

# fumcn news

Happy Spring!

April 2010

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[www.fumcn.org](http://www.fumcn.org)!

FUMCN News is a publication of the First United Methodist Church Cooperative Nursery, located within First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor at 120 South State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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Please make submissions by 5pm on the 18th of each month.

## A Note From Ms. Juli

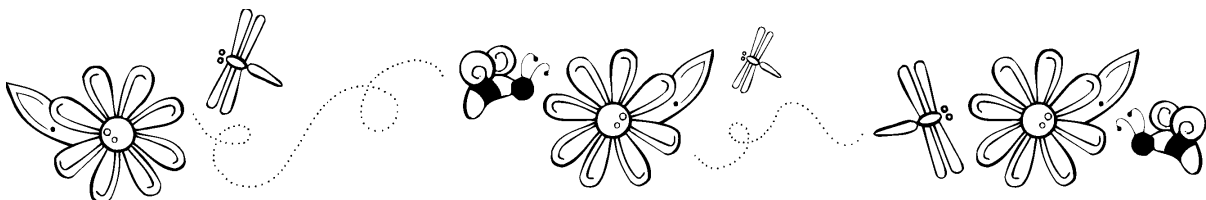
Happy April, everyone! Wow - March sure did go fast. Thank you all so much for the wonderful birthday surprises. The cards the kids made were priceless along with all the good wishes. Thanks.

We've been busy with our planting. This year, we will be a part of the church's Faith and Food Garden, which grows food for Food Gatherers. We will try to plan a field trip in May to the church's Green Wood site where the gardens will be. The kids will be able to help plant and tend the garden. We will be looking for helpful families who can help build, paint, and water and tend the gardens. There will be some communication going out about this soon.

Our annual "Summer of FUN" (FUMCN's Summer Camp) is in the works. A flyer went home detailing everything. We are splitting up the days this year. Instead of everyone coming at the same time, I decided to have 2 sessions per day. This year the cost is \$55 if you assist 2 times and \$70 if you assist once. There will be limited spots available for the one time assists. When we have the sign up complete and see exactly how many families will attend, I can calculate how many assist spots we will actually need. That will be sometime in late April/very early May. Keep watching your tote bags for more info coming up. This year's theme is: Bugs and Other Critters. We will have the Leslie Science Center join us twice, for a lesson on Snakes and a lesson Turtles, with a visit from some fun critters.

As the days get warmer our playground will get muddy. I want the kids to be able to explore without too many limitations (within reason). Some families choose to send in snow pants for these muddy days. If you send snow pants and it's not too warm I will assume you want your child to wear them. We will have a Mud Day in May where the kids can wear their bathing suits or other mud attire and really get dirty. It's a lot of fun.

(Continued on next page)



### A Note From Ms. Juli (continued)

Take some time this wonderful spring and watch the flowers bloom, the grass turn green, the trees bud. Our bulbs on the playground are coming up and sprouting. I've told the kids to not pick the flowers when they bud, and instead to leave them so everyone can enjoy them. But, as kids will be kids... they will get picked. Let's hope my subtle reminders will stop some from picking and leave a few for us to gaze at.

Happy Spring,  
Ms. Juli

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## From the Co-Presidents

Happy Spring! As I write this article, the sun is shining, the birds are chirping, the flowers are poking through the ground, my kids are wearing summer clothes that seem way too small for them – so many signs of new life all around! Spring always brings new life and energy to the children and families at FUMCN, as well.

It's hard to believe that we only have two months left of the school year at FUMCN, which also includes a week off for Spring break. As we enjoy our final months here, please remember to share the news about our fabulous preschool with others. At this point, our enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year is looking great, but we do still have some openings for next fall for 3's, 4's and Young 5's. About 90% of new FUMCN families tell us they learned about it from a friend or acquaintance – so keep talking about FUMCN to anyone you can. Also, don't forget to mention the great addition of the "FUMCN Explorer's Club" that will be offered on Tuesday afternoons next fall!

The nominating committee has been hard at work putting together the FUMCN Board for next year. Thank you to those who have already volunteered to serve. The final slate of next year's Board members will be approved in April, then the May Board meeting will be a combined meeting of the old and new Boards together. Please thank our current Board (listed below) for all of the fabulous work they continue to do for FUMCN. Without their willingness to serve, FUMCN would literally not be able to run. It has been a pleasure to be a part of this group of such talented and hardworking parents. A HUGE THANKS to:

Amy Unsworth, Catherine Maruna, Barbara Hoffman, Sarah Boren-Rao, Tori Booker, Yvette Dimcheff, Elizabeth Elder, Kelly Wiard, Susan Courtright, Robyn Bishop, Staci Almeida, Jenni Wilkening, Tonja Fox, Colleen Burroughs, Karen Fry, Sarah Hafer, Susan Atkins, and Moira Yuhas. And a special thanks to our staff advisor – Beth Pascoe and our financial secretary – Brad Vincent!

