

Student Ministries

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Element, our version of United Methodist Youth Fellowship, meets on Sunday nights from 6-8 p.m. Snack supper is available for \$3. Element is back on tonight as we explore "Idol Worship," plus a few surprises! Don't forget to sign your team up for the Turkey Bowl tonight! Get ready to dive, duck and dodge as we raise money for Stop Hunger Now.

Our **Stop Hunger Now** campaign is in full-swing! Remember, it only takes \$1 to feed a family of four. 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!

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 begin a new rotation theme, "Advent: Good News!" Children will learn that the first people to hear the good news of Jesus (Mary, Joseph, and Zechariah) had a special role to play in introducing that news to the world.

Milk & Muffins. Bring the kids to our annual "Milk & Muffins" on Saturday, December 11, from 9 a.m.-12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. They'll hear the Christmas story, enjoy refreshments, and then have a special visit from Santa! This FREE event is open to everyone.

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 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 new, unwrapped toys to the Information Center before December 1.

Caldwell-Guthrie Elementary School. A volunteer opportunity awaits you at Caldwell-Guthrie on December 2 or 3 that guarantees to provide you with the joy of Christmas! For more information contact Ruth King at ruthmking@bellsouth.net for more information

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.

Germantown United Methodist Church
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November 21, 2010

Announcements

Alternative Christmas, Sunday, December 5. Please make plans to attend this year's Alternative Christmas on Sunday, December 5 when representatives from over 20 organizations will be on-hand from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

How does Alternative Christmas work? You walk through Fellowship Hall, visit the displays, and learn about all these worthwhile organizations that GUMC actively supports throughout the year, buy the goods they have for sale as gifts for people on your Christmas list or make donations to the organizations in honor of a loved one. When a donation is made, you will receive a card that you can give to the honoree to let them know the loving way in which you are remembering this Christmas.

What organizations will be present? Missions already signed up include our own international mission teams (Ukraine, Kenya, Costa Rica), SASHA Ministries, and many local organizations where many GUMC members spend countless hours volunteering, including: First Works, the Church Health Center, Reelfoot Rural Ministries, Mountain T.O.P, Hannah's Hope, and many, many more. You will also be able to buy Rick Kirchoff's book *Perceptions* to share with someone who needs a word of encouragement this holiday season.

So, please drop by before or after services on December 5 and consider buying meaningful, life-changing gifts this year. And, make sure to bring your children, too, so they can witness this alternative approach to Christmas giving!

Advent Service of Remembrance and Wholeness. (Wednesday, December 8, 5 p.m., sanctuary). Christmas is a time of great joy and many people will celebrate the holiday with joy and merriment. But for those who have been through a time of trial and loss, the heart may be heavy as Christmas approaches. If your heart is heavy, we encourage you to come for this Communion Service. Come and receive God's comfort and rejoice in the gift of God's Son who suffers alongside us.

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. Brochures are available at the Information Center.

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.

Confirmation Class Book Drive. Got children's books you no longer need? Help a child develop a love for reading by donating new or gently used books to the GUMC Confirmation Class Book Drive for Children's books (kindergarten-3rd grade level). We're also collecting new school items such as stickers, erasers, pencils, sharpeners, markers, crayons, highlighters, etc., that can be given as prizes to students. Help the confirmands reach their goal of 1,000 children's books to reach over 500 students in 37 schools in the Memphis City Schools tutoring program. Collection will be from Nov. 28- Jan 3.

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!

Volunteers Extraordinaire. Older Adult Ministry volunteers are a unique group of people. They have a love for the elderly and the infirm, plus a heart for extending themselves in ministry to them. There are a variety of ways you can become a part of this vital ministry of the church—arranging and delivering flowers, serving

homebound communion, knitting prayer shawls, transporting people to Sunday services, or just visiting. The need is ever expanding since about ONE THIRD of the congregation is over the age of 65, and this is the fastest growing segment of the population in the country. So, become a part of this vital ministry by contacting Beverly Rhoads at 758-6513 or brhoads@germantownumc.org.

Virtual Dementia Tour. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have a sensory or mobility impairment? You will have a unique opportunity to experience some of these challenges at the Health Fair to be held at the OLEC on January 11, 2011. This "tour" is for families, caregivers, or anyone who wants to better understand the effects of the impairments on a person. Please contact Beverly Rhoads at 758-6513 or brhoads@germantownumc.org to sign up for a 10-minute "tour" that day.

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!

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 and Friday November 25 and 26.

Childcare at the OLEC. The OLEC Nursery will be open from 9-11 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays through the end of the year (excluding 12/22, 12/27, and 12/29). Please contact Erica Puryear, OLEC Nursery Coordinator, with questions or to inquire about making a special reservation.

New! Restorative & Relaxing Yoga. We are happy to announce that Dr. Bob Hughes has returned to the OLEC! His gentle yoga classes are just what you need to relax and unwind. Focus on deep breathing, stretching, and simple poses that will restore your body and relax your mind. Classes meet at the OLEC on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Special pricing is required. Please contact Bob Hughes at 682-0855 to sign up.

Christmas Dance Recital. You are invited to attend a sweet little Christmas Dance Recital that will be held in the OLEC gym on Friday, December 10, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The recital will include GUMC's 3-4 year old pre-ballet class, the pre-teen Performance Dance class, and a few specialty performances. For admission to the recital, please bring gloves, mittens, scarves, and hats that will be donated to children in need. This recital is sure to warm your heart and remind you and your family of the reason for the season! If you would like to volunteer to work backstage at this event, please call Carissa Algea to sign up.