



Reynolds United Methodist Church  
2496 Reynolds Road  
Ashton, IL 61006  
(815) 453-2513

ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

**Sunday:**

9:00 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:00 am - Worship Service

**Wednesday:**

9:30 am - Prayer & Bible Study

**Reynolds United Methodist Church**



*Reynolds News Wrap*

**December 2012**

Reynolds United  
Methodist Church  
2496 Reynolds Road  
Ashton, IL 61006

PASTOR: Alan Meyer

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#### SPECIAL SERVICES THIS MONTH

SUNDAY, December 9th - 10am  
CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

SUNDAY, December 23rd 7 pm  
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



" FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN ...  
AND HE WILL BE CALLED WONDERFUL  
COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING  
FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE."  
ISAIAH 9:6



The story of Jesus' birth is linked to both the past and the future. Jesus was born in a stable - the most humble of circumstances- to show us how God's favor rests with the poor and downtrodden.

Dear Reynolds Members and Friends,

Christmas-it's a story unlike any other story-it's a story that gives us hope and fills us with faith. It is the account of our Lord and Savior coming to earth as a baby. This year more than ever we need the faith and hope that Jesus brought us that day. Can you imagine the scene that night about 2,000 years ago an angel named Gabriel appeared to a young Jewish woman named Mary. Gabriel told Mary she would have a son, Jesus, who would be the Son of God! Imagine Mary's confusion and worried about this sudden news, but she had faith in God and said, "I am the Lord's servant; let it be as you say."

Mary and her husband-to-be, Joseph, lived in a town called Nazareth. But they had to travel to the city of Bethlehem to register for a census ordered by the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus. It is about 65 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem, and the trip probably took them several days. When Joseph and Mary got to Bethlehem, there was no place for them to stay because the inns were already full. They ended up spending the night in a stable, a place where animals were kept. There was probably fresh hay on the floor that they used for beds. That night, Jesus was born. There was no crib, so they laid baby Jesus in a manger, a feeding trough for animals. The manger probably had fresh hay in it and made a nice bed for the baby.

The shepherds were on a hillside tending to their flocks. An angel appeared to them and gave them the good news that a Savior, the Messiah, had been born. The angel told the shepherds they could find Jesus lying in a manger. Suddenly a whole group of angels appeared saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" The shepherds hurried into Bethlehem and found Jesus in the manger, just as the angel had told them. After they had seen Jesus, they spread the news, and everyone who heard was in awe. Jesus came at just the right time.

Our Savior came so that we could be God's children, no longer bound by sin but free to walk boldly before the throne of Heaven. He came so that we could talk with the Father and worship Him whenever and wherever we desire. He came so that we might have life. What a joyous and festive time of the year for all of us. Not because of the brightly wrapped packages or sparkling lights, but because at just the right time, God sent His Son- for us!

Don't get so wrapped up in what the world has to sell that we miss what God has to give us through His Son-Jesus. This Christmas take the time to find the real meaning of Christmas with your family. Pass along a tradition that will last forever. Invite someone to church. Share the Good News with all you meet.

Pastor Al



RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS:

6 yr old Emma; Adam Devine, Aaron Yocum; Baby Molly; Uphoff's daughter, Jody; Brian, 82, brain tumor; Carrie Becker's mother; Cody Cheeseman; Cody's high school friend with stage 4 cancer; Debbie VanDyke; Dick (Rick Danekas' father) Cancer; Donald Adams; Duane Truckenbrod; Ellen's brother, Eric Murphy (Chad's brother); Gary Ackland; Karen K. (Grace Ann's friend), cancer; Kyle Lawrence's neighbors who both have cancer; Louie Frye; Margo Ackland; Mike (Kristy Murphy's brother) Neil Miller; Neva Becker; Marie Frericks; Olivia Gadson; Pastor Al & Linda & their family; Paul Goodman; & Steve Pfeiffer.

VOLUNTEERS IN DECEMBER:

Ushers: Gary Brown, Jerry Lawrence, Bob Cheeseman, Jeff Winterland  
Greeters: December 2nd & 9th --Steve Headon Family  
December 16th & 23rd - Bob & Kathy Becker  
December 30th & January 6th - Ellen Clark  
Flowers: Linda Meyer or Lynnette Lawrence  
Church Hostess: Joyce Brake  
Sidewalk Snow Shoveling: Jack Townsend



<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHILDREN'S MOMENT</u>	<u>LITURGIST</u>	<u>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP</u>
Dec. 2nd	Kathy Clark	Sue Bertenshaw	Uphoffs & Yocums
Dec. 9th	Pastor Meyer	Joyce Brake	Gerri Underhile
Dec. 16th	Cindy Knight	Tina Phipps	Danekas & Edlunds
Dec. 23rd	Lois Heimbaugh	Gerri Underhile	Help Needed
Dec. 30th	Rhonda/Kathy Brown	Gary Brown	Help Needed

The Christmas Offering is designated for HOPE of Rochelle.

