

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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**On Sunday, March 14, 2010 at 2:00am,
 Daylight Saving Time begins.**



**Open Hearts
 Open Minds
 Open Doors**



And now First United Methodist
 Church is having our

Second Annual Open House

Sunday, April 11

Regular worship services at
 8:00, 9:15 and 10:45am

Food and Ministry Fair begins at 11:30am

Concert with recording artist Jason Watson at
 1:45pm in the sanctuary.

Save the date. Invite your friends!!!



The Disaster Relief Ministry presents

The Irish Jig

Friday, March 12, 2010

6:30 ~ 10:00pm

FUMC Narthex and Sanctuary

6:30 ~ Delicious Irish Food

7:15 ~ *The Men o' Praise* Concert

8:00 ~ Dance to '60s and '70s Music

Freewill offering to benefit the **Disaster Relief Ministry**

Wear something green!

Babysitting available upon request

Please contact the Church Office 7 days in advance!



Rev. Steve Campbell

Dear Friends,

It won't be long before we celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. Like many other holidays and special occasions, I am not at all sure the celebrations have evolved in a way which accurately reflects their origin! I don't say that to be negative or judgmental; I am just not sure Saint Patrick would recognize himself in all this!

So, what do you know about this obscure historical figure? There is a lot of mystery surrounding Saint Patrick and it is often difficult to separate historical fact from popular legend. The southeast part of England was dominated by Rome. As Rome declined, the legions in England were called home to defend Roman lands. The Christian faith was, however, carried on by the people of the region. If you have ever heard the phrase "Celtic Christianity," this is its origin. Patrick was born in England around 390. The English (Angles and Saxons) warred with the people of Ireland. As a young man Patrick was captured and became a slave for many years in Ireland. He later escaped and returned to England. However, he felt a strong call from God to return to Ireland to preach the gospel



and convert his former captors. He had the experience of a vision in which this call came to him. Sometime before 431 he did return to Ireland and began the work of converting the Irish. It was difficult and risky, but there were converts, and ultimately Patrick is credited with planting Christianity in Ireland.

One of the noteworthy features of the Irish church is the dominance of monastic life. The monasteries became centers of worship and of learning. Later, with the fall of Rome and the chaos which followed, Ireland became the lone outpost of classical learning. The libraries and scholars of Ireland made remarkable contributions to the church and society for generations to come.

Well, I am not sure just how we might celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. I hope to eat corned beef. And I'll wear green. We might also focus on the example of one who heard and responded to God's call. In spite of the danger and difficulties, he shared his faith and spread the gospel!

Sincerely,

Steve Campbell

THE EZRA PROJECT

The United Methodist Men would, once again, like to invite the entire church family to be involved in a unique worship experience one week during Lent. The name for this undertaking comes from Ezra, the scribe, and the public reading of the Law during the rebuilding of Jerusalem in Nehemiah's time. Beginning at the end of the Sunday services on March 21 and ending on Saturday, March 27, at the beginning of the Saturday evening service, we will be sponsoring a public reading of the entire Bible in the sanctuary. We invite everyone to come join us as we prepare for Holy Week. We are asking people to sign up to read aloud for 30-minute time slots, which are available from 6:00am to 11:00pm. When you sign up, you will receive additional instructions for the actual reading. We realize that this might sound like a new or unusual idea; but even so, as Methodists, we believe that reading the Bible is one of the "means of grace" by which God makes his presence real in our lives. So let us join together during this time of preparation and lift up his Word together. Keep an eye out in the narthex between services for a sign-up table or call the church office at 229-8108 to reserve a time to read.

