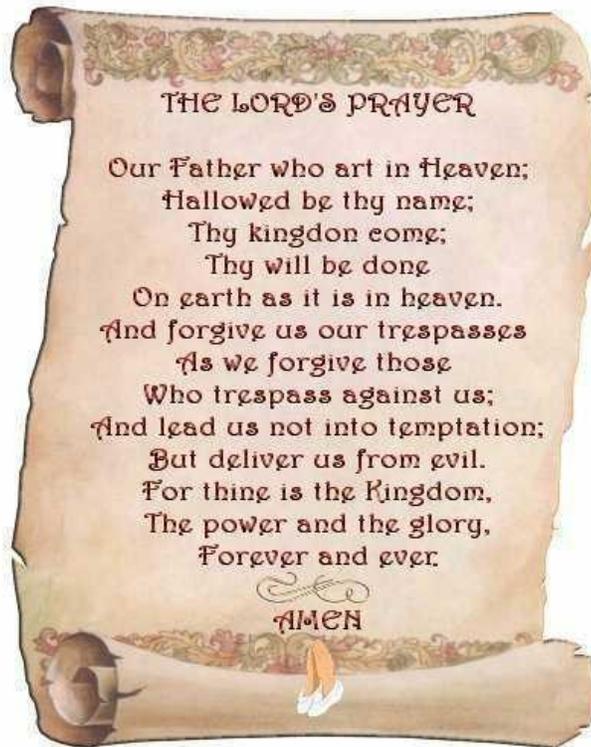


The Messenger

March 2015



Join us for worship each weekend:

Casual Saturday night worship with the *Springs* at 5:30 PM

Sunday morning worship and Sunday school at 9:15 AM

Sunday worship and children's church at 10:35 AM

First United
Methodist
Church of
Springboro

60 East North Street
Springboro, OH 45066

937-748-2612

rebeccafumc@gmail.com

Office hours:
Monday-Friday
8:00-1:00

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A word from Pastor Suzanne...

Dear friends,

Prayer is as simple and easy as talking and as difficult and complex as talking. Sometimes we can talk freely for hours and at other times in other situations we are tongue tied and words escape us.

Prayer is something we often learn as a child—simple prayers before meals and bed along with the Lord’s Prayer. It is only natural to leave the other prayers behind as we grow up and begin to use a more complex range of words and ideas to communicate with God, but the Lord’s Prayer endures over the whole of our life. The words of this prayer unite us with people of all time across the many expressions of the Christian faith around the world.

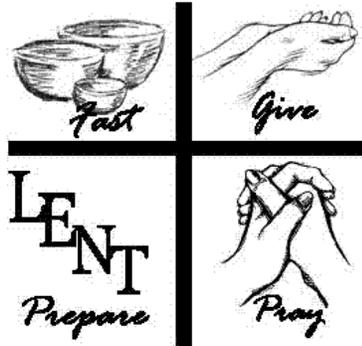
We find this prayer in both Matthew and Luke’s gospels, Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4. Luke tells us that the disciples saw Jesus praying and then asked him to teach them to pray. They may have been looking for the ‘right’ words to pray, but I think they also saw sincerity, a devotion, a transformation in Jesus when he prayed that they longed for in their own prayer lives. And so Jesus teaches them these words that we have used as a basis for prayer ever since.

We are always learning to pray. It is not something we ever master, but our ability grows as we grow in personal relationship with God. We learn to trust God with our heart, knowing that God does not care about the words we use so much as being a part of every aspect of our lives. Sometimes we have a lot to say, other times less. Sometimes we are eloquent, other times we can only whisper, “help.” Regardless, God is there, faithfully listening and responding to our prayers.

Even after several thousand years, the Lord’s Prayer offers us a guide to learn how to pray. We will use these words of Jesus during the season of Lent as a guide to our worship and our prayer life with the hope that they will transform our daily lives for God’s Kingdom.

I look forward to exploring the depths of this beautiful prayer with you during this Lenten season.

Blessings,
Pastor Suzanne



Worship In March

Learning to Pray: The Lord's Prayer

Feb. 28/March 1: Holy Communion "Whose Will?"

Matthew 26:36-46

"Your Kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as it is heaven."

March 7/8: "The Power of Bread"

Matthew 6:16-18, John 6:35-42

"Give us this day our daily bread."

March 14/15: "How to Forgive"

Matthew 18:15-22

"Forgive us our sin as we forgive those who sin
against us."

March 21/22: "When We're Tempted"

Matthew 4:1-11, James 4:7-10

"Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil."

March 28/29: Palm Sunday "The Power and the Glory"

Mark 11:1-11

"Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory"

MARCH EVENTS

- 1: Youth Group
 - 2: Covenant Bible Study
 - 3: *Matthew for Everyone*
 - 4: Wonderful Wednesday
 - 4: Choir and Handbells
 - 8: God Squad
 - 8: Youth Group
 - 9: Covenant Bible Study
 - 9: Finance Committee
 - 9: Admin Council
 - 10: *Matthew for Everyone*
 - 10: WIF Bible Study
 - 10: Stephen Ministers
 - 11: Parent Connection
 - 11: Wonderful Wednesday
 - 11: Choir and Hand Bells
 - 14: Women In Faith Mtg.
 - 15: Youth Group
 - 17: *Matthew for Everyone*
 - 17: Trustees
 - 17: Building Committee
 - 18: Clearcreakers
 - 18: Wonderful Wednesday
 - 18: Choir and Hand Bells
 - 21: WIF Spaghetti Dinner preparation
 - 22: WIF Spaghetti Dinner & Talent Show
 - 22: Youth Group
 - 24: *Matthew for Everyone*
 - 24: Stephen Ministers
 - 25: Wonderful Wednesday
 - 25: Choir and Hand Bells
 - 29: Youth
 - 30: UMM Bible Study
- See details in this newsletter*



Lay Leader Report

March Madness is a registered trademark associated with college basketball and the NCAA men's and women's tournaments. Many of us will spend a significant amount of time following our favorite team in the tournament. That's okay, but March is really about much more than madness.

