

First United Methodist Church
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November 2011



We're accessible to all!

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**Mailed 10-27-2011
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Christmas Wreaths and Decorations

The Annual FUMC Men's "Christmas Wreaths and Decorations" sale is now underway! The "Greens" sale is one of the only fund raisers the Men hold throughout the year (the other being the golf outing). Proceeds from this sale stay directly WITHIN the church.

Last year, the Methodist Men purchased the music for the Christmas cantata and the portable heart defibrillator, as well as assisting financially with the Student Ministry fund, the Adult Katrina mission trip and a whole host of other worthy church needs.

The holiday wreaths, centerpieces, door swags, grave blankets and roping come fresh cut from a family owned greenhouse in Milan, Michigan which has been supplying our church with high quality, long lasting greens for years (remember...buy local, support local ☺).

Start off the gift giving season right with this great opportunity to give the gift of some beautiful holiday greenery to yourself, friends or family, and also help your church in the process. Look for Methodist Men club members at coffee hour every Sunday during the month of November in Wesley Hall or submit your order in one of the collection plates as they pass by. **Orders will be ready for pick up on Sunday, December 4th.** Questions....please contact Mark Phillips 734-718-3504 for assistance.

FROM THE PASTOR

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart;
 test me and know my thoughts.
²⁴See if there is any wicked way in me,
 and lead me in the way everlasting.
 (Psalm 139:23-24, NRSV)

As careful as I try to be, my laptop computer at home became infected with a virus several weeks ago. I ended up having the computer completely rebuilt with all of the software and backup files reloaded. Then I installed new, and hopefully better, virus protection software. The first thing this program did was to inform me that a complete scan of my computer was needed in order to identify any potentially harmful or even devastating programs. The program would then remove or destroy any offenders before damage could be done. I know, I know, that was a little too late.

Anyway as I sat there watching the progress bar and the expanding list of examined files on the computer screen, I got to thinking about how it's not just our computers that need to be scanned for viruses. We also need to have our hearts and minds searched for spiritual viruses.

Of course, first, we have to recognize that we need this spiritual scanning because, as the Apostle Paul reminds us, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23, NRSV). Every one of us needs to perform periodic "virus checks" for any self-destructive things that have entered into our lives.

Second, we need to examine ourselves and ask God to search us and reveal to us how we have been less than what God has intended for us to be.

Have we caused harm to others?
 Have we ignored an opportunity to help someone?
 Have we withheld forgiveness or love?
 Have we neglected our relationship with God?

As a help, in Bishop Rueben Job's book, *Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living*, he offers a prayer for the end of the day, which includes, "Bring awareness of my failures and confidence in your desire and ability to forgive my sins, heal my wounds, and mend my broken places."

Third, we need to be honest with ourselves, not blaming others for our own shortcomings but admitting that we are our own worst enemy and need God's help. And, "If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:19, NRSV) That's the good news!

God does have the ability and desire to identify the potentially harmful, and even devastating, parts of our lives, and to forgive and remove them that we might be restored to wholeness and reconciled with God and each other – if only we let Him. Grace and peace,

Pastor Bob



**Attendance and Regular Offering Report
 (Compares this year to last year)**

Fall is here!! How can we improve our numbers? Enjoy November.

	Aug 14	Aug 21	Aug 28	Sept 4	YTD. AVG
2011	196 (161+35)	201 (166+35)	204 (168+36)	183 (158+25)	241
	\$11,826	\$6,219	\$4,903	\$7,194	\$6,778
2010	184	159	216	171	249
	\$5,421	\$3,522	\$11,707	\$7,911	\$7,383

Church Staff Members:

- Pastor: ----- Rev. Bob Brenner
- Pastor of Education: ----- Rev. Carolyn Wik
- Director of Adult & Youth Ministries:----- Sherry Young
- Office Administrator: ----- Ann St. John
- Parish Visitor: ----- Karma Huston
- Director of Music Ministries: -----Jan Wassilak
- Organist: ----- Harvey Kahl, Jr.
- Carillon Choir Director:-----Connie Burress
- Youth Coordinator: ----- Patrick Imus
- Custodians: ----- Dick Latimer, Dan Latimer,
 Gary Shier

You are welcome to join us at worship services Sunday mornings. Church school and nursery care are also available.

Your Office Staff



LOOK WHO'S CELEBRATING!



November Birthdays

Nov. 2: Allison Rusak
 Nov 3: Buff Donovan,
 McKenzie Hanson,
 Kane Tschudi
 Nov 5: Janelle Justin, Gerrie Schade
 Nov 6: Dick Latimer, Robin Smith
 Nov 7: Jerry Thomas
 Nov 8: Celia Johnston, Gerry Tucker
 Nov 9: Sue Farrell,
 Nov 10: Judy Mau
 Nov 11: Sherry Carnell,
 Melissa Doolin, Michele Austin
 Nov 12: Jackie Drake, Charlotte Gress
 Nov 13: Russell Farmer,
 Connie Lawson, Marilyn Totten,
 Nancy Wlasuk
 Nov 14: Amber Gress,
 Robert Houchins, Ruth Kocab

