

Church Life

is published monthly

First United Methodist Church of Royal Oak

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**Newsletter
 DEADLINE**

May issue:

Sunday, April 10



FIRST THOUGHTS

keeping in our culture has included new suits and ties, dresses and bonnets, chocolate bunnies and jelly beans, the holiday has managed to remain primarily holy. It's the other time of the year that people who are not in the habit of coming to church find their way – perhaps genuine about seeking the things that money can't buy.

So, what do you want for Easter?

Yet, there might still be something you long for in your heart of hearts. After a long winter of light deprivation and cold, do you need a word of life? After days of crushing criticism at work, do you need a word that says you're still God's child, precious and beautiful in God's sight? Suffering real worry, do you crave a message of hope?

The real gifts of Easter are wrapped in the one gift of which Easter reminds us: Jesus. He lived a life that *was* an invitation. Son of God, he was God's presence. Savior, he gave us connection with God. Immanuel, he was God among us. He convinced us of the truth of God's

Easter Present

So, what do you want for Easter?

Thankfully, we haven't heard questions like that coming from the market place, at least yet. Though the tradition of Easter-

love by loving us deeply: racing to us when we were most hurt, lost and repulsive. He healed us; taught us; sat at table with us. When those enforcing the status-quo of the world had enough and told him to take it all back *or else*, he chose the *or else*. Before we loved him, he gave his life to open a way for us to be loved by God with a love that nothing can overcome.

Our journey this Lent has challenged us to dance the dance of faith in light of God's grace. It's tough to do, sometimes, when you got the devil on your back. Being sick or wronged has a way of stopping the music so you stop your feet. Realizing that you've stopped someone else's music can be even worse. The devil on your back is a burden.

Lent is a wonderful time of soul-searching. It's a time to be honest with ourselves and God, to let go of our pretenses and simply come clean. It's amazing that when you do that, how much of the burden can be lifted. Even so, Lent can be exhausting in a way because it calls us to face our brokenness and be rid of obstructions that block God's blessings.

So, now Easter's coming when the work of Lent is complete. The obstructions may be gone. Your heart can be realigned and receptive. You can dance. That's the gift.

Your present for Easter is Christ's

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PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH



Dear ROFUM Congregation,

Heartfelt thanks for all of the prayers and visits from Rev. Hice and Brian during my husband's long hospitalization. After four months and one week, he came home on January 5, 2011. He is getting stronger each day and there appears to be no permanent damage (other than a slightly less efficient heart). God truly works wonders when we all pray together. Thank you!

Anne Vincent



Dear Church Members and Friends,

I find it a difficult task to thank you, one and all whom designed and completed this picturesque greeting; as a celebration of Charles Crimmins' life, my husband and father of our two children. So many names are new to me; for quite a few years family illnesses kept me a busy care-giver. The rose being centered on our "work of art" was a perfect choice. Roses are my favorite flowers in my flower beds.

May this change in my life bring me out to enjoy friends like you whom are dedicated to helping and bring cheer to others.

Sincerely,

Emily Crimmins, a long-time member of ROFUM



Many thousand tuck (Norwegian). Many thousand thanks.

My ROFUM family surrounded me when I created the excitement act for the day (not scripted). Sunday, March 6, was my fall forward day on the choir steps (not related to Daylight Savings Time)! I had barely stopped bouncing when I was in the presence of a nurse and several doctors. This episode of drama was page 15 in my life of accidents. Many have asked about my condition. My answer to all is this – "Damage to me: NADA. Doing fine!"

Thanks for your prayers and concern. In Christ's love,

Roger Johnson

P.S. Rev. Hice told me I didn't even knock down the candles or spill the communion meal (spread out on the altar).

To my Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the prayers and cards received since the death of my sister, Betty Campbell. My church family really means a lot to me – especially since all I have left are my sister, Mary Springstead, and nephews Terrance and Henry Campbell. They really helped us through a tough time. Here is a hug for each one of you.

Love and God bless,

Peggy Gill



Dear John,

Giving for John Wesley was no pious rhetoric designed to increase contributions to the church budget. It was a means of expressing generosity rooted in gratitude for God's generosity and a means of fulfilling the great commandment to love God and our neighbor. He was convinced that if the Methodists would give all they can, then all would have enough. Stewardship is a gift-full living so that all of God's children have a place at the table of abundance.

Mr. Wesley wrote: "It (money) is an excellent gift of God, answering the noblest ends. In the hands of his children, it is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, raiment for the naked. It gives to the traveler and the stranger where to lay his head. By it, we may supply the place of a husband to the widow, and of a father for the fatherless; we may be a defense for the oppressed, a means of health to the sick, of ease to them that are in pain. It may be as eyes to the blind, as feet to the lame; yea, a lifter up from the gates of death."

In spite of the use of sexist language, his commentary is right on target. There is no gospel without giving. To be a United Methodist is to be a steward. Apportionment (Shared Ministry) giving is an opportunity to practice the gospel in a wider area other than the immediate community in which the local church is situated. Shared Ministry Giving is an extremely positive manner in which we claim the whole world as our parish.

