



# *First Option*

A Guide to Ministry at First United Methodist



Autumn  
2011



# Welcome

You are holding in your hand *First Option* the ministry catalog of First United Methodist Church of Columbus, Indiana. This booklet is a collection of opportunities to help you grow in your faith and understanding of Jesus Christ. You will also find ways to engage in the Columbus community and around the world to make it better for the people of God.

Each of us is on a faith journey. This journey continues throughout our lives. Whether you are 8 or 80, First Church offers ways to learn about Jesus Christ and ways to be in ministry for our Lord. First Church offers growth and ministry activities for persons of all ages.

We hope that you will find a study or an activity in *First Option* that will kindle an interest. Perhaps your discovery will lead you to find your place in the community of faith and in the community of Columbus. Join with your friends in study and ministry for the glory of God.



[www.fumccolumbus.org](http://www.fumccolumbus.org)

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# Staff

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David K. Lamb ..... Director of Music  
*dlamb@fumccolumbus.org*

Gary Schaar ..... Pastor  
*gschaar@fumccolumbus.org*



Gary Schaar



Brian Campbell





Time	Program	Location
5:30-6:00	Fellowship for all Sunday Night Live participants.	Fellowship Hall
5:30-7:30	Youth Group (Grades 7-12)	Room 316
6:00-7:30	Nursery	Room 311
6:00-6:30	Children's Choir (Age 3 - 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade)	Chapel
6:00-6:45	Children's Choir (2 <sup>nd</sup> grade – 6 <sup>th</sup> grade)	Music Center
6:30-7:30	Sunday Night Journey (Age 3 - Kindergarten)	Fellowship Hall
6:45-7:30	Sunday Night Journey (1 <sup>st</sup> Grade – 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade)	Fellowship Hall
6:45-7:30	EMT <i>Extra Music Time</i> (4 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> Grades)	Music Center
6:00-7:30	LINCS with Kids - Alternate Sundays Contact: Chris Wessel (812) 372-0352 or christianwessel@sbcglobal.net	Fellowship Hall and Room 116
6:00-7:30	Open Bible Study – Melissa Morelli leading Phone: (812) 342-1928	Room 216 (Blue Room)
6:00-7:30	Study - Servant Ministry - Mike Hopper leading Cell: (606) 356-2193 or E-Mail: mhopper@fumccolumbus.org	Room 217 (Conference Room)

Descriptions of activities included in the Sunday Night Live schedule below are located in other sections of *First Option*.



# *First UP*

## Traditional Worship

**Sunday**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Sanctuary**

The traditional worship event is based on the message of the Bible supported by prayers, hymns, and anthems accompanied by the organ and piano.

## Contemporary Worship

**Sunday**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Sanctuary**

The contemporary worship event is based around a team of musicians using acoustic and electronic instruments and a team of singers to share the message of God. The message is theme based presenting an intersection of God with our life.

## Sunday School

**Sunday**

**10:10**

Classes for all ages are offered between the two worship events. You are encouraged to worship then learn, or experience an encounter with the Bible and then join in worship.

## Safety

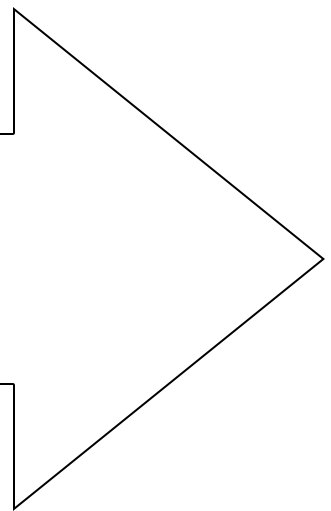
### **Child Care for Church Events**

Child care for church meetings and events is provided when two or more families need this service. To request child care, contact Sarah Campbell at [scampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:scampbell@fumccolumbus.org) or 372-2851 at least one (1) week in advance of the meeting or event.

### **Child Protection Policy**

Providing a safe and nurturing environment for children and youth, paid child care workers and volunteers is a priority at First United Methodist Church. The Child Protection Policy establishes guidelines for safe practices with children and youth, as well as guidelines for recruiting, screening, hiring, and supervising of child care workers and volunteers. Copies of the policy are available from the Youth and Children's Ministries office.

Spring  
2011



# *Become One of the First*

## **First Connection**

American Express® says that “membership has its privileges.” Well, it’s different with the church. In most organizations the member is the one being served. In the church the members are the ones who serve. The United Methodist Church has always been a group of believers who declare their commitment to Jesus Christ and affirm their desire to grow in faith and live in love with God and others.

We regularly invite persons to join us in ministry. It all starts with a free lunch! We want you to get to know you, and we want you to get to know us. What a better way than Sunday lunch?

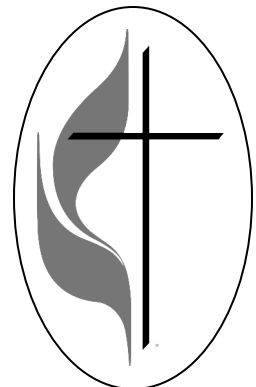
Your lunch with us begins with a tour of the building. We often give directions like “Room 311” or “Chapel,” but just where are these mysterious locations? Your tour will help you find your way to the great opportunities for learning and fellowship that are yours here at First.

Your experience continues with a catered lunch here in our building. You will share a meal with the pastors and with some of the church leaders. We want to hear your story, and we will share stories of this community of faith, too. “Who is First Church? What does it do? How can First assist me in my faith journey?” Whatever your questions, we will try to answer them for you.

The fall lunch dates are September 18 and November 13.

## **Meeting with the Pastor**

A personal discussion with the pastor is an important part of becoming part of this community of faith. Pastors care who you are as a person and want to hear your life story. This makes the relationship more personal. In this time together we can talk about struggles and joys that you may be reluctant to talk about in a group of new friends. In this meeting we can join together as you continue your journey through the twists and turns of life. You are invited to initiate our meeting. Call Gary or Brian at 372-2851 or email them at [gschaar@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:gschaar@fumccolumbus.org) or [bcampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:bcampbell@fumccolumbus.org).



# *Music & Worship*

## Children

### Parent Services

A nursery is available for children birth—age 3 from 8:45-12:15 on Sunday mornings in Room 311.

A Baby Comfort Area (located down stairs from the Narthex) is a place of hospitality for parents who find themselves with unhappy infants/toddlers in worship. Speakers broadcast the worship service, and rocking chairs, a changing table and toys are available for your comfort. Please visit the Welcome Center for directions to the Baby Comfort Area.

