



# DISCIPLE EXPRESS

Vol. 26, No 10 November 2016 A Newsletter to Inspire and Celebrate Oakland United Methodists

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## Worship Service Time:

**10:00** Worship

**11:00** Koinonia

September thru Mothers' Day  
**9:00** Children's Sunday School  
**9:00** Choir Practice



## All Saints' Day



November 20th - join us at the Oakland Community Center to give God thanks for all our blessings.

*"We seek to grow in Christ and to share our love of God in Word and Deed."*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Does anybody smell turkey yet? With my vivid imagination taking over my senses I can already start to smell turkey, sage dressing and pumpkin pie baking and cooking in my brain. Can anyone answer the question why Turkey on Thanksgiving has a special taste that cannot be duplicated or replicated at any other time in the year.

Every Thanksgiving we go to our daughters for Thanksgiving and like her mother she is a good cook. So, the turkey is fantastic, the dressing bar none, and the sweet potatoes that her mother in law brings would be the Pax de Resistance if it weren't for the pumpkin pie! But going to our daughters has its draw backs as we don't get left overs so sometime shortly after Thanksgiving Diana will bake a turkey and we will have our own Thanksgiving with true Thanksgiving left-overs from the day before.

Now remember I said Diana is a very good cook but no matter how hard she tries it just doesn't have that Thanksgiving Day Turkey taste. It tastes fantastic what Diana prepares for us and she does prepare with a whole lotta' love, but that Thanksgiving Day flavor seems to be missing. So as I ponder I think to myself could it be a house full of family that if the fire marshal counted the number of occupants of our daughter's house the fire marshal would shut it down because we are way over maximum occupancy levels. Could it be children and kids playing, or parents who are watching a football game are getting too involved and because of kids and football anyone else who is there must speak foghorn loud just to hear their own voices.

There is an old Kris Kristofferson song called "Sunday Morning Coming Down." In that song Kristofferson captured that special holy feeling one use to get on Sunday mornings before every store, gas station and supermarket was open all hours of the day. In that song we hear the words

"Then I crossed the empty street and caught  
The Sunday smell of someone fryin' chicken  
And it took me back to something that I'd lost  
somewhere somehow along the way."

## *Disciple Express*

Growing up in the world I knew as a kid I remember Thanksgiving was a lot like Sunday mornings where the world seemed very quiet and reverent or another term we could use for Thanksgiving is the holy hush. That still, sacred feeling that one gets when God's spirit has descended upon us and you became aware that there is something special or sacred going on. With all the love given and all the prayers said in gratitude you can't help but think that God's Spirit has descended and blessed us all and that is why I think Thanksgiving Turkey cannot be duplicated or replicated. It is a country side and a nation who gathers at the table in a chorus on a single day in November to give thanks to the God who makes all things possible.

So this Thanksgiving I pray you take the time to feel what Thanksgiving is all about. I know the stores will have deals and sales that can't be passed up! But before we get up from the dinner table remember Kristofferson's words: "And it took me back to something that I'd lost somewhere somehow along the way."

See you Sunday, Rev. Dennis Hopes

### **Volunteers Needed**

#### **The Riverside Church Association Met**

1. We will be giving pies out again at the Food Pantry on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. ***Each church is asked to provide 5 pies*** and get them to the Christian Church on Tuesday November 15.
2. November 12 is "Parents Night Out" sponsored by the Christian Church. They will be watching children from 4 PM until 9 PM so parents can have a night out or stay home and sleep.
3. The RCA Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 20, at the Oakland Community Center. ***Our church is responsible for providing one turkey (cooked and the drippings brought for gravy), 5 lbs of mashed potatoes, and one batch of dressing.*** Everyone is asked to bring a salad or dessert. Drinks and table settings furnished.

**Edmonds, Husz & Pemberton  
Eye Center, PC**

Charles R. Edmonds, OD, FAAO  
Marla J. Husz, OD  
Bart Pemberton, OD, FAAO

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(520) 318-343

[www.excellenceineyecare.com](http://www.excellenceineyecare.com)

June 6, 2016

Mr. Richard Merkle  
911 South Scenic Drive  
Oakland, Iowa 51560

Dear Mr. Merkle,

I would like to thank you and all your Lions' Club members from taking your time to collect used eyeglasses. They are greatly appreciated and they help many people.

