

Connecting
People ...

to Each
Other

to the
World's
Needs

to God
in
Jesus Christ

The First Connection

Leading people to an active faith in Jesus Christ

BLUE SPRINGS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Are You Prepared?

We have heard about the ice storms in Southeast Missouri, Kentucky, and Arkansas, where power was out for several days. We are approaching tornado season, and we know the potential dangers of all kinds of storms. Are you prepared in case of an emergency or disaster?

Local, state, and federal agencies have plans to protect the public. But you are responsible for your own safety, even in an emergency. At home, school, work, and even in our cars, we need to know what to do in an emergency and where to go. Ready in 3 is an easy way to learn how to prepare for an emergency.

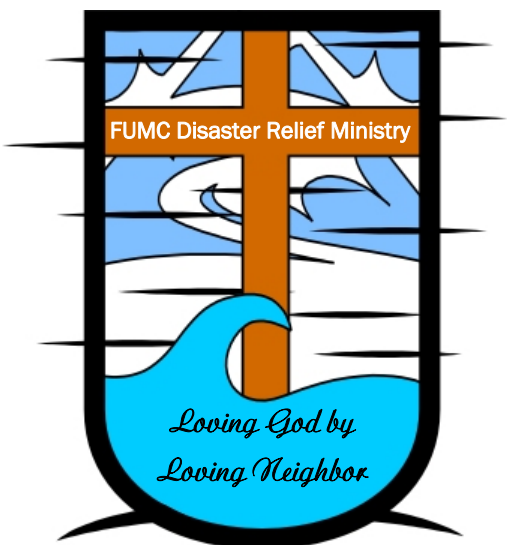


Ready in 3 includes three steps:

- Create a plan for you, your family, and your business.
- Prepare a kit for home, car, and work.
- Listen for information about what to do and where to go during an actual emergency.

Those involved in Emergency Management say the best way you can help in a disaster is to be prepared to care for yourself. The Disaster Relief Ministry wants to help you be prepared.

There will be available the weekends of Feb 28/March 1 and March 7/8 brochures titled **Ready in 3**. It is a family safety guide which lists three simple steps to enable you to be ready when an emergency strikes your family. **Ready in 3** is a program of Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.



Help Deliver Visitor Gifts On Sunday After Church.

We are looking for a few folks to deliver welcome gifts to first-time guests. This visit is simply to drop off the gift. It takes seconds and does not involve going inside, so leave the car running. Speak to a pastor or Reed Alberg for information.

Rev. Steve Campbell

Dear Friends,

As we began 2009 it did not appear that our anticipated income for the year would be adequate to meet our proposed budget. Many of you are already aware of that reality. I state it again just to be clear. In this letter I will review our present financial reality and share some recent actions taken by your Administrative Board.

Presently, 220 of our households have returned commitment cards for the 2009 General Fund budget. The total of these financial commitments is \$526,716. In 2008 there were 246 commitment cards turned in, totaling \$520,413. So, we received 26 fewer commitments, but the total pledged increased by \$6,303. That may mean there are some who forgot, or who still intend to return a commitment card. You certainly may still send one!

With patterns of historic giving, and other sources of income figured in, the best estimate is that the church can be confident of receiving \$782,631 for the 2009 General Fund budget. This is a hearty amount, but it leaves us with real concerns. We began the year with a proposed budget of \$903,969. These are difficult times for many of us as individuals. Every organization I know is faced with real financial challenges.

A group made up of lay leadership and program staff met and worked through that proposed 2009 budget. An immediate reduction of \$44,186 was recommended to the Administrative Board, and approved. The new budget total for 2009 is \$859,783. That is the first thing I hope you will note. This is a significant decrease, but we can do this without reducing our staff or eliminating any of our ministries.

Second, there are several large areas of our budget which we will simply not spend

if the funds are not available. We will proceed with caution in these areas, especially in the next few months.

Third, several creative ideas for increasing the Church's income are being forwarded to the Finance Committee from the Administrative Board.

Fourth, the Administrative Board will review the status of income and expenditures regularly and respond as needed.

In addition to these actions by the Administrative Board, your staff has been looking carefully at other ways we might reduce expenses. You will find a special section in this First Connection which explains some of those measures. Savings from these actions will be in addition to the reduction approved by the Administrative Board. (See page 5.)

I have been gratified by the response of both church leaders and staff. They have worked at this with a willing spirit and a sense of our common mission. These are difficult tasks undertaken in difficult times. I thank God for the integrity and accountability of all these leaders. This is a time for us to come together in our common purpose. It may be time for you to return your financial commitment.

