The Messenger

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
JANUARY 24, 2012 – VOLUME 2

From the Pastor's Pen

Something to Celebrate!

Some people need to expand their adjective vocabulary. What did you think of the sunshine yesterday? It was awesome! How was your hot dog at lunch? Awesome! How is your new girlfriend? She is awesome! Do you realize you just equated your girlfriend with a hot dog? Expand your vocabulary.

What word would you use to describe our church family in 2011? Before you answer I'd like us to remember:

- We paid our renovation loan (Generation 2 Generation) in full within three years. When we started some believed it was the impossible dream during the worst economy since the Great Depression to raise $400,000 from a group that averaged less than 200 in worship. How is that possible?
- We supported eight different persons or groups in missions beyond Siloam Springs and the U.S.
- We hired two new full time ministry positions; Worship Arts Minister and Minister to Families with Children & Youth.
- We offered a third worship opportunity for Christmas Week in an effort to "Grow Deeper and Branch Out" and still nearly ran out of chairs in the sanctuary Christmas Eve.
- After paying 10% of our Shared Ministries (Conference Apportionments) in 2010, we said we would pay 50% in 2011 somehow. We paid 64.8% or $39,963!
- We began 2012 with a healthy cash balance.
- We are averaging twice the children in Timothy Team Wednesday evenings than in 2011.
- We have double the sign-ups for OMP this summer than last.
- We are hosting an OMP camp AND taking the first ever Adult Mission trip to Honduras in August.
- Ongoing ministries are steadily growing, e.g. Operation Christmas Child, Heifer Project, and missions. Thank you Lane McLoud, Billy Stone, Diane Winder, Doris & Jack Toussaint!
- There is more, but you get the picture.

What word would you use to describe God's blessings to and through FUMC SS in 2011? We'll be focusing on our blessings in a worship service soon because we truly have "SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE"!

Pastor Randy

Church Events

- **Jan. 26th - 5:30pm Endowment Committee**
  -6:00pm Trustees Meeting
- **Jan. 29th -6:00 pm Hear The Story New Song Sunday**
  -5:00pm musicians rehearse
  -6:00pm congregational worship
  -6:30pm Nursing home ministry
- **Jan. 30th – 6:00pm Boy Scouts**
- **Feb. 4th – 9:00am Dogwood Quilt Guild**
- **Feb. 5th – Superbowl Party**

Assisting in Worship

January 29

Liturgist	Gloria McEnroe
Nursery	Jennifer Haught
Children's Time (9a.m.)	Liz Leon
(11:10a.m.)	Liz Leon
Greeters	Dale & Peggy Sugg

February 5

Liturgist	Sharon Wasson
Nursery (9:00am)	Beth Graves
(11:10am)	Rebekah Arnold
Children's Time (9a.m.)	Bob Coleman
(11:10a.m.)	Bob Coleman
Greeters	Jack & Sue Farley

New Song Sunday

News and notes from JeriKris.

Psalm 96:1-2 says "Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; Proclaim His salvation day after day." Praising the Lord is not something that we simply do on a Sunday morning with just a certain group of people and a certain set of songs we love. It is something that we live out on a day-to-day basis with all the earth, and with new songs, adventures, hearts and attitudes.

This Sunday we are hosting a New Song Sunday to encourage this spirit. Everyone is welcome to come and join with us as we "Proclaim His salvation" and sing new songs as well as some old ones.

Yet, worship isn't just a time of singing. It's also a time to participate. So if you would like to sing or play an instrument during the service or know of someone who might want to, then please come or invite someone to come this Sunday at 5 in the Sanctuary. It will be a time of rehearsing, having fun making music, and learning a few new songs.

Although music isn't not everyone's gift, we are all called to worship. Therefore, we are offering a worship time in the Sanctuary at 6 as we lead a 20-25 minute worship set with singing, and praying. After the service we encourage all who attended to continue in a spirit of worship by joining the choir in ministering to those at the Nursing home as they sing some old hymns and spend time with those in residence there.

I hope to see you Sunday night with a spirit of worship, a friend, and maybe an instrument.

"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; Proclaim His salvation day after day."

Psalm 96:2

Prayers & Concerns

Newest Concerns:
•Gina & Sarah, the two JBU students who were hit by a car on hwy 412. (For more information on their condition or to donate financially go to www.jbu.edu/studentcareupdate)
•Russ Langley, a partner of Jim Huggins, and his family. Russ lost the vision in his left eye.
•Meryl, Maribeth Reisbeck's father, having surgery Wednesday.
•Shirley Smith's brother in law, George, diagnosed with cancer.