On Saturday, April 23, 2016, I traveled to Lima, Peru with Lions In Sight of California and Nevada. Our team consisted of eight Optometrists and sixteen Lions Club members, fondly nicknamed "Team Blue". We were hosted by the Machu Picchu Lions Club of Lima, Peru, an all womens' club. The club members picked us up at the airport and transported us to our hosting hotel that was located a few miles from where the vision clinic was going to be held. We spent Sunday and Wednesday seeing the sights of Lima.

On Monday, April 25, we were picked up at 7:30 in the morning to start our first of four vision clinics. The clinic was held at a community center. When our bus rolled up, the line of patients was over a half mile long. Many had started to line up before six in the morning. The clinic is done in stations. Local Lions' club members start the process with gathering patient information and history. Next, the patient's vision is checked by Team Blue members. Luckily, we had automated equipment to help determine the patient's prescription. These were manned by two Team Blue member, one ran the machine and the other recorded the numbers. The fourth station was seeing one of the eight Optometrists. At this point, the prescription was simplified and finalized. The patient's eye health was assessed. If there were serious eye conditions or cataracts, a referral was made for the local Lions' club follows up with at a later date. The final stage was the Team Blue Lions's Club members dispensing the eyeglasses that you collect. After seven o'clock at night, we finished dispensing the last patient.

We returned to the community center on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday to the same long line in the morning and finished up around the same time every night. We saw 4574 people, ranging age from a few months old to eighty years old, and dispensed glasses or sunglasses to almost everyone. It was very rewarding to see all those smiling faces. Many were so poor that this was the only time that they got to speak to a doctor about their concerns or was the only way that they could get glasses. There were many stories of ladies that were sewing by feel and now were happy that they could see their stitches. Many were happy to read their Bibles. Some people who thought they were going blind but only needed reading glasses after age forty.

The glasses that you collect are cleaned, bagged and marked with the prescription in the lenses. The glasses are sorted according to prescriptions and boxed with fifty pairs per box. They are then shipped to the clinic location months before the clinic takes place. For this trip, ten thousand pairs were shipped. The leftover eyeglasses are left with the local Lions' Club for future clinics or for them to distribute to those in need.

All your efforts do pay off to improving many people's lives. Thank you for collecting all those eyeglasses!

Sincerely,



Marla Husz, OD  
Oakland High School, Class of 1983

P.S. Please tell you family "Hello" and that I have very fond memories of growing up together.

**November Trivia**

This Quiz: Judas Iscariot

1. What was the name of Judas' father? See: [John 6:71](#)  
 Jonah  Iscariot  Alexander  Simon
2. When Mary anointed Jesus, why did Judas say, "Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?" See: [John 12:3-6](#)  Because he secretly cared for the poor.  
 Because he was a thief  Because he abhorred waste  Because he didn't understand the purpose.
3. How much was Judas Iscariot given to betray Jesus? See: [Matthew 27:3](#)  
 20 pieces of silver  A talent of gold  30 pieces of silver  100 pence
4. What did Jesus give to Judas as a sign that he was to betray Him? See: [John 13:26](#)  
 Glass of wine  Bread  Jar of honey  Bag of coins
5. How did Judas betray Jesus? See: [Matthew 26:47-49](#)  
 He pointed him out  He talked with him  He held onto him  He kissed him
6. Where did Judas betray Jesus? See: [Matthew 26:36-50](#)  The Sea of Galilee  
 Mount of Olives  Garden of Gethsemane  The temple at Jerusalem
7. How did Judas, the betrayer, die? See: [Matthew 27:3-5](#)  
 He was killed by Peter  He hung himself  He was crucified  He was exiled and died alone.
8. What was the name of the field that was purchased with the betrayal money Judas returned?  
See: [Acts 1:15-19](#)  Corban  Golgotha  Aeldama  Gabbatha
9. After Jesus' ascension, which two men were proposed to replace Judas? See: [Acts 1:23-26](#)  
 Joseph and Matthias  Philip and Nicanor  Stephen and Paul  Timon and Procorus
10. Which one was finally chosen by the other eleven to replace Judas? See: [Acts 1:26](#)  
 Joseph  Paul  Matthias  Philip

