



Founded in 1878
To the Glory of God
February 1, 2012
Newsletter No. 02-12

925 West Walnut Street
Metamora, Illinois, 61548

Telephone (309) 367-4603
www.christianunionchurch.com

Church Office: mcuc@mtco.com

Pastor

Gary Salm: pstrgary@mtco.com

Children & Family Ministry Coordinator

Stephanie Russell: cucsrussell@mtco.com

February Newsletter

Happy
Valentine's
Day

If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter,
Please email us and write 'unsubscribe' in the body
of your message.

Thank you for your interest in the Christian Union
Church Family, and God Bless You.

From Pastor Gary



Let's Eat! Hungry people love to hear those words. One simple phrase can motivate us to make our way to the dining room, the restaurant, or the kitchen. Add the aroma of good food, the images of a commercial or simple conversation about what's for dinner, and we will move even faster.

Have you ever noticed how often food was included in the stories of Jesus? He accepted sinners by sharing a meal with them, he fed the five thousand, and he rebuked the Pharisees while sharing a meal. Significant events happened while he ate or prepared to eat with his disciples. Even the Lord's supper was instituted around the Passover Meal. Food plays a very important role in people's lives.

In a few weeks we will enter the season of Lent. For six Wednesdays in a row we will have the privilege of gathering around a meal and joining together in worship. This is an important time of the church year, and as such we want to make it a memorable, valuable experience. We are upgrading our meals this year, ordering in food and eating on the fine china. We want you to be encouraged to invite your friends. If you're working, we will have everything here for you to come straight from work. It's important for the people of God to gather together, and that includes YOU.

While we want you to come and enjoy a good meal, we are even more anxious for you to be fed spiritually and encouraged in your faith. People often associate Lent with discipline and devotion. In that vein, I would suggest that you think about your own habits and spiritual disciplines. Make an effort to prepare for our Wednesday evenings. You may want to skip your noon meal and "come hungry" both physically and spiritually. Turn off the TV and devote some extra time to pray, read a book or meditate on scripture. Each week I will share a devotion based on the life of Christ. We will have time to sing worship songs, pray together and prepare our hearts for the wonderful celebration of Christ's resurrection.

→

After our worship time, you will have an opportunity to help us prepare for the Easter Hunt on March 31. This year is going to be quite different from our past Easter Egg Hunts. For the past four years we have invited the community to our campus for fun and celebration. This year we are welcoming them to enter into the living message of Easter. We hope to present an interactive experience for people, young and old, to walk through the life of Christ. The scenes we study on Wednesday evenings will be the very stories we recreate for families and children to experience on the 31st.

Make a commitment to be here as often as you can. You will be blessed, and you can be part of providing a blessed experience for the children and families of our community. I look forward to preparing with you for a memorable Easter that will impact us all.

Come on, friends! Let's Eat!

Pastor Gary

Lenten Dinners/Devotions

Wednesdays, beginning February 22

6:00 pm dinner

6:30 worship/devotions

7:00 activities/choir



Invite your friends!

Come enjoy a good meal and meaningful worship.
Stay around to help prepare for our big Easter Hunt.

There's something for everyone!

(If you would like to help with set-up or clean-up for one of the meals, please contact the office. We appreciate your generosity of time and service.)

EASTER ~~EGG~~ HUNT

During each of the past four years, the Easter Egg Hunt has shown our community

We are a church that cares about children and families

Church is a friendly, happy place.

Special things happen at Christian Union Church



Now we are ready to introduce them to a deeper message.

Jesus, the baby who came at Christmas, was sent by

God for a very specific purpose. We want them to see the connection from the miracle in the Manger to the miracle of the Empty Tomb.

This is more than just telling a story. This is intended to be a journey through the life of Christ, with tangible experiences to imbed in children's memories.

Families (all ages) will enjoy this experience together, and be able to go home with lots of information for further discussion and discovery.

We hope to incorporate scenes including the manger, Jesus' baptism, calling of the disciples, the sermon on the mount, cleansing the temple, Calvary, and the empty tomb.



Why would Christian Union Church choose to take on this huge project?

We have the greatest message in the world and this is a terrific avenue for sharing that message with our community.

Our people are blessed with a multitude of gifts and abilities and will find exciting opportunities here to use and develop those gifts.

There is something here for everyone, from the youngest to oldest, to contribute and offer as a Lenten gift to Jesus and to others. What a tremendous way to engage our entire congregation in meaningful ministry that may change lives and bless families!





