

Super Sunday.....2

New staff members...2

Wesley Foundation..5

# Tower Bells

## EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH

### New Power Zone learning style links Bible study to activities for children & youth

- STUDYING VAN GOGH.
- PLAYING THE GIGGLE GAME.
- MAKING FRUIT SALAD AND TORTILLAS.

These don't sound like typical church school experiences and that's exactly the point of the "Power Zone," a new curriculum being introduced this fall during UUMC's 9:15 Sunday School hour. The debut will coincide with UUMC's Fall Kick-Off on September 7th.

*Power Zone:*  
 9:15: Sunday school for toddlers through high school  
 10:30: Worship activities for toddlers through fifth grade

The Power Zone is designed to bring Bible stories to life and engage toddlers through senior high school students as well as adult volunteers in areas that include art, cooking, music, drama and games.

The 9:15 Sunday School hour will feature sessions for four separate age groups. At 10:30, toddlers through fifth graders will have an additional opportunity to enjoy this interactive curriculum.

"This is a refreshing new way for children as well as adults to explore the Bible and make it one with their lives," says Childrens' Ministries Coordinator Krista Rowe.

A unique facet to Power Hour is "Power Xpress!," a curriculum for kindergarteners through fifth graders. Separated into four separate grade groups, children will learn through a four-stage rotational approach. In the first week, for instance, children might engage in music, whereas in subsequent weeks the group would partake in cooking, art or drama.

*Continued on page 3*



### Popular program to start September 10th

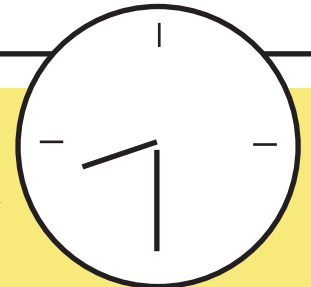
After a successful first-run last year, UUMC-U on Wednesday is back and will begin on September 10th.

Faith and community are the themes for 2008-09, and along with a weekly meal, opportunities will include educational programs and activities for all ages. Dinner is served at 5:30 pm, with classes starting at 6:30. Childcare is available. You can join both the dinner and classes, or either one.

The first Wednesday will present all of the classes along with a performance by UUMC's puppet troupe. Classes will officially begin on September 17th and are presented in sessions with this first one concluding on October 22nd.

A highlight of the first UUMC-U on Wednesday will be the serving of traditional Pakistani tea by Lenora Jadun, clad in traditional dress. The tea will call attention to a class this fall that will discuss the reading of the book, Three Cups of Tea.

*More on page 7*



## 8:30 Sunday worship service added

*Sunday worship options this fall will include an 8:30 service in addition to our 9:15 Sunday School and regular 10:30 service*

Worshippers will have an additional Sunday service option, as UUMC will add an 8:30 service starting on September 7th. The service will be informal, interactive and last for 45 minutes.

"There will be plenty of singing, a chance to drink your morning coffee and eat goodies as you worship, and to speak aloud your joys and concerns," says Pastor John Ross Thompson.

This new service is for those who prefer an earlier hour and who want a complete family experience -- parts of the worship service will be geared toward children and youth. At the same time, child care is available up to age 4. The service will flow into the 9:15 Sunday School hour. Families can make this a complete worship experience by attending church from 8:30 to 10:15 and then depart for other activities of the day.

From 9:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. there will be a "Meet and Greet" time as people leave from the worship service and others gather for Sunday School.

## News & Notes

### Uumc by the numb3rs

**1,200** ...is the number of visitors to the UUMC Website every month. The most visited pages are Prayer Requests, Pastors

**11 / 15 & 16** are the dates of the United Methodist Women's book sale. Donations of books, videocassettes and DVDs are needed. Profits go to mission causes such as Eve's Place and the Southside Kitchen.

**7** home football games will be played this fall at Spartan Stadium. Up to 15 volunteers are needed to staff the UUMC concession booth in support of youth summer camp scholarships and UUMC athletic teams. Contact Pete Marvin (622-5008) to help out.