There are many ways to respond to difficult challenges. You and I know what is called for. It is time to move together. This is the time to do what is possible, to focus on our mission, and open our hearts to God. This may not be an easy time financially, but it can be a great time for First United Methodist Church!

Grace to You,

Steve Campbell



Join **Connections** on March 1

If you would like to explore a deeper connection with God within a small group community, **Connections** invites you to join us on Sunday, March 1, at 10:40am in Room 100. **Connections** is a new group for adults who are interested in developing meaningful relationships with God and each other. If you would like more information, please contact Stephanie Marker at 220-9094 or stephaniecmarker@yahoo.com.

HEALTH CONCERNS

Mary Derrington	Melissa Grey
Gary Harvey	Donna Hoover
Shawn Stark	Bob Turner
Jean Moore	Chip Reach
Bob Orndorff	Larry McMullin
Martha Farabee	Inez Dexheimer
Bernie Dietrich	Shari Sullivan
Alice Atkinson	Sheri Adams
Robert Jacoby	Dick Moore
Rex Schwein	Lucille Welden
Grace Wright	Maggie and Joshua Hannah

Mike McKay, son of Carmen Worden
 Grover James, brother-in-law of Gary Baker
 Joyce Brammer, mother of Debbie Danner
 Bill Marshall, brother-in-law of Jim Dietrich
 Leota Cossairt, mother of Melody Garland
 Dana Showers, sister of Marcia Lesan
 Doug Jones, son of Becky Leath
 Ednabelle Menditto and her brother Lydon Drury
 George White, brother-in-law of Barbara Moore
 Jennifer Osborne, daughter-in-law of Jim and Linda Osborne
 Ron Lake, brother of Lynn Rooney
 Debbie Smith, daughter-in-law of Bob Swisher
 Jim and Jenny Floyd, father and mother of Roma Troxel

OTHER

Connections—pray for guidance for this new group.
 Missouri Men and Men's Ministries
 Family Life Center building project
 Financial concerns of our church
 Those affected by job loss, job stress or other fallout from the economic downturn.
 lila and Naftal Suzana of Mozambique and the continuing situation facing that country.
 Lisa Harvey

SYMPATHY

to the family and friends of Sharron Bucker who died suddenly of a heart attack, per Judy Clawson.
 to the family and friends of Devon and Willis Byram on the death of his sister, Dortha Pearce, on February 8 in O'Fallon, Missouri.
 to the family and friends of Cheryl Leppert on the death of her grandmother, Elizabeth Smith, on February 5 in Toledo, Ohio.
 to the family and friends of Janet Hines on her death in Anchorage, AK. Janet was a friend of Jane and John Rosendahl.
 to the family and friends of Carmen Worden on the death of her son, Brent McKay, last weekend. Also, to Mike McKay, Brent's brother.

JOYS

Congratulations to Cora Marcks on a new grandson (20 months old), Paulo Mario Harris, from Guatemala. The adoptive parents are Todd and Nicole Harris. Nicole is Cora's daughter. Paulo came to them on February 4.

**Lent
2009**

Lent is the 40-day-long liturgical season of fasting and prayer before Easter. Its purpose is to prepare the Body of Christ for the annual

commemoration during Holy Week of the death and resurrection of Jesus. In our faith tradition, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and culminates Easter Sunday. Here are some of the ways we'll be walking through the season of Lent together this year:

Ash Wednesday, February 25

Worship Service at 10:30am in the sanctuary.

Lunch will follow in the narthex.

Worship service at 7:00pm in the sanctuary.

Lenten Men's Study

Will meet each Tuesday at 1:30pm in room 112 to study *"Three Simple Rules for Christian Living."* In *Three Simple Rules*, Rueben Job offers an interpretation of John Wesley's General Rules for today's readers. This simple but challenging look at three commands, "do no harm, do good, stay in love with God," calls us to mutual respect, unity, and a deeper relationship with God.

Pastor Steve's Study

Pastor Steve will continue his exciting look at the Book of Exodus on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm in room 112.

Pastor Karen's Lenten Study

Will meet at 6:30pm each Wednesday in room 012 to study *"Three Simple Rules for Christian Living."*

Come to the Well—A Women's Retreat

We all come to God's well—whether it is to take something or to bring something. Whichever it is, God will and does provide. You are invited to "Come to the Well" for a time of refreshment and renewal as you join other women from the church at Wilderness Retreat Center in Lawson, MO. The cost is \$45 for the retreat, which begins on Friday, March 13, and will conclude Saturday afternoon, March 14. Registration begins this weekend.



