



# Immanuel United Methodist Church

401 W Fond du Lac Street  
Ripon, WI 54971

*open hearts... open minds... open doors...*

the people of the United Methodist Church

**Rev. Paul Nulton, Senior Pastor**

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.

Telephone: (920) 748-6695 FAX: (920) 748-7572

E-mail address: [riponumc@dotnet.com](mailto:riponumc@dotnet.com)

Website address: [www.riponumc.org](http://www.riponumc.org)

Rev. Nulton's cell phone number (920) 202-4420

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Traditional Worship Service: 8:00 a.m.

Sunday School/Coffee Hour: 9:15 a.m.

More Contemporary Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

### **WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINNING APRIL 11**

Soup and Sandwich Supper 5:00 p.m.

Praise 1 Service 5:30 pm

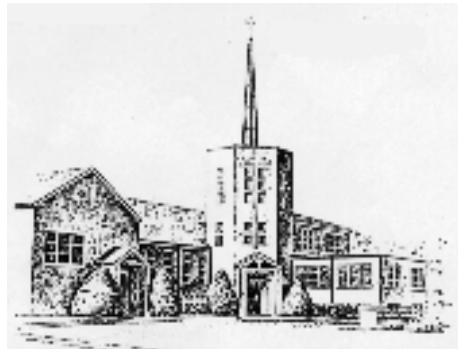
Praise 2 Service 6:30 pm

**The mission of Immanuel United Methodist Church is making  
and being disciples for  
Jesus Christ.**

### **April newsletter**

This newsletter is for the family and friends of the IUM Church of Ripon, WI.

Everyone is welcome to worship and/or join this church. If this is your first time here, we hope that you enjoyed your time worshipping with us and will come back again soon.



The deadline for the May newsletter is **\*\*April 20\*\***

## **Up Front**

At Christmas I sang of "This World That He Sees". Only after resurrection can we see it as Jesus sees it. He defeated death by dying. He won by losing. Suffering and evil are not the last word. Resurrection is. So Christians have the last laugh. Here is a poem I like:

Let's celebrate Easter with the rite of laughter.  
Christ died and rose and lives.  
Laugh like a woman who holds her first baby.

Our enemy death will soon be destroyed.  
Laugh like a man who finds he doesn't have cancer  
or he does but now there's a cure.

Christ opened wide the door of heaven.  
Laugh like children at Disneyland's gates.

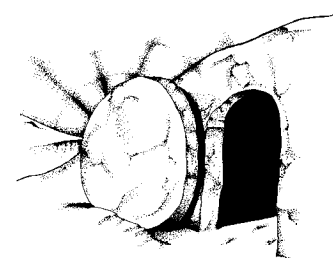
This world is owned by God and He'll return to rule.  
Laugh like a man who walks away uninjured from a  
wreck in which his car was totaled.

Laugh as if all the people in the whole world were  
invited to a picnic and then invite them.

Joseph Bayly in Psalms of My Life

See you in church on Easter.

Rev. Nulton



## Youth News

We are excited to share that The Senior High Mission Trip has been scheduled for August 5-10, 2007! The trip is organized by Youth Works ([www.youthworks.com](http://www.youthworks.com)) and is located in downtown Chicago. This will be an incredible opportunity for our Sr. High Youth to serve in soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and an inner city daycare. A great way to truly appreciate the lives we have. The cost is \$258 per youth with a \$50 deposit due by March 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Middle School and Sr. High Youth had a wonderful opportunity to serve by hosting an Easter Egg Hunt Sunday March 25<sup>th</sup> for children Pre-Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. It was a fun time for all. Two weeks later, on Easter Sunday, the youth will participate in the Sunrise Service and serve breakfast in the church fellowship hall following the service. Please join us for these events!

Our Middle School and Sr. High Youth have formed a Relay for Life Team again this year and will be participating in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life April 20-21. Our youth are seeking sponsorships for their participation. Please do your part for the fight against cancer by donating to this incredible event!

