

Alternative Christmas. Joins us at our Alternative Christmas Market on Sunday, December 5 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Watch for more information about how you can honor your friends and family this Christmas by giving gifts that can make a big difference in the lives of others.

Stop Hunger Now: Operation Sharehouse Meal Packing. Did you know that for as little as 25 cents, a bag filled with rice, soy, and dried beans can feed a hungry person? Our church is now collecting money so that we may purchase food to be used at "Operation Sharehouse Meal Packing" on **MLK day, Monday, January 17.** This will be a family-oriented mission event on MLK day whereby everyone can participate in packaging up to 100,000 meals to be sent to underdeveloped countries. Drop your spare change in the piggy banks located around the church! You may also give online at germantownumc.org.



If you would be interested in volunteering to be a part of Operation Sharehouse Meal Packing on MLK Day on Monday, January 17, contact Renee Pearl at 754-7216 or rpearl@germantownumc.org.

We have had several Sunday School classes who are creating teams! The shifts are only two hours long. This would be a great family missions activity that would provide hands-on education about the problem of hunger in our world.

Seeking a balanced budget in 2010

Church expense management has remained under budget throughout the year. Nevertheless, weaker-than-budgeted revenue—negative 8.67% through October—has resulted in a to-date deficit of over \$250,000 and required the Pastor's Council and Finance Committee to implement a program to balance the budget over the remainder of the year. The plan includes cost reductions for the remainder of the year and a request to increase annual giving by 5% as soon as possible. It is hoped that these measures, coupled with some use of remaining contingency funds, will meet the need. Reductions are in the following areas:

- Reduce Conference Benevolences (Nov/Dec)
- Reduce Debt Service (Nov/Dec)
- One day/mo w/o pay for all staff
- 10% Reduction in Program expense
- 50% reduction in Security Hours
- Elimination of paid OLEC Nursery
- Suspend Food Service
- Reduction in hours for Part Time Staff
- Reduce Communications Contract
- No OLEC Equipment Repair or Purchase
- Reduce Counseling Center subsidation
- End Church Offering Envelopes
- Elimination of Germantown News Ad
- Elimination of Giving Kiosk
- Replace Color Copier with Black & White unit
- Stop production of Brochures, Fliers and Posters

Please write "+5%" in the memo line of your check to help the church monitor increased giving. Your gift will be credited to your contribution statement for the year ...and is much appreciated. Thanks for your help!

If you would like a copy of the Veterans Insert that was distributed last Sunday, please pick up a copy outside the sanctuary.

**Germantown United Methodist Church
2331 South Germantown Rd. 38138
901-754-7216 • germantownumc.org**



November 14, 2010

Announcements

Churchwide Thanksgiving Dinner (*followed by the Advent Workshop*). The entire church family is invited to a turkey and dressing dinner on **Wednesday, November 17**, at 5:30 p.m. at the Owings Life Enrichment Center. This will be a wonderful time to give thanks for our congregation and to give thanks for Rev. Rick Kirchoff's 12 years of ministry at Germantown UMC. Leonard's BBQ will be catering our meal of turkey and dressing, sweet potato casserole, green beans, and rolls, and of course, dessert. Reservations are required and may be made online at www.germantownumc.org or by calling 754-7216. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Reservations will be accepted through noon on Tuesday, November 16.

At 6:30 p.m., everyone is invited to prepare for the Christmas season at our **Advent Workshop** and learn how to create family traditions during this holy season. Prepare your Advent wreath together or bring an old wreath to refurbish. Enjoy holiday refreshments, make Christmas crafts, and hear and watch the Christmas story as told by our ACTS group. Get in the Christmas spirit! No reservations are necessary for the Advent Workshop.

College Care Packages. We are planning on sending Exam Care Packages to our current college students as a way to continually support them. We will be sending a package of snacks, goodies, and notes of encouragement to each student. If you would like an Exam Care Package to go to your college student, please email his/her name and physical address to Renee Pearl at rpearl@germantownumc.org by November 14.

Highlights of Paul's Journeys Cruise. Rev. Steve Atkins and Rev. Rick Kirchoff will be leading a tour of Paul's Journeys via Royal Caribbean on a 14-day trip leaving May 10, 2011. Countries visited include Egypt, Greece, Italy, and Turkey with pre and post-tours available. Visit www.eo.travelwithus.com for trip details. For more information, contact Rev. Steve Atkins at 754-7216 or satkins@germantownumc.org.

Greek Isles & Turkish Coast, September 7-17, 2011. 7 night cruise with two night stay in Athens pre-cruise. Ports: Mykonos, Ephesus, Kos, Rhodes, Marmaris, and Santorini. Book by Dec. 31 to get half-priced shore excursions (selected in the spring). Visit www.azamarclubcruises.com for trip details. Contact Alice Clare Colville hcolvill@bellsouth.net or 754-6374 for more information.

Book Group. Our book group meets the 4th Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in Room 338. Join us on November 22 as we discuss *Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. All are invited. For more information, contact Jan Johnson at 753-0431 or jshjohnson@gmail.com.