Nov 16: Sarah Paske, Anne Sutherland
 Nov 17: Aliene Adams, Krista Peckham
 Nov 18: Paul King, Michael Wood
 Nov 20: Kameron Mays, Kay St. Pierre,
 Lauren Wilson
 Nov 21: Marilyn Caine, y,
 Padma Kadiyala, Emily Mock;
 Nov 22: Jay Cummings, Bob Schwartz
 Nov 23: Brent Stutso
 Nov 24: Izabella Houchins, Chris Mays,
 Susan Sackett
 Nov 26: Diane Bridgeman
 Nov 27: Lisa Lewis, Michael Austin,
 Rick Shaul,
 Jarrett Smith
 Nov 28: Chuck Jackson, Dora Schiller
 Nov 29: Barbara Pirronello
 Nov 30: Debbie Yates

November Anniversaries

Nov. 7: Jeff & Crystal Spencer
 Nov. 8: Gordon & Gloria Rousseaux
 Nov 9: Dave & Margaret Trombley
 Nov 10: Ron & Chris Smedley
 Nov 12: Jonathan & Andrea Schroeder
 Nov. 19: Tom & Tina Horton
 Nov. 22: Bob & JeriLou Rodibaugh, David & Peggy Wilke
 Nov. 25: John & Leah Sheppard
 Nov. 27: Don & Carol Vainer



Worship
 Schedule **November, 2011**

Come & worship!

November 6 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost

While the past is in the past, new roads lie ahead with the Lord. Please read Jeremiah 18:1-6 as Roger Young delivers the message, We are being shaped by the Master Potter into a unique person. We are one of a kind and the Lord intended it to be so.

“Starting Over – Get Ready For The Change In Your Life”.

November 13 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

In life, we’re confronted with all kinds of choices. The impact of some of our choices is trivial while other choices have the potential of being life-impacting. Please read Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 as Pastor Bob talks about the most important choice we all have to make.

November 20 – Christ the King Sunday

In church, we often talk about ourselves as the presence of Christ in the world. What exactly does that mean and how does it happen? Please read Matthew 25:31-46 as Pastor Bob answers those questions.



November 27 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Going home for Christmas can be stressful. Our expectations are high as is the credit card debt for a lot of us. At the same time, our calendars are packed with activities and it seems that we can hardly find time to ‘catch our breath’. Still, during this season, we need to make time to go home, to be with family and friends. In fact, going home is an important part of the Christmas story. Please read Luke 1:39-45 as Pastor Bob speaks about how going home should be a time for rest, restoration, and reconnection.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT



I would like to thank everyone in the congregation who has returned their 2012 Commitment card. Your continued generosity and support of our church is very much appreciated.

I would also like to thank Rev. Bob Brenner for his four thoughtful sermons during our Stewardship campaign in September/October. He has given us all a lot to think about what true Stewardship is and how we can all become more generous and cheerful givers.

Finally, a special thank you to our four speakers who shared honest, heartfelt messages each Sunday: Ray Barry, Marilyn Totten, Tom Horton, and Carolyn Aymer. I was touched by each personal witness and admire all of you for your openness and willingness to share. "God loves a cheerful giver". To me, this means not only giving of material goods and wealth, but cheerful giving of one's time, talent, service and witness. I know many members of the congregation have been personally touched and inspired by your messages.

If anyone is planning on returning a 2012 commitment cards, please do so as soon as you can, as budget plans for next year are already underway.

God's blessing to all!

Chris Smedley, Stewardship Chair



Dear Social Justice & First UM Community,

How can we thank you for your hospitality, openness & hard work? We were made to feel so very, very welcome - everything from the scrumptious dinner to the comfortable sleeping space, to the wonderful breakfast, made our stay here memorable...as for the event...you did an outstanding job. It was a civil & educational forum. Thank you, thank you.

Gratefully,
Kim Redigan on behalf of the Peace Walkers 2011

*To the church staff,
Much belatedly, I want to thank the church and all of you for hosting Meredy's graduation recital in July. You helped us arrange everything; purchased the necessary equipment for the sound system, found someone to run it, and made CD's; manned the doors; set up and took down tables; helped with clean up; and countless other jobs which I know I've neglected to specify. Everyone was wonderful.*

*Enclosed please find a donation to the church for the use of the facility.
Thank you all again for making Meredy's day one to remember.*

Karen Birchford

I would like to thank all of you my friends, for your prayers, cards and well wishes during my recovery. I know you all helped my recovery faster. Thank you and God Bless.

Nancy Imus



FROM YOUR PARISH VISITOR

November! Indian Summer has brought forth her color; there are a few leaves dancing and blowing about.

Memories of summer 2011 come to mind at times; but in general, it's time to thank God for His Love, Guidance, and other blessings that are often taken for granted. It is a time for us to think ahead of opportunities to serve God by opening our hearts to the needs of others.

As we grow older we often realize we have much more to learn regarding our role in life, so that we may continue to be thankful and grow in grace and knowledge.

In closing – we wish you a Happy Thanksgiving, and thinking beyond;



Caring Ministry and Fun and Fellowship will be caroling to home bounds and having a supper afterwards in Wesley Hall on December 3rd. Hoping many can participate.

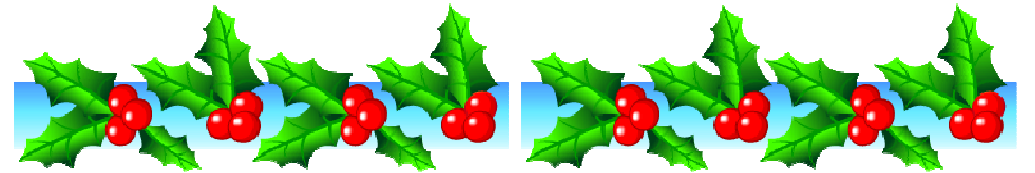
God Bless!

