



A Note From Pastor Julie



It's almost that time of year again. The Season of Lent is just around the corner, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 18 and ending with Easter Sunday on April 5. The season of Lent is a time to examine our lives intentionally and deepen our relationship with God. This year as a congregation, we have an opportunity to take a journey together as we focus on the "I Am" statements of Jesus through, *The God We Can Know*, by Rob Fuquay. This 7-week worship and study series will help us to grow in our Christian faith as we read about how Jesus helped us to deepen our understanding of him and God.

Below is a description of the study from www.thegodwecanknow.com:

Jesus' "I Am" statements not only grab our imagination by revealing more about his purpose, they also shape our Christian identity and connect us to the God of Moses, the Great I Am. Significant – yet ordinary – images of bread, light, shepherd, vine, and more give us insightful ways to experience Jesus anew and to discover a God who is close and wants to be known!

No matter how long we have been a Christian, there is still more that we can learn about the God who wants to be known. This is also a good opportunity to invite friends not connected to the church to participate as well. There are four ways that you can participate in this study which are as follows:

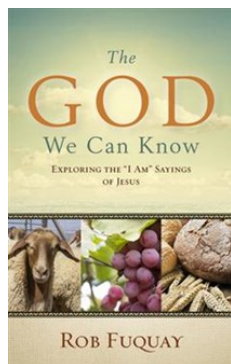
- ◇ Sunday morning worship, as I will be preaching a sermon series based on the book.
- ◇ Weekly study group. See more information in the Lenten Study article on page 2 of this newsletter.
- ◇ Facebook discussion group. I have created a closed Facebook group called "The God We Can Know – Online Discussion Group." A closed group means that only group members can see responses made by other group members to the discussion questions. Call or text me at 517-607-6977 if you want to participate in this group.
- ◇ Reading the book and reflecting on your own.

I look forward to all of us growing together as we learn more about the God who wants to be known!

God's Blessings,

Pastor Julie

Lenten Study & Worship Services



Join us Monday nights at Litchfield UMC from 6:30 to 8:00 for the **Lenten Study** by Rob Fuquay and led by Pastor Julie. This year's study is *The God We Can Know*. The study begins on February 23 and finishes up on April 6. Books are available through the church office for \$10 each. Scholarships are available for books. If Monday nights do not work for you, consider attending the study in Quincy on Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. You can also participate in an online discussion group facilitated by Pastor Julie. Contact Pastor Julie to get connected to the Facebook group.

Here are other special services that will take place during the Season of Lent:

Ash Wednesday – February 18 at 7:00 pm at Litchfield UMC
(joint service between Quincy & Litchfield UMC's)

Palm Sunday – March 29 at 11:00 am at Litchfield UMC (Regular Sunday Service)

Maundy Thursday – April 2 at 5:45 pm at Quincy UMC
(joint service between Quincy & Litchfield UMC's). The service begins with a potluck.

Good Friday – April 3 at 7:00 pm at Litchfield UMC.

Easter Sunrise – April 5 at 7:00 am at Litchfield UMC with breakfast and fellowship to follow.

Easter Service—April 5 at 11:00 am at Litchfield UMC.

LAY SERVANT TRAINING ON THE ALBION DISTRICT



The Albion District will be offering two opportunities for Lay Servant Training this spring. The first sessions being offered will be a 2-Saturday Training at Union City UMC on March 7 and 14. There will be two classes offered: Basic Lay Servant Training and Advance Course: Leading Prayer. You need be able to attend both Saturdays in order to receive full Lay Servant Credit. The second offering will be a Lay Servant Training Weekend at Wesley Woods on April 17 and 18. Four classes will be offered during this training weekend: Basic, Spiritual Gifts, Worship Leading and Preach: From Your Heart to Theirs. Both brochures and registrations will be available by Thursday on the Albion District Website www.albiondistrict.org

FAN-tastic

Can you believe it? It's that time of year again with the hype, the talk, the advertisements, THE game. Added to the usual Super Bowl Sunday hoopla are questions and concerns of how those teams (one in particular) actually made it to the finals. That will be a story for the media and other social networking.



The game will be broadcast, played, theorized, analyzed, and a winner declared. Thousands of fans will cheer and celebrate. Thousands will go home disappointed, part of them feeling empty.

