



the spirit of

Heart O' the Lakes Church

United Brethren in Christ

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March 2010
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Feature Stories

What's Happening
At HOTL
page 4

Ministry Teams
page 6



I have been a father now for a little over a year and a half to a wonderful little boy by the name of Judah. He is such a blessing to my wife and me. It would be fair to say that our son loves cartoons, especially Baby Einstein and Backyardigans. The times are rare

that Cori and I don't find ourselves humming along with one of the simple yet addictively catchy tunes from those movies. Those of you who have had children that watch the same movie over and over and over know exactly what I am talking about. It's scary when you can just about quote entire movies.

Strangely enough, God used something from one of my son's current favorite movie to speak to me, so I thought I would share it with you as well.

February and March always seem to be some of the tougher months of the year especially in the frigid lands of Michigan. I think it would be safe to say that many of us may be struggling with a variety of

things at this point in the year such as: discouragement, loneliness, frustration, dissatisfaction, fear, exhaustion, or apathy. I would be lying if I said that none of these words resonate with where I am at. Do any of them speak to some of the struggles in your life? It's easy to

“But one thing I do; forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 3:13-14

think that if we just had more money, or my kids behaved properly, or I had a different job, or my body was healthy, or I had close friends that it would all be so much better. While there very well may be truth to those statements, they usually will not be a reality

without many hours of intentional investment on our part. If you are anything like me, you look at all the craziness going on around you and all the things that you need to accomplish on a personal level, and at home, and work, and it is overwhelming. When did life begin to pass so quickly? How did I end up here? It becomes very easy to allow a spirit of cynicism and doubt into our thinking, and so burden

(Continued on page 2)



**Monthly Financial
Up-date**

General Operating Budget

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Received in February | \$19,350.90 |
| Budget Goal for Feb. | \$19,748.08 |

the spirit of

Heart O' the Lakes

A publication of
Heart O' the Lakes
United Brethren Church
7031 Jefferson Road
Brooklyn, MI 49230

Published monthly to keep members and friends informed of programs at the Church and to report news about the Heart O' the Lakes people.

We welcome your articles to include in our Church newsletter.

Editor: Kathy Hurst

PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for copy is the 20th of each month.

(Continued from page 1)

ourselves even further. Some of these feelings are personal for me, and in the midst of these truly simple struggles, God began to speak, though I must say I wasn't readily listening. It's so amazing how He puts the wisdom, encouragement, and even rebuke in our way and lovingly applies them with a whisper.

One of the movies that Judah absolutely loves is "Finding Nemo". One of the main characters in the film is a blue and yellow fish by the name of Dori. The interesting, and somewhat tragic thing about Dori is that she has no short-term memory, so in many ways, she is in a perpetual state of confusion. One of the mantras that she has had to learn to live by is, "*Just keep swimming, just keep swimming.*" Dori often sings this to herself as she goes through life because when nothing around her makes sense, she simply rests on what is most important as a fish, and that's swimming. That mantra has been ringing in my heard quite a bit lately, and it has grown in meaning over time.

At first, I equated it with the idea of simply continuing to put one foot in front of the next. "Just keep swimming, just keep swimming." Keep doing what I know I was supposed to be doing as a pastor, husband, and father. I thought of Paul's words to the Philippians 13:13-14 when he wrote, "*But one thing I do; forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*" The one thing that Paul did was keep pressing on ahead toward the goal, and I

(Continued on page 3)

The Amazing Power of Prayer

Please pray for:

Our Church & Pastors

Ministry Teams

Our Missionaries

Sunday School Teachers

President Obama and his cabinet

Our Military Services

The lost in our community

Unity in the Body of Christ

Our Elders

Each month we list individuals and families who attend Heart O' the Lakes Church and ask that you pray for their good health, work, spiritual growth and strength.