**Your Caring Ministry Group
And Your Parish Visitor, Karma Huston**

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

HANGING OF THE GREENS

The Worship Committee will be decorating our church home for the holiday season on Saturday, November 26th at 9am. Anyone interested in helping "deck the halls" please come and join the fun!



Church NEWS Family NEWS

Cameron McKinnon Smith was born September 14, 2010 and baptized Sunday October 16, 2011. Proud parents are Brian and Theresa Smith. His God parents Annie Patlewicz and Steve Patlewicz were also in attendance.





You will all want to come this month to hear our own Pastor Bob and his wife Joyce share about their mission trips to God's Country Cooperative Parish in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Although it is located in some of the most beautiful country you could ever hope to see, the isolation, extremely harsh long winters and scarcity of jobs bring real challenges to these churches and communities they serve.

Show up in Wesley Hall on Sunday, November 6th, at 8 am. Bring the family, grandchildren and friends to the best breakfast in Farmington and good fellowship before going to Church.

Oscar and the men always cook and clean up.



Workshop on Sunday, November 20, 2011

Pastoral Care in Turbulent Times

The challenges of life are often complex and overwhelming. How one faces these challenges (such as unemployment, pain management, family conflict, grief) is crucial to his/her well-being and ability to weather turbulent times.

Ms. Katherine A. Martin, Samaritan Counseling Center staff counselor, will explore ways with lay caregivers to minister to their care receivers during these difficult periods. Join her for this informative workshop and discover new and innovative techniques that can lead care receivers to healing and wholeness.

The workshop will be held:

Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011

At: Nardin Park UMC

29887 W. Eleven Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48336

(on the south side of Eleven Mile just west of Middlebelt)

From: 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

The cost of the workshop is \$15 if your church does not hold a subscription to the Lay Caregiver Series. (Please make checks payable to Samaritan Counseling Center.)

You may call the SCC office at 248-474-4701 for more information or to reserve a spot in the November workshop. **You must register by Nov. 17th if you plan to attend.**

SCC website: www.samaritancounselingmichigan.com

Email: info@samaritancounselingmichigan.com

A Dresser for the Bell Tower



One man's junk is another man's treasure - - - and in this case, a donation to the Bell Tower Restoration fund.

On Sunday, October 9th, after arriving home from church and a change of clothes, Ron and I went on one of our many bicycle rides around our neighborhood. As we rode down Park Street, we noticed some furniture out on the curb. A dresser caught our eye not the usual stuff people throw away. It looked like a piece from the 1940's We agreed to finish our ride and then get the van and have a better look.

By the time we arrived with the van, several neighbors on Park St., were already rummaging through the discards. No one else was interested in the dresser, and one man even helped Ron load it into our van. We returned home and looked up some local antique dealers in Livonia. One was not very far away, open, and willing to "take a look". We agreed that anything we received for the dresser would go towards the Bell Tower fund.

At the antique store, a very nice lady asked how much we would like for the dresser. Ron said "\$50.00". Within five minutes, we sold and unloaded the van, and were on our way home.

In a matter of an hour, we picked up, sold, and returned with \$50.00. I guess the moral of the story is – be creative and look for any and all ways you can help donate to the Bell Tower Fund. You never know what might be valuable. And we really had fun!

Ron and Chris Smedley



METHODIST MEN'S 2011 Christmas Decoration Sale



Last Date to order greens Sunday Nov. 27 2011
Pick up your Order at the Church
on Sunday December 4 , 2011

TYPE	SIZE	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
WREATHS with Red Bow & Pine Cones				
20" Balsam Wreath	20"		\$18.00	
26" Balsam Wreath	26"		\$21.00	
36" Balsam Wreath	36"		\$33.00	
48" Balsam Wreath	48"		\$46.00	
ROPING / GARLAND				
20 ft Cedar	20 ft		\$19.00	
60 ft Cedar	60 ft		\$41.00	
20 ft Cedar Balsam Mix	20 ft		\$21.00	
60 ft Cedar Balsam Mix	60 ft		\$47.00	
DOOR SWAG with Red Bow & Pine Cones				
Fir, Cedar & Juniper	24"		\$19.00	
TABLE CENTERPIECE				
Mixed Greenery with 12" Candle			\$21.00	
GRAVE BLANKETS with Decorations & Tie Downs				
Small w/ Flowers & Bow	3 ft		\$30.00	
Large w/ Flowers & Bow	5'- 6"		\$42.00	

Name: _____

Total Due: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Amount Paid: _____ Date: _____ Check No: _____ Date Delivered: _____

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

GREAT NEWS! Another highly successful Rummage Sale, enabling us to continue our support to missions. Again we received tremendous help from the church at large, which was much appreciated. You all helped people in this area and around the world have a better life.

Our local United Methodist Women has an exciting year ahead with some great programs that are informative, inspirational and entertaining. Watch this space for details! We also have some new officers with fresh ideas, who along with our loyal members, will continue their dedication to our mission. If you have limited time and resources, there is no place you can get more bang for your buck.

In December, the church will have the opportunity to purchase our popular Rada knives as well as dishcloths, puppets, etc., just in time for Christmas. Proceeds from the sales go to our treasury to help even more people in need.

