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 Fresh Fruit Sunday Jan. 15
 Cookie Ministry begins in January

Are You Ready for the Adventure?

Happy New Year! I received this on a Christmas card this year and believe it says well who we are invited to be in 2012.

“Blessed are the available. Blessed are the conduits, the tunnels, the tools. Deliriously joyful are the ones who believe that if God has used sticks and rocks to do His will, then He can use us!”
 (written by Max Lucado)

I believe an important question for this community to answer in 2012 is: Are we available?

I believe an important question for this community to answer in 2012 is: Are we available? — and then in what ways are we available, to our Lord, to one another, to our community. And from

that question the answer will come as to the ways we are to exercise that availability to God’s spirit and one another.

As we begin our adventure of 2012 please join us in worship. On January 1 Jeff Squires will share on the topic “Fearless”. January 8 we will share communion with Pastor Marty and look at Ten Guidelines from God. In the following weeks we will share a week each on the fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control. We will be looking at the ways in which we can become the fruitiest place in Franksville — fruit of the Spirit fruity that is.

Are you ready for the adventure? — for all that God has in store for us in 2012. If not, get ready!

Pastor Marty

Men's Club Annual Oyster and Chili Stew Supper

The Men's Club will hold their annual Oyster and Chili Stew Supper on January 9th at 6:00 PM in fellowship hall.

Lou Monty makes a great stew and yours truly will be making the chili for the first time (not too hot, not too spicy. But justtttt right). All men (naughty or nice) are welcome, and encouraged to bring a guest. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

– Roger Exner



Attention!

There will be no Men's breakfast in January, we will continue in February. Other activities we host will always be in your church bulletin.



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meet Your NEW Financial Committee Chairman, Jim Wittenberg

Diane and I have been members of Franksville United Methodist Church since last summer. We transferred from Oak Creek United Methodist Church where we were members for over 15 years. I was a member of the Marketing Committee before volunteering to become the Chairperson of the Finance Committee here at FUMC.

At Oak Creek, I was involved in the Finance Committee for more than ten years including: the Chairperson, a member as the Administrative Chair and church Treasurer.

Diane and I also have been privileged to have gone on several international and domestic mission trips. I am a pharmacist and currently managing a pharmacy for Aurora Healthcare in Franklin. We are excited about the future of Franksville United Methodist Church and honored that God has brought us here.

Jim Wittenberg, Chairman

Reflections: “...time stands still for nobody”

Hard to believe, it is 2012 already – but as the saying goes, “time stands still for nobody”. But that also explains why it is important for us, as a congregation, to create our vision for the future.

Before we look to the future, let’s take a quick look back – quite frankly a tumultuous past. We have a new pastor as of July, Pastor Marty, who has been a true blessing to this congregation. She started by energizing a small core element of the congregation, who has then been working hard, and successfully, I might add, to grow our congregation.

We have also had great support from the Conference, not only emotional support, but they have come forward in a major way financially which has greatly helped us focus on our mission to do God’s work.

Of course, I cannot forget you, the congregation. As mentioned above, a core group stood strong through the very difficult times. Your presence was felt in the form of volunteering to keep our church running, working on the various committees that support the work of the church, being missionaries by bringing new people to the church, and finally, supported the church financially so that we could keep the doors open to continue God’s work.

Please take a moment to pat yourselves on the back – job amazingly well done! Okay, the break is over ☺, we have an exciting year of ministry and doing God’s work ahead of us. We have money in the bank and a good budget for 2012 to spread the word of God and we have you! I truly look forward to working with you, and all your talents, in this New Year as we continue our journey, our mission for God.

Follow Jesus, Make Disciples, and Transform the World,

Tim Sullivan, Chairman, Church Council

Trustee Committee Update

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The trustees are seeking volunteers to spend approximately 2 hours one Saturday a month to clean. The schedule that has been set up is as follows: 1) cleaning of the sanctuary and the narthex in December; 2) the fellowship hall in January; 3) chapel, choir room and entrance in February; 4) Jill's office and adjoining hallways to Pastor Marty's office in March; 5) the lower level north end including north and west stairwells in April; 6) the lower level south end including south stairwell and stairwell up to Jill's office in May. We will repeat this schedule June through November. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for January in the fellowship hall to volunteer for cleaning, or you may call Jim Delk at 898-7928.

