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Sunday School Teacher Needed

for the 4-5 Year Olds

In January, we will need a teacher for the 4 thru 5 year olds during 2nd service. If you would find this a ministry you are interested in, please call Leota Farrell at 539-6557 or at the church office, 386-2702. You will be given an application and interview. If your application is accepted we would welcome you as a teacher for our children.



Brown Corners Church
(989) 386-2702
www.browncorners.org



Holiday Schedule

December 4th

Children's Program Practice
@ 4:00 PM

December 11th

Children's Christmas
Program @ 10:00 AM

Special Times for Christmas & New Years Day

With both Holidays falling on Sunday, we will have only **one Worship Service** on each day, both beginning at **10:00 AM**, with no Sunday School or Evening Services.

You will be able to open your presents, eat your breakfast, then come to church with your entire family to celebrate the best Christmas Present ever, Jesus Christ, and to be reminded of the real message of Christmas. On New Year's day, you will be able to sleep in a little after watching the New Year come in, then celebrate the beginning of the New Year with a celebration of a New Year of service to the King.

Prayer Team

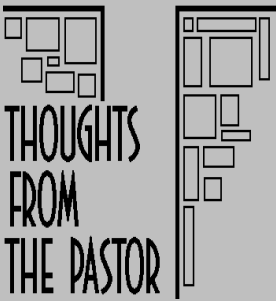
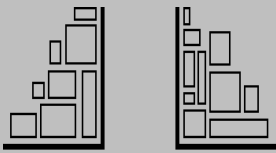
After hearing the pastor's message on the Persecuted Church, perhaps you are interested in getting involved in prayer for those suffering persecution or want to share with them, if so you can obtain a b.a.s.i.c bracelet (brothers and sisters in chains) for \$20 (plus standard S&H) from VOM (Voice of the Martyrs) at 800-747-0085.

Wearing the bracelet may give you opportunities to share about Christians in chains and inform others about the persecution that Christians face from communist countries, Muslim and Hindu nations. These countries are either hostile to or restrict Christians from congregating or sharing their faith. Some

Christians have been released from imprisonment because enough Christian complained to the authorities. You can obtain more information about sharing with those Christians at www.persecution.com.

The Prayer Team has prayer guides available on the stand outside the prayer room. Some titles include: Prayer for your Finances, Prayer for Public Schools, Prayer for your state government, Prayer for Higher Education and Prayer for your Pastor. If you see a title that interestes you, take it.

-Carol Hampton



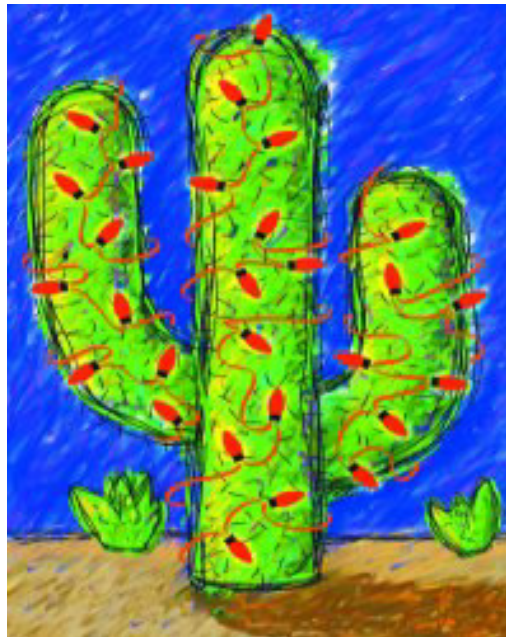
“Celebrate
Jesus this
Christmas,
whether
you are
suffering
in the
snow or
basking in
the sun...”

It's white again. As I write, or word process, this article, it is mid-November and the ground is covered with snow. The wind is blowing the 35 degrees around enough to make it uncomfortable outside. It's time to get out the winter jacket, gloves, boots, and other cold weather necessities.