Due to a successful year, we have been able to donate more to the district and to specific missions we choose, in addition to special church needs such as the Bell Tower fund.

Doesn't this sound like the kind of organization you would like to be a part of? We'd sure like to see you at our General or Circle meetings.

Marilou (Lou) Harrison
248-473-5863
248-977-0080



BELL TOWER UPDATE -

The pancake breakfast in October cleared \$247.

Thanks for coming out to support the cooks.

The last breakfasts, this year, will be Saturday, Nov. 5th sponsored by Stewardship and Saturday, Nov. 12th sponsored by Outreach Work Area. Breakfast will be served starting at 9 am.

‘BACK TO THE FUTURE’ shown at the Civic Theater Sunday, Nov. 13th at 2:00pm. Donation of \$5 at the door. Talmar Bank and Thayer Rock are sponsoring this event. All donations will go towards the Bell Tower Restoration. Doors open at 1:30pm.

We have received the info on the last phase of the Bell Tower Restoration. The cost of \$41,900 is to complete the tuckpointing, repair of window headers, sills and surrounds. Repair of the buttress stones, Thorolastic coating of all precast stone, 100% sealant replacement, window lintel repair or replacement and final cleaning and sealing. When the money has been received for this final work on the Tower we will work towards the rest of the work on the building.

The Bell Tower Committee continues to work on an application for the National Registry which will open other doors for funding.



2012 Calendar

It may still feel like summer/fall to you, but the Christmas decorations and supplies are in the stores, so it is time to think about 2012. We need new ads for our Birthday and Anniversary Calendar to provide funds for LOGOS and ASP. All the advertisement money goes straight to these youth programs, so important to our church.

Our current crop of advertisers is down from a few years ago, evidence of the business downturn. Bayview Optical is my eye doctor's office, Sellers Buick GMC has served several of us over the years and Bergstrom is the church's insurance agency. King Garage is a fixture in the community for auto repair, Jerry Thomas is your local real estate expert and Margaret Trombley has the beauty market cornered with Mary Kay. Chuck Palmer has done quality work for many and Heeney Sundquist and Thayer Rock support Farmington in various ways. We just need more.

You can help me by providing prospects which I will go sell for you. Ad prices range from \$50 to \$200 and every dollar goes to help the kids. Do you have a favorite jeweler, meat market, car dealer, dentist or coney place? All businesses welcome. Pass them on to me and I will go after them. My email is jmock1@comcast.net (not .com as shown in directory). The recession is over, so please help me grow this back to what it used to be. Thanks!

Jim Mock

United Methodist Women



Circle Meetings:

Anna Cook Circle, Nov 9th, 12/noon
Bring a bag lunch

Lydia Circle
November 18th - 7 pm at the home of Nancy Wlasuk

UMW Board Meeting

Wednesday, **November 2rd** at 10:00 am

Sunday, November 13th UMW Sunday

UMW General Meeting Nov. 30th noon Potluck

Program: Christmas Theme
Margaret Trombley and Sally Mattmueller
Right Family Game \$5 gift exchange

PLEASE REMEMBER ST. ALEXANDER'S CHURCH & SALVATION ARMY:

Need canned goods and non-perishable items. This a church-wide ongoing project to help adults in need.



We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who helped make our Rummage Sale a BIG success. A special thank you to **Isla Ecker, Claudette Howell, Carolyn Glennie, Gail Otto & Leah Sheppard** who co-chaired . A special thanks to **Betty Haines** and the **crew for Thursday night shift.**

**PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR FUMC FARMINGTON'S
2012 HURRICANE KATRINA ADULT MISSION TRIP**

Another anniversary has passed since Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast in 2005. There is still much to do! We can still offer physical and spiritual support to our friends in Mississippi, as we continue to help rebuild their homes and lives. The next planning meeting for our upcoming mission trip is scheduled for **Oct. 26, from 7-9 pm in the Markham Room.**

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) will end its presence in Mississippi in March of 2012. Camp Hope at the Vancleave UMC will close its doors. Camp Hope was constructed as a first responder facility and then open for teams to come in and do the work of helping residences rebuild.

The Vancleave and Mount Pleasant UMC's committed to cook meals, wash laundry, and other jobs as long as the facility is open. They have been doing this since Sept. 8, 2005. Because of their dedication and that of teams from around the United States many people's lives have been improved by the rebuilding of their homes.

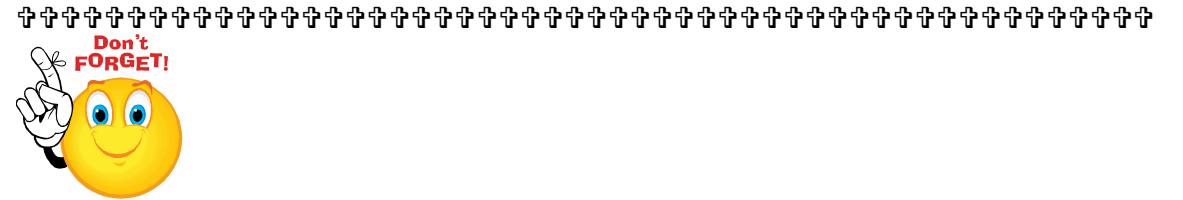
We hope you will consider helping our team as they prepare to travel to Mississippi in January.

How can you help?