MONEY SAVERS: In an effort to save as much money as possible, thermostat temperature settings will be lower this heating season. So, it is important to schedule meetings wisely and as far in advance as possible. The most efficient room (heating-wise) is the choir room. Pastor Marty has also invited us to meet at the parsonage. If you have questions, see Jeanne Radke, Co-Chair of the Trustees.

WEATHER RELATED CHURCH CLOSING: In the event of a snow emergency/closing our policy at FUMC is the same as Racine Unified. In other words - no school, no church events.

Here comes winter, ready or not! Thanks to all of you. In the absence of Norm Dearth (Florida calls), Jeanne Radke is acting Chairperson of Trustees. Let's all remember to conserve...turn out the lights, turn down the thermostat, find a smaller room for meetings whenever possible. Be sure to lock up if you are last out. We have found some unlocked doors and lights on in the morning. Be extremely diligent in this matter. We are talking security and dollars. We have had a wonderful response to the call for help with cleaning, and maintenance around our church. Thanks to all of you for your willingness to step up and help us move forward.
Jeannie Radke, Co-Chair

Membership Report

Please edit your directories to reflect these changes.

Withdrawn

John Lee and Karen Dagg
Joyce Schmitt
Julie Hunley
Sally Nuciforo

Removed from Membership at Charge Conference

Mike and Staci Burton
Aaron Thomson

Baptized November 27, 2011

Ryker Schultz, infant son of Kurt and Ashley Schultz

Baptized December 11, 2011

Matthew Beegle, son of Burt and Michelle Beegle.
Burt Beegle

New Members Received December 11, 2011

Emily Luck
2051 Brougham Lane Racine, WI 53406
634-8066
Children: Evelyn and Anderson

Matthew and Michelle Beegle
2929 92nd Street Sturtevant, WI 53177
262-498-6491
Children: Michael and Myah Knurowski
Matthew Beegle

Billie Jo (BJ) and Ron Cory
3431 Old Wood Trail Racine, WI 53402
BJ's cell 850-276-2660 Ron's cell 850-601-7444

Jim and Diane Wittenberg
6072 W. Allwood Drive Franklin, WI 53132
414-423-0337

[See new members bios on page 6 of this issue](#)

Add on Constituents

Joan Bergemann
5812 Dorset Racine, WI 53406
880-3600

Beth and Clyde Green
4420 Kennedy Drive Racine, WI 53404
752-3024
Children: Alex and Megan

Name Change

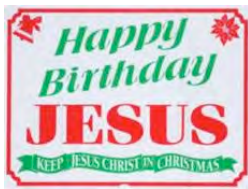
Megan (Hunt) Hirsch, *Sean
1422 Lincoln Street Racine, WI 53402
902-6789
Children: Will Hunt, Maddy and Gavin Hirsch

Education News

Wow! What a great success the Children's Christmas program was! It was awesome. We had 40 plus children of every age participate. Thanks to all of you that gave of your time.



Children's Christmas Program Pictures on opposite page (5)



Family Fusion would like to thank all that decorated fellowship hall and made those delicious cakes for our "Birthday Party for Jesus". We had a wonderful turnout for this fun all church event on Dec. 18.

Just a reminder, ALL education classes and children's choir will be on break for Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

The calendar of events for ALL education events and meetings is available on the welcome table or in the classrooms.

Our Cookie Ministry

We will be continuing the "Cookie Ministry" in January 2012. Kathy Aiello and Lois Fritchen will bake them and deliver them to new visitors to our church with an information packet. This was a practice that was well received, but the person taking care of it left the church and no one took over. We want our visitors to feel welcome.

59ers

Are you 59 years old or older? Then this group is for you. We would like more of our members to join us on the first Tuesday of the month. It is a delicious pot luck lunch at noon.

The entertainment is up to you. Invite friends and have your own card game, play dominos, or just visit. It is a relaxing three hour gathering. Please come and join us.

Men's Club

My thoughts are WOW ! What a year 2011 was. We all know the story and all that happened, and I believe it brought this congregation closer and made us stronger. To me that is a positive.

There are many individuals to thank - Pastor Marty for one for accepting the Conference's appointment to FUMC. God bless her. With her leadership and FUMC's commitment to be successful; it was a WIN! WIN! story. Everyone needs to pat themselves on the back. Thank you.

Several men came together to help deliver Christmas baskets and gifts to five Christmas families and to the men at HALO. It is a testament to this congregation of your faith to reach out to the less fortunate. Thanks to everyone who helped to collect, wrap and donate gifts. Also, a big thank you to Boy Scout Troop 129 for their donation of bins full of can goods. Well done, boys!

