

DeBows Crows

The Monthly Newsletter of DeBows UMC



November 2015

DeBows UMC

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DST Time Ends 11/1/15 at 2AM

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 AM on Sunday, November 1st. Please remember set your clocks back 1 hour before going to bed on Saturday, October 31st. If you should forget and arrive at the church an hour early, please feel free to join one of the two bible study groups that meet at 9:45 AM ☺

Sunday Worship Schedule

Bible Study	9:45 – 10:45 AM
Worship Service	11:00 AM
Sunday School	11:00 AM
Fellowship Time	After Worship Service

Community Event



Community Pasta Dinner
Saturday, November 7
5:00 - 7:00 PM

Proceeds will support the
ministries of DeBows UMC

Prayer List



We Lift Up the Following People in Prayer

Susan Ashworth
Madhavi Badey
Chris Bitondo
Tina Clark
Karen Hornak

Rudy Iannacone
Debra Quinn
Cindy Raymond
Dean Sparling
Elle Wornstaff

NOTE: Please inform the Pastor when a name should be added or removed from the Prayer List. Also, contact the church office in the event of a pastoral care situation that might need Ernie's attention or response. Thank You.

Bible Verse for Reflection

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

~ Psalm 100:4-5 ~

A Word From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

The Barna Group is a faith-based organization that does research which helps us to understand the attitudes and actions of people of faith across a wide spectrum. Their research indicates that 4% of national household tithe their income. In itself, that is a surprising statistic.

As a pastor I have invested many years in trying to help people find the connection between “faith” and “giving” or “stewardship.” It has always been an inordinately difficult task. I am amazed at how challenging it is to motivate people to be faithful and consistent in their giving to the church. Such motivation usually moves in two directions.

- The most pedestrian view of stewardship is to view our “giving” to the church as a matter of underwriting the church’s budget. This turns stewardship into a “user fee” for services rendered and equates being part of a community of faith with “club membership.”
- A far healthier, and more theologically sound, view of stewardship would remind us that our giving is concerned much less with a “budget” and far more with “God.” Generous giving stems from our acknowledgment that God is good and generous. Our giving then becomes a sign of our gratitude to and trust in God.

Church stewardship programs need to be deliberate about changing this focus from a mundane concept of “funding the budget” toward a more spiritually sensitive notion of “gratitude to God” as the motivation for our giving. Surely God will bless a movement in that direction!

Like most other churches, DeBows uses a confidential “envelope” system. Even though we encourage people to “pledge,” we know that not all do. Many who are not “official members” use these envelopes and for that we are grateful. Regrettably, many who are official members do not “give” or “worship” regularly. As a congregation we will never be content with that. We will remind them that regular giving and regular worship is a part of the vows they take when they become members.

As a congregation, our collective prayer is always that our giving to God through the church will be shaped by a deep sense of gratitude to God for God’s goodness to us. That grace has been expressed most clearly in the incarnation of Jesus Christ, the Source of our hope and healing.

Shalom!



Bible Study Groups

Sunday Morning from 9:45 – 10:45 AM

Women’s Bible Study - This group meets in Fellowship Hall.

Adult Bible Study - This group meets in one of the class rooms downstairs.

Fall Bible Study – This group meets on Wednesday’s at 11:30 AM.

Please view the church calendar for the schedule of study topics. New class members are always welcome and can join at any time. Please join us as we study the Word of God.

Upcoming Events

November 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Food Pantry	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Food Pantry	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30					

Sunday, November 1

Bible Study 9:45 AM
All Saints' Day 11:00 AM
 Worship Service &
 Sunday School

Wednesday, November 4

Bible Study 11:30 AM
 Choir Practice 6:30 PM

Thursday, November 5

Wesley Club 6:00 PM

Saturday, November 7

Pasta Fundraiser Dinner 5-7 PM

Sunday, November 8

Bible Study 9:45 AM
 Worship Service & 11:00 AM
 Sunday School
 Youth Group Meeting 12:30 PM
 Finance Meeting 12:30 PM

Monday, November 9

Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM

Wednesday, November 11

Bible Study 11:30 AM
 Choir Practice 6:30 PM

Saturday, November 14

Contemporary Worship Service 6:30 PM

Sunday, November 15

Bible Study 9:45 AM
 Worship Service & 11:00 AM
 Sunday School

Wednesday, November 18

Bible Study 11:30 AM
 Choir Practice 6:30 PM

Thursday, November 19

Wesley Club 6:00 PM

Sunday, November 22

Bible Study 9:45 AM
 Worship Service & 11:00 AM
 Sunday School
 Youth Group Meeting 12:30 PM
 Community 6:30 PM
 Thanksgiving Service at
 Hope Cathedral

Monday, November 23

Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM

Wednesday, November 25

Bible Study 11:30 AM
 Thanksgiving Eve 7:00 PM
 Service at Old Yellow
 Meeting House

Thursday, November 26

Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 29

Bible Study 9:45 AM
 1st Sunday of Advent 11:00 AM
 Worship Service
 (Chrismon Tree) &
 Sunday School

NOTE: Please visit www.debowsumc.org
 for the most up-to-date schedule information.