Because of the Lenten season, March is really a time for self-examination, repentance, and preparing our hearts for Holy Week. Holy Week begins on March 29 with Palm Sunday. "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord", the people shouted. We've heard the story before, we've waved the palm branches. All of this is good. Then we remember how the people turned on Jesus just four days later. After Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples, shared the first Communion with this disciples, he demonstrated servant leadership by washing the feet of his disciples. To be great, we must serve, Jesus taught. Then just a few hours later, while praying, he was betrayed by one of his own.

Because he loved us so, Jesus allowed all that transpired thereafter to occur. The trial, the beating, the abuse, and the cross. The cross. Jesus allowed the cross to happen because he loves us so. He paid a price he did not owe for us!

Looking to the days following Easter, our district's Lay Servant Ministry team will offer three different classes on April 10-11. Our district's Lay Leader, Linda Young, will lead a class on prayer, called *Pray All Ways*. My friend Mary Shumard will lead a class on discovering spiritual gifts and I will lead the introduction or basic class. These classes will be held at Church of the Savior, on Pfeiffer Road, in Montgomery. Please see me for more information on these classes.

David Finney

Worship Messages Now Available

Pastor Suzanne's worship service messages are now posted on the church website, fumcofspringboro.org. They are under the "Media" tab.

Easter Flowers

The Flower Committee will take orders for Easter flowers before Saturday evening services on February 28, March 7 and 14 and after both services on Sunday, March 1, 8 and 15. The deadline for ordering is March 16. Flowers will be \$10 each (paid when ordered) and can be purchased in memory or honor of someone. Varieties available are hyacinths, lilies, tulips, and daffodils. The hyacinths and tulips will come in assorted colors. The flowers will be used to decorate the altar on Easter morning. They will be provided by Flowers by Roger, Inc. After Easter services, you are welcome to pick up your order to take home and enjoy.

Building Committee Update

The Building Committee continues to work on defining an expansion strategy for the church's physical plant. The committee selected a design/build firm and went through several preliminary design rounds. We learned a lot as we worked to align the strategic and operating goals of the church with the limitations and opportunities presented by our existing building and real estate while also considering the financial implications. At this point in the process, our plan is to present a plan to the congregation later this year.

Please pray for the committee for discernment as we navigate the limitations and opportunities and develop a plan to present to the congregation. If you are interested in possibly being a lead contributor to a capital campaign in support of a church expansion, please contact Nancy Clark, Kelly Smith or Pastor Suzanne.

Welcome Hallerie and Kerry

We would like to welcome Hallerie Kinsey and Kerry Leedy to our church staff. Hallerie will be our nursery attendant on Sunday mornings and Kerry will serve as a substitute when Hallerie is not available. We are excited about the loving care these two ladies will provide to the youngest of our congregation!

Flower Calendar

Thank you to all who have signed up to provide altar flowers this year. The flower calendar for 2015 still has slots available throughout the year. It now hangs on the wall beside the table just outside the Sanctuary in Fellowship Hall. Flowers are \$20 per request. If you have donated flowers, you are welcome to take them home with you after services.

Dragons Games

Once again this year the men's group will be sponsoring fundraising at the Dayton Dragons. We have annually raised over \$2,500 that goes for church and community needs. We will commit for approximately 15 games to work the suites at Dragons games, with five people needed each of those nights. All men and women of the church, age 16 or over, are invited to help out. If you are interested please contact John Stalcup at 937-620-2062 or john.stalcup@madriverschools.org.

Certified Lay Ministry

Every four years, United Methodists from around the world, gather to worship and celebrate the God's amazing grace. This event is known as General Conference. The last General Conference was held in 2012 in Tampa, Florida and the next General Conference will be held in 2016, in Portland, Oregon. Among the work produced by the delegates to General Conference is the consideration and revision of *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*. Known as "the Discipline", this text includes the rules, procedures, key beliefs, and policies of the global United Methodist Church. It is reviewed and updated every four years by General Conference delegates. Our local congregation in Springboro abides by and operates under the Discipline.

Paragraph 271 of the Discipline allows for an office in the church known as Certified Lay Minister. A Certified Lay Minister (CLM) is a qualified United Methodist layperson called to congregational leadership as part of a ministry team under the supervision of a clergy person. The discipline specifies the nature of the training and qualifying steps needed to attain the office of CLM. ¶271 of the Discipline also says the purpose of certified lay ministers is to: enhance ministry in small-membership churches; expand team ministry; and recognize the importance of the ministry of the laity, linking back to early Methodism.

The Discipline specifies that a qualified CLM may serve in these ways: preach the Word; provide care ministry; assists in program leadership; and serve as a witness to the community.

A major portion of the training of new CLMs is the CLM Academy. This intense training program consists of much prayer, multiple day-long classes, overnight retreats, and a fair amount of reading. The focus of the initial classes is that of discernment. Each CLM candidate calls on the Holy Spirit to help determine how God is calling each. Once some clarity surrounds the call, the academy then consists of many classes on Methodism in the world.

I have completed nearly all of the training and approval steps in becoming a Certified Lay Minister. My case may be unique in that I will begin this new role as I retire from my career in IT. However, most of my CLM classmates are younger than me and will serve as a CLM while still "working for a living". One of my classmates will operate a dress shop for low-income girls. Her mission is to help girls with self-image, by spreading the Word while outfitting the girls with formal gowns for homecoming dances and proms. My classmate collects the once or twice worn dresses from women in the community. She then makes those slightly worn dresses available to girls in her area at no cost. Another of my classmates will lead a weekly prayer service in her church. She will also lead community-wide Lenten study series. Another of my classmates will serve in prison ministry, bringing the Word to those who are incarcerated. So the resulting ministry from CLMs is quite varied.

