



The mission of  
Temecula UMC  
Community

*We seek to shepherd all  
To worship God  
To follow Jesus Christ  
And grow in faith  
Through the Holy Spirit*

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Pastor Emeritus  
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November, 2008  
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TUMC  
42690 Margarita Road  
Temecula CA 92592

# Temecula United Methodist Church

# THE MESSENGER

**November, 2008**

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## *Living on the Inside or Outside of Grace*

By Pastor Randy Johnson

“For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” Matthew 6:14.

Gospel Parallel: Mark 11:25 “Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.”

The Tuesday morning women’s Bible study recently had quite a discussion on Matthew 6:14 because it seemed to contradict God’s grace. They asked for my response and I am including it in the Messenger because it also seems timely as we move towards Thanksgiving and the “season of gratitude.”

When we pray, we tend to be praying to God as external to ourselves, some “other” somewhere else (in heaven). Yet, we all affirm that God is present everywhere and that includes inside of us or at the very least “with us.” If we primarily relate to God in prayer as external to ourselves, Matthew 6:14-15 appears to say that our human experience of forgiving or withholding forgiveness has consequences. It almost seems that our ability to be forgiven by God depends on how well we forgive others. In fact, it feels like God’s forgiveness for ourselves even depends on our own forgiving of others. If we do not forgive, then God will not forgive us. Does God’s forgiveness of us really depend on the human activity of forgiving others? This certainly does not seem to make sense or seem especially “grace filled.” In fact, it feels like God’s action of forgiving depends more on us than it does on God!

When we pray to God aware that God is present “within” or at least “with” us, then things change. The focus of our prayer life then becomes more like a partnership with God and that power and presence simply needs to be nurtured and sustained. This feels quite different than hearing the Scripture say, “forgive or else!” When we view prayer (or life itself) as a “partnership” or a “covenant relationship” I believe this might be expressed as “living within God’s grace” or “living outside of God’s grace.”

When we “live within grace” and experience forgiveness, we accept that we are accepted and forgiven by God. God is already active granting forgiveness to us. Living within that understanding enables us, if not frees us, to convey God’s grace and forgiveness to others. What we experience in Christ we can then offer to others. What we do not experience for ourselves, cannot be shared with others. We may be only going through the motions. It’s like the person who says, “I have forgiven him/her but I have not forgotten!” That’s not real forgiveness.

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***Sunday Schedule  
Worship 9:00 a.m.***

Preschool Care/infants &  
toddlers to age 4  
Traditional Sunday School  
Ages 4–11

***Worship 10:30 a.m.***

Childcare for ages 0–4  
Enrichment Church ages

4–11

Sunday School grades 6th–12th

Combined Jr. & Sr. UMYF 5:00-8:00 p.m.

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Co-Director: Sandra Hansen

Co-Director: Deb Severns

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Mary Kottman

Continued from page one

God provides us a “bridge of forgiveness” that we can walk on between ourselves, God, and others. One might say because of our relationship with God forgiveness flows “like a river,” to coin a phrase. The walk on the bridge is easy and always available. You might say God is the bridge to forgiveness. Without God, there is no bridge at all. It’s all empowered by God and outside of human experience to provide for ourselves. Notice how softer the passage is in Mark. “Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.” That Scripture emphasizes the relationship aspect with God that empowers forgiveness. The forgiveness “flows” or we have a bridge of “forgives” available. Forgiveness is a partnership and enabled by God that makes forgiveness possible for ourselves and available through us to others. That sounds more grace filled! In short, forgiveness is God’s gift and made possible only through God. We can’t do real forgiving without God.

When we live on the “outside of grace” there is blockage in our ability to both experience forgiveness and offer it. When we are living on the “outside of grace” God’s presence and power within us does not “flow” because it is cut off from the source of forgiveness, that is God. When God’s grace and forgiveness is not accepted or received by us, our own ability to forgive is impaired. Perhaps Matthew should be read more like God can not forgive us unless we forgive others rather than “Neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” Again, our ability to forgive is made available to us only by God. If we live on the “outside of God’s grace,” our own forgiveness and forgiveness of others just can’t happen. Forgiveness is only possible in God and not simply done on our own. True forgiveness is a spiritual act and not just an emotional feeling. When we forgive, God is involved too.

