



First United Methodist Church
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 **First United Methodist Church...**
a Welcoming community, Growing in God's grace, Seeking to be
active followers of Jesus Christ.

Visit us at the Website:
www.jcfumc.org

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Visit us on the web at jcfumc.org for the latest church calendar



Help for our Friends in Haiti

The recent disaster in Haiti scares us and the reports via news papers, TV, radio and the internet shake us to our core. Our hearts ache for the relatives waiting to hear a voice that will never speak again. We jump for joy when a survivor is pulled from rubble and brought gently back to safety and freedom. It is not hard to imagine the worry, fear and turmoil of so many waiting for news, any news to be delivered. In time, everyone will discover the end result of this disaster. The living, dead, injured, homeless and so many others who hope this will never happen again. We can look to Mother Nature who has her ways of getting our attention. So often we go about our lives without a care until the earth shakes, the sky rumbles or blistering winds sweep by and then we wonder why nature has tipped over our apple cart.

I am simply observing the nature of humanity. We ask, "why is God doing this?" and "What did we do to deserve such turmoil?" I cannot say one way or the other, that is for another conversation. What we can do is respond. We can pray for our brothers and sisters in Haiti and those related to them around the world. We can offer financial assistance by giving to the Red Cross, Salvation Army and UMCOR Advance #418235, Latin America and Caribbean, Haiti. We know with UMCOR 100% of our gifts will be sent and distributed with due diligence. The Office of Creative Ministry web site: www.umocm.com has a link to give directly via credit card to UMCOR through PayPal. It is quick, easy and safe.

I pray for our friends in Haiti, their loved ones stateside and those who are responding with feet on the ground and hands busy working to assist recovery. May God bless them, give them strength and a spirit of determination until everyone is found, given treatment and homes are restored. God be with us all in this time of turmoil.

Pastor Mark

Neighborhood Dinner

Thursday, January 28

6:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center

Volunteers requested. Contact Rick Facemyer at
rfacemyer@juno.com

Changes in Newsletter

In an effort to be more conservative with our resources and offer greater communication about church activities and information, beginning in February the newsletter will be published only once a month. Please send articles about your church events and activities to tschaefer@jcfumc.org. The deadline for the newsletter will be the beginning of the third week of each month. For news published each week, copies of the "Weekly" are available on the kiosks in the lobby and CLC.

Methodist Early Learning Enrollment for Fall 2010 Enrollment begins in February

Options include:

Mothers Morning Out - for infants 3 months old - 18 months
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Children can enroll in one, two, or three days.

Mothers' Morning Out - for Toddlers
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday and Thursday
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

Methodist Play and Learn - 3 year olds (by August 1st)
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Methodist Pre-Kindergarten - 4 year olds (by August 1st)
Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Extended morning care is available at 7:45 a.m.

For additional information call

Program Director Heather Warbritton - (573) 635-6886

Church members and those families already enrolled may register starting Monday, February 1. We have classes available for infants (3 months) - 5 year olds. Enroll promptly if you are interested as slots fill quickly and enrollment is limited.

Open enrollment begins Friday, February 12 at 9:00 a.m.

Christian Sympathy

We wish to express our deepest Christian sympathy to the family & friends of:

Irene Ayres on her death; Larry Rhea on the death of his father.

We Believe

Before peace was even brokered in Mozambique, in February of 1991, the congregation of First UMC – Jefferson City believed in the mission of Mozambique. After a presentation about the needs of the United Methodist Church in Mozambique, the congregation was inspired to raise funds to build a church. By Christmas of 1991 the congregation had raised \$20,000 that was dispersed over the next 18 months to help build the church in Matingane.

Now fast forward to Advent of 2009 and the question "Can Christmas still change the world?" This was the question underlying a sermon series in Advent for First UMC Jefferson City. The series centered around *The Advent Conspiracy*, a "movement" that is growing around the country to substitute consumerism and consumption at Christmas time, with compassion and relationship. The original concept of The Advent Conspiracy comes from three pastors of several large non-denominational congregations around the country. These pastors wanted to challenge their congregations to live differently at Christmas time through four simple practices: to worship fully, to spend less, to give more and to love all.

At First UMC a different practice was the center of the sermon time each week. When it came time to bring "giving more" to the forefront, the congregation was offered several options. One was to fill out a card that was titled "My Gift of Love for You" and worshippers were encouraged to first consider ways they could "give more" of themselves in relationships. Whether that was time with loved ones, a regular visit to a shut in, or a special and long awaited gift. One father gave an hour of driving a week to his permit driver son; another gave a surprise trip "home" over Spring Break. Another option was to give to the church in Matigane so that they would have pews to worship in. There were other giving options offered as well. All gifts were matched by a previous gift to the church by a very generous member.

First UMC collected a total of \$20,905 this Advent, with \$13,466 going to Matingane for 134 pews. Since 1991 this congregation has answered with a resounding "yes!" Yes the Good News of Jesus Christ can change the world, and Yes, we believe in the people of Matingane to deliver that good news. Christmas can still change the world, one pew at a time, one relationship at a time, one congregation at time.

Thanks be to God!

