

February 2012

From the Desk of Rev. Greg

Paul Csillag died in Indianapolis in December 2011. You may never have heard of Paul Csillag; I hadn't either until I happened across his obituary in *The Indianapolis Star* on January 8. It was a nice obituary—one of the ones written by a reporter rather than the family, with several columns devoted to retelling the life of the person who has died.

The most remarkable thing about Mr. Csillag's obituary is that, unlike the subjects of most reporter-written obituaries, Paul Csillag wasn't famous. Most people who are featured in these sorts of articles are famous or well known for some reason: maybe a famous actor or musician; an important scientist; a wealthy donor to important causes; or a prominent politician. Paul Csillag was a 90-year-old former laborer at a tool-and-die shop. But Mr. Csillag had a packed-full funeral—and an article written for his obituary—for one reason: he was a person of great faith.

The rabbi who celebrated Mr. Csillag's funeral described him as "a great Jew, a wonderful Jew." Mr. Csillag was a Hungarian-born survivor of the Holocaust. His mother died in the concentration camps, and his brother died while being used as a human mine-detector in the Nazi advance on Stalingrad. Once he immigrated to the United States, Mr. Csillag became increasingly committed to his faith. He became a faithful member of the Congregation B'nai Torah in Indianapolis and grew in his faith in God as he grew deeper in connection with his synagogue. As he once told his rabbi about a sermon that touched him deeply, "I'm not sure I understood it all, but that was a great sermon!"

According to the obituary, Mr. Csillag's life calling was helping other people. He would go around helping people build *sukkahs* ("booths" or ceremonial temporary dwellings like our kids learned about in Vacation Bible School last summer) for the annual Jewish festival of booths. And each week for the last 25 years, Mr. Csillag baked challah bread—a traditional braided egg bread—and delivered it to about 100 friends and acquaintances, charging less than what it cost him to make the bread.

In short, he loved God and people. That's a pretty great obituary, if you ask me. In fact, I hope my obituary will say much the same (whether it's written by a reporter or by my family). Of course, as a Christian my faith is rooted in Jesus Christ, so I hope the minister celebrating my funeral will include the fact that "Greg was totally sold out to Jesus Christ," or words like that. But however it is said, I hope that it can be said of me, and of all of us, at our funeral that we spent our life loving God and other people.

For after all, didn't Jesus, when He was asked about the greatest commandment, respond like this: *"The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'*

The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Contacting the Pastor: Please feel free to contact Rev. Greg either at the office (326-2460) or at the parsonage (326-2350). In the event of an emergency and you can't reach him immediately, please call Beth Cole, Lay Leader (326-7005).

February Volunteers

Please Help Fill in the Blanks
Check in at the SIGN UP table on Sunday.

Greeter

Marge Credile

Liturgists

5th Jason Herring

12th _____

19th _____

26th _____

Fellowship Refreshments

Genesis Class

February Sunday School Teachers

Nursery – _____

Pre-K – Amy Lovins

Primary – Mandy Gray

Intermediate – Tammy Bearhope

Sprint – Denise Phares

High School – Lue Ann Phares

The Bridge – Self-taught

3D – Self-taught

Genesis – Self-taught

YACS – Rotation



Mohawk UMC

February Birthdays

- 5 Dakota Mains
- 10 Tommy Ewing
- 12 Lori Beeker, Bill Ewing
- 14 Valerie Shepherd, Virginia Hartzog
- 15 Mike Deutsch, Amy Varner
- 16 Colton Kimble
- 18 Lori Howard
- 20 Jim Bandy
- 27 Burl Bearhope, Tara Williams



If you don't see your February birthday on our list please let us know so we can celebrate with you next year.
(Ph: 326-2460 / E-mail: officemumc@hrtc.net)



Thank you for the bear, flower and balloon you sent after Shailynn's surgery. Your kindness is appreciated.
The Steenos

Mohawk Church Family,
I really appreciated the flowers that I received for my surgery. I cherish all of the love and support that I receive from my church family.
Love and Prayers, Kelly Paugh

Thank you for my care package. It was excellent to have since finals can be so stressful. It is good to know that I have a strong church family caring as I start fresh into a new semester.
Thank you so much! Kirsten Jackley

Thank you so much, church family. It really showed that you cared enough to take time out of your lives to give me this care package.
Thank you, Dashielle

Keep in Touch
Friend us on Facebook
or visit our website at
www.mohawkumc.org



2012 Mohawk UMC Leadership UPDATE

Finance
Laura Phares, secretary

Children's Ministries
Diana Hartzog, Chair

Trustees
John Friar, Chair
Denny Howard, Vice Chair

SPRC
Betsy Bandy, Chair

Reminder to All Committee Chairpersons and Group Leaders



Please list all meeting and event dates on the main church calendar (in the narthex) as soon as they are known. The main calendar is the source of information for bulletin announcements the newsletter calendar.