In addition to cell phones, First Church also has places to drop off your old ink and toner cartridges and your newspapers. Please support the church in these efforts. Bring your cell phones, newspapers, and ink and toner cartridges with you so they may be disposed of properly and help raise some needed funds.

Cancer Support Group



Cancer survivors and those currently experiencing cancer are invited to meet for one hour a week on **Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm in Room 100**. This will be an ongoing group with the goal of exploring ways to cope with the changes illness brings to our lives. Once a month caregivers and family members will be invited to join us. If you are interested in attending, please call the church of-

fice at 229-8108 or just come to a session. We are looking forward to a time of spiritual growth and mutual support.

Electronic Newsletter and Pastor-gram

If you are interested in receiving the newsletter by email, you can sign up on the website. Just go to www.firstumcbs.org/nwsltr.asp and sign up there. You can also register to receive the weekly pastor-gram on the same page. Newsletters are emailed before the printed ones are finished so you can get it early. **Call the office if you receive both the email and a printed newsletter or multiple copies. Also, let us know if you move or are going to be away for an extended period of time. We pay the postage for all returned newsletters.**

BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

Help those in need by donating an adult- or child-size blanket to Grace Circle. There will be a barrel in the narthex until February 15, so add to the pile of blankets. All donations will be taken to Grand Avenue Temple or Spofford Home. Thank you for helping those less fortunate.

Easter Candy for the Easter Egg Hunt Needed!

Donations of wrapped Easter candy are needed that will fit inside plastic eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt that the Youth provide for the Sunday School Children! Drop off at the Education Office or the Information Table.

The Bunco Group--Every Second Sunday at 3:00pm—Room 112

What is Bunco--It is a game that you play with dice and a table of 4 friends. Difficulty level of 0 and all rules of play will be explained at the first meeting. This is a new group, so you will



be getting in on the ground floor. No experience needed; just bring yourself and be prepared to have fun and yell BUNCO!!!!

The **Widows Support Group** will meet for lunch on February 18 at 11:30am at Zarda Bar-B-Que in Blue Springs. Call Carol Sartain for reservations at 229-9753.

JOB LISTINGS—

With the uncertain conditions facing many in our congregation, we would like to introduce a new opportunity. If your company has job openings, please post those openings on the kiosk in the narthex. Anyone looking for a position will be able to review openings. The posting must contain the description, company and contact, date posted, and the person posting the information.

Cleanup Saturday

Join us Saturday, February 14, from 9:00-11:30am to help do some cleanup around the Family Life Center. B.Y.O.B. (broom, bucket, brother, brawn, and brimming energy.)



HOSPITALITY WORKSHOP

February 22, 2:00-3:00pm in the sanctuary. Make your involvement matter. Greeting, welcoming, inviting, smiling, introducing are all vital parts of our hospitality but are frequently left to others. Learn simple techniques and see the plan for hospitality at First Church unveiled. What a great way to prepare for our "Invitation Sunday and Open House" in April.

SPONSOR THE HOSPITALITY TABLE

Celebrate your anniversary, the birth of a child, any significant happening in your life, or just say thanks by sponsoring the Sunday morning hospitality table refreshments. For a small donation of \$70 you will cover the cost of our donuts. Donations given by others that morning will go to support various church ministries. Your sponsorship will be recognized by a sign on the hospitality table. Call the office, 229-8108, for more information or to get the remaining spots.

YOUTH COMBINED MISSION TRIP—2009

This will be the first year for a combined mission trip of high school and mid-high youth. Anyone currently in the 6th grade or above is welcome to participate.

- Sunday, March 8—Thursday, March 12.
- We will travel to Chapman, Kansas, which is half-way between Abilene and Junction City, Kansas.
- The cost is \$70 per person attending.
- We will be helping with the continued cleanup and recovery for last year's tornado.

If the weather is bad, the trip will be canceled.

All forms and money for the trip must be turned in at the next meeting, which is scheduled for Sunday, March 1, at 5:30pm in the sanctuary. Please contact Jack Marker with any questions about the opportunity.



CHANGE IS HAPPENING EVERYWHERE

As each of us wrestles with our finances, we all see more month left at the end of the money. Things are no different with the church. We strive to be considerate stewards of the resources, both time and money, that are entrusted to us. To that end the staff has evaluated several options to improve our communication while reducing our costs. Over the next few weeks and months we will begin phasing out some of our mailing and other things that can be achieved electronically and bring some printing in-house.

We are looking at ways to provide financial statements by email and reduce the printing and mailing of statements from six per year to a final annual statement. Currently we print and mail statements quarterly and the last three months of the year. Printed statements can be made available on request by contacting the office, 229-8108.

