



Love God. Love Others. Serve the World.

September 2, 2010

## Ithaca - Beebe Church News

**Ithaca UMC**  
327 E. Center Street  
Ithaca, MI 48847  
989-875-4313

*Dear Friends,*

**September 12 "KICK OFF" Sunday** for Ithaca UMC ministries is just around the corner. Our children start back to school the 7th and life takes on a more disciplined routine. It is my hope and prayer that will continue to include Sunday worship and perhaps even a small group during the week for your continued growth.

**Speaking of small groups**, I am so encouraged by how many people have signed up to either continue in or begin in a small group for this upcoming study called "The Sweet Life." We will have (as this writing) 14 different groups meeting throughout the week!! If you do not have a group yet, please contact Barb Litwiller, there is still time!

**I have also heard** some important feedback regarding our next study based roughly on the book *Purpose Driven Life*, by Rick Warren. I know many of you already read and went through the study associated with this book. That is great! And his book does indeed have timeless, biblical truths in it. The core purposes Rick unpacks are critical to any healthy Body of Christ! We will **NOT** be rehashing Rick's book.

**We will be looking** at those biblical purposes from a different perspective and asking questions for reflection in our small groups. We want to look at worship, discipleship, fellowship, service and evangelism from a fresh perspective and challenge ourselves to grow in all those areas, as individual Christ-followers and as a church.

**So, please sign up if you are not already assigned to a group!**

I am looking forward to the program year!

In Christ's love and service,

*Pastor Cindi*



*"It is not for you to know  
times or seasons which the Father  
has put in His own authority."  
(Acts 1:7)*

## From The Trustees . . .

If you have a key to the church, that's great... we are glad you are involved in important ministries of the church.

But please see Dave Harger ASAP to give him your name and allow him to mark down which key you have. We need to make a master list of all those who have keys.

This is an important administrative aspect of our Trustees work.

*Thank you!*



## Mark Your Calendars

**September 5 (Sunday)** - Ithaca UMC folks don't forget to sign-up for the picture directory. Sign-up sheets will be in the lobby. Or, you can call the church office and sign-up with Mary.

**September 10 (Friday)** - Fortress Ministries Tailgate at Ithaca High School in the parking lot from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Free hot dogs, chips and pop to the first 200 students.

**September 12 (Sunday)** - Beebe UMC folks don't forget to sign-up for the picture directory. Sign-up sheets will be available at your church if needed, or you can call Mary at the church office.

**September 12 (Sunday)** - Sunday School Kick-off and The Sweet Life sermon series, small groups also begin. Hot dog roast and games immediately following worship service.

**September 17 (Friday)** - Fortress opens after Ithaca's varsity football game, 9:30 - 11:30 p.m.

**September 24 (Friday)** - Fortress speaker night with Brian Pruitt, after Ithaca's varsity football game, 9:30 - 11:30 p.m.

## Discipleship . . . Small Groups - **It's not too late!**

### Post High School Grads Are You Looking for Something MORE!

Sign up and be a part of a small group that will meet Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Facilitated by Lisa Yoder.

### Small Groups Starting

**Beginning Sept. 12 - Oct 3:** A four week small group study titled **The Sweet Life**. Looking for the sweet life . . . come and savor God with us. Touch, taste, and feel the presence of God. It's a sermon series you won't want to miss.

- *Septemter 12 - Savoring Life with God*
- *September 19 - God is With You*
- *September 24 - Like Christ*
- *October 3 - Wonderfully Made*

**Oct. 10 - Nov. 21: A Purposeful Life.** *Ever ask why you are here?* This seven week study is similar to the *Purpose Driven Life*. If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. You were born by His purpose and for His purpose. Come and see.

- *October 10 - An overview of Purpose Driven Life*
- *October 17 - Worship*
- *October 24 - Discipleship*
- *October 31 - Fellowship*
- *November 7 - Service and Mission*
- *November 14 - Evangelism*
- *November 21 - Summary*

**Sign-Up . . .** for Post High School Grads, The Sweet Life and A Purposeful Life . . . watch for the sign-up sheets that will be available the next three Sundays. For more information about small groups and if you miss the sign up sheets please contact Barb Litwiller.

