

# THE VISITOR

## March, 2010

Wedgewood United Methodist Church  
2350 Wedgewood Drive, Akron, OH 44312

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### Pastor=s Column

Prayer is our lifeline to God. It connects us to the living relationship we have when we are in regular conversation with God. Prayer makes a difference in our lives and in the lives of those we pray for.

During Lent we are looking at *Prayers God Always Answers*. By the time you read this column we will have already talked about two of them. Our prayer of *I=m sorry* is always answered by God=s response of *You are forgiven*. And our prayer of *Help me!* is answered in various ways as God answers but we sometimes notice and sometimes ignore.

God delights in answering our prayers and we should delight in talking to God every day. Talking to God deepens our faith, keeps us in his will, and gives us strength for the challenges we face in life. If you are going to add one Lenten discipline to your life this year, I challenge you to add a regular time of prayer. And if you already pray regularly, I challenge you to *pray without ceasing* - leaving the lines of communication with God open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

We cannot love God and learn to love him more unless we spend regular, devoted time with him. Prayer gives us an avenue for falling in love with God every day. *Be good to your servant, God; be as good as your Word. Train me in good common sense; I=m thoroughly committed to living your way. Before I learned to answer you, I wandered all over the place, but now I=m in step with your Word.* (Psalm 119:65-67, The Message)

## What=s Good at Wedgewood

When the **We Care Team** was starting in December, I thought it was a good idea. Little did I know that my family would be one of the first beneficiaries of this program. When my Dad died on January 8<sup>th</sup>, the **We care Team** was right there, providing meals for my Mom for a whole week! What a God-send that was for her. When Robin had her back surgery two weeks later, the **We Care Team** was there again providing meals, babysitting, and house cleaning. We are so thankful for the work of all these people! The **We Care Team** is one more thing that is **Good at Wedgewood**.

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## Did you Know?

We need volunteers in the Nursery and Toddler Room on Sunday mornings. The Nursery needs 2 volunteers for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month from 9:15 until 11:30 and the Toddler Room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month from 9:15 to 11:30. If you would like to volunteer in the Nursery please, see or call Dawn McKeel and to volunteer in the Toddler Room please, see or call Heather Herbst.

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## Evening Lenten Service

Wedgewood is hosting the March 28<sup>th</sup> evening Lenten Service. The UMW will serve refreshments so they need your help. Please fill out the following form and drop it in the offering plate on a Sunday morning or give it to Becky Cooper. Any questions, please call Becky at 330-319-0998.

\_\_\_\_\_ I can give a donation of money

\_\_\_\_\_ I can make a veggie tray

\_\_\_\_\_ I can make cookies

\_\_\_\_\_ I can make a cheese and cracker tray

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

## Holy Week Services

***Palm Sunday Worship Service*** B Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 and 11:30. At these services we will celebrate Jesus= triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Join in waving palm branches with the children as they process into the sanctuary.

***Evening Lenten Service*** is hosted by Wedgewood UMC at 7:00. Rev. Valerie Stultz will deliver the message and South Arlington UMC will present the special music.

***Maunday Thursday Communion B*** Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30. We will be joining Sawyerwood UMC for a Worship and Communion Service at 7:30 at Sawyerwood. (956 Mohawk Trail, Akron, OH 44312)

***Tenebrae Service*** - Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30. This service will be a powerful service reminding us of Christ=s sacrifice. Easter will be more meaningful if you have taken the time to attend this service. Sawyerwood UMC will join us for this service. (*Nursery will be provided.*)

***Easter Egg Hunt*** - Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00. Don=t miss this wonderful Easter tradition. Each age group, birth to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, has their own area so little ones do not have to compete with big kids. Please bring a bag or basket and your camera.

***Easter Sunrise Service*** - led by the youth & begins at 7:30.

***Easter Breakfast*** - Immediately following the Sunrise Service.

***Easter Brunch*** B Severed between the 9:30 and 11:30 Services for those who did not make it to the earlier breakfast.

