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Germantown United Methodist Church
2331 South Germantown Road
Germantown, TN 38138
germantownumc.org
(901) 754-7216



Milk & Muffins

Saturday, December 11
9 am - 12 noon • Fellowship Hall

Hear the Christmas story, enjoy refreshments,
and then we'll have a visit from Santa!!

This FREE event is open to everyone!

the Tidings

November 28, 2010

Germantown United Methodist Church

Alternative Christmas

Sunday, December 5
9-12:30 p.m. • Fellowship Hall

How does Alternative Christmas work?

Walk through the Fellowship Hall, visit the displays, and learn about all the 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 you are thinking of them this 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: FirstWorks, Church Health Center, Reelfoot Rural Ministries, Mountain T.O.P., Hannah's Hope, and 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. Be 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.



Habitat for Humanity Christmas Tree Sale

Fresh cut Fraser Fir trees and wreaths

Forms are available at the Information Center or order at germantownumc.org.



Alternative Christmas

Sunday, December 5 • 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Children's Choir Christmas Program and Plum Puddin' Festival

Sunday, December 5 • 5 p.m.
Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

Advent Service of Remembrance and Wholeness

Wednesday, December 8 • 5 p.m. • Sanctuary

Milk & Muffins

Saturday, December 11 • 9 a.m.-noon
Fellowship Hall

20th Annual

Community Carol Festival
Sunday, December 12 • 5 p.m.
Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Services

Services for Families With Young Children: 3:30 and 4:30 p.m.

Holy Communion: 6:00 p.m.

Lessons and Carols: 7:30 p.m.

Music for the Holy Night: 10:30 p.m.
with Leah Souter and Jim Thrash

Holy Communion: 11:00 p.m.

Older Adult Ministry

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

Don't Forget the December Brown Bag Lunch Program



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.

Home Safety is January Brown Bag Lunch Topic



Start the New Year out right by learning how to live more safely in your home and what steps you need to take to make your home more secure. We will learn about personal safety as well as how to assess if your home has fire hazards at the January Brown Bag Lunch Series, an adventure in learning

sponsored by the Older Adult Council.

TOPIC: "How to Be Safe in Your Home"

SPEAKERS: Lt. Angie Lewis, Germantown Police Department and Jody Dwyer, Germantown Fire Marshal

WHERE: Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall

WHEN: January 7, 2011. Program starts at 11 a.m.; lunch is at noon.

COST: FREE—the church will supply beverages.

RESERVATIONS: No reservations are needed. Just bring your sack lunch and enjoy the program and the fellowship.

QUESTIONS? Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, or Beverly Rhoads, 754-7216, ext. 107.

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 are 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.

XYZs Tour WKNO in February



Come with us to tour WKNO's new Digital Media Center. The 39,000 square foot building is

the home for WKNO offices as well as production and broadcast operations for the public television and radio stations. The state-of-the-art center includes two TV studios—one equipped with HD production equipment—an HD edit suite, and new digitally equipped FM studios. After we have seen it all, we are going to have lunch at Fresh Slices where the menu includes an array of appetizers, salads, sandwiches, and lunch specials. Join us for a fun day in Cordova.

WHERE: WKNO Digital Media Center and Fresh Slices

WHEN: Tuesday, February 15, 2011

COST: \$3 cost plus lunch on your own.

DEPARTURE: 9:15 a.m. from OLEC. (Be there by 9 a.m.)

RESERVATIONS: Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, Louise McGhee, 755-3463, or Gretchen Blair, 755-0797. You must make your reservation before paying.

DEADLINE FOR MONEY and RESERVATIONS: Tuesday, January 18.

XYZs to Hear Rhapsody in Boop in January



Join us when we hear international recording artist and award-winning composer Kathy Kosins present an afternoon of song celebrating the music of the legendary Betty Boop—everything

from *It Don't Mean a Thing* and *Minnie the Moocher* to *When I Take My Sugar to Tea* and *Did You Ever See a Dream Walkin'*. We have limited seats available at this discounted price (regular price \$28.50), so don't wait to make your reservations.

