

The United Endeavor

News from United Evangelical Church

Feb 2005/Mar 2005

Pastor's Message

At our November congregational meeting, I attempted, albeit unsuccessfully, to place before you a list of traits found in mainline denominational churches that are growing. I am going to list those here because I think it is important that we realize what is involved in growth.

Traits of Growing Churches:

- Members who are excited about their church's future
- Use of contemporary music
- Social justice work
- Congregation that is spiritually vital and alive
- Use of strings and wood wind instruments in worship
- High proportion of new members
- Liberal or progressive members
- Exciting worship services
- Lack of conflict

As I pointed out in my last newsletter article, knowing what it takes to grow, and being willing to do those things, can sometimes be miles apart within churches. In November I also said that it will not be these tools that will grow our church, but it will be our relationships with each other, our relationship with community and our relationship with God, that will grow this church. In other words, church growth begins in our hearts.

Being a member of the body of Christ is a life devoted to taking on the heart of Jesus, taking on a heart surrendered to the will of God. In Colossians 3:12-15, Paul tells us, "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe your-

...church growth begins in our hearts.

selves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful."

As we enter Lent, we are called to look in our hearts and turn away from the sin that separates us from God and one another, and commit instead to taking on the heart of Jesus. Our Lenten series will be dealing with the most common and subtle ways that we slip into sin, and out of relationship with God and one another. My hope and prayer is that on Wednesday nights, there will be found in this place, a church body serious about growing.

In Christ's love,
Rev. Cathy

Special Worship



February-March Special Worship Schedule

Our Lenten worship theme is entitled "The Seven Deadly Sins"

In Lent we are called to be introspective and turn away from the sin that creeps into our lives. In our Lenten series we will look at the most common and subtle ways that we turn away from God, and hear God's answer to our problem of sin. The series begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes on Maundy Thursday.

February 9 - Ash Wednesday— Where is your heart?
7:30 p.m.

February 16-Sin/Answer (Pride/Humility)
7:30 p.m.

February 23-Sin/Answer (Envy/Kindness)
7:30 p.m.

March 2-Sin/Answer (Anger/Patience)
7:30 p.m.

March 9-Sin/Answer (Sloth/Diligence)
7:30 p.m.

March 16-Sin/Answer (Greed & Gluttony/Generosity & Contentment)
7:30 p.m.

March 23—Last Supper Tableau (54th year)
8:00 p.m.

March 24 - Maundy Thursday
Sin/Answer (Lust/Holiness)
7:30 p.m.

March 25 - Good Friday
9:00 a.m.

March 27 - Easter Sunday

6:00 a.m.-Sunrise Service

9:15 a.m.-Living Cross Service—PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE FROM 9:00 to 9:15

10:30 a.m.-Worship Service—PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE FROM 10:00 to 10:30



Church Council

Council President's Report

Greetings and Happy New Year !!

The new council held their first meeting on Tuesday, January 11th. It was a meeting that introduced us to the upcoming issues of 2005. We are happy to announce that Janet and Ken Pate have agreed to handle the Last Supper Tableau this year (Thank you both very much!!). If anyone is interested in helping them, please let the Church office know as soon as possible.

Our Council retreat is being held on Saturday, January 22nd at 9 am. We are looking forward to a day of learning, sharing and fellowship.

We will keep you informed of any issues we are working on, as the year progresses.

I would like to close with this verse that I believe will help us in the challenges before us :

"Our Lord and our God, We joy in Thee. Without Thy Help we could not face unafraid the year before us. Dwell not on the Past - Only on the Present and Guide Us Along the Way!"

May God's Blessings shine upon you.

Sincerely,

Lori Betch
Council President



Altar Committee

The Altar Committee is very happy to report that Dr. Charles Wirsing has donated the large white center candle for our Advent wreath. With the addition of this new candle, we have completed replacing all of the drippy wax candles with oil filled ones. Thank you very much Dr. Wirsing.

Have you ever wondered about our beautiful communion silver? How old is it? Who donated it? Here is an accounting:

The two large pitchers: One was donated in memory of Henry and Caroline Reifschneider and is dated 1909. The other one is inscribed "Presented by Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Deuchler, 1909.

