

December Special. Buy a \$40 punch card and receive 2 free passes to one of the following classes: Senior Fitness, TBC, Pedal and Pump

Senior Fitness: Senior Fitness is offered weekly in the Dance Room on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30-12:30 p.m. This class is easy on the joints and is therapeutic and helpful for those with joint pain, arthritis, fibromyalgia, and other joint-related disparities.

TBC (Total Body Conditioning) The workout you don't want to miss—fabulous music, total body strength and toning utilizing bands, dumbbells, stability balls and mat work, cardio dance and kickboxing transitions! Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6-7 p.m.

Pedal and Pump: Includes 30 minutes of cycling and 30 minutes of weight training and abs exercises. Meet upstairs in the cycling studio on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30. Beginners are welcome!

Saturday morning **Zumba** and **Zumba Gold** will be a combined hi/lo class until the end of the year. Class will begin at 9:30 a.m. Come at 8:30 a.m. for Yoga and stay for the Zumba party!

GUMC Youth Basketball is in full swing with 16 1st-12th grade teams and three kindergarten teams for a total of 180 players! The OLEC Staff sends out a big THANK YOU to all of our dedicated parent volunteer coaches. We hope you have a great season! 1st-12th grade teams started yesterday, December 3. Come watch your favorite teams at the OLEC.

New at the OLEC! Nite Nite Yoga: A time of exercise and relaxation for the busy man or woman. Taught by Amy Morse who is undergoing classical training in Ashtanga Vinyasa Yoga. Thursdays from 7:30-8:45 p.m.

Class Time Change. Core Fitness which was on Thursday evenings at 7:05 p.m. is now Thursday mornings at 10:45 a.m. in the cycling room!

Weight Training Seminar 101 for Seniors. As we age, weight training becomes more important for many reasons. Weight training enables better quality of life by increasing stamina which allows us to perform everyday activities. Join us on Tuesday, December 6, from 1:30-2:45 p.m. Call the OLEC at 753-3100 and speak with Tiffany Griffin or Judy Oros at 336-8639 to reserve your spot. The cost is \$10 for the session.

Poinsettias for the Sanctuary. Honor or remember a loved one and help beautify our sanctuary for the Christmas season. Order forms are available at the Welcome Center and at the information kiosks. The deadline to order is December 12. Names will be listed in the bulletin on December 18.

Older Adults

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

Senior News—XYZs January Event. Join us for a fascinating day when we visit Temple Israel and tour the chapel, sanctuary, and museum, featuring the Adler Judaica Collection, and eat lunch at Dan McGuinness Pub on Tuesday, January 17, 2012. We depart at 9:30 a.m., and the cost is \$3 per person plus lunch on your own. Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, Louise McGhee, 755-3463, or Gretchen Blair, 755-0797, to make reservations before Friday, December 16.

Senior News—January Brown Bag Lunch Series. Diane Hampton, Executive Vice-President, Memphis in May, will teach you "How to Create Your Own Bucket List." This presentation will be Friday, January 6, 2012, 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.

Prayer Concerns

A complete list of prayer concerns is available at the Information Center and outside the sanctuary. To submit a prayer request, call Linda Terrell at 754-7216 or email lterrell@germantownumc.org. In the event of an after-hours emergency, pastoral help is available. Call our Emergency Pastoral Care number at 901-412-5776.

Births

Congratulations to Blake and Mary Ann Bryan on the birth of John Tyler Bryan on November 13. Grandparents are Stuart and Patricia Hooser and Bill and Carolyn Bryan.

In Deepest Sympathy

Sylvia Bishop, sister in law of Jo and Del Mercer, aunt of Linda Moore, November 30

Fred Smith, husband of Jackie Smith, November 27

Judy Schnepf, sister of Linda (Guy) Photopulos, November 27

James (Jim) Wennemark, husband of Barbara Wennemark, November 25

Shawn Butrum, nephew of Donna Callaway, November 24

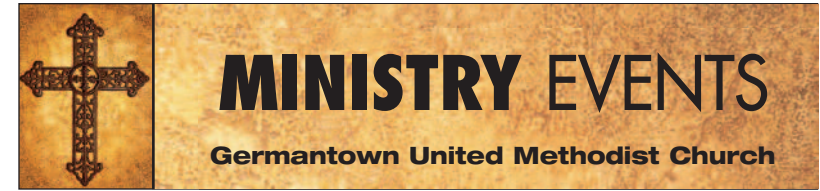
Steve Elder, nephew of Rosalyn Fortune, November 24