Praise God for the leaders in our congregation. We are blessed by our council, committees, teachers and many servant leaders who live their faith every day. We're grateful for new members on our church council: Matt Kimbro, Jason Zobrist and Donna Woltzen.

Please pray that God would continue to give clear direction and inspiration for the ministry He would have us pursue. May He be glorified through the people and programs of Christian Union Church.

We continue to pray God's comfort for the Allen Family after the sudden loss of Jason's father, Tom Allen, in a car accident.

We also lift up the family of Molly Coon, who passed away on January 22. May the God of comfort uphold these families and give them His peace.

Please pray God's protection for Austin Stump, Nick Miller, and Justin Alig, all deployed in Afghanistan. We continually lift up all men and women in uniform serving throughout the world.

Continue to pray for Gary Tweddale, Carole Ronane, Bob Todden, Rosemary Mischler, Delmar Kolb, Ron & Hazel Dyar, Donna Schifeling, Brooke Poling, Charles Biesecker, Heath McClung, Bob Widmer, Ruth Garber, Bill Fenner, Roger Fahlberg, Pastor George & Faye Hines, Bill & Dorothy Riddle, Tia Blair, Jim Bays, Rick and Julie Parks as they deal with on-going health issues.

Our Partners in Mission:

St. Mary's Catholic Church
Heart House
Peoria Rescue Ministries
Todd & Missi Marsden and family

You are cordially invited
to an evening with the Peoria Symphony

"Gershwin Concert"

Guest Pianist—Richard Kogan
Soprano Soloist—Linden Christ

Tuesday, February 14
Peoria Civic Centre Theater



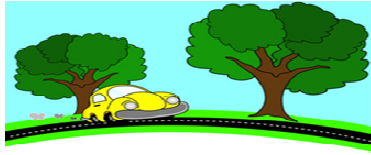
Please join us for this exciting,
heart-felt musical evening.

It's a RED Dinner Affair
With a Valentine Flair!

Dinner in Fellowship Hall
Serving at 6:00 pm

Symphony performance at 8:00 pm
Transportation provided for those who wish it.
Event sponsored by the Fellowship Committee.

Tickets are all inclusive.
\$30.00 per person
Reservations must be paid by February 1.



Connecting Church & Home

Dear Parents & Grandparents,

Whether your child is involved in Sunday school, 60 minutes or both, I would like to encourage you and offer ways you can enhance your child's spiritual development. We are blessed to minister to your child for an hour or two a week, but you will always be your child's primary minister. Why is this? Because you spend the most time with your child. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 teaches us that we are to take every opportunity to share about God's love. As a church it is our calling to equip parents, and help you teach your children to love and serve Christ.

In coming newsletters it will be my pleasure to share ways we can work together in ministering to your child. I know many of you are already very intentional about raising your children to know and love God. I would love for you to share your thoughts and practices with me. If you have questions or concerns, I hope you will share those as well.

Here are a few ideas for you to help your child learn and memorize God's Word from Sunday school or 60 Minutes. Let them read the verses to you before a meal, have them try singing the verses in the car, call a relative and let them share God's word or, before bedtime, look them up in the Bible and read together. Write out the Bible verses and place where your child will see them every day (bathroom mirror, refrigerator door, etc.).

In closing I would like to share that in the coming weeks we will have an amazing opportunity to partner in sharing the Easter Story with your child and our whole community. Beginning with the Season of Lent (Feb. 22nd) there will be Lenten Family Meals every Wednesday evening until Holy Week. During these Lenten Meals your family will be sharing about the life of Jesus through the Gospel of Matthew. After the meals we will plan and prepare for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 31st. Yes the "egg" has been removed for a very special reason. I pray you will open your heart and hands to help us share the "Easter Hunt" message with our children.

Blessings & peace,

Stephanie Russell
cucsrussell@mtco.com
367-4603 office



Children, Youth and Family Ministry News

Sunday School News

9:00 a.m. ~ 9:45 a.m.

(Having children arrive 5 minutes early would be very helpful to the teachers)

Sunday, Feb. 5th

Bible Story: Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-41)

Application: Trust Your Guide

Sunday, Feb. 12th

Bible Story: The First Church (Acts 2:40-47)

Application: Be the Church

Sunday, Feb. 19th

Bible Story: Peter and John Heal a Crippled Man (Acts 3:1-12, 16)

Application: Let God's Power Work Through You

Sunday, Feb. 26th

Bible Story: Stephen Being Stoned (Acts 6:8-15, 7:54-60)

Application: Forgive Those Who Hurt You

Ministry Tips: Ask your child/grandchild what was their favorite part of the Bible story. Use the information above to help refresh their memory. Most Sundays, Pastor Gary will be preaching on the same Bible story. At dinner you can reread the Bible story and then tell your child how you will apply the "Bible Story" to your daily life. Use the "Application" above as your starting point. Then encourage your child to share how they can apply it to their everyday life.