The two small chalices (which are silver on pewter) are from 1909 and one was presented by Mrs. E. Himmelmann and the other in memory of Harry Beck.

The host box was presented by Rev. and Mrs. W. Batz in 1909.

The communion cup trays were given in memory of Mrs. Sabina Bauernfeind by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bauernfeind at Easter in 1927.

The large tray is inscribed "Solches thut zu meinem Gedachtnis" (Translation: Do this in memory of me).

If anybody knows anything about our altar cross, please let me know. I know it is very old.

Ursula Jacob
Altar Committee Chairperson

Council Comments

Christian Education Committee

As we begin a new year, it is encouraging to report that we have seen an increase in our attendance in the church school, particularly in the multi-age department. Right now we are very much in need of a teacher for the teenage population of our church. There are materials from Seasons of the Spirit, the curriculum that we are using, that would be appropriate for this age group. The multi-age class curriculum can only accommodate children to the age of 12. Once children reach the age of 12, they really need to be with children more their own age. If you or anyone you know, would like this opportunity, please let the pastor, Peggy, or someone from the church school staff know.



The children have enjoyed being part of the church worship service, as well. In fact, they have gotten so involved that when Rev. Cathy is not there, they feel they need to tell the pastor in charge that they make a circle to pray at the end of the children's message.

At this time, classes meet on the third floor of the church school building each Sunday at 9:15 and remain with their department until the end of the children's message which is part of the church service. Children in the multi-age group are encouraged to attend church with their parents/caregivers, someone from the church school staff, or someone in the congregation. We feel that the only way children will only learn appropriate behavior and their vital part in the life of the church is by being there.

An Adult Bible Study Class meets in the Quiet Room at 9:15. Since this class meets between the two church services, this is an excellent way to grow in knowledge of the Bible and enjoy the fellowship of being with others.

Another place to grow in Christian education is the Adult Bible Study class that meets on Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. While this is a small group of adults led by Rev. Cathy, it has been a very stimulating way to become more aware of interpreting Bible passages that are part of the lectionary. This group also welcomes new members.

With your participation, help, and encouragement, we hope the number of children and adults participating in Christian education will continue to grow.

Carol Rowell,
Christian Education Committee member

Property Report

I hope this letter finds everyone in good health. At our last council meeting we discussed making our buildings more attractive to our neighbors and the neighborhood. Since we are on a very limited budget, we hope to gather enough volunteers to help paint the remainder of our outside windows and doors to brighten them up a bit. The Pastor suggested a garden between the church and parsonage-this too will brighten up the church. We are currently in the process of stripping and painting the hardware for our front doors which I believe all of you know John Matthew refinished. This should be completed by next week, Good Lord willing and the creek don't rise

We have been made aware of the poor lighting in the ladies bathroom, hopefully install some additional lights can be installed above the mirrors to brighten this room up a little. It was suggested that the men's room also receive some additional lighting.

That's about all I have for now but I do hope to see a lot of smiling volunteers this spring. We will supply the paint and brushes, you supply the work and smiles.

Thank you in advance,
Bill Meyers

Mission Moments

Mission Moments is a new addition to the Endeavor and is a way of highlighting our congregation's connection to the wider church. Our church is a vital part of the United Church of Christ, and it is not alone! Each Mission Moment will help inform members of what they make possible through their gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM).

mission M O M E N T

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Why Does My Pastor Talk about Money?

It's often said that it isn't "polite" to talk about money unless absolutely necessary, but there are many times in the life of the church that pastors, from the pulpit and in many other settings, raise the subject of money and the place that it holds in our lives.

One of those times is "stewardship season." In the autumn months, many churches hold what is often called a "stewardship campaign," when church members and friends are invited to think about the rich harvest of God's abundance in their lives and to commit a portion of that abundance to God through the church. Sermons, posters, personal testimonies, and personal letters talk about the needs of the church and its potential to do even more good for the sake of the gospel. They may also address "giving" itself, and the importance of generosity as an expression of our praise and thanksgiving to God.