Continued on the next page

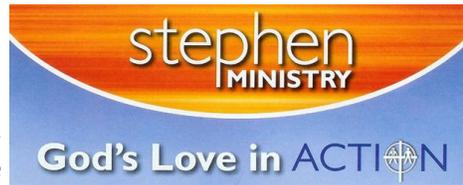
Certified Lay Ministry Continued

If anyone wants more information regarding the CLM program, there will be an info-sharing session in our area on March 28 at Hope UMC in Franklin.

Regarding my ministry, I will serve primarily with seniors and with helping men understand their spirituality. I will work on events, experiences and missions to help seniors and men grow spiritually. Among the events on which I'm working now is a mission trip to Smith Island, Maryland. Smith Island is located in Chesapeake Bay and was devastated by Superstorm Sandy in 2012. FEMA has largely ignored Smith Island and much recovery work still lags. My prayer is that a team from Springboro will visit Smith Island in October to participate in the recovery. At the conclusion of our work, we might be able to squeeze in a little striped bass fishing in Chesapeake Bay.

This is just one event, but typical of the type and scope of the ministry I want to bring to FUMC.

David Finney



Stephen Ministry Can

Did you know that Stephen Ministers provide confidential, one-on-one care for people who are hurting? If you or someone you know is going through a difficult time, consider Stephen Ministry as a resource to get through:

- Divorce
- Grief
- Health crisis
- Job loss
- Empty nest
- Retirement
- And many other crisis situations

Help

Stephen Ministers provide care for people who are one you know is going

Stephen Ministers also provide care in chronic situations, such as when a person has a loved one with addiction or is caring for someone who suffers from long-term illness. A Stephen Minister will meet with you weekly to listen, care, and pray...for as long as you need. Please speak with Pastor Suzanne, Karen DeRosa, Susan Raihala, or Zandra Woody for more information.



Church Groups – Meetings/Schedules

Women In Faith

Women In Faith will meet on Saturday, March 14 at 9:00 a.m. for a business meeting. The meeting will be in the Music room. In addition, on Saturday, March 21 they will meet at 9:00 a.m. to prepare food for the Spaghetti Dinner.

All who would like to help are invited to attend. The WIF Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room.

Clearcreakers Senior Group

The Clearcreakers meeting will be March 18 at 11:30 in Fellowship Hall. The Clearcreakers are to have entertaining/informational/fun programs. This month Bev Keen of the Anderson Funeral Home will be presenting an informational program. She will be discussing the many details involved with funerals and the benefits of pre-planning and lots of other information. Lunch, drinks, and eating utensils will be provided by Bev Keen. This is an informational program only, the Clearcreakers do not endorse any businesses or organizations. If you have questions, please call: Liz, Vivian, or Clara. Please note, we follow same weather closing rules as the Springboro Schools.

United Methodist Men

The men of our church will gather for Bible Study at 7:00 on Monday, March 30, at the church. We invite men and boys to join us that evening for an informal study. Our studies relate issues that we face in life with a couple scripture passages. Our time together might feel to some as more fellowship than strict study. That feeling is intentional - we aim to have an enjoyable discussion with friends.

Other Group Meeting Dates

March 9 – Finance Committee – 6:45, Fellowship Hall

March 9 – Admin. Council – 7:30, Fellowship Hall

March 10 – Stephen Ministers - 7:00 Fellowship Hall, Senior High Room

March 17 – Trustees – 6:00, Conference Room

March 17 – Building Committee – 7:00, Conference Room

March 24 – Stephen Ministers – 7:00 Fellowship Hall, Conference Room



March EVENTS

Young Family Pizza Night

Pastor Suzanne invites any families with young children to get together for a night of pizza and socializing. It will be on Friday, March 6 at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This is an opportunity for you to get to know one another while your children play. If you are interested, please RSVP to Rebecca in the church office (748-2612 or rebeccafumc@gmail.com).



Women in Faith's annual Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show will be held on Sunday, March 22. Volunteers are needed to help prepare the food on Saturday, March 21 at 9:00 a.m. in the church kitchen. In addition, if you are interested in participating in the talent show, please contact Judy Cook.

Wonderful Wednesdays

Wonderful Wednesdays will continue until March 25. We hope you will join us on Wednesdays for dinner at 6:00 p.m., for a short informal worship service at 6:50 p.m., and for small group studies for all ages at 7:20 p.m.





Lent, Holy Week, Easter and the Easter Season

Lent is a 40 day season that helps us to prayerfully reflect on what Jesus did for us and why. There is a "journey" to the cross that we need to focus on and understand. This is why, this year, we are taking our time and putting things in order and perspective. In years past, we have held our Easter party celebrations on Palm Sunday. By doing this we are celebrating Easter when it really is still the Lenten period. This year we are journeying to the cross through Lent, Palm Sunday and Holy Week. Easter Sunday marks the start of, perhaps, the most important season of the church, the Easter season! So many times we celebrate Easter on Easter Sunday and that is it. But Easter is a 50 day season of celebration! This year, we are celebrating throughout the season instead of for just one day. Please see below and on the next page the calendar of events:



Children's Church...Saturday Edition

During the Lenten period, we will be offering a Children's Church format during our Saturday night services. There will not be a Children's Moment, but children are invited to join Miss Dawn and Miss Kelly in the Fellowship Hall for some lessons and activities during the sermon time. Children will be dismissed from worship when it is time for offering and will return before the final hymn. We hope this helps children to get to know their peers on Saturday night and have a lesson that may be more age appropriate for some. This trial will go through March 27. Many thanks to Dawn Stiens and Kelly Ronyak for leading this endeavor.

