



# First Things @ First

November 9, 2011  
Vol. XV No. 23

“Living that all may know Jesus”

660.747.8158 ~ FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WARRENSBURG ~ www.umcburg.org

## FIRST-FRUITS SUNDAY ~ NOVEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>

**Together We Are God’s Church! Help Us Ignite The Flame!** First United Methodist Church will be celebrating our *Annual Day Of Giving* during both worship services on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. This is the time each year when you are given the opportunity to present your confidential offering goal for the next calendar year. *Proverbs 3:9* speaks of bringing honor to the Lord by offering Him the “First-Fruits” of our lives. First-Fruits Sunday is your opportunity to do that.

Help us celebrate our 2012 goals with food and fellowship at the “**First-Fruits**” **Celebration Potluck** at noon in the Family Life Center on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Each family is asked to bring a side-dish, salad, or dessert. Meat, beverages, and table service will be provided.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOGRAPH SESSIONS

Olan Mills will take photographs on Monday through Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup> — 19<sup>th</sup> and also Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving November 25<sup>th</sup> and November 26<sup>th</sup>. Every participating family will receive a free directory and a \$25.00 gift certificate towards a portrait. No purchase is necessary. Your portraits should be delivered/mailed in time for Christmas. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-866-2263.

## “THE JOURNEY” STARTS NOVEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>

Beginning November 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am First United Methodist Church will offer a five-week study you won’t want to miss: “The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem.” During this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ, Adam Hamilton travels with us from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Using historical information, archaeological findings, and personal reflections, Hamilton illuminates this most amazing moment in history. We will follow the footsteps of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and others, gaining insight into our own journeys with Christ. Sign up in the coffee shop and we’ll make sure you get a copy of Adam Hamilton’s *The Journey* at our first meeting. If you would rather participate in this study at 10:45am, please email Pastor Mike (mike@umcburg.org) or call him at 747-8158.

## “FOOD OF THE MONTH”

The November Keystone class’s “Food of the Month” is canned fruit. Leave your canned fruit donations in the Food Center cabinet located in the FLC hallway.

## CHECK-IN WITH THE OFFICE

For security, safety, and in case of emergency, everyone entering the building for unscheduled activity needs to check-in and check-out with the office, so that we know where you are located in the building. Thanks for your help.

### SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

9:30am Connection / *Connected* Band  
10:45am Classical/Blended with choir  
and “Kids Own Worship.”  
*A nursery is available for children through  
2 years of age.*

### SUNDAY MORNING CHURCH BUS

Call the office by noon on Friday to arrange a bus stop at your home. The FUMC bus is handicap accessible.

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### College-Age Ministry | Evelyn Howard, Staff Assistant | [evelyn@umcburg.org](mailto:evelyn@umcburg.org)

Anyone interested is welcome to join us for "Bad Girls of the Bible" on Tuesdays at noon, "Devotion and Fellowship" (Rob Bell's Nooma Series) on Tuesdays at 8:00pm, and "The Underground Church" gathering on Thursday at 9:00pm. Five college students had a blast at the *Connect* retreat at the Lake of the Ozarks. If you are considering the Joplin mission trip January 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, please contact Evelyn Howard at [evelyn@umcburg.org](mailto:evelyn@umcburg.org).

### Small Group Ministry | Mike Cassidy, Associate Pastor | [mike@umcburg.org](mailto:mike@umcburg.org)

**The Underground Church will Wait ...** Starting Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, our midweek worship offering will have to wait. Actually, we'll be learning what it meant to wait for Jesus in that very first time of Advent and what waiting means in our lives today. The Underground Church meets in Fellowship Hall every Thursday and offers an informal and intimate chance to gather in a community of believers. All are welcome for fellowship Thursdays at 9:00pm before the Underground Church and worship starting at 9:30pm. All are welcome.

### Youth Ministry | Mike Cassidy, Associate Pastor | [mike@umcburg.org](mailto:mike@umcburg.org)

**Rock and Worship Roadshow ...** FUMC Youth will be heading to Sprint Center on November 19<sup>th</sup> for the Rock and Worship Roadshow. The bus leaves at 3:00pm and the concert lasts from 6:00pm—9:00pm. There will be a lot of cool bands like *MercyMe*, *Jars of Clay*, *Group 1 Crew*, and *Matt Maher*. We have room for the first 20 youth to sign up.