- Pray for the residents of the Gulf Coast still recovering from Hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters. Pray for the churches and other non-profit organizations who are struggling to help them.
- Offer financial support to Farmington's Adult Mission Program (Account DF4008). In addition to supporting future adult mission trips out of state, the Outreach Committee wants to financially support local mission efforts, in particular, Mom's Place and the Upper Peninsula Mission trip scheduled for July 8-14, 2012 (more info to come on this trip).
- Come join us! We have two openings remaining. If you can handle a paint brush or a sanding block, we can find work for you. It's also a great experience to learn new remodeling skills and to enjoy great fellowship with others members of our congregation.
- Stay tuned for future fundraising efforts Thank you for your continuing support.
Joyce Brenner Katrina Mission Team Leader, Outreach Committee



MARK YOU CALENDAR - DECEMBER 25TH –
ONE SERVICE AT 10 AM



Please submit your December articles for the Gospel Truth no later than November 15, 2011. This is a firm deadline so that distribution timelines can be met.
Thank you for your cooperation.

FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

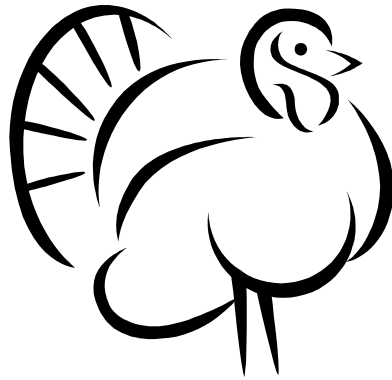


Come join in the fun at the Road Rally Nov 5
Cost is \$5.00 per person ..
Check in time is 3:45 at the church for a 4 pm start time
Dinner will be served at the church at 6pm
day care provided by youth – Please tell us:
how many kids ? what are their ages?
only 4 to 5 people in a car.
who will ride in the car???
please turn info and money in to Nancy Wlasuk

with a large amount of money from the bank within the store.....
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR THIRD GRADERS who were presented their very own Bibles by the United Methodist women on October 16th. What a wonderful thing that these special women do for our youth! This little mouse hopes to see many of you at the November 5th Road Rally from 4 to 6 pm. If you have never been to a road rally, come on along. . . they are great fun!

I hope you all enjoy a most blessed Thanksgiving . . . we all have **SO MUCH** to be thankful for!

Love, Love, Love
 From
YOUR CHURCH MOUSE



Peace for Youth

MISSION OF THE MONTH

"Seek Justice, Freedom and Peace" is one of the [four goals of Global Ministries](#). To meet this goal, we participate with people oppressed by unjust economic, political and social systems in programs that seek to build just, free and peaceful societies.

As Christians from the Wesleyan tradition, our belief in God, Christ and the Holy Spirit requires each of us to be involved in Christian mission and service to the world. "Love of God is always linked with love of neighbor, a passion for justice and renewal of the life of the world."

Here you will find the ways in which Global Ministries works to connect the United Methodists with efforts to create peace, call for justice and, in so doing, live a faithful life.

The Global Justice Volunteers program is designed to enable young adults who are 18-25 years old to have short-term experiences living and learning along side people whose lives are shaped by justice work. The program provides opportunities for cross-cultural exposure, learning, and service.

Michigan U. P. Mission Trip Opportunity

Have you thought about going on a mission trip but wanted to stay in our own state? Well, there is certainly need right here in Michigan.

We have the opportunity to join with members of South Lyon First UMC and Carleton UMC in sending a mission team to the Upper Peninsula to work with God's Country Cooperative Parish (GCCP). This team will work on the houses of needy families to assure that they will be comfortable and secure during the harsh winters there. As with our Katrina recovery and ASP mission teams, no particular skills or abilities are required. In fact, every one will be able to contribute in some way, without exception.

The team will work from Monday, July 9 through Friday, July 13. Sunday, July 8 and Saturday, July 14 are travel days. All of the meals during the work week will be provided and team members can choose to stay at the host church or a nearby campground.

GCCP is in the eastern part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. It covers a 250 square mile area from Engadine near Lake Michigan, up to Paradise at Whitefish Bay, to Grand Marais on Lake Superior's south shore and encompasses McMillan, Germfask, Newberry and Hulbert. Although it is located in some of the most beautiful country you could ever hope to see, the isolation, extremely harsh long winters, and scarcity of jobs bring real challenges to these churches and the communities they serve.

If you have questions or would like to sign up, please see Pastor Bob or Joyce Brenner who are both already committed to be on the team.



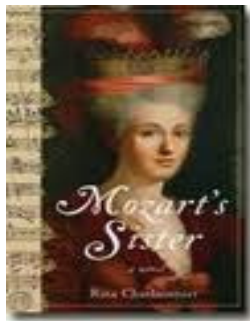
Books & Bites

The next meeting of Books & Bites is Nov. 20, 2011 at 2:30pm in the Markham Room. We are reading Mozart's Sister by Nancy Moser.

Books & Bites is open to women and girls ages 12 and up (ages 12-15 need to be accompanied by a mom or substitute mom).

Check our web site (linked to from the church web site) at <https://sites.google.com/site/booksbites/> for last minute changes in book choice or date. Contact us at books.bites@gmail.com or call Jennie Macy at (248) 521-8546 with questions. We hope you will join us!

The books that we read and discuss are selected by the group. We encourage mothers and fathers to read the books to be sure they are appropriate for their daughter.