Sometimes this makes people uncomfortable. But the Bible talks more about money and possessions and our relationship to them than we may realize; in fact, these subjects are second only to idolatry in the number of times they are mentioned in scripture. And money can consume our thoughts and our time—even our hearts and our lives. We worry about money; it has power in our lives, and we often let it define our self-worth. However, we are precious in the eyes of God, and the church cares for us as we struggle with the meaning and the potential of money in our lives. That care is expressed in the invitation to give in order to support God's work through the church, but it's also expressed in every invitation to place our trust and security in God's providence, to recognize and celebrate the abundance that is already ours, in ways that we have often overlooked.

Our pastor, as a "primary caregiver" in our spiritual lives, supports us in our struggles with money. Our pastor, as our teacher and leader, holds up the vision of all that generosity can mean, in our own lives and in the lives of all those we will touch with our gifts.

Senior Spot



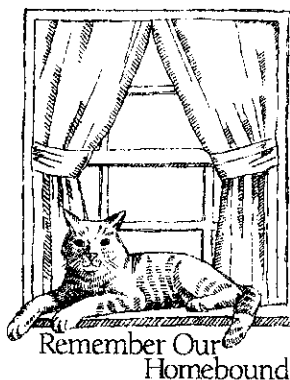
HATTON CENTER NEWS

410-396-9025

Sign up now for screen painting classes at the Hatton Center on Saturday, February 12th and Saturday, February 19th from 11 – 3. The cost is \$25.00.

Give us a call at 410-396-9025 to schedule your appointment for assistance with your tax return scheduled for Mondays from 10 -2.

Stop by and make your travel plans. We're taking reservations for the April trip to Roots and Shady Maple and Hooper's Island in May. Come in and get a bus trip schedule for all of our remaining trips and book your seat!



Visitation Ministry

We have UEC members who are not able to attend worship and would like to be a part of the congregation. You can help by joining our visitation ministry. Some folks are right in your neighborhood.

A visit would mean so much.

Anyone interested in being part of a ministry team to visit our shut-ins, please see Rev. Cathy or call the office at 410-276-0393.

Special Spotlight

Allison Hausley-Our New Minister of Music for Contemporary Worship



OUR CHURCH WELCOMES

We welcome Allison who joins us from Canton Baptist church, where she is very active in their music ministry. Allison is single and grew up in the local neighborhood. She works at Johns Hopkins Bayview as a supervisor in their outpatient services area.

Be sure to introduce yourself to Allison and extend a warm welcome! Our previous Minister of Music, Wanda DiGennaro, decided to pursue other opportunities and is no longer with us.

Places to Go, People to See, Things to Do...

Ladies Organization Trips & Events



April 2, 2005 Faith Church
Turkey & Oyster Dinner
(bus filled)

Aug 3, 2005 Suicide Bridge
&
Crab Feast

Upcoming Ladies Organization Meetings All Meetings Begin at 12 noon

Feb 9 Brown Bag Luncheon

Mar 9 St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

Apr 13 Luncheon



This is an open invitation to all the ladies of the congregation of United Evangelical Church. We would like to have you join us on the second Wednesday of the month at 12 noon at our meetings. The Ladies Organization plans activities, trips, helps with suppers and church affairs. The profits we make from these activities are used to keep a small amount in our treasury for working money and to donate the balance for the ongoing work of the church.

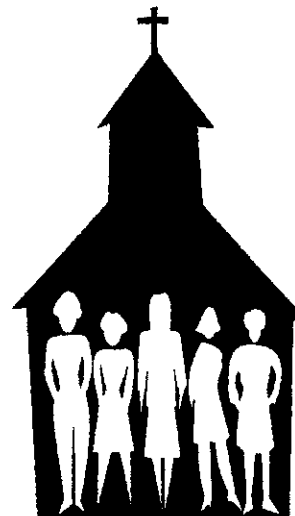
Arlene Pate

Important Notice

All trips MUST HAVE DEPOSIT TO HOLD SEATS

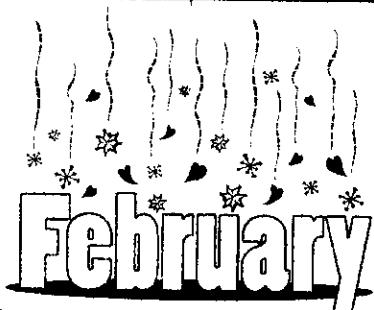
If you must cancel your seat you need to find someone to take your seat to receive your money back.