### Children's Ministries | Melanie Montambeault, Director | [melanie@umcburg.org](mailto:melanie@umcburg.org)

**Ways to help the children of FUMC ...** There are so many ways you can help encourage the faith and growth of the children here at FUMC. Some ways require time, like volunteering to help with Sunday School, FriendsDay, or the Children's Choirs. Other ways require only a little extra time when you're out shopping at the store or grocery.


Whether you bake homemade cookies or muffins or buy fruit snacks and granola bars, your snack donations are much appreciated. (Some have an allergy to tree nuts, peanuts are fine, but tree nuts cannot be part of the snack!)

Washable markers (especially large washable markers that are easy for the younger kids to manage), and glitter glue, fun foam, fun foam stickers, card stock, and other craft supplies always get used up quickly and need replenishing.

The 2011 Children's Ministries Programming budget is getting very low, yet we have lots of children to keep active, fed, and supplied. Your check made payable to FUMC with designation of "Children's Ministries" would help purchase much needed supplies.

Sometimes it just takes digging through the recycle bin to help our kids. Our FriendsDay science lessons often use recycled plastic containers and cardboard boxes. FriendsDay will need 34 empty cereal boxes to make "Crazy Cameras" on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

To find out when to bring snacks, what craft items are immediately needed, and what recycled items we're low on, please call Melanie Montambeault at 747-8158 or email [melanie@umcburg.org](mailto:melanie@umcburg.org). Thank you for supporting the FUMC Children's Ministries!

 **Preschool Doodlings | Colleen Reed, Preschool Director | [preschool@umcburg.org](mailto:preschool@umcburg.org)**  
This week the preschoolers learned about scarecrows and healthy foods during our week of Happy Harvest. We are learning that the new healthy food guidelines are called "my plate" which is much easier to understand than the food pyramid. We even had a healthy "my plate" snack this week which included something from each food group.

Next week we will be learning about our homes since many families go "home" for the holidays. We will learn about Missouri and Warrensburg since that is our home. We will also learn that we here at FUMC Preschool are also "family" and we hope this feels like home :)!

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### INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER:** The November 16<sup>th</sup> menu will be a Thanksgiving Dinner featuring turkey, mashed potatoes & gravy, sweet potato casserole, stuffing, cranberry sauce, salad, rolls, pumpkin pie, pecan pie, and beverages served 5:00pm till 6:00pm in the Family Life Center. The cost is \$6/adult, \$3/student and children age three and older, \$16 max./family. Guests are invited to dine-in with us. *Help us be more accurate in estimating the amount of food needed. Please call the office or email [receptionist@umcburg.org](mailto:receptionist@umcburg.org) to make your reservation or cancel your reservation by noon on Tuesday.*

**AFTERNOON RECEPTIONISTS NEEDED:** Could you answer the phone and help out in the office on one or more Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays a month? Volunteers to fill in as afternoon receptionists and substitute receptionists are much needed! To be added to the volunteer list or for more information, contact Anita Ellis in the office.

**POLISH BRASS AND SILVER:** A volunteer is needed to keep the church brass and silver polished. Please contact Anita in the office for details.

**UMM CHRISTMAS DINNER FUNDRAISER:** The United Methodist Men need volunteers to provide desserts and to work at their December 7<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dinner Fund Raiser. Sign-up sheets are in the Atrium. The meal will be served 5:00pm-6:30pm in the Family Life Center. Advance tickets may be purchased in the office prior to December 7<sup>th</sup>. Advance adult tickets are \$8.00. Tickets for children ages 2-10 are \$3.00. The proceeds will support the UMM mission projects.

#### THANKSGIVING CLOSINGS

The office will be closed for Thanksgiving on November 24<sup>th</sup> and November 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### In Our Prayers

**In Our Prayers:** Maxixe UMC (our sister church in Mozambique) & its pastor Geraldo Nataniel Matsinhe, shut-ins, care givers. **Ill/Recovering:** Sandy Culp, Carl Dell, Doris Dickinson, Nathan Haycraft, Judy Hicks, Clair Swan. **Sympathy to:** The Jim and Kathy Howard family in death of Sterling "Mac" McHarg, who passed away October 30, 2011 and to the family and friends of Melva Jones who passed away November 4, 2011.