Rocking chairs and changing tables are also available in room 311 as well as the women's bathroom on the lower level, near the elevator.

For more information contact Sarah Campbell [scampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:scampbell@fumccolumbus.org) or 372-2851.

### In the Pew Activities

Children are welcome to stay in the sanctuary during worship. A special bulletin, colored pencils, an etch-a-sketch® and other items are available at the front entrance. For more information contact Sarah Campbell at 372-2851 or [scampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:scampbell@fumccolumbus.org).

### Children's Moment

A designated time is set aside during the worship service for children of all ages to come forward for a special time to talk about the sermon, scripture or theme. After children's moment, children can choose to return to their seats with their parents or go to Christian Connections or childcare, as available. For more information contact Sarah Campbell at 372-2851 or [scampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:scampbell@fumccolumbus.org).

### Christian Connections

Children sometimes aren't ready for a full worship experience. That's why we have "Christian Connections." Children spend the first portion of the worship service with the parents, then can choose to stay in worship after the Children's Moment or can attend this fun, child-centered time to learn more about Christian values (for the younger ones) & explore worship in a fun way (for the older ones).

At 9:00 a.m children ages 3 years old-Kindergarten will meet in Room 316 and children in 1st -6th Grade will meet in Room 313. At 11:00 a.m. children ages 3 and older will meet in room 312. Parents should be sure that their children know whether to return to the pews or go with the leader to Christian Connections prior to coming forward for Children Moments.

Your child will experience the love of Jesus through various activities including videos, the arts, laughter, prayer, worship and more.

For more information contact Sarah Campbell [scampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:scampbell@fumccolumbus.org) or 372-2851.

### Acolytes & Crucifers

First Church continues the Christian practice of processing the cross and flame each week in traditional worship (9:00). This ministry is performed each week by our children in 2nd-6th Grades. For more information contact Sarah Campbell at 372-2851 or [scampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:scampbell@fumccolumbus.org).

# Music & Worship

## Sounds of Joy

Children ages three (by August 1, 2011) through 1st Grade are invited to be a part of the Sounds of Joy. The choir generally sings one Sunday a month during the school year. Rehearsals are scheduled for Sunday evenings 6:00-6:30 beginning September 11.

For more information contact Margaret Powers at [ggpowers@comcast.net](mailto:ggpowers@comcast.net) or 372-4154



## Sounds of Celebration

Students in 2nd—6th Grade are invited to sing together, play instruments, and expand their musical knowledge in this choir. The choir will share their musical gifts in worship one Sunday a month this Fall. Rehearsals are scheduled for Sunday evenings 6:00-6:45 beginning September 11.

For more information contact Nancy Rumsey at [the-rumseys-45@yahoo.com](mailto:the-rumseys-45@yahoo.com) or 342-2973.



## EMT

4th-6th graders have the option of staying longer for EMT (*Extra Music Time*). EMT will meet from 6:50-7:25. Participants will be doing other musical activities.

For more information contact Nancy Rumsey at [the-rumseys-45@yahoo.com](mailto:the-rumseys-45@yahoo.com) or 342-2973.



## Adult

### Chancel Choir

All adult and high school age students are invited to join the Chancel Choir! The choir sings every Sunday at the 9:00 a.m. Traditional Service and at special programs from September to June. Rehearsals are on

Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:00.

The repertoire includes a wide variety of styles and composers from Bach to Britten, Mozart to Ellington, Handel to Rutter.

For more information contact David K. Lamb at 372-2851.

### Serve Communion

Would you like to help serve communion at one of the worship events? For more information contact Robin Campbell at 379-2069.

### Celebration Team

Worship on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. is led by the celebration team offering a soft contemporary sound as God is praised through music. Guitar, keyboard and mandolin create the background for the vocals. The team is always looking for new members including vocalists, guitarists, and drummers.

Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 6:30-8:00 p.m. For more information contact Dan Fleming at 376-3937 or [flemingdan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:flemingdan@sbcglobal.net).

### Chancel Ringers

Playing handbells comes from the English ringers who rang tunes on the bells in their church towers. Much to the neighborhood's delight, they practiced on handbells instead of always ringing the tower bells. Soon the ringers began ringing in the worship gatherings.

The Chancel Ringers generally ring in the Traditional Service (9:00) on the fourth Sunday during the school year. They rehearse on Tuesday nights from 7:00-8:30 p.m. They also perform at various festivals and community events during the year. For more information contact Kevin Butler at 372-2851 or [kbutler@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:kbutler@fumccolumbus.org).

# Faith Development

For information about Faith Development programs for children and youth, please contact Sarah Campbell at [scampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:scampbell@fumccolumbus.org) or 372-2851.

## Children

### Toddler and Preschool

Your young children will be surrounded with love throughout the morning. Adult and teen caregivers will read Bible stories and have fun, age-appropriate activities for the children to enjoy. The nursery is located in Room 311.

### Good Shepherd

PreK, Kindergarten & 1st Grade

The Good Shepherd program teaches Bible stories that come to life for the children using wooden figures. The children are encouraged to express their interpretation of the story through art. This class meets each Sunday at 10:10 a.m. in Room 314.

### What's in the Bible

2nd-6th Grade

Each Sunday the children are invited to a faith experience. First Church gives all second graders a personalized Bible. This class uses the Bible to better understand God and what God calls them to do and be. Using the fun and informative "What's in the Bible" curriculum, the Activities, crafts, stories and games are used to understand the message of the Bible. This class meets each Sunday at 10:10 a.m. in Room 316.

### Bibles for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders

If your child is in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (or Higher) and has not received a Bible from FUMC, please contact Sarah Campbell 372-2851 or [scampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:scampbell@fumccolumbus.org) to request one.

### Christian Connections

Children sometimes aren't ready for a full worship experience. That's why we have "Christian Connections." Children spend the first portion of the worship service with the parents, then can choose to stay in worship after the Children's Moment or can attend this fun, child-centered time to learn more about Christian values (for the younger ones) & explore worship in a fun way (for the older ones).

At 9:00 a.m children ages 3 years old-Kindergarten will meet in Room 316 and children in 1st -6th Grade will meet in Room 313. At 11:00 a.m. children ages 3 and older will meet in room 312. Parents should be sure that their children know whether to return to the pews or go with the leader to Christian Connections prior to coming forward for Children Moments.

Your child will experience the love of Jesus through various activities including videos, the arts, laughter, prayer, worship and more.

