

HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2506 Gaton Farm Road

Joliet, Illinois 60435

www.hopeumc.org

Ph/Fax 815.436.2209

January 2010

Preparing for Worship In January

January 3

Epiphany Sunday

“The Lightbulb Gift”

Isaiah 60:1-6; Matt. 2:1-12

Pastor Sue preaching

January 10

First Sunday after Epiphany

“Living in the Sweet Spot”

Isaiah 43:1-7; 2 Corinthians 3:1-6

Pastor Sue preaching

January 17

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10;

1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Pastor Glenna preaching

January 24

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10;

Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a;

Luke 4:14-21

Pastor Glenna preaching

January 31

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6;

1 Corinthians 13:1-13;

Luke 4:21-30

Pastor Glenna preaching

Word from Our Pastor



Dear Friends,

It seems so long ago. Last year at this time we were in the midst of planning our 50th anniversary celebration. And what a celebration it was; planting trees, burying time capsules, gathering for ice cream socials, bus tour, movie night, producing cook books, anniversary books, T-Shirts, hats, sweatshirts, and then highlighting it all with Bishop Hee - Soo Jung and former pastors joining in a wonderful worship celebration and luncheon. Yes, “It Was a Very Good Year,” to hear Frank Sinatra sing it. But- as I look back upon last year, I cannot help but project toward where this congregation is focused as we enter 2010.

Hope UMC is not resting upon past laurels and celebrations, we continue to plan and build for the future. Our involvement with the Ridgewood Community Food Pantry continues to expand, as does our outreach to area school children, and various mission projects supported throughout our congregation. I have seen growth in spiritual development through increased participation in Bible studies and church attendance.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Glenna L. Olumstad
436-2209
pastor@hopeumc1.org

Deacon

Rev. Sue Ritts - 556-8940
deacon@hopeumc1.org

Music Director

Cheryl Foster - 722-3771
musicdirector@hopeumc1.org

Organist

Annetta O'Bryant - 722-3771
organist@hopeumc1.org

Secretary

Roberta Drake - 436-2209
secretary@hopeumc1.org

Child Care

Pat Jones - 723-6799
childcare@hopeumc1.org

Children's Sunday School

Ashley Allen - 216-0093
sundayschool@hopeumc1.org

Custodians

Roger & Linda Hess - 577-0748
custodians@hopeumc1.org

CHURCH OFFICERS

Church Council

Chair - John Wietlispach

Staff-Parish - Greg Chapman

Finance - Dennis Mattix, Roger Hess

Education - Jacqui Slaughter

Board of Trustees - Larry Wilkinson

Building Committee - Larry Wilkinson

Financial Secretary - Trish Nash

Treasurer - Vic Genge

Bldg. Maint. Treasurer - Linda Hess

Membership - Harriet Luce

Lay Leader - Greg Chapman

UMW - Florence White, Harriet Luce

UMM - Vic Genge, Roger Hess

Many new friends have joined in worship and participate in the life of our church. We look forward to their continued presence and the variety of gifts they bring to our faith community. The plans for a long awaited building expansion are another sign of our renewed spirit and commitment to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

As we move into another decade, my prayer is that we do so with a renewed commitment to perceive the Holy Spirit at work in our midst and to understand the love of God that is given in Jesus Christ. As a result, we will live into a church that can spread this love here and abroad, fully understanding the needs that are visible around us.

May we be blessed as we embark upon a New Year, continuing to work and grow together.

Pastor Glenna

Pastor Glenna

The Deacon's Corner

Rev. Sue Ritts, Deacon

"Can You Hear Me Now?"

A Modern Parable

Two college friends, Priscilla and Daphne, learned that they would be in Dallas on the same day for their respective business meetings at hotels on opposite sides of the city. After comparing their schedules they were able to carve out an hour to have lunch and to catch up on the latest news. Priscilla made reservations for 1:30 at a restaurant in the city. Both women eagerly anticipated this precious time together.

On the appointed day and time, Priscilla and Daphne arrived at the restaurant, hugged each other warmly, and allowed the hostess to escort them to their table. Anxious to share as much as possible in the 60 minutes they had to spare, Priscilla told of her family, her latest trip to Acapulco, the summer plans to travel to Europe on a second honeymoon with her husband.

As the waiter approached to take their order, Daphne realized that neither of them had even glanced at the menu, so she attempted to interject this observation into Priscilla’s conversation. Barely were the words on Daphne’s lips when Priscilla just told the waiter “Oh let me order for us both. The lobster bisque is exquisite. That is just what the doctor ordered for a time as special as this!” As the waiter walked away, Daphne realized that she could not eat lobster bisque due to her severe seafood allergy.

