

# SPIRIT SONG

## From the Pastor

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On my way home from the meeting on Monday afternoon, while I was waiting for the green light, I saw a plow truck heading somewhere in a hurry. On the backside of the plow, a bumper sticker said, "Let It Snow!" I burst out laughing. It perfectly made sense to me. For those business owners, blizzard snow storm might be a good news, or bad news depending on what kind of business they are in.

Whether we liked it or not, we got snowed in. This morning Kat, Julie and I went out snow shoveling for almost 3 hours. It was chilly and my back started hurting due to too much shoveling. Although it is only their third winter, they made up their minds to go to college down South for they are already tired of snow shoveling. "Who is going to help me with shoveling if you guys are far away?" I asked. Kat answered, "Then, Mommy has to do it." In order to compensate them, I stayed one more hour, snow sledding with them on the hill. We had fun and they were happy in the snow.



Sometimes you might wonder why God ever created your least favorite season. Wouldn't we all be better off without all this blizzard, freezing rain, etc? But God said that He created every season for a purpose. To every season there is a reason. So, yes! Even winter has its purpose. I love to see the change of the season. I would be easily bored if I lived in a place with only one season. Four seasons teaches us the variety and the depth of creation.

Not only do seasons have their purpose of its existence, but we all are created uniquely and perfectly to live for the purpose that God has given us. Furthermore, as Christians, at the moment we place our faith in Jesus Christ and are baptized into the mystical body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13), God sends his Holy Spirit to reside in us and then, according to Apostle Paul, "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good" (1 Cor. 12:7). Some of you may not have heard about 'spiritual gifts.' You will perfectly understand what it is as you participate in the following process: First, beginning this Sunday, I starting a new sermon series on "Unwrapping Spiritual Gifts." On the first Sunday, we will hand out 'Spiritual Gifts Assessment' to all of you, so that you can discover your spiritual gifts. And then please join your Caring Fellowship Group on the second Sunday right after worship and have an open discussion on this. If you are not ready to join Caring Fellowship, yet want to know about it, please let me know. I will find someone to help you. One last thing, come to Wednesday Evening Sharing Faith Hour (7 p.m.), wherein we will study about 'Spiritual Gifts' from the month of March for 7 weeks.

One more reminder: Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday (February 18) for a period of 40 days, not including Sundays, that precede Easter. I would like to invite all of you to come to Ash Wednesday Service (7 p.m.) for the imposition of ashes and the remembrance of baptism based on the sermon's assurance that though we are dust, we are baptized dust, and that makes all the difference.

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Ecclesiastes chapter 3 reminds us that there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven (verses 1-8). What I want you to know today is that seasons will change. Bad seasons and good seasons will come and go. Let's remember that God will never change. God says that he has made everything beautiful in its time. That means that He can take even the worst season (or seasons of life) and turn them into something more beautiful than we could ever have imagined. Our God is incredible as the Psalmist sings in Psalm 8, "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!...When I consider your heaven, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?" (v. 1, 3-4)

Joy and peace,

*Pastor Taesung*



There will be an Ash Wednesday church service on February 18th at 7:00 p.m. This is the beginning of Lent, or 40 weekdays until Easter. This should be a time of reflection, prayer and fasting. The palms from last year's Palm Sunday are burned and applied to our forehead in the form of a cross to remind us that the earthly journey of our Lord will soon end on that cross. We walk beside Jesus thru the written words of the apostles and disciples, our witnesses to a journey that only begins for us at the cross. Take time to see, hear and experience the lives of those chosen by Jesus to be his first disciples.

1 John 1:1- 2 says, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched - this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared, we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us."

Visit [www.CC-UMC.org](http://www.CC-UMC.org)

Visit the church regularly online to see what's happening and check out the programs and people who are at work in the fields of the Lord. Also, you can see the fun stuff that happens when people of faith get together.

Recycle Print Cartridges

Do you throw your used print cartridges away? Bring them to the church office and we will receive \$2 for each cartridge recycled.

