



“Eventually. Why Not Now?” Ron Giacobassi

There it is! Right in front for people to see every day they pass through the town of Litchfield. Can the entire world see it? Sure. They can by going to the Litchfield United Methodist Church website. A painted advertisement brushed on one of the older buildings made of brick, a ‘new’ advertisement from the early 1900’s – that’s lasted nearly 50 years. Here’s a brief history of the sign and slogan. Who? How? Why?

“According to Gold Medal Flour’s company history, this advertisement campaign began in 1907 and continued through 1954. During that time Washburn Crosby launched its long-running advertising slogan, ‘Eventually – Why Not Now?’ B.S. Bull, the company’s advertising manager, is credited with the creation of the slogan. As the story goes, he was editing a wordy text about the superior quality of God Medal Flour and found that when he was finished he had edited out all the words except 4: ‘Eventually.’ He then added, ‘Why not now?’

Having had this brilliant idea, he was struck with self-doubt and tossed the paper into the wastebasket. It was said to have been found by a young member of the firm, James Ford Bell, who later became the first president of General Mills, Inc. (The slogan was used on billboards, company trucks, train cars, flour bags and in the company’s printed advertisements, appearing as late as the early 1950’s.”*

So here’s this ‘old’ sign we are fortunate to see because several years ago a couple of guys (Jim & Ken) restored the faded, cracked, chipped sign back to its original glory days. Many, many hours went into restoring the artwork in this ‘billboard’!

“But now I said to them... Let us rebuild the wall... They replied at once. Let’s rebuild the wall... So, they began the good work.” Nehemiah 2:17-18

A new year can bring us to revisit ourselves. We can take a look at many things, events, relationships and thoughts from the past year. We’ll be working on changing from 2012 to 2013. Eventually we will be into 2013. The new January says ‘Why Not Now?’ And so the new calendar year begins.

When we start editing our 2012 year, many of the words are taken out and we are left with a ride through many experiences. Let’s get started on our own campaign. There are many opportunities to help create that new slogan or spruce up a slightly faded artwork.

“Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin!” Zechariah 4:10

Maybe a couple of ‘guys’ (God & Jesus) can add a refreshing look to you through the Holy Spirit. Are you ready to get started? Why not now? The new year begins. (Continued on page 3)

Happy New Year!!

Winter Coat & Clothing Drive Continues

There has been a steady stream of donated coats and warm clothing coming in and they are finding new owners who need and appreciate them. Not only have clothes come in to distribute but hand-knitted and crocheted hats/scarves/gloves as well as some gently used toys! There is nothing like seeing the delighted face of a parent when they realize they can give their child an almost new gift for Christmas. It is touching to think of the happiness that a nice toy will bring on Christmas morning to some lucky child who might have thought Santa forgot him or her.

Thank you all so much for cleaning your closets, talking to friends and family about this project and bringing in these items. Even the fiber-optic Christmas tree was a hit and was taken! Dear church friends, it has been amazing to see the response this has generated. This is our own version of a "Free Store". Isn't that fantastic?

Pantry News

Our pantry is continuing to serve many people each month. It has adequate funds for now and we look forward to the results of the Purdy Match which will carry our food ordering capability well into 2013. We are also waiting to hear if a grant that was submitted on Nov. 1st to the Hillsdale County Community Foundation has been approved.

Ladies and gentlemen who serve in the pantry- may you all be blessed in the New Year. Your willingness to help and serve is a testament to your understanding of scripture, especially Matthew 25:35-40. To serve our brothers and sisters is to serve Christ. It is the Christ within that recognizes and serves the Christ in others; the love of Christ coming full circle.

Christmas Baskets

The Outreach Team changed the plan in midstream, to include complete meal baskets to all of the recipients. Not only were complete meal supplies furnished to everyone on the list but several more families were added to the list of recipients as well, at the last minute. It was a Christmas miracle that 19 families were able to be blessed in this way.