Persons to contact:
Millie Wirsing 410-675-3904
Arlene Pate 410-327-3211



Women OF THE Church

UEC February 2005 Calendar of Events

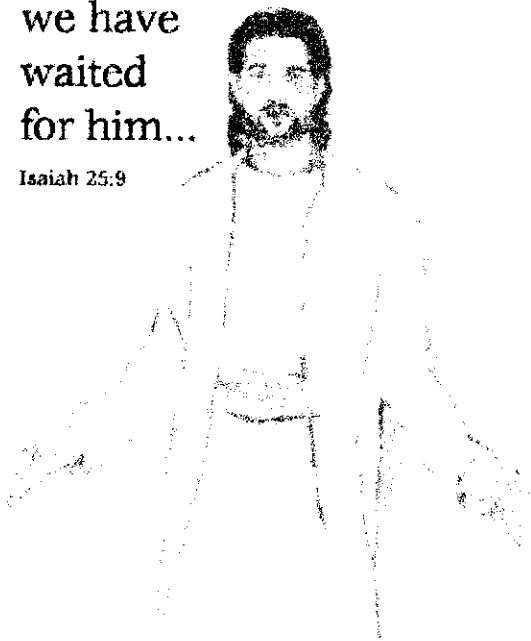
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	3 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	4	5 Contemporary Worship 5:30 p.m.
6 <i>Communion Sunday</i> Food Bank Donations 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	7	8 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	9 Ash Wednesday Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Ladies Organization Luncheon 12 noon Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7:30 p.m.	10 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	11	12
13 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	14	15 Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.	16 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Lenten Worship Service 7:30 p.m.	17 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	18	19
20 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	21	22	23 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Lenten Worship Service 7:30 p.m.	24 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	25	26
27 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	28					

UEC March 2005 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Service 7:30 p.m.	3	4	5 Contemporary Worship 5:30 p.m.
6 One Great Hour of Sharing Communion Sunday Food Bank Donations 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	7	8 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	9 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Ladies Organization Lunch 12 noon Lenten Worship Service 7:30 p.m.	10 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir practice 7:30 p.m.	11	12
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20 Palm Sunday Confirmation Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education	21	22	23 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Last Supper Tableau 8:00 p.m.	24 Maunday Thursday Worship Service 7:30 p.m.	25 Good Friday Worship Service 9:00 a.m.	26
27 Easter Sunday 6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service 9:15 a.m. Living Cross 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	28	29	30 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	31 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir practice 7:30 p.m.		

This is
the LORD;
we have
waited
for him...

Isaiah 25:9



United Evangelical Church

Pastor

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Hours

Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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Peggy Tlasek

Custodian

Art Jones

Director of Music

Robert Gundlach
robert.gundlach@verizon.net

Newsletter Editor

Barbara Matthew
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A "Hunger Site at the U.N" on the Internet

All you have to do is click a button and somewhere in the world some hungry person gets a meal to eat at no cost to you. Corporate sponsors pay for the food. Just go to the site listed below and click.

No gimmicks, no tricks.

You are only allowed one click per day, so spread the word to others.

The site is:
www.hungersite.com



*Just a
Reminder...*

Don't forget
to bring in
your General
Mills Box
tops for Edu-
cation and
leave them in
the display in
the Narthex.

Special Spotlight

History of the Ladies Organizations at UEC

Although there seems to be no definite date available as to when the Ladies Aid Society was organized, its organization took place around the time of the founding of the church in 1873. The first meetings were held on Sundays in the homes of church members. Then, as now, its purpose is to help in any way possible to promote the welfare of the church and offer the women of the church a place where they may find fellowship, as well as, a chance to be of service to others and a place to find spiritual inspiration for their daily living.