Jack & Mary Peavy

Richard & Alice Pelham

Leon & Phyllis Pittman

Chris & Rhonda Pischke
& Family

Larry & Betty Prajzner

Mark & Michelle Rankin
& Family

Pam Ramsey & Family

Ron & JoAnne Reese

Doyle & Naomi Rodenbeck

Dan & Debbie Rubley

Ed & Esther Rumpfelt

Bud & Phyllis Rymer

Ruben & Pam Salazar

Bob & Sally Sautter

Esther Schatz

Mike & Linda Schatz

& Family

Les & Cathy Schiel & Family

Dick & Roberta Schwartz

Rusty & Rita Schwartz & Zeke

Matt & Katie Schwartz



- 1 Jessie Jenness
- 3 Jon Hale
- 4 **Rusty & Rita Anniversary**
- 7 Phyllis Pittman
- 10 Roberta Schwartz
- 11 Cathy Schiel
Joe & Joshua Haeussler
- 12 Donna Burk
Elora Pittman
- 15 Gail Maybee
Kyle Schiel
- 16 Mary Hawthorne
- 18 Roger Howe
- 19 Paul Maybee
- 21 Vi Cousino
- 26 Pam Ramsey
- 28 Christine Cox
- 30 Dick Schwartz

volunteer schedule

NURSERY

Sunday School

- 7 Marsha Horner
- 14 Cori Baumann
- 21 Cheryl Fosgate
- 28 Tabitha Marshall

Worship:

- 7 Cori Baumann & Brenda Guess
- 14 Jessica Jenness & Michelle Rankin
- 21 Janet Howe & Tabitha Marshall
- 28 Kathy Maybee & Joann Carpenter

JUNIOR CHURCH

- 7 Debi Hale
- 14 Mary Yarbrough
- 21 Mary Yarbrough
- 28 Doris Green

GREETERS

- 7 Doyle & Naomi Rodenbeck
- 14 Les & Cathy Schiel
- 21 Rhonda Pischke & Collette Reed-O'Dell
- 28 Bruce & Bonita Smith

(Continued from page 2)

must do the same. However, I think many of us, including myself, will “press on ahead” out of instinct and necessity, but we forget about the “goal” that we need to be pressing towards. I often seem to find myself gathering up *my* strength and *my* knowledge to do *my* work of ministering to *my* youth. I’ve lost sight of the goal and failed to call upon God to give me the strength and wisdom to serve within *His* plan of ministry to *His* children. Do you find yourselves doing the same thing as employees, parents, husbands, and wives? You see, I believe that Dori’s mantra is deeper than simply putting one foot in front of the other. Swimming is the thing that is most important to a fish. It is the core of their existence, for to stop swimming would mean death. The most important thing above all for the children of God is a passionate pursuit of a relationship with the Holy One. To relinquish that pursuit is to relinquish life, for Jesus came that we may have life to the full. However, I and many of my brothers and sisters in Christ, let the craziness of life take the podium of our days, and we get overrun and lost. We allow the cynicism and doubt to creep in ever so innocently and further weakened, we convince ourselves that Jesus is more of a charm bracelet than a miracle worker, more a disconnected pen pal than a passionately loving Father. We allow Satan to whisper lies of our value, identity, and power and because we are without a sword (Bible), we have no rebuttal for the Father of Lies. It is no wonder we find ourselves in a state of discouragement, anxiety, and fear.

Thank the Lord our Father that it doesn’t have to stay that way. If we can simply keep moving forward with our focus on the goal that is Jesus Christ, we can find peace and joy in the midst of our struggle. I look at Galatians 5:22 and see that one of the fruits of the Spirit is joy, so if I am walking in the Spirit, joy

March Memory Verse

Isaiah 53:6

“We all like sheep,
have gone astray,
each of us has
turned to his own
way; and the Lord
has laid on him the
iniquity of us all.”

will come. In Psalms 16:11, I learn that in His presence, there is fullness of joy. It is by living life each day in communion with our Father that we can find joy. I’ve seen all kinds of self help articles about how to find happiness, and one of the things frequently mentioned is focusing on the positives in your life. Jesus and His sacrifice for my salvation is a huge positive in my life, and we see in the New Testament that our Lord’s gift to us in the form of His Son should indeed bring joy (John 15:11; Colossians 1:11-14; 1 Peter 1:8)

If we find ourselves tired, discouraged, anxious, and maybe even feeling hopeless, we must stop and take a look at the life we are living. Are we relying on ourselves each day and tending to focus on what we don’t have, or is our focus on Jesus? I truly believe that the recipe to a joyful life is simply drawing near to God and focusing on the many ways that He has blessed us. I pray that I, along with all of you, will continue to move forward each day, with the power of the Holy Spirit, and with our eyes on the goal.

