



First United Methodist Church - 801 First Capitol Drive - St. Charles, MO 63301

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A Look Ahead
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Feb. 4th - 51st Ground Hog Supper ▶ Feb. 4th - Children's Ministry Cell Group ▶ Feb. 11th - UMM Meeting 8 a.m. ▶ Feb. 11th - Crescendo Concert Series 10 a.m. ▶ Feb. 18th - Gateway Regional District Meeting ▶ Feb. 18th - Mt. Carmel Worship Service ▶ Feb. 19th - Family Sunday School ▶ Feb. 19th - Mission Possible ▶ Feb. 22nd - Ash Wednesday ▶ Mar. 2nd & 3rd - Confirmation Bishop Days

Looking at our Lives...The Lenten Journey

By Rev. Robin Roderick

The season in our soul work is about to change. After the celebration of Advent and Christmas, we move toward a time of deep reflection on what it means to follow Jesus. Lent is a season of examination and reaffirmation of the disciplines of the faith. In other language its a "check-up" for our spiritual health.

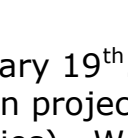
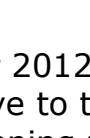
Join us beginning on **Ash Wednesday, February 22nd**. We will once again offer communion and imposition of ashes from 6 a.m. till 8 a.m. prior to our workday. Then we will gather at 7 p.m. that evening for our Ash Wednesday Service.

Lenten Lunches will be from 12 until 1 on Wednesdays beginning Feb. 28th through March 28th.

During these lunches we will share a simple meal and a time of video learning from Rob Bell. The NOOMA videos are both thought provoking and a way to learn more about our faith.

The Seven Last Words - This will be our sermon series during our Lenten time. Each week we look deeply into Christ's words from the cross and how they are formative for us as well.

Holy Week will have a full compliment of services culminating on Easter Sunday. Stay tuned for more details.



30 Hour Famine By Nancy Cooper

Our youth will be participating in the 30 Hour Famine again this year. What is it? Well, it's a lock-in, it's a fast, it's a time of learning, but most importantly, it's a time to help put an end to hunger world-wide. This year the youth will collect pledges and then come together on Feb. 17th & 18th to fast for 30 hours, learn about hunger all over the world, and do community service. Please pray for our students as they experience a bit of what it's like to be hungry. If you would like to support them financially, they will be collecting money between services on Sundays, Feb. 5th & 12th. It only takes \$1 a day to feed and care for a hungry child. If you want to know more - ask our youth!

Mission Possible! By Rev. Debby Bartley

Our first Mission Possible gathering for 2012 is set for Sunday, February 19th. We'll meet in the Atrium at 5:00 p.m. then move to the kitchen for our mission project to bake some cookies (it's a surprise until that evening who will receive the cookies). We'll also order pizza and share a simple meal together before we end at 7:00 p.m.

All families with children in 1st through 5th grade are invited to Mission Possible (at least one parent/guardian needs to attend).

Questions? Please contact Rev. Debby at revdebby@fumcstcharles.org or (636) 947-0066.

United Methodist Men By Jerry Jones

The United Methodist Men will hold their monthly meeting on Saturday February 11 at 8:00 a.m. in Wesley Hall. Future plans and programs will be discussed at the meeting. Breakfast will be served. All men are cordially invited.

GOD'S PEOPLE IN ACTION By the Showers of Blessing Ministry Team

The week after Christmas was a marvelous display of FUMC "God's People in Action". On December 27th through 29th over 150 people, who would have normally been fed by the Salvation Army, were served awesome meals prepared by the Good News, Wesley Society and Crusaders Classes. In addition to the 48 kitchen volunteers who worked over the three day period, our FUMC Boy Scout Troop and leaders camped in the church for three days and assisted with each meal service. Behind the scenes were many volunteers who served by providing sack lunches and cakes. In fact, there were more who volunteered than there were jobs and for that we are truly blessed.

No one who came for a good meal left hungry! Those who wanted seconds and carry overs were given as much as they wanted. Each day the workers heard from those who came...."I haven't had a meal like this in so long, thank you so much!" "This is my favorite food, may I have seconds?" The volunteers sat and visited with many and got to hear their stories, some of hardship, others of memories of past Christmas meals. As each left, the Scouts and volunteers gave to all who wanted them, sack lunches to help with a light evening meal.

As always, when God provides there is abundance! If you wanted to help this year and didn't get to serve, please watch for other ways throughout the year where you can help. Your church has many missions or projects where you are needed. We will do this again! FUMC is a generous and giving congregation. God Bless you all for that generosity!