Please accept my appreciation on behalf of Bishop Jonathan Keaton and the Detroit Conference for paying 100% of your 2010 apportionments. Your giving was translated into ministry and mission throughout the state of Michigan and throughout the world. Thank you.

Your brother in Christ,

Duane E. Miller, Detroit East District Supt.



Dear Rev. Hice,

On behalf of the South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless, we would like to say "thank you" for the generous use of your church facility to make the Bible on Broadway fundraiser for the Welcome Inn day center such a huge success.

Our supporters enjoyed the afterglow after the performance that your volunteers provided. We received many positive comments about the performance, the music and the afterglow.

Your generosity helped to raise over \$7500. We will now be able to extend the operation of the Welcome Inn for another week and also have a good start for our next season of operation.

Thank you once again for your kindness, and for the time and effort that you and your congregation put into making this event such a success for our organization.

Sincerely,

Laura Bolton

SOCH Secretary



With Sympathy

The faith community of Royal Oak First extends sympathy to:

Geneva Grady on the death of her sister, **Nadine Urquhart**, 2/7

Dan & Marjorie Welch on the death of their daughter-in-law, **Cindy Welch**, 2/9

Emily Crimmins on the death of her husband, **Charles Crimmins**, 2/9

Peggy Gill on the death of her sister, **Betty Campbell**, 2/14

Chris Judd on the death of her husband, **Irwin Judd**, 2/20

New Arrival

Emily Elizabeth Edwards, daughter of Elizabeth Malama and Michael Edwards, 1/18. Emily's grandparents are Marcy & Bill Courtney, and Zenovia Courtney is her great-grandmother.



Antonio Sifuentes & Nicole Edwards, 2/19/11

Welcome New Members

Please introduce yourself to these new members of our church family and add their addresses to your directory.

Megan Bell

Rick & Bev Wright

Megan Bell is a graduate of Central Michigan University and currently works as a Hiring Logistics Specialist. In her spare time she enjoys bowling, movies, reading, traveling, camping, and spending time with family and friends.



Rick & Bev Wright both grew up in Cadillac, Michigan, and were high school sweethearts. After high school they went their separate ways, but were reunited a few years ago and married in December 2008. Rick has two adult children, Adam & Amanda, and Bev has three children, Meryl, Martin & Mason. Their marriage involves a lot of traveling as Rick is a UPS

driver here in Michigan, and Bev is a teacher in Texas. Bev is a member of a United Methodist Church in Texas where she lives most of the time, but she joins us as an affiliate member. When Rick isn't traveling to Texas to see Bev, he enjoys going up north, camping, grilling, football, spending time with family and friends, and spending prayerful time with God.

MetroBridges “Food Desert Experience”

That’s *dez’-ert*, as in Sahara, not *dee-zurt’*, as in chocolate cake. A “food desert” is an area with a scarcity of healthy food. Sadly, much of the City of Detroit is such a place. This uneven distribution of resources can have profound effects on residents’ health and well-being.



MetroBridges is partnering with a faith-based community service outreach group at WSU that is offering a “Food Desert” event for our group on Saturday, April 9, from 9 a.m. to noon. We’ll learn about the existing scarcity in Detroit’s food system and see some of the solutions already in place, including an urban farm. This will be a several hour tour traveling by bus from the church to the various sites in Detroit. The cost for this event is \$10 (\$5 for gas for the bus and \$5 for a donation to the urban farm. Scholarships are available. Sign up by April 1. Space is limited, so contact Amy Newberg for more information.



Sack Lunch Program

We continue to need the usual items: juice boxes, fruit or pudding cups, cookies, chips, lunch meat, cheese slices, hot dogs, bread, and fresh fruit. Please label items “Sack Lunch” and leave in the kitchenette off the Parlor. Please do not put items in the freezer. If you would like to donate money and let us do the shopping, please leave monetary donations in the church office.

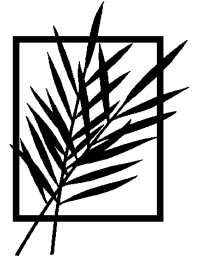
We are also always in need of “non-food” items such as blankets, hygiene items, and clothing items (men’s and women’s jeans, tennis shoes, boots, gloves, baseball caps, socks, underwear, spring jackets, and warm shirts). We open up our regular clothing “store” on the last Monday of each month. Please leave labeled bags of clothing in the kitchenette.

The night and daytime shelters closed on the weekend of March 19, so we expect our number of guests to increase. And, looking ahead to summer, we plan to continue serving lunch through the summer as we did last year. Our regular volunteers will take some time off, so here’s a chance for you to volunteer in the summer if you are available. You can call me or leave a note on the refrigerator in the kitchenette.

Thank you again for helping people in our community.

Delores Grier, Sack Lunch Coordinator

Eco-Palms



In response to a request from several members of our congregation, we are celebrating Palm Sunday, April 17, with Eco-Palms this year. These palms are native to the forests of Guatemala and Mexico; therefore, harvested quantities depend highly upon availability in the forest. The forests in which these palms reside are being protected from agriculture and logging because of the palms’ residence. Communities in Mexico and Guatemala have now been trained to be more selective when cutting fronds and have adopted other harvesting practices that minimize impact on the natural forest. Moreover, villagers are paid a fair price and rewarded for the quality of palms they harvest. Palm fronds are also sorted and bundled by women in the local communities rather than in a distant warehouse. The added job opportunities and more livable income make it less likely for villagers to cut down the rainforest to establish farms.

