



fumcn news

Merry Christmas!

December 2009

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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

Newsletter Editor:

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

A Note From Ms. Juli

December is upon us and the rush of this month blows me away every year. I hope to take a few moments to enjoy the pure wonder of the season and not just be rushed by the "have to's". I hope each of you can do the same.

The kids will be working hard on some surprise gifts for the parents and will hand them out at our Christmas parties. I hope you will try to make it. It truly is a special time where your child focuses just on you. We sing Christmas carols and eat wonderful treats. I am looking forward to it.

Each year I do a special gift for the kids. I have the ones for the 3's all wrapped up (so to speak). For the 4's I need each of you to bring in a WHITE t-shirt that fits your child. This can be new or old. If it is new, please wash it and dry it. I'm not saying what I'm doing, but the kids seem to enjoy this each year. **Please send the t-shirts in by: Monday, December 14th.**

Now that the cold weather is upon us there are a few things to remember to make things go a little smoother for the end of the day. We go outside to play everyday when the temperature is 10 degrees or higher with the wind-chill. If it's close to 10 degrees, I will make that judgment call. When you drop off your child or when you are helping them start their day, encourage them to put gloves, scarves, hats etc... in the sleeves of their coat. Take snow pants and boots out of their tote bags and put them in their cubbies. If you are the Emergency Assist, leave the bags hanging up in the cubbies so the kids can put their shoes in them. When helping the kids to get ready to go outside, help them as little as possible. To help build their confidence, make things easier for them to get into.

Have a Very Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year. See you all in 2010!

Ms. Juli



From the Co-Presidents

December is my favorite month of the year. I love the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Having young children makes the season even more magical. I feel very blessed to have the opportunity to pass on old and create new traditions with them. This year I would like to create a "giving" tradition where my children can learn the spirit of the holiday by helping other people that are not as fortunate as them. The church provides many opportunities to make this possible.

A big thank you goes out to Robyn Bishop, Susan Courtright and the fundraising committee for a fantastic auction!!! It was a big success and a lot of fun! All of the effort they put in really showed!

I cannot believe there is only one more month until 2010! I hope your child has been enjoying FUMCN as much as mine has. FUMCN has its own fun holiday traditions (gingerbread houses and holiday parties) to look forward to. FUMCN continues to be a special place for our children not only because of the fabulous teachers but also because of the great co-operation of the families. Thank you for all of your help in making FUMCN the well-running school that it is. Being on the board is a rewarding and fun way to make even more of an impact on running and improving FUMCN. If you will still be here next year, consider joining the board. It is rewarding and fun to work with such hard-working, devoted and fun people.

The suggestion box is above the cubbies in the B room. Please use it to ask questions or make suggestions on ways to improve FUMCN. Make sure you reserve the date for the mandatory **Winter Membership Meeting on January 13th, 2010, at 7pm in the Social Hall**. This meeting is an opportunity for teachers and board members to address specific issues or questions that have come up during the first semester. Second semester assist sign-ups will also take place at this meeting, so it is important that at least one adult from your family attends. Make sure you bring your calendar with you.

The FUMCN open house will be on February 10, 2010. If you know any families with young children who will be of preschool age next year, please let them know about it.

I hope you have a wonderful December with all of the joys it can bring.

Robin Hescheles (Lily 3am)

Hello from the Young Fives Class!

We've had a super month of November learning about fall farms and harvest, Thanksgiving, turkeys and pilgrims. Some of the highlights were a walking field trip to the Farmer's Market, joining the 4's class for a tour of Cobblestone Farm and a trip to Domino's Farms. We also had a Family Feast on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving where families joined us to share in some special dishes.

In December we will be learning about gingerbread, winter holidays and, of course, Christmas. What a wonderful time to enjoy the coming winter season. One of trips will be to learn a little more about the winter sky with a field trip to the Natural History planetarium. Like the FUMCN classes, we will have our holiday party on the last day of classes before break -- Friday, Dec. 18.

One of the things that the class has really enjoyed this year is taking turns bringing our sharing bag home over the weekend and returning with it on Monday to share 3 things that are special to them. One of the biggest hits was a big Lego Star Wars book that Andrew brought in. He (and his brother Eliot) knew about every page, in detail, and the class gathered around the book for the rest of the morning, poring over the pages together. Now that's cooperative learning!

