

The Link

Between you and the church

October 2009



*Worship
Spirituality
Service
Acceptance*

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Saint Francis of Assisi

St. Francis was born in 1182 in Assisi, Italy to wealthy parents. Growing up, he enjoyed a life of luxury and good times. Francis became ill, near death, but recovered. During this time he had a vision of Jesus. He made a pledge to renounce his old way of living to tread a life of purity and to dedicate his life to the service of humanity. Francis spent two years living in a cave, praying and meditating. He then traveled from village to village in Italy preaching about God's love, teaching, healing and blessing.

St. Francis's love and kindness spread throughout Europe. He founded the Order of Mendicant Friars or Franciscans. The members of this Order have to take a vow of poverty, chastity, love and obedience. His followers built a beautiful church honoring him on a hill in Assisi.

The Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi is celebrated on October 4th. Saint Francis is the patron saint of animals and the ecology. Many churches celebrate this feast day by holding a "Blessing of the Animals" on or near this date. Pastor Mark will hold a "Blessing of the Animals" on October 3rd at 11:00am in the Triangle Park. Pastor Mark has announced that animals of all denominations are welcome!

Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

*Lord, make me an instrument of your
peace,*

*Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may
not so much seek to be consoled as to
console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life.*

Pastor's Corner

Dear Members and Friends,

The month of October is already upon us, and with it fall season is in full swing. This is also the time when our members are flocking back to worship on Sundays. Our worship attendance seems to increase during winter time.

As our Lord turns his creation into a spectacular display of sights, sounds, and smells, before the cold of winter sets in, I ask you to join me in prayer with King David who authored many Psalms like the following: *"I will give thanks to the Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High."* Psalm 9:1-2.

I would like to personally thank all of you who took time to participate in our internal survey which ended August 31st. I have recently met with the church council. This committee exists according to our Book of Discipline paragraph 252.1 to: "provide for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church". We have carefully evaluated the survey results. And after some good conversations the council has agreed to implement some changes. The Christian church as such is in

constant flux, and nothing is ever permanent. With that said, if you feel uncomfortable with some of the things we are going to do in the future, please come and talk to me about your feelings.

One of those changes will be a contemporary worship service led by me on the fifth Sunday of the month. I have given this Sunday over to the Lay members of our congregation in the past. It was requested that this will no longer be the case. We will not celebrate communion on those particular Sundays as well. Specific months with five Sundays are, November 2009, January 2010, May 2010, August 2010, and October 2010. If you like a contemporary service make sure you are present on those days.

You are also kindly asked to provide feedback after each service. Use your bulletin to make notes and drop it in a box that will be provided in the narthex. This way I can gage the "temperature" of our congregation on an ongoing basis.

Other changes will be slowly implemented, if you notice modifications in the way we worship, this is a direct result due to our recent survey. We are a democracy, and as such everyone has a vote. If you don't agree with the modifications, please kindly respond. I would prefer if you talk to me in person.

I am very happy to be with you. I take my job very seriously; this is why I have initiated this survey. I hope you find these changes to your liking. However, we can never forget what the purpose of the United Methodist Church is: "To make disciples of Jesus Christ". I kindly challenge all of you to invite a friend or neighbor to join you in church on any given Sunday. This will help us grow our congregation, and in turn this will help to better distribute the work load on the individual member.

See you in worship.
Your sheepdog,



Celebrations

Birthdays

10/4	Shauna Lockwood
10/8	Christine Gilbert
10/13	Kenny Werner
10/23	Betty Collins
10/25	Mike Stefonik

Church Council

Minutes of Church Council Meeting September 10, 2009

Co-chairman Joan Beachler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Mark Ramsperger, Brenda McGinnis, Sharon Luthy, and Celeste Mori. Agenda was approved and the Mission Statement/Goals of BAPMUMC were acknowledged. Prayer concerns were addressed before Mark opened with a prayer.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from August 2009 council meeting were accepted as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Stacy was out of town and had not received all the bills, etc. prior to leaving in order to create the August report. The report will be included in the October information.

PPR Report: No report.

Nominating Committee Report: No Report.

Trustee's Report: Celeste reported for the Trustees. First, Steve Walker did the work on our water lines. The Council offered appreciation to Steve for his work. Celeste will get a note to him. He

recommended that the ground sit over the winter and settle back around the new pipes before we attempt to improve the landscaping. After discussion Mark moved and Brenda seconded a motion to accept the bid of \$1,900 from Montano Remodeling on the painting and patching of the sanctuary, narthex, and alter area. Motion carried. It was decided that we do a "Paint Can Pledge" to help offset the cost of the project. It was also moved and seconded that we accept the bid of \$2,200 on siding the steeple/gable in white from Joy Siding. This motion also passed unanimously. The board was in consensus that we would like to move forward on the estimate from Jeff Fagnant to install a new sprinkler system leaving out the back where a parking lot will eventually be. Celeste will contact Montano Remodeling to get scheduled to paint, Joy Siding to get a date for that project, and Jeff Fagnant to draw up plans for the sprinkler and get us on his spring schedule. The sprinkler project will be discussed more at the next council meeting.

