

THE LEAFLINES

River Forest United Methodist Church



Rev. Char Hoffmann, Pastor

7970 Lake Street, River Forest, IL 60305

Phone (708)771-3668 Fax (708)771-2851 web: www.rfumchurch.org

MARCH 2009

BISHOP JUNG is coming to town, **Wednesday March 4** and you **ALL** are invited to meet with him. The bishop plans on being at RFUMC from about 10:45 – 11:30 a.m. and he wants to hear from you about all the great things that are happening in and around our church. And, this is also your opportunity to ask him a few questions. In addition, Bishop Jung will be accompanied by the Rev. James Preston, our District Superintendent. So, let's give them one of our famous hospitable welcomes!

And speaking of the District Superintendent, I promised to share with you the remainder of his observations this month. (You'll recall that, in February, I shared some of Rev. Preston's observations about the churches he visited during annual Church Conferences. He found that these qualities could be seen in churches which were growing and healthy) Last month we looked at technology, sensitivity to newcomers, developing leaders, praying, focusing on youth and children, and cleaning up the clutter. What can RFUMC learn from the remainder of these observations? How do we measure up? What do we do well? How can we improve?

3. GREEN is faithful! I celebrated with several congregations that have done amazing work on making their ministry and daily life more sensitive to God's creation and its care. You can email me for contact churches as you seek to be faithful to caring for God's good earth!

4. Staff Parish must meet at least FOUR times a year. I just remind you that the Staff Parish Committee is required by Discipline to meet four times a year (at least..if not more). Use these meetings as times of reflection, support, staff visioning, and evaluation.

7. Stewardship!!!! Our healthiest churches have very intentional YEAR-ROUND stewardship programs and plans. They are not major fundraising churches.

8. Mission and Evangelism - Several of our churches are doing creative outreach ministry from food pantries to community organizing...health clinics...computer labs...language classes...etc. Those churches with no concrete mission plan are not connecting with communities. Churches that have intentional evangelism plans and a profound commitment to hospitality are growing!!!! They embrace the diversity that surrounds them and offer Christ!

Feel free to put a note in my mailbox or e mail me with your observations. (char-rfumc@sbcglobal.net)

Lenten blessings!

MARCH donation for the
Food Pantry is:

**CANNED
SWEET POTATOES**

Place your donation in the basket on
Sunday morning.

Check out our website at www.rfumchurch.org



**STRENGTHEN OUR
UNITED PARISHES**

**JOIN US FOR SOUP AND STUDY EACH
TUESDAY NIGHT DURING LENT**

6:30 p.m. - Simple Soup Meal

7-8:00 p.m. - Group Study and Strategizing

This Year's Theme: *Voluntary Simplicity**

Calendar of Host Churches

March 3rd - Neighborhood: 1817 Washington Blvd.

March 10th - Elmwood Park: 3000 77th Court

March 17th - Franklin Park: 9857 Schiller Blvd

March 24th - Cornerstone: 171 N. Cuyler, OP

March 31st - River Forest: 7970 Lake Street

April 7th - St. Johns: 1100 Ontario St, OP

Together we'll look at the "Story of Stuff", the Meaning of Simplicity, Living More with Less, Making a Living. Do You Have the Time?, and Living Simply on Earth.

An offering will be taken each evening and given to the mission designated by the host church.

*The book for this study, *Discussion Course on Voluntary Simplicity*, can be obtained by calling (503) 227 2807 or e-mailing: contact@nwei.org

Soup for Supper

We'll be collecting cans of **tomato soup** each Sunday in March, until the supper we host on Tuesday, March 31st. Soup not used at the Supper goes to the Proviso Food Pantry. Last year, we collected over 50 cans of tomato soup for the Pantry. LET'S BEAT THAT THIS YEAR!

One Great Hour of Sharing

Sunday, March 22

All funds received go to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) of the General Board of Global Ministries. UMCOR receives no apportionment dollars, consequently this offering is the primary source of funding for UMCOR, which provides relief to victims of natural and man-made disasters around the world. UMCOR also provides rehabilitation and service programs to refugees, those suffering from hunger and those in distress.



