

THE LEAFLINES

River Forest United Methodist Church



Rev. Char Hoffmann, Pastor
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APRIL 2009

Ever since I've been a part of River Forest UMC, we've been trying to think of a name for our cluster (all the UM churches in the area with whom we partner on a regular basis). The West Suburban Cluster didn't have a "ring" to it. Tree Town Cluster left out Franklin Park and Melrose Park. Parks and Recreation left out River Forest and Maywood and somehow didn't make us sound serious. So, we've been trying out the acronym S.O.U.P. Cluster since our Lenten Soup Study and Supper is one of our larger events in which we all have been participating. And, while S.O.U.P. can, and has, stood for various things, it currently stands for our goal of **Strengthening Our United Parishes**.

This year's study has been focusing on subject material from the workbook *Voluntary Simplicity*. I have enjoyed partnering with the Rev. Dr. Marti Scott from Euclid Avenue UMC to help us look at what voluntary simplicity is, our current consumer culture, and ways we can simplify our lives in terms of our possessions, time, work, resources consumed, and waste produced. The sessions have lasted an hour and consist of scripture, presentation, discussion, video clips, hands-on projects, and suggestions for what we can do at home. We have tried to structure the sessions so that participants can take their learnings back to the local church and, perhaps, run classes there. Pastor Jacques Conway, Neighborhood UMC, is using the material in weekly letters to his congregation. *If you are interested in holding a class here at RFUMC, please let me know.*

I would like to share a few of our suggestions for living a little more simply, and green-ly.

Scale down, simplify, unclutter, recycle. You don't need to keep those 5 year old magazines that you haven't gotten around to reading. Recycle them! I washed out all those vases and baskets in which I had received floral arrangements and returned them to the florist. They gave me a long-stemmed red rose!

Off is where the switch should be on those unnecessary, non-essential lights and appliances. Many of us got a taste of that during Earth Hour last weekend. We all managed to survive and, even though fewer people participated this year, the saving in electricity and the impact on our planet was significant, especially considering it was just lights and not all appliances.

Unwind. The Bible tells us that God commanded (not suggested) that we take some Sabbath time to rest, reflect, and enjoy all that God has given us. Too many overtime hours, stress, and not enough sleep, actually make us less productive. Work is a good thing, but not if we are abusing ourselves and others in order to accomplish it.

Purchase wisely. Ask yourself: Is it of good quality? Reusable? Able to be recycled? Do I really need it? Can I use it for more than one purpose? Remember that it's OK to reward ourselves with something frivolous *occasionally*.

Keeping It Sacredly Simple,



PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

April 5, 10:00 A.M.

S.O.U.P. DINNER

April 7, 6:30 p.m.
St. John's UMC, Oak Park

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

April 9, 6:30 Appetizers
7:00 Drama, Holy Communion
Euclid Avenue UMC

GOOD FRIDAY

April 10, 7:00 P.M.
"Seven Last Words of Christ"
First UMC, Oak Park

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 11, 10:15 A.M.

EASTER SUNDAY

April 12, 9:15 A.M.
Continental Breakfast and Egg Hunt
CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION
10:00 A.M.
Brass Quintet

For Egg Hunt reservations call 771-3668 and specify what day you will attend.

Home Town Architects:

**The Prairie Homes of River Forest
The Historical Society's 6th Annual House walk**

**Saturday, April 18
10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.**

Registration and ticket pick up begins at **River Forest United Methodist Church!** This year's tour will feature the work of Wm. Drummond, the designer of the original portion of the RFUMC building. Volunteers are needed to provide hospitality (perhaps coffee + or a Bake Sale) during this event. See Jean Dillner, UMW President, if you can be of assistance.

And, of course, you may support the work of the OPRF Historical Society by participating in the house walk.

pastor Char's



Bake-less Sale

Sunday, April 5

**None of the calories! None of the fat!
None of the work!
All of the benefits!**

Simply contribute what you would have spent baking and/or buying.

**Proceeds will pay for the Special Music on
Easter Sunday.**

**Des Plaines River Clean-up
Saturday, April 25, 9:00 A.M.
Thatcher Woods Pavilion**

"And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb." — Revelation 22: 1

Have a great time joining volunteers from the area in seeing how many trash bags you can fill with bottles, cans, and other debris from in and around the river. The day begins with a continental breakfast and concludes with a delicious lunch at noon. Also, all participants receive a free T-shirt.

This is a great opportunity to show our church as an active part of the community, and to put God's principles of stewardship into practice, as well as enjoy native flora and fauna on a beautiful spring day. Contact Fred Lenhoff at 366-6309 or flenhoff@yahoo.com to sign up today.



UMW Spring Rummage Sale Saturday, May 16 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

Donations welcome. Call 771-3668 for pick-up. Volunteers needed to set up on Thursday and Friday, May 14 and 15 beginning at 9:00 A.M.

Proceeds will help fund projects for women, youth, and children locally and around the world. Thank you for your support

APRIL donation for the Food Pantry is:

Canned Fruit

Place your donation in the basket on Sunday morning.

Did you know: In March 2009 the Proviso Pantry served 670 households or 2,316 individuals. In March of 008 the P.P. served 416 households or 1,370 individuals. Your donations of time, food, and funds, as well as your prayers are greatly appreciated.

Market Day

Don't forget to continue *Freequent Buyer* purchasing as directed so you'll be eligible for a FREE Insulated Bag in May. Details are on the last page of the order form. It's a great way to keep cold things cold from store to home.

Another way to get an insulated bag is to purchase 3 of the tempting, tasty desserts on page 3. Quick cooking items are on page 6 and delicious fish and seafood items on page 7. Browse through the order form to make meal time simpler and very tasty.