**October Trivia Answers**

From *ChristiansUnite.com*

**Category: Bible Places - This Quiz: Jerusalem**

- 1.) At what age did Jesus begin his ministry? See: [Luke 3:22,23](#) 30
- 2.) Who came to Jesus at night to hear his teaching? See: [John 3:1,2](#) Nicodemus
- 3.) From what mountain did Jesus describe the signs of the times and the end of the age?  
See: [Matthew 24:3](#) Mount of Olives.
- 4.) When Herod heard of the works of Jesus, who did he think it was? See: [Mark 6:14](#) John the Baptist
- 5.) What did Jesus say the leaven of the Pharisees was? See: [Luke 12:1](#) Hypocrisy.
- 6.) At which well did Jesus talk with a Samaritan woman? See: [John 4:6,7](#) Jacob's
- 7.) What did Jesus say is the greatest commandment of the law?  
See: [Matthew 22:34-38](#) Love the Lord thy God.
- 8.) How many swine died when Jesus permitted demons to possess them? See: [Mark 5:13](#) 2000
- 9.) What surprised a Pharisee when Jesus ate dinner at his house?  
See: [Luke 11:37,38](#) Jesus didn't wash his hands
- 10.) From which book did Jesus read when he went into the synagogue at Nazareth?  
See: [Luke 4:16,17](#) Isaiah.

## ***Disciple Express***

chocolate and consider these creative ways people at your church can serve their community this winter.

1. Offer to take an elderly neighbor to the store to stock up on winter supplies/groceries, or have your neighbor make a list for you to pick up while you're out.
2. Shovel your neighbor's walkway. Or, get your exercise in for the day and do the whole street!
3. Place salt on someone's front door steps or that neglected bit of sidewalk between houses.
4. If others lose power, offer your house as a location for cell phone/laptop charging.
5. Invite neighborhood kids/families to build snowmen if schools are cancelled.
6. Create a free hot chocolate stand outside a busy shopping area.
7. Offer to help someone scrape the ice off their car or scrape someone's car when you do yours in the morning/after work.
8. Send thank you notes to police, firefighters, road crews, etc.
9. Order a PIZZA for your local police, fire station, or road crew!
10. Carry extra winter supplies in your car to assist distressed motorists.
11. Contact local emergency shelters to learn how you can support their efforts.
12. Offer hand warmers to people standing at bus stops or to school crossing guards.
13. If your kids have had school cancelled, help them write appreciation notes to their teacher.
14. Offer to watch your friend/neighbor's kids while they run out for groceries or during their work hours.
15. If a friend/neighbor has mobility issues, offer to walk their dog—or better yet, keep your kids occupied and have them offer to walk the neighbor's dog!
16. Share or post the locations of heating stations in your area on your social media pages or church website.

Whatever you decide to do—please be sure to do it safely and with good judgment. After all, it can be slick out there!

[Used with permission from [Send Me St. Louis.](#)]

### **November Calendar**

Wed, 2nd	6:30 p.m. Youth Groups go to Defy Gravity in Omaha
Thu, 3rd	6:30 p.m. Zumba Class in Fellowship Hall
Sun, 6th	2:00 a.m. Daylight Savings Time Ends 9:00 a.m. Sunday school/Choir Practice 10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion/ All Saints Day 11:00 a.m. Koinonia
Wed, 9th	6:30 p.m. Youth Groups
Thu, 10th	6:30 p.m. Zumba Class in Fellowship Hall
Sat, 12th	7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
Sun, 13th	9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Choir Practice 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Koinonia
Wed, 16th	6:30 p.m. Youth Groups
Thu, 17th	6:30 p.m. Zumba Class in Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m. Ad Board Meeting
Sun, 20th	9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Choir Practice 10:00 a.m. Worship/3rd Sunday Offering/Children's Choir 11:00 a.m. Koinonia Hanging of the Greens 6:00 p.m. RCA Thanksgiving Service & Dinner
Wed, 23rd	NO Youth Groups
Thu, 24th	Thanksgiving Day NO Zumba Class
Sun, 27th	9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Choir Practice 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Koinonia
Tue, 29th	5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Tasty Tuesday

### **16 Ways To Impact Your Community This Winter**

Written by: CVDaily Editors

As we approach the winter season it brings to mind the extreme cold, snow, ice, and other wintry conditions we expect to see this time of year. So grab a cup of hot



**A TIME OF  
FELLOWSHIP**

Come join us for a  
light meal.