## Super Sunday at UUMC, Sept. 28th Forty volunteers needed to support event

Christian leaders and those seeking inspiration will meet at UUMC on September 28th from 2:30 to 5:00 pm for workshops and presentations on energizing their service for Christ. UUMC members are invited to join the hundreds expected at the event.



Keynote speaker David McKnight of the McKnight Leadership Academy in St. Paul, MN, will give the opening address, "From

the Pew to the Marketplace: How Do We Change Our Community?"

Seventeen workshops led by churches and other organizations will cover topics ranging from labor issues, communication, social principles, mission trips, enhancing worship and meetings, and conservation.

Forty volunteers are needed to play roles as UUMC hosts this event. Contact John Ross Thompson to play a role in this important event in the life of UUMC and in the lives of individual leaders. The event is free.

## Dean and Heather join UUMC staff



UUMC is pleased to announce the addition of two new staff members. Dean Myer joins the church as its custodian and Heather Hoshal will serve as the assistant childrens choir director.

Myer joins the church having worked for 22 years for the Felpausch supermarket chain. For 15 of those years, Meyer worked in custodial services. He has also worked for the Michigan State Government. From Leslie, Meyer is an amateur photographer

and enjoys music. He is also from a big family. We are pleased that you can join ours, Dean! Dean will be at UUMC Monday through Thursday from noon to 6 p.m. and also on Sundays.

Heather Hoshal has been attending UUMC for many years, and may be most recognizable to UUMC members through her involvement in music programs. She has worked behind the scenes in music as well as performed at the front of the Sanctuary. Heather has also been involved in youth fellowship, our 50th anniversary celebration in 2007, UUMC softball and many other activities. Heather is a student at Lansing Community College.

Children are urged to join Heather and choir director Kristin Zaryski for choir practice from 6 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, between the 5:30 p.m. dinner and the 6:30 p.m. children's programs.

## Lunch Buddies ministry starting

Pay attention: God may be calling you to be a Lunch Buddy!

As part of its Christian outreach to our community, UUMC will partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters Michigan Capital Region to start the Lunch Buddies ministry after Labor Day at Red Cedar School.

A Lunch Buddy is an adult paired with an elementary student. The purpose is to make a difference in the lives of child-

ren and show caring and friendship.

Lunch Buddy mentors will go to Red Cedar once per week to have lunch with their child. The school is next to UUMC at the back of the parking lot.

After eating, they will spend the rest of the lunch hour with activities such as shooting hoops on the playground, playing computer games, or reading in the school

*Continued on page 6*

# Is God calling you to Stephen Ministry?



Loss and change is a natural process of life. Stephen Ministers work with Pastors John Ross and Kennetha to provide caring support to those grieving, or in crisis, or to their caregivers.

UUMC needs more Stephen Ministers and will offer a new training class this fall. The following questions about Stephen Ministry can help you ask yourself, "Is God calling me to this important caring ministry?"

What does a Stephen Minister do?

A Stephen Minister provides one-on-one care for healthy people experiencing a difficult time in their lives, including hospitalization, divorce, dying, job loss, financial hardship, single parenting, child birth, retirement, relocation and many other challenges. Stephen Ministers listen carefully, help explore feelings, plant the seeds of hope and healing and provide an extremely caring, safe and confidential setting.

How do you become a Stephen Minister?

A Stephen Leader will help you evaluate if this is the right calling and commitment for you. After completing an application, each candidate participates in an interview to discuss your interest and special gifts. During the program, each trainee receives 50 hours of training to equip you on topics such as empathy, listening, providing spiritual care and caring for those who are grieving. You learn how to handle every situation. Commissioned Stephen Ministers serve two years and are required to attend one supervision meeting per month.

What qualifications do I need to have?

You need to be a caring person who is willing to learn, grow and serve. You must be willing and able to maintain confidentiality. You must make a commitment to training, ministry, and supervision. If you meet these qualifications, your Stephen Leaders can equip you with everything else you need: training, support, prayer, and encouragement. They will make sure you will succeed as a Stephen Minister.

Why should I become a Stephen Minister?

