

Christmas Dance Recital. You are invited to attend a 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!

United Methodist Women

Ladies! Join the Germantown UMW for "Carols & Casseroles" on Tuesday, December 14 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall. Please bring your favorite side dish to share and enjoy carolling by GUMC's own Jingle Belles! A ham will be provided. We'll also install our 2011 officers. We need to know if you're coming, so please make your reservation by noon, December 13 at germantownumc.org or call 754-7216, mailbox 305.

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. A snack supper is available for \$3. Join us tonight as for our annual Element Giant Gift Swap-A-Roo! Bring the tackiest/most random/funny/entertaining Christmas gift you can find and join us for a jolly good time! Your gift can be new, used or homemade—just keep it under \$10. Bring your friends, the more the merrier!

Next Sunday, December 12, we will hold a "Goodbye Element" for Alison Bocking. This will take place during normal Element programming hours, from 6-8 p.m. in the OLEC gym. All parents and church members are encouraged to join us as we say our goodbyes to Alison and celebrate the time and energy she has devoted to this program and to the spiritual formation of the students who have been under her care for the past six years. If you have any questions related to the night of the 12th, please contact Jason Baker at jbaker@germantownumc.org.

Children's Ministries

Lauren Boswell, 758-6512, lbooswell@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.

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.

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**. Drop your spare change in the piggy banks located around the church! You may also give online at germantownumc.org. 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. You may choose to work either the morning (8:30-11 a.m.) or afternoon (1-3:30 p.m.) shift. Contact Renee Pearl at 754-7216 or rpearl@germantownumc.org for more information.

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



December 5, 2010

Announcements

Join us TODAY in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall for our Alternative Christmas from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

How does Alternative Christmas work? You walk through the 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.

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.

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!

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.

Do you know where emergency equipment is in the church? The church campus is most fortunate to have three automated external defibrillators (AED) on the campus. One is located on the right wall near the usher's closet in the hallway between the sanctuary and the nursery. There is also a First Aid kit in that closet. The second AED is located on the right wall between the restrooms in the hallway leading to the Chapel and the Grace Place area. There is a First Aid Kit in the work room just beyond those restrooms. There is also an AED in the lobby of the OLEC on the wall behind the receptionist's desk and 2 First Aid Kits in the front office on the bookshelf. There is a First Aid Kit in the first upper closet of the Welcome Center, and a First Aid Kit in both the new Sunday School Building and the Cottage. Furthermore, two wheelchairs are located in the ushers closet outside of the sanctuary. If you have further question or concerns, please contact the church office.

The United Methodist Men will NOT meet in December as many church and social activities keep us more than busy. The next scheduled meeting will be Saturday, January 8, 2011.

Student Ministry News. Alison Bocking has resigned from her post as Director of Student Ministries. Through much prayer and God's guidance, Alison has accepted the position of High School Youth Minister at Riverchase United Methodist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Her last day will be December 20. On Sunday evening, December 12 from 6-8 p.m. we will hold a "Goodbye Element" for Alison at the OLEC. All parents and church members are encouraged to join us as we say our goodbyes to Alison and celebrate the time and energy she has devoted to this program and to the spiritual formation of the students who have been under her care for the past six years. If you have any questions related to the night of the 12th, please contact Jason Baker at jbaker@germantownumc.org.

Health and Wellness Speaker. The Health and Wellness Ministry Team is proud to welcome Dr. Frank Fennaughty, 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.

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 through January 3.

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.

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—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.

Senior News—January Brown Bag Lunch Series! Lt. Angie Lewis, Germantown Police Department, and Jody Dwyer, Germantown Fire Marshal will discuss "How to Be Safe in Your Home." This presentation will be Friday, January 7, 2011, 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.

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

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.

Start the New Year Off Right! On January 11, 2011, we will host a "Health and Fitness Fair" from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. 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!