Worship Committee: No report.

Mission Committee: No report.

Education Committee: No report.

United Methodist Women: The UMW will

be baking pies on 9/29/09 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Cindy needs people to sign up ahead of time in order to purchase materials. September 20 is the date for the Emerald Housing ham dinner.

Pastor's Report: Mark is ready to meet and discuss the Internal Survey Report. The meeting will be September 21 at 7:00 p.m. Mark will contact absent board members to give copies of the results and to give direction on how to prepare for the meeting.

**Other:
Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Celeste Mori, Secretary

*There are different kinds of gifts,
but the same Spirit. There are
different kinds of service, but the
same Lord. There are different
kinds of working, but the same
God works all of them in all men.*

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

The Nail in the Fence

There once was a little boy who had a bad temper. His Father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence. The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence. Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all.

He told his father about it, and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper. The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence.

He said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there. A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one.

John Wesley on Prayer

God's command to "pray without ceasing" is founded on the necessity we have of his grace to preserve the life of God in the soul, which can no more subsist one moment without it, than the body can without air.

Whether we think of; or speak to, God, whether we act or suffer for him, all is prayer, when we have no other object than his love, and the desire of pleasing him.

All that a Christian does, even in eating and sleeping, is prayer, when it is done in simplicity, according to the order of God, without either adding to or diminishing from it by his own choice.

Prayer continues in the desire of the heart, though the understanding be employed on outward things.

In souls filled with love, the desire to please God is a continual prayer.

As the furious hate which the devil bears us is termed the roaring of a lion, so our vehement love may be termed crying after God.

God only requires of his adult children, that their hearts be truly purified, and that they offer him continually the wishes and vows that naturally spring from perfect love. For these desires, being the genuine fruits of love, are the most perfect prayers that can spring from it.

-From [A Plain Account of Christian Perfection](#), as believed and taught by the Reverend Mr. John Wesley

Gifts

Churches, especially small churches like Berta A Penney, need many hands to keep the church strong and growing. What opportunities are there for you to share your talents? (Yes, you do have talents!)

- If you can read, sign up to be a liturgist.
- If you can bake (or shop), sign up for fellowship.
- If you can smile and say hello, sign up to be a greeter
- If you know a good story, sign up to tell it during children's story.
- If you can handle a lawn mower or snow shovel, sign up for lawn care.
- If I haven't mentioned your particular talent, talk to Pastor Mark and I'm sure he can find a spot for you!

We Pray For . . .

- Terri Marotta (Carol's daughter)

And all suffering from multiple sclerosis

- Irene Banta
- Beverly Riley
- Tharon Thompson

And all suffering from alzheimer's

- Brandon Steward
- Dora Peterson
- Chuck Siegler
- Linda Wood
- Gerald Gregg
- Kathy Gieck
- Tex Geller
- Wynn King
- Gayle Robertson
- Terrance Luttrell
- Kathy Dailey

And all suffering from cancer

- Eric Daniels
- John Nuss
- Steven Werner
- Joe Bowers

And all serving in the armed forces

- Jean Edinger
- Yoshiye Tanaka

And all needing healing

- Karen Eubanks

And all suffering from Bells Palsy

- Lori Lowman's daughter

And all suffering from mental illnesses

- Mary Kramer

And all mourning the loss of loved ones

And all unspoken prayer requests

Volunteers

October 4th

Liturgist – Dina Villanueva
Children's Story – Sharon Luthy
Fellowship – Beebe's
Greeter – Lyle Beebe
Lawn Care

October 11th

Liturgist – Sharon Luthy
Children's Story
Fellowship
Greeter – Alisha Geller
Lawn Care

October 18th

Liturgist – Melissa Foster
Children's Story
Fellowship – Melissa Foster
Greeter
Lawn Care

October 25th

Liturgist – Joan Beachler
Children's Story
Fellowship- Joan Beachler
Greeter
Lawn Care

Berta A Penney Memorial
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OUR MISSION

The Mission of Berta A. Penney Memorial United Methodist Church is to provide everyone with opportunities for: meaningful worship, spiritual growth, Christian fellowship, and faithful service.