Joys:
•Layton Haughts 9th birthday.
•Administrative Council retreat last Saturday.
•Lester Stone back after 3.5 weeks of work out of state.

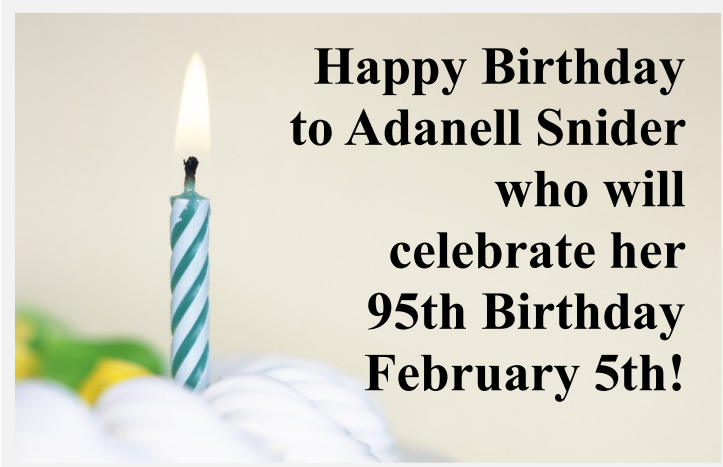
Sympathy:
•To Cecelia Peer's sister's family in the death of her brother in law, Burt.
•Linda Walters family

Continuing Concerns:
•Betty McCumber.
•Andrea (Darrell Blaylock's niece) has shingles.
•Honduras mission trip.
•Pat Hiob, having health concerns.
•Preston Horstman and family.
•Carol Whiteside has cancer and fell breaking her femur.
•Viola Whitmore, pain in left shoulder and right elbow.
•Violet & Cecil Hesslen having health issues.
•Father of Tony Myers, started chemo.
•Donna Mazurowski
•Hailey Arnall
•Hulen Peters.
•Jessi Yokum, diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma, is in remission, still has treatments.
•Debi Padgett
•Jane Vest.
•Bub Gunter.
•Cal Gunter.
•Bennett Howell.
•Tim Tidwell.
•Sandra Reisbeck.
•Ann Michele King & Francis Jones.

Military:
•Joseph Roberts
•Jonathan Rogan
•Jonathan Bush
•Courtney Smith
•Chris Green
•Ryan Leath
•Cal Gunter
•Jared Lewis
•Brian Sporn
•Josh Williams
•Wes Morris
•Joshua Davis

FRIENDS

Consider a connection with the First UMC Family. FRIENDS is a gathering of people new to our church or long time members who are considering a deeper connection with others and God through this United Methodist family. Pastor Randy will lead the conversation during the 10:15 am Sunday School Hour from Sunday, January 29 to Sunday, March 18.



Upcoming Events

GAME NIGHT

FOOD + FELLOWSHIP + FUN

Friday January 27 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Bring a favorite game and a snack to share.
The church will provide the beverage.

MISSIONS | announcements

The Church will be taking a mission trip to Honduras, August 2-7. We will work in the village of La Cienega, which is located about 12 miles outside of Tegucigalpa the capital of Honduras. This village has 105 homes with around 445 people. We will work alongside the locals helping with two building projects. We will be building latrines and putting in cement floors. Some members of our church will be conducting a Vacation Bible School while there for the children of the village.

An informational meeting will be held Wednesday February 1st at 6:00pm in the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

M

Please come to a wedding shower honoring

OLIVIA THOMA
&
RYAN MCCARVER

Sunday, February 12th
Drop in 1:30 -3:00 pm
In the Wesley Room at FUMC

Registry: Wal-Mart
Bed, Bath & Beyond
William Sonoma
Pottery Barn
Lowe's Gift Card

MEN'S COOK-OFF

FEBRUARY 19

Men, prepare your favorite appetizer, soup, salad, main dish, and/or dessert for the Men's Cook-Off Sunday February 19th . Please bring your items in between 4:30 and 5:00pm.

Cook-Off items will be judged and auctioned off.

Meal sponsored by Family Ministries at 5:00.

Auction for top three winners in each category – Auctioneer will be Jim Huggins.

Silent auction for other items.

Proceeds to go towards Building an Ark for Heifer Project