Teacher's Meetings:

Wednesday, Feb 8th 6:30-7:45pm or Sunday, Feb. 12th 11:15-12:30pm

Teacher's Sunday Morning Prayer & Devotion Time:

8:40am by the Fellowship fireplace



Wednesday Evenings "60 Minutes" (for ages 5 to 12 years old)



We hope you will prayerfully consider bringing your child or grandchild to this great ministry & fellowship on the first three Wednesdays in February (1, 8, & 15) from 6:30 — 7:30 p.m.

We will focus on a selection of Bible verses; helping children find them in the Bible, memorize and learn their meaning through sharing, teaching and playing fun games. It is our hope and prayer that each child takes these Bible verses and places them deep in their hearts, minds and souls for the rest of their lives.

We are also always looking to grow our ministry team. If you would like to help us share with these wonderful children please contact Stephanie cucsrussell@mtco.com or Pastor Gary.

These are the Bible verses we will continue to focus on in February.

Psalms 119:105 (Old Testament)

Your Word is a Lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

II Peter 1:20 (New Testament)

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of scripture came about by the prophets own interpretation of things.

II Timothy 3:16 (New Testament)

All scripture is God - breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.

Hebrews 4:12 (New Testament)

For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Chili Cook-Off 2012



We would like to thank all who participated in and attended this year's chili cook-off. It was a good time and a big success. Over \$384 was raised to put toward VBS 2012. We hope everyone had enough to eat and enjoyed each other's company.

A special thanks goes out to Jenny Poling, Amy Wilbur, Angie and Matt Kimbro, Stephanie Russell, and Nicole and Doug Garber for helping in the kitchen with serving and clean up. Several diners also helped with clean up, and we truly appreciated your willingness to pitch in.

We would also like to thank the Philathea ladies for baking the delectable corn bread (what would chili be without it?). And the winner is..... going to be announced on Sunday, January 29 in church.

God Bless,

Rhonda Ries and Lori Salm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fellowship Committee — will meet on Monday, Feb. 6, at 6:00 pm in the kitchen area. Anyone who is interested on our committee is invited to attend. We will make plans for the year AND arrange the details for the "Red Dinner Affair." We would love to see some new faces to help schedule fun church activities.

Dates to keep in mind are: 2/14 6 pm "A Red Dinner Affair"
3/8 6 pm Dining Out @ Duck Inn
3/25 11:30 am Brunch@ Met. Fields
4/12 6 pm Dining Out @ Mona's

Philathea — will not meet in Feb. due to the "Red Dinner Affair." Our next regular meeting will be Tuesday, March 13 at 7:00 pm.

Snow Cancellations — If we need to cancel any services or events due to bad weather we will post the information on our local TV stations. You can also go to our website to check the status of our worship services and activities. (www.christianunionchurch.com)

Chicago Opera Play House

Presents

Cinderhood

By Adam Busch

Director: Marie Sokolova

Founder and Artistic Director:

Linden Christ

Thursday, Feb. 23, 7:00 pm

Christian Union Church

Performance will be in the sanctuary.
Plan to stay for refreshments and meet
the musicians.

A free-will offering will be received.



February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 1:00 Easter Hunt Initial Meeting 5:30 Bible Study 6:00 "60 Minutes" 7:00 Choir Practice	2	3	4
5 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	6	7	8 5:30 Bible Study 6:00 "60 Minutes" 7:00 Choir Practice 6:30-7:45 SS Teacher Meeting	9	10	11
12 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:15-12:30 SS Teacher Meeting	13 6:00 Mission Com. 7:00 Church Council	14 6:00 RED Dinner Affair and Symphony	15 5:30 Bible Study 6:00 "60 Minutes" 7:00 Choir Practice	16	17	18
19 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour Youth ←————→	20 (office closed) President's Day 7:00 Woman's Club Ski Trip	21	22 Ash Wednesday 6:00 Lenten Supper and Service 7:15 Choir practice	23 7:00 CINDERHOOD Opera Playhouse	24	25
26 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	27	28	29 6:00 Lenten Supper and Service 7:15 Choir practice			

Youth News

2012 YOUTH GROUP EVENTS CALENDAR

Feb 12: Youth Group 4-5:30 at the Church

Feb 19-20: Ski Trip to Cascade Mountain in Portage, WI

March 4: Youth Group 4-5:30 at the Church

March 18: Winter Jam 2012-time TBA
(www.jamtour.com)

April 15: Youth Group 4-5:30 at the Church

April 29: Youth Group 4-5:30 at the Church

May 6: Youth Group 4-5:30 at the Church

May 27: End of Year Party-details TBA

July 15-21: Mission Trip-details TBA

New Email for youth cucyouth@mtco.com : If you need to contact our Jr. & Sr. youth leaders, Tina & Brad Kough and Jenny Poling, please use this email. Also, you may contact Stephanie Russell at the church office 367-4603 or cucsrussell@mtco.com .