**Military:** Brad Adams, Christopher Lozo, John Rodgers.

**Pastoral Care:** If you have a death in the family, are sick or hospitalized, please let the church office know so we can arrange for spiritual care. *If you or a loved one is admitted to a local hospital, please call us, as the hospitals do not notify us.*

*Tune in to 1450 KOKO radio Monday through Friday at 6:58am for Pastor Louie's*

#### THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for the love, prayers, and visits. Jackson is now doing great.

~ **Jackson & Sonny Short**

Thank you to a bunch of wonderful people for the prayers, visits, phone calls, and cards. ~ **Bob Ruth**

#### WE NEED YOUR HELP

Our congregation needs to raise an **extra \$58,000** (in addition to our weekly offerings) by the end of December in order to meet all of our ministry obligations.

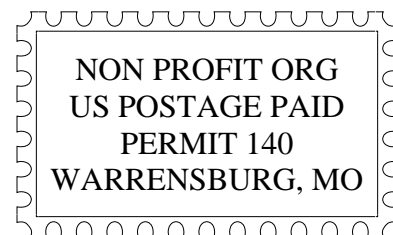
We invite you to prayerfully consider what you can do to help our church reach this goal. Together we can do it!

#### Attendance & Offerings

October 30<sup>th</sup> attendance at the two services was 331. Operating Fund Contributions were \$8,821.50. Capital Improvement Fund Contributions were \$860.00. November 6<sup>th</sup> attendance at the two services was 337. Operating Fund Contributions were \$10,352.25.



**First Things @ First**  
**141 E. Gay Street**  
**Warrensburg, MO 64093**  
**Office: (660) 747-8158**  
**www.umcburg.org**



Return Service Requested

**KIDS-CAN-DO MISSION:**

The November 20<sup>th</sup> Kids-Can-Do collection of coins, cash and checks made payable to "FUMC" will be for *Christmas Store*.

**Pastor's Corner... | Rev. Louie Lowe, Senior Pastor | llowe@umcburg.org**

Dear FUMC Members and Friends,

This Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating our "*Annual Day Of Giving*" during both worship services, followed by a church-wide "*First-Fruits Potluck*" in the Family Life Center.

This is the time each year when you are given the opportunity to present your confidential offering goal for the next calendar year.

We hope that you will make a special effort to be present in worship on this day, and to prayerfully consider what you can do to help our Church reach its fullest potential for God.

Remember, it is the accumulation of all of our gifts together that enables the Church to change the world for God.

***Together We Are God's Church!***  
***Help Us Ignite The Flame!***

See you Sunday,

*Louie*

**THANK YOU**

On behalf of our family, we would like to thank everyone for the many cards, gifts, phone calls, and acts of kindness during pastor appreciation month. Your gracious outpouring of love and expressions of support mean so much to our family, and we look forward to our continued ministry with you here in Warrensburg for many years to come.

May the richest of God's blessings be upon each of you as we move towards that wonderful future God has in store for us as a congregation.

Grace and peace,  
 Louie & Brenda Lowe

**First Things @ First** is published every other Wednesday by the First United Methodist Church of Warrensburg. Newsletter submissions are due Monday at noon for the upcoming Wednesday's newsletter. Submissions may be communicated to **Marge Ballew**, Publications Editor (660-747-8158; receptionist@umcburg.org). Calendar updates, prayer requests and address changes may be communicated to **Anita Ellis**, Administrative Coordinator (660-747-8158; office@umcburg.org).



**POINSETTIAS FOR ADVENT:** The sanctuary will be decorated with red poinsettia plants during Advent. Order poinsettia plants at \$5.00 each by putting this form in the offering plate, or returning it to the office. The deadline for ordering poinsettia's is November 20<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions, email Glenda Goetz at [goetz@ucmo.edu](mailto:goetz@ucmo.edu) or call 747-8158. Plants may be taken home after the 10:45am service on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Please list only one individual or couple per poinsettia or use a phrase such as "Our parents and grandparents" or "The Ballew family" rather than listing names.*

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to FUMC and designate "Poinsettia."

### FIRST-FRUITS SUNDAY

#### "Giving Our Best To God's Work"

In response to God's love, and as a concrete expression of my faith in, and commitment to Christ in His Church, my generosity goal for **2012** is:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

(circle one) weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, annually.

Imagine what we can do as a church if we all took just one more step towards, or even beyond, giving God 10% (Our "First-Fruits").

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



### THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING

A special offering for Thanksgiving will be taken during the worship services on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Thanksgiving Offering Envelopes will be available in the Sanctuary that Sunday.