Our own failure or inability to forgive in any situation probably indicates that in that moment we were living “outside of grace” and the forgiveness is not being accepted or experienced by us. If we are cut off from forgiveness then it can’t be made available to others either. When that happens, we simply need to seek God’s grace once more for ourselves, experience forgiveness and acceptance, and get back “inside of grace.” God’s “river of forgiveness” never runs dry. If we are thirsty for it, God is always ready to satisfy our “thirst.” When that happens, we can offer it to others who are also “thirsty.”

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Submitted by Gloria Galvez

"Philippians" Tagalog Bible Class meets in Room 1 Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.

## Nov 2nd - "Fitting Into the Community"

Purpose: To celebrate the ways in which the diversity we have been given helps build up the body of Christ.

Bible Lesson: Ephesians 4: 1-16

Key Verse: Ephesians 4:7

## Nov 9th - "Conflict in the Community"

Purpose: To affirm that our common experience of dying and rising with Christ calls us to practice what we preach.

Bible Lesson: Galatians: 2: 11-21; 3:29

Key Verse: Galatians 3:28

## Nov 16th - "Communion with God in the Midst of Struggle"

Purpose: To explore what it means to be "of the same mind in the Lord"

Bible Lesson: Philippians 3: 17-21; 4: 1-9

Key Verse: Philippians 4:7

## Nov 23rd - "Witness of the Community"

Purpose: To accept God's calling to be faithful in enduring hardship, proclaiming the message, and performing our ministry.

Bible Lesson: 2 Timothy 2: 1-3; 4: 1-15

Key verse: 2 Timothy 2:2

## Nov 30th - "Persecution within the Community"

Purpose: To discover the reliability of God's grace and strength through encountering adverse circumstances and personal inadequacies.

Bible Lesson: 2 Corinthians 11:17, 21b-30

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 12:10

**Reminder:** The "Philippians" group will be in charge of the Liturgist, Ushers and Greeters for **November 30th** Worship Service. (5th Sunday of month)

**Tuesday Ladies' Bible Study** meets in the Youth Room at 9:30 a.m. – This group presently is on week six of "What So Amazing about Grace" by Philip Yancy. Contact Karen Benvenuto.

**Wednesday Scripture Study with Pastor Randy** meets in the Music Room at 10 a.m. Pastor Randy reads, reviews and answers your questions on the following Sunday's Scripture.

6:15 p.m. in the Youth Room Pastor Randy reads and reviews the Sunday Scripture used in Sunday school lessons for parents and others. All are welcome.

## Thursday Night Men's Bible Study

7 p.m. in the Youth Room. This group met on October 30<sup>th</sup> to make a decision re: their next study topic. Contact Milton Takeguchi.

## TUMC Book Group

*Back When We Were Grownups* by Anne Tyler will meet at the home of Diane Martinez Nov. 4, 2008.

**Thursday Yoga with Deb Potts**

When: 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday  
 Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.  
 Where: Room 1 or Celebration Hall  
 Why? Yoga Benefits:

- \*STRESS REDUCTION
- \*STRONG MUSCLES
- \*IMPROVED FLEXIBILITY
- \*HEALTHY BACK
- \*STABLE JOINTS
- \*ENHANCED CIRCULATION
- \*IMPROVED BREATHING
- \*BETTER BALANCE
- \*IMPROVED WELL-BEING

Bring: mat, block, strap, towel,  
 1 or 2 lb. weights, water

WHO? Deb Potts-M.S., R.Y.T. (200)  
 Classes are open to ALL!