2011 was full of activities for the Men's Club and 2012 will be just as busy. Starting off, the Men's Club will hold their annual Oyster Stew and Chili Supper on January 9th at 6:00 PM in fellowship hall. Lou Monty makes a great stew and yours truly will be making the chili for the first time (not too hot, not too spicy; but justtttt right). All men (naughty or nice) are welcome, and encouraged to bring a guest. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

There will be no Men's breakfast in January, we will continue in February. Other activities we host will always be in your church bulletin.

Who would think of camping in January? You guessed it, me! August is a long way off but, campgrounds fill up fast. That is why I need to encourage those who are interested in camping in the all-church campout to contact me, at my email address and phone at bottom of this article.

Last year we had nine families who camped at Smokey Hollow Campground in Lodi. The campground has added eight new travel trailers with kitchens and baths - Sleep six to eight people - Nice for the non-seasoned campers. Watch your bulletins for more on this.

In closing, I wish with all my heart, this season of Jesus's birth, that peace and love and happiness be with all of you. **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
Your President, Roger Exner
rexner@wi.rr.com or call 262-886-9170

Children's Christmas Play



From Missions

It is truly a Blessed and Amazing sight to behold...

People from the congregation came forward to eagerly adopt one of our 26 less fortunate family members from the Racine community. Gifts of jackets, sweatshirts, sweaters, toys, etc. were purchased and delivered to our church.

On December 15, ten people volunteered to wrap the gifts and prepare them for delivery. Tucker 4-H held a food drive and voted to give those donations to our church for our Christmas families to enjoy; members of our congregation also brought in many non-perishable food items. All of these items were boxed so that each family had vegetables, soups, cereals, peanut butter, noodles, and other staples to last them for quite awhile.

Cub Scout Pack 129 filled 9 storage bins with a variety of paper products, personal products, and food items. Each of our 5 families received a bin and the other 4 bins went to other needy families in the community. Members of our church and the Caledonia Lions Club donated money to be used for perishable food items for each family (ham, potatoes, fruit, milk, butter, etc.) Deanna (Dearth) Elsen knit scarves and hats for family members. There were so many that HALO women were also given them as gifts. Priscilla Gibbs gave each family a dictionary and Thesaurus. She also purchased close to 50 children's hats so each child in our family units received one; the extra hats are being given to Julian Thomas School.

On Tuesday, December 20, men of our church are loading their vehicles to deliver our gifts and food to our 5 adopted families. As you can see, our church and community friends have gathered together in the true spirit of Christmas knowing the happiness that comes from providing for others, thanking God for all He has given us, and helping to make Christmas a joyous occasion for those less fortunate. Thank you to all who participated in our Annual Christmas Mission Project...A Blessed Christmas to each and every one of you.

Ongoing Mission Projects – Our next Fruit Sunday is January 15. The donated fruit is taken to HALO for the children there to enjoy during the week. Please continue to bring pop-tabs which go to the Ronald McDonald House. The container is located in the narthex. When the bin, located in Fellowship Hall, is full, it usually weighs 37 pounds. The contents are then delivered to Ronald McDonald House.

Sue Fritsche, Missions Chairperson

UMW Executive Meeting

Tuesday, January 17, UMW Executive Committee will meet in the Ellis Lounge at 6:30 p.m. All officers are urged to attend as your calendar for 2012 will be handed out and discussed. Also each office will receive what the duties of your office are, as well as additional tasks within our Unit. Hot tea and coffee will be available, as well as a light snack. You will be notified if the meeting is cancelled due to the weather. Liz Cox, President

Welcome Our New Members

Ronald and Billie Jo Cory

(Ronald is Ron and Billie Jo is BJ) Ron and BJ joined by transfer from First United Methodist Church, Panama City FL. They have 4 children and 3 grandchildren. BJ is an RN yet to be employed as she is getting acclimated to the frozen tundra.

(Remember readers no matter where you transfer from the weather in WI takes some getting use to.) Ron is a Test Dept Mgr. at Caterpillar. His interests are in Engineering Design, and, (Roger and Men's Club read here), Cooking. They live in Racine at Old Wood Trail.



Emily Luck and family

Emily has joined by Profession of Faith. Emily and Levi have a little girl, Evelyn who is 3.5 and Anderson who is 22 months. Emily is an Art Teacher to 415 students, each week, in Franklin and Oak Creek.