United Methodist Women

Our April unit meeting will be 1 p.m. on April 9, Maundy Thursday, and will have a Lenten theme. Hostess will be Barbara Stout, her health, etc., permitting. Otherwise, we'll have a substitute for her. At that meeting we can decide which members will do: attend the Chicago Northwestern District Spring Meeting April 18 or help with the Drummond Walk on April 18. We hope both will have good participation.

The **Annual Spring meeting** of Chicago Northwestern District will be Saturday, April 18, at Hemenway U.M.C. in Evanston. The theme is "Giving Our Hearts Away (Native American Survival). We will be collecting items for a health kit to be turned in at the meeting. Included are: 1 hand towel (not bath towel); 1 wash cloth, 1 sturdy large comb (not pocket size), 1 nail file or fingernail clipper (no emery boards), 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up), 1 toothbrush (single in original wrapper, not child-size), 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages. Complete kits should be in a sealed one-gallon plastic bag. If members bring several of one item, we can sort and assemble complete bags at our unit meeting.

The same day there will be a **Drummond Walk** through the local area and our church is on the walk. We would like women to prepare and serve light refreshments, cookies or muffins and beverages for people coming through. We could also have a bake sale table for visitors to shop and have them enjoy our tasty treats.

Looking ahead, if you're starting your Spring Cleaning, be sorting through things for good, usable, wearable, "playable" items for our Spring Rummage Sale which will be Saturday, May 16. We **may** sort through women's clothes and take out nice outfits that unemployed women can wear for job interviews. There was such a drive some years ago and why not do it again?



APRIL 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 Proviso Pantry 8-10 a.m.
5  <i>Palm Sunday</i>	6 P.P.—Jewel Shop	7 Soup/Study St. Johns, Oak Pk.-6:30 p.m.	8	9 UMW 1:00 p.m. <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 6:30 pm Euclid	10 <i>Good Friday</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>First, Oak Park</i>	11 Proviso Pantry 8-10 a.m. <i>Easter Egg Hunt 10:15 am</i>
12 <i>Easter Continental Breakfast & Egg Hunt-9:15 a.m.</i>	13	14	15	16	17	18 Proviso Pantry 8-10 a.m. <i>Historical Tour 10-3 p.m.</i>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Proviso Pantry 8-10 a.m. <i>Des Plaines River clean up</i>
26 <i>Brunch</i> Church Council- noon	27	28	29 SPRC-6:30 p.m.	30		

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

6 L. Eugene Davis	18 Elizabeth Glasgow
11 Pearl Schoenberger	26 Sarah Brooks
17 John Wright	29 Jesse Hudson



MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 Gordon Hanson
17 Marian Brennan
19 Glenn Hoffmann
19 Mark Maginnis

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please sign up to be Liturgist, Fellowship Host or to Donate Flowers on the schedules provided.

OPRF FOOD PANTRY

Alan Feinstein has challenged food pantries to collect as many food items and cash donations as possible. Feinstein will donate one million dollars to feed the hungry. Those funds are divided proportionally among competing food pantries based on what is collected during the months of March and April. Check the web site for more details www.oprffoodpantry.org.

Triton Troupers Circus and pancake breakfast, Saturday, April 4, 8:00 a.m. breakfast and 1:00 p.m. circus, Triton College, River Grove. Cost: \$6 circus, \$4 breakfast, \$8 circus and breakfast. Contact Nancy Knudson or e-mail flenhoff@yahoo.com.

**NEWS AROUND THE CLUSTERS/
COMMUNITY**

"The Seven Last Words of Christ" presented by the combined choir with soloists of area UM Churches, Good Friday, April 10, 7 p.m., First UMC, Oak Park. Free-will offering.

THE LEAFLINES

Articles for the Leaflines are due by Sunday, April 26.

FREE HEARING SCREENING

May 3, 2009 11:30 a.m.
River Forest United Methodist Church
Call the church office to register 708/771-3668.
Details on line www.rfumchurch.org

W O R S H I P L E A D E R S

DATE	LITURGISTS	FLOWERS DONATED BY	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS	USHERS
April 5 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Debb Hammond	Vicki Bartlett	Norma Marquardt	Marian Brennen Marsha Cieslak Nancy Knudson Pat Nutter
April 12 <i>Easter</i>	Cindy Belle	The Congregation	Continental Breakfast	Marian Brennen Marsha Cieslak Nancy Knudson Pat Nutter
April 19	Margaret Hamilton	Mickey and Sonny Sanger	Katy and Estela Mogrovejo	Marian Brennen Marsha Cieslak Nancy Knudson Pat Nutter
April 26	Jocelyn Pritchard	The Hansons in honor of Gordon & his mother & her mothers birthdays		Marian Brennen Marsha Cieslak Nancy Knudson Pat Nutter

COMMUNION STEWARDS FOR: Sunday, April 5, 2009 Steve and Sari Grapenthien



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***Return Service Requested
Dated Material Enclosed***



PALM SUNDAY SERVICE, April 5, 10:00 A.M.

S.O.U.P. DINNER April 7, 6:30 p.m. St. John's UMC, Oak Park

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE. April 9

6:30 Appetizer 7:00 Drama, Holy Communion, Euclid Avenue UMC

GOOD FRIDAY, April 10,

7:00 P.M. " *Seven Last Words of Christ* " First UMC, Oak Park

EASTER EGG HUNT, Saturday, April 11, 10:15 A.M.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 12, 9:15 A.M.

Continental Breakfast and Egg Hunt

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION, 10:00 A.M., Brass Quintet