There is something about going into winter that makes us feel like we are tough. Spring is beautiful and almost lyrical as the songbirds sing it into our lives. Summer is easy, dressing in a t-shirt, shorts, and sandals. Fall is all beauty, with the low grasses and plants changing color, with the trees following in their fall splendor. But, winter is hard. The days of sunshine are sometimes few and far between. The last couple years we have experienced too many days below zero. We had to plow snow way too much last year, with snows coming so regularly. My little old tractor got a workout.

Winter is when we earn our keep as northerners. When snowbirds call and tell us about 75 degrees and sun, we are almost happy to tell them the snow depth and wind chill. We are really living as we should, while they are shirking their responsibility as Michiganders, or is it Michiganians by basking in the warm winter sun. We feel somehow superior to them, or am I jealous?

I always wondered what it would be like to be in a warm climate during the Christmas season. How can you sing 'Let It Snow' when it never snows? How can you watch 'Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire' when an open fire would cause the air conditioner to kick on again? Well, this year Kate and I get to find out what a warm Christmastime feels like. We are taking a few days of the season and spending it with our daughter and her family in California. It's in the Mojave Desert, so we probably won't see snow. And I don't know if there are any pines there for Christmas trees. I suppose they hang ornaments on cactus spines.



It's not like we're not tough enough to spend Christmastime in the cold. It's just that grand daughters are calling, and we haven't seen them for over a year. We will be back to spend family Christmas here, so we will enjoy the cold, too. What is it that makes us spend money on plane tickets, car rental, and money to go see two little girls in California? (Oh yeah, we will see Audrey and Adam, too.)

It's because of love. We love our daughter and granddaughters, and Adam, too. My wife threatens him that if he doesn't behave she will not get him a Christmas present. He makes no promises.

We are going thousands of miles to see loved ones. It will cost us money and time. But it's a journey of love. Not really a hardship.

Isn't it great that Jesus took a journey from His home because he loved us? Philippians 2 says that even though He

is God, He didn't hold onto His position, but gave up His home and honor to come to live with us, and to die in our place. His journey involved sacrifice. He wasn't exchanging a cold climate for a warm one for a few days. He was giving up the most glorious place for the least honorable one. He came to His own, but His own did not receive Him, but to those who received Him, to them He gave the right to be called children of God. How thankful we should be that He took the trip.

Celebrate Jesus this Christmas, whether you are suffering in the snow or basking in the sun...

Pasta Malar
e-mail: cmalson22@hotmail.com



Insight Ministries

A MISSION STATEMENT FOR YOUR FAMILY

There is no simple way to apply a few techniques to redeem a deeply broken relationship. The reason why is because principles govern, not our best intentions, and not our past efforts at quick fixes. As Abraham Lincoln put it, "People will pass away, but principles

will live on forever."

Take time with your family and loved ones to make explicit what are your family's principles. Write them down; capture them in your family's mission statement. Life is governed by principles.

1. What kind of a marriage partners do we want to be?
2. How do we want to treat each other?
3. How do we want to resolve our differences?
4. How do we want to handle our finances?
5. What kind of parents do we want to be?
6. What principles do we want to teach our children to help them prepare for adulthood and to lead responsible, caring lives?
7. How do we help develop the potential talent of each child?
8. What kind of discipline do we want to use with our children?
9. What roles (earning, financial management, housekeeping, and so on) will each of us have?

10. How can we best relate to each other's families?

11. What traditions do we bring with us from the families in which we were raised?

12. What traditions do we want to keep and create?

13. What intergenerational traits or tendencies are we happy or unhappy with, and how do we make changes?

14. How do we want to give back?

This coming together—this sharing and agreeing upon role expectations, problem-solving strategies, vision, and values in a relationship is called "co-missioning." God's Word, the Bible, has all the best principles to base these answers/decisions upon.

The power of co-missioning is that it literally transcends "your way" or "my way." It creates a new way, a higher way—"God's way."

Dave Luther
Pastoral Counselor

those who do not know Christ, while encouraging one another as we exalt Christ

WILD KINGDOM

Wild Kingdom exists to equip students to reach

and seek opportunities to serve others.