Pastor Nate

What's Happening at Heart O the Lakes



HOTL will be hosting the 45th Annual Interdenominational Men's Basketball "A" and "B" Tournament in March. The league was the work of Kevin Carpenter's father who hoped that basketball could be the bridge that would help men find their way to church. After Kevin's father passed away, and having watched and helped his father put together the annual tournaments for many years, Kevin now continues his father's legacy.

Thirteen teams will be playing in this year's "B" church league on March 12 and 13. Teams from Britten, Onsted, Jackson, Kalamazoo and Ohio will compete. Both HOTL teams are in the "B" league.

Kevin Carpenter coaches HOTL II with team members Les Schiel, Dan Miller, Dan Gautz, Adam Jester, Kurt Knaup, Jon Hawthorne, Brandon Olds, Chris Jordan, Don Lindeman and Rusty Schwartz. Rusty also coaches HOTL III with team members Dave Scouten, Jake Leupp, Dave Thompson, Conner Wiig, Daniel Wiig, Kevin Smith, Zeke Schwartz, Josh Russell, Andrew Cherry, and Kent Lowry. Both HOTL teams will play Thursday, March 11. HOTL II at 7:35 pm against Fellowship I - and HOTL III at 9:25 pm against Gateway III.

Come out and cheer on HOTL teams!!!

What: Blood Drive

Where: HOTL

When: March 15

Time: 1:00—6:45 pm

Every 2 seconds
someone needs blood.
Can you help?

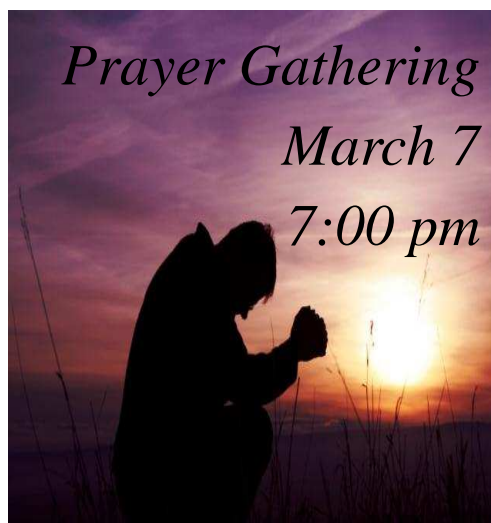


Men 's Night

Out!

May 1, 2010

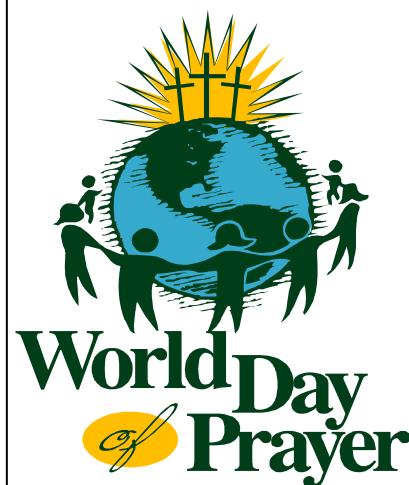
Plans are underway to
honor the men of
HOTL!!



Join a
Sunday School
Class

The purpose of Adult Sunday School is to help men and women become mature Christian disciples through the study of God's Word and it's application to their lives. You are encouraged to visit one of the new classes and take advantage of the great teaching and fellowship time.

- *Finding Your Path to Significance*
- *Lies Women Believe and the Truth that Sets Them Free*
- *The Holy Spirit*
- *Operation World View*
- *Mountain Top Experiences—Meeting with God*
- *Crazy Love*



March 5th

HOTL Youth Ministry

We offer weekly gatherings for students grades 6th-12th

Sunday morning junior and senior high classes – 9:15 to 10:15

Sunday evenings

- 6th through 8th graders will be together from 5:30 to 7:00.
- 9th through 12th graders will be gathering from 6:30 to 8:00.



