

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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## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

**4:00pm Children's Service**

**7:00pm Lessons and Carols**

**9:00pm Holy Communion and Candlelight**

**11:00pm Holy Communion and Candlelight**



**Join us.**

# WORSHIP CHRIST, THE NEWBORN KING

## Rev. Steve Campbell

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful gathering we had last Sunday evening for the Christmas Music Festival. It was a great evening. I want to thank all of you who helped with this event. Of course there are the musicians and vocalists who shared their talents. Then there are all of those who cooked. And there are servers. Then there was a cleanup crew. And, the folks who kept the dessert table full. Well, there were so many people who helped. It is certainly one of the highlights of the season for us. So, "Thank You" one and all! If I understand correctly the second Sunday of December 2010 is the 12<sup>th</sup>.

This Sunday evening we will share in the "Longest Night" service. It is a very special time to gather for worship in recognition that many persons are touched by grief and loss. For many of us, this festive time of year is a time when the burden of loneliness and grief is particularly hard to bear. The worship service will be at 6:00 in the Sanctuary. This time of worship may minister to your needs. Or, you might know someone who would



appreciate your offer to attend with them.

As you receive this issue in the mail, Christmas Eve will be about a week away. We will have the traditional four services. The Children's Service will be at 4:00. A service of Lessons and Carols will be at 7:00. At 9:00 and 11:00 we will celebrate candlelight Communion. As always, your guests are welcome to worship with us and will be included in the Holy Communion. Each of the services will be meaningful, joyful, celebrations of the birth of Christ. I hope you have plans to attend one of the services!

At the Children's Service on Christmas Eve the Offertory will be a "Walk to the Manger." We will all be invited to walk to the manger with our offering. If you have been reading recent bulletins and Pastorgrams, you know about items needed by Habitat for Humanity, Community Services League, and more. In addition to our financial offering, these gifts may be brought to the manger.

May the blessings of Christmas be yours,  
Steve Campbell



### STEPHEN MINISTRY

This is the time of the year that we often hear the "Little Drummer Boy" asking what gift can he bring to the Christ Child. We might have that question too. What can you bring? Do you have the gift of compassion, of mercy, of encouragement? What other gifts do you have? How might those gifts be presented to the Christ Child? Consider Stephen Ministry. This is one way to give our gift to the Christ Child. We are all here to serve our Lord. What better way than to give to others by our listening, our support, our prayers, and our caring. For more information contact Janice Patillo, Rev. Karen or Jo Perrin. We would like to have you in a training class in 2010.

### Longest Night Service

Amidst the greetings of Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays are those who feel anything but merry or happy. It may be their first Christmas without a loved one, or they are facing a grim diagnosis. Maybe they have lost their job and wonder how they will pay the bill, or the darkness of this time of year causes them to feel blue.

On Sunday, December 20, at 6:00pm we will hold our Longest Night service. This is a quiet service of music and remembering. It is a time to recognize the pain that many feel and to find hope in the true meaning of Christmas. We invite you to be a part of this special service and encourage you to invite others who would benefit from this time of worship.



**HEALTH CONCERNS**

Kris Allen	Lucinda Armstrong	Alice Atkinson
Nancy Ballew	Mark Batulis	Margaret Cravens
Bernie Dietrich	Ardith Dorris	Dovie Lanos
Barbara Moore	Doug Quackenbush	Fleta Rand
Shari Sullivan	Bob Swisher	Bob Turner
Lucille Welden	Jim and Jenny Floyd	
Barbara Schroder, Eula Parson's daughter	CJ Reach, Chip and Larinda Reach's son	
Cody Logan, Kathy Bozarth's grandson	Ida Self, Janice Patillo's cousin	
Jess Hicks, Cyndi Sloan's uncle	Jo Hunt, Jan Harris' mother	
Kyle Mast, Mike Mast's nephew	Mike Petty, Joan Petty's son	
Ronald Lewis, Cyndi Sloan's uncle	Valarie Dodge, Steve Dodge's mother	
Sylvia Brown, Heather Mangan's grandmother		

**OTHER CONCERNS**

Lt. Col. Rick Hansen, son of Carol Jo and Emmert Hansen, will begin serving as Commander at Camp Falcon, Baghdad, Iraq for the coming year.

Keenan Wood, son of Bill Wood, is working in Chicago while his family stays in Blue Springs. Prayers for the family—Keenan, Lisa, Emma and Madi Wood.

Prayers for all those dealing with job loss, financial concerns and health issues.

Prayers of comfort, especially this time of year, for those in broken relationships and for those who have lost loved ones.

**SYMPATHY**

to James and Sue Spaethe on the death of Sue's mother, Wilma Cox, on December 11, in Indiana.

to Bill and Mary Mooney on the death of Mary's brother, Tim Butler, on December 12.

to Bob and Carolyn McConchie on the death of Carolyn's mother, Louise Corley, on December 14.