Job Opening. Lauren Boswell, Co-Director of Children's Ministry, will be resigning her position in January 2011. We are currently seeking resumes of interested applicants to fill this position. The position requires an understanding of child development (K-5th grade), excellent organizational skills, an understanding of Methodist doctrine, an ability to relate well with children, parents, and volunteers, creativity, and the ability to write curriculum. Interested applicants should submit a resume to Rev. Rebecca Luter, Minister of Spiritual Formation, by December 1.

FirstWorks Service Opportunity. Consider spending an afternoon at the Barnum and Bailey Circus with the kids from FirstWorks on Saturday, December 11! For more information contact Brian Barger at 355-5422 or bwbarger@comcast.net. You will be blessed!

United Methodist Women

December Women's Luncheon. On Tuesday, December 14 we will have a special Christmas program and all women are encouraged invited to attend. Save the date and watch for more details!

Student Ministries

Alison Bocking, 758-6508, abocking@germantownumc.org
Jason Baker, 758-6515, jbaker@germantownumc.org

Element, our version of United Methodist Youth Fellowship, meets on Sunday nights from 6-8 p.m. Snack supper is available for \$3. Element will not meet tonight due to Crave Retreat. Join us next week as we explore Idols. Don't forget to sign your team up for the Turkey Bowl on November 28! Get ready to dive, duck and dodge as we raise money for *Stop Hunger Now*.

Stop Hunger Now campaign is in full-swing! Remember it only takes 25 cents to feed a family of six. We'll collect donations each morning at Trek and each evening at Element. We challenge each of our youth to save \$25 to supply 100 meals. Start saving your change in your collection cans!

Older Adults

These events are for everyone—singles and couples. Our activities are open to anyone age 55 and older regardless of church membership

Senior News—December Brown Bag Lunch Series. Evonne Siemer, Siemer Associates, LP will present "*Legend Has It: Meanings of Familiar and Unusual Christmas Decorations.*" This presentation will be Friday, December 3, in the Fellowship Hall. The program starts at 11 a.m. with lunch at noon. Bring your own sack lunch; the church will supply the beverages. Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, for more information. No reservations are needed. There will be a crossing guard on West Street to help with overflow parking.

Senior News—XYZs January Event! Join us when we hear *Rhapsody in Boop* at the Germantown Performing Arts Centre on Sunday, January 23, 2011. Drive yourself; the doors open at 1:30 for a 2 p.m. performance. The cost is \$20 per person. Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, Louise McGhee, 755-3463, or Gretchen Blair, 755-0797, to make reservations before Monday, December 20.

Health and Recreation

Carissa Algea, Director, 753-3100, calgea@germantownumc.org
Patrick Peavy, Sports, 753-3100, ppeavy@germantownumc.org
Gracie Leetham, Admin. Asst. 753-3100, gleetham@germantownumc.org
Erica Puryear, Nursery, 753-3100, epuryear@germantownumc.org

Owings Life Enrichment Center (OLEC)

2323 West Street • 901-753-3100

Hours: Monday-Thursday 6:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.;

Fridays 6:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Saturdays 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Thanksgiving Hours. Thanksgiving hours for the OLEC will be Wednesday, November 24 from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Offices will be closed on Thursday, November 25 and 25.

Save the Date! The OLEC Health and Fitness Fair will be held in the OLEC gym on Tuesday, January 11 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. There will be health and ministry information, flu shots & B12 shots, giveaways, and free mini-class demos.

Children's Ministries

Lauren Boswell, 758-6512, lboswell@germantownumc.org
Janelle Crist, 758-6525, jcrist@germantownumc.org

Elementary Grace Place. Grace Place is the Sunday School program for children in senior kindergarten through 5th grade, offered from 9:40-10:40 or 11:00-12:00. All children gather in the Chapel for assembly, then proceed to classrooms by grade level groups for experiential learning. This Sunday we continue our 6-week rotation theme, "Making Good Choices: Jonah."

Advent Workshop, Wednesday, November 17, 6:30 p.m. Make plans to attend as a family and learn more about Advent and how you can create family traditions during this holy season. Prepare your Advent wreath together or bring an old wreath to refurbish. Enjoy holiday refreshments, make Christmas crafts, and hear and watch the Christmas story as told by our ACTS group. Get in the Christmas spirit! No reservations are necessary for the Advent Workshop.

Missions

Habitat for Humanity Christmas Tree Sale. Please support the Habitat for Humanity Mission of Germantown United Methodist Church by purchasing fresh cut Fraser Fir trees and wreaths. Pick up and delivery times are Saturday, December 4, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, December 5, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, December 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and Sunday, December 12, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The pick up site will be on the north side of the Owings Life Enrichment Center parking lot. You may also choose to have your tree or wreath delivered for an additional fee. Forms are available at the Information Center, or you may order at www.germantownumc.org.

Reelfoot Rural Ministries Toy Drive. The mission statement of Reelfoot Rural Ministries is "In Christian love, we seek to provide personal encouragement, material assistance, helpful training and spiritual guidance to children, the elderly, and low-income families in rural Northwest Tennessee and Southwest Kentucky, in a manner that enhances self-esteem and encourages self-support." Our church is now collecting new, unwrapped toys to take to this ministry located in northwest Tennessee. Please bring your toys to the Information Center before December 1.