February 2015

# We started with basket full of faith and prayers...

With a financial basket full of faith and prayers, we ended 2014 and began our 2015 pledge campaign. Jesus fed 5000 with a similar basket, as the crowd's faith was tested and challenged. I think in September our faith was being tested and challenged, as our basket was empty. How would we survive, how would we pay our winter heating bills, how, how, how???

Would we leave hungry??

NO! Thanks to YOUR overwhelming faith, prayer and sacrifice, our financial basket is full. Overflowing with faith and filled with just enough financial fishes and bread (\$\$\$) to end 2014 and begin 2015 with exceedingly great joy.

We ended 2014 with enough money to pay all our bills, including payment of 100% of our mission and ministerial support!! Something that has not been done in almost 10 years. Our ambitious \$150,000 2015 pledge goal, was exceeded by \$2000. We enter 2015 with projected pledges and fund raising of \$187,000 and expected expenses of the same. We have reviewed our budget and made cuts where needed and made increases to support our church mission. The trustees are in the process of reviewing energy usage and cost. A search for an organist is in process.

YES our financial basket money needs is expected to be met, but *more importantly*, our basket is overflowing with faith and a renewed spirit. And when God looks down on the Charlton City United Church, he surely must see us with exceedingly great joy.



# Saturday Brunch—February 21st at 9am

The United Methodist Women will hold their February Meeting on February 21st at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall

This will be a Breakfast Brunch. We are asking that each person attending to bring a breakfast or brunch item to be enjoyed by all. The Women will provide juice, coffee and tea. Sandy Dam will be presenting a program entitled "Be Still" by Lisa Chan

This is a chance for ladies that cannot attend a day or evening meeting to join us and see what we are all about. Remember every woman in church is a member of United Methodist Women.

Please come and join our group of dedicated ladies, we have a lot of fun doing God's work.

If you can't be there for 9:00 am, come as soon as you can. You are always welcome.

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Youth Group will again be making 6 inch Subs for the Superbowl. If you have not ordered, you can still do so by emailing Betty Darling at [emd9930@charter.net](mailto:emd9930@charter.net) before Sunday, Feb. 1. The meat choice is Italian (ham, mortadella, pepperoni, salami) or Ham; choice of American, Swiss or provolone cheese; and extras of lettuce, tomato, pickle, onion, banana pepper, mustard, mayo and oil & vinegar. We are also offering homemade chocolate chip cookies for 3/\$1. We will have many packages of cookies for sale on Sunday



Creating Chocolate Chip Cookies

### Upcoming Events :

February 1 - meet to watch the Patriots in the Superbowl at Julianna's house. We will meet from 6 until halftime.

February 8 - Sledding after church - we should have enough snow!

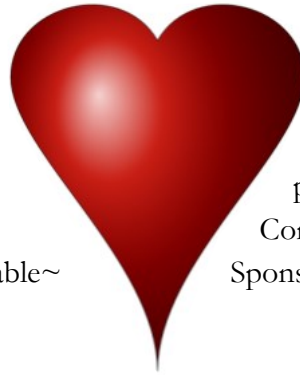


## YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

Valentines International Buffet and Movie Night featuring the movie God's not Dead: February 14 dinner at 6:00, movie @7!

CCUMC Narthex with candlelight buffet February 21. Make your favorite family and friends! Bring a friend!! Bring

Beverages and paper goods will be Minimal set up and clean up expected! that grips us by then. Sign up will be available~



and movie in the sanctuary. Snow date international cuisine to show off for your recipe to share.

provided. Fancy themed pot luck meal! Come have fun and break the mid-winter chill Sponsored by your Mission-Outreach Team

## Wednesday Sharing Faith Study Series

**Wednesday evenings @ 7 pm**

What does true spiritual life really look like? What keeps you from living such a life? How can you pursue it? We invite all of you to join us our new study from John Ortberg's *The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Discipline for Ordinary people*. Through six sessions, our study will take you on a road to transformation and spiritual renewal by learning the ancient path of the spiritual disciplines.



## Do you receive your newsletter by snail mail?

## Do you have email?

Then, Save trees! Save Postage—Saves office time!