For more information contact Sarah Campbell [scampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:scampbell@fumccolumbus.org) or 372-2851.

# Faith Development

## Christmas Vacation Bible School

Children ages 3-6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend our Christmas VBS at FUMC! Look for dates and times in the *Spire & Sunday Spire!*

Contact Sarah Campbell for more information [scampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:scampbell@fumccolumbus.org) or 372-2851.

## Santa's Workshop

Enjoy a morning filled with crafts and projects that kids of all ages can make to give as Christmas gifts or to keep! This fun event is open to everyone – so invite your friends to be at First on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.).

Santa's Workshop is free; however a free will donation will be accepted at the door to cover the costs of materials. Any additional money raised will be used by the FUMC Youth Group to purchase Christmas gifts for a neighborhood family in need.

This is a great event – a lot of fun for children and adults! There are several ways to be involved: ① create the crafts & projects, ②lead one of the craft stations, ③spread the word to get more community involvement.

Contact Sarah Campbell for more information [scampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:scampbell@fumccolumbus.org) or 372-2851.

## Youth

### Claim the Faith

#### Junior & Senior High

How do faith and our relationship with Christ affect my life? Our youth struggle with personal issues and discuss ways to make the world better in this class. It meets each Sunday at 10:10 a.m. in Room 314.

### Youth Group

The FUMC Youth Group meets every Sunday from 5:30 - 7:30 in room 316, for a fantastic night filled with fun, food, friends and finding out more about God, Jesus, the Church, and YOURSELF!



### Beautiful You, Inside & Out

Girls in Grades 7,8 and 9 are invited to experience Beautiful You. The lock-in begins on October 7 and continues through the night learning how God loves all of us, and thinks we are all beautiful, inside and out. This night will be filled with fun activities you won't want to miss. including a photo shoot, crafts, great food, make-up, spa treatments, speakers, and much more! Get ready to learn about how beautiful you really are, inside and out. Pre-registration is required no later than September 30<sup>th</sup>.

For more information or to register contact Sarah Campbell at 372-2851 or [scampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:scampbell@fumccolumbus.org).

# Faith Development

## Adult (Sunday Morning)

### Special Classes

#### Disciple: Invitation to the Old Testament

Discover the major themes, events and characters of the Old Testament. Scripture, multi-media, and discussion are integrated to meet needs of new believers as well as the mature believers. The class will meet in Room 116 at 10:10 a.m. Invitation to the Old Testament is an 8 week class beginning September 11.

For more information, contact Karen Brown at [kbrown@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:kbrown@fumccolumbus.org) or 372-2851.

#### Methodism 101

Just what is a Methodist? This 5-week class is designed for any person who wants to know more about Methodism. The history, theology, structure, and ministry of Methodism world-wide will be explored. The class will meet in Conference Room 217 (in the office suite) beginning September 18.

For more information contact Pastor Brian Campbell at [bcampell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:bcampell@fumccolumbus.org) or 372-2851.

#### Growing in Faith

Would you describe your faith as a casual Christianity that never compels you beyond your comfort zone? Too often this is true, but deep within our hearts we know that Christ has not called us to comfort, but to an exciting, sacrificial and overwhelmingly fulfilling faith. Remember: *If you're going to walk on water you have to get out of the boat!*

This class will be led by Jackie Barnett and Rachel Campbell starting September 11 in the Chapel (Room 118).



II Timothy 2:15 -  
“Study to show  
yourself approved  
unto God...”

### Standing Classes

#### Men of Purpose

This “men only” class will explore the message of the Gospel of Matthew. This class meets each Sunday in Room 104 at 10:10 a.m.

For more information email Jim Forman at [jim.forman@raymondjames.com](mailto:jim.forman@raymondjames.com).

#### Scriptures for Life

Using the Bible as the main resource, this class explores various books and themes of the Bible. “Proverbs: Learning to Live Wisely” will be the Fall 2011 study. Persons of all ages are welcome to join this exploration of God’s Word. The class meets each Sunday in Room 124 at 10:10 a.m. For more information contact Barb Forman at [barbforman2002@hotmail.com](mailto:barbforman2002@hotmail.com).

#### Travelers

This group focuses on the journey of faith, as well as the destination. The big questions of faith are discussed in a lively and thought provoking atmosphere employing a marketplace of ideas reminiscent of coffee house discussions. In September 2011 the class will discuss *Health & Faith*. In October and November the class will discuss “Why Faith Matters.” The class meets in Room 216 (Blue Room) each Sunday at 10:10 a.m. Contact Arleen Keele at [abkeele@att.net](mailto:abkeele@att.net).

# *Faith Development*

## **Adult (Sunday Evening)**

### **Servant Ministry**

A study of Spiritual Gifts and ministry for church members and attenders at all levels of development in the Christian Faith.



The study will include Biblical principles of spiritual giftedness, identification of personal spiritual gifts, and application of spiritual gifts in servant ministry to and through the local church. The class will meet Sunday evening at 6:00 in Conference Room 217.

For more information, contact Mike Hopper, at [mhopper@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:mhopper@fumccolumbus.org) or (606) 356-2193.

### **Pursuing God's Love**

Sometimes we feel so alone in the world and so far away from God. How do we make life right again? "Pursuing God's Love" is a study of six stories of redemption found in the book of Genesis. The class will meet on Sunday evenings at 6:00 in Room 216 (Blue Room).



For more information contact Melissa Morelli at 812-343-4569.

## **Adult (Weekday)**

### **Women's Bible Study**

Are you a woman wanting to explore topics relevant to women's issues of faith? Then consider joining this group on Monday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. This fall the discussion will be guided by Kay Arthur's book *Loving God and Others: The Heart of Faith*. Childcare is available.

For more information contact Sarah Campbell at [scampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:scampbell@fumccolumbus.org) or 372-2851.

**Our MISSION is  
to make  
vibrant,  
thinking,  
serving  
DISCIPLES  
of  
Jesus Christ  
for the  
TRANSFORMATION  
of the world.**

# Small Group Ministry

## Study Groups

### Sunday (Evening)

*LINCS with Kids!* is a family-style small group. Kids are not required, but a blessing to have around. The groups will study *Outlive Your Life* by Max Lucado in Fall 2011. Children are encouraged to attend the social time and then go to one of the choirs or to child care. You and your children are invited to participate in this unique group and find fellowship and support from other adults through study and service. *LINCS with Kids!* meets every other Sunday night from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. For more information contact Chris Wessel at 372-0352 or christianwessel@sbcglobal.net.