Priscilla continued her travelogue during the main course as well as dessert. Daphne learned about Priscilla’s company, her career plans for the future, as well as her retirement plans. Daphne listened politely, nodded appropriately, and smiled warmly at her long-time friend’s excitement and joy.

When the last bite of caramel cheesecake was eaten, Priscilla looked at her watch and announced “Can you believe it’s almost 2:30? It’s time to catch a cab and get back to those meetings. Daphne, it was so great catching up on old times! We’ll have to do this again real soon!” And with a flurry of hugs and kisses, both women went back to their regular activities. Priscilla was a-glow with the chance to tell her stories; Daphne was frustrated and sad that she couldn’t tell Priscilla’s how much her friendship had meant to her all these years.

In Mark 4: 9, Jesus teaches the crowd by the lake “***He who has ears to hear, let him hear***”. There is a Priscilla and a Daphne in each of us. It is extremely difficult to listen intently while sharing our own personal agendas. Our responsibility as Christians on this spiritual journey is to listen for those words God has for us: words of love, of guidance, of discipline, of mercy. One can never anticipate where or when these words may be spoken or even by whom. The challenge for each of us is to listen expectantly with our ears, our hearts, and our minds for those love whispers from God. It has been said that there is a Divine reason why we were created with two ears and only one mouth!

<i>Those Who Serve</i>	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
Liturgist	Mark Ritts	Jacqui Slaughter	Frank Denk	Vic Genge	Greg Chapman
Greeter	Trish Nash	Sheryl Dyer	Chris Denk	Marty Olumstad	LaDessa Chapman
Host(s)	Jim Reuther	Shirley Zupancic	Barb Denk	Lori Mattix	Dorothy, Peggy, and Brett Chapman
Acolyte	Dominic Larmon	Dominic Larmon	Dominic Larmon	Dominic Larmon	Dominick Larmon
Offering Counters	Carole Blackwell & TBA	Carole Blackwell & Harriet Luce	Carole Blackwell & Carol Becker		Carole Blackwell & Boomer Crotty
Communion Steward	<i>No Communion in January</i>				



Notes of Hope



WE, HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, ARE A DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS IN JESUS CHRIST, WHO WORSHIP, WORK AND PLAY TOGETHER . . .

Please keep bringing your **aluminum cans** to church. See **Linda Hess** with questions.

The church office is always in need of **used ink cartridges**. The office supply stores now **accept only name-brand (Dell, HP, and Epson) cartridges**. These cartridges can be redeemed at office supply stores for paper and other supplies we need to run our office. Please leave used cartridges in Roberta's mailbox.

Volunteers are needed to **clean our church**. Please continue to sign up on the Volunteer Schedule which is in the Housekeeping mailbox. The job description is also available in the mailbox. See **Linda Hess**.

If you purchase your personal office supplies at **Staples**, please give the church phone number (815-436-2209) to the cashier when you check out so that a percentage of your purchase will come back to the church as part of their Rewards program. This is another way to help our church get what it needs without costing you anything! Thanks for your help.

If you utilize the church on Thursday afternoons, please leave the back door to Fellowship Hall unlocked for the A.A. group that meets on Thursday evenings. Questions or concerns? See **Larry Wilkinson**.

A New Photo Directory Is In The Works! Hope Church will be assembling a new **Photo Directory** starting this month. It will be self-generated; we are not using any outside company to take the pictures (no pressure to buy!) **Trish Nash** will be leading the project, with **Linda Hess** serving as our photographer.

Finance Committee Update - Apportionments are paid and up to date.

There will be a church-wide **Spaghetti Dinner** on **Saturday, January 30, from 4-7 p.m.** This event is open to the public. Proceeds will be used for our new sanctuary. Dinners are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children under 12. Carryout will be available.

The United Methodist Men will be sponsoring their **Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner on Saturday, March 6, from 3:30-7:00 p.m.** Tickets are \$9.00 each and are available from any member of the UMM, or at the door. The meal includes corned beef, boiled cabbage, potatoes, carrots, dessert, and beverage. Carry-outs are available.

Thank you for your gift of generosity and the beautiful silver cross presented to me on December 20. You continue to amaze me by your love shown to both Marty and myself. It is my pleasure to be your pastor. Blessings to you all! Love, Pastor Glenna

***ARE COMMITTED TO GROWING AND SHARING
IN OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIBLE . . .***

A New Members Class will be held in **January** for those who have been attending worship and want to learn more about membership. We will meet in the front of the Sanctuary after worship on **January 17, 24, and 31**. See **Pastor Glenna** if you plan to attend so that enough materials may be prepared.

The **January/February** issue of **The Upper Room** is available in the narthex.

Coming Soon! Watch the announcements for **Lenten Study** information. More information will be available when Pastor Glenna returns from vacation.