Candy Fundraiser



The church will be conducting a Gertrude Hawk Candy fundraiser from Sunday, November 1st through Sunday, November 22nd.

Please see Sue Hayward for details for how you can participate. Thank you for your support.

DeBows UMC Online

You can visit DeBows UMC online at:

www.debowsumc.org

www.facebook.com/debowsumc

On the website you can access the most up-to-date information concerning schedules, events and activities, as well as current blog posts and general information about the church. Emails can be sent to church staff via the "Contact Us" page. Alert notices, such as cancellations due to bad weather, will also be posted on the website as needed. Visit often for the latest information.

Inside the church you can connect to the WiFi service using the instructions found on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall.

Hymn Story

"We Gather Together"

Theodore Baker (1894) – UMH #131

The hymn, "We Gather Together," is of Dutch origin and speaks of religious persecution that predates the first Thanksgiving. Originally a folk song, it was transformed into a hymn dealing with overcoming religious persecution on January 24, 1597. That was the date of the Battle of Turnhout, in which Prince Maurice of Orange defeated the Spanish occupiers of a town in what is now the Netherlands. At this time, the Dutch Protestants, who were prohibited from worshiping under the Spanish king, Phillip II, celebrated the victory by borrowing a familiar folk melody and giving it new words. "We Gather Together" connoted a heretofore forbidden act—Dutch Protestants gathering together for worship. It first appeared in print in a 1626 collection of Dutch patriotic songs.

Theodore Baker, an American scholar studying in Leipzig, where the choirmaster had published an arrangement of the hymn, translated it into English in 1894 as a thanksgiving "prayer" to be sung by a choir. According to the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, which maintains a database of popular hymns, "We Gather Together" first appeared in an American hymnal in 1903. Over the next three decades it appeared in an assortment of hymnals in the Northeast and the Midwest and in school songbooks. In 1935 its popularity soared when it was added to the national hymnal of the Methodist-Episcopal Church, then the largest Protestant denomination in the United States.

It has since become one of the most popular Thanksgiving hymns and fits with the American religious culture, for it ends with the fitting and uplifting conclusion, "O, Lord, make us free!"



The following offers a little perspective about the origin and religious roots of Thanksgiving. Often we associate the Pilgrims with the tradition of Thanksgiving in America, but Thanksgiving as we know it today did not start until much later in America's history, and it took a woman and two U. S. Presidents to create this uniquely American holiday.

While U. S. Presidents and/or Congress have celebrated random days of thanksgiving since the birth of our nation, it was not until 1863 that it became an official annual event.

Sarah Josepha Hale, editor of the popular magazine *Godey's Lady's Book*, lobbied for the idea of a national day of thanksgiving for years, persistently petitioning President Abraham Lincoln as well as his predecessors. (It can also be noted that Sarah Hale wrote the famous poem *Mary Had a Little Lamb*.)

While in the middle of the Civil War, President Lincoln saw Sarah Hale's concept as a possible way to help unify the country and on October 3, 1863 issued a proclamation calling on Americans to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of thanksgiving.

Decades later on December 26, 1941, less than a month after the attack at Pearl Harbor plunged the United States into World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Congress passed a law declaring the fourth Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day, where it remains to this day. The slight shift from the last to the fourth Thursday in November was in part for economic reasons, since it sometimes lengthens the Christmas shopping season.

An excerpt from Lincoln's proclamation includes the following text:

... They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and voice by the whole American People.

I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. . .

(Note: Lincoln's full proclamation can be read on the church website)

While Lincoln's proclamation was obviously written in the context of the Civil War, we should observe the profound reverence shown to God and the implications for our country.

As Thanksgiving is increasingly just seen as the start of the Christmas shopping season, we should take the time to properly celebrate Thanksgiving Day in the spirit intended, which includes remembering from Whom our blessings flow.

Thanksgiving Week Activities

Sunday, 11/22 - Community Service at Hope Chapel

Monday, 11/23 - Community Food Pantry is open

Wednesday, 11/25 - Thanksgiving Eve Service at
Old Yellow Meeting House

Thursday, 11/26 – Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving Humor



Christmas Outreach Ministry



Each year DeBows UMC participates in the The Children's Home Society of New Jersey Gift Wish List program. Founded in 1894, The Children's Home Society of New Jersey is a nonprofit organization that helps at-risk infants, children, youth, and families achieve their potential. Gifts collected for this ministry, in some cases, will represent the only gift these children will receive this Christmas season.

Tom & Karen Hornak will be coordinating this event at DeBows this year. On Sunday, November 8th, they will make available a list of children's names, along with age, gender, size, and suggested possible gifts. Members of the congregation can select the child of their choice and return the gifts to the church no later than Sunday December 6th. They have requested that the gifts be returned, unwrapped in a bag. Tom will then deliver the gifts to The Children's Home Society during the following week.