THE MISSION CAUSE FOR DECEMBER IS THE MARTIN KEAGY FUND. PLEASE BRING YOUR MISSION OFFERINGS ON DECEMBER 23rd. THANK YOU.

**Top Signs That You May Not Be Reading Your Bible Enough:**

- The preacher announces the sermon is from Galations -- and you have to check the Table of Contents.
- You think Abraham, Isaac and Jacob may have had a few hit songs during the 1960s,
- You open to the Gospel of Luke and a WW2 Savings Bond falls out.
- Your favorite Old Testament patriarch is Hercules.
- You think the Minor Prophets worked in the quarries.

**A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence: "I think I'd throw up."**

Asked why she was leaving her position, a secretary explained in her letter of resignation: "Dear Boss, My reason for leaving will soon be apparent. And so will I. (signed) Mary"

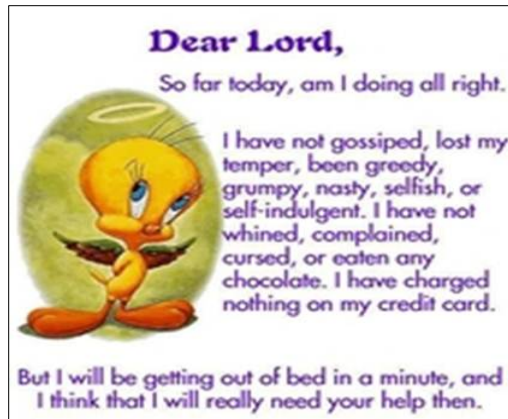
*Birthdays and Anniversaries in December:*

Birthdays:

- 4 Jamie Pfeiffer
- 6 Mason Bertenshaw
- 16 Jenni Winterland
- 17 Brooke Horner
- Megan Knight
- Warren Holmes
- 18 Joanna (Lawrence) Wells
- 21 Shannon Brown
- 22 Jeff Ca;;el
- 24 Jeff Winterland
- 26 Brock Gittleson
- 29 Bill Uphoff
- 30 Morgan Smardo
- 31 Dolores Scott

Anniversaries:

- 4 Ed & Jeannette Riley



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee

Chair: Rhonda Brown

The Sunday School attendance and offering contest is still on-going.

Finance Committee

Chair: Vernon Gittleson

No Report.

Mission/Outreach Committee

Chair: Nancy Eggers

No Report.

Trustee's Committee

Meeting: November 5th, 2012

- The outside bush replacement has been delayed until next Spring.
- The Conference accessibility committee came to inspect the facilities. They were impressed with the chair lift, but suggested we look into the following:
  - automatic door opener for the upstairs (handicapped) restroom;
  - a fire escape plan
  - a hearing loop system,
  - longer hand rails on the stairs.

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Chair: Frances Cappel

The Annual Church Conference was held on October 18th. We met with District Supt. Richard Wisdom. We discussed some of the highlights during the year. He was well pleased with the things we were doing in our committee.

All our Committee reports were presented to him.

A Pastor Appreciation dinner was held on November 4th. A gift of money was presented to Pastor Al & Linda.

Pastor Al will be on vacation from November 10th to December 1st.

Worship Committee

Chair: Kathy Becker

No Report

**OTHER ITEMS:**

Our Thanksgiving eve service speaker was Kathy Brown, and she gave a great sermon on the Ten commandments. She challenged each of us be mindful of the many everyday blessings that we tend to take for granted. She admonished us to give thanks to God daily for each of our blessings - no matter how small.



**Dear Reynolds UMC Members & Friends, What a wonderful and memorable even you prepared for Linda and I for Pastor Appreciation Sunday. Without a doubt, Linda and I feel extremely blessed to be part of a church family which takes time out of a busy schedule to say words of appreciation to us for our ministry here at Reynolds UMC. We never take this for granted.**

**As Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians "We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers; constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of home in our Lord Jesus Christ." So what is my prayer for you? I want the Lord to bless you and give you the very desires of your heart.**

**It has been my privilege to be your pastor. And, with God's help, I look forward to many more years of sharing ministry with you. I thank you again for a touching occasion and most generous gifts.**

*Sincerely,*

*Pastor Al and Linda*

## SAFE SANCTUARY REPORT

By Rhonda Brown

As many of you know Pastor Al and I attended training a few weeks ago on Suicide Prevention.. There is too much information for just one article, and it is such an import topic that I am not going to try and keep the articles short in length. The most important goal of the articles is to get people talking about it and to let others know it can't continue to be a taboo subject. There are people of all ages, races, cultures, and religious backgrounds who are hurting and need to know they can talk about it. There are people willing to listen. Almost everyone has been touched in some way by suicide.