Bring a friend

November 29  
5:30—6:30 p.m.

Last Tuesday of the



*Thanks,  
Everyone!*

I want to thank everyone who  
came to my 95th birthday party.  
Also, all who helped make it such  
a great day for me. It was a  
dream come true.

--- Lee Knudsen



**Daily Bible Readings for  
November**

- 1 Revelation 1.1-20
- 2 Revelation 4.1-11
- 3 Revelation 5.1-14
- 4 Isaiah 11.1-16
- 5 Isaiah 12.1-6
- 6 Luke 17.11-19
- 7 Psalm 46
- 8 Psalm 48
- 9 Psalm 50
- 10 Psalm 75
- 11 Psalm 81
- 12 Psalm 82
- 13 Psalm 104
- 14 Psalm 105
- 15 Psalm 106
- 16 Psalm 111
- 17 Psalm 115
- 18 Psalm 145
- 19 Psalm 146
- 20 Psalm 147
- 21 Psalm 148
- 22 Psalm 149
- 23 Psalm 150
- Thanksgiving Day
- 24 Psalm 65
- 25 Psalm 66
- 26 Psalm 67
- First Sunday of Advent
- ☐ Matthew 24.1-28
- ☐ Matthew 24.29-51
- 29 Matthew 25.1-30
- 30 Matthew 25.31-46

**Disciple Express**



**November Birthdays**

- 01 Andy Blackburn
- 01 Kristian Martens
- 03 Ethan Rankin
- 03 Mason Houser
- 04 Mardell Peek
- 06 Alan Gardner
- 06 Gayla Henry
- 06 Justin Pierce
- 09 Grady Jeppesen
- 12 Leslie Cleaveland
- 14 David Gute
- 14 Hayley Haines
- 14 Carley Danker
- 14 Ellen Carley
- 15 Jason Carley
- 15 Molly Hummel
- 16 Kelly Turner
- 19 Cathey Grosvenor
- 19 Beverley Zuch
- 19 Dennis Hopes
- 19 Wesley Henry
- 20 Neunia Timberman
- 21 Jeff Bartlett
- 23 Dane Wilson
- 26 Gordon Frizzell
- 26 Declan Schueman
- 28 Margaret Alff
- 29 Tami Skank
- 29 Jordan Pierce
- 30 Diann Larimore
- 30 Cale Bentley

## ***Disciple Express***

### ***It's Just Words...Or Is It?***

#### **Weekly Essay and Blog by Bishop Laurie**

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." I grew up on the school playgrounds of small town Pennsylvania, where this childhood adage was often spoken in response to bullying or crude behavior. The truth, however, is that words did hurt. Because I loved to compete in sports with the boys rather than play dolls with the girls, I was called a "tomboy" as a child. I shrugged it off, but "tomboy" was a pejorative word that, as an adult, I can hardly believe people felt comfortable calling me.

#### **Fall 2016 Builder's Call**

Grace United Methodist Church's Sawyer Center - Marcus, IA

Grace United Methodist Church in Marcus, Iowa is committed to "follow Christ, love others, and serve the world." Their bold plan for the future is leading them to build a multi-purpose room...and for many more important reasons than simply building!

#### **Reinvigorate Christmas ...**

Nostalgia for Christmases past can sometimes make our current holiday practices seem lacking. Children now grown with families of their own, loved ones who've passed, relatives scattered across the country and unable to be together. There are many reasons one might view yesteryear's Christmases more fondly. But it's important to remember that the "best" Christmases are not behind us—we can rekindle excitement for this year's festivities, even as we cherish the memories of past celebrations.

#### *Four Ways to Give New Life to Your Christmas Celebration*

Accept the present. A positive attitude is life-giving. Don't let your melancholy and nostalgia for earlier Christmases turn into complaining, bitterness, or resentment. You can't bring back the best times from the past, but in a sense, you don't have to. All your Christmases are wrapped up in today. The love, laughter, surprises, wonder, joys of the past will always be part of you and in your memories. Those precious times helped nurture and shape you. The happiness you once knew is yours forever.