I invite ALL of you to come to the Annual Church Conference on Wednesday, November 16th at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. This is an opportunity to see how the process works within our own church and to be aware just who will be on the various committees. Please come and join us – this little mouse will be there (under cover)! DAN LATIMER was seen on TV on Saturday morning, October 15th, as he began the breast cancer walk on Belle Isle with members of the Kroger team. . . . I wish this little mouse could have gone with the group, including the Brenners, to Cedar Point on September 17th. I hear they all had a great time and can't wait to go back next year DID YOU KNOW ? ? that ABBEY CARPENTER always puts a “comment” in the “comment box” by the greeting table in the atrium. Her comments are always so sweet and encouraging and the worship committee, who reads all of the comments, enjoys all of her notes! there is sure a lot of laughter coming out of the room where the Tuesday evening bible study group meets each week . . I'm just going to have to scamper into their meeting and see what goes on! HATS OFF OT THE UMW LADIES ONCE AGAIN as they had a very successful rummage sale in October.

They work very hard for several days preparing for this sale and they have a lot of help from a lot of the men also. What a huge job, setting it all up, having the sale and then taking it all down and loading the left over rummage into trucks to be used for those less fortunate. GREAT JOB, AS USUAL!! the Bell Tower refurbishing committee are great at making pancakes for several Saturday mornings as they help to raise funds for this very expensive, but necessary, project. If you have not attended a pancake breakfast in October, there will be more in November. I'll see you there, as I wouldn't miss any event that includes pancakes! ! I hear that my friend, REBECCA SMEDLEY, has been invited by the National Institutes of Health in Washington. D.C. to present her research findings regarding canine melanoma, in April of 2012. She is a Veterinary Pathologist and has written several articles for the Journal of American Veterinary Association. Of course, her parents, Ron and Chris Smedley are so very proud of her and so am I as I have seen “Becky” grow up in our church and remember her as a little girl. hey DAN LATIMER, I heard that “your” Kroger store at 12 Mile and Halsted was held up by a robber just last week and the robber got away

NOVEMBER 2011

Saturday, November 5	TBD	Guiding Force Babysitting for Fun & Fellowship Road Rally (We'll be collecting a Good Will offering for the youth group)
Sunday, November 6	4:00 PM – 5:00 PM 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM	Jr. Guiding Force meeting Sr. Guiding Force meeting
Saturday, November 12	2:00 PM – 9:00 PM	District Fall Rally (Jr. & Sr. Guiding Force)
Sunday, November 13		NO Guiding Force meeting
Sunday, November 20	4:00 PM – 6:30 PM	Guiding Force Service Project (Jr. & Sr. Guiding Force)
		Leaf Raking in Community or Youth Room Work Day
Sunday, November 27		NO Guiding Force meeting (Happy Thanksgiving!)

DECEMBER 2011

Saturday, December 3	7:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Guiding Force Service Project (Jr. & Sr. Guiding Force) <i>*Operation Good Cheer*</i>
Sunday, December 4	8:30 AM	Christmas Card Sort NO Guiding Force meeting
Sunday, December 11	8:30 AM	Christmas Card Sort HAM SALE ORDERS DUE
	4:00 PM – 5:00 PM 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM	Jr. Guiding Force meeting Sr. Guiding Force meeting
Sunday, December 18	8:30 AM 10:30 AM 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM	Christmas Card Sort HAM SALE DELIVERY Jr. Guiding Force meeting Sr. Guiding Force meeting
Sunday, December 25		NO Guiding Force meeting (Merry Christmas!!)



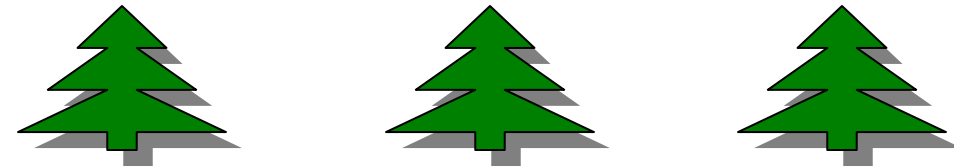
Piecemaker Quilters

Join us on Monday, November 21 for quilting.
9:00 am – noon and /or 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

As always, we welcome any new quilters or anyone who would like to learn to quilt. It's never too late to start. Call Joyce Brenner if you have any questions, 248-474-7568.

Future quilting dates: 12/19, 1/16, 2/20, 3/19, 4/16, and 5/21
Time for each of these days: 9:00 am – noon and /or 6:30pm-9:00 pm.

We also have two Saturday events planned: 3/17, 6/9- time for each is 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.



The Alternative Christmas Fair includes local, national, and international fair trade organizations, non-profit charities, and social service agencies offering gifts for sale and opportunities for charitable giving. The Fair concept permits these organizations to gather under a single roof to raise money and increase awareness of their activities. This year's Fair will be held at St Fabian Catholic Church, at 12 Mile just W. of Orchard Lake Road, in Farmington Hills on November 12, 2011, all day.