WHERE: Germantown Performing Arts Centre

WHEN: Sunday, January 23, 2011

COST: \$20 per person

DEPARTURE: Drive yourself. Doors open at 1:30 for 2 p.m. show.

RESERVATIONS: Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, Louise McGhee, 755-3463, or Gretchen Blair, 755-0797. You must make your reservation before paying.

DEADLINE FOR MONEY and RESERVATIONS: Monday, December 20.

2010 Trip to Ukraine

by Conrad and Barbara Schanson

Your prayers were felt as we traveled in October to Ukraine to begin an adventure that has changed our lives. As part of a SASHA Ministry team from GUMC led by Pat Whaley, our missionary to Eurasia, eight of us were able to work together to help support and witness to United Methodist Christians in Ukraine.

SASHA Ministry stands for "Shepherding a Servant's Heart, Amen, and is a ministry of evangelism and discipleship in Eurasia. Team members included Barbara Faust, Teresa Howell, Reed Rosetti, Conrad and Barbara Schanson, Margaret Ueleke, Rev. Deborah Smith, and Rev. Pat Whaley.

While there we met Pastor Sasha, a United Methodist pastor who sacrificed so much to start his church in Chernivsti. In fact, he sold his home in order to build the church and now lives in a one-room flat with his family.

We experienced powerful worship and were very moved by the warmth and openness of the members of Sasha's church. We engaged in much of the church's ministry to the community. We were especially moved by the time we spent with the women of this church as we shared what was in our hearts and minds in a very powerful time of prayer.

United Methodism is alive in the Ukraine in large part due to the efforts of Pat Whaley who so bravely travels most of the time by himself to Russia, Ukraine, and Kyrgyzstan to support

and encourage these new Christians. Pat helps these faith communities discover answers to life's questions from a Christian perspective. "There is a great emptiness throughout Russia and Eastern Europe. With the end of communism

hopes grew for a better life. Today, new governments and freedom from the Soviet life have brought low salaries and high inflation. People are still asking questions for the meaning and value of life," says Pat.

We worked with four other churches in the western part of Ukraine. We met Pastor Vasily, Pastor Alla, and Pastor Vova; all to be admired for what they have accomplished in their small churches. Deborah and Pat preached, we shared our witnesses and songs in worship and worked with the children's ministries.

Your presence was much appreciated in Ukraine. We were told that we made a "big American impression."

Your prayers and financial support gave us the ability to give some significant gifts to the five United Methodist churches that we visited that will enable them to make much-needed improvements to their church buildings, pay for a medical treatment for a child with cerebral palsy, and give financial aid to a

needy pastor. SASHA Ministry continues to need your financial support. It is funded only by the gifts and contributions of individuals.



While visiting a state run orphanage, we sang some of our American songs such as "head, toes, shoulders," Father Abraham, Bingo, etc. We were also able to make felt crosses for the children.



Women's Bible study group.

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 November 28- January 3.

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.

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.

Health and Wellness Speaker. The Health and Wellness Ministry Team is proud to welcome Dr. Frank Fenbaugh, Director of Emergency Medicine at Methodist Germantown as our January speaker. His topic is "When do I really need to go to the ER?" All are welcomed to attend this talk held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 9 at 9:40 a.m.

Childcare at the Owings Life Enrichment Center. 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.

Christmas Dance Recital. You are invited to attend 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.

Christmas Fund at GUMC. Every year, generous and thoughtful Sunday School classes and individual church members request to offer something special for specific members of the GUMC staff who might have special needs during the Christmas season. In an effort to more equitably deliver Christmas "cheer" to those on staff who might have special needs, regardless of their job description, the church has established a "Christmas Fund" for this purpose. If you would like to donate to this fund, please see Sharon Panis or send your check – with "Christmas Fund" in the memo line to the attention of Don Rhoads or Sharon Panis. Several Staff Parish Committee members, with help from Rev. Rebecca Luter and Don Rhoads, will identify those with special needs and make the gifts around December 15. Thanks for your thoughtfulness over the years!

Start the New Year Off Right!



January 11, 2011

9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

Owings Life Enrichment Center

There will be group exercise class demos every 15 minutes, free health information, flu shots and B12 shots, raffle prizes, free "ask a personal trainer" sessions, and free chair massages!

