



# The Messenger

First United Methodist Church  
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January  
2009

Dear Members and Friends of the First United Methodist Church:

We send the HOME TOUCH to our shut-ins on a weekly basis. One of the articles talks about “good faith.” It got me thinking.... what does that exactly mean? In law, it means that there is honesty. If you deal in “good faith,” you are saying, “I have a sincere intention to deal fairly with others.” In other words, you may be asked to give a monetary deposit to show that you have a genuine interest in buying something. Then there is the opposite side.... is there such a thing as “bad faith?”

I suppose Christians, of all people, must be people of “good faith.” Our faith must be good; but it must also be sincere and true. It must mean something to us and be shown to be active within our lives. In other words, James says that it should not be “dead.”

As 2009 has begun, we will have many opportunities this year to demonstrate our faith. This year will be filled with struggles and challenges; hopes and dreams. But it will take a strong faith to get us through. It will take a “good” faith to strive through the difficult and the easy. Now is the time to strengthen your faith. Now is the time to take the opportunities to become stronger. You cannot wait until you need faith....or need to use your faith. It may be too late to find the strength to make faith stronger at that moment. It needs to be developed now.

Do you have “good faith?” If not, the church is offering different opportunities to strengthen your faith. Why not get into a daily reading program? Why not get involved in a Bible Study? Why not volunteer to teach or to give of your talents in some meaningful way? Why not begin today?

May you be a Christian whose faith is good ... strong...honest.  
May you be a “good faith” Christian in 2009.

From one Christian developing their faith to another...  
Pastor Rich

**Pastor will be away from Monday, December 29 until Saturday, January 10. If you should have a pastoral need please contact Tom Harmic at 324-2671.**

### Results of Your Generosity

Because of your generous giving we were able to help 28 families with our Christmas Baskets at \$14.40 per family.

### STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Giving needs no more apology than does praying. In the Bible there are 1,539 passages that reference *giving*, while there are only 523 that refer to *praying*!

Submitted by Joyce Taylor



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

- 5 Irene Walsh
- 6 Ben Reed
- 10 Laurie Piquero  
Susan Ives  
Richard Shick
- 11 Melissa Berge
- 12 Tim Martin
- 13 Ryan Graver
- 14 Justice Giarth
- 15 Warren Waltz  
Derrick Andrus
- 16 Michele Wilston
- 18 Brad Regester
- 20 Matthew Fuller
- 21 Ariel Otruba
- 22 Matt Gehringer
- 23 Lois Garrison  
Todd & Cathy Rumsey (A)
- 26 Tammy Wilson Hagar
- 27 Carson Whittaker
- 28 Karen Farrer  
Richard McGee
- 29 Eugene Abrams

SCRIPTURE READING (Tentative)

January 4

January 11 Luke 10:13-20  
Revelation 20:1-10  
Psalm 104 pg. 826-827

January 18 John 8:42-47  
II Corinthians 11:7-15  
Job 1:6-22  
Canticle of Wisdom pg.112

January 25 Matthew 4:1-11  
Genesis 3:1-15  
Psalm 115 pg. 836

**THERE IS NO COMMUNITY DINNER  
IN JANUARY!**

January 2009	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
	9:30 AM	9:30 AM	9:30 AM	9:30 AM
Greeters	Linda Gehringer	Dick & Dorothy Shick	Kim Johnson and Susan Ives	Betsy Kuhl and Tanya Kuhl
Acolytes				
Liturgists	Deward Hext	Ellen Wise	Jane Mudge	Joyce Taylor
Altar Flowers	Keith & Sylvia Graver		Jerry & Deanna Rumsey	Mary and Jerry Farrer
Refreshments				
Cleaning Donation	Linda Gehringer	Ellen Wise	Oliver Bartlett	
Snow Removal	Rich & Jane McGee and Jane Mudge	Dick and Dorothy Shick	Betsy Kuhl	Allen and Pat Schanbacher
Nursery				

## ANGEL AWARD 2008

This person has served on a number of committees – including Trustees, Pastor/Parish Relations, and Outreach.

This person has been active in our Administrative Board. This person is good in getting people involved. Who is this person?

This man is concerned about others – many times over his own needs. This man is thoughtful, diligent and concerned. This man is known for his giving. Who is this person?