In Hospital or Care Facility

Dina Eisenbraun, Ronald Pugh

Congregational Concerns

Richard (Dick) Benson, Mary Carpenter, Brooke Henderson, Charlie Jennings, Kimberly Jessop, Elizabeth Johnson, Bill Peeples and Susan Peeples, Myra Thomas, Bill Troxel and Susan Peeples



December 4, 2011

Receive Daily E-Devotionals. If you would like to receive Ponderings, a weekday e-devotional from Rev. Richard Smith, contact Donna Thurmond at dthurmond@germantownumc.org. The devotionals include a Scripture passage, thoughts from Richard, and questions for further reflection.

"A Second Look" at Sunday's Sermon led by Rev. Richard Smith. Wednesdays through December 21, 6:30 p.m. (Room 342) This is a unique opportunity to discuss the previous Sunday's sermon and have a time for questions and discussion. The text and video of the sermons are posted to our website.

Celebrating Advent: Family Devotions and Activities for the Christmas Season. (December 6, 13, and 20 from 9:45-11:00 a.m. in Room 338) Join us in preparation for the coming of the Christ Child on Tuesday mornings, December 6, 13, and 20 from 9:45-11:00 a.m. in Room 338. These sessions will be led by Rev. Rebecca Luter.

Year-End Giving at GUMC. Since New Year's Day falls on a Sunday this year, we need to remember that gifts, pledges, and tithes given on that day will be credited to 2012, and cannot be credited to 2011. Please make sure that any year-end gifts and pledge payments are delivered to, or received by, the church by Thursday, December 29, or if mailed, postmarked no later than Saturday, December 31. For your convenience, the Post Office will observe Christmas Day on December 26, and will then be open for business through Saturday, December 31. The church office will be open to receive year-end deliveries from December 27-29, and a staffing schedule will be published soon. Thanks for your support throughout the year

Church Board Meeting. All members are welcome to attend this meeting on Monday, December 12 at 7:15 p.m. The agenda will include year-end reports from all committees and ministry teams on 2011 accomplishments and plans for the upcoming year.

Blue Christmas Service. A special worship service designed especially for those within our church or community who might be feeling more “blue” than joyous during the holiday season will be held on Tuesday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m. Despite the trappings of gifts, special meals, and Christmas carols, many people find they have trouble feeling “in the spirit” of things because of the loss of a loved one through death or divorce, unemployment, family members away on active duty, or struggles with ill health. Anyone seeking comfort and peace is welcome to join us for a worship experience celebrating the hope we have in Christ even in the midst of life’s wintry seasons. Contact Jessica Webster at 758-6511 or jwebster@germantownumc.org by December 11 if childcare is needed. A time of light refreshments and fellowship will follow.

Volunteers Needed

Clothes Closet. Help is needed in sorting and re-bagging clothes donated to our church for Manna House. If you’d like to help, contact Lindsay Butler at 758-516 or lbutler@germantownumc.org. Thank you to everyone who has given clothes and toiletry items for the guests at Manna House!

Painting Grace Place. We are painting the walls in room 259 (Grace Place Wing) and need extra help. All painting supplies provided; just show up in painting clothes and lend a hand! If you can offer an hour or two, contact Cindy Jones at c1a21sj65@yahoo.com or 412-4980.

Welcome Center. We are in need of volunteers to staff our Welcome Center during the week at the times it is not covered by a staff person. Can you give just 3½ hours a month so we can provide complete coverage for this significant ministry need? We want persons who visit our campus to be greeted by a warm smile and a kind word while showing the hospitality of Christ. Contact Mary Anne Gibson at mgibson@germantownumc.org or 754-7216 for more information.

Communion for the Homebound. Volunteers are needed to deliver communion to the homebound once every three months. Two volunteers go to two or three individuals to deliver communion the first Sunday afternoon of each month between the hours of 1 and 3. Please call Beverly Rhoads, 758-6513, for further details or e-mail brhoads@germantownumc.org.

Greeters Needed. Would you like to enhance your Sunday morning worship experience even more? Come join us in our Greeter Ministry. This is such an important part of our hospitality and only requires serving one of the services once a month. If interested, please call Rev. Julie McKenna at 754-7216 or Lee Harber at 574-2855.