God needs you to help care for others. Doing so requires a high commitment, but there is an even greater reward in becoming a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers experience personal growth through training and experience, with the added benefit of enhanced relationships with family, friends and co-workers. Most importantly, you receive an increased faith in God and enjoyment in your religious life.

# Power Zone curriculum, from page 1

Children will be exposed to the same Biblical lesson or theme over those four weeks, going from one activity area to the next, allowing for reinforcement of the message.

Adult volunteers with special interest or skills in these areas are needed to teach a class. Teachers have a much smaller time commitment, however, versus the traditional weekly approach.

In the new format, a volunteer who specializes in art, for example, would teach an art lesson once in the fall over four weeks for the four respective age groups.

"We see this multi-disciplinary approach as a way to get the kids excited about learning, get adults excited to teach, and provide many different ways to explore Bible lessons," says Rowe.

Adults interested in leading a subject area and consequently teaching four times during the fall and / or four times during the spring should contact Krista. Teacher training packets and teacher development materials are available.

## Classes for 2008-09:

### 9:15 POWER HOUR Sunday School

1. Toddlers (12 – 36 mo.) Seasons of the Spirit - Nurturing faith and the spirit through the senses.
2. Preschool (3's – 4's) Live B.I.G., as in Belief in God, will help children see, hear and live their beliefs.
3. K – 5th grade – Power Xpress! will teach children via a rotational approach, reinforcing a lesson via varied activities.
4. Junior / Senior High – Seasons of the Spirit will allow youth to explore meaning and mystery in the Bible.

### 10:30 Worship

1. Toddlers and Two's – Diverse play and activity centers for small groups will establish a sense of relationship with the church family.
2. Preschool - K – 5 – Rock Solid is a theologically sound experience, encouraging personal spiritual growth through crafts, activities, games and stories.
3. 1st – 3rd – Hands-On Bible creates ways for kids to become immersed in Bible truths through discovery and recognition of the convergence of Biblical teachings with current-world phenomena.
4. 4th – 5th – Grapple relates Bible truths with real-life preteen questions and issues. A bonus is the availability of a safe and secure online community just for preteens to connect with each other.

*Out of Love*  
**LO**  
*Youth Ministries*

## “Out of Love” Youth Group to start up on Sept. 7

“Out of Love” Ministries, UUMC’s youth group for junior high and high school students, will begin on September 7th in conjunction with UUMC’s Fall Kick-off.

From 12:15 to 1:30 pm, students will meet in The Sanctum following brunch.

Family members are invited to the opening session for a program introduction and some fun activities and games. The entire Fall schedule will be made available that day.

Highlights for the upcoming semester include a lock-in, bowling, a cider mill trip, the Crop Walk, a haunted house and the Christmas Pagaent.

Students are also urged to join the UUM-C-U on Wednesday session featuring a DVD-based Bible study and testimonials from popular Christian music artists such as GRITS, SonicFlood and BarlowGirl. The Wednesday night sessions will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 pm in the Sanctum.

During the Spring, students participated in a mission trip to Smithers, Virginia. Nine from UUMC joined 400 youth from around the U.S. to serve the people of Smithers. Sixty-four different homes received fresh paint and repairs.

“It was a week of blessings and growth for us all,” says Out of Love Director Chris Darling. “Thank you for your continued support. It would not have been possible without you!”

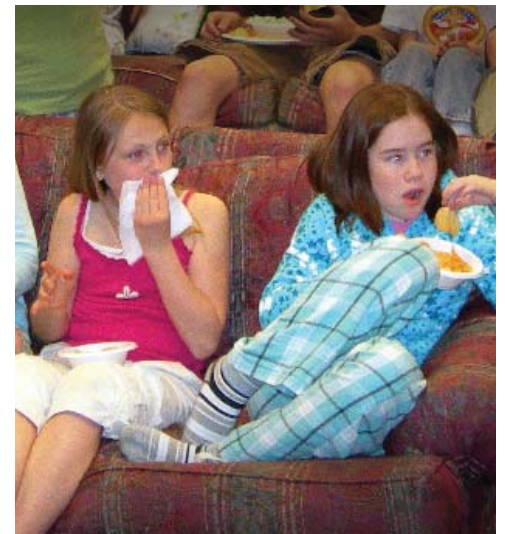


*Lock-ins are a big component of faith growth, fellowship and fun in Out of Love Ministries. It is also a way to reach youth who may have never attended our church.*