HEALTH CONCERNS

Lucinda Armstrong	Alice Atkinson
Rhonda Barrow	Adam Bartlett
Mark Batulis	Bernie Dietrich
Virginia Evans	Rev. Marvin Fortel
Jaime High	Marion Kuhn
Edie Moore	Ron Stowell
Shari Sullivan	Bob Turner
Jim and Jenny Floyd	Edith, Bill Mooney's sister
Floyd Ford, Chuck Ford's father	
Grace Whipple, Mary Derrington's mother	
Hugh Self, Janice Patillo's uncle	
Jess Hicks, Cyndi Sloan's uncle	
Joan Amy, Tom Mardis' sister	
Karla, Tom and Myrna Mardis' daughter	
Nancy, Cindy Compton's sister	
Polly Ragan, Jackie Landes' aunt	
Scott Reynolds, Sue Reynolds' son	
Sylvia Brown, Heather Mangan's grandmother	

OTHER CONCERNS

Prayers for those affected by the recent winter storms.
 Prayers for those affected by the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile.
 The Bishop and Cabinet as they work on appointment changes.
 Prayers for all those dealing with job loss, financial concerns and health issues.

SYMPATHY

to Glen and Jill Davis on the death of Glen's father, Roy Davis, on February 17

to Margaret Harmon and family on the death of her brother, Stanley Kemerling, on February 18, in Columbus, Ohio

to Karen Kulig on the death of her father, Bernard Kulig, on February 19

to David and Lorie Gilgour on the death of Lorie's father, Jack Lewis, on February 19

to LaWanna Wills on the death of her mother, Alta Barlow, on February 25

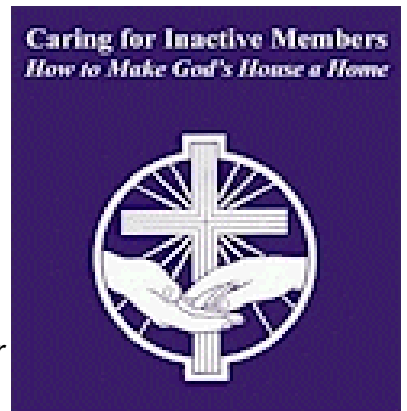
to Lynn Splittorff on the death of her uncle, Richard Corwin, on February 27

HEARTS AND HANDS CIRCLE

Hearts and Hands extends a huge thank you to everyone who recently donated items for Newhouse. We collected a total of 32 sets of twin sheets, as well as several pillowcases, blankets and pillows. Thank you for your generosity. These will be put to good use at the shelter.

**Training Opportunity**

A wonderful opportunity is available to us to discover new possibilities in relating caringly to inactive members. A training course, called *Caring for Inactive Members: How to Make God's House a Home*, will be held Saturday, April 17, as a one-day retreat.



The content of the course gives clues to its importance as well as revealing its practical nature.

- Hopes and Expectations
- How to Handle Chance Encounters with Inactive Members
- How to Converse Comfortably
- How to Guarantee 100% Success
- How to Set Up Visits
- How to Invite Gently

We look forward to your participation. More information will be coming. If you are interested in this training or have questions, please contact Rev. Karen at the church office.

Join the **United Methodist Men.**

All men are welcome.

Saturday, March 6

8:00am in room 112



Pickleball

You will feel like a winner and a champion playing this exciting paddle game called Pickleball.

Now you and your friends can join thousands of other people playing this net

court game. This mini-tennis game is played by 2 or 4 people on a badminton-sized court using wood paddle racquets and a plastic, poly baseball with holes. Pickleball is a combination of Ping-Pong, tennis, and badminton and has been enjoyed for over 20 years by people of all ages. **Join us to play every Thursday at 7:00pm.**



SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Several opportunities for scholarships are available at First United Methodist Church. FUMC offers two scholarships for students and a non-traditional student grant. The United Methodist Men sponsor the Paul Rand Scholarship, and The Independents singles ministry offers several scholarships for students. More information and an application form is available on the church web page at <http://firstumcbs.org/scholar.asp>. You will also find information there about other United Methodist-related scholarships and loans. **Application deadline—April 1.**

MOMS FIRST

The next meeting of Moms First will be on Sunday, March 7, at noon in room 117. The program for the day will be a discussion on Home Safety led by a representative from the Blue Springs Police Department.