At the training suicide was defined as: "1) Intent to kill self 2) 'Succeed' in that intent." This is a pretty simple straight forward definition, but there is nothing simple about suicide. She went on to give the five levels of Suicidation:

1. Suicidal Feelings
2. Suicidal Impulses
3. Suicide Attempts
4. Completed Suicides
5. Victim-precipitated Suicides.

It may start off with a stirring of "Maybe life isn't worth living" . Then it can grow to the impulses lasting 24/7. If they live, and they don't receive help, they will die the next time.

There are may myths to suicide. Here are some of the more common ones:

- People who talk suicide rarely commit suicide.
- The suicidal person wants to die and feels there is no turning back.
- There is little correlation between alcohol and suicide.
- If a person struggles with suicidal impulses once, he/she will continue to struggle with suicidal impulses forever.
- You should never talk about suicide to a depressed person: you could give him/her ideas. The fact is they already have the ideas; They just need someone to talk to them and more importantly to listen.
- Suicidal persons rarely seek medical help.
- Suicide usually happens without warning on the spur of the moment.
- Every "True" suicide leaves a note. The fact is only about 15% leave a note and most notes are not helpful.
- The tendency towards suicide is inherited and passed on from one generation to another. This is now known to be true, so it is no longer a myth.

The most susceptible to self destruction are:

- Prior attempt
- Family History
- Threat
- Chronic illness/isolation
- Bereavement
- Financial Stress

*(continued on page 5)*

## 1 Corinthians 13 CHRISTMAS STYLE

*If I decorate my house perfectly with lovely plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny glass balls, but do not show love to my family --I'm just another decorator.*

*If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at meal time, but do not show love to my family-- I'm just another cook.*

*If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family--it profits me nothing.*

*If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snow flakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties, and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.*

*Love stops the cooking to hug the child.*

*Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.*

*Love is kind, though harried and tired.*

*Love doesn't envy another home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.*

*Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.*

*Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.*

*Love never fails. Video games will break; pearl necklaces will be lost; golf clubs will rust. But giving the gift of love will endure.*

*(Sharon Jaynes from OMS International, Inc. )*

Gracie Allen's Classic Recipe for Turkey:

*Ingredients:* One large turkey and one small turkey.

*Cooking Instructions:* Take the two turkey and put them in the oven. When the little one burns, the big one is done!!!

*Everyday Thanksgiving (or Christmas) Prayer:*

- Even though I clutch my blanket and growl when the alarm rings, thank you, Lord, that I can hear. There are many who are deaf.
- Even though I keep my eyes closed against the morning light as long as possible, thank you, Lord, that I can see. Many are blind.
- Even though I huddle in my bed and put off rising, thank you Lord, that I have the strength to rise. There are many who are bedridden.
- Even though the first hour of my day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is burned, and tempers are short, my children are so loud, thank you, Lord, for my family. There are many who are alone.
- Even though our breakfast table never looks like the pictures in magazines and the menu is at times unbalanced, thank you, Lord, for the food we have. There are so many who are hungry.
- Even though the routine of my job is often monotonous, thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to work. There are many who have no job.
- Even though I grumble and bemoan my fate from day to day and wish my circumstances were not so modest, thank you, Lord, for life.

A mechanic was removing a cylinder head from the motor of a Harley when he noticed a world-famous heart surgeon in his shop. The heart surgeon was waiting for the service manager to take a look at his bike. The mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hey, Doc, can I ask you a question?" the famous surgeon, a bit surprised, walked over to the mechanic working on the motorcycle. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, "So Doc, look at this engine. I can open it up, take the valves out, fix them, put in new parts and when I'm finished putting it back together it will work good as new. So how come I get a small salary and you get the big money, when you and I are doing basically the same work? The surgeon paused, smiled and leaned over and whispered to the mechanic, "Try doing it while it's running!:"

- Domestic Difficulties
- Severe Depression
- Psychosis
- Alcoholism
- Drugs

Factors influencing suicidal potential are:

- Age and sex
- THE plan - How lethal? How available are the means?
- Stress symptoms
- Emotional symptoms
- Resources - Can they afford therapy?
- Lifestyle
- Communication
- Reactions to those around him/her.

