



# The Tidings

APRIL 2015

## Ministerial Moments

On March 5 the Spiritual Council met and in the process of re-viewing the church service asked why on Communion Sundays we place the Passing of the Peace where we do as this person finds it disruptive to the service. When I first came here we had the Passing of the Peace during the service every Sunday and someone at that time expressed the same feeling. After moving it to the end of the service, I then had someone complain that that was the only time they got to see some people. I checked the different liturgies (orders of worship) I had and found that the Passing of the Peace is supposed to be a “putting oneself in right relationship with others” after putting oneself in right relationship with God. Because it best fit our Communion Sundays’ liturgy, my compromise was that the Passing of the Peace would be part of the communion liturgy, but the other 3-4 Sundays of the month would be at the end of the service.

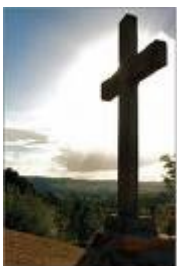
Recently, however, I have read some blogs that have called the Passing of the Peace into question. One reason is that quite often visitors feel left out while the congregation goes about talking to the people they know. The other problem, which is the one that we have, is that quite often the Passing of the Peace becomes the church equivalent of the 7<sup>th</sup> Inning stretch.

Putting all of this into consideration I decided to put the question to the pastors of a Small Church Pastors’ Facebook page I belong to and see what their churches are practicing. Some didn’t even know what I was talking about. Some say their services include a 3-5 minute “Meet and Greet” which in one church even included coffee, while other churches more like ours had a long tradition of “Passing the Peace”. From the information I gleaned from those pastors who have “Passing the Peace” most like ours, it appears that one of the problems may be where I have placed it in the service. The liturgical introduction used to read “So if you are about to offer your gift to God at the altar and there remember that your sister or brother has something against you, leave your gift in front of the altar. Go at once and make peace with your brother or sister, and then come back and offer your gift.” As such, it fits right before the offering, where it currently is.

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## Mother-Daughter Tea

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The Mother/Daughter Tea will be held on Monday, May 4, 2015 at 6:30 pm. Entertainment by Ken Terveer. Refreshments will include a variety of salads and drinks.



## Adult Bible Study - April 16 @ 7 pm

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Last fall one of our members asked for a new, possibly basic, Bible study to be added sometime other than Sunday mornings. We have decided to have a get-together on Thursday, April 16 at 7:00PM. This is just a get together to find out what people would like to study; some ideas have been grief, forgiveness, or specific areas of the Bible. We will also decide the time, day, and how often we will get together. If you are interested but cannot make the above meeting, please call me and let me know you are interested and what time would work best for you.

## Greeter and Ushers for April and May

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April 5: Easter - Church Council

April 12: Kay Trotter, Mike Trotter, Carol Mayfield

April 19: Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Dale Sinn

April 26: Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Kevin McDonald

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May 3: Linda Jones, Tim Campbell

May 10: Mother's Day - Evangelical Daughters

May 17: Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Curt Werner

May 24: Ruby Lehman, Todd Erb, Ruth Erb

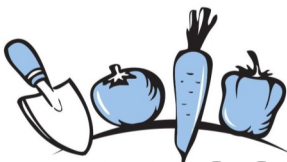
May 31: Ruby Lheman, Todd Erb, Ruth Erb

## Food Pantry and Community Garden News

The Food Pantry is so over-stuffed that we have been able to add a new time for people to pick up food and change one of the restrictions. Beginning in April, the pantry will be open on the fourth Tues. of the month from 6-8PM. In addition, we will be able to give food out once a month instead of just two times in three months as previously was done. Many thanks to all who have contributed and if you know a Marissa business or person who has helped out, please pass our thanks along to them.



Food Pantry Ministry



**MARISSA**  
COMMUNITY GARDEN

It also appears that the Village's long talked about community garden is coming about. In addition to the \$2000 grant we received from UCC Neighbors in Need, the village has secured a \$1000 grant from St. Clair County. The plan as I understand it is that the 8ft. x 4ft. plots will be tended by community groups with the fresh produce going to the food pantry. Several people and groups have expressed interest. This garden will be open to anyone who wants to work. Please pass the word along, plus, if you have gardening tools you are no longer using which you would like to donate, we would appreciate it.

## April Birthdays

Ken Fitch	2
Mike Raban	3
Savanah Sinn	5
Kay Trotter	7
Betty Bollmeier	8
Eli Schmierbach	10
Sandy Triefenbach	11
Jeremy Dressel	15
Allison Curry	15
Karen Bearley	17
Danielle Sigman	18
Joyce Fitch	26
Melinda Schneidewind	30



## April Anniversaries

Irving & Mabel Schickedanz	23
Milton & Blanche Schmierbach	29

## Ministerial Moments Continued

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The current wording we use is: "Let us now, in this new moment, come together and share the peace which Jesus made possible: the peace of Christ. Peace be with you". According to the new information I have received this wording could be placed immediately after the Confession, Pardon and Gloria while everyone is still standing and before the children's message. This may flow a little better and would make sense in that after making our relationship right with God, we then make our relationships right with each other.

Of course, the third option is that the Passing of the Peace be moved to the end of the service as it is every other week. I am also aware that some of you prefer not to shake hands or hug, especially during cold and flu season and I ask that everyone be considerate of other people's wishes in the matter.

At this time, I ask for your opinions regarding the Passing of the Peace. There should be a piece of paper somewhere in this Tidings that you can tear off and mark your preference as to whether it be 1. Moved earlier in the service. 2. Kept where it is. 3. Moved to the end of the service like the other weeks of the month. Ballots may be mailed in or placed in the suggestion box. I will need at least 15 votes by April 19 (next Tidings deadline) to be able to make a change in the May Communion service.

