

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Interested in Membership? God might be nudging you. The 2012 New Membership class will be taught by Doug and Diane Kopp, who are willing and capable leaders. The six-week class begins **Sunday, Feb. 12 at 9:30 AM**. The class will congregate around the fellowship table with a large, red amaryllis.

Solon Sunday Diners: The Solon Sunday Diners are meeting TODAY. We are traveling to the Texas Roadhouse in Coralville (at the I-80 & Hwy 935 interchange). Meet at the church to car-pool at 12:00, or just meet us at the Road House at 12:30. Happy dining.

Men's Soup Supper: Please join us for the Methodist Men's Soup Supper on **Friday, February 17 from 5 - 7**. We will serve oyster, chicken noodle and chili soup, hot dogs and dessert. Live entertainment will be provided. We request food and monetary donations from our congregation so we can donate 100% of the proceeds to the Solon Habitat for Humanity house. To help show our support for the family and build, we will also collect a free will offering to help the community fund-raising goal. Please have food items and supplies at the church by February 15th. Contact Mike Turner at 319-624-2061 (or cashman@southslope.net with additional questions.

Habitat House Information:

The Habitat for Humanity home in Solon is progressing forward. Groundbreaking will be the first part of May, but there is much to be accomplished before then. There are many ways for the townspeople of Solon to get involved. If you would like to donate money, both Solon State Bank and Bridge Bank have accounts set up to take donations. You can stop by or send a monetary donation to either bank. Three committees have been established: construction, fundraising and public relations. If you would like to join any of these or would like more information about meetings please contact Todd Hauser at 624-3006. Finally, if you would like to volunteer your time, or that of a group you represent, contact Ashley with Habitat for Humanity. She can be reached at 337-8949 or ashley@iowavalleyhabitat.org. She is our representative who will handle all volunteer hours. This is Solon's first Habitat for Humanity house and is a wonderful opportunity for our community to pull together and support each other.

Living Last Supper Is Back: If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Todd Hauser at 319-631-0881. Todd wants you to picture this scenario as you ponder participation. *"Envision being on the water in a fishing boat, fishing with your dad, enjoying asoda....and someone walks up to you and says, "Follow me!"* What would your answer be?" Thanks to Todd Hauser, who is coordinating.

Share Altar Flowers: A flower poster is on the bulletin board outside of the offices. If you want to share flowers in honor or memory of someone during the year, please sign on the flower poster! Thank you Winnie Hofsommer for our new calendar!

Be Advised! The Lord will provide one of the best sunsets EVER on Saturday night April 21 over the mighty, yet peaceful waters of Lake Rathbun! (*at least that is my prayer*). I have booked two-4 bedroom cottages at Honey Creek Resort for an overnight men's retreat. Check in for the cabins is at 4 pm, but we can plan on earlier activities if you like. If we get 10 individuals per cabin = \$33 per person for the accommodations; if 8 per cabin = \$42 each; if 7 per cabin + \$48 each. If we only get 12 people to sign up, I will probably cancel the second cottage, and we'll get cozy!!! So let the planning begin!!

*God's abundant blessings,
Ron Puettmann*

P.S. Scholarships are available to help with costs. Please let Karen or Carol know in the office. We want everyone who has a desire to attend to be able to do so!

Upper Room Devotionals and Alive Now Here for You

Each month we receive *Alive Now* and *Upper Room* devotional booklets. These booklets are available on the table at the top of the stairs and are for anyone who would like to have one. Please share one with a friend if you know of someone who would benefit from these booklets. A few large-print *Upper Room* are also available. Don't forget to take one home today!

Today's lay ministry provided by:

8:00

Lay Reader:

Lay Reader: Todd Hauser

Ushers: Charles & Susan Whetstine

Acolytes: Jaden & Lexi Owen

Fellowship: Barb Dixon, Connie Koeppen

9:30

Ushers: Brian & Emily Fitzpatrick

Acolytes: Jaden & Lexi Owen

Fellowship: Owen Family

10:45

Lay Reader: Robyn McGlynn

Acolytes: Jaden & Lexi Owen

Fellowship: Owen Family

Please check the clipboard as it is passed this morning for ministry needs in the area of Lay Reader, Ushers, Acolytes and Fellowship Servers. Thank you for your Lay Ministry!