Fundraisers

Many of our youth are selling white discount cards

bearing our church logo as a way to raise funds that will go towards their mission trips this summer. The cards cost \$10 each of which \$6 goes towards the youth who sold it. These cards are good for a year at

various business in the Brooklyn and Jackson area, and will

pay for themselves after three or four uses. Thank you so very much those of you who

are willing to support the youth in this way. Know that it is greatly appreciated.



Retreat Praise!! -- Thank you to all those who made our winter retreats possible, and thanks especially to the adults who gave their weekends to be present with the youth. I truly believe that our retreats and mission trips are some of the most impactful things that we do in youth ministry, and they truly leave an impression. We couldn't do these valuable trips without the support of our congregation and the trust of many loving parents. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Small Groups

You are invited!!

The purpose for these groups is to grow closer to Christ and each other. They provide an opportunity for us to challenge and be challenged in an environment of love and encouragement. Please feel free to contact Pastor Nate if you have any questions about these groups or if you would like to get involved.

Sisterhood (Sr. High Girls)

1st & 3rd Saturday of every month at 7:00pm at the Baumann's house.

Brotherhood (Sr. High Guys)

Every Wednesday night in the youth room from 6:00 till 7:00pm.

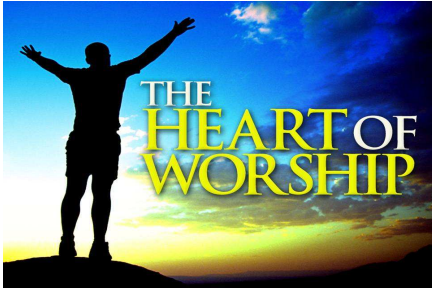
Our junior high small groups meet at 5:15 on Sunday night prior to youth group.



Think It Over

"The real problem is not why some pious, humble, believing people suffer, but why some do not."

Please be praying for the coming summer mission trips and activities. Pray that God would touch the hearts of the youth and that they would be ignited and passionate about serving and loving others for the glory of God. Thank you for your love and prayer support. It is so vital to the spiritual growth of young ones.



It's always amazing how the Lord speaks to us. Just this morning He was prompting me to write for the upcoming newsletter, and I honestly didn't realize that the deadline was fast approaching. As I sit here, I have no clue where this is going to head but will pray, obey and begin.

Many of us are aware of the scripture passages found in John 4 that speak about true worship. We, as Christians, are to worship in spirit and in truth. But do we really know what that means? The Lord continues the refinement process, of especially our souls (mind, will and emotions) throughout our life on this earth. When we accept Christ, our salvation is secure, but we remain a "work in progress" as we continually and purposefully surrender to His "refining fire".

I believe that "spirit and truth" worship is a learned behavior. And as I sit here prayerfully writing, I am also hearing there is much to "unlearn". ☺ In other areas of our lives we grasp the magnitude of turning away from many things, that are not of God. Do you believe there are areas in our worship time that have become engrained in our brains that never should have arrived in the first place? I know for me it's a true statement.

A scripture that's coming to mind is found in Matthew 14:6

"thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition." Lord help us all!

I urge you to pray and seek the Father for wisdom, specifically in the area of worship. Please know I'm not speaking solely of "corporate worship". Some of my most precious worship experiences are when I'm alone with God ... and I cherish that time! The question we should ask of the Lord, and even of ourselves, is an important one. "In what ways do I worship the Lord in spirit and truth, and in what ways do I worship based on the traditions of men?"



Most of you know I eat, sleep and breathe Vacation Bible School. I absolutely LOVE ministering to children. The bigger reason is because they are so free. They aren't bogged down with all the worries of this life. They aren't trying to be someone they weren't made to be and haven't "learned" to guard themselves. They feel free to be themselves, not concerned with what their neighbor is thinking, and our VBS worship time is amazing!! "I praise You, Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children."

In concluding, please continue to pray that we would ALL be free to worship our Living God, in spirit and truth! That we would be free to be

ourselves before the Lord, and learn to dance as if nobody's watching. A song lyric by LeAnn Womack is now coming to mind "and when you get the choice to sit it out or dance I hope you dance I hope you dance!"

*Your sister in Christ,
Sheila*

Self-Denial Offering

The meaning of self-denial is the trait of practicing self-discipline; the act of denying yourself, controlling your impulses; the renunciation of your own interests in favor of the interests of others.