***Easter Worship Service*** - 9:30 and 11:30. Share in this time of celebration as we remember that because he lived, we also live.

*Come and share in the special services and events of the church during Holy Week, the most sacred time of the Christian year.*

## ***Thank You***

*On behalf of the Merideth family, I want to thank everyone for your prayers and support after the death of Doug, Sr. We appreciate all the cards, visits, dinners, and kind words. Thanks, also to Rev. Karen for all your help, to Russ Eckard and your staff for your help arranging the funeral, and to the dinner committee for the wonderful lunch after the funeral.*

*Bev Merideth and family*

*Thank you to everyone for all of the cards and prayer during my surgery and recovery. I am truly blessed to be part of such a wonderful congregation. A special thank you to the We Care Team. My family and I are grateful for all of your thoughtfulness.*

*Robin Merideth*

*Thanks for the prayers, cards, and calls when I made my two quick trips to the Hospital. Also, thanks to Rev. Karen for her visit and prayers and to Sydney V. for her specially made card. The love and support from our church family is a warm and wonderful feeling and I really appreciate it.*

*Shirley Northcraft*

*Thank you to everyone for the cards, calls, and prayers at the time of Cullen=s birth and the days and weeks that followed. We are very blessed that our children will grow up surrounded by the love of Wedgewood.*

*Jason & Dawn McKeel*

*We would like to thank our Wedgewood family for the encouragement and support we received at the time of Chris=s fathers passing. The cards, visits, meals, and prayers were very much appreciated. Also, thank you to Rev. Karen and the We Care Team. It is wonderful to be surrounded by Christian love & support.*

*The Engelhart family*

## **Beware of Terrorist Groups in Church**

Latest news reports are that five terrorist cell groups have been operating in many of our churches. They have been identified as: Bin Sleepin, Bin Arguin, Bin Fightin, Bin Complainin, and Bin Missin.

Their leader, Lucifer Bin Workin, trained these groups to destroy the Body of Christ. The plan is to come into the church disguised as Christians and to work within the church to discourage, disrupt, and destroy.

However, there have been reports of a sixth group. A tiny cell known by the name of Bin Prayin is actually the only effective counter terrorism force in the church. Unlike other terrorist cells, the Bin Prayin team does not blend in with whoever and whatever comes along.

Bin Prayin does whatever is needed to uplift and encourage the Body of Christ. We have noticed that the Bin Prayin cell group has different characteristics than the others. They have Bin Watchin, Bin Waitin, Bin Fastin, and Bin Longin for their Master, Jesus Christ to return.

**NO CHURCH IS EXEMPT!!** (*However, you can spot them if you bin lookin & bin goin.*)

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## **Christmas was wonderful at Ellet Good Neighbors December Report**

Clothing:

Families served B 105; Adults B 191, Children B 74

Food:

Families served B 89; Adults B 173, Children B 102

Christmas was wonderful!! We had 80 families for Christmas toys; 85 boys and 64 girls received special Christmas toys, games, stuffed animals, along with hats, mittens and gloves.

A special thanks to every person who donated these items.

Without all the help, we could not have had a Christmas. Again, thanks for all your donations.

### **Congratulation to . . .**

Jason & Dawn McKeel on the birth of their son, Cullen Michael, born January 28<sup>th</sup>. Cullen was welcomed home by siblings, Carson, Casey & Keaton. Lester and Charlene McKeel are the very proud grandparents.

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### **Prayer Vigil for New Vision**

For 24 hours beginning Saturday, March 27 at 8:30 a.m. you will have an opportunity to participate in a 24 hour **Prayer Vigil for New Vision**. If you have participated in a prayer vigil before, you know how valuable they are. If you have not participated in a prayer vigil before, you are invited to experience one now.

During a prayer vigil you sign up for a half hour slot. You can pray at home, but you will get more out of it if you come to the church to pray. The prayer vigil will be held in the narthex and prayer chapel, and you will be let in through the upper doors (the circular handicapped parking) by a host. The vigil is set up in stations, so you move from one station to another during your half hour. The time goes really quickly as you speak to God using the directed prayers and meditations at each station. There will also be notebooks where you can write down what God has revealed to you - new visions given for your life or the life of our church.