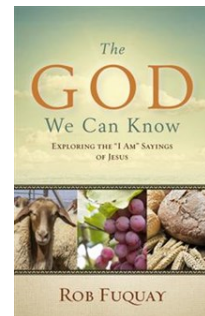
Thousands came to hear Jesus teach. They cheered. They got hungry. He fed them miraculously. They left empty.

"I am the bread of life, no one who comes to me will ever be hungry again." John 6:35

We can be like those fans, too. We can even be (mostly) prepared with plenty of food, fun, and friends. Are we able to go into overtime? Are we really prepared to take on more than regulation play? Does the time become difficult in our hurriedness? Did we prepare in enough ways for what may come? Where do we fit on game day?

In his book, Not a Fan, by Kyle Idleman asks the tough stuff. Are we a fan or a follower of Jesus? He goes on to present questions so we can determine where we stand in the life of Jesus and His teachings. Questions that require answers with honest-to-goodness self inputs—no fluff stuff!

This coming season is still underway. A new season begins soon too... Lent. As recommended to me, take a look at Not a Fan by Kyle Idleman. But, first take on this upcoming season of preparation for the Sunday of all Sundays—Easter—by reading through with many others, The God We Can Know by Rob Fuquay (available through the church office.)



"The Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight.

This is accomplished start to finish by faith." Romans 1:17

When the fish and bread are gone (John 6), who's left? Let's keep working toward the basket full of Jesus Christ!

Go Teams!

Ron Giacobassi

Outreach Team—Letter from Paul Webster, our Missionary

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I just want to wish all of you a wonderful Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We have several things to be very thankful for at Mujila Falls.

Number One: We have gotten very sizeable donations from churches that should enable us to buy a new John Deere Tractor and Disc Harrow in the coming weeks. I hope to go down to Lusaka in the coming week to work that out. This will insure that in 2015 we will be able to resume the planting of maize, soybeans, sorghum, etc. We have already made the purchase of the boom sprayer, and we have successfully gotten our IH tractor running again. Two tractors on site will insure that we won't be caught without one working tractor in the future.

Number Two: Many of you used the Giving Tuesday Advance Special matching grants to successfully bring us over \$12,000.00 in additional funds for Mujila Falls. This is a great pleasure after our failure last year to gain any funding from Giving Tuesday.

Number Three: We have ordered another 1200 layer chicks and 500 broiler chicks to renovate our poultry projects. This was one of Tshala's responsibilities and I am sort of "reinventing" the wheel as I go around making purchases. There are a lot of things to buy and transport to make it all happen.

Number Four: I am continuing to get the Toyota Landcruiser back in shape as we have to pass Road Fitness Testing in the coming week and then licensing and insurance for the coming year.



Number Five: We had a short, but productive, visit from my Area Secretary, Mande, from General Board of Global Ministries where he was able to tour Mujila Falls and fully understand our need for additional missionaries to do farm management and special projects such as forestry, gardening, poultry, field crops, ox training, milking goats, small animals, etc.

We have had to go through a lot of re-adjustments since the death of Tshala Mwengo in April. I am so happy that I have had such great support from our staff at Global Ministries as well as all of the churches and conferences Andre and I visited this last summer. I apologize that I wasn't able to get into those conferences where Tshala and Betty traditionally have visited. I hope you will continue to make Tshala's dreams come true. Perhaps a new American Missionary Couple can be found in the Illinois, Indiana and Ohio Conferences in the near future to take up the mantle dropped by Tshala.

At this time, we are reminded of the great gift given at Christmas and pray that the Holy Spirit will come into our hearts and the Joy and Peace of Jesus Christ can be ours now and forever more.

Again, Merry Christmas from Mujila Falls and all of its workers and staff, Paul L Webster

5th Sunday Offerings for 2015

March 29 - Salvation Army

May 31 - Church Camp

August 30 - Missionary Paul Webster

November 29 - TBD

Thank You



Dear Members of the Litchfield United Methodist Church,
Thank you for the Christmas card with all the signatures. And thank you to the U.M.W. for the cookie plate. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Elnora Beckner

Dear LUMC,
Just wanted to properly express our gratitude for the wonderful dishes of food given to us after my surgery. Our entire family has appreciated this so much. Thanks again.