Just 2 weeks prior to the Dec. 16th deadline, Pat Timberman from Metaldyne called the church and expressed her and her co-workers' desire to provide up to 10 children with 4-5 gifts each for Christmas. They decided to do an Angel Tree too. The Metaldyne employees' generosity was a blessing that allowed our Outreach team to include more families and add more items to all of the baskets. What joy to be able to do even more! And the miracles didn't stop! Outreach received very generous cash donations from members of our church family as well. Tags that had been taken from our Angel Tree were fulfilled and brought in too. Thank you all so very much for sharing the gifts that you have been blessed with which flow to you and through you!

Isn't this is what God intended for us to do- to express kindness and to share our bounty? Luke6: 37-38

"Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, and criticize their faults— unless, of course, you want

the same treatment. Don't condemn those who are down; that hardness can boomerang. Be easy on people; you'll find life a lot easier. Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity."

From: The Message Bible

Think about that passage for a moment.... it implies that giving and receiving is a cycle that never ends. What an incredible God we have! Thank you Lord!

(Continued on page 3)

“Eventually. Why Not Now?” (Continued)

Ron Giacobassi

“For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ.” Hebrews 3:14

So if you have ideas for a better you, or organization, or church, or community – go ahead and get started (i.e., a weekly visit to worship service, that nutritional menu of foods, a daily scripture reading, a scheduled walk for better health, meditations free of distractions, a daily thank you, a new role in volunteering). These ideas and more can lead to that refreshing beginning. Eventually, we’ll get there. So, Why Not Now?!

*Info from Gold Medal Flour history archives. Umclitchfield.org

Photography done by Leah D.



Helping Others (Continued)

Laura Cierpilowski

Paul Webster

If you haven't stopped by the Outreach Bulletin Board lately you can see the latest information from Mujila Falls from November 2012. If you have internet capability and a Facebook account, you can also "like" Mujila Falls Agriculture Centre to see updates and pictures. Paul is doing fantastic work there. His commitment to the agricultural project and the people of Zambia has made a huge improvement to their lives.

Our church has supported and continues to support Paul through our covenant agreements. We are able to support our missionary through the efforts of everyone who participates in our Sweet Corn Days bake sale. Through the 2012 bake sale the 2013 agreement amount has been fulfilled. The last 5th Sunday collection of the year, on Dec. 30th, had been earmarked for Paul too. Our annual agreement amount goes toward paying Paul's wages. Any contributions over and above our committed amount can be applied to any number of needs in Mujila Falls as the work there continues.

As we begin this new year and look toward the 2013 Sweet Corn Days celebration, please keep in mind that we have one more year to fulfill our covenant agreement which ends on the last day of December in 2014.

The New Look of Outreach

With the co-leadership stepping down, 3 members of Outreach remain- Sheila Gary, Janice Teller and newest member Frank Hiser. At our last meeting on Dec. 4th we discussed the mainstays of the Outreach program and hoped that in some way they would continue to be supported: Paul Webster, Free Lunch Program and Christmas Baskets. The team members were uncertain if they would decide to have meetings but they would still like to serve in some way. May the Lord guide these members in ways that best serve His children.

Please keep these worthwhile programs and the remaining Outreach members in prayer. If you feel called to step up in support of all these or possibly other good works, please let one of the team members know and Pastor Marty as well.

May this New Year bring new opportunities to see Christ in action, to share the good news of Christ and to walk in the footsteps of Christ. Amen.

Youth

Since the youth group kick-off on September 16, we've welcomed and met more than 50 youth! At our bi-weekly meetings, we average about 8 youth. At our 1st annual Halloween Lock-In, we were blessed with 40 youth!

The youth need the prayers and support of their church family. On the 1st and 3rd Sunday's of each month, the youth meet from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., with time afterwards for just hanging out. We need your help providing small meals on those Sunday's. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. If you are unable to provide a meal, maybe you could donate some snacks and drinks for the youth. Youth love Doritos, puppy chow, cookies, popcorn...anything! We also give one 2 Liter of Coke or Mt. Dew to each youth who visit the church.

