



Christ United Methodist Church

Weekly Newsletter

February 8, 2012

# Connections

We are about  
relationships. . .  
with Christ,  
with one another,  
and with God's  
hurting world.

## Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00 am Riverbend Max. Security  
Institution-Communion Service  
8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services  
9:45 am Sunday School



Go to [www.christumcfranklin.org](http://www.christumcfranklin.org)  
for information on programs  
and to hear past sermons.

If you were in worship on Sunday, then you heard the story from Mark's gospel about Jesus going away to a deserted place to pray. We explored how this story invites us to find ways in our daily lives to pray, to make ourselves unavailable to the world around us in order to make ourselves fully available to God. (We even dared to consider turning off our cell phones and email. Gasp!) We were all challenged by this story. Several of you leaving the sanctuary after worship told me that I had made you feel guilty. Well, believe me, the story hit me just as hard. I preached what I needed to hear!

After the sermon, John Hill led us in a time of prayer. But instead of speaking the Prayers of the People, he ushered us into three minutes of silence. Three minutes doesn't sound like a long time. It's hardly enough time to walk down to the mailbox and back. But three minutes of sitting and doing nothing? That's challenging.

In fact, those three minutes were more challenging than I thought they would be. In my prayer time at home, I often spend time in silence. I try to practice clearing my mind and my heart in order to listen more attentively for God, and I'm getting more used to it, more comfortable with it. So, sitting in silence for three minutes in worship seemed like a no-brainer. (Pardon the pun. Get it? Clearing your mind? No-brainer?) Anyway, I thought the silence in worship would be comfortable and easy and refreshing.

But as soon as everything got quiet, I felt anxious. I was overcome with a feeling of uneasiness. I wanted it to be over. Then I started to worry, "What's wrong with me? Why am I feeling this way?" Over the course of the three minutes, I began to realize the source of my anxiety: time. I was worried about the service going long. It was communion Sunday, after all. And I was worried that people were getting restless. I was anxious that people would think we were wasting time by doing this, by "doing nothing."

Eventually—and thank goodness we were given so much time to be silent—I offered all of that anxiety up to God. I realized that God was showing me some things about myself, far too many things to fit into one newsletter article. But I began to see that I carry these worries into worship with me, and they can get in the way of truly communing with God and with you.

Now, don't get me wrong. All my thoughts and scattered feelings didn't get resolved or figured out in three minutes. I got a glimpse, a brief revelation. But it was a gift, and it made me want to return again and again to the silence to see what else God might reveal.

The whole experience reminded me of a quote from Romano Guardini about contemplative prayer: "If at first we achieve no more than the understanding of how much we lack in inner unity, something will have been gained."

I'm curious. If you were in worship on Sunday, what did you experience in those three minutes of silence? I would love to hear from you—in person, by email, by phone. Or, if you go to the new website ([www.christumcfranklin.org](http://www.christumcfranklin.org)), you can find this article posted as a blog. There's room for comments and feedback. If you feel led, share with me and with one another what this little taste of contemplative prayer was like for you. Maybe we can help each other move more deeply into the silence of our loving God.

*Carol*

# WITH CHRIST

Please call or e-mail the church office with additions or changes to the prayer list. Names will appear for four weeks, unless you request they remain longer.

## Prayer Concerns

The church prayer list cannot be included on our website due to privacy issues. You can find the list in the church bulletin or in the emailed newsletter.

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email please contact the church office at 790-2112

A more detailed prayer list is found in the Prayer Room (room 202)

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### Worship This Sunday

February 12, 2012

Scriptures:

Psalm 30

Mark 1: 40-45

### Attendance

February 5, 2012

Worship: 558

Sunday School: 355

## Sunday, February 12, Scripture

### Mark 1:40-45

40. A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean."
41. Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!"
42. Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.
43. After sternly warning him he sent him away at once,
44. saying to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."
45. But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.



## This Week at Christ UMC

### Sunday, February 12

- 8:00 am Blood Drive
- 9:45 am Inquirer's Class
- 12:00 Children's Ministry Team
- 12:00 Finance Committee
- 12:00 Trustees
- 4:30 pm Youth Choir
- 5:00 pm Confirmation Class
- 5:30 pm ORBIT Youth

### Monday, February 13

- 10:00 am Watercolor Class

### Tuesday, February 14

- 3:15 pm ORBIT Outreach

### Wednesday, February 15

- 6:30 am Men's Dialogue
- 5:15 pm Wednesday Night Together
- 6:30 pm Celebration Singers

### Thursday, February 16

- 6:00 pm Room In The Inn
- 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry

### Friday, February 17

- 8:00 am Latecomers Men's group
- 10:00 am Women's Bible Study

### Saturday, February 18

- 8:30 am Stephen Ministry Training
- 6:00 pm Youth Dinner Theatre



### Regular Events:

February 19 - Lunch Bunch

February 24 - Fourth Friday Fun

For information on the young adult ministry contact John Hill at 615.790.2112 or [jhill@christum.net](mailto:jhill@christum.net)

## Children & Families

### Room In the Inn Valentine's Party hosted by Children's Ministry

Thursday, Feb 16, 5:30 - 7:00 pm.

Children and families, join us in ministry to those whom Jesus calls "the least of these" as we share God's love with our homeless brothers and sisters. We need parents and children to help with preparing food, serving dinner (and eating with the guests), and cleaning up. Sunday school classes are collecting donations for gift bags; please bring your items THIS SUNDAY and sign up in the Narthex or contact Rachel Brown at [r\\_zeta@bellsouth.net](mailto:r_zeta@bellsouth.net). We hope you will join us for this important outreach ministry for the entire family!