### Monday (Morning)

*LINCS* on Mondays will begin the Fall semester with *When God's People Pray*, a six week study by Jim Cymbala.

*LINCS* on Mondays meets at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Jim and Sue Paris. For more information contact Sue at 342-6651 or e-mail her at jsparis57@sbcglobal.net.

*LINCS* (Loving Inspirational Networks of Caring Servants) are groups intentional about creating an environment where Christian spiritual growth is encouraged and practiced. *LINCS* practices an "open chair." This means anyone can participate in a small group meeting at any time.

A small group meets nearly every day of the week. Choose the one convenient for you.

### Tuesday (Evening)

*LINCS* on Tuesdays will begin the Fall semester with *Forgive and Forget*, a study on forgiveness.

*LINCS* on Tuesdays meets from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the home of Randy and Cindy Witwer. For more information contact Cindy at 342-2515 or e-mail her at withaven@iquest.net.

### Wednesday (Evening)

Judy's *LINCS* on Wednesdays will discuss current national and international events from a biblical perspective.

*LINCS* on Wednesday meets from 7:00-9:00 p.m. every other Wednesday at the home of John and Judy Lemley. For more information contact Judy at 372-3241 or e-mail her at jjlemley@comcast.net.



Loving Inspirational Networks of Caring Servants

## Small Group Ministry

### Friday (Evening)

LINCS on Fridays meets from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Blue Room (Room 216). This fall they will study Adam Hamilton's book *Why? Making Sense of God's Will*. For information contact Marsha Sons at 376-6806 or e-mail her at [jsms5517@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jsms5517@sbcglobal.net).

## Service Groups

### Gardening

The gardening group is a seasonal group that meets weekly April to October to plant, weed, and maintain the landscaping on the church property. John Lemley is a Master Gardener with a talent for blending texture and color. The Gardening Group meets most Tuesdays at the church but the schedule often varies due to the weather. For more information and for exact day and time contact John Lemley at 372-3241 or [jflemley@comcast.net](mailto:jflemley@comcast.net).

### Prayer Shawls

Prayer shawls are created and given to persons experiencing a crisis of emotional or spiritual concern. Several persons here at First Church knit or crochet shawls. Before delivery of each shawl, the group prays over the shawl and for the person who is to receive it. The group meets in the Blue Room (Room 215) on the third Tuesday of each month from 10:30-noon. For information contact Ferrell Armstrong 376-0470 or [Ferrell1234@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Ferrell1234@sbcglobal.net).

October 9

## A Celebration of God!

# Youth Sunday

The FUMC Youth will  
lead worship  
at 9:00 and 11:00

Special Coffee at 10:00

*LINCS Service Groups* meet for the purpose of Christian witness and outreach through service and tasks. This work maybe focused within the community of believers or as an outreach to the public sector. You will find that the people in service groups have "servants' hearts" and "helps" as their natural spiritual gifts. These gifts are best expressed through service to others by using their hands and their hearts.

# Scouting Ministry

## Boy Scouts

Does your son like camping? Does he like learning about life and working with other young men his age? Then consider becoming part of the Boy Scouts.

Boy Scout Troop 550 meets in the Fellowship Hall on Monday nights at 6:30.

Start your walk on the trail to Eagle today.

For more information check out the troop website at <http://troop550.comeze.com> or contact Scoutmaster Steve Bricker at (812) 344-0312.

*Boy Scout Troop 550 is a ministry of First Church.*

## God & Country Series

First Church offers the P.R.A.Y. Series of religious studies for the children and youth. The four programs help young people grow in the understanding of the Christian faith, help them translate belief into action, and provide young people with the opportunity for Christian service to others.

The P.R.A.Y. series is recognized by several youth-serving organizations including the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts as the religious emblem for Protestant churches.

There are four awards for different grade levels:

- God and Me** .....  
..... (Grades 1-3)
- God and Family** .....  
..... (Grades 4-5)
- God and Church** .....  
..... (Grades 6-8)
- God and Life** .....  
..... (Grades 9-12)

Group studies are offered, but independent study is also encouraged. Contact Pastor Gary at 372-2851 or [gschaar@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:gschaar@fumccolumbus.org) for more information.

## Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts Troop 3063 meets at First Church for girls in grades

Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> grade (Daisy Scouts)

2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (Brownies)

and

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade (Junior Scouts)

Troop 3063 meets the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays each month from 6:30-7:30 P.M. in rooms 312-316.

For information contact Sarah Campbell 372-2851 or [scampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:scampbell@fumccolumbus.org).



# Preschool

## Learning Tree Preschool

The Learning Tree Preschool (LTP) offers high-quality learning activities for toddlers to pre-kindergarten. Our curriculum encourages physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development.

The preschool staff understands that children have unique learning styles and need a variety of experiences. Children are challenged to experience problem solving, language development and creative thinking.

Library visits and other field trips are important parts of the learning experience.

LTP operates with a flexible schedule of 1 to 5 days a week. For more information contact Karen Johnson at 378-2825 or [kjohnson@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:kjohnson@fumccolumbus.org).

## Extended Care

Extended care for our students is available with 24-hour notice.

Morning session ..... 7:30-9:00  
Afternoon session ..... 11:30-5:30

For more information contact Karen Johnson at [kjohnson@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:kjohnson@fumccolumbus.org) or 378-2825.

### LTP Class Offerings

- **Willows** ..... Walking Toddlers
- **Tulips** ..... 2 Year Olds
- **Sycamores** .....  
• ..... Older 2-Year Olds/Young 3-Year Olds
- **Dogwoods** ..... 3-Year Olds
- **Maples** ..... Young Pre-Kindergarten
- **Oaks** ..... Pre-Kindergarten
- **Redbuds AM** ..... Pre-Kindergarten
- **Redbuds PM** ..... Pre-Kindergarten



*Scholarships may be available based on financial need. Applications are available at our website and in the preschool office.*

The First United Methodist Childcare Ministry is an outreach mission of First United Methodist Church, Columbus. It has been serving Columbus since 1981. As a Christian community, we seek to embrace persons of all faith and to serve Columbus' broad base of cultural and spiritual backgrounds. We celebrate diversity.

First United Methodist Childcare Ministry is registered with the State of Indiana and is regularly inspected for compliance with the guidelines.

# Preschool

## **Willows** (Walking 1 year olds)

Willows have fun as they make new friends. They have experiences each day with music, movement, art activities, and listening to stories. They also enjoy many opportunities to develop their gross and fine motor skills.