It is exciting to report that at Sunday morning worship, kids, youth, and young adults make up 1/3 of the church attendance! There is a group of youth that is growing in the Fireside Room and scattered throughout the pews!

In the upcoming year the youth plan to:

1. Host their 2nd Annual Halloween Lock-In, November 1 from 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. (clean-up after)
2. Do a mission project in Litchfield (watch for a fund raiser for this!)
3. To send at least 10 youth to church camp (we need youth sponsors for this!)
4. To attend one of the many Christian concerts in our area. (we need youth sponsors for this!)
5. To keep inviting youth to youth group, church events, and Sunday morning worship
6. To have youth participate in the life of the church with their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness! (the membership vows of the United Methodist Church)

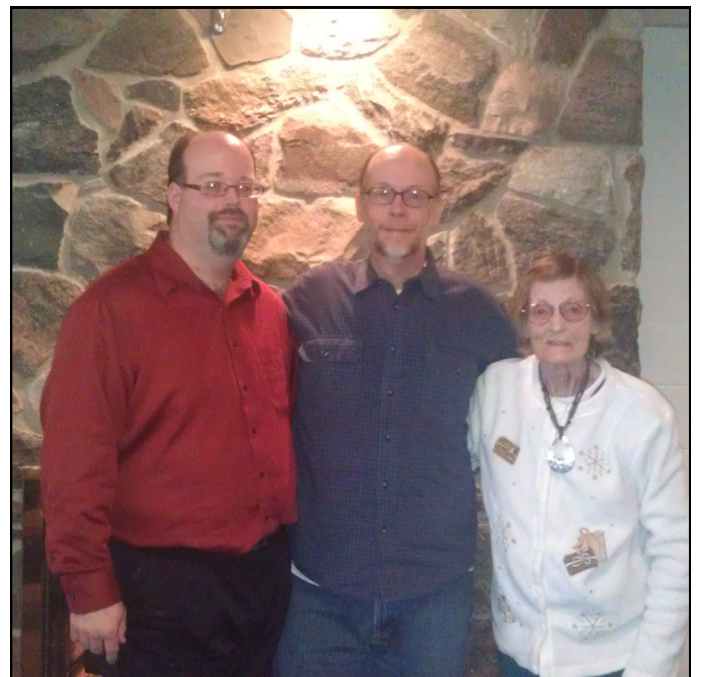


Youth
Christmas
Party

This year Litchfield united Methodist Church welcomed 14 new members to the church family!

New members are: Frank Hiser, Zach Hiser, Brett Smith, Ginger & Matt Sterly, Garrett Griffiths, David Griffiths, Valery Roberts, Sheila Gary, Becky Cooper, Henry Sramek, Scott & Jenny Caldwell

WELCOME



You're Invited

The Tuesday morning study group will be starting a new study on "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren. We invite you to join us as we learn God's amazing plan for us—both here and now, and for eternity. If you happen to have the book, please bring it along, or if you could loan the book that would be great! Please join us Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. starting January 8.

January 9 Red Cross Blood Drive noon-5:45 p.m.

January 27 All Charge Variety/Talent Show, 6:30 p.m. at Litchfield UMC. Litchfield and Quincy UMC's invite you to a night of fun, laughter, and talent! Got Talent? We're looking for all kinds of talent....singing....dancing....dramatic reading...play an instrument? Everyone is invited to join us for the talent show! Come participate or come watch all the good talent!

January 19, All charge Team Leader training, 10 a.m. at Quincy UMC. Team Leaders from the Charge will learn what to do next as we begin the year of ministry together. Hosted by Pastor Marty

The Albion District Training and Conference Day will be held Saturday February 9, 2012 at Marshall United Methodist Church. Your District Training Team is putting together another extraordinary opportunity of Worship, Spiritual Learning and a day to celebrate together as the Albion District. Look for more details coming soon! But for now SAVE THE DATE!