Ms. Susan

Membership

Mark the date! Our enrollment Open House will be on Wednesday, February 10th, from 10-11:30am in the FUMCN rooms.

Please remember to invite people to come to the Open House and see our fabulous preschool for 3, 4 and 5 year olds! In the past, about 90% of the people who come to FUMCN have said that they heard about it from a friend, neighbor or acquaintance. We rely on all of our members to get the word out about this caring, fun learning community that we call FUMCN. More details will be available as the date gets closer.

As always, if you know someone who is interested in FUMCN please give them our phone number or email, and we will happily talk to them and give them a tour.

3s classes Sarah Boren-Rao, 734-276-5991; borenrao@gmail.com

4s classes Tori Booker - 734-913-2454; vkbooker@aol.com

Parking Reminder

The two parking spots marked "FUMCN 8am-5pm" are for assist parents! Please use these spots when you assist so that others may use the unmarked spots in the FUMC parking lot.

Financial Aid and Tuition Due Dates

Financial Aid Applications for the second semester are due December 18, 2009. You can request a form from the treasurer or membership chair.

Second Semester Tuition is due February 1, 2010.

3's tuition is \$278

4's tuition is \$408

Young 5's tuition is \$1175 and may be paid in full by 2/1/10 or paid in two installments \$587.50 due 2/1/10 and \$587.50 due 3/29/10.

Please contact me with any questions.

Barbara Hoffman (Colin 4pm)

barbarahoffman@hotmail.com

Parent Education

Kindergarten Preparation Night is Jan. 25th at 7:00pm in the Wesley Lounge. Come and find out what you need to do to prepare your child for Kindergarten. An Ann Arbor public school teacher will come and talk about the steps you can do to ease your child's transition into kindergarten. Tell your friends as well.

Colleen Burroughs (Ben 3am)

Member-at-Large

Hello FUMCN families,

It's that time of year when we celebrate all that we have by giving to others who don't have as much. This year we are giving FUMCN families the option of participating in the church's Holiday Giving Project. We'll have a paper tree with ornaments on the wall in the FUMCN hallway. Feel free to take an ornament (or however many you want) and purchase the item listed on it. Donated items do not need to be wrapped. Please attach your original ornament/tag onto your donated gift. Drop off your item in the B room by **December 15**. Thank you for your generosity - you are making someone's Christmas that much brighter! Let me know if you have questions.

Thank you,
Tonja Fox (Charlie 3am)
Member-at-Large

Fundraising

Dear FUMCN Families,

First off, let us thank you again for your support of the 2009 FUMCN Annual Auction -- "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" This year the auction raised nearly \$10,000!!! Wow! We couldn't have done it without the many wonderful donations and contributions from all of you.

We have many special people to thank. First off, our wonderful fundraising committee: Bonnie Kerber, Melissa Lindholm, Erin Metzler, Bob Simmons, Pat Simmons, and Rachel Streu. Barbara Hoffman (Treasurer) and Karen Fry (Social) were also immensely helpful. Many meetings, emails, and phone calls were placed coordinating this fun event.

We also want to thank the many individuals who volunteered to help the day and night of the auction: Lea Abbott, Kristin Burgard, Colleen Burroughs, John Courtright, Laura Dills, Yvette Dimcheff, Jolene Duckworth, Sarah Hafer, Bridget Held, Robin Hescheles, Noah Haiduc-Dale, Catherine Maruna, Jamie Mayo, Nancy Meyers, Sharon Schuldt, Colleen Smith, Kelly Szymanski, Amy Unsworth, Leticia Valdez.

Many thanks also go out to the staff at the First United Methodist Church who helped in many ways, church youth who helped with babysitting and the World Peace Café, who provided the wonderful coffee during the auction.

If we have missed anyone, please forgive us. We truly appreciate everyone's help and contributions.

Babysitting Night: Friday, December 4 -- This is a great opportunity for holiday shopping or an evening out with your spouse. The event will be held at FUMCN from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. The cost will be \$15 per child or \$35 per family, with all proceeds benefitting FUMCN.

To make this event successful, we need several FUMCN parents to volunteer to help with the babysitting! Volunteers for the December fundraiser will be able to bring their kids to the babysitting night planned in February for free. Please contact Robyn Bishop (robynlbishop@comcast.net) as soon as possible if you are able to help.

