



# West Point UMC

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 2

As I write this pastor's message, I am watching the snow fall outside my window. In a few minutes, I will take my grandson outside to play in it. As 2011 fades into history and a new year is poised to start, I cannot help but think how blessed I am. But sometimes, life seems anything but blessed. Sometimes life is more like that dark comedy proverb: "Life is hard and then ya die." We've all had those "life is hard and then ya die" experiences and in the middle of them, it's natural to ask the question: "where is God in this?" Where is God when the earthquake shatters and the tsunami crushes? Where is God when the tornado devastates and the fire consumes? Where is God when the economic downturn eliminates the job or when the diagnosis is final? Where is God when it seems like the righteous suffer and the wicked prosper? Where is God when the trusted friend or spouse betrays or when a loved one is taken before their time? In the best of times these questions challenge even the most faithful of Christians. When we are in the middle of them, they can be downright oppressive. What do we do with the "where is God when" moments that come to all of our lives?

This January we will try to tackle some of those questions head on in what I call my challenging questions for challenging times sermon series beginning January 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are dealing with an issue in your life that seems to be smothering your faith, or if you know someone who is, I want to invite you to be sure to come to this four part sermon series. I won't promise that we will find any definitive answers but I am sure that we will discover two things together; that God is always with us even in the midst of the struggle. And maybe together we will discover tools to use to help us more effectively wrestle with the questions.

As we say good bye to 2011 and prepare to embrace a new year, my prayers for you are that God will lead you to growth, even if that growth is painful. I pray that God will bless you faithfully even if more responsibilities come with those blessings. I would ask that you please pray those prayers for me too. If we leave ourselves open to receive God in these prayers, our lives will be changed. If we leave ourselves open to receive these prayers, we will begin to change the world.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jeff

*Ronda and I would like to thank you for all of the cards, presents and gestures of appreciation for the past Christmas season and for the past year. It remains an honor for us to be your clergy family. We look forward to a great 2012! Blessings, Jeff & Ronda.*

# January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 <i>Vital Con- gregations Meeting 7:00 PM</i>	10 <i>Administrative Counsel Meet- ing 7:00 PM</i>	11 <i>Morning Bible Study 9:00 AM  UMW@ Rae Ritchie's house 7:00 PM  708</i>	12 <i>Disciple II 7:00 PM</i>	13	14
15	16 <i>Vital Con- gregations Meeting 7:00 PM</i>	17 <i>Administrative Counsel Planning Meeting 7:00 PM</i>	18 <i>Morning Bible Study 9:00 AM  708</i>	19 <i>Disciple II 7:00 PM</i>	20	21
22	23 <i>Vital Con- gregations Meeting 7:00 PM</i>	24	25 <i>Morning Bible Study 9:00 AM  708</i>	26 <i>Disciple II 7:00 PM</i>	27	28
29	30	31				

SERMONS & SCRIPTURE  
LESSONS

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

**January 1**

**Communion Sunday**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 & Revelation 21:1-6. Pastor Jeff's sermon title will be "Timing is Everything"

**January 8**

**1st Sunday of Epiphany**

Exodus 20:1-4 & Matthew 21:33-34. Pastor Mike Link's sermon will be "Epiphany Rationalization."

**Challenging Questions for Challenging Times Sermon Series Begins**

**January 15**

**2nd Sunday of Epiphany**

Genesis 16:1-12 & Genesis 25:7-11. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "When Families Fight".

**January 22**

**3rd Sunday of Epiphany**

John 9:1-4 & 1st Samuel 1:10-18. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "When Life Seems Unfair"

**January 29**

**4th Sunday of Epiphany**

Matthew 5:1-12 & Micah 6:1-8. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "When it Hurts."

Jeff Cade  
Shari Bilyeu  
Rick Snider  
Jane Sandifur  
Mary Ritter  
Amanda Balducci  
Ted Horn  
Mike Craig  
Cheri Stout

January 2  
January 2  
January 12  
January 19  
January 20  
January 21  
January 28  
January 28  
January 30

**Prayer Concerns**

We pray for all the folks who appeared on our prayer concern list for 2011. May 2012 be a year of healing, restoration and blessing for all of them and their families and friends. As we journey into this new year, we will happily list anyone on our prayer concerns list and commit to praying for them. Just let us know either in our church services or via email.

All our men and women in uniform, particularly Cassie Leuck, John Macintosh, Rob Gaither, Joe Lambert, Jeremy Ritter, Nathan Marks, John Barton, Brad Synesael and especially those serving in harm's way.

**Bible Verse of the Month**

Genesis 16:11-12

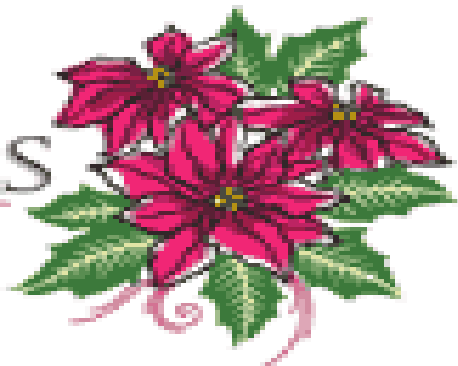
You are now with child and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael ... He will be a wild donkey of a man ... he will live in hostility toward all his brothers.