Thanksgiving Word Search



Find 12 words associated with Thanksgiving.
Up, down, diagonally, forward or backwards.
All words are in a straight line.

Praise	Blessings	Family	Pumpkin
God	Turkey	Friends	Thankful
Grateful	Prayer	Pie	Pilgrim

H	G	R	A	T	E	F	U	L
J	P	I	E	T	E	C	D	F
F	R	I	E	N	D	S	R	A
T	A	K	G	K	F	H	T	M
H	I	Z	G	O	D	P	U	I
A	S	R	O	G	A	O	B	L
N	E	A	M	F	N	M	N	Y
K	D	S	X	R	I	I	A	G
F	O	T	U	R	K	E	Y	L
U	L	W	G	P	N	B	W	Y
L	S	L	M	V	I	U	S	M
G	I	U	Z	R	J	Y	P	K
P	P	R	A	Y	E	R	E	F
B	L	E	S	S	I	N	G	S

Make a Difference

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.
#GIVINGTUESDAY
December 1, 2015

Tis' the season; we have Black Friday and Cyber Monday; now we have #GivingTuesday.

As we enter into the holiday season we invite you to support the ministries and programs of DeBows UMC. Our church's ability to fulfil its mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ and sharing God's love with others is directly impacted by the generosity of our members and friends, and their willingness to emulate Christ's love for others.

While we perform ministry all year long, this is the time of year we prepare to celebrate the Advent season with friends and family. It is also the time of year we become most aware, that for many in our community, the Christmas season does not offer the same opportunities for joy due to various social or economic reasons. This awareness reminds us of the need to reaffirm our commitment as a church to minister to the community. #GivingTuesday affords us the opportunity to show that commitment in a tangible and effective way.

WHAT IS #GIVINGTUESDAY?

(From the official www.givingtuesday.org web site)

We have a day for giving thanks. We have two for getting deals. Now, we have #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. On Tuesday, December 1, 2015, charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give.

It's a simple idea. Just find a way for your family, your community, your company or your organization to come together to give something more. Then tell everyone you can about how you are giving. Join us and be a part of a global celebration of a new tradition of generosity.

While many organizations are promoting #GivingTuesday, including the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, the most effective way to participate and directly help DeBows UMC reach its full potential is by visiting the church website at www.debowsumc.org and clicking on the "Make A Difference" button found on the left-hand sidebar. This will permit you to donate online using the church's PayPal account. As always, donations to the church are tax deductible and will be reflected in your year-end giving statement from DeBows UMC.

For your reference, this is what the "Make A Difference" button looks like on the website.



While this feature is a permanent part of the church web site and is available all year long, we encourage you to participate on #GivingTuesday (December 1st) or any time during Advent. Donations will directly support the ministries and programs of DeBows UMC, including the Community Food Pantry.

Together, as a church, we can make a difference in our community. Thank you, and may God bless you and your family during this Advent season.

Do You Know . . .

- ✓ Advent begins on Sunday, November 29th. Please join us at the 11:00 AM worship service. We will decorate the Chrismon Tree during this service.
- ✓ There will be a Community Thanksgiving Service at Hope Cathedral on Route 528 in Jackson on Sunday, November 22 at 6:30 PM.
- ✓ There will be a Thanksgiving Eve Service at Old Yellow Meeting House on Wednesday, November 25th at 7:00 PM. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight, as there is no heat inside the meeting house and very little outside lighting.
- ✓ Starting with the July 2015 issue, past issues of the DeBows UMC monthly newsletter can be downloaded and viewed from the church website under the News & Media menu item.
- ✓ You may provide feedback and/or submit suggestions for possible future newsletter content by visiting the Contact page on the church website. Select "Newsletter Content" from the recipient pull down list and compose/send the email. Also, if you now receive the newsletter via postal mail and now have a valid email address, please let us know. This will help us control our postage cost.
- ✓ The Wesley Club will visit Care One on Thursday, December 10th. They will sing Christmas carols and distribute Prayer Shawls. If you intend to donate a Prayer Shawl, please bring it to the church by Sunday, December 6th. You may contact Donna Ridge for more information.

Eagle Scout Service Project

Many of you may have noticed a new playground in the field next to the parking lot. This was the Eagle Scout Service Project for Chris Pashos, member of Boy Scout Troop #2. This is the scout troop the church sponsors.

Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouting program and only achieved by a small percentage of scouts. Chris should be commended for completion of this project, as it reflects a significant amount of planning, effort, and commitment on his part.

This is the second Eagle Scout Service Project done on behalf of our church, the first being the pergola completed by DJ Kaiser in 2012.

The playground is centered on soft mulch to make it a safer play area. We ask that children have adult supervision when using this area and any future structural or maintenance issues should be reported to the church Trustees.

