

Tower Bells

FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, FUN

UUM-C-u on Wednesday starting September 23rd

THE POPULAR UUM-C-U ON WEDNESDAY PROGRAM returns this fall starting on September 23rd. The program includes fellowship, fun and spiritual growth activities for all ages. Dinner is served at 5:30 in Asbury Hall with activities to follow.

The Fall 2009 line-up features some excellent opportunities for spiritual growth. Listed below are classes for adult participants:

Anyone Can Sing – Led by Kristin Zaryski, both veteran and beginning singers will enjoy learning more about the fundamentals of singing and music in a relaxed atmosphere. Familiar songs and hymns will be used to learn about vocal production, breath control and sight-reading music.

“The Shack,” by William Paul Young - Join Pastor Kennetha Bigham-Tsai and Kent Thibadeau in exploring “The Shack.” This fascinating book explores concepts of God and issues surrounding suffering and evil, and specific events or acts that impact our understanding of God. Rev. James Hodge from Caledonia UMC will participate, relating his understanding of God and faith through an event like the one featured in The Shack.

Genesis Bible Study – Pastor John Ross Thompson and Ellen Brubaker invite you to start where it all started – Genesis – in this Disciple Bible study. Issues of relationship, conflict and journey are themes that will frame the interaction between God and humanity. Weekly video segments will compliment group discussion and stories of Noah, Abraham, Issac and more.

“The First Christmas” – The Gospels of Matthew and Luke are the focus of a book study led by Keith Pohl. Written by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, “The First Christmas” examines our sentimental understandings of Christ’s birth to explore the context of what was really happening in the first century and what is happening now. This study will continue through December 9th.

Along with each of these programs, much more is available at UUM-C-u on Wednesdays. Other activities include meditation & prayer, bell & chancel choir practice, and activities for kids and youth and childcare.



A diverse collection of activities are available at UUM-C-u on Wednesdays. Above, attendees gather last spring for a session on health. Join us on Wednesdays starting with dinner at 5:30.



Youth group makes awesome impact on mission trip

OUR UUMC YOUTH - THROUGH OUR OUT OF LOVE (OOL) Ministries Youth Group - have been on a mission. The Youth Mission Team traveled to Canonsburg, PA July 5 through 11, for their annual mission trip.

In Canonsburg, they stayed in a local high school with nearly 400 youth and adults from around the country. Along with that awesome opportunity for friendship, our OOL youth served the people of Canonsburg.

The visit to Canonsburg included five days of planned

activities, worship and service with the other youth groups. Service included working up to seven hours per day on a local home. Our youth got to know the home owner as they did painting, carpentry, cleaning and yard work all week.

“They all finished their projects and made an awesome impact on the surrounding community,” said OOL Youth Director Chris Darling. “Thank you for your support of our Youth Missions! Without you, their trip would not be possible.”

See page 2 for a photo of our youth mission team.

News & Notes

Uumc by the numb3rs

1 or more...editors, authors and designers are needed for future issues of the Tower Bells newsletter. Trent Wakenight, the editor since about 2002, moved to Washington D.C. on August 30th. He is joined by his daughter Shelby who will start high school there in the fall. His wife Lisa Funkhouser and son Cody will move as soon as their home is sold. Please keep our newsletter going by helping in some way. Contact John Ross Thompson if you are interested and available.

???Setting a date? Taking the leap? If you are making wedding plans, visit the UUMC office. A new wedding guide for members and non-members is available. It gives details from costs to a list of what UUMC will provide on that special day.

Update: Methodist church in Cuba seeks help

IN MAY, PASTOR ONAY LOPEZ of Cuba visited UUMC and the Elderberries to discuss Methodism in Cuba. Rev. Lopez is building a new church and seeks support.

He writes, "I am working hard to finish our new building in the middle of hurricane season. Please help in some way raise some funds to finish our new building. Any help will be appreciated for our church."

Methodism began in Cuba in 1883, but is not openly recognized. Since 1959, the government has forbidden the building of churches.

Teddy Bears, Furry Friends bring comfort

The Teddy Bear and Furry Friend Ministry is off to a great start! Since Teddy Bear Sunday in June, more than 80 bears and furry friends have been donated to UUMC. We pray that they are given to anyone needing prayer, love or comfort.

Thank you for donating bears and furry friends. They are tagged with prayer tags, blessed, and are "worshipping" in the pews.

Please take a bear to give to someone in need. In doing so, please donate a replacement so there is always a supply. Donations may be left in the church office.

For more details, call Debby Steele of Intergenerational Ministries (348-2997).

Thank you, acolytes

The Worship Work Area would like to thank the following children and youth for serving as Acolytes and Cross Bearers during the 2008-09 school year:

Caroline Alchin, Libby Bartlett, Emma Berg, Katherine Boyse, Caitlin Brown, Daniel Conlin, Margot Couraud, Katie Doyal, Julianne Efaw, Maria Forrest, Emma Hickman, Lynnea Jackson, Nicholas Kilpatrick, Owen Kilpatrick, Jordan Lulloff, Aguil Mayan, Angeth Mayan, Aziu Mayan, Lara McLaughlin, Liam Musson, Trevor Musson, Ian Patterson, Mika Rotman, Jake Schmelter, Sophie Schmelter, Paul Velbel, Jesse Wade, Alex Wheaton, Scott Wheaton, A.J. Wilk, Drew Wilk, Caitlyn Wilzer

Youth group mission, from page 1



Our youth group went to Pennsylvania in July for their mission trip to help those in need.