Ripon Youth Connection (a partnership of local churches) sponsored a Sr. High Lock- In Friday March 9<sup>th</sup> and were thrilled that 68 high school students joined in the fun! On Sunday, March 18, we had 24 people bowl at Plaza Bowl for our second annual church family bowling event. It was a great time of fellowship and fun!

As always, the Senior High Youth meet on Wednesday evenings at Shannon Rogers house and the Middle School Youth meet on Wednesday evenings at church.

### ***Blessed through the lives of Youth-***

Krista Sperger and Shannon Rogers  
Middle School and Sr. High Youth Coordinators

## From the Sunday School Superintendent

### **MISSION PROJECT**

#### *Heifer Project International*

Heifer Project calendars and ark banks were distributed to the Sunday School classes on January 28. Each student is encouraged to follow the instructions noted each day of the week and place that respective amount of money in the ark. On April 1, all money will be collected, and sent to Heifer Project International.

The ultimate collection would be \$5,000, which would purchase an entire ark of animals that would be given to deserving families all over the world!

Additional calendars and banks have been placed on a table in the narthex, please help yourself and follow along, just as the Sunday School students. A large glass fish bowl has been placed on a table in the narthex to place all the loose change that is collecting on the bottom of your purse or weighing down your pockets! I challenge each one of you to fill up an ark and collectively, let's fill up the fish bowl.

### **TEACHER'S MEETING**

A teachers meeting was held on Thursday, March 15, 2007 with seven teachers, helpers and substitutes present. We reviewed the current Mission Projects that donations were presented to in 2006. It was decided to reduce the number for the 2007-2008 "school year" and really focus on them. Information will be presented at the beginning of Sunday School this fall.

We also had a wonderful discussion on the main reason students come back to Sunday School, which is the teachers. The second bonus is the lesson. Those present each shared the special traits they felt each student liked about them.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGING SCHEDULE**

The children in Nursery through Fourth grade will be singing one last time at the 10:30 AM church service on April 29<sup>th</sup>. They will be singing songs that are sung during the opening of Sunday School each week.

Please mark your calendars and make sure your child is adding to the size of our choir. I would love to be able to increase the number of children that sing at the church service.

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Our VBS theme this year is "Great Bible Reef, Diving into God's Word!" It will be held June 18<sup>th</sup> through June 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 6PM to 8PM at church.

I already have several individuals who are willing to assist, which is very exciting! Someone has volunteered to co-coordinate, however would like someone else to co-coordinate as well. We also have our music leader!

Currently we still need someone to team teach, make snacks, assist with projects, and lead activities.

Please let me know if you would like to look over the material, or better yet, if you are interested in filling one of the roles noted above. Thanks so much for considering!

Dates to mark on your calendars:

April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Hand in Heifer Project Arks
April 29 <sup>th</sup>	Students (nursery-4 <sup>th</sup> grade) sing at 10:30 service
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Attendance Awards, Confirmation Certificates and Teacher Recognition at 10:30 service.
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of Sunday School until fall
June 18 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup>	Vacation Bible School

Deb Kaiser  
Sunday School Superintendent

## **Invitation to Baptism April 7**

As part of her declaration of faith in Christ, Emily Johnson will be baptized by immersion at the Ripon College pool on Saturday, April 7. All who want to celebrate with Emily are invited to witness this joyful event. We will gather at the Physical Education building on campus at 11:00 am. It is the same building with the college gymnasium, on the south side of the parking lot where Thorne Street and Union Streets meet.

## **Confirmation**

Rev. Nulton has been meeting with a confirmation class of six 9<sup>th</sup> grade Immanuel Church people. They have each made a commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. They will be confirmed in their faith on Sunday, April 22 at the 10:30 am worship service. The six confirmands are Christina Felix, Amanda Himebaugh, Ashley Himebaugh, Emily Johnson, Rachel Schulz, and Tom Zimdars.