California Pizza Kitchen Fundraiser: Monday, December 7 -- Take a night off from cooking and enjoy dinner (or take-out) at California Pizza Kitchen. Flyers with more details will be distributed after Thanksgiving. Just bring your flyer to CPK on the 7th and FUMCN will receive 20% of the purchases.

Thanks again for your continued support,

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

Curriculum

Wow! The holidays are here! As part of our curriculum focus, “around the world,” we will need help collecting materials (small candies and frosting) and assembling gingerbread houses on the 10th and 11th.

FUMCN Focus for December			
Curricular Themes: Holidays, Life Skills			
Numbers: 9	Letters: Hh	Shapes: Circle	Colors: Gold

This month the students can look forward to lots of holiday fun and sharing from around the world. Look forward to an email from Staci about sending boots to school later this week.

Parties will be held during the last hour of class on December 17th and 18th. Please plan to attend, as the children will be presenting gifts to you!

As the weather cools, we'd like to remind you of two things. First, children will be putting on and taking off a lot of extra gear as they come in and head out into the cold. Though it is so much faster and easier (and much less frustrating) to do the zipping and lacing and bundling for your child, please encourage them to learn to do this on their own. Not only does it build their pride and self-esteem, but also it relieves the teacher and assist parents from having to do this for everyone. Second, as we spend more time indoors, the amount of time spent in front of the television seems to increase as well. We encourage you to limit the hours spent in front of the TV and grab a book or two instead.

Jenni Wilkening (Lily 4am) wilkening@aaps.k12.mi.us
Staci Almeida (Isaac 3am) hubbells@msu.edu

FUMC Family-Friendly Christmas Activities

Friday, Dec. 4: FUMCN Babysitting Night

5:30 pm: Drop off your kids for a fun dinner and movie at the church while the grownups go shopping, out to dinner, or whatever gets you into the holiday spirit. \$15 per child or \$35 per family. Contact: Robyn Bishop, robynlbishop@comcast.net

Saturday, Dec. 5: Deck the Halls at Green Wood

6pm, at FUMC Green Wood (1001 Green Road). We will have a chili supper! Afterwards, we will make ornaments and decorate the tree. Children are welcome to make ornaments for their tree at home. Contact: Tori Booker, vkbooker@aol.com

Sunday, Dec 6: Children's Christmas Musical and Advent Celebration

The festivities begin at 2pm with “What Child is This?”, a fun musical performed by the children's choirs (ages 3-12). Then we'll all sing Christmas carols together and head to the social hall for refreshments, cookie decorating and advent-focused crafts to add meaning to your family celebration. Contact: Pam Gee, dpall_gee@yahoo.com

Sunday, Dec. 13th: Bethlehem Inn by FUMC High School Youth: A hilarious rendition of the Christmas story to raise money for youth mission trips. This year's story will also incorporate “Queen Esther saves the day” or “Sleepless in Susa” 4pm: open family-friendly dress rehearsal (free); 6:30 pm: Ticketed performance. Contact: Wendy@fumc-a2.org.

Thursday, Dec. 24th: Christmas Eve Services for families of all shapes at FUMC Downtown and Green Wood. Details are on the FUMC home page: <http://www.fumc-a2.org/>

December 2009

FUMCN Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9am-3pm Scholastic Book Fair	2 9am-3pm Scholastic Book Fair	3 9am-3pm Scholastic Book Fair	4 9am-3pm Scholastic Book Fair 5:30pm Babysitting Night	5
6 2pm FUMC Children's Christmas Musical	7 California Pizza Kitchen fundraiser	8	9	10 3's Gingerbread Houses	11 4's Gingerbread Houses	12 9am-12pm Maintenance
13	14 4's White t-shirts due 7pm Board Meeting - Tonja Fox's home	15 Holiday Giving Project items due	16	17 3's Holiday Party	18 4's Holiday Party 5's Holiday Party Financial Aid Applications due	19
20 No School - Winter Break	21 No School - Winter Break	22 No School - Winter Break	23 No School - Winter Break	24 Christmas Eve No School - Winter Break	25 Merry Christmas! No School - Winter Break	26
27 No School - Winter Break	28 No School - Winter Break	29 No School - Winter Break	30 No School - Winter Break	31 No School - Winter Break		
				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Looking ahead... Weds., Jan. 13: Winter Membership Meeting (Mandatory) Mon., Jan. 25: Kindergarten Preparation Night Weds., Feb. 10: Open House</p> </div>		