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday (March 29) we will remember Jesus' journey into Jerusalem and the start of Holy Week. We will have our annual palm waving by the children during services, as well as "Symbols of Holy Week" stations set up for families to visit. During Sunday school and Children's Church, children will be creating resurrection eggs and learning details regarding the events of Jesus' last week before crucifixion and resurrection.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- April 2, 7:00 p.m. – Maundy Thursday: Service at United Church of Christ, 5 West Mill Street
- April 3, 11:45 a.m. – Cross Walk on Good Friday: The walk will begin at Covenant Presbyterian, 415 N. Main Street and proceed south down Main Street to the intersection of South Main and Mill Street. At the end of the walk, there will be a short service at United Church of Christ. Join us in the annual procession in remembrance of the walk Jesus took on Good Friday.
- April 4, 5 – Easter: Services will be held Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 9:15 a.m. and 10:35 a.m. Please join us as we celebrate Christ's resurrection with special music, flowers and the shared joy of our church family! Please note there will not be Sunday school for the children as we would like families to worship together.



Easter Party

This year we will hold our Easter Party on April 12, a week after Easter. This will be a great way to continue the joyous celebration of Jesus' resurrection and our salvation. The party will include lunch, an Easter egg hunt and games. The meal will be pot luck with Family Life Committee providing the main course. Please bring a dish to share. We are also asking for candy donations that would be appropriate for the egg hunt. Small, individually wrapped candies that can fit inside the plastic eggs would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be left in the basket marked "Candy Donation for Egg Hunt" in the Fellowship Hall.

***"The resurrection gives my life meaning and direction
and the opportunity to start over
no matter what my circumstances."***

~ Robert Flatt



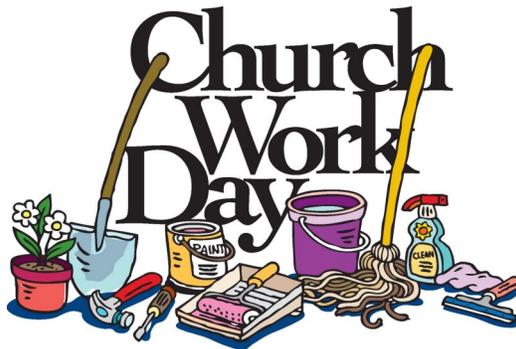
Pancake Breakfast to Support Youth Programs

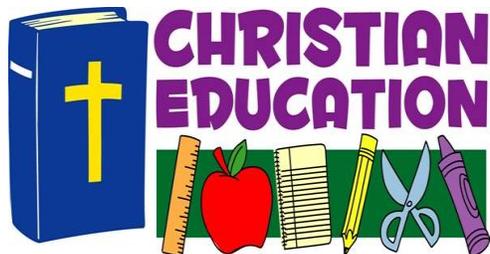
The Junior and Senior High will be sponsoring a pancake dinner/breakfast (depending on the service you attend) on Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26. Pancake dinner will be served after the Saturday evening service on April 25

and after both morning services on Sunday, April 26. Your donations will support the mission work being done in the community by our kids and will support the summer youth mission trip to Logan, WV where we complete work projects in the local community. Mark your calendars and come out to enjoy pancakes with your friends in the congregation. Your support will help build and support our youth programs!

2015 Spring Cleaning Day

Please join us from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 18 for some spring cleaning at the church. Many hands make light work. Please consider giving time for a church spruce up! Sign-up sheets for materials and activities will be in the Fellowship Hall in April. If you are aware of anything that needs special attention, please notify Rebecca in the church office (748-2612 or rebeccafumc@gmail.com).





Holy Java

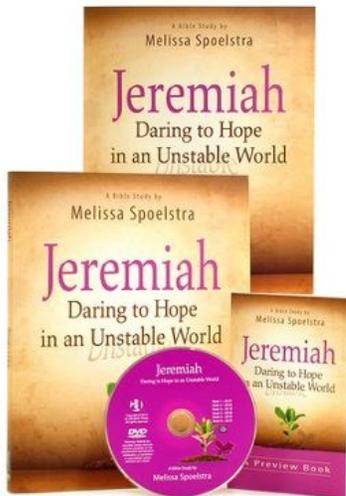
Holy Java began a new study on February 22. During the Lenten season, the class is exploring the Easter experience with Kyle Idleman. *The Easter Experience* is a unique, DVD-driven study which brings the passion and resurrection of Jesus to life through dramatic storytelling and challenging teaching. This six week study will end the Sunday before Easter, March 29. New members are always welcome in the class and it is not too late to join this study. For more information contact Maria Dershem.

Cornerstone Adult Class

In March, the Cornerstone Adult Sunday School class will continue studying the book of Hebrews. The class meets each Sunday at 9:15 in the music room. We have lots of discussion and great fellowship. Everyone welcome. For more information, please contact Rosemary Culbreath.

Covenant Bible Study

The current class of Covenant Bible Study will conclude its second, eight week session on March 9. They will begin the final eight week session on April 6. Pastor Doug Dean will begin the series again later in 2015 for anyone who was not able to make the first offering.



Coming Soon—New Women's Study

We will be offering a new Women's Study series, starting with, *Jeremiah: Daring to Hope in an Unstable World*. When we look around at today's world, hope usually isn't the first word that comes to mind. In many ways we live in an unstable world where marriages fail, bank accounts run low, friendships end, and the everyday demands of a fast-paced life get us down. In the Book of Jeremiah, we find God calling out to His people with a message of hope— a message that intentional living is possible even in an unstable world. But how do we do this? Where do we start? *Jeremiah* offers women hope for living in an uncertain world by learning to navigate the challenges and circumstances of their lives.

This six-week study examines God's words of instruction through the prophet Jeremiah, and provides women six guidelines for intentional living to overcome fear, worry, and doubt as they surrender their will to God's and put their hope in Him alone. Combining rich study of the Book of Jeremiah with practical life application that resonates with the realities and experiences of today's women, this study inspires all women to dare to hope, remembering that God is rich in mercy and love and has good plans for us.