**JOYS**

Congratulations to Andrew and Stephanie Marker on the birth of a son, Zachary Stephen, on December 4. Proud grandparents are Jack and Marty Marker and Steve and Linda Cox.

Congratulations to Sally King, the latest resident in the FUMC apartment at Hillcrest. Sally graduated early, found a job and has moved into her own apartment.

Congratulations to Corey and Susan Mohn on the birth of daughter, Noelle Olivia, on December 7. Proud grandparents are Cliff and Patty Mohn.

Congratulations to Don and Bonnie Jorgenson who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on December 27.

**CANCER SUPPORT  
NETWORK  
PRAYER OF THANKS**

*Members of the Cancer Support Network contributed personal prayers of thanks that were combined to form a prayer of thanks from our group. We would like to share our prayer with the congregation.*

Lord, we give thanks for your ever-present care and love. We are thankful that you were always there for us as we progressed through our treatments. Thank you for your healing presence.

You are always with us on our journey. We are thankful that you allow us to get up every morning and fill our days with things we love to do. We thank God for the physical ability to mow lawns, perform handyman duties, go to work, and help others. We are thankful for the energy level and opportunity to have fun playing golf, going to the movies, dancing, or attending grandchildren's school and sporting events.

Thank you for family and friends who helped us so much during and after treatment. We thank God for the good health of others close to us. Thank you for the new friends we have made because we had cancer. Thank you for the people in our lives who transform our days with their presence.

We are thankful for all the people who have prayed for us, and who continually keep us in their prayers. Without these prayers, we feel we would not be at the place we are now. We are thankful for the life and spirit of Sheri Adams, whose presence continues to be felt within our support group. Our heartfelt thanks go to all these wonderful people. Every week at church, it never fails that someone comes up to offer us support and kind words. This is so appreciated. We thank the people at FUMC for being our church family!

We ask God's forgiveness for mistakes made in the past. We pray that we may be mindful of the needs of others and helpful to those who are going through similar difficult times. We ask that you give us wisdom to grasp each day with all its hope and possibility. Let all of us be a sign of your presence for others who live with cancer.

We lift up these prayers of thanks in the name of your son Jesus, Amen.



### Christmas Tool Drive

Support the efforts of Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness in Eastern Jackson County by purchasing a tool or gift card on our Tool Tree.

### 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.**



To participate, select a paper ornament from our "Tool Tree" located in the narthex. Remove the ornament from the tree and purchase the item or gift card listed. Place your purchase under the tree by December 24.

Habitat tool trailers have been stolen or broken into twice in the past 3 months. These trailers have been locked and fenced at their office, but still they have lost several \$\$\$ worth of tools. Let's help replace and improve the tool inventory.

*"Shelter is a basic human need"*

### MOMS FIRST

The next meeting of Moms first will be on Sunday, January 10, at noon in room 117. You are requested to prepare and bring to share your favorite (easy) dish along with the recipe for that dish. Also, bring containers so leftovers can be divided and shared.

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.



### Save the Planet, Get your Groceries, Support FUMC Outreach

Reusable shopping bags are available for \$5 each. The bags are 12"w x 13"h x 8"d with a sturdy carrying handle. The bags have an FUMC logo printed on both sides. Each bag you purchase allows us to give one to our weekend visitors.

### EATING AT RIB CRIB = MONEY FOR CHURCH

During the entire month of December, eating at Rib Crib will bring our church some money...and we are in charge of exactly how much.

The Explorers Sunday school class is sponsoring this fund-raiser, which is open to all—church members and others. It is very simple to participate. Eat at Rib Crib during December as often as you wish. Each time ask for a copy of your receipt and turn it in to church. At the end of the month, Rib Crib will write a check to us for 10% of the net sales of all receipts collected.

You may turn in your receipts at any time during the month—put them in the box on the Information Table, drop them off at the office, or give them to Jane Rosendahl.

### INDEPENDENTS CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sunday, December 20, at 11:00am is the annual Independents Christmas dinner in room 112 at church. The Independents will provide the entrée, drinks, and papergoods. Please bring a side dish to share. All singles and Independent alumni are invited. See you there.

### Save the Date

Back by popular demand—a women's game night. The event will be held **Friday, January 22**, in room 117, 6:30pm until 9:30pm.

Spring Women's Retreat: **April 30-May 1** at Wilderness Retreat Center in Lawson, MO.