She enjoys tennis, art, and working with children. Emily occasionally helps in our young children's Sunday School. Levi, Emily's husband, is in the Army Reserve as an Estimator. He has also served twice in Iraq.

Jim and Diane Wittenberg

As you read on page 2 of this issue of the Beacon, Jim is our new chairman of Finance. He also shared a nice profile of him and his wife. What he didn't tell you is they have 5 daughters and 2 sons, plus a dozen grandchildren. Diane has a degree in Accounting.

They joined by transfer from Oak Creek United Methodist Church.



Burt and Michelle Beegle

They have 3 children, Myah, 13 and Michael, 15 and Matthew 9. Burt is a Product Test Tech. with Johnson Control, and Michelle is a teacher for children with special needs. Burt's interests are in computer drawing and painting, and a little fishing.

Michelle enjoys gardening, baking and reading. In the church she enjoys working with the younger children. Michelle and Burt joined by profession of faith. P.S. They are avid Packer fans!

▣
January Birthdays

- ▣
- 1 Susan Ritacco
 - 1 Jim Wittenberg
 - 2 Diane Wittenberg
 - 4 Nicole Christensen
 - 5 Katy Exner
 - 7 Libbie Bouska
 - 7 Mary Cliff
 - 8 Megan Billmyer
 - 8 Alana Spang
 - 10 Ross Thomson
 - 12 Brian Exner
 - 14 Cori Haagensen
 - 15 David Gutknecht
 - 15 Diane Kelly
 - 16 Gil Mann
 - 16 Doris Zimmerma
 - 17 Susan Richardson
 - 17 Tiffany VanBuren
 - 18 Heather Leonard
 - 19 Norm Dearth
 - 19 Will Sullivan
 - 22 Donna Klawinski
 - 23 Jim Delk
 - 23 Arlene Howe
 - 29 Jill Coates
 - 30 Tanya M. Exner

***Happy
Birthday!***

***Happy
Anniversary!***

▣
January Anniversaries

- ▣
- 18 Ken & Jolynn Swan
 - 27 Galen & Geneva Watts

▣
February Birthdays

- ▣
- 2 Michael Clemens
 - 2 Courtney Ritacco
 - 3 Linda Ball
 - 3 Jolynn Swan
 - 4 Vi Peterson
 - 6 Jayne Sadowski
 - 6 Ashlyn Westerfield
 - 6 Suzanne Westerfield
 - 8 Valerie Fosbinder
 - 13 Kevin Novak
 - 16 Don Mattie
 - 17 Karen Nelson
 - 17 Carolyn Null
 - 17 Katelyn Van Swol
 - 18 Melody Epple
 - 18 Ellen Gutknecht
 - 19 Ron Christensen
 - 19 Jose Heredia
 - 20 Evelyn Gerum
 - 20 Josie Smerchek
 - 21 Anderson Luck
 - 25 Tammy Haagensen
 - 25 Dominic Smerchek
 - 26 Matthew Guillien
 - 28 Matt Bowen

▣
February Anniversaries

- ▣
- 3 David and Juli Tianen
 - 4 Todd and Kristen Monty
 - 14 Luke and Kathy Miller
 - 14 Gary and Robin Schwarm



Happy New Year!

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1) Happy New Year! No Sunday School No Confirmation Class	2) Office Closed	3) 12 noon 59ers 6-9 pm Boy Scouts FH	4) 1 pm Knit Wits EL No Youth to "Merge"	5)	6)	7)
8) Communion	9) 10am Membership Mtg. 6:00pm Men's Oyster Stew and Chili Supper	10) 6-9 pm Boy Scouts FH	11) 1 pm Caroline Circle - Choir Room 5:45 pm Youth to "Merge"	12)	13)	14) NO Men's Breakfast in January
15) 5:30-7:00 pm Confirmation Class at parsonage	16) 7:00pm Finance Cm.	17) 6-9 pm Boy Scouts FH 6:00 pm UMW Exec. Cm. Mtg. EL	18) 1 pm Knit Wits at Coffee Shop 5:45 pm Youth to "Merge"	19)	20)	21)
22) 5:30-7:00 pm Confirmation Class at parsonage	23) 6 pm Worship Cm. EL 7 pm Church Council In FH Office Closed - M.L.K. DAY	24) 6-9 pm Boy Scouts Dinner - FH & Kit.	25) 1 pm Knit Wits EL 5:45 pm Youth to "Merge"	26)	27)	28) Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 8:45 a.m.
29) 5:30-7:00 pm Confirmation Class at parsonage	30)	31)				

UMW Reading Program - Your Window to the World

Happy New Year to all! We gave a final farewell to 2011 with a lovely Christmas luncheon and installation of officers for 2012 on December 10. It was a great day with the energy for future projects fairly buzzing in the air! What a great group of women - if you weren't there, try us out at the next meeting in 2012, you'll definitely be hooked!