Moms First is a new group created for the purpose of support and inspiration of moms with children at home. Contact Ronda Brewer or the church office for more information.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

The next women's retreat will be Friday, April 30, to Saturday, May 1. We will once again be at the Wilderness Retreat Center at Lawson, MO. More information will be coming soon. Be sure to save the date.

WIDOWS SUPPORT GROUP

The Widows Support Group will meet for lunch on March 17 at Bob Evans in Blue Springs at 11:30am. Call Carol Sartain at 229-9753 for information.

COMMUNITY SERVICES LEAGUE

A note from Community Services League expressed thanks for all the Christmas Store donations! There were 224 Blue Springs families served which was a 25% increase from last year.

Pantry Needs: Jelly, Pasta Salad (in a box), peas.
Thank you for your support.

FUMC Job Club offers leads to members in need



Do you know of any job openings where you work? Are you looking to hire someone with specific skill set? That individual could be a member of our Job Club. The FUMC Job Club maintains a book of local job openings that may not be listed on public websites. The book also contains the resumes of our club members. Contact Randy Williams at 229-9584 or by e-mail at randygws@att.net to add openings to the book or to see if there is a match for you or your employer. The club is open to anyone in the community who is looking for work and continues to meet at 7:00pm in room 103 on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.



Lent 2010

"For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat."

Isaiah 25:4 NRSV

Lent offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we've done and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need.



One Great Hour of Sharing

And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8 (NIV)

LIFE-CHANGING MINISTRY—A RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

Join United Methodists everywhere by participating in this special offering that supports UMCOR's vital work. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation for UMCOR to seek justice and mercy for suffering people everywhere.

You can be assured that when catastrophes cause suffering, your church, impelled by Jesus' love and compassion, will be in the lead to ease the pain.

THE 2010 OFFERING—ESSENTIAL TO UMCOR

Gifts to this offering underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." That helps us keep our promise that 100 percent of every other gift you make to a specific UMCOR project can be spent on that project—not on home office costs.

UMCOR is a good steward of God's gifts. UMCOR's top ratings by both Charity Navigator and the American Institute of Philanthropy attest to UMCOR's financial accountability.

Offering gifts over and above those used to cover administrative costs are channeled where they're most needed. UMCOR's specialized ministries responding in disaster, fighting hunger, alleviating poverty, providing relief supplies around the world, and offering hospitality to immigrants and refugees all assist the most vulnerable people whose need is greatest.

NO WORLD SERVICE FUNDS COME TO UMCOR

UMCOR receives no World Service funds or any other apportionments. Your gifts mean we're right there with hardworking families, people who are affected by storms or war, disaster or disease.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering provides essential support to UMCOR. Without this offering so much of what UMCOR does to bring hope and healing to the world could not happen.

HOW YOUR GIFTS HELP

Keep the Lights On

Most gifts coming to UMCOR have been designated for specific programs—and those programs receive 100 percent of those gifts. So part of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering plus a small percentage of other general donations support UMCOR's cost of doing business.

Fill-in Fundraising

Donations to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering also assist UMCOR programs that have not been fully funded through designated Advance gifts.

Answering Jesus' Call

United Methodists' donations often become the springboard for additional funding.

The compassion of Jesus makes all things new. As Christians we're called to do the same: to offer the hands, the heart and the hope of the church wherever people are suffering. Your gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing, channeled through UMCOR, enable the church to answer that call.

Lenten Offering for Hillcrest Transitional Housing

During Lent many people find a discipline of sacrifice a meaningful way to prepare for the coming Easter Celebration. This year you are invited to remember someone who has sacrificed for you, someone who has given you a hand up, enabling you to get to a better place in life.

As you give thanks for that person you are invited to give others a hand up through your Lenten Offering that will go to Hillcrest Transitional Housing. Their mission is to move people from homelessness to self-sufficiency through their 90-day residential program. This offering will enable Hillcrest to continue their work of giving a hand up rather than a hand out.

During Lent you can give a specific donation for this ministry; or, if you give up something for Lent, you can contribute that amount of money for this cause.