The cost of Eco-Palms is more than double the cost of other fronds, but some of the funds are directed toward helping the local harvesting communities with social or development projects such as building schools. Lutheran World Relief, Presbyterian Church USA Enough for Everyone Program, and United Methodist Committee on Relief are supporting the Eco-Palms project. Please visit www.ecopalms.org for more information about this project

Kim Christopher,

on behalf of the Worship Work Area

(Continued from page 1)

Easter Present

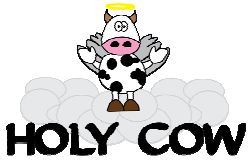
presence. That’s the power of his Resurrection. Just as he would not take it back; neither would God. The Cross is where sin and death and the devil were stopped. Right there. So you can dance.

What do you want for Easter?

The present is the presence. Take Joy.

Carpe Diem – Seize the Day!

Rev. John H. Hice



Church On Wednesday - High School Pit Stop

HOLY COW

For the second time, The Pit Stop will be participating in the Swords into Plowshares Gallery "Visions of Peace" exhibition. We are very thankful to have had the artistic leadership of Steve Weber. Steve designed and oversaw the stained glass project that our high school youth created for this exhibition. Over a 3-week period on January, the students worked on individual squares that were then put together to make the peace dove. Since completing the piece, we have continued with creating a display about "the individual rights of the child," set by the United Nations Convention. Our completed project will be on display in Fellowship Hall on Palm Sunday following both worship services.

On Saturday, April 30, from 12:30-4:00 p.m. our group will attend the grand opening of the spring exhibit at the Swords into Plowshares Peace Gallery in Detroit. Afterwards, we will enjoy lunch together in Hockey Town. If you are interested in joining us, please let us know. Everyone is welcome!

Our high school Pit Stop meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 in the Youth Room (Note: we will not meet on April 6 due to Spring Break). Our final night of the Holy COW program year is Wednesday, April 27.

Peace be with you,

Laurie O'Donnell & Trish Lambert

2011 Youth Mission Trip Scheduled

As of this writing, we are in the final stages of securing the location for the 2011 Youth Mission Trip. As in years past, about 20 high school-aged members of the church will travel to a location to help a group in need. In past years, we have painted, built, installed, roofed, cleaned, and cooked... just to name a few tasks. We have also met many new friends and visited new and special places.

Our 2011 trip is scheduled for the week of July 10th. If you or someone you know has any interest in joining our trip, please contact Mike Yarmy. We would love to have you.

The trip is open to youth entering high school in the fall, or older. Remember, the word youth is a state of mind, not a number. Last year we had a few "youth" join our trip who had already recently graduated from high school, as well as a few who had graduated some time ago. In other words, if you are interested in going, we'll find a place for you!

Mike Yarmy

2011 Graduates to be Honored Sunday, May 15

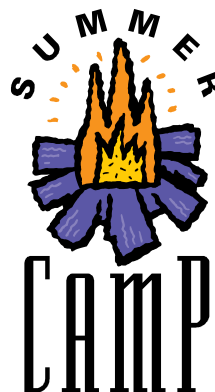
On Sunday, May 15, we will honor all of our 2011 graduates. If you or a member of your immediate family is graduating from high school or college, or are receiving a post-graduate or other advanced degree, we would like to publish your name in the bulletin on that day. There will also be a special recognition of our high school graduates during the 11 a.m. worship service.



At 12:30 p.m. in the Parlor, there will be a special Graduate Luncheon for our 2011 high school graduates and their families. Current high school juniors and parents will be hosting this event, which proved to be a wonderful gathering last year. Be sure to put this date on your calendar (which is filling up fast!) so you don't miss it. Reservations will be taken in the church office until Sunday, May 1. Call to let us know how many people will be enjoying this celebration.

We will also be honoring our graduates with a special display in our Narthex beginning Sunday, May 15th. Please turn in your high school graduate's picture (no larger than 3" x 5") to the church office no later than Sunday, May 8 (Mother's Day). We would also like to know the name of the school from which you are graduating as well as your plans for next year (name of college/career path). Graduation announcements are also welcome. College graduates, please let us know the name of the college or university you are graduating from as well as the degree earned.

Join Us at Choir Camp July 24-30!



If your child is currently in 2nd through 11th grade, he/she is eligible for Choir Camp this summer. Again this year we will be at Camp Ohiyesa in Holly. Registration packets will be mailed out to all eligible children in mid-May. If you have not received one by the end of May, extra packets will be available in the church office.