Please see Jennifer Fry or Doug Dean for more details. And watch the bulletin for details on class date and times.

Matthew for Everyone

Matthew for Everyone will resume on Tuesday, March 3 at 10:00 a.m.. If you are interested in joining the class, this would be a good starting time. To order materials, please contact Rebeca in the church office (748-2612 or rebeccafumc@gmail.com).

Parenting Class

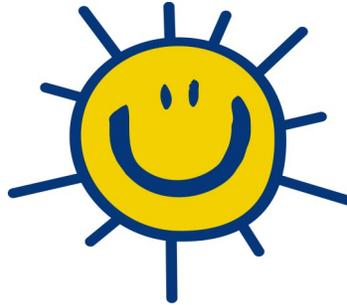
Our book study group called *Parenting by the Book* explores parenting topics and refers to God's word to look for answers to our questions. The class shares breakfast and coffee. But most importantly, they share concerns about parenting and support each other and pray for God's direction together. The group meets at various times. If you are interested in joining, please contact Maria Der-shem.

Children's Curriculum

The Education Department is looking for a few creative people to help put together a curriculum for our Summer Sunday School program. Please see or call Kim (748-2612 or kimfumc@gmail.com) if you are interested in being a part of the team.

VBS 2015

It's time to start thinking of how you would like to participate in this year's fun and exciting ministry! What ministry is that you may ask? Why V.B.S. of course! Our evening session will be held during the week of July 20-24 from 5:45-8:45 p.m. Our morning session will be the following week, July 27-31 from 9:00-12:00 a.m. With close to 300 children expected we will need as many volunteers as we can get! Sign-ups will be in future bulletins and Decorating Days will begin soon. More details to come, but call if you just can't wait (748-2612). Let's make this the best VBS yet!



Bright Beginnings Buzz

In February our preschoolers learned about God's love as they talked about friends, family, and love. "Love never ends" (I Corinthians 13:8) was our Bible verse. They celebrated Valentines Day with parties and also invited friends and family members to join them for "Someone Special Day" late in the month.

Our preschool ministry is thriving thanks to the wonderful teachers and individuals that God has sent us. Over the years we have been affirmed in many ways that this ministry is what God intended. We continue to thank Him for the opportunity to help close to 300 children learn, not only their ABC's and 123's, but also who Jesus is and how He works in their lives. This church ministry is helping to change and shape lives. Classes are very full for next year already, if you are interested in being a part of our pre-school, please contact Kim Crosen for an information packet and class availability as soon as possible. Thanks for your continued support!

A.C.E.—Active Christian Enrichment

Our A.C.E. kids have had a great time in February "journeying" through Antarctica. During the month they also undertook several mission activities including making Valentine treat bags and collecting quarter for coats. If you would like to know more about our A.C.E. program, please contact Kim at 748-2612.

The Parent Connection

Each month, Bright Beginnings holds special education sessions for parents of students. These are at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. with childcare provided. If you would like to attend any of these session, just let Rebecca or Kim know (748-2612).

- March 11: Empowerment vs. Entitlement: Teaching Our Children to Know the Difference
- April 8: Children and Finances
- May 7: Safe as Necessary, Not as Possible



Methodist Summer Camps

Registration is open for the West Ohio Conference's annual summer camp program at the three beautiful camps - Camp Wesley, Camp Otterbein and Camp Widewater. The excitement and joy of going to camp allows every child to hear and respond to God's call in their life and will encourage young hearts in understanding their call from Jesus. Whether it is in one of the new kayaks, singing praise songs at an evening worship service, or seated around a crackling campfire, God uses these and many other moments at camp to foster spiritual growth in real and transforming ways. Our program guide and video can't help but get you excited about camp! More information at westohiocamp.com.



Kids Who Care (K-2nd grade)

“All your creatures, Lord, will praise you.” (Psalm 145:10)

We had a great time in February when we met to make dog treats and toys! This month, we will be collecting items for our local animal shelters including: hotdogs, forever postage stamps, paper towels, liquid hand soap, bleach, powder laundry detergent, non-clumping kitty litter, toilet paper, Kongs for dogs, children’s play tunnels, dog shirts and sweaters, dog and cat harnesses, pet beds, digital animal thermometers, and cash donations. We will have a bin in the main hallway for donations.

On April 19, our Kids Who Care members will go out to lunch and deliver the items to SISCA and take a tour. We will meet from 12:30 to 2:30. For more information, please see Kim Crosen.

God Squad (3rd and 4th grade)

In February, we did a little bit of fundraising and a little bit of service! We did our annual “Sub” Sale and it was very successful. We hope all who ordered enjoyed their subs! We thank you all for your support!

God Squad will meet on Sunday, March 8 from 3:00 to 5:00 to work on Random Acts of Kindness (RAK). More information will follow soon via e-mail and in the church bulletin. If your child is in 3rd or 4th grade and you would like to receive information on God Squad, please let Kim know (kimfumc@gmail.com or 748-2612).



Mission 56 & Junior High Youth & Parents,

Wow, 2015 seems to be moving along very quickly and much is happening with the Mission 56 and Junior High Youth Program. As we continue to grow and bond as a group, may our true focus be the growth of our relationship with Christ and the bond that we share with Him. It is my hope that more of our Youth will reconnect with the church and make it a priority to get involved in every aspect of the youth program. As always, I look forward to our time together and the opportunity to share the love of Christ with one another.