We will need 48 people to fill all the slots and 8 people to take three hour shifts as a host. Consider how you will participate and sign up in the narthex. Let this be a final Lenten sacrifice as we enter into the most important part of the Christian year and prepare ourselves for Holy Week and Easter.

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**Stewardship** B What is it? How is it working in our church and congregation? How has it enriched your life? Watch and listen for the

STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT beginning in March, once a month prior to the service.

### **EASTER OFFERING**

Easter is fast approaching. During Lent, the time of self-reflection, denial and stewardship, please keep in mind the Easter Offering at Wedgewood. Fifty percent of the offering will go towards UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, an organization that provides global humanitarian aid to millions and fifty percent will go toward our churches regular operating expenses. Please take time to pray and reflect on the amount of money you can give.

The Finance Committee

### **Easter Candy is Needed:** *(Please, no plastic eggs)*

The UMW will be filling Easter eggs for the Wedgewood Community Easter Egg Hunt during their meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 and on March 30<sup>th</sup> there will be a lunch at 11:30 in which eggs will also be filled. If you plan to attend the lunch, please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Hot dogs and drink will be provided. Both events are open to anyone in the church who would like to help. There will be a plastic bin in the Narthex and in the Gathering Area for your donations of candy.

### **Mark your Calendar**

Sunday March 21<sup>st</sup> we will have a special speaker from Marketplace Ministries come to the church to talk about assisting Emmanuel church in Nicaragua. The people of this Nicaraguan church are among the poorest in the world, scrounging for food in a nearby trash dump. These are fellow Christians barely surviving. Please come to the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour to hear more about how Marketplace Ministries is helping to improve their lives and how you could help, too.

**Lenten Care/Prayer Notes** are available. They can be found in the display in the Narthex.

### **Ellet Good Neighbors**

We will be collecting candy for Good Neighbors through March 21<sup>st</sup>. Good Neighbors will use the candy in Easter baskets and bags for families in need in the Ellet area. You can put the candy in the bins marked "A Goods Neighbors Easter Candy" located outside the sanctuary and by the front entrance.

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### **Vision Statement**

*The Vision of Wedgwood United Methodist Church is to share God's love and grace with everyone in all their diversity through spiritual growth and outreach. (This Mission Statement was adopted during a Vision Meeting in October, 2007)*

### **Goals:**

1. Three new mission projects with increased participation and double participation for the Mission Saturation Weekend.
2. Pay 100% of apportionments.
3. Increase Sunday School attendance by 10% and increase Sunday School giving.
4. Increase overall worship attendance to 285 with emphasis on Contemporary Service to 100.
5. Implement >We Care Team.=

### **Victories:**

1. Successful suppers to support families in need.
2. Successful Worship Attendance Crusade.
3. Mission Saturation Weekend.
4. Created We Care Team.
5. Vacation Bible School with Family Night at Sawyerwood United Methodist Church.

***Serving the Church in March***  
***9:30 Service***

***Greeters***

7 Barb Lucas & Joanne Cooper  
14 Rick & Diane McCullough  
21 Curt & Pat Minier  
28 Niki & Sydney McGaffick

***Liturgists***

7 Kathy McCabe  
14 Doug Merideth  
21 Bonnie Koellner  
28 Kenetha Tenney

***Nursery***

7 Dawn McKeel & Erin Ingham  
14 Irene Spellman & Dolores Clifford  
21 Dottie Ranson & Eleanor Recob  
28 TBA

***Ushers***

Dave Jarvis  
Dave Ranson  
Wilson Fry  
Bob Brown  
Don Armbrust  
Marty Scheck

***Toddler Room***

7 Star Elijah  
14 Heather Herbst & Jennifer Richmond  
21 TBA  
28 Helen Smith & Pam Boothe

***Children=s Time***

21 TBA

***Altar Flowers***

7 OPEN B Would you like this date?  
14 OPEN B Would you like this date?  
21 Barb & Rudi Faiss B In celebration of  
their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.  
28 OPEN B Would you like this date?

