



October 2009

The Messenger

Garfield Park United Church of Christ Indianapolis

The hard work of unity?

In the Lord, ... lead a life worthy of your calling, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one-another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into Christ, who is head, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together

Ephesians 4.1-3, 15-16 portions

When we think of obeying the commandments, most of us don't think of maturing in Christ and maintaining the bond of unity in our church families. Today there's quite a bit of division characterizing churches.

From Pastor Tom

Mature believers and churches link arms in servanthood, join together in Worship of God and prayer, use their voices to help each other learn about the saving faith, love, mercy, justice and hope of Jesus, and share happily and freely their resources, so that Jesus' church may thrive and people in need may receive blessings.

A Lilly Endowment funded study on religious giving made the surprising discovery that 70 % of the giving even to non-religious charities, i.e. the American Cancer Society and related cancer fighting sites, other health charities, activities like the Boy and Girl Scouts, the Red Cross, - came from people who worshipped in a church or synagogue regularly.

The church of Jesus Christ is the main teacher of both unity and generosity in our society. We are the main proponent of the idea that we were not created for ourselves but for the love of God and all God cares about. It's about what being gracious does for us as givers, witnessing the giving nature of our magnificent and gracious God!

I would encourage you this month to pray about what you are giving so that Garfield Park UCC may thrive in all God has called us to do for Jesus' glory.

We are blessed to be a blessing. The Good News is, the real wealth of life comes to those who share. That's what God did in the divine Son, Jesus. Jesus said, "The measure you give will be the measure you receive." (Luke 6.38)

May God bless your Fall season

in the Grace, Beauty, Courage, and Love of Jesus,

+

pastor tom

**See registration
form inside for
Improving
Communication
in Your Marriage
seminar.**

**OUR PURPOSE: By faithful lives in Jesus' community
We strive to lead everyone to know and love God**

New at our Library

Thank you to everyone for the many donations to the Library this month. You will find the books on the Library Table in the Welcome Center during the month of October.

- Books for adults – One Thing You Can't Do in Heaven by Mark Cahill, Devotions for the Man in the Mirror by Patrick Morley, Fearless Pharaoh FooFoo and Other Dramas by Larry Vogel, High-Impact Worship Dramas by John Duckworth, The Message of Hope by Eugene H. Peterson, 1001 Bible Questions Answered by William L. Pettingill and R. A. Torrey, What Does the Bible Say About . . . by Thomas Nelson Publishers, The Bible Through the Ages by Reader's Digest, Atlas of the Bible by Reader's Digest, For Men Only by Shaunti and Jeff Feldhahn, and Building a Contagious Church by Mark Mittelberg.
- Books for teens – Life's Little Instruction Book by H. Jackson Brown, Jr., Taste Berries for Teens by Bettie B. Youngs, Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul II by Jack Canfield, The Life of Jesus/More Than a Carpenter by Josh McDowell, Wisdom for the Graduate by Pamela McQuade and Toni Sortor, Holy Bible New Testament-NIV, and Revolve 2007: The Complete New Testament.
- Books for children – God Made You Special! By Eric Metaxas, and A Sister for Matthew by Pamela Kennedy.
- CDs – The Oracle by Campus Crusade for Christ, and The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren.
- DVDs- Pinocchio by Walt Disney Studios, and Uncensored by Redline Studios.



A prayer for pumpkin people

After Liz Curtis Higgs wrote the popular children's book *The Pumpkin Patch Parable*, people began using her analogies to say a prayer while carving their Halloween pumpkins.

The pumpkin prayer, a Christian alternative to Halloween traditions, reminds people of all ages what God has done for us.

Use it this fall when your family makes jack-o'-lanterns.

- While cutting off the top of the pumpkin, pray, "Lord, open my mind so I can learn new things about you."

(See Proverbs 1:7.)



- While removing the seeds and pulp, pray, "Remove the things in my life that don't please you. Forgive the wrong things I do, and help me forgive others."

(See Matthew 6:14-15.)

- While making eyes, pray, "Open my eyes to see the beauty you've made in the world around me." (See Psalm 104:24.)

- While making the nose, pray, "I'm sorry for the times I've turned up my nose at your many gifts." (See James 1:17.)

- While making the mouth, pray, "Let everything I say please you." (See Psalm 19:14.)

- While lighting the candle, pray, "Lord, help me show your light to others through the things I do." (See Matthew 5:16.)

After carving your pumpkins, display them as examples of how God's love transforms us into new creations. (See 2 Corinthians 5:17.)

What is stewardship?

Stewardship is not just raising funds;
It's raising Christians.
Stewardship is not a matter of budgets;
It's a matter of faith.

THOUGHTS: I cannot imagine how the clockwork of the universe can exist without a clockmaker. — Voltaire

Campers retreat, Crop Walk on tap

All join us for the all church Retreat at McCormicks State Park, on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, October 9th, 10th, and 11th. There will be a cabin for the boys and one for the girls. If you need a ride down to the park, be sure to let me know. It's always a great time of fun, food, and fellowship.