- Return your envelope during Holy Week with your offering.
- Include the name and a picture of the person you would like to honor for the difference they have made in your life. (Please use a picture that **does not** need to be returned)
- We will post those pictures as a powerful reminder of how we are paying forward those gifts.

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!

- 5:30-5:45pm Dinner
- 5:45-6:15pm Team meetings
- 6:15-7:00pm Mid-high and Senior high groups meet
- 7:00-7:30pm Games and fellowship

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.

February Youth Dinner Menu

- March 7- NO YOUTH – MAVERICKS GAME!
- March 14 - Macaroni and Cheese from HyVee
- March 21 - Mexican
- March 28 - PIZZA

Mission Trip Fundraising Opportunities in April!

Stock Sales will take place every weekend in April except Easter weekend. There will be a table set up in the narthex to stop by and sell stock to help with the cost of your mission trip!

Easter Breakfast- Jack will have news at the next mission meeting regarding a possible Easter breakfast to help fund our summer mission trips.

Garage Sale- set for April 24 - more news from Jack soon! Much help is needed to get this ready and run it!

February 27/28, 2010	
<u>Giving</u>	
General Fund	\$23,608
(needed)	\$16,611
Giving to date	\$132,022
Budget to date	\$148,806
2010 Budget.....	\$863,789
% of Budget Received	15.3
<u>Building Fund</u>	
Building Fund	\$5,781
(needed)	\$6,812
3-year Goal	\$1,062,703
% of Goal Received	37.6
% of Campaign Complete	39.1
Designated Giving.....	\$2,157
<u>Worship Attendance</u>	
Worship	531
Sunday School	
Children	49
Youth	24
Adults.....	105
Totals	178



**CALLING ALL
YOUTH**



Easter Candy Needed!

Once again the youth will be helping with the annual Easter Egg Hunt for the children's Sunday School classes. We need donations of bagged, wrapped candy to help with this fun event! Please bring candy during the month of March to church, Sunday school or Youth Group.

ANNUAL YOUTH FLOAT TRIP SCHEDULED!

June 9-11 — Wednesday-Friday

River Ranch Resort Noel, Missouri

Five meals, a mini-float trip and a 4-mile float trip in either canoe or raft, two nights' lodging, swimming, mini golf, transportation and A GREAT TIME for \$145.

Check your calendars now and sign up!

Adults needed!

Date	Time	Place
Sunday, March 7		
Children's Puppets	10:45am	102
Moms First Meeting	Noon	117
2010 Confirmation Class	7:00pm	012
Youth at Mavericks—No Other Evening Youth Activities		
Monday, March 8		
Administrative Board Meeting	7:00pm	103
Tuesday, March 9		
Independents Singles Volleyball	7:00pm	FLC
Wednesday, March 10		
Pastors Lectionary Group	8:00am	103
Wednesday Fellowship Dinner	5:15pm	117
Glory Ringers Handbell Rehearsal	5:30	154
Spirit Ringers Handbell Rehearsal	6:30	154
Invitation to Psalms with Rev. Steve	6:30	112
<u>3 Simple Rules</u> , a Lenten Study w/ Rev. Karen	6:30	117
Crafts/Prayer Shawls	7:00	103
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:30	150
Rhapsody Ringers Handbell Rehearsal	7:30	154
Thursday, March 11		
Altar Guild Meeting	2:00pm	Office
Open Gym	7:00	FLC
Friday, March 12		
Disaster Relief Ministry Concert/Dance	6:30pm	Sanctuary
Adult Volleyball	7:00	FLC
Saturday, March 13		
Worship Service	5:30pm	Sanctuary
Sunday, March 14		
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS		
Children's Chime Choir	10:45am	154
Independents Advisory Board Meeting	Noon	112
Youth Dinner	5:30pm	117
Evening Youth Activities	5:45	013
2010 Confirmation Class	7:00	012
Monday, March 15		
Gospel Singers Rehearsal	7:00pm	150
Praise Band Rehearsal	8:00	150
Tuesday, March 16		
Methodist Men's Lunch	Noon	112
Independents Singles Volleyball	7:00pm	FLC
Job Club	7:00	103
Wednesday, March 17		
Pastors Lectionary Group	8:00am	103
Wednesday Fellowship Dinner	5:15pm	117
Glory Ringers Handbell Rehearsal	5:30	154
Spirit Ringers Handbell Rehearsal	6:30	154
Invitation to Psalms with Rev. Steve	6:30	112
<u>3 Simple Rules</u> , a Lenten Study w/ Rev. Karen	6:30	117
Crafts/Prayer Shawls	7:00	103
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:30	150
Rhapsody Ringers Handbell Rehearsal	7:30	154
Thursday, March 18		
Ruth Circle Meeting	8:30am	112
Open Gym	7:00pm	FLC
Friday, March 19		
Adult Volleyball	7:00pm	FLC
Saturday, March 20		
Leadership Institute—The Journey	9:00am	117
Worship Service	5:30pm	Sanctuary