Yours in Christ,
Kirby

Here are the activities planned for the month of March:

Weekly Activities

- **Sunday Night Youth Group:** The Junior High (grades 7 and 8) youth will be meeting every Sunday (except for the first Sunday of the month) from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. There will be a time of snacks, fun and fellowship (discussion).
- **Every Friday - LIFT (Grades 6 - 8):** LIFT (Living in Faith Together) meets after school until 3:30 p.m. at Springboro Junior High and is led by Mr. Randy Youst, dedicated parents and students of Springboro Junior High and Springboro Intermediate. This is a wonderful opportunity of our youth to worship with other students from their school.
- **Every Wednesday Morning - PAW (Prayer And Worship) - Springboro Intermediate and Junior High:** 6th, 7th and 8th graders have the opportunity to gather with Christian youth at their school for a time of prayer and worship. The Junior High meet with Mr. Youst from 6:50 - 7:15 a.m. in his classroom and the Sixth Grade meet with Kirby from 6:50 - 7:20 a.m. in the Multi-purpose Room (Band Room). Juice and donuts will be provided.

Youth Ministry continued on next page

Mission 56/Jr. High Weekly Activities Continued

- **Wonderful Wednesdays:** All families are invited to join members of the congregation for Wonderful Wednesdays, which includes a carry-in dinner, worship and small group discussions. There is something for all ages and we encourage our youth to join us each week for this worthwhile family experience. Here is the schedule for Wonderful Wednesdays is 6:00 p.m. - carry-in dinner, 7:00 p.m. – service, and 7:20 - 8:00 p.m. - Bible Study/Discussion with Kirby (Grades 5 - 8)

Outreach Project – Please support Fayou, our Compassion International Sponsored Child

Each time our youth get together, whether for Sunday School, Youth Group, lunch or special events, each member of our youth group is encouraged to bring in \$1 to help support our sponsored child, Fayou from Haiti. Each month, we send \$38 to Compassion International to help support Fayou and provide for her education and personal well-being. Additional gifts are sent for birthdays, Christmas and Easter. Kirby is committed to making sure the financial support and gifts continue for many years to come. Your support in helping him provide for Fayou is greatly appreciated.

March Special Events

- **Sunday, March 1 - "Church, Lunch and Fellowship" (Grades 5 - 8):** Please join Kirby for the 10:35 a.m. Sunday morning service. Following the service, the youth will go out to lunch together, then either return to the church or go to a special location for a time of fun and fellowship. We should be done no later than 5:00 p.m. (later time due to activity planned). **Parents** - Kirby could use at least one volunteer to assist him for the lunch and activity time. You may need to drive youth to lunch if there are too many for the bus. **Please RSVP if you are willing and able to help.**
- **Tuesday, March 3 - Hope House Mission: Center for Women and Children:** Provide dinner and games or crafts for the women and children of Hope House in Middletown from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. We need a maximum of six youth and two parents to assist in this opportunity to serve. The parents and youth will meet at the church at 4:15 p.m., load the cars and leave by 4:30 p.m. We should be back to the church no later than 7:30 pm. **Please RSVP if planning on joining us.**
- **Wednesday, March 11 - Lunch with Kirby at Springboro Junior High (FUMC Youth Only):** Kirby will provide drinks and dessert. Please pack your lunch and join us for this time of fellowship.
- **Friday, March 13 – Mission 56 Gathering (Bring A Friend):** This is an evening of fun, food, fellowship, music, games and worship for our 5th and 6th Graders from 6:30 pm – 12:00 midnight. Everyone is encouraged to bring a friend with them to participate in the festivities. You are asked to bring \$5 to help cover the cost of the food & snacks. **Please RSVP to let me know if you are planning to attend and if you are bringing friend.** More details provided closer to the event.

Mission 56/Jr. High Special Events Continued

- **Saturday, March 21 – CedarMania (Grades 6-12):** The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade are invited to join Kirby, Brian and the Senior High Youth for “CedarMania” held at Cedarville University from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. This is a high-energy, action-packed event featuring a challenging speaker, worship led by Cedarville's very own *HeartSong*, small groups lead by Cedarville students, workshops for leaders, crazy games, exciting competitions, and much more! The cost is \$30 per person, which includes a CedarMania t-shirt, a journal, a Subway boxed lunch and all activities. We will meet at the church and drive to Cedarville together as a group. **If interested in joining us, please let Kirby know no later than Sunday, March 8.**
- **Saturday, March 21 - "The Three" at the YMCA, 6:30-9:30 p.m.:** Springboro youth in Grades 6, 7 and 8 are invited to come to the Coffman YMCA from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 21 for three hours of fellowship and fun. Cost is \$3 for pizza and pop. Youth can swim, play basketball, play games in Teen Center or just hang-out. This monthly event on the third Saturday of the month is hosted by Southwest Church.
- **Wednesday, March 25 - Lunch with 6th Graders at Springboro Intermediate (FUMC Youth Only):** Kirby will provide drinks and dessert. Please pack your lunch and join us for this time of fellowship.

Senior High Youth Group (9th—12th grade)

The Senior High will participate in Cedarmania on Saturday, March 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Cedarville University. The event is a day long program centered around praise, music, games, workshops, and a special keynote speaker. The cost for this event will be \$20 per attendee (Senior High fundraising will cover the remaining cost) which includes entry, lunch, and a t-shirt.

Mission Trip 2015: Senior High youth will be working Detroit for our mission trip this summer. The dates of the trip are July 6 - 12. We will stay at the Central Methodist Church and be supporting the NOAH Project (a meal provider for the poor and homeless) along with supporting works projects inside the church and the community. Parent meetings and details will be scheduled in the near future and attendance is encouraged. Please watch the bulletin and future newsletter for more information.



Opportunities to Take Off in Faith!

Building off our Rally Day theme “Flight School—Take Off, Aim High and Soar with God”, we encourage everyone in our church family to “Take Off in Faith” through the various volunteer opportunities available. Please contact Rebecca in the church office (748-2612 or rebecca-fumc@gmail.com) unless otherwise noted if you are interested in any of these opportunities.