## **Building Committee**

A committee has been meeting since February to move toward a plan for an elevator. It is trying to add or change space for a more efficient area of meeting and greeting before worship services, for another restroom on the first floor and rearranged offices. After meeting with Ric Olson of the Conference office, the committee is looking for a plan that will place an elevator and more greeting space in place of the present west entrance to the parking lot. All ideas for elevator access are still on the table. The committee is Chris Worrall, Emily Sensenbrenner, Eric ratering, Rick Erdmann, Rev. Nulton and Dick Stellmacher.

## Heritage Emphasis April 29

2007 is the 50-year anniversary of Immanuel Church's building. The previous building was torn down and the Immanuel Evangelical United Brethren Church built this building on the same sight. We will see the pictures, remember the people and celebrate our building on Sunday, April 29.



### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY...

led by Rik Ridders on Wednesdays, will meet weekly from noon to 1:00 pm at Ripon College. For more information, contact Rik at 748-6111(work) or 748-3185 (home)

### Staff of IUM Church

Senior Pastor	Rev. Paul Nulton
Administrative Assistant	Carol Schwark
Equipping Ministries Director	Roger Kindschi
Senior High Youth Director	Shannon Rogers
Middle School Youth Director	Krista Sperger
Visitation Ministries	Patti Quinn
College Ministry Coordinator:	Chris Rydz
Organist	Gen Stellmacher
Choir Director	Shelley Nulton
Custodian	Stan Brink

## A Fishing Experience with Daryl Christensen

On April 21<sup>st</sup> from 3:30pm – 8:00pm the United Methodist men from Immanuel will be hosting a special event with Daryl Christensen, a pro fisherman, for the men and male middle and high school students of our church, our circuit and the Ripon area.



Daryl is on the Professional Walleye Trail and is considered the spiritual advisor to many of the anglers as well as the staff. He chairs the meetings of the Fellowship of Christian Anglers Society, a group of Christian fishermen who attend each tournament and gather for spiritual strengthening during the tournament week.

As an author and writer, Daryl shares his belief in Christ in his book, "Journal of a Walleye Pro". His newest book, "Fishin' With a Mission," relates 29 outdoor experiences with a spiritual correlation that is ideal for men's Bible study or small group ministry. Daryl will have these books available for sale during our time together.

We will start out our time together with a casting competition, then attend a workshop by Daryl titled "Walleye Fishing Basics". We will then share together in a meal catered by CJ's. After dinner we will go upstairs for a time of worship and again hear from Daryl.

The cost of this event is \$10.00 and the sign up sheet for this event will be in the church office. Additional information about Daryl and this event will be found on the poster's, posted throughout the church. The deadline for signing up and paying the \$10.00 is Tuesday April 17<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 1-800-725-5276. Ministering together, Roger Kindschi

## Praise 2 Bible Study: April 11 – May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Starting Wednesday April 11<sup>th</sup> we will continue our Praise II Bible Study on Wednesday nights from 6:30 – 7:30pm in the Church Lounge. We will be studying (verse by verse) the events following the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the establishment of the church and compare the church established by the disciples of Jesus Christ and the church we see on 2007. If you have any questions about this upcoming study please contact Roger Kindschi at 1-800-725-5276.

- April 11<sup>th</sup> -John 20
  - Jesus Rises from the Dead
  - Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene
  - Jesus appears to His Disciples
  - Jesus Appears to Thomas
  
- April 18<sup>th</sup> - John 21
  - Jesus appears to seven disciples
  - Jesus challenges Peter
  
- April 25<sup>th</sup> – Matthew 28:16-20
  - Great Commission
  
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Luke 24:13-53
  - Jesus appears to the disciples in Jerusalem
  - Jesus ascends into heaven
  
- May 9<sup>th</sup> – Establishment of the Church Part I: Acts 1 & 2
  
- May 16<sup>th</sup> - Establishment of the Church Part II: Acts 3 & 4
  
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> - Establishment of the Church Part III: Acts 5 & 6