Each year during Easter season, we are asked to practice, in thought and deed, self-denial, in whatever form that individually takes, to give towards our denominational Global Missions programs. We are to do something that will prove that we are really earnest in claiming to be followers of him who, "*though he was rich, for our sakes became poor.*" By prayer and self-denial we give of ourselves to God and others.

On Easter Sunday, April 4th you will have the opportunity to give to the Lord for growing His Kingdom through Global Missions. The need is so great, but our God has called us to be His workers and blessed us in so many ways, so that we may be a blessing to others.



**Self-Denial
OFFERING**

What do we need to remember about the Bible?

It is truth!



What God says . . . will happen!
God's word is to be believed!
God's word is dependable!
God's word is to be obeyed!
To obey God's word we need to remember what it says!
Thinking the way the world thinks, rarely will it agree with God's word!
Dust off your Bible - it is the word of God!



Easter Brunch

Join us Celebration morning!

Easter Sunday, April 4th at 9:15 am
Fellowship Hall

Please sign up at the Welcome Center
which item you will be bringing.



Easter Flowers Order Form



If you would like to order flowers to be placed on the altar on Easter Sunday, please complete this form and return it with your payment to the church office. Please make checks payable to *HOTL* and memo *Easter Flowers* on your check. **Orders are due March 15th.**

Please *print* your name as you would like it to appear in our Easter bulletin.

NAME _____

Choice of Flowers:

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 6" Easter Lily | \$6.00 x # _____ | = total \$ _____ |
| 6" Tulip | \$5.50 x # _____ | = total \$ _____ |
| 6" Daffodil Miniature | \$5.50 x # _____ | = total \$ _____ |
| 6" Hyacinth | \$5.50 x # _____ | = total \$ _____ |
| | Amount Enclosed | \$ _____ |

Please *print* what you would like to appear in the Easter bulletin.

In Memory of _____

In Celebration of _____

In Honor of _____

God holds us together

Shared by an anonymous doctor

A couple of days ago I was running (I use that term very loosely) on my treadmill, watching a DVD sermon by Louis Giglio ... and I was blown away! I want to share what I learned .. But I fear not being able to convey it as well as I want. I will share anyway.

He (Louie) was talking about how inconceivably BIG our God is. How He spoke the universe into being. Then He went on to speak of how this universe creating God also knitted our human bodies together with amazing detail and wonder. At this point I am loving it (fascinating from a medical standpoint, you know). And I was remembering how I was constantly amazed during medical school as I learned more and more about God's handiwork. I remember so many times thinking, "How can anyone deny that a Creator did all of this?"

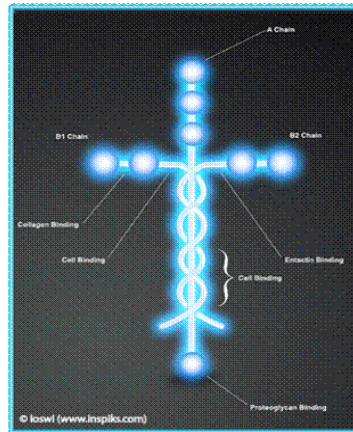
Louie went on to talk about how we can trust that the God who created all this, also has the power to hold it all together when things seem to be falling apart. How our loving Creator is also our sustainer.

And then I lost my breath. And it wasn't because I was running on my treadmill, either!! It was because he started talking about laminin. I knew about laminin. Here is how Wikipedia described them: "Laminins are a family of proteins that are an integral part of the structural scaffolding of basement membranes in almost every animal tissue.' Literally. They are cell adhesion molecules. They are what holds one cell of our bodies to the next cell. Without them, we would literally fall apart. And I knew all this already. But

what I didn't know is what they looked like.

But now I do. And I have thought about it a thousand times since. Here is what the structure of laminin looks like ... and this is not a 'Christian portrayal' of it! If you look up laminin in any scientific/medical piece of literature, this is what you will see...

Now tell me that our God is not the coolest!! Amazing. The glue that



holds us together ... ALL of us ... is in the shape of the cross. Immediately Colossians 1:15-17 comes to mind:

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created; things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in Him all things HOLD TOGETHER."