More for youth: High school group starts 9/13

THE OUT OF LOVE YOUTH GROUP will hold an Ice Cream Kickoff on September 13th from 12:15 to 1:30 pm in the Sanctum. Lunch will be served after worship until 12:15 when our program starts. We will debut the new theme: "Let the Sun In" with an ice cream decorating contest, games and fellowship. Youth and parents are welcome. If you haven't been before, this is a great way to learn about our programs in a fun and relaxed environment.

Update from Finance Committee

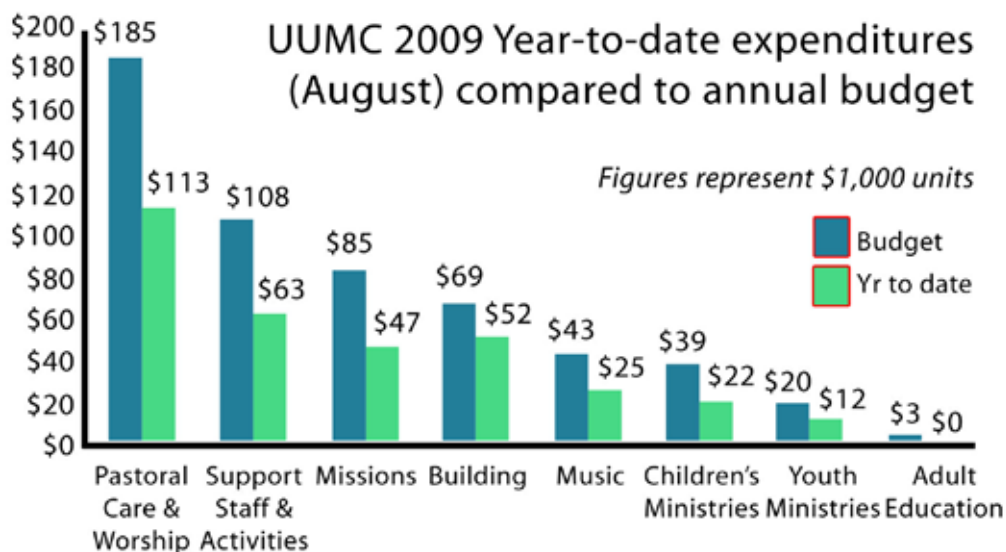
The Finance Committee seeks to continue to inform you of UUMC's financial resources. The fiscal year began in January. Early in the year, you saw a graph of the budget, our ministries and revenue sources. The graph below shows year-to-date expenditures as of August 10.

The total budget for the year is \$551,297 and the current revenue level of \$309,725 is behind the current expenditures of \$335,346.

Please update your giving as appropriate as

the fall schedule begins. The expenditures have been constrained as possible with exceptions being fixed costs such as building repairs, maintenance e.g. snow removal, and utilities.

This represents a point in time with revenue and expenditures that change weekly. With gratitude and commitment to use UUMC resources wisely, we anticipate an exciting Fall in support of Christ's mission.



Frequent Flyers for middle schoolers on a roll

THE NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUP, Frequent Flyers, serves grades 6 through 8. The group went to Edru Skating Rink this summer and will meet the last Sunday each month from 12:15 to 1:30 for fun in and outside the church. We will tour MSU Farms, play lasertag, join the Crop Walk, clean yards on a service day and more. Join us and visit uumc-msu.org/youth!

Successful season for softball team

The UUMC softball team had another successful season in the Lansing Area Methodist Softball League, finishing third among eight teams in the regular season. In the season-ending tournament, UUMC won all four games (including an incredible 35 to 24 win over Holt UMC) to take the tournament without a loss. UUMC's team: Shawn Paige, Connie Gamage, Roger Luedeman, Rob Wirtz, Don Jost, Heather Hoshal, Alan Wilk, Dave Mohr, Jim Firos, Andrew Highland, Phil Batterson, Laurel Doherty, Nate Jost, J.J. Burchman, Mike Scholes, Amy Barden, Chris Thompson, Matt Hoshal, and Alan Thrush. Ted Batterson and Mike Helmic were base coaches/umpires and Gretchen Paige was scorekeeper.

Inside the University United Methodist Church

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University United Methodist Church is a Stephen Ministry congregation.

The next Tower Bells will be published in DECEMBER 2009. The deadline for the submission of articles or information is November 15th, 2009. Please share information with the UUMC church office until further notice.

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

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

Sunday morning line-up for Fall worship and classes announced

TWO WORSHIP TIMES ARE AVAILABLE THIS FALL, starting on September 13th. On 9 a.m. each Sunday, join in worship in the Copper Chimney Lounge. The service features a more interactive, informal feel to start your day and week off right. Worship at our 10:30 service will feature music from our Chancel, Handbell and Children's choirs and other music. Children's time will also occur during worship, after which kids can attend classes downstairs. Communion is held on the first Sunday of each month.

Between services, classes for all ages will be held. Nursery and preschool care is available, while adults can choose from the following:

- The Forum – Discuss issues of the day
- Pathfinders – Study books of the Bible
- Seekers – Discuss scripture passages for each Sunday
- Bible Beginners – Especially designed for those in their 20's and 30's
Family Bible study is available for adults and kids to learn together. It includes continental breakfast. A confirmation class for 6th grade and older youth starts on September 27th, and a youth class is also available.

Following worship, join us for fellowship in Asbury Hall.

Children's choir for grades 1 to 5 and youth activities follow the 10:30 worship each Sunday.

In case you missed it...

The UUMC Tower Bells newsletter is also available online at the UUMC Website: www.uumc-msu.org. It's a great way to share the newsletter with others (by sending them the link) and to print out additional hardcopies, or see the newsletter in color.