Studying together,  
Roger Kindschi

## April Sunday Worship Volunteers

### USHERS-Coordinator, Mike Wuest

8:00

10:30

<b>April 1</b>	Gary Page, Jay Page Dennis Page, Peter Page	Phyllis Huggett, Joan Volbright Bob & Pat Henning
<b>April 8</b>	Mike & Janice Dickerson Dick & Barb Stellmacher	Barb Steele & Richard Thiel Bob & Cheryl Schrader
<b>April 15</b>	Alice Uecker, Mary Ellen Grahn Chet & Ardys Fenner	Greta Aberg, Carol Thome Jason & Beth Pugh
<b>April 22</b>	Lee & Linda Stellmacher Randy & Gwen Steffen	Dennis & Marilyn Keplin Shannon Rogers, Stan Brink
<b>April 29</b>	Steve & Kim Michaelson Dave & Kathy Daye	Senior High Youth

### COFFEE HOUR-Coordinator, Kathy Hilscher

*Between services*

**8:00 Set-Up**

**10:15 Clean Up**

<b>April 1</b>	Pat & Nancy Himebaugh	Pat & Nancy Himebaugh
<b>April 8</b>	Kathy Hilscher	Kathy Hilscher
<b>April 15</b>	Deb Kaiser	Deb Kaiser
<b>April 22</b>	Jason & Beth Pugh	Phyllis Huggett
<b>April 29</b>	Kathy Hilscher	Kathy Hilscher

### The Worship Committee is grateful for your help.

#### **Attention Parents:**

At this time, we do not have nursery service during either service. Please feel free to use one of the quiet bags available in the foyer. **Or** You may also sit in the lounge with your child and listen to the service, as there are toys in the southeast corner of the lounge. ☺ ☺

## April Sponsors

### ALTAR FLOWERS - \$12

April 1 DeForest & Joyce Bandt  
 April 8 Tim & Sandy Page  
 April 15 Greg & Barb Tress  
 April 22 Bryan Kautzer  
 April 29 Open

### BULLETINS - \$10

DeForest & Joyce Bandt  
 Andy & Darlene Witkowski  
 Open  
 Open  
 Open

### RADIO BROADCAST - \$50

April 1 DeForest & Joyce Bandt  
 April 8 Felicia Marquart  
 April 15 Ilah Morgan  
 April 22 Gary, Suzanne, & Jason Smith  
 April 29 Herbert & Alice Buchholz

2007 sign up sheets to sponsor all items above have been posted on the bulletin board between the coatroom and restroom on the main floor. Please sign up today!

### Radio Broadcast

*Our Sunday 8:00 am service broadcast is on WRPN Radio, 1600 AM, at 9:30 am every Sunday.*

### ACOLYTES-Coordinator, Carol Schwark

#### 8:00

**April 1** Amanda Himebaugh  
 Ashley Himebaugh

#### 10:30

Brad Arnold  
 Hunter Gellings

**April 8** Melissa Smit  
 Trevor Bender

Allie Hughes  
 Amy Lauber

**April 15** Kyle Erdmann  
 Brendan Conlon

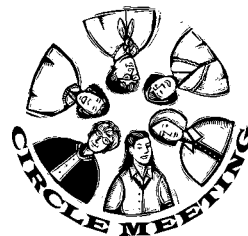
Megan Sperger  
 Crissi Felix

**April 22** Emily Johnson  
 Kimi Kernen

Colby Schultz  
 Hunter Gellings

**April 29** Amanda Page  
 Marlie Page

Tom Zimdars  
 Emily Grahn



The **Priscilla Circle** will meet at the church on Monday April 9th at 7:00 pm. The leader will be Anita Keplin and the hostess will be Carol Meyer.

The **Merry Friends Circle** will meet April 10 at noon (12:00 pm) to clean the east side of the kitchen. Betty Eichstedt will furnish lunch. A meeting will follow with Geraldine Klingbeil as the leader.

**Koinonia Circle** will meet on Monday, April 9 at 7:00 pm at Nancy Himebaugh's home. Claudia Thom will lead the program.