Our first meeting of 2013 will be held January 23, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. at the church. Hostesses are Pat Smith and Eleanor Wildt. The program will be on Poverty. Also, on January 10, 2013 we will meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. to do our programming for the new year. Please try and be there with new ideas for programs. All women are welcome at our meetings.

In December we did 15 cookie boxes, 4 cookie trays for staff at nursing homes and 17 fruit baskets for staff and church families.

Thanks for all you have done in 2013.

All Women are invited and welcome to all of our meetings.

LUMC throughout 2012—for more pictures, go to facebook.com/litchfieldumc



LUMC Leadership

We are in need of the following Leadership positions to be filled for the 2013 year:

Ad Board Chair: What's my job? An effective chairperson brings initiative, coordination, and collaboration to the group that does planning, goal-setting, implementation, and evaluation of ministry for the congregation. (gbod.org)

Finance Chair: What's my job? An effective finance team proposes a budget, then raises, manages, and distributes the financial resources to support and strengthen the mission and ministry of the congregation. (gbod.org)

Descriptions for all the leadership/ministry teams can be found at www.gbod.org under the Lead Your Church tab.

Thank You's

Thank you for the beautiful shawl you gave to me. Every time I use it I remember your kindness and your prayers. Thank all of you for your prayers and cards. Love, Judy Noakes

Dear Church Family,

Todd and I thank you for all the well wishes for our 5th Anniversary and for all your prayers! We had a beautiful day and God has blessed us with each other and our church family. We love you and you're always in our thoughts and prayers! In His Love, Todd & Patty Johnson

The light of God's love shines through you and your every kindness. We thank you for the very thoughtful and unexpected gift basket. We are appreciative of your service to the community. Also your friendship and kindness to our grandson, Damian Ridenour. Sincerely, Gene & Sallianne Gardner.

Share Your Faith.....

Did you know that we all can share our faith with our friends, our family, our neighbors, our community? Even those who are shut-ins or are living in assisted living facilities can share their faith. We are the ones who teach the kids in our church how to share their faith. We are the ones who teach guests to our church how to share their faith. Here are a few ways we can share our faith:

1. Share your story—we each have a personal story to tell. How has Jesus made a difference in your life? Why do you attend Sunday morning worship and the ministries of the church? Why do you need Jesus in your life?
2. Share your ideas and your gifts. God speaks to each of us and has blessed each of us with a gift. Listen and share those ideas. Use your gift to do good ministry in the church and in your community.
3. Attend ministries, not just Sunday morning worship. Being a disciple is more than attending our one hour of worship on Sunday's. Being a disciple is about being dedicated to God and not to ourselves. It is about doing what God wants and not what we want. Disciples are people whose lives are transformed as they continually seek to pattern their lives after the example and teachings of Jesus Christ.
4. Extend an invitation. Invite your neighbor, your friend, the bank teller, your post man to be a part of the ministry at LUMC.
5. Pray. It's that simple. Pray for your church. Pray for the leaders of your church. Pray for the members of your church. Pray for those who have strayed away from the church for personal reasons. Just pray.
6. Exhibit love for your faith. Speak kind about your church and your church family. Be supportive of the ministries LUMC is doing through your prayers, your invitations of others, and your presence.
7. Encouragement. Be encouraging to the ministry teams at LUMC. Be encouraging to the kids, the youth, the adults. Be encouraging to the pastor. Be encouraging to the paid staff of LUMC.
8. Send cards and make phone calls. We are all capable of sending cards on birthdays, anniversaries, to shut ins, those in assistant living...to everyone.
9. Say thank you. Say thank you to the pastor. Say thank you to the secretary. Say thank you to the paid staff of LUMC. Say thank you to those who volunteer their time to the church. Say thank you to those who donate to the food pantry.
10. Make new friends. Make friends with a new member or a new attendee. Sit by them during worship and during fellowship time. Invite them to be a part of the great ministry that goes on throughout the week at LUMC. Invite them to go visiting with you and introduce them to the person.