**YOUTH RAMBLINGS**

Submitted by Mark McCullough

Thanksgiving is right around the corner and as Southern California feels its change in the weather (as much as the weather changes in Southern California) we feel changes in the Youth Group as well. During the last months we have had a couple of new youth join us and we are excited about the growth we are seeing in the church and youth group. Part of that change is we have had some adults that wish to work with the Youth at the 9:00 a.m. service Sunday school. We will be starting this program in November with a location to be determined.

We are planning our winter schedule right now, a trip to Disneyland is in the works as well as a youth retreat at one of the local Methodist camps. Watch the youth board in the hallway. We have had our first SSP meeting and we are planning for this summer but will not find out where we are going until after November 15th. Just a reminder that Youth Group meets on Sunday Evenings with Middle School meeting from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. and with the Senior High meeting from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. I hope to see you there. Yours in Christ. Mark

# AN EAST WEST CONNECTION

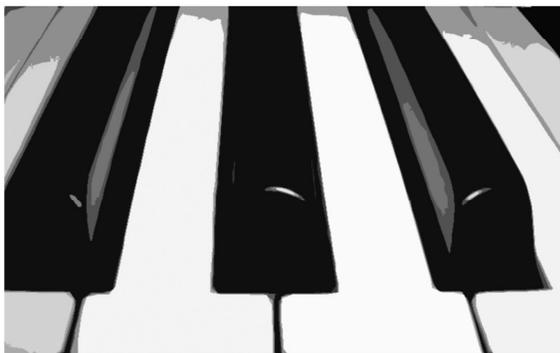
piano concert by

TICKETS \$15

*Dr. Corry Bell*

with special guest, cellist

*Kirsten Vogelsang*



November 14th, 2008 • 7:30pm

Temecula United Methodist Church

Celebration Hall

Contact Mary for tickets: 951-676-1800 x10

## *Evangelism and Membership Committee*

Submitted by Ethel Taketuchi

**Coffee with the Pastor** – Do you have questions about TUMC or Pastor Randy? On November 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. join Pastor Randy in Room 1 for some light refreshment. It's an opportunity to ask questions, tour the facility and simply to get to know the pastor in a relaxed, informal setting.

**Walk for Christ** – Join us on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> as we "Walk for Christ". We will be distributing information about TUMC Advent Season to our targeted neighborhood. Meet at church at 10 a.m. and we will carpool to the neighborhood. Sign up in the breezeway. It's great exercise and fellowship.



God, help me to take advantage of each opportunity I have to offer someone a helping hand, a kind word, a listening ear, or a pat on the back, Amen. If you or someone you know needs help please notify Pastor Randy, Joyce Little or Judy Hernandez.

## *NIGHT OF GRATITUDE*

Sponsored by Interfaith Council of Murrieta & Temecula

Come join us for a celebration of thanksgiving with expressions of gratitude offered through music and words by 17 different faiths. This is a special occasion which your entire family will enjoy!

**Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m.**

Hosted by

Temecula United Methodist Church

Donations of canned food accepted for the TVMC Pantry

## *FOOD PANTRY*

Submitted by Doris Elder

### **WE ARE MOVING**

The Bread from Heaven Food Pantry has outgrown our space and resources. We have been serving 80 to 90 families a week so it has been determined that, in order to continue to serve so many families, we need to partner with another church in the area. We have the opportunity to combine our resources with St. Catherine's Catholic Church where St. Vincent de Paul operates a food pantry. They have many resources we aren't able to access and can serve our families with our help. We will continue to collect food and monetary donations to support our mission. The food will be taken to St. Catherine's and periodically we will provide funds to their pantry. Also, there is a need for volunteers at their food pantry and we will be participating in that way. Anyone who is interested, please call Diane Martinez, 676-0666. We are very thankful for the generous support our congregation has provided to the food pantry for seven years and we hope you will continue to support this mission. The only difference is that the food will be distributed at St. Catherine's rather than at TUMC. We especially thank all of the wonderful volunteers without whose help we could not have accomplished this important outreach mission. Thanks to Congregation Havurim for food donations they have generously given. God bless each and every one of you!