**Confirmation Field Trip-** This Sunday, February 12th, we'll meet at 5:00 pm to travel together to Holy Family Catholic Church for their Life Teen worship service. If you are meeting us at Holy Family, make sure you let Kathy know ([knoble@umcom.org](mailto:knoble@umcom.org)) so that

## Youth Activities

We have reached our maximum for the dinner theatre on Feb. 18th. Currently, we have a waiting list, and the only reservations we are taking are for the show only. We can take another 50 people who would like to come at 7pm after dinner for the show. Please contact Robin at 790-2112.

## Church Wide Activities

### Room In The Inn

Room in the Inn is in need of your help, **in Feb. and March.!** Sign ups are in the Narthex.

### Spiritual Gifts Retreat

The Spiritual Formation Committee invites you to learn more about yourself and others by attending this year's Spiritual Gifts Retreat, March 2 - 4, at St. Mary's Retreat Center in Monteagle, TN. Sign-ups are in the Narthex. Call Jan Phelps (Sparkman) or Kathy Cavanaugh for more information. Or sign up online at <http://www.christumfranklin.org/events/spiritual-gifts-retreat/>

### Christ UMC Blood Drive - February 12

If you signed up, please go to the check-in desk (back door) at your assigned time.

### Dinner Groups

Groups of 6-8 people will be put together with no other agenda than to get together a few times in the spring for fun, food, and fellowship. Sign-ups are in the narthex or online at [christumfranklin.org/events/dinner-groups/](http://christumfranklin.org/events/dinner-groups/). Deadline is February 12th.

### Ladies Night Out

The next Ladies Night Out is February 21st, 6:30 pm, at Logan's Roadhouse located at 7087 Baker's Bridge Road in the Cool Springs area. Reservations should be made by contacting Kathy Noble at [knoble@umcom.org](mailto:knoble@umcom.org) or call her on 438-5482 (cell) or 742-5441 (work).

### New Craft Circle

The CROP CIRCLE is now the "CRAFT CIRCLE" The group is expanding to include all things crafty such as scrapbooking, photo albums, decoupage, stamping, card making, painting, jewelry/beading, mosaic, etc. Please join us to preserve your memories, share ideas,

and get crafty in fellowship with friends at Christ UMC. Just bring your supplies and a snack to share. Childcare is available upon request 10 days prior to each event.

Saturday, Feb. 11th, 9—1 pm - Fellowship Hall

◆ RSVP to: Jen Fuqua at [jennifermfuqua@yahoo.com](mailto:jennifermfuqua@yahoo.com) or 477-2754

### Membership Sunday

Our next Membership Sunday will be February 19th. If you are interested in joining the church with the group, please contact John Hill at [jhill@christum.net](mailto:jhill@christum.net) or 790-2112.

### Thank you

Dear church family, Thank you so much for all your prayers, visits, meals, calls, and cards during my surgeries and recovery. Your kindness means more to me and my family than I can say. God bless you! --Joan Ratcliff

### There's more news all the time about relationships at Christ UMC!

A great way to check out ministries, Sunday School classes, upcoming retreats and special events is to use our new website; [www.christumfranklin.org](http://www.christumfranklin.org)! Make your reservations for Wednesday Night Together, share a prayer request or sign up for the Spiritual Gifts Retreat that's right around the corner! Plus, get to know more about what's coming up as we get closer to Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the Lenten season. Feeling social? 'Like' us on Facebook! Just another wonderful ministry tool to share all the great things going on at Christ UMC, Franklin!

## Wednesday Night Together

February 15, 2012

**MENU: Breakfast for Supper**

**Adults: \$6 Children: \$4**

**Family Max: \$20**

Please sign up for dinner on the worship pad on Sunday morning, call the church office at 790-2112, Ext. 31, or register online by **noon Monday**. If you would like to be on the standing reservations list, please let the cashier know or call the church office. Thank you!

### Activities

**Adults:** Bible Study with Rev. Carol Cavin-Dillon (6:30 pm); Commons

Women's Bible Study (6:15)

**Youth:** Youth Fellowship; Room 209

**Children:** 6:15-6:45—Mustard Seed Choir 3—preK; Angel Choir K—2; Spirit Singers 3—6 grade.

**Childcare for ages 2-under**  
(6:15-8:00 pm); Room 122



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## WITH GOD'S HURTING WORLD

### Legacy Ball 2012 A Night at the Oscars

March 3, 2012  
at the Embassy Suites Cool Springs

Plan to join everyone on the red carpet for our seventh annual Legacy Ball. It will be a glamorous evening of dining, dancing, and fun, all to raise money to provide services to children who have been sexually and/or physically abused. You also won't want to miss Heidi Schwartz's return with another [Paint-your-event](#) masterpiece!

To join the fun, please reserve your tickets online and don't forget to bring plenty of \$1 and \$5 bills for our third annual Not-So-Silent auction! We look forward to seeing you there!

Williamson County  
Child Advocacy Center  
615.790.5900 X101  
williamsoncountycac.org

### Habitat Build 2012

One of the important ministries at Christ UMC has been our partnership with Habitat for Humanity Williamson County, helping build affordable housing for our fellow citizens in Williamson County. This year, with two other churches, we will be building a home in Fairview for Deprecia Taylor, a single mom with 3 children.

We will need builders of all skill levels and people to provide light breakfast, snacks and lunch. Workers must be at least 16 years old, and 16 and 17 year olds must have parent's permission. Our build dates are



March 4, 17 and 24 from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm. We will have sign-ups after the early service and before and after the late service on February 12 and 19 or call Mary Ann or John Szabo at 794-1619.