New Date

**Youth Ski Trip — February 19-20
Cascade Mountain in Portage, Wisconsin**

If you're interested in going,
see Brad or Tina Kough ASAP!

(Remember — We must have a
permission slip and medical release
signed by your parents.)

Youth Bible Study Sunday, Feb. 12
4:00 — 5:30 pm in the Youth Room
Be There or Be Square!

January Mission Updates

Peoria Rescue Mission

As the new year begins, please pray that men and women from all walks of life would not reject God's gift of life through Jesus and that people realize the value of investing in the work of Peoria Rescue Ministries. If anyone wishes to donate tangible items, we need canned goods, toothbrushes, baby wipes, white socks, and other related items.

South Side Mission

Now that the busy holiday season is behind us, the new year generally brings a spirit of optimism. Every day your gifts help many homeless women and children who are struggling, and we are offering a helping hand and practical guidance to help find them a better life. Thank you for your many prayers.

Wycliffe Bible Translators (McIntires')

Please pray for the completion of Vision 2025 – seeing a translation project started in every language that needs one, by 2025. The Pinai-Hagahai are experiencing transformation as they hear God's Word for the first time in a language and form they can understand. Two thousand other Bibleless people groups still wait for that same opportunity.

Youth For Christ-Metamora

With the death of a student at MTHS, in December, our Campus Life meetings provided an environment for people to come and be, to come to mourn, to come and be loved. God was in our midst as we came together to deal with the wide range of emotions. Please continue to pray for family and friends at MTHS, and ask that God will continue to bring healing, restoration, and peace.

The Marsden Family

The Marsdens are back in East Asia and have moved to their new city. God blessed them with an apartment after only three days. It is in good condition and only a 10 minute walk from the "Box" quarter. They are already meeting new friends and becoming acquainted with their new surroundings.

They will be in Thailand Jan. 27—Feb. 8 for PI's annual conference. Please pray that God would bless this time with teammates and leaders. May they honor Him as they begin this new outreach to the "Box" people.

Happy Birthday

2 – 04	Jackie Mayer	2 – 19	Ted Minger
2 – 06	Julie Schertz		Mike Jern
2 – 10	Sallie Lotz		Gary Salm
2 – 12	Marie Summer		Margaret Weddle
2 – 13	Joshua Schertz	2 – 21	Estella Schieber
2 – 14	Rob Klobnak	2 – 22	Chris Saunders
	Cathy Gregait		Cheryl Robison
2 – 16	Bob Klobnak	2 – 23	Benjamin Shoff
	Marlene Margherio	2 – 25	Carol Schertz
	Greg Mishler		Elizabeth Herrick
2 – 17	Mona Smock	2 – 26	Taylor Veatch
	Vanessa Phillips	2 – 27	Linden Christ

Happy Anniversary

2-05	Doug and Pam Wilbur
2-09	Ken and Susan Maurer
2-21	Dan and Marlene Margherio

Attention, Snyder Passengers!



Winter is here, and the Snyder bus team is eager to continue serving our bus riders! However, we recognize that some times inclement weather conditions may make this impossible.

We are leaving the decision up to the individual driver each week as to whether or not to make the trip. If the weather is too bad, the driver will contact each passenger and let him or her know the bus will not be running. We will also post an announcement on TV and our website.

If you would like to become a part of this important ministry, or know someone who might like to ride, please contact Judy Winkler at 383-4680.