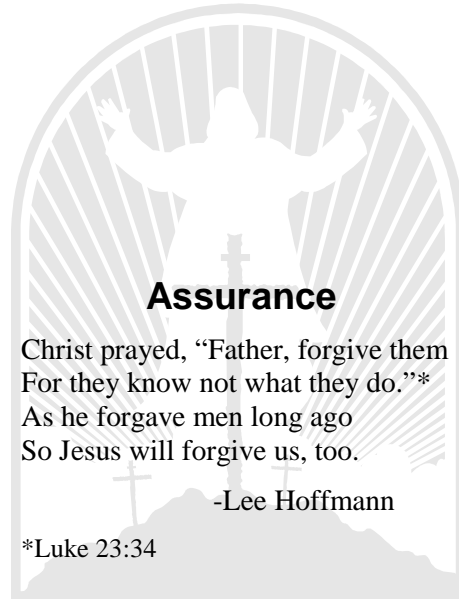
Stephen Ministry Moment

Why Lay Ministry? Why Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry (SM) is based on the idea that all Christians are ministers. The responsibility of passing on God's love is every Christian's responsibility. God has given us gifts for ministry and called upon us to put those gifts into practice. SM is a way for lay Christian ministers to bring Christ's love to people in need.

We want to know what you think. If you would like to share your ideas or comments with the Stephen Ministry Leadership Team: Call or Email Wes Wriston.

There is a need, if not a demand for such a ministry in our congregation and community: people experiencing divorce, grief, terminal illness, job loss/ unemployment, relocation, an empty nest, retirement, hospitalization, loneliness, almost anything life changing that generates stress. Anyone could benefit from a Stephen Minister, who is someone that is there to listen to your troubles and pray for God's healing with you. Often people with needs suffer silently or do not request or receive the level of care they really need. With only one pastor, who alone is expected to meet the needs of every person in the congregation, you can see why Stephen Ministry is so important to so many congregations. SM will expand the care ministries of ROFUM by equipping and organizing members to provide Christian care.



Assurance

Christ prayed, "Father, forgive them For they know not what they do."* As he forgave men long ago So Jesus will forgive us, too.

-Lee Hoffmann

*Luke 23:34

EASTER FLOWERS - We are offering a choice of spring flowers to decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 24, or contributing to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) in honor or memory of a loved one. The names of the donors and those to be honored or memorialized will be printed as a bulletin insert on Easter Sunday. If you wish to participate, return this form to the church office on or before Sunday, April 10. Money must accompany your order (make checks payable to First United Methodist Church).

Please print all information using one form per order (additional forms are available in the church office)

Yes, I want to participate!

Easter Lily (2 blooms) - \$17.00

Azalea - 17.00

Mum - 12.00

Hyacinth - \$9.00

Daffodil - \$9.00

Tulip - \$9.00

I will pick up the plant after the 11:00 a.m. service on Easter Sunday.

I am willing to deliver my plant to a homebound member on Easter Sunday. The church will provide the name and address of a homebound member.

I will order my own plant & deliver it to the church on Friday, April 22.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____ for UMCOR.

This will be a memorial to _____

OR in honor of _____

Given by _____ Phone # _____

Music Director Search is Successful!

The Music Director Search Committee has been hard at work since September to find that special person who can continue to grow the important Music Ministry of ROFUM. We are very pleased to announce the addition of Alayna Young to our staff. We truly believe that God has brought us together, and that her technical skill and delightful energy are gifts that will take music in our church to new heights. You will be hearing more about her in detail in the weeks to come.

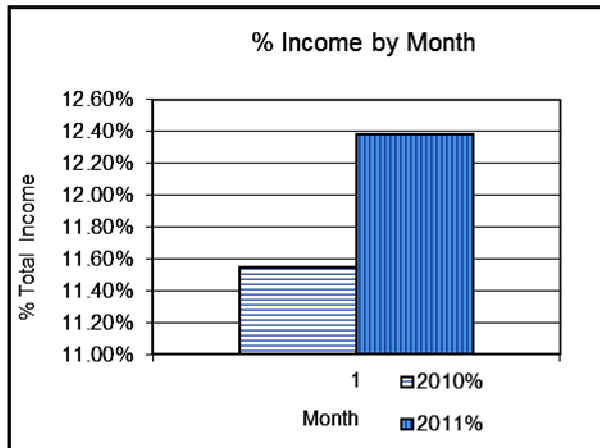
The committee feels forever indebted to Marilyn Biery, our Interim Music Director, for her invaluable direction during this process. She has been instrumental (pun intended!) in structuring our search and audition process as well as offering needed insight in evaluating our candidates. And she has done all this while continuing to enhance worship at the 11:00 a.m. service with her faith, musical skills, and passion for beautiful music. Thank you again, Marilyn.

Jennifer Semivan



Our January income equaled 12.4% of our \$569,000 budget. This surpasses last year's January income which was 11.5% of the 2010 total. It is a great start to the year but certainly too early to determine our financial strength. Stay tuned for further updates as the year progresses.

Jeff Vickers, Finance Chair



News for All from the United Methodist Women

Luncheon and Program Thursday, April 7, 12:15 p.m. "Boys and Girls Club"

- 9:30 a.m. Executive Committee Meeting
- 12:15 p.m. Luncheon
- 1:00 p.m. Business meeting & Program

Jay Dunstan will be our guest speaker presenting a program about the Boys and Girls Club in Royal Oak. We hope to see you there!