*Above, the girls’ team shows off its “castle” during the castle building competition held at a “Fairy Tale” themed lock-in in early Spring.*

*Lock-ins also involve food. At right, two UUMC youth enjoy nachos and settle in for a movie.*

*Out of Love Ministries, coordinated by Chris Darling, meets in the basement of UUMC in “The Sanctum.”*



### **Youth Ministries needs you!**

*A female volunteer is needed on a regular basis to assist with the junior high youth in leading discussions and games. The group meets Sunday afternoons from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. Contact Chris Darling at [chris.uumc@yahoo.com](mailto:chris.uumc@yahoo.com) or the church office to share your interest.*

# The students are back!

## Busy year ahead for Wesley Foundation

Students have returned, MSU and LCC are in full session, and the Wesley Foundation is looking forward to a busy 2008 - 2009.

This is an exciting time of year for students, many of whom will call UUMC their church home for at least four years.

The Wesley Fall Program has begun. On August 24th, students were welcomed back and on August 27th, Wesley Foundation began its Wednesday Night Live Worship program with dinner and a meeting to preview study groups.

At the end of September, the Founda-

tion will have a fall retreat. The annual trip to Cass Community in Detroit is planned for the end of October.

Plans for this semester include great new partnerships with other MSU campus ministries. Partnerships with the Hillel Jewish Student Center and St. John Student Parish will create opportunities for service and reflection for students.

Students are being welcomed back to new building improvements and repairs. The hallways have a fresh coat of paint. There are also new lounge areas for students to study, chat and simply get away.

Thanks to a very generous donor, the Copper Chimney Lounge will undergo a first phase of repairs. Donors are needed for a second round of improvements.

Thanks to many alumni and parents, the Wesley Foundation and UUMC have started out the new semester ready to welcome UUMC members and friends, ESL program participants and the Wesley students for another year of ministry and programs.

The Wesley Foundation is led by Rev. Tim Tuthill.

## New year starting for UUMC Childrens Choir



If you were able to see the Vacation Bible School End-of-the-Week program this summer, you witnessed something not often seen at UUMC - nearly 60 kids singing together! There is a lot of musical talent at UUMC, and not just

amongst the adults!

The children of UUMC have much to offer, and Children's Choir director Kristin Zaryski wants to find out just how much. With the Children's Choir moving to a new rehearsal night this year - Wednesdays from 6:00-6:40 - Zaryski hopes to see an increase in membership, especially from the enthusiastic VBS participants!

Zaryski, along with Assistant Director Heather Hoshal, are inviting children in 2nd-5th grade to join the UUMC Children's Choir. This year, the choir will sing a variety of music ranging

from classical to contemporary, songs from around the world to songs from our own hymnal. The choir will also work on musical understanding and reading.

The Children's Choir sings in church every second Sunday of the month and is a full-(school)-year commitment. If you are interested in joining the UUMC Children's Choir, come to the first UUMC-U-On-Wednesday on September 10th for more details. The choir's first rehearsal will be on September 17th.

You may also contact Kristin Zaryski at [kzaryski@tds.net](mailto:kzaryski@tds.net) for more details.

## UUMC says "Thank you!" to our '07- '08 acolytes

The Worship Work Area would like to congratulate the following children and youth who served as Acolytes and Cross Bearers this past year, beginning in September, 2007. Their efforts are very much appreciated: Caroline Alchin, Philip Batterson, Sophia Bauer, Emma Berg, Katherine Boyse, Caitlin Brown, Hadley

Couraud, Margot Couraud, Katie Doyal, Julianne Efaw, Maria Forrest, Emma Hickman, Lynnea Jackson, Nicholas Kilpatrick, Jordan Lulloff, Aguil Mayan, Angeth Mayan, Aziau Mayan, Lara McLaughlin, Liam Musson, Trevor Musson, Ian Patterson, Katherine Patterson, Andrea Ramhoff, Reed Ramhoff, Mika

Rotman, Erin Scott, Aric Velbel, Paul Velbel, Jesse Wade, Catherine Webb, Claire Webb, Alex Wheaton, Scott Wheaton, and A. J. Wilk.