The Showers of Blessing Ministry Team

THE MONTHLY MYSTERY TRIPS By Rev. Debby Bartley

Monthly Mystery Mission Bible Study Trips - the monthly mystery trips are back!! Our first trip in 2012 will take place on Monday, February 27th. We'll leave at 9:00 a.m. and return no later than 2:00 p.m.

Last year, we went all over the metropolitan area visiting United Methodist Churches and agencies. Curious where we might be going on this trip? Sorry, can't tell you! Hop on the bus and travel with us to the mystery location, participate in a short Bible study, and enjoy lunch and fellowship with fellow "mystery travelers." Your "admission" for the trip is to bring a couple of canned goods to add support to one of our destination ministries. Join the adventure! RSVP to Pastor Debby at (636) 947-0066 or revdebby@fumcstcharles.org.

Lenten Small Group Study By Rev. Debby Bartley

If you would like to delve further into the Lenten Sermon Series, Pastor Debby will facilitate a small group study based upon Adam Hamilton's book & DVD, "Final Words From The Cross." The small group will meet five times - March 8, March 15, March 22, March 29, and April 12 - from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in Room 304.

Childcare will be available upon request. Please **RSVP** to Pastor Debby **by February 26** revdebby@fumcstcharles.org or (636) 947-0066.

If you would like to purchase a participant's book, the cost is \$10.

A CALL FOR LITURGISTS By Betty Hedges

We have a great need for additional liturgists. Free Training! A little shy about praying, a pastor will take that part! Please join us in the ministry of worship. Call Betty Hedges at (636) 724-5056 or Rev. Robin at (636) 947-0066 ext 110 for more information.

Gateway Regional District - United Methodist Women

By Betty Knapp

YOU ARE INVITED!

PUT THE DATES 1/29, 2/5, AND 2/12 ON YOUR CALENDAR!

The United Methodist Women of St. Charles First United Methodist Church will serve as hostess for the district meeting and luncheon on February 18th. Registration is at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. and concludes at 2:00 p.m. The lunch is \$8.00 and reservations are to be made with Betty Knapp by February 13th. Please call or e-mail her at (636) 219-2363 or jbkknapp2@att.net. The meeting will consist of a Candle Burning Ceremony and the awarding of certificates for 5* units and the reading program. You will learn about the contents and how to use the new Program book, "Walking with Wholeness".

Come and meet women from throughout the District and enjoy a day of fellowship and fun. Betty's waiting for your call.

FUMY THEATER By Nancy Cooper

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who supported the youth in their theater production this year. After expenses, we made over \$3,000, which is a significant increase over previous years. The money we raise is used to help offset the cost of mission trips in the summer. This coming summer our youth will be going to Oak Hill, WV to a depressed coal mining area to help with home repairs for elderly and low-income families and to Joplin, MO to help with the tornado rebuild.

CONFIRMATION By Nancy Cooper

Confirmation classes have begun! Please stop by the bulletin board outside the Sanctuary and get acquainted with our Confirmands this year.

Please remember them in your prayers as they travel this journey to confirm their faith.

End of Year Contribution statements By Mike Waller

The end of year contribution statements have been mailed or emailed to all contributors. If you did not receive one, please contact Mike Waller in the church office at (636) 947-0066 or at mww1949@bcgloab.net.

If you believe there is an error on your statement, you should contact Mike prior to February 10th so that it can be researched and corrected.

ARE YOU A LIFE THAT WAS CHANGED? By Rev. Robin Roderick

It's a ways off, but we need your help for a brief sermon series after Easter. What we'd like to do is have members of the congregation who would be willing to share during the sermon time if they feel they are a life that was changed by the power of Jesus Christ. "Resurrected!" is our series, and we're asking for those of you who feel that perhaps you've been healed physically; your marriage has been restored; your despair has been lifted; your loneliness abated; your addiction overcome. Would you be brave enough to give your story so that others can see and hear the true power of the resurrection? The pastors will be willing to help you prepare and pray you through.

The power of our stories is unmistakable. These services will take place April 15, 22, and 29th. Please call Pastor Robin by February 17th with your questions.

Crescendo Concert Series Presents Free Children's Concert By Sharon Byers

"Music! Is! Song or Dance? March or Waltz? Loud or Soft? Fast or Slow? Opera or NOISE!" Children of all ages are invited to join members of the Clarion Brass Ensemble for a program of fun music with brass instruments and percussion. A rousing piece with audience participation will end the program. This is an event not to be missed! Sponsored by the Crescendo Concert Series, this event will be held on Saturday, February 11, 10:00 a.m., in the First United Methodist Church Atrium, 801 First Capitol Drive, St. Charles.