Teen's Team for Christ

Put on your walking shoes for the Crop Walk held on Sunday Oct. 18th. Bring a sack lunch or get a quick one, we will leave the church around 1 p.m.

Love Don & Sandy Young

p.s. Come, taste, and see how good the Lord is.

improving **Communication** *in your Marriage*

Register now...

Friday, Nov. 6: 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 7: 9 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Improving Communication in Your Marriage will help couples discover how to handle conflict in a positive way.

During this day and a half seminar, you'll learn the essentials to good communication, conflict resolution and greater intimacy.

You'll also have meaningful interaction with other couples — and be reminded that marriage challenges are universal!

Don't let your marriage slip into anger and resentment because of poor communication.

Attend Improving Communication in Your Marriage and let your marriage be all God intended!

Through seminar sessions, you will:

- Overcome the barriers to communication
- Develop a plan to keep the lines of communication open
- Learn to resolve conflict in a healthy and biblical way
 - Learn how to ask for and grant forgiveness
- Discover your spouse's conflict resolution style in order to end frustration and gain intimacy
 - Discover God's plan for romance and intimacy
- Determine your spouse's real romance needs and desires
- Develop communication techniques you can use with your children or associates in the marketplace

Improving Communication in Your Marriage - Drop in collection plate or mail to 743 E. Pleasant Run Parkway South Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46203.

Name: _____ Spouse's name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Phone: _(____)_____ Email: _____

Home church: _____

THOUGHTS: 'Faith working by love' is the length and breadth and depth and height of Christian perfection. - John Wesley



For Kids!

Cookies for Friends

Autumn is the perfect time of the year to sow kindness and reap a "harvest" full of friendships. Make this special treat to share with someone.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- ½ cup butter or margarine
- 1½ cups sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 cup cooked or canned pumpkin
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1½ cups diced, roasted almonds
- 1 cup chocolate pieces
- Raffia or fall-colored ribbon (optional)

What you do:

1. Cream butter and sugar together until light and fluffy.
2. Beat in egg, pumpkin and vanilla.
3. In separate bowl, mix flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, nutmeg and cinnamon.
4. Add dry mix to creamed mixture.
5. Add almonds and chocolate pieces; mix thoroughly.
6. Drop by teaspoons onto well-greased cookie sheets.
7. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until lightly browned.
8. Cool on racks. Makes about six dozen.
9. Stack two cookies on top of each other. Then tie them like a present with the raffia or ribbon. Give the cookies to friends and family to thank them for their friendship.

New women's Bible Study starts

Hi Ladies,

We have started another ladies Bible Study. We are doing the Fingerprints of God (6 lessons), by Jennifer Rothschild as we "recognize the touch of God on our lives." We will meet on Thursday nights at 7 p.m. (this is up to the group, if 6:30 works better, we could change) at the church. We will meet every other week as we have done in the past. The books are \$11.

We've already had a kick off but if you'd like to join us, email Lisa Johnson or call Jackie Ruddick.

Young at Heart set to meet Oct. 12

Young at Heart is scheduled to meet on Oct. 12 for its monthly program

Young at Heart Bring a friend, your place setting, and a well-filled dish and share a pleasant afternoon with us.

We have some wonderful programs, lunch and lots of friendly friends new and old. After a short business meeting, we play bingo.

The hard lessons of a college education

Student loan defaults are rising, according to an article in the Washington Post. A quarter of a million student loans went into default in the Education Department's most recent period. Some blame high interest rates on student

Good Sense loans. However, a survey by student loan provider Sallie Mae and Gallup identified another factor in the high default rate. Some 70 percent of students and parents either did not consider the student's expected post-graduation salary or said it did not make a difference on their borrowing decisions.

With tuition at many schools rising far faster than inflation, paying for college is no easy task for many families. However, to not take into account a student's potential post-college earnings before deciding how much to borrow is a huge mistake. One idea that more families should consider is the European tradition of a gap year, a year following high school graduation in which many students explore what they'd really like to study in college while earning money to help pay for their education.

You'll find links to some of my favorite sites for info on saving for college and paying off student loans at <http://www.moneypurposejoy.com/resources/links.php>.

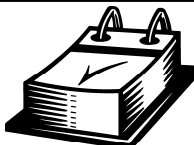
Matt About Money Newsletter, © 2008 Financially Speaking, Inc.

THE WORD: For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. — 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

Beyond October

Upcoming events

- Improving Your Marriage seminar, Nov. 6-7, at GPUCC
- Church Christmas Party, Dec. 5



Check Your
Calendar

CROP Hunger Walk!

This is the 30th year for the Church World Service CROP walk and the 29th year that GPUCC has participated.

The Indianapolis walk is Oct. 18.

Call Don Young if you'd like to participate or sponsor one of our walkers!

October Birthdays!

Anniversaries!