**ADVENT SCHEDULE—2009****December 19**

The Chancel Choir will present their Christmas Cantata, *A New Birth, A New Beginning*, celebrating God's promise fulfilled, at the 5:30pm service

**December 20**

The Chancel Choir will present their Christmas Cantata, *A New Birth, A New Beginning*, celebrating God's promise fulfilled, at the 10:45am service

Service of the Longest Night 6:00pm, Sanctuary

**December 24**

Christmas Eve Services 4:00pm Children's Service, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00pm

Holy Communion at 9:00 and 11:00pm services

**Position Opening—Youth Sunday School Coordinator—**

The principal function of the Sunday School Coordinator is to assist the young people of First United Methodist Church to grow in their spiritual relationship with Christ by forming meaningful and lasting relationships with other Christian Youth. Part-time position—8 hours per week.

**Regular duties include:**

Work with the other Youth Coordinators in planning youth activities to insure that activities are scheduled in advance and that a comprehensive Sunday School program is in place.

Plan and implement Sunday School activities for all students.

Provide curriculum materials along with needed guidance and support for the teachers of the various youth Sunday School classes.

Actively recruit teachers for each youth Sunday School Class.

Interested individuals may submit an application by noon on December 31.

**FUMC Job Club Meets**

The group meets at 7:00pm on the first and third Tuesday of each month in room 103.

**Grace Circle** will once again be selling homemade items and goodies for your Christmas giving. Look for us on Sunday, December 20. There will be breads, cookies, small gifts, etc. - something for everyone on your list! Proceeds go toward missions.

December 19/20 the **Chancel Choir** will present their Christmas Cantata, "A New Birth, A New Beginning," celebrating God's promise fulfilled, at the 5:30pm and 10:45am service. Brass Persuasion will also be playing at these services.

**From the Staff-Parish Relations Committee**

It's holiday time, which means it's time to show our appreciation to our church staff by donating to the staff gift. The staff of FUMC works diligently throughout the year helping make things run here at the church and we all need to find ways to show them our appreciation for the great job they do. Please mark your check "staff gift" and place it in the offering plate or the basket at the Information Table and take some time to thank the music directors, organists, office staff, the youth coordinators, the program staff, and the pastors for all the great things they have done this year.

Bob McDonald, Chair

**CHILDREN'S CHIME CHOIR**

The children's chime choir meets every other week during the 10:45am service. Kids in grades 2-5 are welcome to join in. They are preparing a piece for the Children's Christmas Service at 4:00pm on Christmas Eve. They need you to be at the practice on December 20. **Come join the fun!!!**

**PROJECT WARMTH**

Ryan Mathewson's Eagle Project is collecting warm winter clothes for Community Services League to help the less fortunate. He will be collecting sweaters, coats, stocking caps, etc. Ryan will have large barrels in the narthex from December 19 through 28.

Please help!

# 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

## SNOW ANGELS

Calling all snow angels! It's time to sign up for our 2009 snow angel team. All you need is a shovel and time during a snow day to help scoop for people who can't! Sign up and we will e-mail or call when the snow starts to accumulate! Adult drivers/sponsors needed!

## W.O.W.

United Methodist Youth Conference  
 Springfield, MO  
 January 23-24 — Grades 9-12  
 \$45 remaining due January 23  
 Fee covers 3 meals, t-shirt, conference, concert, transportation, hotel for one night and a GREAT time! This year's conference features:

- Comedians- "The Skit Guys"
- Entertainment- "Group 1 Crew"
- Sand Artist- Joe Castillo
- Worship Band- "Sidewalk Prophets"



## December 12/13, 2009

### Giving

General Fund .....	\$15,993
(needed) .....	\$16,535
Giving to date .....	\$745,421
Budget to date .....	\$826,700
2009 Budget.....	\$859,783
% of budget Received .....	86.7

### Building Fund

Building Fund .....	\$11,538
(needed) .....	\$6,812
3-year Goal .....	\$1,062,703
% of Goal Received .....	31.6
% of Campaign Complete .....	32.1
Designated Giving.....	\$3,089

### Worship Attendance

Worship .....	567
Sunday School	
Children .....	59
Youth .....	25
Adults.....	101
<b>Totals</b> .....	185
Music Festival Attendance .....	490±
No Sunday Evening Youth Activities	

## TUBING AT SNOW CREEK!!!

**Wednesday, December 30, 2:00-8:00pm**

Join us for a little Christmas-break fun! We will head up to Weston, MO, to go tubing at Snow Creek. Plan to leave church at 2:00pm and return to church by 8:00pm. The cost is \$26 for 2 hours of tubing and extra money for eating at the food bar afterward!

We need adult drivers/sponsors. You don't have to tube, but it is tons of fun if you want to!

E-mail Linda Kaufman at [dogonwheels@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dogonwheels@sbcglobal.net) to sign up! **BRING YOUR FRIENDS!** Everyone needs a permission slip/information sheet on file to attend.

