



WILLIAMSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

From our Home to yours celebrating the joys of our faith



THE MESSENGER MAY 2012 FROM THE HEART OF THE LITTLE FISH



This past month we have lost four people to death. We lost Florence Yokley, 102, who was shy of her 103rd birthday by just a week or two... John Jones, 86... Heather Crites Duarte, 37 and Barbara Poe who celebrated her 73rd birthday in ICU surrounded by her family singing "Happy Birthday" to her.

As I was thinking about these folks and their families I thought about what our faith is all about, and why we need to believe. Florence was ready and waiting daily to meet God after she reached 100. John Jones had Alzheimer's these last few years and the night before he died he was reaching out to a light that he could see. Could it have been the heavenly messenger who had come for him? Heather was young and her death caught her family by surprise and she left five children who love her deeply. Barbara had been in the hospital for three weeks in ICU and I'm preparing for her service as I write these words. She went to her reward with her grandkids, daughter and husband, Allen, and some in-laws holding her hand until she was ushered through the gates of heaven.

Those families and our church family grieves. We lost some dear people of all ages. Yet there is hope. The apostle Paul says in Scripture that those who have lost loved ones at any time do not grieve like those who have no hope. Because Jesus died and rose again we believe one day we will join our loved ones and friends in heaven where we will walk the streets of gold, sing heavenly hymns, laugh, rejoice and enjoy the freedom of knowing there will be no more separation from our loved ones. This is the hope we have as Christians. This is the Easter message.

As a pastor it has been my privilege to assist many families in their time of need. The Celebration of Lives remind us of the joy of the Gospel message of salvation. Though we grieve, we don't grieve like those who have no hope. It reminds me that we always need to be spiritually ready for when our time comes and we, too, stand in the presence of God.

Death is a part of life. Dying is part of living again. Though we avoid the subject and we don't want to think about it and sometimes even joke about it, we will face our own Judgment Day. As pastor, my mission is to prepare us all to live victoriously now and to be ready when God calls us home.

But that is not my only mission. The second part of my mission is to bring comfort and hope and assurance to all who have been left behind. Knowing one day we will be reunited for all eternity gives us the hope that helps us to carry on. Knowing God's love never ends and His comfort is sure allows those who grieve to see light beyond the tunnel of darkness.

King David said it best when he wrote Psalm 23... *"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."*

Peace and love, Your pastor and friend, Dick

SENIOR LUNCHEON

Tuesday, May 1st

Noon

Invite a friend to come with you. There's always room for one more. Bring a dish to share. We meet here at the church and eat in the Green Room.

"WOMEN OF PROMISE"

Tuesday, May 15th

10:00 a.m. - Noon

Athens United Methodist Church

Come and enjoy an inspiring message and a delicious lunch. Reservations not necessary. Suggested donation \$7. Ken Mitchell from the Washington Street Mission in Springfield will be the guest speaker. We can carpool, leaving the church about 9:30.

GONE TO BE WITH THE LORD on April 8th was FLORENCE YOKLEY. She was a member of WUMC for 70 years and actively involved in the life of the church as long as she was able. Florence had a full life and was just a few weeks short of her 103rd birthday on April 19th.



A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Rev. Piscatelli, I wanted to thank you and the members of the church for the thoughtful and meaningful service for my grandmother, FLORENCE YOKLEY. I appreciated your comments about her life. Please express our appreciation also for the delicious lunch. That was so thoughtful... and the "home cooking" was a treat! I hope this contribution will help to support the church that was so important to my grandmother.

Sincerely, Cynthia Jones

THANK YOU so much for making such a wonderful dinner for our family and friends. Going to Grandma's church and sharing a meal with her friends was really special for our family.

The Family of FLORENCE MICKLE YOKLEY.

CONGRATULATIONS!

CAREY McVICKERS was inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame on April 28th. We give thanks for the many years dedicated to the boys and girls of Williamsville and Taylorville. His strong Christian influence and great coaching for many years has surely impacted the lives of our youth in a positive way. Carey will be coaching the Williamsville High School Boys Basketball team this coming year.