## **Tulips** (2 year olds)

Tulips use creative art as a process for learning. Daily story time and helping the children choose works to communicate their feelings develops early literacy. Basic concepts of math and science are presented throughout the year. Tulips work on social and emotional skills.

## **Sycamores** (2-3 year olds)

Sycamores prepare for later preschool classes focusing on skills that include fine motor development (such as holding a pencil correctly and tracing) and gross motor development. Socialization is a significant focus. Sycamores also learn basic skills such as colors and shapes.

## **Dogwoods** (3 year olds)

Children have an excellent opportunity to develop language, social skills, motor control, and sensory awareness through the activities in this class. A variety of learning centers welcome the students each day. Art and other small scale activities are offered daily to develop fine motor skills. Games and free play are used to develop gross motor skills. Stories, finger plays, creative movement are regular activities during circle time. Math and music are incorporated into the daily routine.

## **Maples** (Young 4 year olds)

As young pre-kindergarten children, Pines work on reading readiness skills with many fun activities. They enjoy music, movement and art activities. Fine and gross motor development activities appropriate for their age are available each day.

## **Oaks** (Pre-Kindergarten)

Oaks work on social skills, letter and sound recognition, numbers, shapes, colors, counting, and reading readiness. Oaks develop cultural awareness, experiment with science, work on language and vocabulary, and express themselves through the creative arts. Field trips, especially to the public library are part of the experience.

## **Redbuds** (Pre-Kindergarten)

[A.M. and P.M. Classes]

Redbuds work on letter recognition, letter sounds, math and reading in preparation for attending Kindergarten. Art, music, and physical activities are used to make learning fun. Field trips, especially to the public library are part of the experience.



# *United Methodist Women*

## **Miriam Circle**

The Miriam Circle will meet

- September 21 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Maryjane Perry.
- October 19 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Gay Burnside.
- November 16 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Liz Lipson.
- December 7 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Cynthia Stephenson.

## **Naomi Circle**

The Naomi Circle will meet

- September 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Donna Crim to study "Bible Verses of Fall Flowers."
- October 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Rachel Campbell to study "God is Good."
- November 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Martha Smock to study "Women of the Bible."
- December 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Connie Wilson to study the "History of Hymns."

## **Priscilla Circle**

The Priscilla Circle will meet

- September 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Reba Kimmell.
  - October 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Bettye Mann.
  - November 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jeri Ahlbrand.
- December 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Jeri Ahlbrand.

## **Funeral Meals**

Funeral meals are provided as an expression of love by members of the United Methodist Women. Please contact Linda Mehnert 342-2916 or Sally Thompson 372-5783 to join this ministry.

## **Join the United Methodist Women**

For more information about becoming one of the United Methodist Women, call Jeri Ahlbrand at 379-9204.



## **Purpose**

The purpose of the United Methodist Women is

- to know God
- to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ
- to develop a creative, supportive fellowship
- to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

# Making a Difference

## *Annual Appeals*

### **Love-a-Child**

Learning Tree School has been offering scholarships to students, based on financial need and special circumstances for 20 years. An average class at Learning Tree School is \$130 per month. In 2010-2011, Learning Tree helped 12 children through the scholarship program, and more than a dozen families staying at Turning Point. You can make a difference in the lives of preschoolers in the Columbus area. For more information, please contact Karen Johnson, Learning Tree Director, [kjohnson@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:kjohnson@fumccolumbus.org) or 378-2825.

Although an annual appeal is made each spring, donations of funds will be accepted at any time. Please make checks payable to: FUMC, Love-a-Child.

### **Clothe-a-Child**

For 29 years FUMC has provided many children-in-need with new school clothes. By supporting this project with your contributions and your time, you help dress a child for confidence and comfort.

*Money:* First Church conducts an annual fund drive each July. However, donations of funds will be accepted at any time. Please make checks payable to: FUMC, Clothe-a-Child.

*Shopping:* Volunteer shoppers are needed to accompany a child on a shopping trip in early August. For more information contact Robin Campbell, 379-2069 or the Church Office, 372-2851.

### **Food for Fish**

Hunger is a human crisis in Columbus and around the world. Food for Fish is the First Church fund directed to two groups organized to address hunger needs.

A portion of the proceeds support the work of Love Chapel—a local, ecumenical outreach center. Through your gift, you help hundreds of families in Columbus and you make sure enough food is available to feed our neighbors who are hungry, and you support referral services for families in need – to link them with various local organizations within our community.

Second, you support the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR). UMCOR offers assistance to people around the world through many programs that must continue even after all the media and public attention has faded.

First Church conducts an annual fund drive each November. However, donations of funds will be accepted at any time. Please make checks payable to: FUMC, Food for Fish.

### **White Gifts**

The United Methodist Children's Home in Lebanon, Indiana is home for many young people ranging in age from 9-18 with special needs and problems. First Church joins with other congregations to supply gifts for Christmas and birthdays. While the annual appeal is made in late November, donations of funds will be accepted at any time. Please make checks payable to: FUMC, White Gifts.

# Making a Difference

## *Children & Youth*

### **Children & Youth Ministries**

#### **Mission Offerings**

Youth & Children's Ministries want to teach our children to love our neighbors, even those neighbors we'll never meet. We take an offering each week during Sunday school & youth group. These offerings are a free will donation that we encourage the children to make out of their hearts and their own pockets – not just asking mom & dad for spare change. We believe this helps the children to see the importance of giving & to respond to the needs in our world.

The Preschool & Good Shepherd send the money collected to The Heifer Project.

The children in the elementary age classes, junior and senior high and youth group sponsor a child named Gloria in El Salvador through Compassion International. Each month we send our monetary donations as well as a packet of letters and pictures to Gloria.

For more information about these great ministries please contact one of the Sunday school teachers in those classes for a brochure or contact Sarah Campbell at 372-2851 or [scampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:scampbell@fumccolumbus.org).

#### **Operation Christmas Child**

FUMC Youth & Children Ministries will once again be collecting items for Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes. A detailed list of needed items will be sent home with each child during Sunday School and will be available on our website as well as in the *Spire*. Adults are encouraged to make a box of their own to send to this great ministry!

Contact Sarah Campbell at 372-2851 or [scampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:scampbell@fumccolumbus.org).

#### **Day of Caring**

Adults and children are invited to join the Youth Group at our 1st Day of Caring. We'll be spending Saturday, September 24th taking a mission trip, without leaving Columbus! We'll work at multiple sites around our community, being the hands and feet of Jesus and showing His love to our neighbors. Children younger than 7th Grade must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Pre-registration is required. Look for more information in the September *Spire* and *Sunday Spire*.