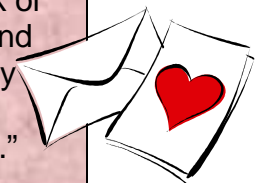
New Photo Directory



The time has come! Have you noticed how many new faces there are in church that are not pictured in our 2007 directory? Or how many babes-in-arms pictured in the old directory are now students in school? It's time!

Our Youth Group is organizing a project to create a new Mohawk UMC Photo Directory as a fundraiser and service to the church. Jen Snyder, our Youth Guide, is a professional photographer and has offered to donate her services to photograph the members and friends of MUMC. Be watching for details and be ready to sign up for your photo sitting in late February and early March.

Are you looking for a special way to show God's love this Valentine's Day? Think of someone who might be lonely and send them a note reminding them that they are God's much-loved child.
"We love because God first loved us."



Our Ministry Together

Recap of 2011 Mission at MUMC

Genesis Class

- One Operation Classroom scholarship
- Two care packages to Chris Jackson in Afghanistan
- Carton of personal care items for wounded service personnel at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany
- Financial gifts to two church families
- Financial gift to one Mohawk Town family
- Christmas financial gift to one church family
- Financial support for mission trip to Kentucky
- Personal care boxes for the Mental Health America's Christmas Gift Lift in Greenfield

YACS Class

- Financial support of David Roney in Latvia
- Financial gift to the Kenneth Butler Soup Kitchen
- Financial gift to Hope House
- Financial gift to the Ronald McDonald House
- Financial gifts to two church families
- Sponsored a family at Christmas
- Child care paid for child of local family at Celebrations Childcare

3D Class

- Financial gifts to congregation families
- Toiletries for Food Pantry
- Operation Classroom scholarship
- Sponsored family for Christmas

Mohawk UMC Congregation

- Continuing support of food item donations for the food pantries in Greenfield and Fortville
- Care packages for our college students several times during the year
- 40-50 Easter Baskets for the food pantry children
- 30 Pieces of Silver donations to Love INC and one other organization
- Work mission trip by four individuals at the Christian Appalachia Project in Kentucky in August
- Financial support of Missionary Tom Heaton in Guatemala
- Financial support of Missionary David Roney in Latvia

MUMC Mission Recap, continued

- Financial gifts to church family
- 600 Candy favor bags for Community Thanksgiving dinner at fairgrounds in Greenfield
- Advent Conspiracy donations to Heifer International and Hope House
- Held Christmas party for the young men at the Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility
- Hat and mitten ministry at Christmas for Head Start programs in Greenfield and Fortville
- Bell Ringers for Salvation Army

American Heritage Girls Sunday



February 12 is Scouting Sunday, and we will be celebrating by inviting Mohawk UMC's American Heritage Girls troop to join us for worship! AHG members will be participating in several aspects of worship, and the girls will take a moment to testify to the ways they have grown in faith and leadership in the American Heritage Girls program over the past year.

Following 9:00 worship on February 12 you are invited to fill a container at the AHG cookie table in Fellowship Hall. Show your support for American Heritage Girls and purchase some home-made treats. Come prepared to give a free will offering and choose some goodies to take home.



“Lent is a time
to take the time
to let the power of our faith story
take hold of us...
Lent is a time
to allow a fresh new taste of God.”

-- Ann Weems

MUMC Youth Group

The **YOUTH** had a great fall and we are looking forward to a busy and fun-filled spring!

In February we are participating in a **Cluster Youth lock-in** (details below) and we need your help! There is a friendly competition between the churches to collect the most items to make **UMCOR Health Kits**. Items needed include: hand towels (15"x25" to 17"x27" – kitchen/cleaning towels are not acceptable), wash cloths, sturdy 8" long combs (not pocket combs or picks), metal nail files or clippers (not emery boards or toenail clippers), bath soap bar (3 oz or larger), toothbrushes, ¾" – 1" adhesive bandages, gallon sealable plastic bags, and cash to purchase toothpaste (please do not give toothpaste). If you prefer to donate money for us to purchase the health kit items, please leave it in a clearly marked envelope in the youth ministry mailbox in the church office. There will be a box for collection of items in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your support of the youth ministry at MUMC!

UPCOMING YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

Saturday, February 4 from 5 – 9pm come to the church for **MOVIE NIGHT!** Pizza and drinks will be provided. Please bring a snack to share. Please let Jen know if you are able to make it so we will have enough pizza. Feel free to bring a friend! Contact Jen at liveloveandserve@gmail.com or 630.696.6437.