### **MOTHER AND DAUGHTER BANQUET COMING SOON...**

The annual Mother and Daughter Banquet will be held in the fellowship hall on Friday, May 11<sup>TH</sup>, beginning at 6:30 pm. The meal will be catered by CJ's Catering. Mark this date on your calendar now! Come for an enjoyable evening. More detailed information will be in the May newsletter.



The April **Sing-alongs** at four Ripon care centers will take place on Tuesday, April 3rd at the following times and locations:

1:30 Michalene's  
 2:15 Maplecrest Manor  
 3:00 Fountaintainview Care Center  
 3:45 Sheltered Village

All singers are welcome. Song folders are furnished. Come help us lift the spirits of the residents!

The United Methodist Women are collecting **Baby Blankets for the In-Gathering at the Wisconsin UMC Annual Conference** in June. The blankets will go to needy women in the Wisconsin Women and Infants (WIC) project, or to underdeveloped countries. The blankets may be crochet, knit, fleece or quilted. They may be handmade or purchased. The size is approximately 36" corner to corner. You may write a prayer on a 3 X 5 card and enclose it in a Ziploc bag with the blanket. We are asking you to also enclose a donation of \$1 per blanket to cover the cost of shipping. A box for your donation is located in the north foyer coatroom (by the Christian service Room). Deadline for donations is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Holy Week

### **Maundy Thursday, April 5**

6:00 am to 6:00 pm Prayer Vigil in the sanctuary.  
6:30 pm – Maundy Thursday Service in the sanctuary

### **Good Friday, April 6**

1:00 pm - Five Ripon churches join together for a Union Service at Grace Lutheran Church

### **Easter Sunday, April 8**

Sunrise Service 6:30 am  
Breakfast 7:00 am  
Traditional Worship 8:00 am  
Sunday School 9:15 am  
More Contemporary Worship 10:30 am

## **Thank You's**

A special thank you to Rev. Nulton for his prayers and visits during my recent hospital stay. Also, thanks to everyone who visited me, called and sent cards. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated.

Sincerely,  
*Ray Harms*

**Thank you** to the **Priscilla Circle** for your visit to Hilltop Manor and for your musical program. It was uplifting and much appreciated. Also, thank you for the beautiful blooming plants you left for us. They make everything so cheerful.

*The Residents of Hilltop Manor*

## **A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE**

*Giving means setting priorities.* "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's."

*(Mark 12:13, NRSV)*

April is tax time. It is the one time of the year when we sit down in our house and add up everything we gave to the church and other charities and everything we paid in taxes. In the midst of this process we often long for the day when we're beyond tuition payments, etc., etc., and we can give as much to the church as we pay in taxes!

Cordell Hull, the author of the first Federal Income Tax Bill, stated in his remarks to the House of Representatives in 1913, that every citizen should be willing to devote a brief time during at least one day a year, to making up a list of their income for taxes ... to contribute to the Government, "*not the scriptural tithe,*" but a small percentage of his or her net profits.

When Americans filed the first Form 1040 in 1914, no one owed tax if they earned less than \$3,000 (\$4,000 if married). Today those numbers would be \$61,333 for those who are single and \$81,177 for those who are married and filing jointly. No wonder Mr. Hull states that the amount he envisioned Americans might pay in taxes each year would not compare to our scriptural tithe! He was an Episcopalian lay member who believed in giving 10 percent to the work and ministry of the church. His income tax legislation required a much smaller percentage be given to taxes for the common good.

Even though taxes today are much higher than Judge Hull ever imagined, scripture still says, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what is God's." However, I wonder what might happen if we gave a tithe - or 10% -- of our refunds to the work and ministry of Christ. And I dream of the day when we might set our priorities so that our gifts to the church are equal to what we pay in income taxes.