In the coming month, keep an eye out for information about Ms. Juli's "Summer Fun" camp, during the first weeks of June! We hope you will decide to join us at camp!

Happy Spring!

Laura Dills  
[ledills@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ledills@sbcglobal.net)  
(Emmy 3am)

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## Parent Education

Help your kids learn the sounds of the alphabet by watching the DVD "The Letter Factory" from Leap Frog. It teaches children to recognize letter sounds, which in turn builds the foundation for reading.

Also, this is the time for you to make arrangements for your child to play pee wee soccer.

Colleen Burroughs (Ben 3am)

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## Hello from the Young Fives Class!

We've had a fun March! We've read Dr. Seuss books, in honor of his birthday in March, learned about March weather (definitely more "lamb" days as I write this) and celebrated St. Patrick's Day by walking downtown and leaving treasures at the fairy doors. We also joined the 4s for a great "Five Senses" field trip to the Hands-On Museum and finished the month with a fun storytime from Mother Goose.

In April, we will go to the Leslie Science Center as we learn more about spring weather -- specifically the April showers. And we'll have a week to focus on Earth Day and recycling. Finally, we'll visit Thurston Pond during the last week of April when we focus on ponds and frogs.

It was fun to join Ms. Juli and Ms. Mary at the Preschool Expo this past month and we also had a second open house where visitors could join an ongoing class. At this time, we are full with 12 students for the fall. However, things do change, so if you know someone who is interested in our Fives program, please have them contact Susan Atkins.

Finally, I would like to share a link to Scholastic.com: <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=1350>. There is a great article where 4 different families share their kindergarten experiences. I hope that this is encouraging as our 4s are thinking ahead to next fall -- there is no one right way! It's what is best for your family.

Ms. Susan

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## Curriculum

April is a month to focus on the earth as the snow melts and things start to grow. We will focus on the following things at FUMCN: April 12th – 16th Dinosaurs, April 19th – 23rd Environment (Earth day), April 26th – 30th Insects. We will be digging in the sensory table for dinosaur bones, and thanks to Jenni Wilkening we will be bringing a microscope to FUMCN this month so we can look at plants and insects close up. We are also trying to schedule our Spring Sings for late April or May so please watch your weekly updates for further info on the Spring Sing dates!

Staci Almeida (Isaac 3am) & Jenni Wilkening (Lily 4am)

Dates to note:

April 2nd-9th: Spring Break

April 15th and April 16th: Hearing and Vision screenings @ FUMCN for 3s, 4s and 5s

April 20th and 27th: 3's conferences

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## Membership

Hello from Membership! We're off to a good start on our enrollment for the next school year, but we still have some openings to fill, so please remind any friends or neighbors whose child may be starting preschool what a great school you attend! Don't forget that our usual 3am and 4am classes will be extended by 15 minutes next year and that we're offering an exciting multi-age class for 3s and 4s in the afternoon that is a whole 30 minutes longer than our current classes! Just enough time to finish your errands child-free. If you or anyone you know has questions about the 3s classes, please contact Sarah. For questions regarding the 4s, please contact Tori.

Thanks,

Sarah Boren-Rao, [borenrao@gmail.com](mailto:borenrao@gmail.com) or 864-2898

Tori Booker, [vkbooker@aol.com](mailto:vkbooker@aol.com) or 913-2454

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## Health

### FUMCN Hearing and Vision Screening

A technician from Washtenaw County Public Health will be administering hearing and vision screening to all FUMCN students in the 3s, 4s, and Young 5s classes. Testing for the 3s and the Young 5s will be on Thursday, April 15 and testing for the 4s will be Friday, April 16th. There will be no retest date. If your child misses the testing you can schedule an appointment with the technicians to have your child tested over the summer at their office in Ypsilanti. The office number to make appointments is 734-544-6786.

Students are initially given individual preliminary hearing tests with an audiometer. The vision screening consists of tests for visual acuity, farsightedness, ability to use two eyes together and symptoms of eye problems. A second, more detailed test will be given for those children about whose hearing or vision there is any question. After the rescreening, if your child is found to have a hearing problem or is unable to pass the vision screening, your child will receive a letter and a copy of the technical report to share with your child's physician.

A purple Parent Information form will be sent home with your child two weeks before screening occurs (the week before screening is FUMCN's spring break). Please return it to FUMCN on April 15th or 16th when your child is scheduled to be tested.

We will also need a parent volunteer from each class to help children go to and from the testing room. The testing rooms will be closer to the FUMCN classrooms this year (in the Pine Room on the Thursday and in the sibling care nursery on Friday). There will be a sign-up sheet posted in the FUMCN hallway the week of testing. Please sign-up there or contact Yvette Dimcheff at 734-929-9272 or 734-660-2610 (cell) if you can volunteer to help.

In order to get more reliable results for your child, please help see that they are well rested the night before and eat well on their exam day.

Children of assist parents may be taken first, beginning at 9:30am or 12:30pm.