Send us your email address

Send to: [CharltonCityUMC@cc-umc.org](mailto:CharltonCityUMC@cc-umc.org)



# Too busy to pray? See tips to find more time

A UMC.org feature by Joe Iovino\*

## **Make prayer a priority**

Those *hoping* to find time for prayer will likely fail. You have to make time. “I like to compare it to exercise,” said Jan Reed, leader of the Centering Prayer Group at University United Methodist Church in Austin, Texas. “We need exercise to keep our bodies healthy,” she continued. “We need prayer to keep our souls healthy.”

## **Make an appointment with God**

Set aside a specific time to pray. It may be first thing in the morning, in the evening, during your lunch break, your commute, or time spent waiting for the kids. Be creative. Then put the appointment in your calendar and keep it.

## **Turn off the television**

Remove distractions and pray. Reed reminds us, “We often spend at least 20 min a day doing insignificant things – checking emails, puttering around the house, watching TV, surfing the internet, etc.” We could replace that time with 20 minutes of deep communion with God.

The Reverend Olinda Salazar-Veliz, encourages us to pray through this struggle. She offers this example, “I want to grow more to follow you in better ways... Please, forgive my distractions, putting as excuses my daily chores. Allow me to approach more actively in your teachings and in the practice of them.”

## **Pray with a group**

Being part of a group may help motivate you to pray. Hixson United Methodist Church in Tennessee saw a group of moms come together to pray for their school-age children and the schools they attended. Years later, though most of their children have graduated, the moms still pray together every Friday morning. If you cannot find a group to join, start one by inviting some friends to pray with you.

## **Pray as a family**

Another group to pray with is your family. Send the children off to school with a moment of prayer. Give God thanks in the evening for all the blessings of the day. Pray with your spouse as you read the morning paper over breakfast. Pause to pray as you watch the evening news.

## **Keep your Bible and prayer journal handy**

Many people miss exercise classes because they cannot find their yoga mat or car keys in time. We can also significantly cut into our prayer time while looking for what we need. Keep your Bible, journal, and other tools where you can quickly locate them.

## **Keep the conversation going all day**

The Rev. Ginger Pudenz, Associate Pastor at Platte Woods United Methodist Church in Missouri, encourages people to pray throughout the day with Twitter prayers. “I occasionally use Twitter to send a reminder to pray,” she reports. “A few faithful followers have shared that it is a pleasant interruption to see that tweet and know that they are being called to pray with others in real time.” Short prayers throughout the day are a great way to increase your prayer life.

“I occasionally use Twitter to  
send a reminder to pray,”



Thank you  
Al Sergel and  
John Hunt  
clearing the snow  
and opening the  
church



**CALENDAR**

Youth Group – Superbowl at the Boysons ..... Sun, Feb 1 at 6pm  
 Ecumenical Fellowship ..... Tue, Feb 3rd at 7pm  
 Youth Group – Sledding ..... Sun, Feb 8th at noon  
 Christian Unity Sunday ..... Sun, Feb 8<sup>th</sup> at 2pm  
 Caring Fellowship ..... Sun, Feb 8th at 11:45am  
 Drumming Circle ..... Mon, Feb 8th at 6:30 pm  
 Valentines Buffet & Film ..... Sat Feb 14th at 5:30pm  
 Ash Wednesday ..... Wed, Feb 18th at 7pm  
 UMW Brunch ..... Saturday, Feb 21st at 9am  
 Community Café ..... Sat, Feb 28 at noon

**ONGOING PROGRAMS**

Sunday School ..... Sunday at 9am  
 Adult Bible Study ..... Sunday at 9am  
 Worship ..... Sunday at 10:30 am  
 Youth Group ..... Most Sundays at 6pm  
 Caring Fellowship ..... Second Sunday of each month  
 Drumming Circle ..... Second Monday of each month  
 Men's Early Bird Coffee ..... Wednesday at 5:30 am  
 Women's Bible Study ..... Wednesday at 10 am  
 Sharing Faith ..... Wednesday at 7pm  
 Intercessory Prayer ..... Thursday at 11:30am  
 AA ..... Saturday at 7pm  
 Community Café ..... Last Saturday of the month at noon

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RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

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Sunday's  
 10:30 am Worship