- **Children’s Ministries:** Our children’s ministries are in need of leaders to help with various programs we offer. This is a great way to get to know the children and help them and you take off in faith! If you are interested in helping a little or a lot, please let Kim Crosen know.
- **Kroger Community Rewards Program:** If you haven’t already, please remember to register our church as your Kroger Plus Community Rewards recipient at Kroger.com.
 - * Sign in (if already a member) or create an account (select “Register” in the upper right corner)
 - * Once logged in, go to “Community” then “Community Rewards”.
 - * Our group number is 83759 or type in Springboro First United Methodist Church
 - * Select bubble next to our church
 - * Hit enroll (will automatically update if you are already enrolled)
 - * Follow prompts.

Through this program, the church will earn a quarterly check based on purchases by Kroger Rewards customers. There is no cost to you to participate in the program. Questions, please contact Mariel Pesavento as 513-855-4243.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Are you a crotchetier or knitter? If so, would you like to make a prayer shawl for a special friend or member of our church experiencing a difficult time in their life? It is a most rewarding ministry to let members know how much you care and share in their unhappy or happy moments. Pastor Suzanne will bless the finished shawl. If interested, contact Sonia Dermis.
- **Dorothy Lane Market Good Neighbor Program:** Our church is part of the Dorothy Lane Market Good Neighbor program. This program allows us to earn money based on your spending at DLM. All you have to do is complete a Good Neighbor Form and designate our church. You must re-register each year for the donation to be made. We are listed as First United Methodist Church – Springboro and our program ID is 815. You can find the forms in any DLM stores or online at: <http://www.dorothyane.com/clubdlm/goodneighbor.pl>

- **Loaves and Fishes Ministry:** Our church is blessed to have a Loaves and Fishes Ministry which provides meals for church members after birth of children, in times of serious illness or at other critical family times. The group is in need of some additional volunteers to make and/or deliver meals. If you are interested in helping or would like more information, please contact Tina Yeamans.
- **Fellowship Hosting and Members:** The Fellowship Committee is looking for volunteers to help host on Sundays between the services. Hosting involves making coffee and punch and putting out cookies to share between services. We are also seeking individuals who may want to help us with just one or two events per year (e.g. Chili Cook-off, Rally Day, etc.). Please contact Cindy Hunsaker if you are interested in helping.
- **Cookies:** If you are interested in providing treats for fellowship time between the services, there is a sign-up sheet on the fellowship table or you can go online at www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B054AAAAF2BA46fellowship/7328927. The treat does not need to be homemade nor does it have to be cookies—donuts, muffins, cupcakes, etc. are also welcome. We also appreciate the weekly donations being made to help off-set our expenses.
- **Church Historian:** Do you like scrapbooking? Then, this volunteer opportunity is for you! The church needs a Church Historian to keep an organized collection of materials and photos documenting the life of our church.
- **Funeral Meal Coordinator:** When families experience the loss of a loved one, FUMC hosts a funeral meal for the family and friends attending the service. We have a wonderful group of volunteers who provide food for the meals. However, we are in need of someone who would be willing to help coordinate the funeral meals. This person ensures volunteers are called, needed supplies are purchased and set-up and clean-up teams are in place. If you are called to volunteer, please contact the church office.
- **Greeters:** We are in need of people interested in greeting prior to services on the four 5th Sundays each year. We also want to build a list of substitute greeters who could help out occasionally when regular greeters are not available.

Medical Driver Ministry

If you find you need someone to drive you to and/or from a medical appointment, our church offers a Medical Driver Ministry. This ministry is a free gift of love to members and friends with no charge or fee. We look forward to providing medical transportation whenever and wherever needed. To schedule a medical driver, please contact Harold Masteller.



Easter Meals for Local Families

Our Mission Team is once again challenging our church to provide Easter meals for local families through the Springboro and Franklin Food Pantries. Last year we were able to provide meals for 135 families. We hope to feed as many or more this year as a very tangible way of sharing our Resurrection faith. Please sign up to donate items on the sheets by the mission table. If you have questions, please contact Stephanie Bindemann.

Seed Program—Jackson Area Ministries

The Green Thumb Garden Project benefits people who have lost their jobs, are senior citizens, or are families on either low or fixed incomes. It enables them to grow their own food. Our Mission Team is collecting donations including seeds and money to purchase bulk corn and bush bean seeds, potato starts, and tomato plants. The seeds needed include beets, broccoli, cauliflower, cucumber, cabbage, carrots, greens, peppers, pumpkins, radishes, spinach, squash, and turnips. This is a good time of year to find seeds on sale. Drug Mart typically has a good selection and prices. The basket for the collection of seeds can be found on the Mission table in Fellowship Hall. Donations are needed by March 29 (Palm Sunday). Monetary donations can either be given to Lois or Jack Eley or can be put in one of the pew envelopes and marked SEEDS.

March is a “Five on the 5th” Month

In early December, Rev. James Freshour delivered a ministry moment about UMCH Family Services in Columbus. This outreach program of the United Methodist Church finds, provides and strengthens homes for children. The organization is a comprehensive provider of community-based adoption, foster care and family mental health services to children at risk for abuse, neglect and mental illness. In 2015, our Holy Java Class is asking our church to participate in UMCH Family Services’ “Five on the 5th” program. On the four months with five Sundays, they ask people to make a \$5 donation to the organization. The funds collected will be used to help the organization provide faith-based children’s and family mental health treatment in Ohio. The first of the four fifth Sundays in 2015 is March 29 (Palm Sunday). If you would like to contribute on that Sunday, simply place the \$5 donation in one of the pew envelopes and mark it UMCH Family Services.



Imagine No Malaria

Dear Friends,

Each year, we work to achieve a world free of malaria deaths and debilitating sickness. Because of your generous gift of \$1,339.55 in 2014, we moved closer toward accomplishing this dream. Thank you.