Pay attention to Advent. This year, resolve to experience the yearning, hope, and expectation of Advent more

mindfully and more deeply. In their book *The First Christmas*, Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan write that, like Lent, "each Advent is a time of repentance for the past and change for the future." It is "about a choice of how to live." Don't let the weeks slip by. You can use a collection of Advent reflections to inspire your own thoughts and prayer, and capture your insights in a journal.

Open yourself to the new possibilities that this Christmas brings. Discard any preconceived ideas of what your Christmas celebration should be and welcome today's opportunities. Maybe God is nudging you to know Christmas in a new way, to expand your understanding. Your past Christmases provided surprises and joys. Now there are new surprises and joys to encounter. See what God has in store. Like the shepherds in the field, embrace the unexpected and be dazzled by the appearance of angels in your life. Like the Magi, follow your heart to new revelations, new truths.

Live Christmas each day of the year. The best way for any of us to celebrate Christmas is to incorporate its meaning throughout our lives. The birth of Jesus affirms the goodness of human existence. We can embrace that goodness, value profoundly the wonderful and challenging complexities of living, and use our senses to appreciate the beauty of the universe. Jesus himself showed us a new way of living, grounded in love, peace, justice, care for the poor and outcast, and trust in God. We can make his way our own.

(source: "Giving New Life to Your Christmas Celebration" CareNote - #23224 Abbey Press Publications)

## ***GODLY HUMOR***

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible. - George Burns  
Atheist: "Do you honestly believe that Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish?"

Preacher: "I don't know, sir, but when I get to heaven I'll ask him."

Atheist: "But suppose he isn't in heaven?"

Preacher: "Then you ask him."

### **Ministry Matters**

#### **Halloween and Christian faith**

**October 24th, 2016** **By Mike Poteet**

#### **I was a third-grade devil!**

The Halloween I was nine years old, I went trick-or-treating as the devil. I had no satanic interest; I simply thought it would be fun to wander around wearing inflatable horns on my head and brandishing a plastic pitchfork. Wearing red polyester pajamas and cowboy boots to complete my costume, I wasn't even as frightening as Casper the Friendly Ghost.

But I remember how some friends reacted. "Aren't you a Christian? Isn't your dad a minister?" (Yes, and he was happily snapping Polaroids.) "I'm surprised you're trick-or-treating at all."

I realized then that not everyone agrees about how or even whether Christians should celebrate Halloween. That question has interested me ever since, especially as the holiday's popularity has increased exponentially.

What makes Halloween so popular, and why do Christians disagree about whether they should join in? *Christian name, non-Christian holiday*

Although Halloween as we know it emerged from several sources, its name has a Christian etymology. In ***Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church***, Laurence Hull Stookey explains that the early church ran out of days on which to commemorate its martyrs and saints. To solve this "crisis," one date became "a kind of omnibus occasion" commemorating them all. Believers in different places kept this festival on various dates until, in 837, Pope Gregory IV fixed November 1 as All Saints' Day. In medieval England, it was called Alhallowmesse, "All Hallows' Mass." The night before was "All Hallows' Eve," ultimately shortened by the 18th century to "Halloween."

Today, some Christians promote Halloween festivities focusing on our communion with the saints, that "great cloud of witnesses" to Christ (Hebrews 12:1) now living with him. One creative Catholic blogger, for example, showcases on [her site](#) costumes that do double duty as depictions of saints and trick-or-treating outfits. One child who dressed on November 1 as Saint Denis, the decapitated third-century French bishop, had gone out the

night before as "Guy Carrying His Own Head."

Despite its name, modern Halloween has no real connection to Christianity in American culture. In fact, it holds no single, definitive meaning. Halloween, like beauty, is largely in the eye of the beholder. "If it is a fixture in our annual calendar," writes historian Nicholas Rogers, "it is also a holiday that has been reinvented" many times and is changing still: "That is part of the secret of its resilience and vibrancy."

#### **Adults and Halloween**

One of Halloween's biggest changes in recent years is its emergence as a holiday for grown-ups. USA Today reporter Bruce Horovitz claims, "adults have slowly been stealing Halloween from kids for years."

Is what Horovitz calls "the adultification of Halloween" cause for concern? Halloween can provide grown-ups welcome and low-stress chances to socialize. "You don't have to travel or deal with relatives," marketer Denise Delahorne told Forbes magazine.