Thanks,  
Yvette Dimcheff (Andrew and Eliot, Young 5s)  
FUMCN Health, Safety, and Nutrition Chair

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## Peeking In!

Ms. Juli asked the 4am class whether they had told their families about March as Reading Month and pledging money for books read to be used for the church's raised garden beds.

\*Izzie raised her hand and reported, "I told my mom and she said, 'I can't read you a book right now. I'm making dinner!'"

\*Jessie said that she told her grandma over the phone, "GWANDMA! Iss so excitin! We're gonna make a GARDEN at pweschool! Aaaaaand... even MORE excitin! You get to give me money!" Her grandma asked, "How much money should I give you for each book? A penny? A dollar?" Jessie answered, "YEAH! A dollaw! Dat's GWEAT and I can cut the hole (in the plate bank) bigger!"

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## Fundraising

Hello Fellow FUMCN Families:

The Fundraising Committee is busy at work planning a few fundraisers for the next month. Before we begin to inform you about some new opportunities, a big THANK YOU goes out to Noah Haiduc-Dale and his friends for performing a wonderful concert at the FUMC Green Wood location. That Sunday, all attendees had fun dancing, singing, and drinking root beer floats! A sincere thank you goes out to the families that attended. Without your support, our fundraisers would not be nearly as successful.

This week our annual FUMCN book featuring (drumroll please....) our beautiful students will be available for your family to purchase. Stacy Almeida has worked hard to assemble these lovely books titled, Trip Around the World. These books are set up like the popular children's book, *Brown Bear, Brown Bear*. Each class will have their own book featuring pictures of all the students in the class, including Ms. Juli. A copy of the book featuring the 3am class is available to look at on the fundraising board in the hallway. Each copy will available for \$15 per book. As a veteran of FUMCN for a few years, I recommend buying more than one -- your child(ren) will wear out one copy, and you can tuck another a copy away as a keepsake. Look for an order form in your child's tote bag.

In addition to the book, the popular Make A Plate fundraiser project is also available for your family to participate in. This is a wonderful gift for Mother's Day, Father's Day, or sentimental gift for a loved one. Make A Plate is also a fun way to create lasting childhood memories for your child(ren).

If you are not familiar with Make A Plate, here are the easy steps:

- 1) Fill out an order form requesting the number of plates you would like to make and purchase by March 29th.
- 2) Two templates along with materials will be available for your child to draw his/her picture.
- 3) Choose favorite picture and submit to box available in B room for collection by April 9th.
- 4) Plates will be ready by Friday, May 7th, in time for Mother's Day.

If you would like to participate, an order form will be sent in your child's tote bag (as well as posted in the FUMCN hallway).

As always, thank you for supporting FUMCN FUNdraising, your support is essential to making FUMCN a successful cooperative preschool.

Robyn Bishop (Derek 3am)  
Susan Courtright (Corinne 3am)

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## FUMC Vacation Bible Camp

**Plan for the summer. It's not too early!**

2010 Vacation Bible Camp  
July 12-16 from 9:00 am - 12 noon

- Children ages 3 years - 4th grade graduates
- Special programming for 5th/6th grade graduates
- Youth (7th grade and up) and adults are needed as volunteers to make this great program work.
- Care for 0-2-year-olds is provided for children of volunteers while they are helping.

Registration forms available at the FUMC Welcome Center and (coming soon!) on the FUMC website. FUMC will provide walking transportation to 1/2 day afternoon YMCA camps (12:30-4:30) in order to support families who are looking for full day programming options for their children.

Contacts:

Carole DeHart, [caroledehart@sbcglobal.net](mailto:caroledehart@sbcglobal.net) or (734) 417-0216  
Pam Gee, [dpall\\_gee@yahoo.com](mailto:dpall_gee@yahoo.com) or (734) 668-7260  
Beth Pascoe, [bethpascoe@comcast.net](mailto:bethpascoe@comcast.net) or (734) 476-4743

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## FUMCN Around the World

Two former FUMCN families currently living in Germany -- the Zebrowskis and the Poulsens -- met up and sent us this photo of their FUMCN alums! From left to right, they are Gemma Poulsen, Luke Zebrowski, Ben Zebrowski, Isak Poulsen and Zane Poulsen.



# April 2010

# FUMCN Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 3's Easter Party	2 No School - Spring Break	3
Easter	4 No School - Spring Break	5 No School - Spring Break	6 No School - Spring Break	7 No School - Spring Break	8 No School - Spring Break	9 10
11 7pm Board Meeting	12	13	14 6pm Maintenance	15 3's and 5's Hearing and Vision Screening	16 4's Hearing and Vision Screening	17
18	19	20 3's Conferences with Ms. Juli	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 3's Conferences with Ms. Juli	28	29	30	
				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Looking ahead...</b></p> <p>Late Apr./Early May: 3's and 4's Spring Sings</p> <p>June 1-16: FUMCN "Summer of Fun" camp w/Ms. Juli</p> <p>July 12-16: FUMC Vacation Bible Camp</p> </div>		