A NEW GRANDBABY

DORIS O'NEAL is the happy grandmother of her first grandson. Named after his grandfather, JOHN G. O'NEAL, arrived on Wednesday, March 28th,

weighing in at 7 lbs. 7-1/2 ozs. Parents are Bob and Angela O'Neal. Congratulations all!

A GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER

DONNA SLAVENS announced that a rare baby girl was born into their family. Her grandson Mike & wife, Colleen Slavens, are the parents of ISABEL SLAVENS, who weighed 10 lbs. 11 oz. at birth! Enjoy!

“WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!” Those are the words that may have welcomed JOHN MILTON THORTON JONES as he entered into Heaven. He left his earthly home on Friday, April 13th as he finished the many tasks assigned to him here. John was a faithful member and diligent worker in his church and community. He was President of Williamsville State Bank yet found time for relaxing with friends and family, fishing, golfing, and traveling across country by car to visit historical sites. He will be missed by his many friends and family here in Williamsville.



MEN'S BREAKFAST **Saturday, May 12th** **8:00 a.m.**

All men of the church are invited to come and eat breakfast together in Fellowship Hall. We plan to meet on the second Saturday of each month.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADS!

COLLEGE

DANIELLE BENNER University of Spa and Cosmetology Arts

AMBER ATHERTON OSF School of Nursing

HIGH SCHOOL

JEN LUC ABELN BEN TOBIAS KAITLYN CONSTANT ROBERT KONZELMANN

8th GRADE

LEAH BENNER ANDREW HOFFERKAMP ZACH LOYD

KAYLEE NICHOLS MORGAN SMITH

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

The graduates who are in worship on Sunday, May 20th will be recognized and honored afterward with a cake and coffee fellowship time. **BACCALAUREATE** will be held at the Williamsville Christian Church at 2:00 p.m. on the 20th.



BAPTISMS ON PALM SUNDAY

ZACHARY LOYD

ZACHARY NASES

ANDREA SMITH

NEW MEMBERS

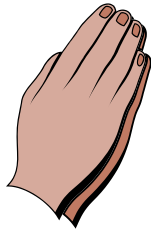
RECEIVED ON PALM SUNDAY

MELISSA LOYD ZACHARY LOYD SARAH LAMBERT JUDITH WALEZAK
ANDREA SMITH TOM AND MELANIE NASES
All of the above were received by Profession of Faith
MARK DINGMAN, by UMC Transfer

OUR PHOTO DIRECTORIES ARE IN

We are very pleased with the new directories and hope you are using them to become acquainted with some new members whose name you may not know. If you have not received your free directory yet, please let Pastor Dick know and he'll get one to you.

A FAMILY MOURNS THE SUDDEN LOSS of HEATHER CRITES DUARTE who passed away on Sunday, April 15th, leaving behind five children, NICK, ZACH, LOREN, NATHAN, and ERIC and her devoted uncle, GERRY GREIM. Please continue to lift the family in prayer!



GOOD NEWS - A BABY IS BORN

OLIVIA LOUISE ROBINSON made an "early" appearance on April 20th and surprised the whole family! The baby girl weighed in at 5 lbs. 10 oz. and is 19" long. OLIVIA is the daughter of Ashley and Nick Robinson, the granddaughter of Dave and Lori Benner and great granddaughter of Don and Sarah Ann Benner. Olivia's maternal great grandmother is Helen Marquard.

OUR PRAYERS ARE LIFTED FOR THE FAMILY of BARBARA POE, who passed away on Sunday, April 22nd with her faithful family surrounding her, showing their love and support for a grandmother, a mother, and a wife who will be greatly missed. Barbara was a long-time member of the Williamsville UMC and now rests from her labors.

SEWING CIRCLE
Wednesday, May 23rd
6:30 p.m.

Everyone welcome! Getting together on the fourth Wednesday of the month.