Through the years, the Ladies Aid Society has beautified the church and the parsonage by purchasing furnishings and helping to pay for improvements whenever possible. The Society contributed over \$ 13,000 to the building funds of the church. In addition, the society participated in activities sponsored by the regional and synod groups of this area.

Young Women's Guild

In March of 1944, a group of 15 young women of the church formed the Young Women's Guild, in order to provide social fellowship with the younger women of the congregation. Later, service projects included the Annual Spring Mother & Daughter Banquet, nursing home visitation and Lenten food sales. As a result of these service projects, the Young Women's Guild was able to purchase carpeting for the church and church office.

As a result of cultural and demographic change, the Ladies Aid Society and Young Women's Guild were merged into what has now become the Ladies Organization of United Evangelical Church.

Ladies Organization of United Evangelical Church

Currently the UEC Ladies Organization has some 25 members and continues to support the church financially through various fund raising events including:

- UEC Annual Strawberry Festival
- Luncheons
- Bus trips

Recently the Ladies Organization purchased new curtains for the sanctuary, paid for refrigeration repairs and bestowed a \$2500 Christmas gift to the church in 2004.

Officers of the Ladies Organization for 2005

Olga deBloom	-----	President
Ursula Jacob	-----	Vice President
Mildred (Millie) Wirsing	-----	Treasurer & Secretary
Arlene Pate	-----	Corresponding Secretary

The organization meets on the second Wednesday of each month (excluding July & August) at 12 noon in Friendship Hall for luncheon following by the meeting. New members are always welcome to join and share in the fun and fellowship in service to the church.

Since January 12, 2000, I have been president of the Ladies Organization and warmly extend an open invitation to all to support our activities so that we may continue our mission and dedication to the church.

Respectfully,
Olga E. deBloom

Points to Ponder

Lent is almost here

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, comes on February 9, 2005. We Christians observe Lent for 40 days (excluding Sundays) to examine our spiritual condition and to strive to improve our relationship with God.

Lent is also a period of spiritual preparation for Easter Sunday, the greatest day on the Christian calendar.

During Lent most churches have additional services. Some offer special Bible study events or classes in strengthening the spiritual life. It is a good time to study the life of a great Christian from the past and the ways that person developed closeness to God.



It's important that each Christian practice spiritual disciplines to "show that you are a letter of Christ ... written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Corinthians 3:3, NRSV).

Four Beauty Tips

Before she became an actress, Audrey Hepburn was a successful fashion model. After her acting career, she spent much of her time working for humanitarian causes around the world. These four "beauty tips" written by this former model are a snapshot of how she lived her life. They were read at her funeral.

1. For attractive lips, speak words of kindness.
2. For lovely eyes, look for the good in people.
3. For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry.

Confirmation Sunday—March 20th

Palm Sunday is also Confirmation Sunday. On March 20th, 3 young men will receive the rite of confirmation. The congregation prays that each confirmand will receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit and the strengthening of his or her faith.

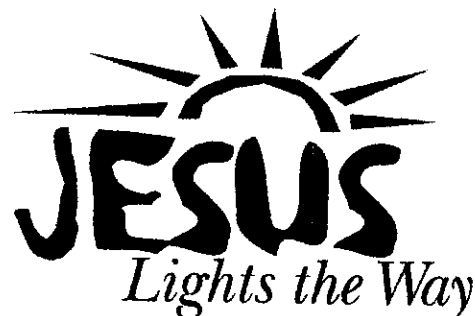


Fast and feast

Arthur Lichtenberg, when presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, quoted this Lenten advice:

- Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.
- Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.
- Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.
- Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.
- Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.
- Fast from pride, and feast on humility.
- Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.
- Fast from fear, and feast on faith.

—The SourceBook of Wit and Wisdom



Special Lenten Mission Project-One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing—March 6, 2005

Lenten Mission Project

This year as we enter Lent, we are faced with probably the greatest natural disaster in human history. Over 225,000 people lost their lives in a matter of hours. Countless others are left homeless, hungry, jobless, orphaned. In response to this, the focus of our Lenten Mission Project this year will be our One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering.