We will be ending the mailing of notifications for meetings, choir rehearsals, and other reminders. We will provide email reminders to anyone who sends us an email address. The church website has a calendar that can also be set up to send you an email reminder of any activity or meeting that you are interested in. (This is located on the bottom left of the event page.)

BRIDGES

Wednesday, March 4, Noon in the Narthex

Those of you who attended the BRIDGES October meeting will remember we were fortunate in having an outstanding speaker, economist Chris Kuehl. He will return to our March meeting and speak about current national and international economic trends.

Menu: Chili, Salad, Cornbread, Brownie, and Beverage.

Cost: \$6 per person.

Reservations and payment are needed by March 1.

Please call Dee Meek at 373-2580 for reservations or with any questions.

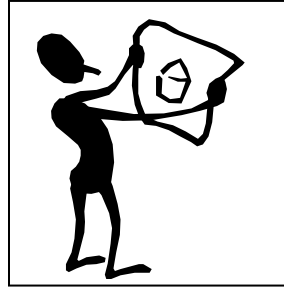


YOUTH EVENTS

You must be signed up for all activities ahead of time. This is to ensure we have enough transportation. Friends are always welcome, but everyone must have a consent form on file or filled out to participate.

Sunday Night Youth!

- 5:00-5:30pm Dinner
- 5:30-5:50pm Break into groups for fellowship
- 5:50-6:50pm Lessons and discussion
- 6:50pm Joys and concerns, offering, and benediction all together



**CALLING ALL
YOUTH**

FUMC Youth has a group on Facebook.

If you want to be connected via Facebook regarding youth activities, events, photos, etc., please join the group called **FUMC YOUTH GROUP**.

SNOW ANGELS - Sign up to scoop driveways after snow accumulations! Drivers/adults always needed- This is a winter-long opportunity!

Senior High Youth planning - Wednesday nights - 6:30-7:30pm. Meet in the Senior High Youth room, room 015, and help plan the Sunday night lessons!

Helping Hands needed- February 22, the youth will be assisting with picking up trash and odds and ends around the new Family Life Center. Meet at 4:30pm before Youth to do a quick pickup, then head upstairs for supper! Many hands make the job fun and easy!

ACCEPTED Youth Music Group will be practicing every Sunday afternoon in February from 4:00-5:00pm in the Sanctuary or music room. Anyone interested in singing is invited to join this month!

4th Annual Float Trip is Scheduled! - June 3-5, River Ranch Resort in Noel, MO

\$120 includes 2 nights' lodging, 5 meals, mini-float first day and 4-mile float second day, t-shirt, 2 rounds of mini golf and loads of fun! \$25 deposit due by March 1 if you are going.

ARTS & CRAFT NIGHT—February 18 at 6:30-8:00pm in room 013

The Stats:

January 2009

Giving (Monthly)

General Fund	\$66,805
(needed)	\$71,649
2009 Budget.....	\$859,783
Giving to date	\$66,805
% of budget Received	7.8

Building Fund

Building Fund	\$28,807
(needed)	\$29,520
3-year Goal	\$1,062,703
% of Goal Received	8.1
% of Campaign Complete	2.8

Designated Giving.....\$4,761

Worship Attendance (2/7-8/2009)

Worship	512
Sunday School	
Children	68
Youth	31
Adults.....	106
Totals	205
Youth Events	46

Date	Time	Place
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Sunday, February 15

No Psalm 150 Rehearsal		
Accepted Youth Choir Rehearsal	4:00pm	Sanctuary
Evening Youth Activities	5:00	Narthex

Monday, February 16

Vesper Voices Rehearsal	7:00pm	150
Finance Committee Meeting.	7:00	Office
Gospel Singers Rehearsal	8:00	150

Tuesday, February 17

United Methodist Men's Lunch	Noon	112
Men's Lenten Study	1:30pm	112

Wednesday, February 18

Bible Study with Rev. Jack Belton	10:00am	Belton Home
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COME TO THE WELL

Children's Chime Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm	Sanctuary
Serving from the Heart with Pastor Karen	6:30	012
Study of Exodus with Pastor Steve	6:30	112
Confirmation Class 2009	6:30	013
Youth Arts and Crafts Night	6:30	014
Bible Study for Single Moms	6:30	011
Cancer Support Group	6:30	100
Stephen Ministry Training	6:30	Office

Thursday, February 19

Youth Tubing at Snow Creek	5:30pm	Off Site
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Saturday, February 21

Worship Service	5:30pm	Sanctuary
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Sunday, February 22

Hospitality Workshop	2:00pm	Sanctuary
Accepted Rehearsal	4:00	Sanctuary
Witness Chorale Rehearsal	7:15	150