FLOWERS FOR EASTER

Help decorate the altar for Easter by ordering flowers. Choose one or more of the following selection:

8" Two-Stem Lilies	\$13.50
6" Tulips	\$7.00
6" Daffodils	\$7.00
6" Hyacinths	\$7.00
6" Azaleas	\$14.50

Orders are due by Sunday, March 29. Call the church office to place your order.

(708-771-3668)



**Community Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 11**

10:00 A.M.

Children ages 10 and under

Cost: \$5.00

**Picture with Easter bunny: extra
(special family rate available)**

Please call; the church office at 708-771-3668 to make your reservation.

**Sponsored by River Forest UMC and
Mosaic Montessori Academy**

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Growing and healthy churches have informed and well-trained leaders. Here are some opportunities to help us develop and exercise the knowledge and skills we need to improve upon the mission and ministry of RFUMC. These events provide arenas to network with others, hear from learned clergy and lay persons about what has worked for them, brainstorm and explore ideas about what can work for us. Please make an effort to attend ..

LENTEN DISCIPLINES

Copies of the *Upper Room* and *Alive Now* devotionals are available in the Narthex.

Natural Church Development Training Day

Saturday, March 14, 8:30-noon
Crystal Lake UMC

Small Group Ministry Institute

**“Group Dynamics for Small Groups:
Ways to Work Together in Small Groups”**

Saturday, March 7
Elgin First UMC
9:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M.

CASH

Urban Ministry Convocation

Friday and Saturday
March 13-14, 2009
First UMC, Elgin

See bulletin board for info.

United Methodist Women news

Come to our March 12 meeting at 1 p.m. to learn more about how technology is in all our lives today. Jo Hammond and a cast of characters will inform us in the Call to Prayer and Self-denial program how information is available and can help us keep up with “what’s happening”. Margaret Hamilton is hostess for the meeting.

There is a yearly meeting of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. Included as well as United Methodists are African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME), African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (AMEZ), and Christian Methodist Church (CME). This year United Methodist Women of Evergreen Park are the hostesses of the Saturday, March 14 meeting. Jean has the information for reservations and cost if you’re interested and would like to attend.

Holiday Peppermint Coffee News

Money earned from the sale of the coffee provides extras for Proviso Pantry families, such as cat and dog food and disposable Diapers which have been appreciated. Thank you for helping us help our clients.

Market Day News

Your Market Day order form lists many foods that are under \$2.00 a serving. Look for red ovals after the description all through this form. You can save \$5 on the March order by getting 3 boxes of ready-to-bake cookie dough. Then you’ll save \$5 the following month if you purchase Nesquik© Low Fat Milk. The coupon will be on your March receipt. If you’re part of the *Freequent Buyer* program, remember to order at least \$35 in two of coming months through April and you’ll earn a FREE Insulated Bag.

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*Return Service Requested
Dated Material Enclosed*



**LENTEN S.O.U.P. SUPPERS
TUESDAYS, 6:30 P.M.**

**P.A.D.S.
FRIDAY, MARCH 13**

**BRUNCH
SUNDAY, MARCH 22**

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SUNDAY, MARCH 22**

**EASTER FLOWER ORDERS DUE
SUNDAY, MARCH 29**

**UNITED VOICES FOR CHILDREN
SUNDAY, MARCH 29**

This N' That

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please sign up to be Liturgist, Fellowship Host or to Donate Flowers on the schedules provided.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE NEWS ITEM:

On Sunday, Feb. 22, there was a picture in the Tribune of the USS Eisenhower, leaving for 5-month deployment to support maritime security operations in the Middle East. This will include anti-piracy operations and disaster relief. This is the ship that our grandson Jeff Dillner is serving on!

The deck is about 1,100 feet long and 250 feet wide and the deck is 70 feet above the water! We would think this would strike fear in any pirates operating in the area.