Contact Sarah Campbell at 372-2851 or [scampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:scampbell@fumccolumbus.org).

## **2012 Youth Mission Trip**

**Plan now for June 2012. A week  
of love sharing and great music.**

**The week opens as a "work camp."  
the week ends at  
**Ichthus****

# Making a Difference

## *Local Ministries*

### **Hot Meals**

Where can a person or a family eat a hot meal when they can't afford one? For 20 years, the churches of Columbus have worked to serve a hot meal Monday through Friday. First Church hosts Hot Meals each Monday night in our Fellowship Hall. Usually 50-100 people converge on our Fellowship Hall to be nourished for the evening.

Volunteer workers are always needed. For more information contact Delores Niemoeller at 372-3238.

Donations of funds will be accepted at any time. Please make checks payable to: FUMC, Hot Meals.

### **Halloween Street Treats**

First Church provides a safe place to collect candy during Trick-or-Treat. We are part of the Lincoln-Central Family Neighborhood program.

You may help in many ways! First, we need bagged, individually wrapped candy. Second, you can help pack goodie-bags on October 26. Third, you can help distribute the bags on Halloween night.

For more information contact Karen Brown at [kbrown@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:kbrown@fumccolumbus.org) or 372-2851.

### **NOEL (No Empty Lunchboxes)**

Did you know that many school children in the Lincoln-Central neighborhood rely upon the breakfasts and lunches provided each day at the school. But too often have little to eat during Christmas Break. The NOEL Project (No Empty Lunchboxes) provides sack lunches for 75-100 children each day.

Volunteers are needed to prepare and pack lunches, and to deliver the lunches each

day. Help fill the void and the stomachs of these children.

For more information contact Karen Brown at [kbrown@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:kbrown@fumccolumbus.org) or 372-2851.

### **Turning Point**

[www.turningpointdv.org](http://www.turningpointdv.org)

Turning Point provides domestic violence services to Bartholomew County and the surrounding counties. Services include safe shelter, legal advocacy support, community education and prevention training.

Volunteers work directly with the children, community outreach and shelter support. Other volunteers work behind the scenes in shelter maintenance, office support and financial development.

For information contact Kris Kindelsperger 342-8436 or Steve Mohler at 342-7035.

### **Columbus Ecumenical Assembly**

[www.columbuslovechapel.com](http://www.columbuslovechapel.com)

Love Chapel is the central location for food pantry services, financial assistance, housing assistance, and prescription assistance. As a joint ministry of the faith communities in Bartholomew County, volunteers from many churches join together to help provide the basic needs for our neighbors.

Be a volunteer workers. For more information contact Lois Revell 376-8118.

Donations of funds will be accepted at any time. Please make checks payable to: FUMC, Love Chapel.

# Making a Difference

## Just Friends

[www.justfriendscolumbus.com](http://www.justfriendscolumbus.com)

Just Friends provides day services for adults in our community. It is a local organization designed to help adults with special needs who require special assistance or full-time supervision. Just Friends also serves to counter isolation and provide for socialization. Donations of funds will be accepted at any time. Please make checks payable to: FUMC, Just Friends.

## Volunteers in Medicine Clinic

For 14 years, the Volunteer in Medicine Clinic of Bartholomew County has been serving the needs of local residents who have no medical insurance. Physicians, dentists, nurses and pharmacists work with other local volunteers to provide excellent and compassionate care to our neighbors in the community. Become a volunteer. Donations of funds will be accepted at any time. Please make checks payable to: FUMC, Volunteers in Medicine.

## Housing Partnerships

[www.hpicolumbus.org](http://www.hpicolumbus.org)

Want to make a visible difference in our community? Become one of the 900 volunteers building Columbus one house at a time. Since 1989, Housing Partnerships has renovated 148 houses, replaced 7 houses and built 43 new homes on vacant lots. They have also completed 81 repair projects for elderly or disabled homeowners.

Become a volunteer. Contact Bob Neth 372-8671 for more information.

Donations of funds will be accepted at any time. Please make checks payable to: FUMC, HPI.

## Asbury Medical Mission

If caring for the health of persons is your passion, then check out the Asbury Medical Mission. This project is operated by our daughter church Asbury United Methodist Church here in Columbus.

Mission teams travel from Columbus to different locations throughout the year. You may want to join them on one of these trips.

Bob Welsch traveled with teams to Honduras and to Peru in 2010. For more information contact Bob at 372-7609.

*Asbury Medical Mission was formerly called "Columbus Medical Mission."*

# Making a Difference

## *World-wide Ministries*

### Missionaries we support directly...

#### **Terry and Muriel Henderson**

[www.gytte.org](http://www.gytte.org)

The Hendersons have ministered to and with the people of Puebla, Mexico since 1972. Several self-supporting ministries serve the broader area thanks to their tireless work. Their mission work focuses on health, agriculture and livestock practices. In 2008 alone they hosted 86 workshops, built an addition to the training center and touched the lives of 15,000 people.

The Hendersons visited First Church in April 2010. Donations of funds will be accepted at any time. Please make checks payable to: FUMC, Hendersons.

#### **Janet McCarty**

Originally from Jacksonville, Illinois, Janet McCarty has served as a missionary teacher in the Philippines and Nepal since 1999. She is currently the Acting President of the Southern Philippines Methodist Colleges on the island of Mindanao. She developed the Bachelor in Early Childhood Development program as a professor at the college. Janet visited First Church in January 2010. Donations of funds will be accepted at any time. Please make checks payable to: FUMC, McCarty.

#### **Bill and Helen Lovelace**

Bill and Helen Lovelace are ministry partners in Kiev, Ukraine. Bill is a pastor and a District Superintendent focusing on evangelism and starting new congregations. Helen's interests include women's issues, social outreach and drug & alcohol abuse programs. Donations of funds will be accepted at any time. Please make checks payable to: FUMC, Lovelace.

#### **Mountain Mission**

[www.users.kih.net/~methmtnmison](http://www.users.kih.net/~methmtnmison)

Mountain Missions along with Red Bird Mission, serves the needs of persons in eastern Kentucky. UMMM provides affordable, good, usable clothing and household items to people in areas of need, through Opportunity Stores located in Barbourville, Burkesville, Harlan, Hazard, Irvine, Jackson, Martin, Pineville, and West Liberty. These stores provide employment for people in these area. At present there are a total of 68 employees in the various locations. In addition Mountain Missions encourages spiritual growth through the Bread of Life Christian Bookstore, Hampton United Methodist Church, Wolverine United Methodist Church, and Tommy's Place, a Youth Center, all located in Breathitt County, Kentucky. Financial donations will be accepted at any time. Please make checks payable to: FUMC, Mountain Mission.