*-Jean Ehnert Nicolas*

**Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation**  
**750 Windsor Street Suite 305, P.O. Box 620,**  
**Sun Prairie, WI 53590**  
**1-888-903-9863 or wumf@wumf.org**

## Baptism

Worship on Sunday, March 18 included the baptism of Leah Marie Page. She was born to Peter and Renee (VanderZanden) Page on Dec. 14, 2006. She is the granddaughter of Gary and Jane Page. Her sponsors are Matthew VanderZanden and Jessica Page.

## Our Sympathy goes out to:

The family and friends of **Doris Smith** who passed away on March 4. She is the aunt of Rosemary Zimdars and Cheryl (Robert)

The family and friends of **John Kwakkel** who passed away at work on March 15. He is the son of Rosemary Kwakkel.

The family and friends of former Ripon resident **Wilma "Tootsie" (Stellmacher) Kohlhardt**, who passed away on March 18 in Madison after suffering a massive stroke while attending a hymn sing with her friend Emilie Siegmann.

The family and friends of **Frieda Wagener**, age 99, who passed away on March 21. She is the sister-in-law of Y'Vonne Kelm.

**Immanuel United Methodist Foundation** will meet on Tuesday, April 17 at 6:30 pm in the Disciple Room at church. Please note the time change for this meeting.

## Kingston and Dalton

Immanuel Church has been overseeing and supporting the ministry of Kingston United Methodist Church for years, many times finding a pastor for them.

Rev. Nulton and Laura Yates have been leading a confirmation class of ten 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> graders of the Kingston UMC, Dalton Congregational church, and Brandon UMC. Rev. Yates is the pastor at Brandon. The confirmation day is April 15 and Rev. Nulton will be there at the Kingston and Dalton churches that day.

As of the first of this year, Brenda Grams has been the part-time pastor at the Kingston and Dalton churches. They have been meeting together for worship this winter, and have returned to separate services in April. Pastor Grams lives near here in Ripon, and works part-time in Oshkosh. Her husband runs the hardware store in Markesan. She was lay leader at the Brandon UMC and now is well received by Kingston and Dalton churches, leading their worship services on Sundays.

## Food Pantry

As an Outreach Project to our community, we continue to donate items to our local Food Pantry. We ask that you bring the following items as these items are in low supply at this time.

**In April bring:** cake mix, cookie mix, muffin mix, tuna, salmon, canned tomato products, laundry detergent, bar soap, shampoo, chocolate milk powder, powdered milk, canned spaghetti, macaroni. Please place your donations in the shopping cart that is located on the main floor in the west (parking lot entrance) stairwell.

## Relay for Life

On **April 14<sup>th</sup>** we will be taking a special offering for **Relay for Life**. Some of our youth, our youth directors and Rev. Nulton will be participating as a team in the overnight event, which will be held April 20-21 at Ripon High School. Each team participant is asked to raise flat donations (not pledges per lap). If you would like to join our team, please call the church office. Relay for Life is a community event designed by the American Cancer Society to raise money for research and programs, draw awareness to the deadly disease, educate people on how to prevent and detect cancer when possible, and celebrate the lives of those who have won the battle against one of America's top killers. There will be information about the American Cancer Society's educational programs, research, patient services and advocacy efforts at the event. Please consider giving to this worthy cause, as this disease at one time or another has affected everyone's life.

One of the ways we can raise money is through donated items that will be used for the **Silent Auction** the night of the Relay for Life Event. We would Welcome ANY items such as a hand made quilt, pillows, knitted items, works of art, business gift certificates, themed baskets, etc... Anything that some one might bid on in a Silent Auction. If you have an item that you would like to donate, please contact Shannon Rogers at 745-2924 or Krista Sperger. Thank you in advance for your support for this amazing cause!!!

**St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Parish** will have it's **annual Italianfest** at their parish hall and activity center at 218 Blossom Street in Ripon, on Sunday, April 29, 2007, beginning at 11:00 am. Featured is a homemade Lasagna and Spaghetti Dinner, catered by CJ's Catering. Cost of the dinner is \$8.00 for adults, \$7.00 for Seniors age 65 and over, and \$4.00 for children under age 12. Entertainment will be provided by, comic juggler and balloon artist, Dan Kirk. Also included is a live auction beginning at 2:00 pm. Tickets for the dinner are available at Flowers by David, Pete's Liquor, Ripon Drug, M & I Bank, at St. Catherine of Siena Church Office, and at the door.