After Sunday Night **ALIVE!**, February 5, there will be a **YOUTH COUNCIL** meeting at 6 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Holy Hula Youth Lock-in
Begins Friday, February 17 at 7 pm – Eden UMC
Ends Saturday at 8 am



Come one! Come all! Come, MUMC youth, to the Holy Hula 2012 Lock-In! The North Hancock Cluster of UM Churches is gathering youth together at Eden United Methodist Church for a time of fun, food, and fellowship with a Hawaiian theme. Come February 17 at 7 pm and we'll do games and activities; we'll watch a movie and discuss how it connects with our faith; we'll have bubble gum sculpture contests (you have to come to find out what that is); and we'll be eating pizza later in the night than our ministers are usually awake! The Lock-in ends at 8 am Saturday. This is a great activity to invite a friend to, too!

Please let us know if you will be attending **by February 3**, if possible, by contacting Jen Snyder at liveloveandserve@gmail.com or 630.696.6437 or the church office at officemumc@hrtc.net or 326.2460.

An E-pistle From Bishop Mike

Asking for Help

My 17-month old grandson, Austin, is learning a few words, and his mother (my daughter Laura) is also teaching him some sign language. It is amazing how many words and gestures he is learning. He knows how to signal that he wants to eat (by making an eating gesture), and he knows how to spread his arms and say something that sounds like "All done." He has even learned how to say, "Abu" which is Spanish for "gramps" or "granddad." It is so cute!

Most cute of all, Austin has learned the sign language gesture for "help" (folded hands in front of himself with an up and down gesture), and he also verbally says, "Help." Rather than fuss or throw a tantrum when he can't do something, he very politely makes that gesture and says "Help."

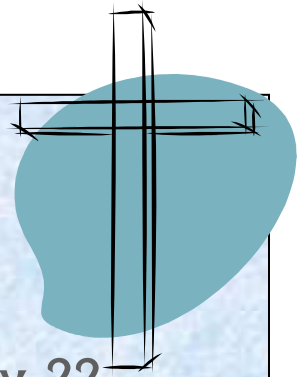
I wonder: why is it that so many of us who call ourselves Christians are reluctant to ask for help? Why do we think we must go it alone, rather than turning to God and to other Christians and asking for help? It is said that the only two real prayers are the prayer "Thank You, God" and the prayer "Help me, Lord." Everything else we might pray is really just fluff or human pretense.

Jesus teaches us to "ask, seek, and knock" with the full trust that God will respond. Will God's response always be exactly what we ask for? Of course not! We don't always know what we really need, any more than my toddler grandson can know what he really needs. But we are told to ask, to seek, to knock – with the assurance God will respond. If we human parents (and grandparents) will respond to the request for "Help" from a small child, how much more will God respond to our "Help" prayers?

I can only conclude that my unwillingness to ask God for help is based upon the most basic of all human sin – pride. I want to believe that I can do it on my own. I want to think that I am self-sufficient. Sometimes I even try to do ministry on my own power and strength.

But the teachings of Jesus, and the model of little Austin, say otherwise. It is OK to ask for help. It is a powerful experience of faith to admit that I am in need of God's grace, love, forgiveness, and guidance.

So, ask for help. And be prepared to keep on asking. Jesus also teaches about persistence, not to imply that God reluctantly answer our prayers, but because – as one great Quaker teacher has said -- "A season of prayer changes us." It is not that our persistent asking changes God or makes God more likely to respond, rather it is that our persistent prayers change us – often deepening our dependence upon God, sometimes revealing to us our true needs, and typically discovering that God provides what we really need and not just what we think we want. It all starts with asking, asking for help. It is one of the most basic prayers for a Christian.



Lent begins February 22




Join us for a time of worship
and imposition of ashes on
ASH WEDNESDAY
7:00 pm

February 2012



Mohawk United Methodist Church

2045 W. 400 North
Greenfield IN 46140
www.mohawkumc.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Sunday Schedule 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Worship</p>			1	2	3	4  Youth Movie Night 5-9 pm
5 Collection Day Pizza at Parsonage 12:30 pm Sunday Night ALIVE! 4-6 Youth Council 6 pm	6	7 AHG 2-4 pm	8 Techmobile 11-1:30	9	10	11
12 American Heritage Girls Sunday AHG Cookie Event following worship Cool Clovers 4-H 4-5 pm	13 Mission 7:00 Evangelism 7:00	14  February Newsletter info due	15	16	17 <div data-bbox="1528 906 1879 1026" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Holy Hula Youth Lock-in at Eden UMC for N Hancock UMC Cluster Youth and friends 7pm – 8 am</div>	18 
19 Sunday Night ALIVE! 4-6	20 Worship Committee 6:30 pm	21 Newsletter Assembly Noon AHG 2-4 pm	22 Ash Wednesday Worship 7 pm	23	24 *office closed AHG Lock-in→	25 -----I
26 1st Sunday in Lent	27	28	29	<p>Contact us: Church – 317.326.2460 Parsonage – 317.326.2350 Office email – officemumc@hrtc.net Office Hours*: Mon, Tues, Thurs - 8:30 – 2:30 and most Friday mornings 8:30 – 11:00 Rev. Greg keeps Sabbath on Fridays</p>		