## Youth Adopt Local Family for Christmas — Shop and Wrap



Oh my goodness!!! Thanks to all of you who donated money for the Youth's adopted Christmas family! We collected \$616!!!! This was enough to spend \$500 for gifts and give them a \$100 gift certificate for Price Chopper too! I know that this young family will have a wonderful Christmas thanks to FUMC! Your assistance in this youth service project was such a blessing.



Date	Time	Place
<b>Sunday, December 20</b>		
Children's Chime Choir	10:45am	154
Independents Christmas Luncheon	11:00	112
College-age Mission Trip Planning	1:00pm	103
Youth Dinner	5:30	117
Longest Night Service	6:00	Sanctuary
<b>Monday, December 21</b>		
Finance Committee Meeting	7:00pm	Office
Vesper Voices Rehearsal	7:00	150
Gospel Singers Rehearsal	8:00	150
<b>Tuesday, December 22</b>		
Independents Singles Volleyball	7:00pm	MPR
<b>Wednesday, December 23</b>		
Pastors Lectionary Group	8:00am	103
Crafts/Prayer Shawls	7:00pm	103
<b>Thursday, December 24</b>		
<b>Christmas Eve—Office Closes at Noon</b>		
Children's Christmas Service	4:00pm	Sanctuary
Christmas Service	7:00	Sanctuary
Christmas Service	9:00	Sanctuary
Christmas Service	11:00	Sanctuary
<b>Friday, December 25</b>		
<b>Christmas Day—Office Closed</b>		
<b>Saturday, December 26</b>		
Worship Service	5:30pm	Sanctuary
<b>Sunday, December 27</b>		
Puppets	10:45am	102
<b>Monday, December 28</b>		
<b>Christmas Holiday—Office Closed</b>		
<b>Tuesday, December 29</b>		
Independents Singles Volleyball	7:00pm	MPR
<b>Wednesday, December 30</b>		
Pastors Lectionary Group	8:00am	103
Youth Tubing at Snow Creek	2:00pm	Off Site
Crafts/Prayer Shawls	7:00	103
<b>Thursday, December 31</b>		
Adult Volleyball—New Year's Eve Party	7:00	MPR
<b>Friday, January 1</b>		
Adult Volleyball	7:00pm	MPR
<b>Saturday, January 2</b>		
Worship Service	5:30pm	Sanctuary

### Office Hours

The church office will close around noon on Christmas Eve, December 24, and will reopen at 8:00am Tuesday, December 29.

The office will close around noon on Thursday, December 31, for the New Year's holiday and will reopen on Monday, January 4, at 8:00am.

### Year-End Giving

Your contributions for 2009 must be postmarked or delivered to the office by December 31. Any giving received after that time will be posted to 2010 by IRS regulations.

## December 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	29	30	31	1	2

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY		
Noon	Men Of Praise Choir Rehearsal	150
1:00pm	Psalm 150 Jazz Band Rehearsal	150
3:00	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	MPR
MONDAY		
TUESDAY		
8:00am	Morning Prayer Group	100
7:00pm	Single Adult Volleyball	MPR
WEDNESDAY		
8:00am	Pastors Lectionary Group	103
5:15pm	Wednesday Fellowship Dinner	117
5:30	Glory Ringers	154
6:30	Spirit Ringers	154
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

Because of the Christmas and New Year's holidays there will be no newsletter December 30.

The next newsletter will be mailed on  
January 6, 2010.

### Ministers

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



**December 16, 2009**

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

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

### 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](mailto:office@firstumcbs.org)

Learning Ladder Preschool  
(816) 229-9949

Church Website - [www.firstumcbs.org](http://www.firstumcbs.org)

Blog—<http://fumcnews.blogspot.com>

**Address Service Requested**

## Disaster Relief Ministry Shed Dedication



The Disaster Relief Ministry dedicated and celebrated the completion of the new shed on Sunday, November 22. Several volunteers under the leadership of Tom Mardis worked diligently to complete the structure. Thanks to all who made this endeavor possible.



### Won't You Donate an Item (or Two) for FUMC's Fabulous February Auction?

In February, our church is planning a BIG fund-raising auction in the Family Life Center, with live and silent auction action, to raise funds for the Costa Rica Reverse Mission Trip you've been hearing so much about. The task force is already at work and has made great progress on getting exciting donations from local businesses, including some much sought-after autographed sports memorabilia.

But we know you may have some items gathering dust in a closet or you may have connections to an area business that might be willing to help us out. If you'd like to help, let us know:

- Do you have a brand-new item of some value you would like to donate?
- Do you have any gift cards or gift certificates sitting around that you probably won't use?
- Do you have any collectibles you would be willing to part with?
- Does your employer have a product or service he or she would be willing to donate?
- Would you like to take a territory in or around Blue Springs and ask businesses for donations?

Please contact Jack Marker, 229-9510, or Ken Landes, 229-5712, to volunteer or to share your ideas or donations.