"There's not the holiday pressure to find a date if you are single." And Halloween's make-believe aspect can be fun, even therapeutic. Kelly David, spokesperson for the Spirit Halloween chain of seasonal stores, told one business journal that Halloween dress-up "is an escape from reality for a day. For adults, you can put on a Halloween costume and forget about work, the bad economy, and other pressures."

But can Halloween lead us to indulge our imaginations too much? Christians might consider the apostle Paul's admonitions to "capture every thought to make it obedient to Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5), focusing our minds on what is true, holy, just, pure, lovely and praiseworthy (Philippians 4:8). What kind of Halloween costumes meet those criteria? What kind of Halloween celebrations might help adults nurture a *childlike* sense of imagination and play without encouraging *childish* behavior?

#### **Facing death**

One aspect of Halloween that's never changed is its preoccupation with mortality. As Halloween historian David Skal writes, "The grand marshal of the Halloween parade is, and always has been, Death."



## ***Disciple Express***

Plastic skulls and skeletons adorn house windows and porches. Halloween retains an unbreakable connection to what *The Walking Dead* creator Robert Kirkman calls “the unrelenting, unstoppable possibility of death that looms over all of our lives at all times.”

In Latin America, especially in Mexico, and in Hispanic communities elsewhere, the holiday most like Halloween is Día de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead. It faces death even more frankly. Celebrants light candles at and decorate loved ones’ graves; dance in parades with faces brightly painted to look like skulls; and eat sugar skulls, candy coffins and sweet “bread of the dead” at parties. Helen Tafoya-Barraza, a clinical counselor for University of New Mexico Hospitals, writes on her website that Día de los Muertos teaches people, especially children, not to be afraid of death and “to enjoy and appreciate every moment.” She says the Day of the Dead is “a true celebration of life.”

### **More than a good scare**

Halloween’s images of death are, for many, simply entertaining frights. Talking to the BBC about Universal Studios’ annual theme park of haunted mazes and “scare zones,” Mike Aiello, Universal’s director of entertainment, said, “A lot of people really enjoy it. I’ve always perceived someone being scared or wanting that adrenalin rush as the same as someone who wants to laugh ... They’re two ends of a really dramatic, emotional spectrum — the laugh and the scare — [and] there’s a rush either way. And for those few moments when you’re experiencing that you’re not thinking about anything else.”

Nothing would keep Christians, however, from seeing more in Halloween’s depictions of death and evil—vampires, witches, ghosts, even devils. Might they serve as indirect reminders that while “the cosmic powers of this present darkness” (Ephesians 6:12, NRSV) are real and we all will one day return to dust (Genesis 3:19), we have nothing to fear from sin, evil and death because God, in raising Jesus Christ from the grave, has triumphed over them all?

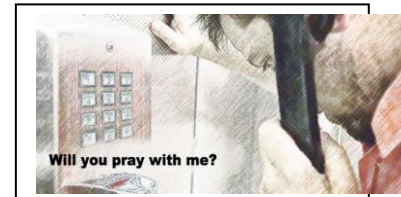
Scripture says Jesus “disarmed” the powers of darkness and “exposed them to public disgrace by leading them in a triumphal parade” (Colossians 2:15). How humiliated was the devil, I wonder, by my nine-year-old self, clomping from door to door in blowup horns and too-big boots, asking for candy?

Christians may never agree on whether they can or should celebrate Halloween. But we can agree with a stanza from

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,” the famous hymn by Martin Luther, who sparked the Protestant Reformation when he posted his 95 Theses on, coincidentally, October 31, 1517: “The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him; / his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure; / one little word”—Jesus Christ, the Word of God—“shall fell him.”

### **The Upper Room Living Prayer Center**

Brian is serving a life sentence in a federal prison for drug trafficking. One Thursday afternoon, he decided to use his few minutes of phone time to connect with The Upper Room Living Prayer Center.



Most who call the prayer center ask for healing, strength, or divine guidance, so Brian’s request caught our volunteer off guard, especially when Brian identified himself as a prison inmate.

“Will you pray a prayer of gratitude with me?” Brian asked. Brian told the volunteer, “I am where I need to be, and I am making a difference in the lives of men I meet here in prison. I am thankful that God has guided me to do the right thing. While other guys get shorter sentences, I am thankful to be serving my time. It’s the right thing to do.”