**Third Annual Women's Retreat
March 5, 6,7 Friday evening through
Sunday morning
Windermere Retreat Center**

Each room in the retreat center has sleeps five and shares a bathroom and shower. Linens are provided. We gather on Friday evening for some group building and get to know each other time, then have a movie or chat. Saturday morning after breakfast is on your own to read, sleep, walk, shop or craft – whatever you don't ever have the time to do! We have a devotion time on Saturday afternoon, a great meal on Saturday night and a group game and creative time. We then worship together on Sunday morning in the chapel on the hill and head for home around 11:30. Cost is \$50 for the whole weekend. We've already got 12 reservations, so we are looking forward to a great weekend together. Come and join us!

**The First United Methodist Church proudly
announces the Dave Ramsey Total Money Makeover
Live Simulcast on
March 13th from 12:00 noon to 5:00pm.
What you need to do: go to
www.jcfumc.org
to find registration information.**

**Lenten Devotion
Do you remember this?
Bend in the Road**

*Sometimes we come to life's crossroads
And view what we think is the end.
But God has a much wider vision
And he knows that it's only a bend-
The road will go on and get smoother
And after we've stopped for a rest,
The path that lies hidden beyond us
Is often the path that is best.
So rest and relax and grow stronger,
Let go and let God share your load,
And have faith in a brighter tomorrow
You've just come to a bend in the road.*

Helen Steiner Rice

This poem was part of our Lenten devotion book last year. It was a great blessing to all who wrote it and used it. Will you consider what you have to say to your church family about faith, about life, about YOUR life of faith? Please complete them by Feb 10 and send them to jcfumc@gmail.com

High School events:

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Youth Center
Renew Sunday School: 11:00 a.m. CLC
Sunday Night Youth: 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Center
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:45 p.m. Youth Center

Middle School events:

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Room 357
Middle School games and Bible study
Wednesday 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Center

**Youth Group
events**

I'm sure by now you've heard about the earthquake in Haiti. And even through the tragedy, I've been amazed at the overwhelming response from people all over the nation who want to help Haiti in some way. I even heard on Sunday that there were already some United Methodists in Haiti that died in the quake. They were already there making a difference. Have you ever thought about missions before? What brings people to travel across the street or across the world to help a few people? Bishop Schnase spoke to a group of people at the church last Sunday and mentioned Haiti and the idea of Risk-Taking Mission. In one of his books he writes,

"Risk-taking means greater uncertainty, a higher possibility of discomfort, resistance, or sacrifice. Risk-Taking Mission and Service takes people into ministries that push them out of their comfort zone, stretching them beyond the circle of relationships and practices that routinely define their faith commitments. God uses such ministries to change the lives of those who receive help, but also to draw us into relationships with people, situations, and needs that we would never ordinarily encounter and that reveal to us spiritual qualities and practical talents that we might never otherwise discover."

Sometimes we have the tendency to look at people who are suffering and try to solve them. They are a problem that has an answer. But this isn't the purpose of mission at all. The mission God has given us is this: to preach the Message of good news to the poor (Luke 4:18 The Message). When we serve people, we do more than help them. We connect with them. We form bonds and change lives. Yes, Haiti will be transformed by this tragedy. But so will we. Pray, give, and remember that there are people all around you that need good news.

**Much love,
Chris Abel**

Winter Coat Drive!



When the wind blows cold and the temperature drops, many in our community shiver because their light jacket isn't enough or they have no coat to keep warm with. The downtown churches led by Grace Episcopal initiated the idea and of course we said, "Yes!" In just a few days so many coats, gloves, hats and scarfs were donated we could not count them all. At least a dozen 30 gallon bags were filled to the hilt and carried to the Salvation Army, Center of Hope shelter. The smaller sizes were also taken to Thorpe Gordon Elementary School and East Elementary School for children arriving without proper outer wear. Thank you for your generous hearts and support of our friends in need.

Pastor Mark

View Sermons online

Sermons are now available for download on itunes or as a podcast. Go to the jcfumc.org to find the link. Sermons from the previous Sunday are available for viewing on Friday afternoons. Older sermons can still be viewed at the Truthcasting link.

Video Training



Demetrius Davis, far right, of VideoTec in St. Louis, recently conducted training sessions for church volunteers to learn more about video techniques and editing in the FUMC TV studio. From left are Don Stubblefield, Earl Cannon and Dave Harris. The sessions were set up by FUMC's audio/video specialist, Nick Edwards.

FUMC Foundation Grant Application Due January 31

The FUMC Foundation Board of Directors is now accepting grant applications for the 2010 calendar year.

Grants in the maximum amount of \$1,000 are awarded to projects which reach beyond the church's operation budget and are consistent with the Foundation's mission of supporting FUMC and its Methodist heritage.

Any church volunteer or staff member who is the chair or leader of a church committee is eligible to apply. Applications are available in the church office, and on the web site and must be submitted by January 31.

For more information, please contact the church office at 635-6886.

Chili Day Needs YOU! Monday, February 22

We are looking forward to all those freshly baked desserts for the Chili Lunch/Supper.

Please drop off your desserts on
Monday, February 22 from 7 a.m. - 11 a.m. in the back alley.

Everyone in the church is invited to donate items such as baked goods, homemade craft items, books and items for children to buy. (Books and items should be new or "like-new.") Bazaar table items should be in no later than Friday, February 19. The items may be stored in the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Ann Maxwell at 635-9614.