In addition a Mountain Mission truck visits First Church three to four times a year to collect donations of items suitable to stock the thrift stores. Notification of these visits and lists of need items are published in the *Sunday Spire*.

# Making a Difference

## Operation Classroom

[www.operationclassroom.org](http://www.operationclassroom.org)

Operation Classroom continues the work of the church in Western Africa. Vocational education has always been a priority for Operation Classroom. Operation Classroom is in partnership with more than 20 schools (both elementary and secondary), 2 hospitals and several clinics, and has continued to train persons in a basic understanding of counseling. Operation Classroom works closely with Sierra Leone's Kissy Clinic (now "Kissy UMC General Hospital"). Through Operation Doctor a comprehensive continuing education program has been developed. Donations of funds will be accepted at any time. Please make checks payable to: FUMC, Operation Classroom.

## McCurdy School

[www.mccurdy.org](http://www.mccurdy.org)

McCurdy School is located on a 44-acre campus in the Española Valley of New Mexico. The community has a poverty rate of 17.8 percent, well above the national average, and a per capita personal income of \$20,720. In this challenging environment, the school has been providing a safe and nurturing educational environment for more than 90 years. As a project related to the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, McCurdy School is committed to providing a quality education in a Christ-centered environment, which develops a Christian value system respecting rich cultural diversity and empowering students to develop as whole persons to become lifelong learners, reaching their highest potential as responsible citizens in service to a changing world. Donations of funds will be accepted at any time. Please make checks payable to: FUMC, McCurdy.

## Red Bird Missionary Conference

[www.rbmission.org](http://www.rbmission.org)

Red Bird Mission is a United Methodist ministry in the heart of Appalachia. First Church supports Red Bird financially. Started in 1921, the Mission continues to serve the people in that area. The Mission runs a K-12 Christian school which also includes pre-kindergarten and 3-4 year olds. Other areas of focus include health and wellness, clothing and food assistance, adult education, and transportation assistance. There is an elderly ministry which assists those residents with housing, meals on wheels, home care and a senior citizens center. Family ministries include infant health outreach, women's groups, summer youth activities and Christmas assistance. The Mission has a clothing and household store which employs some of the residents of the area as well as a craft store. Residents are taught how to produce and price their handcrafted items with the hope that these people will become financially independent. Donations of funds will be accepted at any time. Please make checks payable to: FUMC, Red Bird.

## Project Crossroads

This project aids disadvantaged areas of Virginia with housing needs. Rev. Harry Howe, a United Methodist Missionary, has been assigned as coordinator of this project. FUMC youth groups have gone on work camps to help with this program. Donations of funds will be accepted at any time. Please make checks payable to: FUMC, Project Crossroads.

# Service

## Care Ministry

### VIP Ministry

We have persons whose health makes it difficult for them to join with their friends in activities here at First. They can't come to us, so we go to them. Do you have a heart for people who feel alone and isolated? Would you be willing to visit with them to be the First Community with them? Then join the VIP ministry. This program provides joy, cheer, conversation, and connection. A weekly commitment to phone calls, cards or visits is appreciated. For more information contact Karen Brown 372-285 or [kbrown@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:kbrown@fumccolumbus.org).

### Funeral Meal Makers

First Church offers to host a meal before or after a funeral or memorial service. The meal is an expression of love by the members of United Methodist Women. If you would like to become one of the persons that provides food for this bereavement ministry, please contact Linda Mehnert at 342-2916 or Sally Thompson at 579-5062.

## Prayer Ministry

### Prayer Team

Prayer is the foundation of Christian living. Through prayer we talk with God and listen for God's leadings in our lives. Praying for others is as old as Christianity and continues through this moment.

Each Thursday at noon a group meets to pray for the needs of our community of faith and the needs of our community of Columbus and beyond. This group makes and sends cares of support and encouragement offering a very special ministry for us.

Contact Linda Cutrell 376-7569 for more information.

## Faith Development

### Children's Ministries

Teachers and assistants are often needed in the First Church program. Substitutes are especially helpful. Leaders are always needed for Sunday School, Christian Connections, and special events. To explore how you can join the exciting ministry of Christian Education contact Sarah Campbell at [scampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:scampbell@fumccolumbus.org) or 372-2851.

### Youth Ministries

Teachers and assistants are often needed in the First Church program. Substitutes are especially helpful. As the group grows More drivers and chaperones will be needed. To explore how you can join the exciting world of youth ministries contact Sarah Campbell at [scampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:scampbell@fumccolumbus.org) or 372-2851.

### Prayer Bookmarks

Do you want to join with the people of God praying for the needs of the world? You say that you would if you only knew for whom to pray?

Prayer list bookmarks are available at the three main entrances: Sanctuary, Lafayette Street, and at the office. On each bookmark you will find a list of persons related to First Church needing prayer support. New lists are provided each Sunday. Pick one up. Mark your Bible reading for each day and remember our people before God.

# Service

## Hospitality Ministry

For information about Hospitality Ministries contact Karen Brown at 372-2851 or [kbrown@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:kbrown@fumccolumbus.org).

### Greeters

When persons enter the building on Sundays, they are greeted by a friendly face. Before WalMart® First Church had greeters. Do you like meeting and greeting people? First Church always welcomes outgoing, smiling persons to greet others as they enter. Greeters are needed at 9:00 or 11:00.

### Ushers

Ushers do more than hand out bulletins at worship events. Ushers care for the comfort of worshippers. Ushers help persons find their way around the building. Ushers collect the offering and assist the movement of the congregation during Holy Communion.

### Welcome Center

Help us welcome guests to our church and answer questions regarding schedules, activities, room assignments, name tags, etc. Information will be provided. Volunteer to serve at the Welcome Center at the front door on Sundays.

### Special Coffees

Do you love to bake? Special coffees are held several times through the year. The community of faith gathers to talk and eat home-made cookies. You can be a baker. You can be one of the hosts. Or you can do both.

## Mission Support

### NOEL (No Empty Lunchboxes) Meal Preparation

Help fill the void and the stomachs of the children in our neighborhood during spring break. Volunteers are needed to prepare and pack lunches in the week before spring break. For more information contact Karen Brown at [kbrown@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:kbrown@fumccolumbus.org) or 372-2851.