Monday, February 23

Susannah Circle Meeting	1:30pm	103
Mission Steering Committee Meeting	7:00	103
Trustees Committee Meeting	7:00	Office
Gospel Singers Rehearsal	7:00	150

Tuesday, February 24

Men's Lenten Study	1:30pm	112
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Wednesday, February 25**ASH WEDNESDAY**

Ash Wednesday Service	10:30am	Sanctuary
Ash Wednesday Lunch	11:30	Narthex
Ash Wednesday Service	7:00pm	Sanctuary

Thursday, February 26

Hearts and Hands Circle Meeting	6:30pm	112
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Friday, February 27**Saturday, February 28**

Stephen Ministry Retreat	9:00am	Office
Worship Service	5:30pm	Sanctuary

February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**SUNDAY**

8:00, 9:15, 10:45am	Worship Services	Sanctuary
12:00 noon	Men of Praise	150
1:00pm	Psalm 150	150
3:00	Crossover Rehearsal	Sanctuary
5:00	Youth Dinner	Narthex
5:30	Youth Activities	Education

MONDAY

7:00	Boy Scout Troop 332	112
7:00	Cub Scout Pack 332	102

TUESDAY

8:00am	Morning Prayer Group	100
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WEDNESDAY

8:00am	Pastors Lectionary Group	103
5:15pm	Wednesday Fellowship Dinner	Narthex
5:30	Glory Ringers Rehearsal	154
6:30	Youth Planning Session	014-016
6:30	Pastor's Study	112
6:30	Children's Bible Study and Craft	106
6:30	Children's Chime Choir (1st & 3rd)	Sanctuary
6:30	Power Praise Kids (2nd & 4th)	115
6:30	Spirit Ringers Rehearsal	154
7:00	Creative Crafts/Prayer Shawls	103
7:30	Rhapsody Ringers Rehearsal	154
7:30	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	150

THURSDAY

9:30am	Back Fence Bible Study	100
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FRIDAY

9:30am	Joy Ringers Handbell Rehearsal	154
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SATURDAY

5:30pm	Worship	Sanctuary
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Ministers

All members who have pledged to uphold First UMC with their prayers, presence, service, gifts, and witness.



February 11, 2009

First United Methodist Church
of Blue Springs
301 SW Woods Chapel Road
Blue Springs MO 64015

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
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Blue Springs, MO 64015
PERMIT No. 21

Address Service Requested

Pastors

Rev. Steve Campbell
Rev. Karen Taylor

Worship

Saturday, 5:30pm
Sunday, 8:00, 9:15, and 10:45am

Office Hours

8:00am—4:30pm Monday-Friday

Church Office: (816) 229-8108

Church fax: (816) 229-6705

E-mail: office@firstumcbs.org

Learning Ladder Preschool
(816) 229-9949

Church Website - www.firstumcbs.org

Blog—<http://fumcnews.blogspot.com>

Join the "Block" Party!

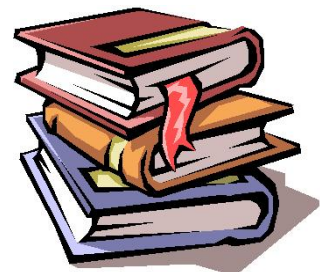
The Building Committee is in need of volunteers to paint the base coat on the block walls in the new Family Life Center. All materials and equipment will be provided; what we need is just your labor in clothing that will probably change colors. This project may take more than one day and will most likely be done on Saturdays in February and/or March. If you would like to help, please call the church office at 816-229-8108 and leave your name and phone number and we will get back to you when a start date can be determined. Thank you for your willingness to help with this project!



Ephesians 3:20

Pastor's Recommended Reading List!

Some of you indicated on your Covenant Renewal Card that you will read at least one book this year from the Pastor's recommended reading list. Of course, you are not limited to one book, and even if you did not make this a part of your 2009 covenant, you are encouraged to read from this list. Additions may be made to the list from time to time. These books are available at the Information Table in the narthex. You may purchase them if you choose, or you can read and return them free. The books listed here support the emphasis on inviting ministries. They will enrich your spirit and help equip you to be part of a season of growth at First Church! Enjoy!



1. *The Race to Reach Out: Connecting Newcomers to Christ in a New Century*, by Douglas T. Anderson and Michael J. Coyner
2. *Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life*, by Henri J.M. Nouwen
3. *Eight Life-Enriching Practices of United Methodists*, by Henry H. Knight III
4. *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, by Robert Schnase
5. *Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism* by Martha Grace Reese