***We would like to thank the persons mention below for their purchase of the poinsettia's which decorated our sanctuary this Christmas season.***

*Bev and Lee Matthews  
Eve Hamilton  
Karla Ross  
David and Ruth Buckner  
Vickie and Jerry Harbath  
Virginia Emerick  
Jim Nicholas  
Pam and Phil Katter  
Darlene and Mark Christian  
Jay Blessing  
Larry Pearson  
Bob and Karen Vester  
Ronda and Jeff Smith  
JB and Nellie Van Sickle  
Teresa Luttrell  
Julie Katter  
Sonya Meadows  
Mary Lou Lawson  
Ruth Shedd  
Kay Chase*

*POINSETTIAS*



# Hey Light House

Greetings West Point UMC,

Well, it's January 2012. Mandy and I just wanted to introduce ourselves. Mandy and I grew up and met in this great little town of West Point. We dated, fell in love, and were married at Jackson Heights UMC almost twelve years ago by then Pastor Niblick. We dated four years prior to marriage; mostly unheard of these days, but still possible. We graduated McCutcheon high school, Mandy in 1997, and me in 1999. Wow, typing it sounds like forever.

Mandy and I have served in youth ministry settings for seven years. We started out volunteering here at West Point UMC, hired part time by Trinity UMC, and full circle back here at West Point UMC, as well as Trinity UMC still. Mandy and I have a heart for youth. We were shown the Love and the Light of Christ through people in our lives as young adolescents. Those people showed us His love through service and action. Mandy and I feel God calling us continually; to serve and show Christ's love to a generation of kids drowning in a secular tsunami of technology, media, and society's justification of sin. In closing, Mandy and I are very excited to work with the youth in our own community. We love this little town of West Point and all it entails.

Prayerfully Yours,  
Joshua and Mandy Bridges



## NEWS FROM INSIDE OUR CHURCH



### Starting January 11th:

Our Wednesday morning bible study will explore the Book of Daniel. This mysterious, courageous prophet of God has inspired people of faith for generations. We will use Beth Moore's marvelous study as our guide to learn more about Daniel. As with all our bible studies, all are welcome.

### Coming in February:

The new Beth Moore bible study is out and it covers the Book of James. This fascinating letter that has become a significant part of the New Testament will be a part of a seven session bible study beginning February 14. While this is a women's bible study, feel free to bring your honey on this Valentine's day kick off. More details to come in the February newsletter.

### United Methodist Women

The UMW will be meeting on January 11th at 7:00 PM at the home of Rae Ritchie. Dues are due this month in the amount of \$5.00 per member.

### The Tax Man Cometh

**It's that time of year again.** You know, that time usually after the Super Bowl and before April 15th, where we Americans diligently get ready to settle up with the tax man. Darlene Christian would like you to know that your giving records will be cheerfully forwarded to you if you but ask for them. However, if we don't hear from you, we will assume you don't want them. You can contact Darlene at [dcmc2@tds.net](mailto:dcmc2@tds.net), or at 572-2719.



## Hey Light House;

I am excited to announce that we have hired Josh Bridges to serve as our youth leader. He will begin on January 11th at 708. His letter of introduction is on page 5 of this newsletter. Please join me in welcoming Josh and Mandy Bridges at the following events

- January 11 Getting to Know Josh
- January 18 Getting to know each other
- January 25 Planning session for 2012

Looking forward to seeing you there and please, bring a friend.

## Little Beamers!!!

For January, we will meet on January 18th only from 4:30-6 PM. We will be continuing our "What's in the Bible" series.

On the first Wednesday in January the kids will still be on Christmas break.

We will resume our usual schedule in February of the 1st and 3rd Weds of the month. Please mark your calendars according.

Also, please be advised of our cancellation policy:

**IF TIPPECANOE SCHOOL CORPORATION CANCELS, WE CANCEL.**

## January Birthdays

Madalyn Cheesman	January 4
Kyanne Green	January 6
Cole Garriott	January 7
Cole Van Pelt	January 7
Joshua Richard	January 12
Kaylyn Cheesman	January 18
Sarah Emerick	January 20
Dawn Meadows	January 22
Jenny Bilyeu	January 22
Joslyn Burke	January 28
Jacob Anthrop	January 29

## Our Vision Statement

We envision the West Point United Methodist Church to be the focal point of our community and to be a welcoming church reaching out to everyone; offering all the opportunity to know and serve God; providing fellowship; offering spiritual leadership; and teaching the Word of God.

**For more information about West Point UMC, contact us at 765-572-2256, or  
wpumc@tds.net or check out our webpage at  
Www.westpointunitedmethodist.org**

Sunday School:                      8:30 AM  
Traditional Worship                9:30 AM

**West Point UMC**  
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