Germantown UMC is a Stephen Ministry Congregation



We offer caring, one-on-one ministry during difficult times in life. The care receiver will be prayed for, listened to, and will receive Christian caring in a confidential manner.

Stephen Ministry is Your Ministry

You play an important role in the Stephen Ministry.

Here's what you can do:

- Pray for God to bring hope and healing to hurting people through Stephen Ministry.
- Accept care from a Stephen Minister during your time of need. God doesn't expect you to bear your burdens alone.
- Tell a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative who is hurting about our Stephen Ministry

For more information contact Rev. Steve Atkins at 754-7216.



In September, the kids from FirstWorks spent a fun day at the lake fishing and boating with members of Germantown UMC. If you would like to help with the monthly outings with the FirstWorks kids, contact Brian Barger at 355-5422 or bwbarger@comcast.net.

Thoughts on Stewardship

by Robert Hollabaugh

As our church faces changes in leadership, never lose sight of the fact that God has a plan for Germantown United Methodist Church. While some of God's best work happens in community, the strength of God's community is in its members. It is the individual's personal relationship with God that makes our community a faith community.

The church has many missions, but its most basic role is to help individuals develop a personal relationship with Christ. Typically, we think of this as outreach, that is, trying to introduce nonmembers to our Christian beliefs. The church also has a mission regarding its own members—helping them to grow closer to God. The very tenets of our membership oath seek to set out a plan for personal growth in faith. We pledge to support the church with "our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service." These are fundamental concepts for a Christian life,



and each aspect of this oath touches on areas of life where spiritual growth can occur. As we go through a leadership change in our church, rededicate yourself and renew your personal relationship with God. Does anything come ahead of God in your life? Refocus your life and use your blessings according to God's will. Don't use all of your "time" for worldly pursuits; dedicate some time for prayer, worship, and service. Don't use all of your "money" for your own needs; tithe and give back to God a portion so it can be used for his will.

How a person uses his time and money reflects on what his true priorities are in life. Take time to renew the "basic tenets" of your relationship to God.

C o n f i r m a t i o n R e t r e a t



Dalton Key, Lindsey Domke, Kara Painter, and Sally Gairhan playing the "Trinity" game.



Marshall Smith, Stephanie Barton and Samantha Churchey (ACTs team members) acting out the characters of Peter, Mary, and Paul.

S t u d e n t M i n i s t r y R e t r e a t



The 2010 Student Ministry Crave Retreat at Victory Ranch near Bolivar, Tennessee, was full of intense outdoor challenges, great worship sessions, a pirate dance party, team-building with Victory Ranch staff, and the best camp food around. Our theme for the weekend was "Go Against the Flow," taken from Romans 12:1-2. Thanks to all the volunteers and students who made this experience one to be remembered!



MLK DAY

JANUARY 17, 2011

“Operation Sharehouse Meal Packaging” will be a family-oriented mission event on January 17, 2011, MLK Day, whereby everyone can participate in packaging 100,000 meals to be sent to underdeveloped countries.

For 25 cents, you can feed one person, for \$25 you can feed 100 people! These meals consist of soy, rice, dried vegetables, and vitamin supplements. Each meal will be sealed, palletized, and put in containers to be shipped overseas, wherever there is a need. **WE NEED YOUR HELP TO REACH THIS GOAL.**

Please consider donating and/or volunteering to help with this event. Each meal packaging shift is approximately two hours and children over age five may work side-by-side with their parents. We will have child care available if needed.

Please fill in the form below and leave at the Welcome Center or visit germantownumc.org to volunteer or make a donation.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Do you have any family members that want to participate with you?

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Do you prefer a morning or afternoon shift for meal packaging?

8:30 a.m.—Orientation (Fellowship Hall)
9:00-11:00 a.m.—Shift (OLEC)

1:00 p.m.—Orientation (Fellowship Hall)
1:30-3:30 p.m.—Shift (OLEC)

Do you need child care? ___ Yes ___ No If yes, names and ages of children _____

We will contact you with more information once we receive your request.

If you have questions, please contact Renee Pearl at rpearl@germantownumc.org or 758-6519.