Call me crazy. I just think that is very, very, very cool. Thousands of years before the world knew anything about laminin, Paul penned those words. And now we see that from a very LITERAL standpoint, we are held together ...one cell to another...by the cross! *We are made in his image ... now I understand.*



Delicious Ham and Potato Soup

Phyllis Pittman

- 3 ½ cups peeled and diced potatoes
- ½ cup diced celery
- ½ cup finely chopped onion
- ¾ cup diced cooked ham
- 3 ¼ cups water
- 2 Tbsp. chicken bouillon granules
- ½ tsp. salt, or to taste
- 1 tsp. ground white or black pepper, or to taste
- 5 Tbsp. butter
- 5 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 2 cups milk

1. Combine the potatoes, celery, onion, ham and water in a stockpot. Bring to a boil, then cook over medium heat until potatoes are tender, about 10 to 15 minutes. Stir in the chicken bouillon, salt and pepper.
2. In a separate saucepan, melt butter over medium-low heat. Whisk in flour with a fork, and cook, stirring constantly until thick, about 1 minute. Slowly stir in milk as not to allow lumps to form until all of the milk has been added. Continue stirring over medium-low heat until thick, 4 to 5 minutes.
3. Stir the milk mixture into the stockpot, and cook soup until heated through. Serve immediately.

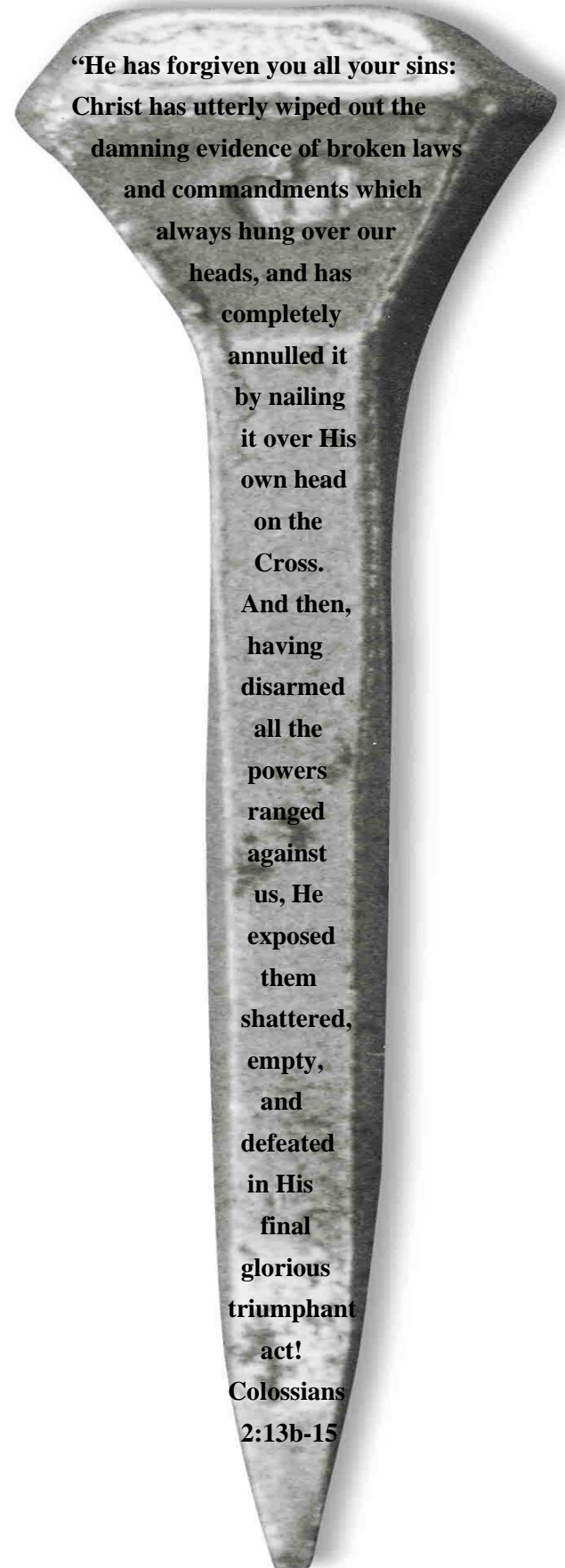
A friend gave me this recipe. Leon liked it so much I made it two weekends in a row! Took a crock pot full to a scrap book class and was completely gone at the end of the day!