***Acolytes***

4 Bethany Witwer &  
Sean Merideth  
14 Abbey Suncire &  
Amanda Lugenbeal  
21 Kelley Pratt &  
Austin Croft  
28 Megan Wyrzyszczewski &  
Sarah Tucker

***Serving the Church in March  
11:30 Service***

***Head Usher***

Denise Markland

***Children=s Church***

7 Shelly Biege  
14 Jenny Falls  
21 Becky Cooper  
28 Nancy Messenger

***Children=s Helpers***

7 Jessica Biege  
14 Pam Varga  
21 Alex Biege  
28 Jenna Messenger

***Scripture Reader***

7 Jane Merideth  
14 Dave Merideth  
21 Julie Verrona  
28 Holly Reimer

***Nursery***

7 Diane Rembiesa  
14 Wendy Shepherd  
21 Debbie Engelhart  
28 Charlene McKeel

***Children=s Time***

21 TBA

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**GOD SIGHTING B Weekly Readings**

**March 5<sup>th</sup> to March 11<sup>th</sup>** B Numbers 4:1-16:40, Mark 12:18-15:47,  
Psalms 48-54, Proverbs 10:26-11:6

**March 12<sup>th</sup> to March 18<sup>th</sup>** B Numbers 16:41-28:15, Mark 16:1-Luke 3:22,  
Psalms 55-61, Proverbs 11:7-17

**March 19<sup>th</sup> to March 25<sup>th</sup>** B Numbers 28:16-Deuteronomy 4:49, Luke  
3:23-7:10, Psalms 62:1-68:18, Proverbs 11:18-28

**March 25<sup>th</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>** B Deuteronomy 5:1-20:20, Luke 7:11-9:50,  
Psalms 68:19-73:28, Proverbs 11:29-12:10

