunteer needed	None needed

## Whiteland UMC Administrative Council for 2012

### Officers required by Discipline

Administrative Council Chair	Merrill Eddy
Lay Leader	Paul McAninch
Pastor Parish/Staff Parish Chair	Louise Brinkman
Finance Chair	Keith Conrow/TBA
Trustees Chair	TBA
Treasurer	Tina McAninch
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Barbara Demaree
United Methodist Women	Vicki Camden
United Methodist Men	Vacant
United Methodist Youth	Christian Cruze
Young Adult Representative	Vacant
Nominations/Leadership Dev. Chair	Pastor Ed Fisher

### Other Officers for Ministry

Financial Secretary	Steve Sowder
Recording Secretary	Barbara Demaree

### Ministries

Benevolence Fund/Fletcher Place/Undie Sunday	Violet Money
Hospitality/Welcoming/Cheerleader	Becky Haveman
Guardian Angel Daycare	Linda Weiss
Guardian Angel Preschool	Lisa Campbell
Thursday Evening Community Meal	Ginger Murphy
Fish Fry	Eric Bannister
Vacation Bible School	Linda Weiss/Lisa Campbell
Parish Nursing	Louise Brinkman
Prayer Chain	Pauline Dixon
Emmaus	Vacant
Adult Sunday School	Vacant
Youth Christian Education	Vacant
Children's Christian Education	Vacant

(Continued on the next page)

Trustees For 2012

Chair TBA

Class of 2012

Greg Allender  
Gary Coleman  
Kenny Demaree  
Eric Bannister

Class of 2013

Dave Ketterer  
Glenn Haveman  
Nancy Parr

Class of 2014

Eric Bannister  
vacant  
vacant

Pastor Parish/Staff Parish Committee For 2012

Chair	Louise Brinkman
Ad Council Chair	Merrill Eddy
Lay Leader	Paul McAninch
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Barbara Demaree

Class of 2012

Paul Sappenfield  
Louise Brinkman\*  
Christian Cruze

Class of 2013

Sandy Eddy  
Steve Sowders  
vacant

Class of 2014

Walter Parr  
Kathy Houseman  
Michelle Bannister

2012 Finance Committee

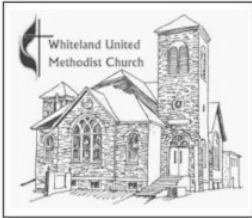
Chair Keith Conrow	
Treasurer	Tina McAninch
Financial Secretary	Steve Sowders
PPRC/SPRC	Louise Brinkman
Lay Leader	Paul McAninch
Ad Council Chair	Merrill Eddy
Trustee Chair	TBA
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Barbara Demaree

Additional Members to be added by the Finance Chair

**Highlights from the December Ad Council Meeting**

At the last meeting of the Administrative Council, the following items were discussed and approved.

- The meeting dates for the next year were set for the last Wednesday of each month.
- The members of the Ad Council will now include the positions required by the UMC Discipline plus all who are leading ministries. This number will change as new ministries are created and as other ministries come to a close. The goal of these changes is to focus our attention on making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As always, everyone is welcomed to attend the Administrative Council meetings and give input or share an idea for ministry. If you have a passion for a particular ministry, please share that passion with others.
- The office hours for the Annex will be Monday –Thursday, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm; and closed on Friday beginning December 6, 2011.



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