Congregation

A heartfelt thank you

Much appreciation for the cards, love, and support during our loss of Sandy. Don't know how I'd do it without great friends like all of you. I love and appreciate each of you so much.

Many mentioned they did not get a card of Sandy, they went so fast at the funeral home. I thought I'd share the verse, it spoke so well of our loved Sandy.



GOD'S GARDEN

God looked around His garden
And found an empty place.
He then looked down upon this earth,
And saw your tired face.
He put His arms around you,
And lifted you to rest,
God's garden must be beautiful,
He always takes the best.
He knew that you were suffering,
He knew you were in pain.
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.
He saw that the road was getting rough
And the hills are hard to climb.
So He closed your weary eyelids
And whispered, "Peace be thine."
It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you didn't go alone.
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.

Much thanks and appreciation, God
Bless you all, Don and Family

A thank you from Habitat for Humanity. We received a thank you note from Habitat for Humanity for a \$75 contribution, which came from your offerings.

Do you have someone to thank? A note, event or sentiment you'd like to share with the congregation?

Let me know by emailing me at Iweidenbener@yahoo.com or putting a note in The Messenger mailbox by the choir room.

THOUGHTS: Next to the Word of God,
the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world. - Martin Luther

Oodles of Soup Supper: Saturday, Oct. 17, 5:30-9 p.m.

Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 youth, child under 6 years free

Pick a pretty bowl to keep, fill it with all the soup you can eat!

We'll have 8-10 soups, cornbread, crackers, dessert, drinks & door prizes. Sponsored by Women's Fellowship. Proceeds go to church expenses.

Campers' Retreat! Oct. 9-11 McCormick's Creek Park

Join us for a hayride Friday night; volleyball, hiking, Bible study, a puppet performance and a pitch-in dinner on Saturday; and a church service Sunday morning. And of course, we'll have great fellowship all weekend.

Join us in the barrack's style cabin for just \$3/night, no reservations needed!

Questions? Call Gretchen

Improving Communication in Your Marriage



Friday, Nov. 6
7 pm - 10 pm

Saturday, Nov. 7
9 am - 4:15 pm

Communication is the lifeline of a marriage. The **Improving Communication in Your Marriage** seminar will give you new insights and skills to strengthen your marriage.

See registration form inside.

Published monthly for members & friends of
Garfield Park United Church of Christ
743 E. Pleasant Run Parkway, South Drive
Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
(317) 784-8343
www.gpucc.org

Pastor Thomas Blossom 882-4016
Associate Pastor Mark Radke 783-1087
Youth Minister Donald Young
Secretary Dana Seitz 784-8343
Editor Lesley Weidenbener

Sunday Worship Services

8:15 a.m. Early Worship

9:15 a.m. Praise Worship

9:15 a.m. Morning Mission for kids

10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

Church office hours 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Mon-Fri

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. Postage
P A I D
Indianapolis, Indiana
PERMIT #3104

OCTOBER 2009

*Bible studies listed
in italics. See below
for information.*

Sunday Worship Schedule
8:15 a.m. Early Worship
9:15 a.m. Praise Worship
10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

For KIDS on Sundays
9:15 a.m. Morning Mission
10:30 a.m. Jesus'sSpace.com
(after Children's Message)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p>Bible Study Information Renew Bible Study, open to new members, call Susan 882-4016 Men's Accountability Group, closed, call Mark 783-1087 Men's Study, open to new members, meets in the brick house, call Terry Miller Prayer Group, meets at agreed upon times, call Louella Ladies' Bible Study, open to new members, call Lisa Johnson</p>					1	2	3
<p>4 Communion Christian Ed Board, after 3rd service 5 pm All-church conversation on changes in Sunday morning schedule 6 pm Eclipse 3d</p>	5	6 <i>6:30 pm Men's Study</i>	7 10:10 am Tutoring at School 34 6 pm Ministry Alive 6:30 pm NA meeting 7 pm Choir practice	8 <i>7 pm Ladies' Bible Study</i> 7 pm Church Council Call Terry 881-8807	9 All- Church Retreat McCormick's Creek SP	10 All- Church Retreat McCormick's Creek SP	
11 All- Church Retreat McCormick's Creek SP	12 Noon - Young at Heart <i>7:30 pm Renew Bible Study</i>	13 <i>6:30 pm Men's Accountability Group</i>	14 10:10 am Tutoring at School 34 6:30 pm NA meeting 7 pm Choir practice	15 6:30 pm Spiritual Council	16	17 6 pm Soup Fun(d) Supper	
18 Crop Walk—Call Don Young	19 <i>7:30 pm Renew Bible Study</i>	20 <i>6:30 pm Men's Study</i>	21 10:10 am Tutoring at School 34 6:30 pm NA meeting 7 pm Choir practice	22 <i>7 pm Ladies' Bible Study</i>	23	24	
25	26 <i>7:30 pm Renew Bible Study</i>	27	28 10:10 am Tutoring at School 34 6:30 pm Life Together mtg 6:30 pm NA meeting 7 pm Choir practice	29	30	31	