Please plan to attend.
Social Justice Group

NOVEMBER 2011

		1 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Carillon Choir	2 6:30 am Prayer Breakfast 10:00 pm UMW Board Meeting 6:30 PM Exercise Class 7:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:30 pm Staff Parish	3 4:45 pm LOGOS 6:30 pm Sanctuary Singers 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	4 12:00 PM CWU meeting	5 9:00 am Pancake Breakfast 10:00 am Confirmation classes – grades 7 – 12 3:30 pm Road Rally
6 Daylight Saving Time Ends 8:00 am Bible Basics 9:30 am Bible Basics 9:30 & 11:15 am Worship, Sunday School 4:00 PM Jr. Guiding Force 5:00 PM Sr. Guiding Force	7 9:30 am Disciple 4 6:30 PM Exercise Class 7:00 pm Disciple 4 7:00 pm Education 7:00 pm Outreach 7:00 pm Worship	8 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Carillon Choir	9 6:30 am Prayer Breakfast 12:00 noon Anna Cook Circle 6:30 PM Exercise Class 7:00 pm Social Justice 7:00 pm Trustees 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	10 4:45 pm LOGOS 6:30 pm Sanctuary Singers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	11	12 9:00 am Pancake Breakfast 10:00 am Confirmation Classes 2:00 PM District Fall Rally (Jr. & Sr. Guiding Force)
13 UMW Sunday 8:00 Bible Basics 8:00 am Sunrise Book Discussion 9:30 am Bible Basics 9:30 & 11:15 am Worship, Sunday School 2:00 pm – Bell Tower Event at the Civic	14 9:30 am Disciple 4 6:30 PM Exercise Class 7:00 pm Caring Ministry 7:00 pm Disciple 4 7:00 pm Growth & Membership	15 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study – 7:30 pm Carillon Choir	16 6:30 am Prayer Breakfast 6:15 pm Staff Parish 6:30 PM Exercise Class 7:00 pm Annual Church Conference 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	17 4:45 pm LOGOS 6:30 pm Sanctuary Singers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	18 7:00 pm Lydia Circle –	19 10:00 am Confirmation Classes – grades 7 – 12
20 8:00 Bible Basics 8:00 am Sunrise Book Discussion 9:30 am Bible Basics 9:30 & 11:15 am Worship, Sunday School 2:30 pm Books n Bites 4:00 PM Guiding Force Service Project	21 9:00 am Piecemakers 9:30 am Disciple 4 6:30 PM Exercise Class 6:30 pm Piecemakers 7:00 pm Disciple 4 7:00 pm Finance	22 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study – 7:30 pm Carillon Choir	23 6:30 am Prayer Breakfast 6:30 PM Exercise Class 7:30PM COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE – Hope Lutheran Church	24 Happy Thanksgiving CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	25 Church office closed	26
27 United Methodist Student Day 8:00 am Bible Basics 8:00 am Sunrise Book Discussion 9:30 am Bible Basics 9:30 & 11:15 am Worship, Sunday School	28 9:30 am Disciple 4 6:30 PM Exercise Class 7:00 pm Church Council 7:00 pm Disciple 4	29 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study –	30 6:30 am Prayer Breakfast 12:00 pm UMW General meeting – Christmas theme 6:30 PM Exercise Class 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	1 4:45 PM LAST LOGOS 6:30 PM Sanctuary Singers 7:30 PM Chancel Choir		

Guiding Force Article – November 2011



I'm happy to report that the start of this year has been great. The youth have been very active and excited about all we've been doing and will be doing. We love all the energy and keep looking for ways to keep it going!

Our first mission project outside the church was with Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac. On Saturday, October 8, we helped out with their fall clean-up. Grace Centers of Hope is Oakland County's oldest and largest homeless shelter providing hope and help since 1942. Today, Grace Centers of Hope is considered one of the leading faith-based organizations in Southeastern Michigan daily confronting issues of homelessness, addiction, poverty and spiritual emptiness. We had a great group of volunteers who stayed very busy and we had a chance to learn a little more about the center and their services.

Many of the youth assisted in painting the mural in the Rotational Sunday School hallway. This was an extra mission project that we threw into our schedule. Andrea Schroeder has been doing a fabulous job and we just added a few extra helping hands. It's really looking great and if you haven't taken a walk down there to see it, you should take a few minutes to check it out the next time you are at the church.

Our annual Halloween Lock-in was on October 21. As usual, we headed out to a Haunted House and then came back to the church for some games, movies and food. We also spent some time moving from our old room off Wesley Hall, to our new location in Room 205. Thanks to the adults that helped drive and hang out with us.

The district Fall Rally is on Saturday, November 12 at Calvary UMC in Flint. The sign up sheet is on the Guiding Force bulletin board and you will need to sign up by November 6, to ensure we have (or can get) enough drivers. Dinner will be included and the event ends with the performance of a Christian band. We've always had a great time and hope everyone can come.

Our first ASP fundraiser starts after the Thanksgiving holiday. All senior high youth that signed up for ASP are required to assist with this fundraiser. We will start collecting cards on Sunday, November 27. Then every Sunday, through January 8, we will be sorting and delivering the cards during the coffee hour. We are asking for a \$0.20 donation, per card, to help off-set the cost of our summer mission trip.

As always, if anyone has any questions, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to talk to me or leave me a note in the youth mailbox in the library.

Pat Imus
Youth Coordinator



Who is **The Outer Circle** and is this for us?

We are a group of couples who started to get to know each other during coffee hour. We talked lightly for a long time about getting together outside of church, which then formed a basis to create a social group. Not everyone in the group has kids, we range in age but we all love having fun and laughing. Our activities are varied and are once a month on a Saturday night. It's an adult only group but we do have a couple family events throughout the year. We are always welcoming new couples in so don't be shy. Feel free to call the church or email Sharon Gesse at dsgesse@aol.com for more details or to be added to our email list so that you don't miss any of our plans!