Here are some statistics:

- It is the 2nd leading killer of 12-24 year olds
- 100-200 attempts for every completion
- 1 out of 11 high school students had attempted in the past 12 months (2003)
- 6000 per year
- 5-8X as many girls as boys attempt
- Boys success 4X more often
- 31,000 deaths annually attributed to suicide
- 1 suicide every 17 minutes or 84 suicides every day
- 4,135 young people age 15-24 commit suicide each year at a rate of one suicide every two hours.
- Suicide is a leading cause of death, ranking 11th in the USA in 2003
- It is estimated that there are 25 attempts for each documented death.
- It is estimated that there are 6 survivors for each death by suicide
- The ration of 6 survivors per suicide means there are 6 new survivors every 17 minutes or 504 new survivors each day
- More Americans die by suicide each year than by homicides
  - suicide 29,350
  - Homicide 16,765
- Every minute a suicide attempt is made somewhere in the US
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death in the US and in Illinois for those 15-25 years old
- Suicide is the fourth leading cause of death among those 10-14 years old (1995)

*(Continued on page 6)*

Just by looking at the statistics one can see that there is a real need to start talking about suicide and to become more educated on it. As I said in the first paragraph, almost everyone has been touched in some way by suicide. My family has. My cousin committed suicide 15 years ago. It left us with all the normal questions of would of, should of, could of, why, and what did I do or didn't do. In a suicide the questions almost never get answered. I often wondered about Kathy when she was being bullied. It is something Pastor Al and I talked about on our way home from the training. I decided to ask her again, not because I didn't believe her when she told me she never considered it, but because I wanted to make sure I wasn't missing something. When I asked her this time she replied, 'No, that it was not something she ever considered.' I then found myself asking why. What made it so different for her than so many other victims of bullying? She was quick to reply: "Greta, Atticus, Otto, and Logan!" she went on to explain that Brooke was pregnant with Otto, and Angela (my cousin) was pregnant with Logan. She knew that things were going to be OK and get better because of this. There was hope for her. She went on to explain that the church, Pastor & Linda, and camp also made a difference. It reminded me of something the trainer said about people who are suicidal feel there is no hope. So be willing to talk to others about suicide, and take time to get to know them. You may be the "Hope" for that person. It could be anyone; the bully victim, the star football player or head cheerleader, the person who just recently lost his/her spouse, the little child down the street, or someone in our church. Reach out to them. You can never tell how they are really feeling because so many of wear masks to hide what we are really feeling. The song we sang on Sunday; "People need the Lord" reminded me of this. The first verse says:

Everyday they pass me by, I can see it in their eye.  
Empty people filled with care, Headed who knows where?  
On they go through private pain, Living fear to fear.  
Laughter hides their silent cries, Only Jesus hears.

You must be read to break through the mask/walls and see the person for who they really are. Then accept for who they are - faults and all. And to those who help give my child the hope she needed, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Now for those of you who are wearing the mask to hide your true feelings - Don't be afraid to show who you really are. Be willing to reach out to someone if you are hurting. You may feel that you are all alone, and that you are too far gone for even God to love you. That is not true. Pastor Al has done sermons regarding this. Rick Warren also talked about it in one of his daily devotions. I know that some don't like him, and I respect that. However, I really like the following message of his: "the point is, god loves you are every stage of your development, so you don't have to have unresolved guilt and unrealistic expectations. Listen: There is nothing you will ever do to make God love you *more* than he does right now. There is nothing you will ever do that will make God love you *less* than he does right now. God's love is unconditional. It's not based on what you 'do or don't do'. We have been learning about forgiveness in Bible

Study . One thing I have learned is that sometimes the hardest person to forgive is not your enemy, it is yourself. Just remember that God has already forgiven you, so you are redeemed. On my way to work this morning I was thinking about what I wanted include in this article when a new song came on KLOVE. I knew I had to include the chorus of the song. It is by the group Unspoken, and it is called "Who you are".

You can never fall too far, so fast, so far  
That you can't get back when you lost where you are.  
It's never too late so fast, so much that you can't change who you are.  
You can change who you are.

So if you are thinking about hurting yourself, call someone. I have included some phone numbers at the end of this article.

- Into our emptiness, he brings fullness and completion (Colossians 2:9-10).
- Into our deficit, he brings supply (Philippians 4:19).
- Into our death, he brings life (Ephesians 2:1,5).
- Into our separation, he brings reconciliation (Romans 5:10-11).
- Into our imperfect love, he brings perfect love (1John 4:10)

Here are the numbers:

Rockford - Serving Boone Ogle, & Winnebago counties:  
Contact of Rockford, Crisis Helpline 24/7 (815) 636-5000,  
Infoline: (815) 636-5005, Toll-free 1 (800) 866-3733

National Hopeline Network: 1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK( 1-800-273-8255)

If you are hurting , please call someone. Suicide is not the answer!

Rhonda Brown