**March, 2010**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
	1	2  5:30 Basket Ball 7:00 Crafts	3 9:00 & 7:00 W. Watchers 5:30 Dinner 6:00 Teen Choir 6:30 Adult & Girl=s Study, Tutoring 6:45 Children=s Choir 7:15 Kid=s Club 7:30 Adult Choir 8:15 Open Gym	4  6:00 AFM B Ordering 6:30 Girl Scouts	5  4:30 Spaghetti Dinner  7:30 CODA	6 8:30 Men=s L. Breakfast B Church of the Brethren 10:00 AFM B Ordering  8:00 Dodge Ball
7 <i>Matthew 8:18-22</i> 9:30 & 11:30 W. Services 10:45 S. School & N. Members 12:00 Praise Band <i>Fellowship Hall in Use</i> 2:00 Bowling  7:00 L. Service B Lakemore UMC	8  OFFICE CLOSED  11:00 Prayer Group  7:00 Cub & Boy Scouts	9  5:30 Basket Ball 6:30 SPRC	10 9:00 & 7:00 W. Watchers 5:30 Dinner 6:00 Teen Choir 6:30 Adult & Girl=s Study, Tutoring 6:45 Children=s Choir 7:15 Kid=s Club 7:30 Adult Choir 8:15 Open Gym	11  <i>Fellowship Hall in Use</i>  6:00 AFM B Ordering 7:00 Venture Crew	12  7:30 CODA	13 8:30 Men=s L. Breakfast B North Springfield 10:00 AFM B Ordering <i>Parlor in Use</i> 8:00 Dodge Ball
14 <i>Psalms 59</i> 9:30 & 11:30 W. Services 10:45 S. School 12:00 Praise Band <i>Fellowship Hall in Use</i> 2:00 Bowling 7:00 L. Service B Family of Faith	15  OFFICE CLOSED  11:00 Prayer Group  7:00 Cub & Boy Scouts	16 11:00 Crafts  5:30 Basket Ball 6:30 UMW	17 9:00 & 7:00 W. Watchers 5:30 Dinner 6:00 Teen Choir 6:30 Adult & Girl=s Study, Tutoring 6:45 Children=s Choir 7:15 Kid=s Club 7:30 Adult Choir 8:15 Open Gym	18  6:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 Finance Committee	19  7:30 CODA	20 8:30 Men=s L. Breakfast B St. John=s CME 10:00 AFM B Distribution  8:00 Dodge Ball
21 <i>Psalms 16</i> 9:30 & 11:30 W. Services 10:45 S. School 12:00 Praise Band <i>Fellowship Hall in Use</i> <i>Family Life Center in Use</i> 2:00 Bowling  7:00 L. Service B Mogadore UMC	22  OFFICE CLOSED  11:00 Prayer Group  7:00 Cub & Boy Scouts	23  5:30 Basket Ball 6:30 Ad. Council	24 9:00 & 7:00 W. Watchers 5:30 Dinner 6:00 Teen Choir 6:30 Adult & Girl=s Study, Tutoring 6:45 Children=s Choir 7:15 Kid=s Club 7:30 Adult Choir 8:15 Open Gym	25  7:00 Venture Crew	26  7:30 CODA	27 8:30 Men=s L. Breakfast B Wedgewood Hosting 8:30 24 Hour Prayer Vigil  8:00 Dodge Ball
28 <i>Matthew 26:36-46</i> 9:30 & 11:30 W. Services 10:45 S. School & Fellowship 12:00 Praise Band <i>Fellowship Hall in Use</i> 2:00 Bowling  7:00 L. Service B Wedgewood UMC	29  OFFICE CLOSED  11:00 Prayer Group  7:00 Cub & Boy Scouts	30 11:00 Easter Egg Lunch  5:30 Basket Ball	31 9:00 & 7:00 W. Watchers 5:30 Dinner 6:00 Teen Choir 6:30 Adult & Girl=s Study, Tutoring 6:45 Children=s Choir 7:15 Kid=s Club 7:30 Adult Choir 8:15 Open Gym			

During the month of March we will be collecting cans of tuna fish and other canned meats for Ellet Good Neighbors

## March Birthdays

2 Brianna Cross  
3 Mary Ellen Rook  
3 Megan Dutton  
4 Doug Smoot  
4 Rocky Croft  
5 Donald Hensley  
5 Richard Hamilton  
7 Jean McGaffick  
7 John Tengea  
7 Sandra Bartley  
8 Art Campbell  
8 Shawn Campbell  
8 Anna Suncire  
8 Leesa Richmond  
8 Alayna Venarge  
9 Jackie Nelson  
9 Jenna Myers  
11 Michael Armbrust  
11 Jane Bowser  
12 Hayden Herbst  
12 Martha Shuey  
14 Mark Duhon  
14 Bob Berringer  
14 Todd Herbst  
15 Justin Myers  
15 Bob Brown  
16 Karl Stewart II  
17 Dale Helsel  
18 Julie Merideth  
19 Jason Elijah  
19 Vicie Oliver  
19 Jacque Taylor

20 Dave Haverstick  
21 Brandon Myers  
21 Amanda Mills  
24 Jillian Soles  
24 Cheryl Pratt  
28 Amy Fyffe  
28 Audrey Wytrzyszczewski  
30 Karen Lake  
31 Ryan Carris  
31 Ruth Bair  
31 Tom Hanna  
31 Delta Gorham  
31 Sarah Massey  
31 Jacob Flossie

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## Angel Food Ministry March

### Order Dates

Thursday, Mar. 4<sup>th</sup> B 6:00 to 7:00  
Saturday, Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> B 10:00 to 11:00  
Thursday, Mar. 11<sup>th</sup> B 6:00 to 7:00  
Saturday, Mar. 11<sup>th</sup> B 10:00 to 11:00

### Distribution Date

Saturday, Mar. 20<sup>th</sup> B 10:00 to 12:00