YOUTH PAGE

Super Bowl Subs

A big thanks to everyone who bought a tasty sub! These are always delicious and are a great fundraiser for our Youth Group! Thank you, Stacey Hackert for doing a wonderful job with this again this year!!! Thanks to all of the volunteer sub assemblers!

Valentine's Cookies for Habitat

The Club 56ers have made more decorated cookies on a stick for Valentine's Day. All of the proceeds from these heart-shaped cookies will go to **Solon Habitat for Humanity**. We have these cookies available for a goodwill donation after each church service today until they run out. These make great gifts for everyone including yourself!!!

Ash Wednesday

We will have no Youth Group on Ash Wednesday, February 22. These will be a 7:30 service that evening in the church. Everyone is welcome to attend. Word is there will be some amazing special music at this service!

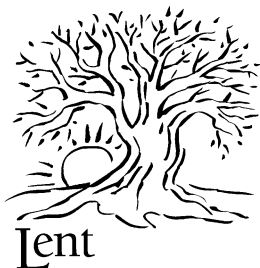
Get Involved...Be Inspired!

Kelly Meyer

Solon United Methodist Church

Youth Leader

319-624-5191



Are You Considering Giving Something Up for Lent?

Have you received some extra blessings this month? Don't give up something for Lent! Instead, give an extra something back by sharing your wealth of blessings by giving an additional donation to the General Fund and let's eliminate our General Fund debt once and for all! Please consider it at least for the Lenten Season.

Yes...I'm unashamedly asking you for money! It is my Christian obligation to invite you to share your blessings and let you know all the ways that you can do it! Giving more to meet our General church budget is just one of the very many ways at Solon United Methodist Church. Write "Blessings" in the memo portion of your check! THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR DONATIONS!!

2012 Apportionments – Share your wealth!

Apportionments are dues we pay to be part of a larger Iowa Methodist Conference. I like to think of them as our 10%, or our tithe, as a very large portion of what we pay goes to ministry and mission. This year the ministry part of our apportionments is \$37,283. The mission part is \$13,411 and the General Church receives \$11,148. Your dollars support Methodist colleges and camps, start new churches, benefit the youth, elderly, and minorities, and so much more I can't begin to list. If you would like a clearer picture of how your apportionment dollars are spent, please visit the website listed below. If you would like to give an extra gift to go toward the ministry or mission part of our apportionments, please indicate "APORT" in the memo portion or your checks, and we'll get your dollars to work immediately through planned ministry and mission at the conference level.

While \$61,842 may seem like a very large part of our budget, please visit the website and feel proud that we were once again able to pay our apportionments in full for 2011 and help so many around the world with our connectional giving through the Methodist Conference. Please help make and meet that goal again for 2012! *THANKS FOR YOUR GIFTS AND THE CARING YOU EXPRESS TO OTHERS BY SHARING YOUR WEALTH WITH THOSE WHO HAVE SO LITTLE!*

With faith in you in the matter of our finances,
 Karen Schmitt
 Director of Business Affairs

YOUR CHURCH FINANCES FOR JANUARY 2012

General Fund Balance January 1, 2012 **(\$80,260.96)***

January General Fund Expense:

Salaries/Employer taxes	\$14,077
Insurance	\$ 3,500
Office Expense	\$ 431
Utilities - Church	\$ 1,309
Utilities - Family Life Center	\$ 1,126
Choir Robe 2 nd Payment	\$ 3,199**
Shoveling/Mowing	\$ 43
Equipment Repair	\$ 178
Education/Sunday School	\$ 347
Worship	\$ 134
Other Program Expense	\$ 153
Pastor's Health/Pension	\$ 1,667
Misc. Expense	\$ 68
Total January Expenses	\$26,232

Budgeted amount for January \$ 29,774

Total budget for 2012 \$357,288

January General Fund Income:

Offering Plate	\$23,085
Sunday School Offering	\$ 45
Interest on Checking	\$ 12
Fund Raisers	\$ 185
Building Use	\$ 840
Total January Receipts	\$24,167

Expenses exceed receipts by \$2,065

General Fund Balance Jan. 31 **(\$82,326.27)***

*Brackets indicate a negative General Fund Balance

**Total choir robe cost was \$6,200. We received \$4,400 in donations.