Melanie Rossman and Family

Dear Church Family,
That was so nice when Carol brought us that goodie plate. Thank you.

Glenn & Betty Hackworth

Dear Litchfield UMC Family,
Thank you for the poinsettia you gave in my honor at Christmas. It is a blessing to be your pastor.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Julie

Liturgy and Refreshment Schedule

LITURGIST

February 1: Zach Hiser

February 8: Valery Roberts

February 15: Tim Chilson

February 22: Frank Hiser



COFFEE HOUR

February 1: Laura Cierpilowski and Sheila Gary

February 8: Betty Peiffer and Janice Teller

February 15: Ron and Velvet Giacobassi

February 22: Clara Dawson and Ella Hamrick



Coffee Fellowship

2014 Financial Report

The Finance Team is pleased to report the Litchfield United Methodist Church was successful in its finances for 2014. A financial report was presented to the Administrative Council at its January meeting.

During the year, \$95,817 was received in unrestricted income for the church, while operating expenses totaled \$98,889. We were able to meet our expenses because of a surplus from the previous year. In addition, \$80,672 was received for designated projects, such as food pantry, ministry shares, sound system, and missions. We are pleased to report that all bills were paid for the year, including 100 per cent of our church's ministry shares. Praise the Lord! Thank you for your faithfulness to the ministries of Litchfield UMC.



Looking ahead to 2015, a projected budget of about \$110,000 has been prepared. The good news is that in 2014, 24 individuals or families pledged financial support totaling \$51,304. In 2015, 31 individuals or families made pledges totaling \$66,564. Thank you again for your commitments, as God provides. We also appreciate the many who contribute to the church on a regular basis, but do not make a pledge of their financial support.

The trustees are planning to make some upgrades to the parsonage, including purchasing a new furnace and replacing the roof. Let's begin praying together now that that financial need will be met. We know God provides!

LITCHFIELD UMC—Financial Synopsis

	<u>Dec. 2014</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income Toward Budget	\$ 6,358.21	\$ 95,816.64	\$ 100,500.00
Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$ 6,973.02</u>	<u>\$ 98,889.17</u>	<u>\$ 95,900.00</u>
Difference	(\$ 614.81)	\$ (3,072.53)	\$ 4,600.00

Designated Giving* in 2014 \$ 80,672.34

Ministry Shares Paid in 2014 \$ 11,114.00—100%

Pledges for 2014 ~ 24 pledge cards turned in ~ \$ 51,304.00

Pledges for 2015 ~ 31 pledge cards turned in ~ \$ 66,564.00

*Include food pantry, special Sundays, etc.

United Methodist Women

No meeting in February.

See you at our next meeting on March 25, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

Carol Ireland, President

Remember to pray for...

Prayers for those in nursing homes and assisted living: Elnora Beckner, Geri Bennett, Willie Hinkle, Lorene Ladd, and Wes Sutton.

Debbie Kurtz
Bambi Lambright
Betty Peiffer
Pat Smith
Hazel Rice
Shelby Gonser
Mick Dickinson
Melanie Rossman

Patty Johnson
Ruth Hamilton
Mindy Zigler
Isabelle Russell
Amy Haroff
Cheri Smith
Sharon Nevins
Dylan Estep

Jason Hill
Dick Kaleida
Monique Yoder
Rolland Hankey
Taylor Nelson
Damian Ridenour
Marilyn Wade
Family of Luke Yoder

Garland Chapman
Dora Villarreal
Jeff Warren
Glenn Hackworth



- ◇ Pray for Paul Webster, our missionary in Africa.
- ◇ Pray for Christian churches around the world.
- ◇ Pray for those receiving cancer treatment.

Pew Bible Fund Established

Have you noticed the Bibles in the pews of our sanctuary are looking worn? Several members of the congregation have approached Pastor Julie about new Bibles. The topic was discussed at the January meeting of the Nurture/Witness Team. The team decided preliminary research was needed and then a recommendation would be taken to the Ad Council.



The Common English Bible and the New Revised Standard versions were used for pricing information. Approximately 125 Bibles will be needed for the pews, and a few large-print editions should also be considered. Each Bible costs between \$8.50 and \$12.00. The total cost, at today's prices, would range between \$1,200 and \$1,700.

