

The Messenger

A Publication of Nameoki United Methodist Church

Special Interest Articles:



In this issue:

Church Info

Getting to know you

God's Valentine to you

February makes me think of Valentine's Day first, probably because I reflect back to those school days when I picked out cards and addressed them to all my classmates. Some kids have real fears about giving and receiving cards from their equals. They don't always feel so equal, "My cards are not as cute. My cards probably didn't cost as much as those others. Will my best friend like the card I selected? Will that cute red headed girl like me if I give her my

best card with all the greatest words?" On the other hand, have you ever thought that God's word is a valentine to you?

There is no fear in God's valentine to you. We are all precious in God's sight. We read God's Valentine when we get into his word. God hears our prayers and receives them like Valentine cards. The Lord's is excited to receive our card. God has even made a commitment to open our card and

especially attend to the word from our hearts. I hope you can envision that. God is very fond of you and is excited to receive your words of love. Then I also am wondering if we view the Bible as God's love letter to us. He loves you and promises to stay right at your side.

Pastor Tim

"No greater love hath anyone than this, that a man would lay down his life for his friends"
John 15:13 KJV-

Schedule for Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, this year it is February 25th.

In the Bible, sprinkling oneself with ashes was traditionally a sign of one's sorrow for having committed sins. In the Christian tradition, Ash Wednesday also marked the beginning of preparation for the understanding of the death and resurrection of Christ. The particular symbolism of ashes for this day comes from a practice in the Roman Catholic churches in which the ashes from the

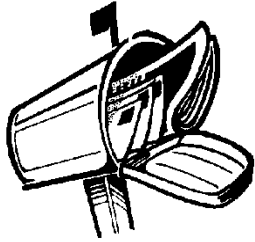
palms used in the preceding year's Palm Sunday celebration are blessed. With these ashes, the priest on the first day of Lent marks a cross on the forehead of each worshiper. This practice has become a part of Ash Wednesday services in many United Methodist churches.

The Ash Wednesday service will be at Trinity UMC with Pastor Doug Pascoe preaching. March 8th afternoon service will be at Good Shepherd.

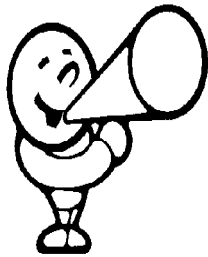
March 15th afternoon service will be at Niedringhaus UMC

March 22nd afternoon service will be here at Nameoki UMC

March 29th afternoon service will be at Dewey Avenue and April 5th afternoon service will be at Trinity UMC. For a complete list of the Cluster and Community Lenten services please stop in and pick up a schedule in the narthex.



But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.



Thank You

“Dear friends, Our family is very grateful to have your love and support. The many cards, visits, calls, and gifts you’ve given during Ray’s illness have been a tremendous comfort. Thank you for being with us at this difficult time. It lifts our hearts. Sincerely,
Gail Fritzsche”

“Thanks for the cards, plant and personal support. Thanks for all the prayers I know were there. God bless all,
Glen Mathis Family”

“Dear Pastor and church family, I just wanted to thank you for your kind and generous hearts. You made our Christmas a wonderful one and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you and your church did for us.”
Connie Cartwright & Children

The General Board of Global Ministries has sent a note of thanks for the \$40.00 given for Clergy Salary Support.

Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House sends their “heartfelt thanks” for the gift of \$100.

School District #9 expressed their sincere thanks in a letter addressed to the Pastor and members, for the gift of \$262.35 for the Adopt-A-School Program for Mitchell Elementary School

Church News

Congratulations to Kristina and Bradley Davenport on the birth of their first child **Riley D. Davenport**. Her proud grandparents are Jim & Joyce Davenport of Granite City and Gerald and Valerie Smith of Bunker Hill.

Please make sure that we have your correct current address. The post office monetarily penalizes us if we have returned mail from the same address more than once. If at all

possible, please correct family members’ addresses too, even if they are no longer attending. You can e-mail me the changes, correct them on the directory in the narthex or call the office. Thanks!