## *MISSION UPDATE*

Submitted by Doris Elder and Hope Zangl , Co-Chairs

Our covenant relationship with our Missionaries throughout the Board of Global Ministry has been met for this year. We support:

Fred and Pat Haggard	Red Bird Mission, Beverly, Kentucky	\$1550.
Dr. Elma Jocson	Nepal, India	\$1550.

Our missionary support of \$1200. to Lydia and Joe Templeton of Los Angeles has also been completed. Undesignated funds received the remainder of the year will be applied to Global Missions, TUMC's Apportionments, Ministerial Education Fund, Black College Fund and Africa University Fund.

Our congregation has given generously for the Golden Basket projects and we sincerely appreciate the giving: To date the total for Golden Basket Giving for this year is \$4,087.43 What a great record for TUMC.

Some of the projects that have been funded this year: Heifer International, Habitat for Humanity (Temecula) for the six homes they built recently, Neighborhood Health Clinic (Temecula), our Food Pantry, Rancho Damacitas (Temecula), Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Sierra Service Project which our youth attend, UMCOR-Disaster Relief for victims who were affected by Katrina, Midwest and the most recently Ike and Gustav. UMCOR is still helping in these areas to restore lives and property. In addition, a Golden Basket was taken for Project Hope which is a team effort among churches and law enforcement to assist the homeless in our valley. Several Sundays were designated as Special Offering days for example, One Great Hour of Sharing which is used for Administrative costs of UMCOR. When you give to UMCOR projects, you know the full amount is used for that purpose.

A report from our Bread for Heaven food pantry is as follows. Our church can be very proud of this outreach which required many volunteers and hard work. It has been capably directed by Diane Martinez assisted by Joan Jessup and Ann Crutchley and volunteers. Please thank all of these people when you see them.

## *November 1 – All Souls Day*

The most beautiful memorial we can give to those we love is not one made of stone but is a living memory that is nourished by prayer, gratitude and ever-deepening affection.

We remember those who have died this past year in our church family.

Merrill Jessup	December 29, 2007
Margaret Bird	February 26, 2008
Kathleen Holz	June 8, 2008
Bob Conner	June 14, 2008
Vance Tschanz	September 13, 2008

We also pray for those in our church family who have lost grandchildren and parents this past year. Lord, hear our prayer.

## *UM Women News*

*Submitted by Hallie Sebanc*

**UMW General Meeting & Luncheon** – November 20<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m. Thelma Loud, Fashion Designer, will be our guest speaker presenting a Scarf Fashion Show for the holidays.

**UMW Executive Board** meets in Room 6 - November 26<sup>th</sup> 1 p.m.

## *FINANCE NEWS*

In Gratitude and In Anticipation Bridging the Gap Goal	\$63,000.00
Pledges to date	\$41,960.00
Pledges & Gifts received to date	\$ 6,457.33

Your prayerful reflection and commitment enables us to continue our wonderful mission here at TUMC.



***DEB POTTS, R.Y.T.***

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# Upcoming Wednesday Family Night Events

**NOVEMBER 5**



## MASKS

### FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Kids and Adults are invited to join Pastor David French in a special Mask Discussion November 5th • 6:15pm

Pastor French will show many of his acquisitions from around the world. He will discuss and answer questions. Join us for this exciting and beautiful presentation.

**Nov 12**

## ENGLISH HOLIDAY CRACKERS

Join Lucy Kelly for a night of English traditions • 6:15 - 7:15pm. The kids will learn about and make their own Holiday Cracker. Look for information in the bulletin or contact Children's Ministries.



**NOVEMBER 19**

Please join us for a special night when the

## PHILIPPIANS

will present

**A NIGHT OF PHILIPPINE CULTURE**

**6:15 - 7:15pm**

*Join us for*

*A Video of Philippine Culture  
A Skit and Folk Song Demonstration  
Sampling of Philippine Food*

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

## All Church Christmas Party

WEDNESDAY • DECEMBER 3 • PARTY BEGINS AT 6PM



**ALL CHILDREN AND ADULTS INVITED**

**FOOD • FUN • SINGING • VISIT BY SANTA • & MORE**

Look for more details in upcoming bulletins or see Halle Sebanc or Deb Severns with questions.