The following week, the Administrative Council voted to establish a Pew Bible Fund. A small committee will be appointed to work with the Pastor to select the Bibles and coordinate other details when sufficient funding is raised.

Anyone can now make donations to the fund, and Please indicate the designation on your check or on your gift envelope. Perhaps this would be a way some will want to give a memorial gift or a gift in honor of a loved one. Progress reports will be given from time to time. There is no timeline when new Bibles will be purchased.

RECEIVING OF A NEW MEMBER



***Pastor Julie and
Thomas Masarik***

Congratulations to Thomas Masarik joining Litchfield UMC as an official member on January 4. You are a blessing from God to our church family.

Contact Information Wanted

As our church family grows and changes, it is difficult to keep up with the changes without your help.

What information are we looking for? Addresses, phone numbers, cell numbers, email addresses, and your birthday and anniversary date.

Contact information is used for the church directory, and to keep our database up-to-date.

Also: Please submit family or individual photos if you did not have one taken by Becca in October. This photo will be included in the updated photo directory.



DID YOU KNOW?




Jason Hill (a former member of this church) has written 2 books, both available on Amazon.com. The first is an autobiography about his cancer journey, titled *Cancer and Christ*. He's published it at a cost, as his goal is just to get it in as many people's hands as possible. So take a look and consider whether this would be a good way for you to share these thoughts with someone else or just to have for yourself.

The second is a novel, titled *Mother's Day*, which is about a pair of friends, now turning 30, who are struggling with losing their mothers and learning what it really means to be "grown-ups." You can also check out his blog @ cancerandchrist.com.



2015

L-Litchfield Q-Quincy

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship 5-7 pm L Youth Group	2 Noon L Rotary 3 pm L Knit & Craft 5:30 pm L Boy Scouts 7 pm L Bible Study	3 10 am L Bible Study	4 6 am L Prayer Time 9:30 am Q Bible Study 6 pm Q Guys Night Out	5 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer 6:30 pm Q Game Night	6	7 1 pm L-Girl Scouts
8 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship	9 Noon L Rotary 3 pm L Knit & Craft 5:30 pm L Boy Scouts 7 pm L Bible Study	10 10 am L Bible Study 6 pm L Trustees 7 pm L Outreach	11 6 am L Prayer Time 9:30 am Q Bible Study 7pm L Nurture Team	12 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	13	14  1 pm L-Girl Scouts
15 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship 5-7 pm L Youth Group	16 Noon L Rotary 3 pm L Knit & Craft 5:30 pm L Boy Scouts 7 pm L Bible Study	17 10 am L Bible Study 7 pm Q Trustees 7:30 pm Q Ad. Council	18 6 am L Prayer Time 9:30 am Q Bible Study 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service	19 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer 6 pm L Finance Team 7 pm L Ad Council	20	21 1 pm L Girl Scouts
22 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship	23 Noon L Rotary 3 pm L Knit & Craft 5:30 pm L Boy Scouts 6:30-7 pm L Lenten Bible Study	24 10 am L Bible Study	25 6 am L Prayer Time 9:30 am Q Bible Study 7 pm Q Lenten Bible Study	26 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	27	28 L-Memorial Service & Luncheon 1 pm L-Girl Scouts In classrooms
				Please check the weekly bulletins for changes, updates, & locations.		

February Birthdays

- 4-Mike Finegan
- 4-David Griffiths
- 7-Glenn Hackworth
- 12-Fran Wells
- 12-DeVere Noakes
- 16-Matt Blonde
- 16-David Evans
- 20-Kathy Blonde

- 20-Shari Blonde
- 22-Leah Giacobassi
- 22-Carol Ireland
- 24-Richard Bigelow
- 26-John Crater
- 28-Griffin Ferry
- 28-Sam Smith

Anniversary

- 8-Robert & Jean Sykes
- 24-Dale & Tenysa Smith
- 27- Doug & Sharon Thompson





LITCHFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Pastor: Julie Yoder Elmore

E-Mail: jyelmore@gmail.com

Cell Number: (517)607-6977 (Text and Call Friendly)

517-542-3775 (Parsonage)

Office Hours

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

Food Pantry Hours

M and TH 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2015

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Worship 11:00 a.m.

Youth Group

1st, 3rd, & 5th Sunday

@ 5:00 p.m.