Visitors are always welcome. Please call Marge Sutherland by Sunday, April 3, for a luncheon reservation.

Sleep Tight, Sleep Safe 2011 Ingathering

Shelters and other social service agencies have expressed a need for NEW twin sheet sets. Sets include one flat sheet, one fitted sheet, and one pillowcase. Each UMW unit will collect and distribute the sheet sets to an agency of their choosing. We will decide which agency we will support at our next executive meeting.

Questions? Contact Kathy Riggs.

Pillowcase Project

It is pillowcase making time again. Knowledge Circle will host a pillowcase making workshop on Wednesday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There will also be a morning pillowcase making workshop on Monday, April 11, at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Room. Come and refresh your skills or learn new ones. All are welcome to join in on the fun. Making more pillowcases will ensure that no child at Cass Community Services will go without one. Donations of fabric will gladly be accepted and may be placed in the blue tub located in the Level 2 Kitchenette. It takes ¾ yard for the main part, ¼ yard for the cuffed edge, and 1/8 yard for the thin strip. Questions? Contact Kathy Riggs.

Church Women United

Thank you for the support at the Church Women United March tea at our church. I thought the dessert was very nice and everything looked wonderful. Eighteen of our church women attended.

CWU only has four meetings a year. The next program is at the Hazel Park United Methodist Church on Friday, May 6, at 9:30 a.m. This will be a continental breakfast with a cost of \$4.00. The theme will be on friendship and key women (that's me). For reservations, please call Marilyn Murley by May 1. Anyone need a ride?

Marilyn Murley

First ADVENTURES is Good for You!



First ADVENTURES Spring Climb – Living on the Edge (of the cliff)

We've all heard about the benefits of exercise, but how many of us have taken action to incorporate it into our daily lives? It's hard to make it a regular habit, especially if we imagine doing it cooped up indoors in front of the TV. **First ADVENTURES** is here to make it much easier for you to **be good to yourself**. We offer many activities intended to get you outdoors where attitudes improve.

Running Practice is currently underway on Sundays immediately following the first church service. The co-leaders are Allison and Corey Harris. The First **ADVENTURES** running team earned a **First Place** award at last year's **Oak Apple Run**. We need you on our team. Call Corey Harris (248-709-1079) if you would like more information; or, just show up with your running gear.

Laura Hice continues to encourage **walkers** to join her on **Sunday mornings** as she makes her way from the Star Jaycee Park area to the church. Arrange to meet up with her along the way.

We'll be offering another **Rock Climbing** adventure in **Ohio's scenic Hocking Hills State Park** on **April 29-30**. It's a great place to learn if you haven't climbed or rappelled before and a great place for experienced climbers as well.

Our **Saturday Road Bike Rides** will begin in **mid-May**. Plan to join us from the beginning and we'll try to increase our distance each week.

First **ADVENTURES** provides opportunities to be active and re-energize outdoors in God's amazing creation. We are open to all adults and occasionally offer family events. Non-ROFUM members are especially encouraged to join in First **ADVENTURES** activities. **INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!** Contact Bob Berard or Jon Cline or email us at firstadventures@rofum.org. Visit our website at firstadventures.wordpress.com for more information, event updates, and other interesting information.

Scheduled Events

Running Training: Sunday mornings, March thru May
Rock Climbing: Friday afternoon thru Saturday, April 29-30
Road Biking: Saturday mornings, mid May thru August
Spring Walk: Saturday, May 21
Walk to Church: Sunday mornings, Ongoing

Melting snow signals the return of the climbing season, so limber up your body and strengthen your finger grip – we are heading for Hocking Hills State Park in Ohio for the second year. This year we depart on Friday afternoon on April 29th at 5:30 p.m. We will arrive in the climbing area very late that evening. There are motel accommodations in a small town not far from the cliffs, or there is camping in the state park campsite close to the cliffs. Participants can choose whichever accommodations they want. A map of the entire area will be provided to each vehicle, and travel arrangements to ensure each participant gets to their preferred overnight accommodations will be worked out well in advance of departure. It is essential that participants sign up for the trip ahead of time so that the logistics of vehicles and accommodations can be worked out ahead of time and people get to stay where they want on Friday night. If you cannot make the Friday night departure, you can still join us Saturday if you would like to arise at dawn and make your way south.

We will be tackling more difficult climbs this time and scout out some additional rappelling opportunities as well. Perhaps a Tyrolean traverse can also be established for a third type of activity. Since we will arrive at the cliffs Saturday morning around 9:00 a.m., we should be able to stake out some good places to have our fun. We will leave the area in the late afternoon to arrive back at the church around 10:00 pm.

For those of you returning for this second trip, refresher training will be available. For those of you who are new to the activity, separate beginner training will be available. Jon Cline has a small climbing wall at the back of his garage and a nearby pine tree that will be used for the training activity. Call or email Jon to arrange for the training. Sign-up sheets for the trip will be available in the church office beginning in early April. A liability release and medical information form must be completed prior to departure.