## Sunday Night Service: Mark Monroe, Lay Leader

**Perhaps some of you remember** the 70's folk singer, John Denver. Most people remember him for songs like *Rocky Mountain High* and *Take Me Home, Country Roads*. One song he wrote begins :

*You fill up my senses  
Like a night in a forest,  
Like the mountains in Springtime,  
Like a walk in the rain,  
Like a storm in the desert,  
Like a sleepy blue ocean.*

*You fill up my senses.  
Come fill me again.*

**John Denver wrote that song** for his wife, Annie. But the song is a tad bittersweet for me since becoming a Christian. I find myself thankful for such poetry put to music, but sad that the songwriter never lifted his gift past earth to his Creator – the Maker of those *Rocky Mountains* and **Country Roads**. The same God who inspired ancient songwriters to pen the following:

*Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!  
And . . .  
As a deer pants for flowing streams,  
so pants my soul for you, O God.*

**So this fall while we're learning** of "The Sweet Life" during morning worship, we'll be entering into a sermon series for Sunday Evening called: A Feast for the Senses – The God of Sight, Sound, Touch, Taste, and Smell. Together we'll explore the following:

- **SEPT 12:** *Truly Seeing for the First Time* – 2 Cor 4:3-6
- **SEPT 19:** *Faith Comes by Hearing* – Romans 10:10-17
- **SEPT 26:** *The Touch of the Master's Hand* – Matthew 8:1-4
- **OCT 3:** *The Taste of Sweet Communion* – Selected verses from John 6
- **OCT 10:** *Broken and Spilled Out – Spreading Everywhere His Fragrance* – Selected Scriptures.

**I am really looking forward** to where God will take me in times of study and preparation and all of us as we allow the Living God to fill up our senses with life –changing truth. So come out and join us as we seek to experience God with all five senses. Services are 7:30 pm in the sanctuary.

**Yours in His Service,  
Mark**



## Discipleship . . . Fortress Ministries

Greetings in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

### *Fortress Update . . .*

**Opening night of Fortress is two-weeks away! And I am excited.**

**To date we have 29 volunteers** that have taken Fortress volunteer training. That's awesome, but there is still a need for more volunteers! Our next training, before **FORTRESS** opens, is **NEXT TUESDAY September 7, 6:30 p.m. at the church.**

**If you want to help** out with this vital ministry to our community of teens please talk with me about it! **We need you!!!**

**Blessings to you all,  
Jerry Hamm**

For more information about Fortress contact Jerry at [jhamm10@hotmail.com](mailto:jhamm10@hotmail.com)

## Our Christian Hope

**“Christian hope** involves more than a sunny, cheerful attitude. It is more than a general kind of optimism. It is more than hope in hope, or faith in faith.

**Christian hope** is tied to the goal of history and the purpose of each person's existence. It is the unshakeable confidence of the sovereignty of God and God's eventual triumph over all the forces that stand against truth, righteousness, faithfulness, love and mercy.

**And in the great contest** between good and evil, Christian hope declares God as winner. . . . Christ is the hope not only in the world to come; he is the hope of the world right now!”

—*Oswald Bronson*

## Attention Men . . .

*(Good Voices Optional)*

**Are you interested in singing in Men's Chorus?**

Please come to a meeting in the sanctuary on Sunday, Sept. 7th following the service.

If you like to sing, even if it is behind closed doors, please come.

Do you have any questions? Can you not make the meeting but still have an interest?

**Contact either Mark Monroe or Keegan Hartman** to let them know of your interest in singing with this wonderful group of men.

*Make a joyful noise!*

If you would like to receive this newsletter by e-mail  
contact - [ksweller@yahoo.com](mailto:ksweller@yahoo.com)