You are a critical partner in the global effort to take action against this treatable, preventable disease of poverty. United Methodists together have reached a milestone of providing \$65 million in life-saving gifts and pledges. This includes seven million new dollars raised and pledged by United Methodists since January 1, 2014!

Please visit our website www.imagenomalaria.org often for current information on the activities made possible by your gift. To receive periodic news updates, please send your email address to dbogle@umcom.org.

We have come this far because you have responded to the call to eliminate malaria as a disease of poverty. We have joined hands with worldwide partners. We have made tremendous progress. But this fight is not over. Please continue to give generously and to pray for success. Together we will carry the light to the end of the road home.

Should you have any questions regarding your gift, please contact Deeann Bogle at dbogle@umcom.org or at 866-521-1179.

Please and Blessings,
Bishop Thomas Bickerton, Chair
Global Health Initiative of The United Methodist Church

UMCOR

Dear Friends in Mission:

Thank you for partnering with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Through your gift, you are helping to provide humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupts life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own.

Through the compassion and solidarity of faithful friends like you, UMCOR is able to provide comfort to those impacted by disasters like earthquakes and storms, food for the hungry, and healthcare to those who otherwise would have none. These are just a sampling of the good works that gifts like yours make possible. One hundred percent of your gift through The Advance, the designated giving channel of the United Methodist church, will go directly to the people who need it most. Thank you for giving so generously.

<u>Project #</u>	<u>Project/Missionary Name</u>	<u>Country/State</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>
982450	Disaster Response, International	Global	\$1,305.50	12/31/2014
982451	World Hunger and Poverty	Global	\$ 975.00	12/31/2014

Please let us know if you have questions and/or concerns about your gift, as we welcome the opportunity to speak with you. You can reach the Gift Processing Unit at 212-870-3611. You can find out more about UMCOR's work by visiting our website at www.umcor.org. To receive weekly updates about UMCOR's work, sign up online for the UMCOR Hotline, a weekly email about the latest happenings at UMCOR.

This gift will bring hope to those who need it most.

Grace and Peace,

Roland Fernandes
 General Treasurer
 United Methodist Committee on Relief
 General Board of Global Ministries

Shawn Bakker
 Deputy General Secretary
 Communications and Development

Cookie Walk

Thank you to everyone who donated cookies and cupcakes to the Women In Faith Cookie Walk. It was wonderful to have such a varied display of goodies to sell. Thank you also to everyone who let their sweet tooth rule the day and purchased cookies and cupcakes to take home. We were able to raise \$350 for the Women In Faith mission efforts. Thanks so much!

Personal Thank You's

FUMC friends,

In regard to the passing of my father in mid-January, our family would like to thank you for all of the kind words, thoughts, acts and prayers. The pain has been lessened by your kindness and thoughtfulness. A special thanks to Pastor Suzanne for making the long drive to attend the visitation. I have a renewed appreciation for how special our church family is.

God bless all of you,

Mike Zimmerman

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all your cards, meals, and prayers during my recovery from a broken pelvic bone. Thank you also to the Women In Faith group for the delicious cookies. I have felt well-loved and cared for these past few months by our wonderful church family.

-Lois Cox

“Grow flowers of gratitude in the soil of prayer.”

~ Verbena Woods



March Volunteers

Altar Flowers

Feb. 28/March 1—Lorraine Sower in memory of Larry Sower

March 7/8—Open

March 14/15—Open

March 21/22—Bob & Linda Leese in memory of parents

March 28/29—Becky & Jason Pickett in honor of Kaia's 2nd birthday

Liturgists

March 1—Both services open

March 8—Open @ 9:15, Becky Pickett 10:35

March 15—Open @ 9:15, Joy Mindling 10:35

March 22—Open @ 9:15, Mike Hampton 10:35

March 29—Vicki Robinson, Jane Gregg

Acolytes

March 1—Truman Hoy 9:15, Faith Hampton 10:35

March 8—Both services open

March 15—Both services open

March 22—Open @ 9:15, Faith Hampton 10:35

March 29—Both services open

Hostess & Cookies

March 1—Open

March 8—Open

March 15—Open

March 22—Open

March 29—Open

Please consider making our church just a little sweeter by providing goodies for fellowship time. You can sign up in Fellowship Hall or on line at :

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054aaaaf2ba46-fellowship>

Birthdays in March

- 1- Maria Dershem
- 3- Kaylee Smith,
Kylie Rivman
- 4- David Finney,
Jack Eley,
Belinda Mallett,
Logan Miller
- 6- Clay Driscoll, Grace Combs
- 7- Joseph Harris
- 8- Sharon Joseph
- 9- Todd Smith
- 10- Matthew Keyser
- 11- Zandra Woody, Claire Veren
- 12- Lynn Jackson
- 13- Trisha Engle
- 14- A.J. DeRosa, Belle DeRosa
- 15- Bob Crosen
- 17- Marjorie Poff
- 18- Stephanie Bindemann
- 20- Charlotte Harris, Don Stiens Jr.
- 21- Mark Mosch, Daryl Hams,
Zoe Hams, Christopher Delbridge,
- 22- Joy Lightcap
- 23- Yolanda Mosch, Curt Winzeler,
Pat Foley
- 24- Kyle Lalich
- 27- Brenda Landefeld, Kyle Richard
- 29- Jennifer Dunn
- 30- Edward Pesavento, Chase Thelen



Celebrating an Anniversary in March

- 18- Doug & Carol Dean
- 20- Jim & Patty Sands
- 21- Jim & Joanne Young
- 26- Larry & Zandra Woody
- 31- Christopher and Karen Thelen



*If we have missed your
birthday or
anniversary, please let the
church office know so we can
add you to our list.
Thank you!*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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First United Methodist Church of Springboro

"Keeping First Things First!"

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well."

Matthew 6:33