Those of us who participated last year had an excellent time. First **ADVENTURES** would like to use this second trip to reach out to non-church members to acquaint others with the variety of activities available through our church. If you know of someone outside the community of our church that is interested in trying this challenging sport, please invite them to join us. Beginners are most welcome and this is challenge by choice – we will not push an individual to attempt something they are not ready to tackle.

Jon Cline

Saturday Sweep Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.



Saturday Sweep

The Building and Parsonage Management Committee is planning its first Saturday Sweep event for 2011. Saturday Sweep is the gathering of volunteers to assist the custodial team in sprucing up the church. We will begin at 9 a.m. and will be finishing up our activities by 1 p.m. Plan to give your church a few hours of volunteer service as we get our building in tip-top shape for the Easter holiday.

You may sign up in Fellowship Hall during Sunday morning fellowship hours or weekdays in the church office. We are currently compiling a list of specific and general tasks. Let us know if there is anything particular that you would like to do. Snacks will be provided!

Building and Parsonage Management wants to thank all those who have participated in our past Saturday Sweep sessions. Our church and parsonage cannot be maintained without this volunteer help. Thank you also to those who pitched in to assist when the committee hosted the Sunday morning fellowship time in January.

John Marsh, BPMC Chairman

Thank you to our April Church Life Sponsors

Dr. Nancy E. Hartrick - Family Dentistry
Kinsey-Garrett Funeral Home
Paul Kremer – Garage Doors
Vivid Digital Concepts

New sponsors are always welcome! Contact Lori Vickers in the church office (248/541-4100) to learn how you or your organization can become a *Church Life* sponsor.

Sponsorships:

- Single Issue \$15.00
- Quarterly (3 issues) \$45.00
- Yearly (12 issues) \$180.00

Prices are based on a business card size ad.

Individual Messages:

- Birthdays, Anniversaries, Greetings, etc. \$5.00/issue

Does This “Sound” Good to You?



ROFUM is in the process of purchasing new microphones for the Sanctuary as the next step in improving the sound quality of our 11:00 worship service as well as other events that use this

space. Our new equipment will require new people to help run it. We would like to have at least two people working the sound equipment at 11:00, which means that we need to add to our sound crew. No previous experience is required and training will be available. This is another great opportunity to give to your church and be an important part of worship. Please consider this opportunity and contact either Jennifer Semivan or Joe Foster. All ages are welcome – middle school and high school youth make great sound technicians!

Men’s Fellowship Breakfast Saturday, May 7, 8:07 a.m.

Join us as we welcome back Rev. Mike Seymour as he presents “The Life of Christ” with pictures from his trip to the Holy Land. Come and be enlightened!



All men and women are invited to attend. Breakfast is at 8:07 a.m. and the program will begin at 9:00.



**SOFTBALL
LEAGUE**

Men’s Softball – It’s That Time Again!

All men interested in playing softball in the SOICAA league with our church, please leave your name in the church office or call Craig Sleeman.



Remember Our Homebound Members

Vi Bradshaw
Dorothy Cowley
Lois DeVos
Irene Koscienc
Dorthella Kreger
Margery Lawson
Pat Lawson
Ivy Loftin

Names and addresses of our homebound members are very important to us. There is constant change, so please note the names and addresses carefully. If you have any corrections or updates, please notify the church office.

Ruth Miller
Yvonne Quinn
Jeannette Safran
Muriel Shepard
Peggy Smullen
Mary Tata
Louella Wright
Louise Wyman

Out of the Area

Marion Conrad
Ruth Dawkins
Maggie Fries
Christina Smith



Sean Barr - Air Force (Florida)
Jody Holton - Hawaii
Bobby Huneycutt - Army
Paul Kondrat - Marines (California)
Andrew Kostrzewa - Navy (California)

Dan Lewis - Army (Italy)
Aaron Mingle - Navy (Florida)
Thomas Morales - Navy (Gulf)
Kimberly Munzinger - Marines (Afghanistan)
William Schroeder - (Afghanistan)

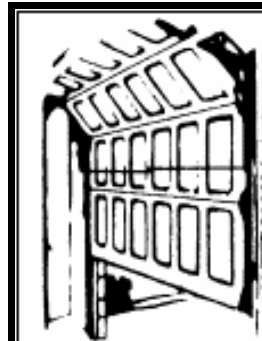


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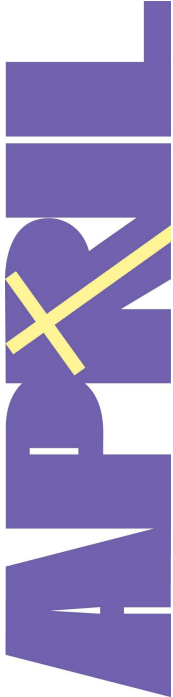