“When we come to Christ we find our true and eternal home.”

copied

***Happy Birthday to You
Happy Birthday to You***
Would like your name and birthday included in our ***Birthday Book*** for our members and attenders? Everyone likes to be remembered on their

special day! 😊
Just sign up in the narthex or contact the office. We’ll have a book for you in a month or so.

(Don’t worry we won’t put your name in the bulletin or newsletter.)

More info

IT’S THAT TIME AGAIN!!
The 25th anniversary season of Relay for Life is here and Walker’s Walkers III is officially registered. Our event will be held at Tri-Township Park in Troy, IL on June 12-13. Please help us raise the funds needed to

find a cure for cancer. If you want to join, give us a call at 797-2126 or see us after church. Thanks for your help.

Walker & Charlotte Ervin

Missions

The KIDS IN MISSION will be collecting loose change this month for **Illinois Great River Conference support for People of Liberia.**

Your contribution continues to deepen its relationship and commitment to the country of Liberia. The District to District Partnership has four major initiatives: to help with scholarships, pastor's salaries, church reconstruction and bed nets to combat malaria. Please give generously.

*TEN LITTLE CHRISTIANS
10 little Christians came to church all the time; one fell out with the preacher-and then there were nine.*

9 little Christians stayed up late; one overslept on Sunday-then there were eight.

8 little Christians on their way to heaven; one took the low road-then there were seven.

7 little Christians, chirping like chicks; one didn't like the singing-then there were six.

6 little Christians seemed very much alive; one took a vacation-then there were five.

5 little Christians puffing for heaven's shore; one took a rest awhile-then there were four.

4 little Christians each as busy as a bee; one got his feelings hurt-then there were three.

3 little Christians steady and true; one couldn't have his way-then there were two.

2 little Christians, each won one more; now don't you see-two and two make four.

4 little Christians worked early and late; each brought one-then there were eight.

8 little Christians, if they doubled as before-in just seven days they'd have one thousand twenty four.

In this little jingle there is a lesson true-you belong either to the BUILDING or the WRECKING Crew.

-The Evangelist of Truth



Calendar highlights

The Youth Group will have an overnight "bake in" on Feb. 7th. They will be selling their baked goods on the 8th. Also on the 8th the confirmation classes will begin at 2:00. That evening is the next Sunday Night Alive @ 6.

The Church Council will meet on February 10th.

February 20th and 21st is "Fire Up" for the Youth Group at Troy UMC.

February 24th the Spouse Support will meet at the church for their annual

Potluck and planning meeting at noon.

United Methodist Women's Retreat is scheduled for February 27 & 28th.

Get Your Act Together!

Mark your calendar for March 7th, and become part of Nameoki's own **Talent Night!** Let Carla Taylor know if you will be participating. The fun will begin at 6:00 p.m. Watch the bulletins for more details.

Fund Raiser Reminder:

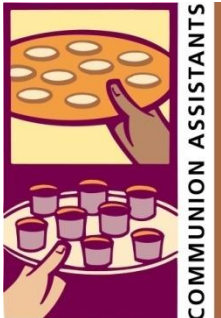
Save that "stuff" that's in too good of condition to just throw away or too nice to toss and give it to the church for our annual Rummage Sale is set for April 24th and 25th. You'll be able to bring your items to the church starting April 13th, the Monday after Easter! (No large furniture please.)

Sunday Night Alive

February 8th & 22nd

Getting to know you

Mary Jo enjoys reading, eating out, and water aerobics...



COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

If you have seen her face but don't know her name, this is Mary Jo Hein. She has been a member at Nameoki since 1963.

When she first started attending here the worship services were held in the Youth Room, as well as the Mother and Daughter Banquets. She remembers, "Rev. LeRoy Pittman was the pastor at that time and shortly after Frank Pierce arrived."

Mary Jo was born and raised in Pinckneyville. She attended schools there and graduated in 1955. Her husband was born and raised in Sparta, he graduated in 1953.

She says "Granite City seemed like a large metropolitan city compared to where I came from. The first time I walked downtown I got lost."

In 1984 they were transferred to Decatur (head quarters of IP). "It was quite an adjustment for us, but we managed quite well," she says. After they settled in she began

working for an oral surgery practice in 1986. She was there for 10 years.