A **six week grief group** entitled "**A Time to Mourn**" is being offered by Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh, in cooperation with Affinity Health System, Affinity Home Health & Hospice – Ministry Health, and Evergreen Retirement Community. The group will be co-led by professionals trained in grief support and is designed for those who have lost an adult loved one through death. There is no charge for these sessions, but pre-registration is required. Sessions will be held on Monday evenings, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, from April 16 – May 21. For more information and pre-registration, please call (920)232-5274.

**Visit Evergreen Village for an Open House** on Tuesday, April 17 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at 1010 N. Westfield Street, Oshkosh, WI. These spacious homes are ideal for independent individuals or couples 55 years or older. One-level living with one or two bedrooms, sunroom, laundry area, attached garage, and storage space. Includes seven meals per month, aquatic and fitness opportunities, personal emergency response system, and more. Contact Allen Borgwardt at (920)237-2122 for more information.

## **Maundy Thursday's Prayer Vigil – April 5<sup>th</sup>**

For a number of weeks we have been promoting the sign up of our Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil. We would like each of you to pray fully consider participating in this prayer ministry opportunity. As you sense the leading of the Holy Spirit to participate in this "time with God" in our sanctuary, please e-mail ([riponumc@dotnet.com](mailto:riponumc@dotnet.com)) call (748-6695) Carol Schwark at the church office or sign up after either of our worship services on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

The prayer vigil planned for Maundy Thursday will focus on the holy days that are before us, that being Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. This prayer vigil will focus our attention on the importance of prayer and a statement by our church that we are serious about prayer. When we stop merely talking about prayer and begin to do it, people will respond in ways like this: Let's get down on our knees and start praying! I know of a real need here."

Our prayer vigil will be held in the front of the Sanctuary from 6:00am to 6:00pm on Thursday April 5<sup>th</sup>. We will have the opportunity to pray for the holy days that are before us; (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter) to pray for Pastor Paul, staff, and church leaders; for our church & its ministries.

It can also be a time to meditate, read the Scriptures and praying for the people on your prayer list, and anything else that you feel God is calling us to be in prayer about.

Praying together,  
Roger Kindschi 1-800-725-5276

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Mission Project-UMCOR**

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (April – June) mission project for 2006 is giving to **UMCOR** (United Methodist Committee on Relief). Because of the need at this time, we will be designating our offerings to go to help people affected by natural disasters that happen at this time of the year, like storms and flooding. Giving to this project makes a world of difference for these people in their time of need.

## **United Methodists Plan Long-term Work in Gulf Region**

United Methodists expect to be involved in Gulf Coast hurricane recovery work at least until 2012. An overview of that work was presented to directors of the General Board of Global Ministries during the mission agency's April 3–6 meeting. As of February 28, the denomination had raised \$63.8 million, through the UM Committee on Relief, in response to the 2005 hurricane season. In addition, \$7.6 million of relief and emergency supplies were shipped from UMCOR's supply depot to the church's annual conferences in the Gulf region. UMCOR has nearly completed the relief phase of its operations on the Gulf Coast, reported Bishop Edward Paup (Seattle Area), president of UMCOR's board of directors. The long-term recovery phase will begin April 17 and is projected to continue until January 2012. Thirty to forty percent of UM gifts provide for direct aid, such as payments for rent, utilities, and childcare. Trained case managers assist with family-by-family problem solving. As of Feb. 1, some \$6.5 million already had been spent by UMCOR for hurricane assistance. During the spring meeting, UMCOR directors approved \$52.3 million to support recovery work in a seven-state area devastated last year by multiple hurricanes. Direct assistance was the largest category in each budget submitted by annual conferences.

— Linda Bloom (United Methodist News Service)