Children are encouraged to bring a canned good or dry packaged food item for the hungry.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED By Patti Adams

Are you looking for an opportunity to serve in the church? Volunteers are needed to staff the bulletins with inserts and prepare them for Sunday services. This group meets on Friday at 10:00 a.m. in the Catherine Collier Room. Normally, you will only be assigned one Friday per month.

Please call the church office at (636) 947-0066 if you are interested.

MOUNT CARMEL MINISTRY CONTINUES! Rev. Debby Bartley

We are so excited! Because of our outreach efforts, we are going to host **regular, monthly** worship for the residents and staff of the Mount Carmel Retirement Center in their chapel. Worship will be celebrated on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. in their chapel. We will sing, pray, celebrate communion and share a message of hope and thanksgiving. This means, starting at about 8:30 a.m., servants from FUMC will gather at Mount Carmel to "walk and roll" residents to their chapel. We will need about 20 servants each time, beginning Saturday, February 18, 2012. Last year, over 80 FUMC servants participated and brought smiles to the faces of our Mount Carmel neighbors! Please put the 3rd Saturday of each month, starting at 8:30 a.m., on your calendar. Email Joan Crenshaw at joancren71@gmail.com or call (636) 699-8764 so we know when to count on you!

UNITED METHODIST MEN By Paul Vipond

Due to the heavy demand, the UMM has ordered another shipment of pecans. They will begin selling in the Atrium on 1/29 and during the Ground Hog Supper on 2/4. Once this supply is gone we won't receive another shipment until next year.

NEW TUTORING MINISTRY By Geoff Walton

FUMC is starting an exciting, new tutoring ministry. Our mission is: to **Gather and Grow relationships with children and their families into the church, by creating a safe environment through education.** Sessions will be held in the atrium on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. These sessions will be available for students in grades K-8. Sessions are one on one and will last 45 minutes. If you are interested in having your child or know a child that would benefit from our new tutoring ministry please contact us via email at fumctutor@yahoo.com. Sessions will begin January 24, 2012.

OPPORTUNITIES !! By Patti Adams

There is an opening to serve the church as a member of one of the Pew Patrol Teams. This team serves on Even Months (February, April, June, August, October, December). Volunteers work on Monday mornings from 8:00 - 9:00a.m. The group cleans up the pew area and prepares them for the next week services. Please call the church office at (636) 947 0066 if you are interested.

ANNUAL GROUND HOG SUPPER By FUMC

The 51st Annual Groundhog Supper is being held on Saturday, February 4th, 2012 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Ticket Prices are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 6-12 years, children 5 years and under are free. Tickets can be purchased in the church office and will be on sale in the Atrium beginning this Sunday.

All the profits of the dinner will go to the Community Care fund of FUMC. Please support this annual event by attending this "All You Can Eat" supper!

Fall Registration for FUMC Preschool and Mother's Day Out (MDO)

It is time to register for the Fall Preschool and MDO programs. The Preschool has classes for children 3 years old through 5 years old and the MDO program serves children aged 6 weeks to 4 years old.

Early registration for the Fall school year will begin on **January 23** for members of FUMC and current Preschool and MDO families.

Registration will be opened to the public on **February 6**.

The Preschool provides classes from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. two days per week for 3 year old children and three days per week for 4 and 5 year old children. In addition, the Preschool has an extended day program for the students called Lunch Bunch which meets from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The MDO program is in session Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and children may attend 1, 2, or 3 days per week.

Please contact Sally Jacobsen, Preschool Director, or Kerri Johnson, MDO Director if you have any questions or would like to enroll your child.

The Preschool and MDO phone number is (636) 947-9380.

Little Helps Make a Big Difference

Help us be better stewards of all our resources
-turn the lights off when you leave a room
-if you adjust a thermostat return it to the original setting as you leave. Please don't place it on "hold"

-Receive the Spire on line to avoid postage costs and paper consumption. Call Mike Waller in the office to get it started.
Each little bit can make a big difference!

Staying Connected

Our deepest sympathies are extended to the families of those who have recently passed away.

Ginny Felker and family, at the death of Ginny's brother, John Francis Ellis, on 1/18/12.

Arnie and Dottie Dorrell, at the death of Dottie's sister, Jane Crabtree, on 1/15/12.

Icel Tilley, long time member of this church, died on 1/12/12.

Ruth Gross family, at the death of Ruth's sister, Eleanor Smith, on 1/7/12.

Edgar Smart and family, at the death of Edgar's brother, Kenneth Homer.