Christmas Phone Caroling



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Pray in Pink Sunday



Baptism and Membership Vows

In 2012, LUMC welcomed 14 new members and celebrate a few baptisms. Each time we celebrate a baptism, we hear the baptismal vows. Each time we welcome new members into the life of the church we are reminded of our own membership vows.

At our baptism, we renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin. We accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. We confess Jesus Christ as Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and race? We affirm that we will remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

And with each baptism, we who have already been baptized, reaffirm each of those vows. We also promise to surround each person with a community of love and forgiveness. We promise to pray for them. We promise to live according to the example of Christ.

We should be reaffirming ourselves of our baptism vows yearly. Monthly. Weekly. Daily. If these vows are not at the core of who we are, then what does our baptism mean? Our baptismal vows are sacred. They are holy. They are serious. We should not make a mockery of them. We need to be held accountable to these vows. Are we afraid to hold each other accountable because people will leave the church? We took a vow, before God, and yet some of us are ignoring these vows.

1. Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world and repent of our sin? Do you do this?
2. Do you confess Jesus Christ as Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people.....? Do you do this?
3. Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, oppression in whatever forms they present themselves ? Do you do this?

Do some of us not live out our vows because we truly do not understand what they mean? Or do some of us not live out our vows because our lives are easier not doing them? Do we allow evil within our church? Do we repent for our sins? Do we reject the evil powers of this world? Do we confess Jesus Christ as Savior? (privately we might, but do we boldly to each other, to our friends, to our family, to our community?) Do we put our whole trust in His grace? Do we serve our Lord or just show up for a couple of hours on Sunday morning?

Our membership vows add more depth to who we are. They make us more than a member in name and affiliation.

As members of Christ's universal church will you be loyal to Christ through Litchfield United Methodist church and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

Whoa! Do all in your power to strengthen the ministries at Litchfield United Methodist Church. Do each of us do this? What do we do to strengthen the ministries at LUMC? What do you do?

Baptism and Membership Vows (Continued)

Will you participate in the ministries of this church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness?

Prayer—There are 365 days in a year. Do you pray daily for Litchfield United Methodist Church?

Presence—There are 52 Sunday's in a year. How often were you present for Sunday morning worship? There were over 600 ministry opportunities at Litchfield United Methodist Church this past year. How many ministries were you present for? How many did you support with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness?

Gifts—Are you faithful with your gifts to the church? Do you give unconditionally, not allowing your anger and resentment to decide your gift? But instead asking what God would want you to give?

Service—Litchfield United Methodist Church has many ways to serve. Are you faithfully serving—without excuses or resentment?

Witness— Do you invite your friends and family to be a part of the ministry and worship at LUMC? Do you share your testimony? In the past year, how many times have you shared your faith with friends? Family? Someone in the community?

Our community should know we are Litchfield United Methodist Church members by everything that we do. Our baptismal vows need to be a statement of who we are. We need to be United Methodist by everything that we do. We need to live each one of the baptismal vows and membership vows that we took.

What if we as members of Litchfield United Methodist Church actively participated in the ministries of the Litchfield United Methodist Church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness... purposefully? What if we as members prayed daily for the church, its leaders, and its ministry? What if all of us as members were present at one of the 600 or more ministry opportunities at Litchfield United Methodist Church? What if we as members gave faithfully with disregard of our personal feelings and hurts? What if we as members faithfully served the ministries of Litchfield United Methodist Church? None of us are too old to serve God. There is always a way to serve in every ministry regardless of age, location, or ability. What if we as a members shared our testimony with friends, family, neighbors, and people in our community? What if we as members invited ALL our friends, family, neighbors, and the people in our community to be a part of the great ministry and Sunday morning worship? Would we be living the United Methodist Church's mission statement? Would we be living Litchfield United Methodist Church's mission statement?