Brian and the volunteer prayed together. They prayed that Brian would have strength and courage, and that he would be a good example to those around him. The volunteer reminded Brian that the prayer center network would continue to pray for—and with—him.

Like Brian, I am grateful. I give thanks for our network of volunteers and prayer groups who sustain the prayer center. I’m grateful that when Brian called, we were able to offer a restorative and prayerful experience.

We provide a community of prayer to nearly 800 people every day because of generous donors like you. YOU make it possible for us to recruit and train volunteers, sustain the communication technology needed for our prayer partners, and provide administrative support for the volunteers.

When you give to The Upper Room Living Prayer Center, you make God’s love real for Brian and others in need of a praying friend. Your gifts matter.

Thank you, Sherry Elliott - Executive Director of Interpretation and Development -- The Upper Room



ORDER  
YOUR  
*Poinsettias*

*Poinsettias are one of the ways we decorate our sanctuary and, also, honor someone we love or would like to remember during the coming Advent season. Place your order now by filling out this request form and placing it with your check in the offering plate, or by contacting Sharon Jones at #482-3687. Single six-inch plants are \$6.75 each (eight inch are \$15.00) available to us through an area grower and payable with your order. They are available in RED, WHITE, PINK, or MARBLE.*

*(Following worship on Christmas Eve you may take your plant home.)*

**ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20th.**

**ONLY A FEW LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

• .....

Given by

\_\_\_\_\_

In memory/honor of

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

RED \_\_\_\_\_ WHITE \_\_\_\_\_ PINK \_\_\_\_\_

MARBLE \_\_\_\_\_

(Mark how many of each you want)

SIZE    6 inch \_\_\_\_\_ or    8 inch \_\_\_\_\_

## Remember those in Nursing Homes with cards and visits.

### Oakland Manor

Margaret Alff  
Lucille Bentley  
Erma Cleaveland



### Oakland Heights

Janice Harris  
Neuonia Timberman  
Anita Killion



Lord,  
Hear Our  
Prayer



## Pray for Our Military Family

**Kristie Copenhaver**, John & Mary Lou Copenhaver's daughter; **Jared Myers**, son of Robert Myers and Sid & Tami Skank; **Sonja Husz**, Niece of Butch & Velda Husz; **Lucas Smith**, Addie Mae's grandson; **Brian Thornton** from Avoca; **Tyler Clark**, Marvin & Carolyn Clark's grandson; **Brad Grosvenor**, Cathey Grosvenor's son stateside, and other area service men and women. **Landen Pedersen**, son of Tab and Lorie Pederson; Bryan Santiago, Carol Kroft's son-in-law.

## Prayer Chain List Update

If you are not on the prayer chain list and would like to be, please contact the office to be added. You may be on either the phone list or the email list. Just furnish your phone number or your email address.



## New Attendance Sheets

If you have any questions about the new attendance sheets, please call the office, 482-5530. The new sheets will allow the congregation to sign up for short notice volunteer work and to inform committee members of meetings along with other types of short notice communication.

If you have completed at least 2 forms, you do not need to continue repeating unless there is a change.

See the church web page for the college ministry articles. [www.oaklandiaumc.org](http://www.oaklandiaumc.org)

See us at:

Web page: [www.oaklandiaumc.org](http://www.oaklandiaumc.org)  
Facebook.com/oakiamethchurch

## Annual Coat Drive

There will be a receptacle for coat collection in the entry of the church. Please donate your clean, slightly used coats for all ages. The weather may be nice so far, but it is sure to get cold sometime this winter. If your family has outgrown their coats, they can keep someone else warm this winter.



## Need Volunteers for the Sunday Nursery

I have 3 dates to be filled yet for the nursery on Sunday mornings and Christmas Eve.

November 27

December 24 -- December 25

If you would be able to fill one or more of these dates, please let me know in the church office.

Thank You,

Sheryl, Secretary, OUMC



# *Disciple Express*

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*"We invite all persons to be a part of our Community of Faith by participating in worship, education, fellowship and Christian service."*

## *Disciple Express*



### STAIN GLASS WINDOWS THE MEANING OF THE SYMBOLS

#### THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES

##### Stain Glass

Lamp - symbol of "The Word of God" Origin is probably in Psalm 119: 105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."



TASTY TUESDAY  
COMMUNITY MEAL

November 29

5:30 - 6:30