As deep winter approaches, I want to remind all women of the church that the UMW Reading Program continues till next August. We have some nice new selections and while there are no check out limits, most books will be hard to put down once you begin them! A couple of good choices in our Ellis Lounge Library are:

Seeds of Change: Planting a Path to Peace by Jen Cullerton Johnson (Social Action category 2012 - Children's Book)

This is the story of Wangari Maathai, first African woman and environmentalist to win a Nobel Peace Prize. Engaging narrative and vibrant images paint a portrait of this inspiring champion of the land and of women's rights. Read it yourself and share it with a child you love.

We Wait You: Waiting on God in Eastern Europe by Taryn R. Hutchison (Education for Mission category 2012)

This is a real-life story of the author's experiences in Romania shortly after communism fell. She guarantees we will gain a broader understanding of the oppression under which the Romanian people lived for many years, and of the hope gained through the Gospels. Questions for discussion follow each chapter.

Come and check out our library and plan to read at least five books this year - one from each category - you'll be amazed at the view from this "window to the world!"

Leah Hinze, Program Resources

Campbell's Soup UPC Code's Needed!

Let's not forget this easy and cost-free mission project! It costs only your time clipping the UPC code along with the "Campbell's Kids" logo from Campbell's products. The collection container looks like a big can of like a Campbell's Soup and is on the shelf under the Narthex mailboxes. (There is also an example of what to clip on the bulletin board outside the Ellis Lounge.)



These labels will be sent to the Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee, an inner city community center, run by the United Methodist Church. In the past, the center has collected enough labels to buy a van. It is a very simple and worthwhile use of your time.

Any questions, see me - Leah Hinze

Caroline Circle

Caroline Circle will meet on Wednesday, January 11 at 1:00 p.m. Hostesses for the January meeting will be Grace VanSwol and Lois Fritchen.

Attendance December 2010 vs December 2011

12/2010	9 a.m.	10 a.m.	Total
5	76	87	163
12	n/a	130	130
19	82	98	180
24 Eve	4 p.m. 190	11 p.m. 122	312
26	n/a	54	54
12/2011	No Service	10 a.m.	Total
4	-	139	139
11	-	144	144
18	-	167	167
24 Eve	4:30 p.m. 141	10 p.m. 89	230
25	--	32	32



Holiday Boxes For Armed Forces

Holiday boxes for our armed forces was A HUGE SUCCESS!

Aside from the many donated items, \$510.00 was also received in donations. \$207.00 was used to pay for the postage of 16 boxes that were sent on December 3rd and the difference was used to purchase more items to be included in the boxes.

Thank you to all who donated. Ashley Schultz





Open Hearts.
Open Minds.
Open Doors.

Franksville United Methodist Church
10402 Northwestern Ave.
Franksville, Wisconsin 53126

...and now little 2012, let's see what else, we have churches being destroyed by radicals, churches having internal discord, financial concerns...um-m and still, humanity hasn't learned to apply the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes by self instead of just by others; much anguish is suffered by the minorities due to bigots, both in government and society; hate and racial crimes are still healthy; social justice is struggling; wars continue to spring up here and there; economy, sad, sad... YOU WHAT??? Nope you're not going anywhere as the clock just struck midnite... The real world is now yours little 2012. Maybe the folks will put to use God's *Living Life Instruction Book*, not straying too far from the Manger, they just knelt before, in making the world a much better loving world to live in. You know folks can't walk in Jesus' shoes but they sho 'nuff can walk real close behind Him. I'm prayin' you'll have a HAPPIER NEW YEAR , 2012, than what, me, old 2011 did.



Father Time I don't think I want to be born January 1 2012...I'm just a little kid and don't know nothing about all this bad stuff going on in the world. I'm gonna find me another year to try to help folks put quality, Christian usage of time in a year. GOODBYE... What do you mean I can't LEAVE?

**Looks like it's really up to us. God's Followers,
to REALLY try making this a very
HAPPY and BLESSED NEW YEAR for one and ALL**