What is faith?

“Sight is not faith, and hearing is not faith, neither is feeling faith; but believing when we neither see, hear nor feel is faith; and everywhere the Bible tells us our salvation is to be by faith.

Therefore we must believe before we feel, and often against our feelings, if we would honor God by our faith.”

~ Hannah Whitall Smith



etc.

Ponder This...

- † “In the Cross, God descends to bear to his own heart the sins of the world. In Jesus, he atones at unimaginable cost to himself.”
— Woodrow Geier
- † “What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, the Master calls a butterfly.”
— Richard Bach
- † “You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work.”
— John Wesley
- † “Reach up as far as you can, and God will reach down all the rest of the way.”
— John Vincent

DIRT CLIPS

Make this easy snack for your family or your friends at Sunday school. As you eat it, celebrate the miracles God brings in the spring.

What you need:

- 2 cups milk
- 1 (4-serving size) box of chocolate instant pudding
- 1 (8 oz.) tub of frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 oz.) package Oreo cookies, crushed
- 8 (9 oz.) plastic cups
- gummy worms and frogs
- plastic flowers (optional)

What you do:

1. Mix milk and pudding in a large bowl. Beat with a whisk until well blended. Let stand 5 minutes.
2. Add whipped topping and half of the crushed Oreos.
3. Place 1 tablespoon crushed Oreos in each cup. Fill cups $\frac{3}{4}$ full with pudding.
4. Top with remaining crushed Oreos.
5. Chill at least 1 hour or until ready to serve.
6. Decorate with gummy worms and/or frogs.
7. Place the stem end of the plastic flower into the center of the pudding dessert.

KIDS' PAGE



God's teaching is like....

In Deuteronomy, Moses' words to the children of Israel remind us of spring, which brings growth and new life.

Use the flower code below to fill in the blanks, revealing Deuteronomy 32:2, NIV.



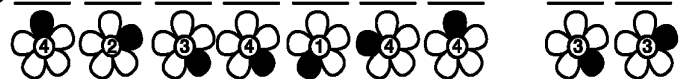
"Let my teaching fall like



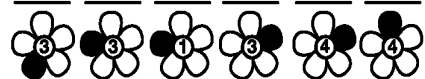
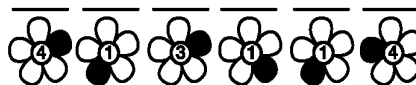
and my words descend like



like



like abundant





SERVICE TIMES

Sunday School - 9:15 am

Worship Service - 10:30 am

Wednesday Bible

Study/Prayer - 7:00 pm

Thursday, **March 4** - Gym rental
 Saturday, **March 6** - Gym rental
 Sunday, **March 7** - Prayer Gathering
 Tuesday, **March 9** - Spiritual Care
 Tuesday, **March 9** - Sparks Olympic Practice
 Thursday, **March 11** - Bunco
 Friday-Saturday, **March 12-13** - "B" League Basketball Tourney
 Saturday, **March 13** - Ashley Hyatt Bridal Shower
 Sunday, **March 14** - Friendship Sunday
 Monday, **March 15** - Blood Drive
 Tuesday, **March 16** - Sparks Olympic Practice
 Sunday, **March 14** - Friendship Sunday
 Friday-Saturday, **March 19-20** - "A" League Basketball Tourney
 Saturday, **March 20** - Wedding Rental
 Sunday, **March 21** - Brooklyn Living Center
 Tuesday, **March 23** - Sparks Olympic Practice
 Saturday, **March 27** - Emmaus Meeting
 Saturday, **March 27** - AWANA Olympics
 Sunday, **March 26** - *Palm Sunday*



Heart O' the Lakes

United Brethren Church in Christ
7031 Jefferson Road
Brooklyn, MI 49230

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"Be sure to remember that nothing in your daily life is so insignificant and so inconsequential that God will not help you by answering your prayer."
Ole Hallesby