March 2010

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	29	30	31			

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY

Noon	Men Of Praise Choir Rehearsal	150
3:00pm	Crossover Rehearsal	Sanctuary
5:30	Youth Dinner	117
5:45	Youth Team Meetings	015/016
6:15	Youth Breakout Meetings	015/016
7:00	Youth Games and Fellowship	FLC

MONDAY

TUESDAY

8:00am	Morning Prayer Group	100
8:00	Morning Walk Group	FLC
7:00pm	Single Adult Volleyball	FLC

WEDNESDAY

8:00am	Pastors Lectionary Group	103
8:00	Morning Walk Group	FLC
5:15pm	Wednesday Fellowship Dinner	117
5:30	Glory Ringers	154
6:30	Spirit Ringers	154
6:30	Invitation to Psalms—Rev. Steve	112
6:30	3 Simple Rules—Rev. Karen	117
7:00	Creative Crafts - Prayer Shawls	103
7:30	Rhapsody Ringers	154
7:30	Chancel Choir	150

THURSDAY

9:30am	Back Fence Bible Study	100
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FRIDAY

8:00am	Morning Walk Group	FLC
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Ministers

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



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>

March 3, 2010

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

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MISSION TRIPS



West Virginia College-Age Mission Trip Fundraiser Receive 12 medium pizzas for just \$10

A group of college-age students and adults will travel to Oak Hill, WV, July 10-18 to work with a VIM ministry called Oak Hill UMC Housing Repair Ministry. The ministry has been in operation for 8 years and has 100 families applying for help in 2010.

All materials and supplies are provided for visiting mission teams at a cost of \$25 per day per person. Total estimated cost (material/supply fee, gas, food and travel expenses) of the mission trip is \$225 per person.

The West Virginia Mission Trip team from FUMC of Blue Springs will be selling Pizza Hut cards during the month of March for \$10 each. Each card is good for a FREE medium, one-topping pizza with the purchase of a large pizza at regular price, and the card can be used 12 times and is valid through February 23, 2011. Since a medium pizza is approximately \$10, cardholders come close to breaking even with just one use.

The cards are accepted at 1149 locations in 28 states. Other than the 3 local Blue Springs locations, a list of cities where the cards are accepted will be available at the tables in the narthex or on the following website www.npcinternational.com/customers/finder as not all Pizza Hut locations accept the card. 42 cities in Missouri and 15 in Kansas are listed.

Cards will be available in the narthex each weekend during March or contact Ray Harris (224-2904).

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Grief Group will begin March 22, Monday evenings, at 7:00pm for six weeks. We will meet in Room 100 at FUMC. Our group activity will be based on the book, "Praying Our Goodbyes," by Joyce Rupp. It is not a requirement to purchase the book. We will keep our sessions to 1 to 1-1/2 hours in length. All people who are in the midst of change in their lives are welcome.

Grief is not only for those who have lost a loved one through death. Grief happens with separation from a loved one, moving from one place to another, loss of job, changing jobs, losing a friend, receiving a health diagnosis, hearing a friend's diagnosis, etc. The group will be facilitated by Jo Perrin (228-7703) and Deb Babbitt.