The year 2013 is here. New Year's resolutions are being made. Popular resolutions have been to become more fit, quit smoking, spend time with friends and family... What if we as a church made a New Year's resolution to help each other live out our baptismal and membership vows? What if we as a church made a New Year's resolution to hold each other accountable to each of those vows? What if we as a church united together with a New Year's resolution of sharing our vows by being bold, living out, and being held accountable for the covenant that we made with God?

Prayer List

In Nursing Homes and Assisted Living: Elnora Beckner, Olin Hinkle, , Muriel Peiffer, Wes Sutton, Marge Rossman and Edith Southworth.

Elijah Ziri	Dora Hiser	Patty Johnson	Lorene Ladd
Joyce Pitts	Hazel Rice	Judy Noakes	Ann & Roscoe Breckenridge
Pat Smith	Damian Ridenour	Gene & Pat Blonde	

Prayer for those in the military.

Prayer for those away at college.

Starting January 1, on the first of each month, all names will be removed from the prayer list in both, the weekly bulletin and in the monthly newsletter. If you would like a name added to or continued on the prayer list, please contact the church office.

umclitchfield@gmail.com / 517-542-3366

Please ask the person if it is ok to list them on our prayer list.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

2-Marcie Nye	4-Laura Cierpilowski	6-Mary Houchen
6-Hazel Rice	10-Clara Dawson	13-Timmy Cobb
13-Toni Sharp	14-Brenda Green	14-Dan Pitts
18-Jessica Cobb	19-Jake Cobb	20-James Wildt
20-Larry Reasoner	25-David Pitts	26-Cathy Crater
27-Ruth Reinhart		

26-Dan & Deborah Smith

Immediate Financial Need

We are \$16,500 short in our income this year. We have come in \$10,000 under budget with expenses. This leaves us with a \$6,500 financial shortfall. At this time all bills are paid.

Ministry Shares are not paid. Please pray about this. Please continue to give generously.

Thank you,

the Finance Team.

What to expect

Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m.

Join us for refreshments following worship.

What should I wear?

We are more concerned with what is inside a person than what's on the outside. The dress code at Litchfield UMC is : wear clothes

Where do I park?

We have parking in the back of our church. There are handicap spaces available on the east side of the building. If you need assistance entering the church, please pull up to the covered awning.

Do my kids sit with me?

At Litchfield UMC we believe children are a vital part of our church family. We want to make sure they are enjoying the learning as much as you are. The pastor will share a special message with the children at the beginning of each service, then they are invited to more age appropriate learning for them.

Barrier Free/Handicap Accessible

We are a single level facility with no stairs. Our church is wheelchair accessible. We offer Assistive Listening Devices that help ensure that everyone who joins us will be able to hear.

Will I be asked to give money?

If it's your first time joining us, we actually want you to keep your wallet in your pocket. Just come and experience Litchfield UMC. If you like it and want to call it your home, then we believe financial commitment to the place that grows you spiritually is critical. Giving is a deeply spiritual issue that we grow into as we journey with Christ and each other.

Holy Communion

At Litchfield UMC, everyone is invited to share Holy Communion. This sharing of bread and juice reminds us of God's gift through Jesus. Holy Communion is the first Sunday of each month.

What is the Sunday Service like?

At Litchfield UMC, we start the service with music. It's ok if you don't know the words to the songs. The words to the songs are projected for everyone to see. We share joys and prayer concerns. We do take an offering. We read scripture with a lesson to follow. Our service usually last about an hour. There are snacks and coffee offered after each service in the Fellowship Hall.



LITCHFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Pastor Martin Cobb

E-Mail: pastorcobb@gmail.com

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Office Hours

M-W-TH 9:00-3:00

Food Pantry Hours

M and TH 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Find us on Facebook at

[Facebook.com/litchfieldumc](https://www.facebook.com/litchfieldumc)



Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