February Schedule

	<i>Driver</i>	<i>Helper</i>
5-February	Cathy Gregait	Sue Devine
12-February	Bob Klobnak	Dian Klobnak
19-February	John Madsen	Sandy Madsen
26-February	Mike Minger	Sharol Minger

February Ministry Leaders

Date	Sound/ Video	Lay Reader	Nursery	Candle Lighter	Greeters	Flowers
Feb. 5	Melody S. Angie K.	Denny Hahn	Merrie Jo Allen Lauren R.	Sarah Kimbrow	Mike & Sharol Minger	Garber Family
Feb. 12	Rich S. Dan W.	Kristina Sledgister	Sandi & Autumn Riggert	Carolyn Wilbur	Sue & Jason Zobrist	
Feb. 19	Rich S. Dan W.	Sandy Johnson	Kathy & Kellie Steele	Darrell Kimbrow	Margaret & Deryl Schertz	
Feb. 26	Gary B. Denny H.		Tina & Josh Kough	Emily Ries	Kough Family	

February Ushers: Ron Fandel, Ross Spangler,
Scott & Judy Winkler, Stan Deatherage.

Communion Stewards (2/5): Mike & Sharol Minger,
Jeff & Rhonda Ries, John & Sandy Madsen

Welcome Rep: Barb Barke

Christian Union Church 2011 Budget vs. Actual

Dec 2011 Actual Dec 2010 Actual YTD Actual YTD Budget

SUMMARY

RECEIPTS

Offerings	15,761	15,000	14,765	239,164	187,500
Sun School Offerings for Curriculum	39	55	27	543	400
Facilities Rent	100	125	600	2,125	1,900
Interest	-	3	3	51	36
Other Receipts	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	15,900	15,183	15,395	241,883	189,836

EXPENSES

Total Personnel Expense	12,511	9,024	9,093	109,601	107,428
Total Office Expense	742	913	734	10,465	11,430
Total Committees Expense	(505)	395	275	2,031	4,519
Total Christian Education Expense	383	475	(5)	3,343	5,700
Total Buildings & Grounds Expense	1,258	2,260	2,537	33,688	31,320
Total Missions Gifts	2,555	2,850	3,510	30,650	32,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	16,944	15,917	16,144	189,778	192,397

NET: RECEIPTS LESS EXPENSES **(1,044)** **(734)** **(749)** **52,105** **(2,561)**

Transfer from Program Enhancement 0 0 0 0 2,561

Net Change in General/Missions Fund **(1,044)** **(734)** **(749)** **52,105** **-**

GENERAL/MISSIONS FUND BALANCE **81,039**

**Christian Union Church
Council Minutes
January 9, 2012**

President Dick Schertz called the regular monthly Christian Union Church Council meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Council members present: Ann Herring, Ed Metts, Paul Benes, Bob Klobnak, Dan Wilbur, John Madsen, Barb Mishler, Sharol Minger, Brad Kough and Kent Malone. Member absent: Elisha Bachman. Pastor Gary Salm and Stephanie Russell were also present.

Devotions were given by Dick, reminding us that God doesn't put us in situations without equipping us and/or giving us help.

Correspondence

None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 12, 2011 meeting were reviewed. Ed motioned that the minutes be approved, seconded by Dan. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Financial Reports were reviewed and discussed. Barb motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted, seconded by Ed. Motion carried. Kent requested payouts for missions be paid quarterly rather than monthly.

Committee Reports

Church & Ministry – No report.

Finance – No report.

Christian Education – No report.

Missions – Dan reported that we will be helping Heart House in many ways, including adding storage space, finding ways to better utilize their building, and updating their computer lab.

Worship – The Committee is looking for new members. Anyone interested should see Nancy Bernius.

Membership – No report.

Fellowship – No report.

Trustees – Barb reported the following: Quotes are being obtained to paint the kitchen and Fellowship Hall; there is discussion regarding painting the sanctuary and cleaning the fabric on the walls; the Trustees will be communicating with the cleaning people on a regular basis; a list is being prepared to document what projects have been completed and when; a committee will be formed to address restroom remodeling. After discussion regarding the replacement of windows, John motioned to proceed with the window replacement project at a cost of approximately \$15,000 this year and \$14,000 each year for the next two years, seconded by Dan. Motion carried.

Pastor's/Staff Report – Gary shared with Council some of the ways the Church was able to bless families during the holiday season. He then thanked the Church family for blessing his family this holiday season.

Stephanie informed Council that her role as "Children and Family Ministry Coordinator" is still being defined. She has assisted in many Church activities, i.e. Advent Children's Message, Advent devotions, Christmas Program, Sunday School and youth events. The door locks on the youth room have been changed and the white board has been purchased. The youth room will be cleaned out soon.

Old Business

The annual meeting will be held on January 22, 2012. Thank you to Ed, Elisha and Tom for their service as Council members.

New Business

Barb is donating a new couch for the youth room.

Adjournment

At 8:06 p.m. Ed motioned that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Barb. Motion carried.

Gary closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Herring
Recording Secretary