## Raising Funds With Gift Cards

by Shirley Johnson

Gift cards make great holiday gifts for family members, friends and co-workers. Gift cards sold in California never expire so you do not have to worry about that possibility. If you have a merchant tell you that there is no balance on your card and you know that you have not used the card, please ask them to enter the number from the back of the card manually. This often works when the cards don't scan correctly. You can also call the 1-800 phone # on the back of the gift card and check the balance right on the spot.

- A tip to make using gift cards easier is to have a sharpie pen with you to write down any remaining balance left on the card. In all the many years I have used gift cards, I have never had a problem with losing a balance on a card. Many merchants have 1-800 phone numbers and web sites where you can check or track your card balance yourself.
- Pre-order your scrip so that you will have what you need for your holiday gifts. Don't wait until the last minute and hope that we have what you need. Occasionally, we do sell out of scrip especially near the holidays. It's impossible to estimate what will be popular this holiday season so pre-order when you can.
- A new law has gone into effect this year that helps you when your gift card has a partial remaining balance. If your remaining balance is less than \$10.00, then you can ask for the balance in cash. Most merchants know about this law, but you can pick up a copy of the law at the scrip table.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a copy of the gift cards (scrip) that we have on hand most of the time. On the other side of that list is an order form that you can use for pre-orders during the next couple months. If you pre-order your scrip we can have it ready for you to pick up in an envelope the next Sunday. If you don't already do so, please participate in this fundraiser so that TUMC can reach its goal of raising \$8,000 this year. Remember that this fundraiser *does not cost you anything and there is no work involved on your part*. There is no limit on the funds we can raise this way. Our only limitation is how well we support it.

HAVE YOU DONE YOUR PART TO SUPPORT THIS FUNDRAISER? It's very easy to participate. Just exchange your check for our scrip and go shopping instead of using your cash, check or charge at the store. Let's take advantage of this great opportunity we have been given. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS SUPPORTED THIS FUNDRAISER IN 2008!

**Hello Tomorrow**  
**AVON**

**Thelma L. Loud**

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November 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

## Dates to Remember

- 11/1 7:30 a.m. Men's Fall Retreat  
 11/2 Daylight Saving Time ends  
 9:00 a.m. Bible Study w/Joe Hughes  
 9:00 a.m. Tagalog Bible Class  
 5:00 p.m. Jr. UMYF  
 6:00 p.m. Sr. UMYF  
 11/3 7:00 p.m. Messiah rehearsal  
 11/4 6 a.m. Election Polls  
 9:30 a.m. Ladies' Bible Study  
 11/5 10:00 a.m. Scripture Study w/Pastor  
 12:00 p.m. Out to Lunch Bunch  
 5:15 p.m. Wednesday Family Night  
 6:30 p.m. Trustees  
 6:00 p.m. Staff Parish Relations  
 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal  
 11/6 10:00 a.m. Yoga w/Deb Potts  
 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study  
 11/8 8:00 a.m. MONKS Monthly Meeting  
 11/9 9:00 a.m. Bible Study w/Joe Hughes  
 9:00 a.m. Tagalog Bible Study  
 5:00 p.m. Jr. UMYF  
 6:00 p.m. Sr. UMYF  
 11/10 6:30 p.m. Lay Leadership Committee  
 7:00 p.m. Messiah rehearsal  
 11/11 Veterans Day—church offices closed  
 9:30 a.m. Ladies' Bible Study  
 11/12 10:00 a.m. Scripture Study w/Pastor  
 5:15 p.m. Wednesday Family Night  
 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal  
 11/13 10:00 a.m. Yoga w/Deb Potts  
 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study  
 7:15 p.m. Stephen Ministry  
 11/14 Corry Bell & Kirsten Vogelsang Concert  
 11/15 8:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast  
 11/16 9:00 a.m. Bible Study w/Joe Hughes  
 9:00 a.m. Tagalog Bible Class  
 11:45 a.m. Coffee with Pastor  
 5:00 p.m. Jr. UMYF  
 6:00 p.m. Sr. UMYF  
 11/17 7:00 p.m. Messiah rehearsal  
 11/18 9:30 a.m. Ladies' Bible Study  
 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee

- 11/19 10:00 a.m. Scripture Study w/Pastor  
 11:00 a.m. Membership & Evangelism  
 5:15 p.m. Wednesday Family Night  
 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal  
 11/20 10:00 a.m. UMW General Meeting & Luncheon  
 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study  
 11/23 9:00 a.m. Bible Study w/Joe Hughes  
 9:00 a.m. Tagalog Bible Class  
 5:00 p.m. Jr. UMYF  
 6:00 p.m. Sr. UMYF  
 7:00 p.m. Night of Gratitude  
 11/24 7:00 p.m. Messiah rehearsal  
 11/25 9:30 a.m. Ladies' Bible Study  
 7:00 p.m. Church Council  
 11/16 10:00 a.m. Scripture Study w/Pastor  
 1:00 p.m. UMW Executive Board  
 5:15 p.m. Wednesday Family Night  
 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal  
 11/27 Thanksgiving Holiday—offices closed  
 11/28 Thanksgiving Holiday—offices closed  
 11/30 First Sunday of Advent  
 9:00 a.m. Bible Study w/Joe Hughes  
 9:00 a.m. Tagalog Bible Class  
 5:00 p.m. Jr. UMYF  
 6:00 p.m. Sr. UMYF



## *For These We Thank Thee*

by Louise Pinkerton Fritz  
 Submitted by Gloria Galvez

Sunrise and sunset, ocean and rivulet,  
 Wild beast and family pet, for these we thank Thee,  
 Parent and little child, Inchworm and country mile,  
 Teardrop and friendly smile...For these we thank Thee,  
 New bud and fading flower, small trees and trees that  
 tower, Downpour and little shower... for these we  
 thank Thee,  
 Blessings and trials too, dark skies and skies of blue,  
 For your love to see us through, Father we thank Thee.

	<u>Nov 2</u>	<u>Nov 9</u>	<u>Nov 16</u>	<u>Nov 23</u>	<u>Nov 30</u>
<b>USHERS</b> 9:00 a.m.	John Weaver Bret Argenbright Milton Takeguchi Ethel Takeguchi	Monks	Youth	Oscar Loud Thelma Loud John Dubots Mark Cunningham	The "Philippians"
<b>USHERS</b> 10:30 a.m.	Boni Gulla Richard Sharpe Dan Gutierrez John Cloutier	Monks	Youth	Ashley Lewis Janet Galbraith Dick Mohammed Ken Wilson	The "Philippians"
<b>LITURGISTS</b> 9:00 a.m.	Claire Chapman- Wright	Monks	Youth	Sandy Dodson	The "Philippians"
10:30 a.m.	MacMcIntosh	Monks	Youth	Joyce Little	
<b>GREETERS</b> 9:00 a.m.	Janice Fallman	Monks	Youth	Beryl Murray	The "Philippians"
10:30 a.m.	Jeanne Ambrose	Monks	Youth	Opal Bendikson	
<b>SOUND TECH</b> 9:00 a.m.	Mark McCullough	Brian Severns	Youth	Mark McCullough	
10:30 a.m.	Vicki Cloutier	Ken Boyle	Youth	Frank Benson	

*If you cannot serve as assigned, please call John Weaver or John Cloutier for ushers and Bea Waite for liturgists & greeters.*



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**THE MESSENGER**

Editor: Mary Kottman  
 November 1, 2008

**See you in church!**



**THANKSGIVING**

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**Bret Argenbright, O.D.**  
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