Blessings,  
Pastor Gail



### PASSING THE PEACE BALLOT

- Move the Passing of the Peace to immediately after the Confession and Pardon early in the service.**
- Leave the Passing of the Peace where it is, before the offering**
- Move the Passing of the Peace to the end of the service like it is every other week.**

## Comments from the Church Mouse

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My nose was twitching and my whiskers were twirling from the wonderful smells emanating from the Fellowship Hall of our church on Saturday, March 21, 2015. It was our spring Wurstmarkt, and it was a record breaker.



Near the end of the Wurstmarkt, I peeked over Kay Trotter's tickets when she was straightening out all the money on the table in the entrance and saw ticket number 555, and that was before we had more people and before some of the workers came who hadn't bought a ticket. Kay and Carol Mercer estimated that the church had fed at least 570 people.

Oh, and there were so many compliments. And guess what else was great about the event? There were plenty of tidbits left for me. My hidey holes are nicely furnished with goodies. As careful as Linda Jones and Kathleen Robert were with pie crusts, they still left a few crumbs. Our church ladies do make good desserts. Nice volunteers like Lindsey Lehman and Duane Waeltz dropped a few choice morsels for me, too.

Evelyn Schneidewind didn't lose her cool when the flow of people increased about 4 p.m., she was a good hostess. (Even if she didn't have food for me.)

I noticed that some of our regular workers were not able to come, but volunteers were shifted around and the work got done. That Susan Oyler and Bobbi Duffie can do anything! What workers!

Days before the event I saw Duane Waeltz putting chat on the parking lot. Oh, it was really needed. What a guy! He saw a need and did something about it. I'm sure some two legged members will remember to thank him.

Evangelical Daughters did well with their crafts and baked goods on March 21 and are now planning on the annual Mother/Daughter Tea of May 4. I don't know why they call it a tea. They have entertainment and they serve food and maybe cold tea along with lemonade. Oh, well, it is another chance for tasty scrapes for me – so I don't care what they call it.

The dart ball team continues to do well and they have good fellowship.

It will be good fellowship on April 12 when some of our folks go to eat at Du Bois. I wish I could go, too. I hear it is a special place and that they'll have good food. I'm all about eating. Can you tell?

Enjoy the spring and the earth reawakening. Also remember the new life humans get through Christ Jesus.

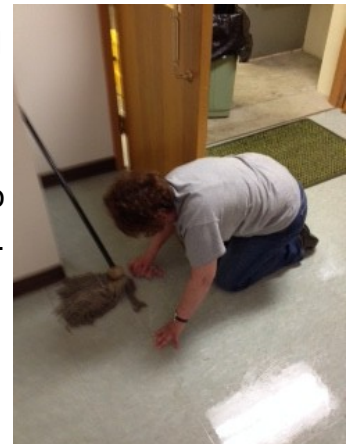
## Dartball News ! !

The Dartball Tournament was held March 22 at Addieville: This year the tournament was won by Plum Hill although Marissa took the League overall. Kevin McDonald won the 2015 Home Run Derby. Ron Geisel received his trophy for the Home Run Derby of 2014. The Dartball league is made up of teams from New Athens, Addieville, Plum Hill, and Marissa. An increasing number of women now play on the teams and I understand they have a great deal of fun

## Wurstmarkt News ! !

The March 21st Wurstmarkt was a record breaker in the number that we served - 570. It was a beautiful day and people enjoyed getting out. They enjoyed our good food even more, and a multitude of compliments were given to the German meal and the folks who made them feel so welcome. A lot of guests assured us they would be back in October. Although several of our usual workers could not be there, workers shifted around, new volunteers were found, and everything seemed to go smoothly.

Bobbi Duffie cleaning up a mess prior to opening the doors for the Wurstmarkt.



## Funds and Fellowship Outing to DuBois

Mark your calendar!!! Funds & Fellowship is having an outing to DuBois on April 12. Caravan will depart after church on that Sunday and travel to DuBois.

Tours and Activities between 12:30 and 2:30 pm. - Camp Tours, Family Fun, Pontoon Boat Rides, Horseback Rides in the arena.

Enjoy a delicious, home-cooked Sunday Dinner, served buffet-style. Spend the afternoon exploring DuBois Center or relaxing on the patio overlooking the lake.

\$10 per person, RSVP will be required. A sign up sheet will be in the entrance on Sunday or you can call Susan or Bobbi before Monday April 6th with your reservation.

# APRIL 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Choir 6:30 pm	2 Maundy Thursday –Friedens 7:00 pm	3 Good Friday	4 Easter Vigil @ St. John UCC Trenton 7 pm
5 Easter Sunrise Service @ 1st Baptist 7 am	6 Daughters Mtg 6:30 pm Pastor Gail out of office until 13	7 Spring Convo- cation @ Eden	8 Choir 7:00 pm Spring Convoca- tion @ Eden	9	10	11
12 Guest Speaker Funds & Fellow- ship Outing to DuBois	13 Pastor Gail back	14 Council Mtg @ 7:00 pm	15 Choir 7:00 pm	16 Bible Study @ 7 pm	17 Deacons Mtg 1:30 pm	18
19	20	21	22 Choir 7:00 pm	23	24	25 Tour de Tilden Bike Ride
26	27	28	29 Choir 7:00 pm	30		



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*"Through the Spirit we are  
a Church on the Move:  
Welcoming, Caring,  
Sharing."*



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