### Meal Delivery

First Church provides sack lunches for 75-100 of our neighborhood children each day of the school breaks. Volunteers are needed to deliver the food each day. The dates for spring break are March 14-18, 2011. For more information contact Karen Brown at [kbrown@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:kbrown@fumccolumbus.org) or 372-2851.

### Halloween Street Treats

First Church provides a safe place to collect candy during Trick-or-Treat. We are part of the Lincoln-Central Family Neighborhood program. How can you help?

1. You may donate bagged, individually wrapped candy.
2. You can help pack goodie-bags on October 26.
3. You can help distribute the bags on Halloween night.

For more information contact Karen Brown at [kbrown@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:kbrown@fumccolumbus.org) or 372-2851.

# Service

## Worship Ministry

### Music Ensembles

- **Chancel Choir** sings at the 9:00 worship and meets Thursday nights at 7:00 for rehearsal. (September-May)
- **Celebration Team** sings at the 11:00 worship event and meets on Wednesday nights at 6:30 for rehearsal.
- **Chancel Ringers** offer the unique sound of handbells in worship. Rehearsals are Tuesday nights 7:00-8:30. (September-May).
- **Sounds of Joy** for children age 3-1st Grade. They rehearse on Sunday nights 6:00-6:30. (September-May)
- **Sounds of Celebration** for children 2nd-6th grades. They rehearse on Sunday nights 6:00-6:40. (September-May).

### Acolytes & Crucifers

If you (or your child) is in grades 2-6, they can be part of the worship team. First Church processes the cross and flame each week in traditional worship (9:00). For more information contact Sarah Campbell at 372-2851 or [scampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:scampbell@fumccolumbus.org).

### Serve Communion

Would you like to help serve communion at one of the worship events? For more information contact Robin Campbell at 379-2069.

## Youth Ministry Support

### Youth Council

The Youth Council at FUMC meets regularly to plan and support our youth group. If you would like to join the Youth Council, please contact Sarah Campbell at 372-2851 or [scampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:scampbell@fumccolumbus.org)

# Pastoral Care

## Hospital Visits

The pastors visit the hospitals regularly. If you or a family member is hospitalized please let us know. Please do not assume that any hospital will call the church. Please contact the church office 372-2851.

## Home Communion

Communion can be provided to those who are homebound or hospitalized. If you desire this experience, please contact the church office 372-2851.

## New baby in the family?

Please let us know, so we can celebrate with you! Contact Sarah Campbell 372-2851 or [scampbell@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:scampbell@fumccolumbus.org) with information concerning new births.

## Funeral Services

The funeral event is a very important experience for the family and friends of a loved one who has recently died. The service serves to help the living move from life with to life without the loved one.

This special event can occur at any location. The funeral may be held at the church if you desire. Please contact one of the pastors to arrange this service 372-2851.

## Funeral Meals

Funeral meals are provided as an expression of love by members of the United Methodist Women. Please contact the church office or one of the pastors for assistance 372-2851.

# Engaged Couples

The pastors of First Church welcome the opportunity to work with couples interested in marriage. We want your marriage to be a joyful, loving relationship. We believe that marriage is part of God's plan for living in our society. We believe that marriage is best fulfilled when God is the center of your relationship.

The pastors use the Prepare-Enrich materials to guide couples through their premarital counseling. A series of counseling sessions (usually 4-8) is offered to all persons getting married at First Church.

A church wedding is a service of worship. It is a religious ceremony; thus, all preparations should be made with this in mind.

## FAQs

### Q: What do I do first?

A: Contact Tammy Fields (812) 372-2851 and arrange a date for your wedding.

### Q: Does the church have rules?

A. Of course. When you talk with Tammy, she will make an appointment to meet with you. At that meeting she will go through the wedding guidelines and explain the costs.

### Q: Do I have to use one of the First Church pastors?

A: Yes. One of the pastors related to the church must participate in the service. Other pastors may be invited to assist in the wedding service.

# What we believe

The United Methodist Church began as a group of Christians in the Church of England during the 1700s. They were led by John Wesley, an Anglican priest. Wesley was concerned to make Christian faith an active faith. He invited people learn what the Bible said, to grow in their knowledge and love of God, and to experience God's grace. He encouraged disciplined Christian living not only on Sunday but daily! His plan was so organized and methodical that the people were called Methodists. Wesley called this "practical divinity."

Wesley and we in the Wesleyan tradition emphasize "grace." Grace is a gift of God. Grace is the love and mercy of God extended not because we deserve it but because God wants to give it. We look to the Letter to the Ephesians where Paul wrote: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the fit of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

We identify God's grace in three ways. First, we speak of "Prevenient Grace." We believe that God is working in the heart and mind of all persons whether they believe in God or not. God's grace works in us and lures us to know God and empowers us to respond to God's invitation to be in a relationship with God. God's grace enables us to discern between good and evil and lures us to choose the good.

Second, we talk about "Justifying Grace." The cross is the central symbol of our faith. It reminds us that even though we do not always act in loving ways toward others, God still loves us. Through God our sins (unloving thoughts and actions) are forgiven and our relationship with God is restored.

Third, we speak of "Sanctifying Grace" or "sanctification." Through God's sanctifying grace we grow in our ability to live as Jesus lived. As we pray and study the Bible, as we worship alone and with others, as we practice other spiritual behaviors such as fasting and sharing in the fellowship of other Christians, we mature in our knowledge of God and our love for God. As we respond with compassion to human needs and work for justice in our communities, we strengthen our capacity to love our neighbor as we love our self. (Matthew 22:39)

We also believe in Faith and Good Works. Personal salvation must be expressed in ministry and mission in the world. We believe that Christian doctrine and Christian ethics are inseparable, that faith should inspire service. Because of what God has done for us, we offer our lives back to God through a life of service. As disciples, we become active participants in God's activity in the world through mission and service. Love of God is always linked to love of neighbor and to a passionate commitment to seeking justice and renewal in the world. "The integration of personal piety and social holiness has been a hallmark of our tradition. We affirm the biblical percept that 'faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.' (James 2:17)"\*

Finally, religion is social religion. Holiness is social holiness. In Methodism, faith always includes a social dimension. We grow in faith as we share in the faith community. Together with others in the local community of faith we are nourished spiritually for mission and service to the world.

\*Excerpt from *The United Methodist Primer*, 2005 Revised Edition by Chester E. Custer (Discipleship Resources, 2005): p.59.



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