Every year the monies from OGHS go to help disaster victims throughout the world, including the United States. Because of last year's gifts to OGHS, the UCC was able to respond almost immediately to the Tsunami victims with \$93,000 in aid. In 2005, OGHS monies will continue to be needed for the people of Southeast Asia for refugee relief and redevelopment.

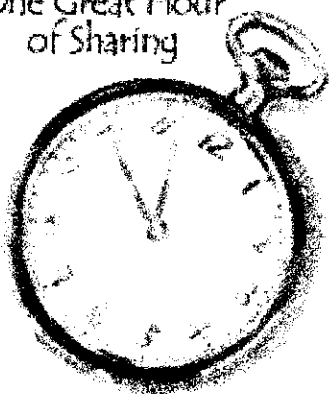
**One
great hour
of sharing.**

The children in our Sunday School will also be collecting money throughout Lent for the March 6th OGHS offering. This Lenten season, remember the words of Christ that "Just as you did it to

one of the least of these, you did it to me," and give generously. Together as a church, we can make a difference in our world.

One Great Hour of Sharing - "It's remarkable what your gift will do!"

One Great Hour
of Sharing



Give generously to those in need:

Tsunami Relief
Wider Church Ministries
United Church of Christ
700 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115

For more information visit www.ucc.org/disaster

It's Remarkable What Your Gift Will Do

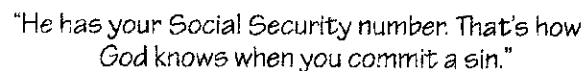
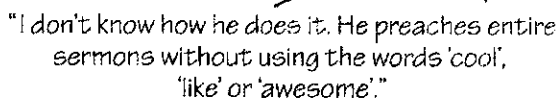
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A healing service, perhaps?

'Wal-Mart isn't the only saving place.'

—Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

Comics Corner



Kids Only!!

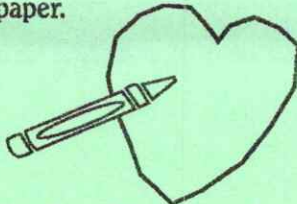
Send an Invisible Valentine to Someone You Love!

Here's what you'll need:

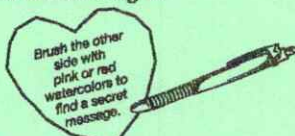
- Scissors
- White construction paper
- White crayon
- Pen
- Pink or red watercolor

Here's how to make an invisible Valentine:

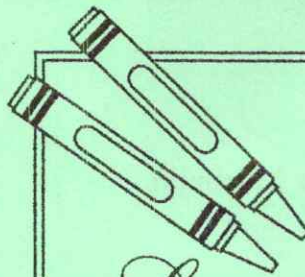
1. Cut a heart shape out of the white construction paper.



2. Use the white crayon to decorate the heart with designs and a message. Press hard!
3. On the back, use the pen to write: "Brush the other side with pink or red watercolor to find a secret message."



4. Give the valentine to someone you love. When the person paints the "blank" side, your secret message will be revealed!

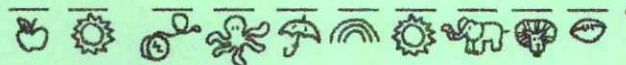
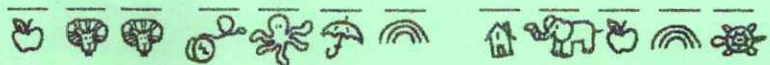


Just for **KIDS**

Love is the greatest commandment!

What did Jesus say when asked about the greatest commandment of God?

Write the first letter of each picture on the lines below.



Mark 12:30-31

Answer: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and ... Love your neighbor as yourself.

Website Alert!

Check out www.spiritseasons.com.
Click on Action Zone

The United Endeavor

United Evangelical Church
United Church of Christ
3200 Dillon Street
Baltimore, MD 21224

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
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BALTIMORE, MD.

Dated Material

Rev. Catherine J. Oatman
945 S. East Ave.
Baltimore MD 21224

The United Endeavor

*HOPEFUL
in the highest!*