Upcoming Events:

Nov. 5th at 3:30- Road Rally at church. We are going to join in with the Fun and Fellowship for their road rally. Check in is at 3:45 and the rally goes from 4-6 ending at the church with a dinner. The youth group will be providing child care at the church during the rally (free-will offering). There will be sign ups at church for this since Fun and Fellowship is hosting.

Dec. 10th - Christmas party at the Carpenter's. Time and address will come later.

Jan. 21st (Tentative) - Skating at the Shymanski's. Date, time and specifics will come later.

Jan/Feb (TBD) - don't have a date finalized yet but its WHIRLYBALL!!!!!!! We did this once before and it is AMAZING fun!! There are a few restrictions on who can participate (not good for those with bad backs and those that are pregnant) but you can cheer the others on and join in on the laughs!

Feb. 11th at 4:00 – Sledding at Shiawassee hill and dinner at Page's (child care provided by the youth group – freewill offering).

As always, don't be shy to join in, we are always welcoming in new people.

Outreach is gearing up with *The Detroit Partnership and West Outer Drive Methodist Church to prepare for the 6th annual One Stop Shop!* One Stop Shop is a free clothing and food drive serving “customers” from the Detroit Metro area. Each customer gets a personal shopper to help find many wonderful outfits and free food. Boxes will be put out to collect food and clothing for this event. We are in dire need of children's winter clothes so when you are out shopping and see a great deal please think of One Stop Shop. Many opportunities to volunteer!



Brightmoor's One Stop Shop Dec. 3rd, 2011 **How Can I Help?**



There are so many ways to help Our God take care of our brothers and sisters in Christ!

Listed is just a few of them.

1. **Prayer** - If you can just ask Our Lord and Savior to add His Blessing to this Event
2. **Donate Paper or Plastic Bags** – When you go to the Grocery Store, please save your bags and donate them to the church. If possible, ask for Paper.
3. **Donate new socks, hats or gloves**- People need socks, hats and gloves. If you are able pick up an extra pair socks or knit gloves or a knit hat.
4. **Donate Gently used clothing** – If you have some unwanted gently used clothing or know of someone that does, please donate them. There is someone out there that can use them
5. **Donate Non-Perishable food** – If you can pick up a few extra items at the Grocery Store that will help feed someone in need.
6. **Monetary Donation** - If you are able, the church can purchase food through the Gleaners Food bank at a discounted rate.
7. **Volunteering to serve in of the following areas:**
 - a. **Sorting** - Sorting all the clothing for distribution (which will be done Monday 11/28 – Friday 12/02, from 3:00pm – 8:00pm).
 - b. **Shopping** – Helping Clients shop for what they need.
 - c. **Hospitality** – Making sure all volunteers are taken care of.
 - d. **Volunteer Organization** – making sure all the volunteers registered are assigned a place to work.
 - e. **Child Care** – Making the children of the clients have a great time while the parents are shopping.

See Michelle Devine or leave note in Outreach's mailbox with any questions.



NORTHEAST FLOOD DAMAGE CLEAN UP VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

The United Methodist Church Northeast Jurisdiction is seeking volunteers to clean up flood-damaged homes due to Hurricane Irene. Time is a critical factor, as teams have only about six to eight weeks to clean out and sanitize as many affected homes as possible before winter sets in.

Hurricane Irene devastated a wide swath of the Northeast, from Pennsylvania to Vermont. In some communities along the Susquehanna River, for example, over 80% of homes were damaged. Cleanup of the tens of thousands of flood-damaged homes, churches and businesses have been delayed by washed-out roads and bridges and sluggish federal relief funding. Displaced homeowners are anxious and frustrated, as they negotiate the myriad of aid offerings and FEMA paperwork. Many are unsure whether their homes can be repaired, or must be demolished.

The United Methodist Volunteers in Mission can make a difference for these suffering families. Work will include removing mud and water, removing water-damaged materials and doing mold remediation work. Farmington First will not be organizing any teams, as we currently are committed to the Hurricane Katrina mission trip in January and the Upper Peninsula mission trip next July. If you are interested in participating as an individual, though, you can learn more about where you can help through the following web link: <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/umvim-nej/>.

Frank Wassilak
Outreach Committee

Thank - you!

*The Trustees, Stewardship and Finance Committees are thankful for the on-going support of the **Bell Tower Restoration Fund**. In addition, many of our members have already pledged to continue contributions in 2012 which will help complete the work required on the Bell Tower and, hopefully, begin to fund the additional exterior restoration that is necessary on our historic building. Anyone making contributions now or in the future is reminded to note on the offering envelope and in the memo line of your check that your gift is for the "Bell Tower". This is important so that your gift is directed to the proper designated account.*



Anytime that you are making a special gift, a separate check is appreciated by our Tellers. Separate checks help to reduce complications as the Teller teams work each Sunday to count our offering, prepare the deposit and assure that all gifts are designated for the proper accounts.

Church Mortgage Update:

Our current mortgage balance as of September 30, 2011 is \$441,405.47. Please remember that contributions may be made at any time to our Capital fund and are very much appreciated.

Starting July 2012, any new designated contributions to the Capital Fund will become part of additional principal payments. Please be sure to mark your giving envelope and check with "Capital Fund" to assure that your special gift can be used to reduce our mortgage principal. Also, please write a separate check for any special gift to help our Tellers designate each gift to the proper accounts.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity. God's blessings to all.

Stewardship and Finance Committees