Jean and Chuck Dillner

NEW ADDRESS

Diane Maginnis P.O. Box 166, Oconto WI. 54154

NEWS AROUND THE CLUSTERS/COMMUNITY

The *Sing To Live* chorus concert Sunday, March 8, 4:00 p.m. at Dominican University. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$15 students and seniors. STL supports individuals affected by breast cancer through the creation of charitable, social and educational organization, which focuses its efforts on music and musical performance through an all voice community chorus that brings together singers, whose lives have been directly or indirectly touched by breast cancer. RFUMC's Mary Hudson and Jerry Hills are members of the chorus.

CHILI COOK OFF

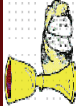


Saturday, March 14, 6-8:30 p.m., Euclid Avenue UMC. Funds will be donated to South Sudan Voices of Hope to help rebuild communities and their infrastructure.

WORSHIP LEADERS

DATE	LITURGISTS	FLOWERS DONATED BY	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS	USHERS
March 1	Nancy Erickson-Ludwig	Carmella Palumbo in memory of Darlene Palumbo	Marsha Cieslak and Pat Nutter	Doris Ashton Nancy Culbertson Chuck Dillner Ed Rausch
March 8	Jocelyn Pritchard	Ed Rausch in memory of Marion Rausch	Carl and Marilyn Young	Doris Ashton Nancy Culbertson Chuck Dillner Ed Rausch
March 15	Cindy Belle	Clem Grygiel in celebration of my 90th Birthday!		Doris Ashton Nancy Culbertson Chuck Dillner Ed Rausch
March 22	Pat Wilken		BRUNCH	Doris Ashton Nancy Culbertson Chuck Dillner Ed Rausch
March 29	Becky Eanet			Doris Ashton Nancy Culbertson Chuck Dillner Ed Rausch

COMMUNION STEWARDS FOR: Sunday March 1, 2009 Marsha Cieslak & Pat Nutter

MARCH 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1  Market Day orders due	2	3 SOUP & STUDY Neighborhood UMC 6:30-8 p.m.	4 Bishop Jung visits RFUMC 10:45-11:30 a.m.	5	6	7 Proviso Pantry 8-10 a.m. Market Day order pick up
8  Spring Forward!	9	10 SOUP & STUDY Elmwood UMC 6:30 P.M.-8 P.M.	11	12 UMW 1:00 p.m.	13 P.A.D.S.	14 Proviso Pantry 8-10 a.m.
15	16	17 SOUP & STUDY Franklin UMC 6:30 P.M.-8 P.M.	18	19 UMW 1 p.m.	20 	21 Proviso Pantry 8-10 a.m.
22 One Great Hour of Sharing <i>Brunch</i>	23	24 SOUP & STUDY Cornerstone UMC 6:30 P.M.-8 P.M.	25	26	27	28 Proviso Pantry 8-10 a.m.
29 United Voices for Children	30	31 SOUP & STUDY River Forest UMC 6:30 P.M.-8 P.M.	NEXT MONTH:	Saturday, 4/4/09, Furniture sale, RFUMC, 9-1 p.m. Tuesday, 4/7/09, Soup/Study, St. John's UMC, 6:30-8 p.m. Saturday, 4/11/09, Easter Egg Hunt, RFUMC, 10 a.m.		

- 1 Jack Stout
- 2 Joshua Dix
- 3 Guynell Wiegel
- 4 Florence Birchard
- 4 Judy Sora
- 5 Clement Grygiel
- 5 Jeanette Scott
- 7 Hannah Hills
- 9 Rev. Charlette Hoffmann
- 10 Diana Maginnis
- 10 Lee Majkrzak
- 14 Emily Young
- 15 Clarisse Lenhoff
- 16 Jessica Jasper
- 20 Doris Ashton
- 20 Amanda O'Connor
- 22 Ann O'Connor
- 27 Ashley Grapenthien
- 27 Grace Grapenthien