(5th–8th grades)

6:00 PM: In the Jungle*

6:30–7:30 PM: Group Time



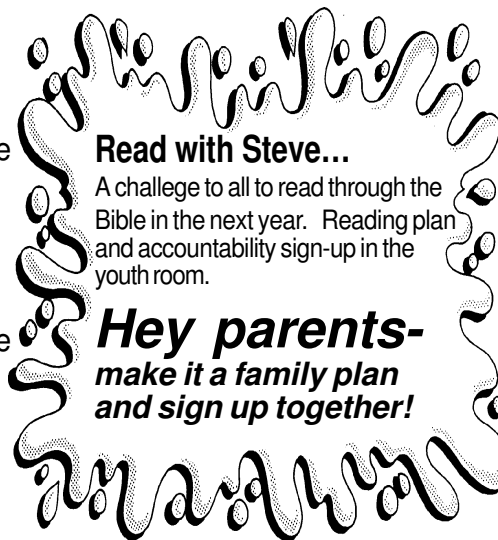
(9th–12h grades)

7:45 PM: In the Jungle*

8:00–9:00 PM: Group Time

*In the Jungle:

Our game room complete with skee ball, air hockey, foosball, bowling and basketball games, xboxs, and couches.



Read with Steve...

A challenge to all to read through the Bible in the next year. Reading plan and accountability sign-up in the youth room.

Hey parents-
make it a family plan
and sign up together!

Junior High Napoleon Dynamite Party!

6-8:30 pm

@ the church

Sat., Dec. 17th

Prizes for best dressed



-Cindy Luther,
Shape Ministry Coordinator

captured them that we feel guilty for not sharing their zeal. We seem indifferent in comparison.

When I was in college, we had chapel every day and almost every day we heard a message from someone who had a passion for some particular ministry. They were usually in some ways recruiting us for service, whether it was in missions, or in the church, or in society, or among the poor. It was overwhelming, and often frustrating, because everyone made every concern sound like the only thing any caring person would support.

The same thing happens in our churches. Sometimes we feel guilt because we don't have the same passion as the last person who talked about missions, or abortion, or the homeless, or marriage, or singleness, or men's ministry, or AIDS prevention, or prisons, or evangelism, or the military. What we forget is that there are so many needs because there are so many of us to meet them. We aren't supposed to get our bell rung by every appeal that comes by. We are a body made up of different parts and different hearts; we don't have to all be moved by the same issues and needs.

This is where the concept and the practical nature of spiritual gifts come in. There are a variety of gifts and there are a variety of ministries, but the same Lord working in all and through all. No one has to do everything; no one can. It is up to

us to find out where we fit and what God put us here to do. Soon you will be just as passionate about something because it's your thing. This is the way it's supposed to be. We only get frustrated when we forget this and try and take on everything, or get so overwhelmed that we take on nothing at all.

All of this should just make us marvel at the wisdom of God even more. He's designed us all with different abilities and different interests so that we are not only good at what we do, we do not have to be frustrated or depressed over what we aren't good at. When we all do our part in the body of Christ, everyone gets a job, everyone gets honored and everyone's important. That's the way it's supposed to be.

If you are interested in finding your place within the body of our church, there are some dates you might want to write down. On January 14th, there will be a membership orientation class. You do not have to join our church, but it will give you a history of the United Brethren Church and what we are all about. Also in January, a new Sunday School class will start. It will explore your SHAPE. What makes up your shape? Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, Experience all combine to make you who you are in Christ. If you have any questions please contact Cindy Luther at 386-3640.

Shape Ministries

DIFFERENT PARTS; DIFFERENT HEARTS

By John Fischer

Why do we all have different passions? So everything that's supposed to get done will get done. Sometimes we get overwhelmed because we are constantly exposed to people with various passions for service, and when they represent their cause, they are so committed to that which has



Small Group New Leader's Training

Monday evening January 9th at 7:00 P.M. is your chance to find out how to become a small group leader. The process is simple. First attend the training for new leaders January 9th and submit an application. The application process consists of a written application, an interview, and after the training

providing three references. When your application is approved you are ready to gather your group.