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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>CS – Church School FA – First ADVENTURES HS – High School Holy COW (Church On Wednesday) – Dinner, Youth Choirs, Bible Study, classes and activities for all ages SOSOS – South Oakland Shelter on Saturdays UMW – United Methodist Women</p>						
<p>4th Sunday in Lent 3 Hope Closet 9:15 a Arise! Worship/CS 9:15 a Faith/Church Exp 10:15 a Angelus Choir 10:30 a FA Running Trng 11:00 a Worship & CS 12:30 p Choir Council 1:00 p Lenten Study 4:00 p Lenten Study 7:00 p Debtors Anon</p>	<p>4 Hope Closet 9:30 a Crafty Ladies 7:00 p Boy Scouts 7:00 p Bldg Improve 7:00 p Lenten Study 7:00 p Trustees</p>	<p>5 Hope Closet 10:00 a Adult Study 12:00 p AA 1:15 p.m. Library Comm 7:00 p Bldg Mgmt 7:00 p Education 7:00 p Igniting Ministry</p>	<p>6 Hope Closet 10:00 a Program Staff Mtg 12:00 p Full Staff Mtg 7:35 p Lenten Study</p>	<p>7 Hope Closet 9:30 a UMW Exec Comm 10:45 a Love Circle 12:15 p UMW Luncheon 5:30 p AA 6:30 p Career Ministry Steering Committee 6:30 p Carillon Ringers 7:30 p Sanctus Choir</p>	<p>8 Hope Closet 10:30 a Juliet Lenten Study</p>	<p>9 Hope Closet 9:00 a MetroBridges Food Desert Trip 5:30 p Sat Night Worship 7:00 p Lenten Study</p>
<p>5th Sunday in Lent 10 Hope Closet 9:15 a Arise! Worship/CS 9:15 a Faith/Church Exps 10:15 a Angelus Choir 10:30 a FA Running Trng 11:00 a Worship/CS/Bapt 12:30 p Baptism Mtg 1:00 p Lenten Study 4:00 p Career Ministry 7:00 p Debtors Anon</p>	<p>11 9:30 a Crafty Ladies 7:00 p Boy Scouts 7:00 p Lenten Study 7:30 p MetroBridges 8:00 p Music Guild</p>	<p>12 10:00 a Adult Study 12:00 p AA 6:30 p Co-Lay Ldrs Mtg 7:00 p Member Care 7:00 p Men's Basketball 7:30 p Staff/Parrish</p>	<p>13 9:30 a Charity Circle 10:00 a Program Staff Mtg 12:00 p Full Staff Mtg 4:30 p PreCOW Study 5:30 p Holy COW 6:30 p Lenten Study 6:30 p Soul Stretch Yoga 7:30 p Knowledge Circle 7:35 p Lenten Study</p>	<p>14 1:00 p Shawl Ministry 5:30 p AA 6:30 p Carillon Ringers 7:30 p Sanctus Choir 8:00 p Teen Al-Anon</p>	<p>15 10:30 a Juliet Lenten Study</p>	<p>16 9:00 a Saturday Sweep 8:45 a Confirmand Rally 12:00 p SOSOS 5:30 p Sat Night Worship 7:00 p Lenten Study</p>
<p>Palm Sunday 17 9:15 a Arise! Worship/CS 10:15 a Angelus Choir 10:30 a FA Running Trng 11:00 a Worship/CS/Bapt 12:30 p HS Men Bible Study 12:30 p Lithuania Team 1:00 p Lenten Study 1:00 p Spaghetti Dimmre 3:00 p Faith/Church Exp 7:00 p Choir Camp Staff 7:00 p Debtors Anon</p>	<p>18 9:30 a Crafty Ladies 7:00 p Boy Scouts 7:00 p Lenten Study 7:00 p Missions</p>	<p>19 10:00 a Adult Study 11:00 a Church Life Vols 12:00 p AA 1:00 p Church Life Vols 7:00 p Men's Basketball 7:30 p Finance</p>	<p>20 9:30 a UMW Book Group 10:00 a Program Staff Mtg 12:00 p Full Staff Mtg 4:30 p PreCOW Study 5:30 p Holy COW 6:30 p Lenten Study 6:30 p Soul Stretch Yoga 7:35 p Lenten Study</p>	<p>Maundy Thursday 21 1:00 p Peace Circle 5:30 p AA 6:30 p Career Ministry Steering Committee 7:30 p Maundy Thursday Worship 8:00 p Teen Al-Anon 8:30 p Tenebrae Rehearsal</p>	<p>Good Friday 22 12:00 p Community Good Friday Service @ First Congregational Church 7:30 p Tenebrae Service</p>	<p>Holy Saturday 23 5:30 p Sat Night Worship/ Noisy Bucket</p>
<p>Easter 24 Noisy Bucket 7:15 a Sunrise Service 8:00 a Breakfast at Pronto 9:15 a Arise! Worship/CS 10:30 a FA Running Trng 11:00 a Worship & CS 7:00 p Debtors Anon</p>	<p>25 Office Closed 7:00 p FA Planning</p>	<p>26 10:00 a Adult Study 12:00 p AA 7:00 p Church Council 7:00 p Men's Basketball</p>	<p>27 10:00 a Program Staff Mtg 12:00 p Full Staff Mtg 4:30 p PreCOW Study 5:30 p Holy COW 6:30 p Soul Stretch Yoga</p>	<p>28 1:00 p Shawl Ministry 5:30 p AA 6:30 p Carillon Ringers 7:30 p Sanctus Choir 8:00 p Teen Al-Anon</p>	<p>29 6:00 p FA Rock Climbing</p>	<p>30 FA Rock Climbing 12:30 p HS <i>Visions of Peace</i> Trip 5:30 p Sat Night Worship</p>