This man has done a lot of shopping for this church. This man has gotten up early to make a fire and donated wood so that our church would be able to prepare chicken for countless church dinners. He has provided leadership for our dinners. He has made Palm Sunday a day to prepare breakfast for sons and fathers.

He has started the church dinners so that the church could pay off a huge debt made necessary to replace the ceiling. Six and a half years ago when I became pastor, the debt stood at 67,000 dollars...it is now paid for...full and complete. Thanks be to God.

When others have found excuses to stay away from church, he finds reasons to be here in the House of God. By now you should know that the 2008 Angel Award is presented to **Warren Waltz**.

# Thank You!

I appreciate the honor of being selected for the Angel Award of 2008. I have always felt our dinners were a worthy team project with wonderful fellowship rewarded by the retirement of our debt.

It has often been said that your efforts go unnoticed, but this certainly proves that it is not so.

Thank you all again and may God bless you all!

Warren Waltz

Watch for the Spring 2009 Leadership University schedule for the Wellsboro Campus to be in next months Newsletter.

### \*SOS\*

(Women's Bible Study - 2nd Monday of each month)  
This group will begin its study of "Christianity and Islam" on Monday, January 12 at 1:30 pm at the church. All are welcome.

## Offering Envelopes For 2009

As you begin to use your 2009 offering envelopes for our church – we want you to be informed about the different line items: If you place your offering in the:

A. Church Expense: All monies placed here will be used for current expenses of our church. This includes salaries, utilities, programs, parsonage, office expenses, etc.

B. Missions: All monies placed here will be used for the mission shares of ministry. This helps in many places wherever our Conference has budgeted.

C. Loan Fund: All monies placed in this category will be used wherever it is deemed necessary by our church. There is no longer a loan that we are paying on.

D. or E. "Other": All monies placed in these labeled categories will be held in trust until that specific project has enough money. For instance, recently we were collecting for the HAP project. All monies collected were held until the project could be completed. Currently we have no projects with the category of "other".

If you are confused or have questions about any of these line items, please call the church office, 662-2411.



## 2009 BUDGET

The 2009 budget has been approved by your Church Council. If you would like a copy of this 2009 budget you will find them on the back table in the sanctuary, or contact us, we will make arrangements for you to receive one.

Thank you for your faithful giving in the past. You have helped to touch many lives all around the world. Thank you for your continued giving, your gifts will have a lasting impact upon the world, far and near. May God richly bless you.

Your Finance Committee

“**The Power Book**” is a daily companion book to give you spiritual insights into ordinary, but power-filled lives of people who love the Lord and to help us achieve this same excellence.

It is **free** to you and is on the back table. Please pick one up and receive a blessing from this book.

### Other Devotional Reading Material!

The Daily Bread Daily Devotional book and the Upper Room Devotional book are on the back table of the sanctuary.

### SCHEDULE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2009 - Mark your calendars!

#### Council Meetings – 7 pm

February 11	August 12
April 8	October 14
June 10	December 19

#### Trustee Meetings – 7 pm

January 14 @ 8pm	July 1
March 4	September 2
May 6	November 4

#### Nurture Committee Meetings – 7 pm

January 14	July 8
March 11	September 9
May 13	November 11

#### Finance Committee Meetings – 7 pm

January 21	July 15
March 18	September 16
May 20	November 18

#### Worship Committee Meetings – 7 pm

January 8	July 16
March 12	September 10
May 14	November 12

#### Outreach Committee Meetings – 8 pm

January 8	July 16
March 12	September 10
May 14	November 12

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**Address Service Requested**



*This Newsletter is sent  
With a blessing and a prayer to.....*

### **New Year's Wishes**

What shall I wish thee? Treasures of earth?  
Songs in the springtime, pleasure and mirth?  
Flowers on thy pathway, skies ever clear?  
Would this insure thee a happy new year?

What shall I wish thee? What can be found?  
Bringing thee sunshine all the year round?  
Where is the treasure, lasting and dear,  
That shall insure thee a happy new year?

Faith that increaseth, walking in light  
Hope that aboundeth happy and bright,  
Love that is perfect, casting out fear,  
These will insure thee a happy new year!

Peace in the Saviour, rest at His feet,  
Smile on His Countenance radiant and sweet,  
Joy in His presence, Christ ever near,  
These will insure thee a Happy New Year!

-Unknown