## UUMC softball season ends with second place finish in league tournament



A one-run loss in the championship game of the Lansing United Methodist Softball League was all that kept UUMC's co-ed softball team from taking top honors this season.

Losing out to Holt UMC in extra innings in the final game of a double-elimination tournament, August 1 and 2, UUMC finished second in the season-ending tournament. UUMC competed in weekly doubleheader games against seven other churches from early May until early August.

Overall, the team had a winning record or tied every other team in the league, finishing at 19 wins and five losses, good for second place in the league. In the tournament in August, the UUMC team won its first two games on Friday night and its first game on Saturday morning, before losing to Holt.

The team was anchored by Jim Firos and Shawn Paige at pitcher, Connie Gamage and Roger Luedeman at first base, Rob Wirtz and Mike Helmick at second base, Alan Wilk and Dave Mohr at shortstop, Andrew Highland and Phil Batterson at third base, Laurel Doherty at catcher, and Heather Hoshal, Amy Barden, Chris Thompson, Don Jost, Matt Hoshal, Nate Jost and J.J. Burchman in the outfield. Mike Scholes was also able to play a few games. New players included Andrew Highland, Amy Barden, Chris Thompson and Heather Hoshal.

The team enjoyed UUMC fan support and fellowship with other area churches.

## Our newest UUMC members

This summer, UUMC welcomed new members. At right, Gloriane Peck and Jeremy Schmidt. Below, Lou and Bill Mumford. Bottom right, Melissa Hogan and Francesca.



## Lunch Buddies, from page 2

library. While lunch is only 40 minutes long, Lunch Buddies have been effective in Lansing and East Lansing and have made a difference in children's lives.

Representing UUMC and its intergenerational ministries, Lunch Buddy mentors cannot proselytize, but can witness to God's love by caring for and aiding children.

Big Brothers Big Sisters will work with UUMC at no cost to start and administer the program. It includes identifying the children; training mentors; screening them and conducting criminal background checks; matching mentors with children; providing supervision; and evaluating the results.

Those interested in being a Lunch Buddy must join a three-part orientation session led by Big Brothers Big Sisters that will consist of an info session, a personal interview, and a visit to the school to meet the staff and the child. For more information, contact David Dekker (324-4968), Debby Steele (349-2997) or Gordon Schleicher (833-4988).

## Support Patti Oates-Ulrich on 3-day Breast Cancer Walk

On September 26 - 28, Patti Oates-Ulrich will participate in the 60-mile Breast Cancer 3-day Walk in Michigan. The funds raised support research, education, screening and treatment. More than 200,000 U.S. women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year. Forty-thousand will die from breast cancer.

Please consider donating. You can donate online at: <http://www.the3day.org> by clicking on "Donate Now" and searching for Patti's personal fund-raising page. You can also donate by calling 1-800-966-3DAY to donate by phone.

# UUM-C-U on Wednesdays classes and activities, from page 1



*Adult bell choir is one of the many groups available on Wednesdays at UUMC.*

Organized by our Church and Society group, the book describes efforts to promote peace through the construction of schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The book study is a new offering this fall and joins six other new sessions. Descriptions of all of the classes are below.

## Adult and youth offerings for Session 1:

- NEW - “Three Cups of Tea” book study – Reading and discussion of Greg Mortenson’s book
- NEW - Balance: Living with Life’s Demands – This spiritual growth study lead by Pastor Kennetha Bigham-Tsai explores the search for balance and wholeness in the midst of our busy lives
- NEW - The President’s Cabinet – A pre-election conversation on national issues, lead by Bill Donohue and Peter Berg. Donohue, as the “Secretary of State,” and Berg, as the “Secretary of Labor,” will pose as cabinet officials to address foreign policy, the economy, and other issues.
- NEW - Meditation and prayer – Tennant Chapel will be open and available
- NEW - Music and the message for youth – Grades 6 – 12 will join Youth Director Chris Darling for Bible study that ties popular music to biblical themes
- Games group – Adults and youth can join in games, enjoying Scrabble, Euchre, Dominoes or other games
- Creative Crafters – All ages can join in creative expression through knitting, beading, crocheting, scrapbooking or whatever you would like to bring. An activity for Session 1 is making cards for

those in military service.