April Birthdays

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| -1- Lucille Evans | -10- Carole Harris
Steve Walch | -21- Mary Nahhat |
| -2- Linda Turnage
Connor McCarthy
Cathy Baker | -11- Geoffrey Sleeman | -23- Justin Wells
Fred Smothers |
| -3- Steve Kinney
Tom Wurdock | -12- Lynn Bryan
Bessie Johnstone | -24- Larry Watkins, Jr.
Mary Gray |
| -4- Jason Lowman
Clark Risley
Marjorie Sutherland
Yvonne Quinn | -13- Pat Walbridge
Michael Sleeman
Craig Sleeman | -26- Daniel Rylance
Trevor Rowe
Ellie Gilbert |
| -5- Christine Samson
Carl Shafer | -14- Michael Parisi, Jr. | -27- Joe Waisanen
Amelia Anderson
Candy Ather-Putman |
| -6- Tim Huber
Hunter Kosnik | -15- Ed Berger
Leanna Smothers | -28- William Zryd
Isabella Yago |
| -8- Ben Bowen
Marion Conrad
Maureen Lawson
Dylan Yates | -16- Lucas Notarantonio | -29- Ana Johnson
Valerie Smith
Jeff Lambert |
| -9- Dave Holden
Mary Jane Watkins
Gerald Seizert
Sylvia Malcore
Jill Paswater | -17- Janet Kinney
Lizzie Reed
John Reid
Virginia Sleeman | -30- Karen Glenn
Carlene Umstead |
| | -18- Jane Frentz
Laura Mutz | |
| | -19- Don Glenn | |
| | -20- Jacob Walbridge
Sean Walbridge
Erin Kuznia | |

Please note: If you don't see your name on our birthday list, please let us know! We may not have your birthday in our data base.



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HOT CROSS BUNS

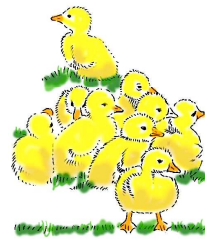
Make this traditional Easter recipe to remember how Christ gave his life for you.

What you need:

- 1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
- 1 stick (½ cup) butter, melted
- ½ cup sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 1½ Tablespoons yeast
- 1 egg, beaten
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- 5 cups flour
- Icing
- An adult to help

What you do:

1. In large bowl, combine the first eight ingredients.
2. Stir in flour, one cup at a time, to form soft dough. Knead on a floured surface until smooth and elastic (about five minutes).
3. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise until doubled (about one hour).
4. Knead out air bubbles. Form six two-inch balls.
5. Place two inches apart on a greased cookie sheet. Cover and let rise until doubled (about 30 minutes).
6. Bake at 375 degrees until golden (13 to 15 minutes). Cool on wire racks.
7. Add icing in a cross shape. Enjoy!



FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV.

1. Jesus	5. cross
2. weary	6. endured
3. endured	7. scorning
4. opposition	8. shame

1. Jesus	5. perfecter
2. lose	6. him
3. pioneer	7. faith
4. sinners	8. hand

1. eyes	5. right
2. us	6. grow
3. joy	7. God
4. heart	8. throne

“... fixing our 1 on 1, the 3 and 5 of 7. For the 3 set before 6 he 3 the 5, 7 its 8, and sat down at the 5 of the 8 of 7. Consider 6 who 6 such 4 from 4, so that you will not 6 2 and 2 4.” HEBREWS 12:2-3, NIV

Answer: “...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV

Return Service Requested

Dated Material - Please Deliver Promptly
 Mailed March 23, 2011

Celebrate Holy Week With Us

April 17, Palm Sunday

9:15 and 11:00 a.m. — *“Service of the Palms”*

April 21, Maundy Thursday

7:30 p.m.

April 22, Good Friday

12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.—

*Community Good Friday Service
 @ First Congregational Church*

7:30 p.m. — *Tenebrae Service*

April 23, Holy Saturday

5:30 p.m. — *Worship*

April 24, Easter Sunday

7:15 a.m. — *Sunrise Service* on church lawn

8:00 a.m. — Breakfast at Pronto!

9:15 a.m. — *“Celebration of the Risen Lord”*

10:30 a.m. — Easter Egg Hunt

11:00 a.m. — *“Celebration of the Risen Lord”*



Back by Popular Demand: Spaghetti Dinner!

Again this year, we are planning a spaghetti dinner to benefit the Youth Mission Trip. Proceeds from the dinner will help fund this summer’s trip. We plan to have approximately 20 youth members and a handful of adults travel to and work at a mission location for a week in July. In years past, we have built porches, walls, roofs and repaired many things. We have also built relationships with many new friends.

For the Spaghetti dinner, the youth members create a unique atmosphere in Fellowship Hall. The menu will include spaghetti, Caesar salad, garlic bread, and dessert.

The dinner is planned for Sunday April 17th. Tickets are sold in advance, and can be purchased from any member of the Youth Mission Trip Team. They are also available in the church office. Seating is limited, so purchase you tickets today.