"I never lost track of Nameoki UMC people," she stated.

In 1989 their youngest daughter Beth was married at Nameoki UMC by Rev. Jerry Reed.

1996 was the year her husband decided to retire from IP after 42 years. A few months later he became ill. He passed away on December 14th, 1998. She recalls that, "Again we returned to Granite City for his funeral at Nameoki. Rev. Jame Hahs conducted the service. It was very heartwarming to see the Nameoki people who came to the visitation and funeral. After being gone so long we were still remembered."

She returned back to Decatur to get things in order and sell her home.

In November of 2000, with her 2 dogs and cat she returned again to Granite City where they reside at 2162 Lynch. She has 3

children *Connie* and husband John reside in Glen Carbon with their son Zac. *Steve* and his wife Amy reside in Troy with their daughter Mel. *Beth* and her husband Jeff reside in Decatur, their family consists of dogs and cats.

Her step-granddaughter, Jessica, David and their daughter Laney reside in Collinsville.

Besides spending time with family, Mary Jo enjoys reading, eating out, and water aerobics at Wilson Park. She also enjoys watching the St. Louis Cardinals and the St. Louis Rams. She is on the Communion committee and the Missions committee helps out at the church as often as she can.



If you would like to share some of your information for the "Getting to Know You" section of the Messenger, please pick up a form located in the narthex or call the office. It's nice to put a name with a face.

Our Special thanks to all of our Communion Committee: Doris Taylor, Carol Chappel, Gail Fritzsche, Susan Schuber, Diane Sprous and Mary Jo.

Just for Grins

1900 Pontoon Road
Granite City, IL 62040

PHONE:
(618) 877-1936

FAX:
(618) 877-1937

E-MAIL:
www.nameokiumc@charterinternet.com

“Believe on the
LORD JESUS,
and **you will be saved,**
you and your
household.”



We're on the Web!
See us at:
Nameokiumc.org

REDNECK CHURCH

You know you're in a Redneck Church if opening day of deer season is recognized as an official church holiday

You know you're In a Redneck Church if the choir robes were donated by and embroidered with the logo from Billy Bob's Barbecue.

This month's study is on the Minor Profits.

A special note of thanks to Karen Beasley and her family for taking care of our sign out front in all kinds of weather!

Our Service Times

Which service will you be attending?

8:15 a.m. Informal Service

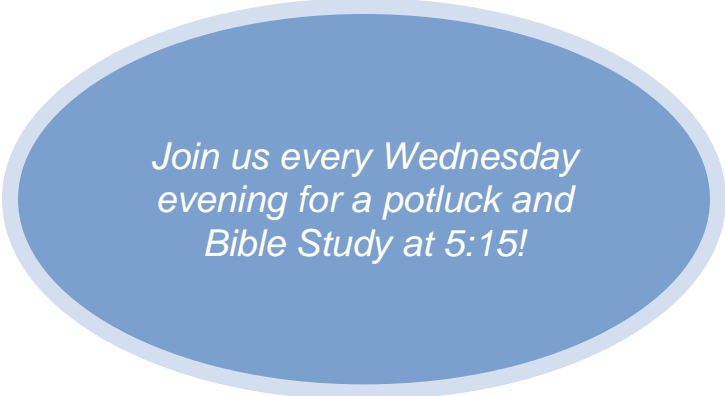
9:15 Sunday school for all ages / Nursery provided

You know you're in a Redneck Church if...the collection plates are really hubcaps from a '56 Chevy.

You know you're in a Redneck Church if...the minister and his wife drive matching pickup trucks.

You know you're in a Redneck Church if ...instead of a bell you are called to service by a duck call.

You know you're in a Redneck Church if the benediction ends with, "Y'all come back now, Ya hear."



10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

Sunday Evenings

4:00- 6:00 Jr. High Youth

5:00-7:00 Sr. High Youth

Wednesday Evenings

5:15 Potluck

6:15 Bible Study

Look forward to seeing you here!

**NAMEOKI UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
1900 PONTOON ROAD
GRANITE CITY, IL 62040**