- Bell Choir – Members will meet at 6:00
- Chancel Choir – Choir will begin at 7:30
- Wesley Foundation – Fellowship will begin at 8:30 pm

## For children:

### 6:00 pm:

- Childrens’ Choir – Lead by Choir Director Kristin Zaryski and Assistant Choir Director Heather Hoshal
- Storytime – Children not in choir can join a Bible story session lead by Karsha Sathianathan

### 6:40 pm:

- NEW - Companions in Christ / The Way of the Child - Ages 6 – 11 - This class will provide a nurturing approach to providing resources that teach about the Bible and basics of faith.
- NEW - Puppet Ministry – Children and youth can join the puppet team, with practices on Wednesdays and Sunday mornings.
- Scouts: God and Country – Children interested in Scouting can earn merit badges in four different classes based on age level following a Bible-based, action-based curriculum.
- Power Xpress! – All children can learn about the Bible through art and movement
- Preschoolers – Activities will include art, music, story-telling and movement

## Looking ahead:

- Session 2 of programs will run from November 15 through December 17th. An addition for youth will be “Tween Time.” This class for 4th and 5th graders is a small group Bible study taught via video by Christian Contemporary artists. Chris Darling will lead the first session, September through October, with the youth. Then, the youth will lead it for 4th and 5th graders for the second session starting in November.

## Inside the University United Methodist Church

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A diverse community of people seeking to do God’s will, empowered by the Holy Spirit and our faith in Jesus Christ

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### Co-Pastors

Rev. John Ross Thompson  
johnross@tds.net

Rev. Kennetha Bigham-Tsai  
kbigham@tds.net

## Wesley Foundation/ Student Center

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### Director

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## Tower Bells

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**University United Methodist  
Church is a Stephen Ministry  
congregation.**

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**The next Tower Bells will be published in December 2008. The deadline for the submission of articles or information is November 15th, 2008. Please contact Trent Wakenight (wakenight@hotmail.com), or place information in Trent’s mailbox at UUMC.**

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**www.UUMC-msu.org** features past issues of the Tower Bells newsletter. The site also features the weekly worship bulletin and weekly announcements.

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The **Tower Alert** is a weekly newsletter distributed by e-mail or postal mail listing events in the life of the church for that week. Contact our church office if you are not receiving Tower Alert, or would like to switch the way in which you receive it.



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A diverse community of people seeking to do God's will, empowered  
by the Holy Spirit and our faith in Jesus Christ

Address Service Requested

## New bench given to recognize Isabelle and Joan

In May 2007 we celebrated the leadership of Isabelle Payne and Joan Kelsey for their incredible dedication in founding and nurturing the Stephen Ministry program over the past 15 years.

Through thousands of hours of work they planted the seed of a ministry in our church that has blossomed into the commissioning of more than 50 Stephen Ministers and Leaders and the care of countless members of our congregation.

On Sunday, June 22nd, a garden bench was dedicated in honor of Isabelle and Joan. A bench was selected to symbolize the

Stephen Ministry relationship, where care receiver and care-giver might sit and share time together to talk and listen. The Stephen Ministry logo and scripture are engraved on the bench. The outdoor seating unit is made of beautiful shorea wood and is an eco-



*Presenters at the bench dedication were: Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders Kathryn Kilpatrick, Mark Doyal, Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, John Ross Thompson and Barb Doyal. Seated are Isabelle Payne and Joan Kelsey.*

friendly commercial grade bench.

Many thanks also go to the Garden Committee who provided the beautiful design and relandscaping of the entrance area to the church in time for the bench dedication.