Children's Sunday School Lessons for January 2010

<i>Session and Date:</i>	<i>Children Will Learn:</i>	<i>Bible in the Session:</i>
January 3 – Wise Men search for a king	Jesus is God's gift to us.	Matthew 2:1-2 Verse: They knelt down and worshiped Jesus (Matthew 2:11)
January 10 – Mary and Martha	Jesus teaches us what is important.	Luke 10:38-42 Verse: Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a new patch. (Psalm 27:11)
January 17 – A woman hears the Good News	We learn how to live through Jesus.	John 4:1-42 Verse: We know that this is truly the Savior of the world. (John 4:42)
January 24 – The rich young Man	I love Jesus more than anything else.	Matthew 19:16-23 Verse: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 16:13)
January 31 – Peter's Declaration	We know that Jesus is the Son of God.	Matthew 16:13-19 Verse: You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. (Matthew 16:13)

AND SPREADING GOD'S LOVE BY REACHING OUT TO THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE.

Boomer's Kids - Please continue to bring school supplies for **Boomer's kids**. We will be collecting year-round to help supply the needs of the kids all though the school year.

The Joliet Cluster is continuing to support the **Ridgewood United Community Pantry**, an outreach ministry of **Trinity United Methodist Church**. We need donations of **canned goods and canned or bottled 100% juice (not juice drinks)**. Please place them in the blue bin in the narthex.

Pastor Glenna will be on vacation from **December 28 through January 10**. In her absence our Deacon, **Pastor Sue Ritts**, will be available for **emergency Pastoral Care**. Call her at home at **815-556-8940**, or on her cell phone, **440-251-0246**. **Pastor Glenna** returns **January 11**, and resumes preaching **January 17**.

Hope UMC Welcomes Deacon to Staff (by Boomer Crotty)

The Lord constantly blesses Hope United Methodist Church. As a need arises the Lord works in mysterious ways. Sometimes people from within Hope are moved to meet that need. On other occasions, people from outside our immediate family are drawn to meet that need. Recently the Ritts family moved from Ohio to Illinois and settled in our area.

They surveyed the various places of worship and narrowed their search down to a few. Finally due to the openness, caring, and acceptance, they decided that Hope was where God would have them share their ministry.

Mark is using his singing talent to enhance the choir while Sue prayed and waited to see what direction God had planned for her. Once her prayers were answered and the pathway cleared Sue agreed to use her gifts the way God and her heart directed.

Sue graciously agreed to this interview to give the Hope community a better understanding of her goals, her service and a little of herself. She attended high school in Columbus, Ohio,

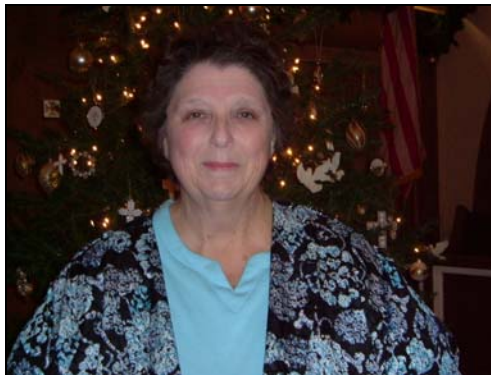
received her Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Miami of Ohio, and her Masters of Art in Special Education centered on LDBD from Bowling Green of Ohio.

Having the heart of a servant and a deep desire to help others, Sue took her seminary ministry training at Methodist Theology School of Delaware, Ohio. She received her Certification of Deacon Studies and was ordained a Permanent Deacon. After serving churches in Ohio, Sue and Mark moved to Illinois. Just recently her petition to have her affiliation with Ohio transferred to our congregation was approved.

Sue's hobbies are music, reading, and volunteering. It is this latter interest that influenced her decision to serve our community. Sue efforts will be directed to community outreach with specific emphasis on the elderly. One of her short-term goals is to expand her service at a local senior center and to help with the Alzheimer facility.

Among her long term goals is the desire to help the Hope community grow in discipleship, locally and then in the world.

Next month Sue will be preaching at Hope. Come and hear the word. Sue is definitely a hallmark person because she cares enough to give the very best. Thank you, God, for continuing to shower Hope with your blessing.



Rev. Sue Ritts (Pastor Sue)



Birthdays This Month

January 7 – Florence White
January 8 – Sherm Hill
January 9 – Logan Bown
January 9 – Annetta O’Bryant
January 16 – Chris Denk
January 17 – Tori Larmon
January 25 – Nancy Mitchell
January 27 – Marty Olumstad
January 29 – Christian Hunter
January 31 – John Wietlispach



Wedding Anniversaries

January 9 – Marge & Mike Dernulc