The first training covers the basics of how to lead a group. As you lead you may have questions about how to handle things in your group. We provide the support and places to get answers. You will be given a coach, who is a seasoned group leader, who you can go to any time with your questions. There is also required monthly training the fourth Tuesday of each month. During the monthly training a topic relevant to leading your group is addressed. After all leaders meet together for the teaching

groups of leaders get together with their coaches to talk about what is going well and what is not going so well in their groups. Meeting with your peers who are also leading is a great place to get recharged with encouragement and find answers to challenges.

So, if you are interested in leading a CSI group, one meeting to participate in a common interest, or a Bible Study group, or a Task group who get together to work, come to the training here at the church January 9th.

-Wendy Kindel

Library Books

NOVEMBER

- ◆ **“All She Ever Wanted”** by Lynn N. Austin

-Marty Medley, [Armchair Interviews.com](http://ArmchairInterviews.com)

“I found her style to be an easy read—her story is compelling and draws me into her characters.”

-Kristi Ahlers (APO, AE. Bruxelles, Belgium)

“A Story Anyone Can Relate To!”

- ◆ **“Amethyst”** by Lauraine Snelling
- ◆ **“Sister Chicks Say Ooh La La”** by Robin Jones Gunn
- ◆ **“The Case for Faith”** by Lee Strobel



DECEMBER

- ◆ **“Black Sands”** by Colleen Calbe
- ◆ **“I Surrender All”** by Clay Crouse
- ◆ **“Last Light”** by Terri Blackstock

Apples of Gold



Twenty-nine women took part in our first APPLES OF GOLD program on Oct 29th. We started the day learning how to make three different varieties of soups demonstrated by Jodie Robinson and Cindy Scare. The ladies also learned how easy it is to make their own bread bowls to serve their soups in.

The topic for the month was, Kindness. Lona Hamilton challenged the ladies to do one act of kindness per day. The ladies were also given two cards to send out to someone they wanted to say thank-you to for being a positive inspiration in their lives.

We ended the day sharing in a beautiful prepared lunch. The table decorations were done by Kathleen LaPoe. They portrayed the theme of our program, apples of gold in settings of silver. Our hope was for each lady to go home feeling inspired and pampered. If you missed the sign up for this Apples of Gold program, we will keep you informed of any future programs that will be inspired out of this one.

Thank-you,
Molly Humphrey

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Christmas program practice for the Children's Program will be December 4th at 4:00 PM. All children need to be present. Following practice, we will feed the children and keep them busy until Pioneer Club starts at 6:00 PM



This month we are honoring and thanking our Junior Church Teachers:

During First Service

- Linda Kleinhardt 4-5 year olds
- Chris Hamilton.....1st-4th grade

During Second Service

- Rebecca Rowell 4 -5 year olds
- Bill Stough.....1st-4th grade

We appreciate their faithfulness very much.

The schedule for times for the classes is as following:

2&3 year olds.....Leota Farrell can be in their room the whole hour both services

1st-4th grades.....Chris Hamilton would like the 1st -4th grades the whole hour for 1st service since her material is designed for a full hour.

However, the 4&5 year olds for **BOTH** services are dismissed after the singing in the sanctuary. Any questions please call me at 539-6557 or see me Sunday mornings in the class room for 2&3 year olds.

Sunday School Teacher Needed for the 4-5 Year Olds

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Brown Corners Church of United Brethren in Christ

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

News & Dates to Remember...



(see page 3)

Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 13th
7:00 PM



September-May

Sundays Evenings
6:00-7:30 PM

Dec. 4th

Children's Program Practice
4:00 PM

Dec. 9th & 10th

BCUB Dinner Theatre
6-8:00 PM, \$7/person RSVP

Dec. 11th

Children's Christmas Program
10:00 AM

Dec. 17th

Jr. High
Napoleon Dynamite Party
6-8:30 PM (see page 3)

Dec. 25th

Christmas Service
10:00 AM

January 9th

Small Group Leaders Training
7:00 PM (see page 4)

Earth Angels

CD & Tape Ministry

Gary and Joy Burnsworth have a heart for people who, because of age or circumstances, are unable to make it to church on Sundays. They would like to visit those folks and take them a tape of CD of the services. If you know of someone who would normally be in church call the office at 386-2702..