Children’s Ministries

*Janelle Crist, 758-6525, jcrist@germantownumc.org
Shelley Haines 758-6512, shaines@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 week we continue our 4-week Advent rotation called “The Gift of Jesus.” As children experience the Christmas story in weekly stations—crafts, games, story, and video—they will be reminded that Jesus is God’s greatest gift to us.

Milk ‘n Muffins with Santa. We will tell the Christmas story, have refreshments, and then enjoy a visit with Santa! See you in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 10 from 9-11 a.m.

December Art Classes for Kids. Contact Melissa Cychowski at ecychowski@comcast.net or 753-2071 for more information or to register. A portion of the proceeds for all December classes will be donated to Hannah’s Hope (See www.hannahs-hope.org).

“Luscious Lemons” • December 9; 6-8 p.m.; Ages 9+; \$25

“Painted Poinsettias” • December 10; 12:30-2 p.m.; Ages 6+; \$25

Snowman Family • December 16; 6-8:30 p.m.; Ages 9+; \$30

Youth Ministry

*Jason Baker, 758-6515, jbaker@germantownumc.org
Lindsay Butler, 758-6516, lbutler@germantownumc.org*

Element. Element, our version of United Methodist Youth Fellowship, meets on Sunday nights at the OLEC from 6-8 p.m. A snack supper is available for \$3. Tonight we begin a new series titled “How to Live a Better Christmas Story.” Come and get in on the important conversation of how we, as Christians, provide more “presence” instead of “presents” this year. See you at 6!

Alternative Christmas Gifts from the Youth Ministry. Interested in providing friends and family with gifts that are a bit more relational this year? Looking to make the Christmas buying-frenzy a little more meaningful? Our Youth Ministry has a couple of gifts you may be interested in! The first is the Youth Worship Band CD, which you can pre-order for \$10 each. You will receive a card that you can give to that person, letting them know they are guaranteed an album. The second is a donation to Manna House, a hospitality house for the homeless and poor of Memphis, made in someone else’s name. There will be cards for this gift as well. Questions about our gifts? Contact Jason Baker at 758-6515 or jbaker@germantownumc.org.

Night Owl Ski Trip, December 30. Mark your calendars now for our first annual Night Owl Ski Trip!

Trek 2.0. Our Trek Sunday School program now has a complete facelift! At each hour, students will have donuts and fruit, and will have the option to participate in a short devotional led by Butler or Jason, or visit the Prayer Chapel where an adult volunteer will lead the students in a time of quiet reflection.

United Methodist Women

Christmas Brunch. Germantown United Methodist Women will host a “Christmas Bells Brunch” on Tuesday, December 13 at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Entertainment will include the cast from Germantown Community Theater who will perform an act from C.S. Lewis’ *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*. A special feature of the unit meeting will be the presentation of “Membership Pins” that recognize members who have demonstrated outstanding service and leadership during the past year. For reservations, call 754-7216 by noon Thursday, December 8. Child care is free if requested with reservations.

The 9th annual **Cooking with Joy Dinner and Silent Auction** fundraiser hosted by the Joy Circle will be February 11 at the Pickering Center. The event benefits Memphis Business Academy, a Memphis Charter School. Tickets are \$35 and must be purchased in advance. Contact Lauren Boswell at lrboswell@bellsouth.net or 848-0373.

Health & Recreation Ministries

*Tiffany Griffin, 753-3100, tgriffin@germantownumc.org
Patrick Peavy (sports), 753-3100, ppeavy@germantownumc.org*

Christmas Creativity and Cardio Camp

For children ages 6-12 • December 19-22 (Monday-Thursday) 9:00 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. • \$85 each • Registration deadline is December 8

Need some time for last-minute shopping? Looking for unique hand-made gift ideas? Bring your elf to GUMC for 4 days of Christmas fun! Our specialized instructors will energize their holidays with Karate, Zumba and Boot Camp and create festive acrylic paintings on stretched canvas (great for gifts!); design watercolor Christmas cards, have a movie and pajama party, and more! All supplies and instruction included. Space is limited! A snack will be provided and participants are asked to bring their own water bottle. Forms are available at the Information Center and kiosks. For more information please contact Tiffany Griffin (tgriffin@germantownumc.org) or Melissa Cychowski (ecychowski@comcast.net)