

fumcn news

National Reading Month

March 2010

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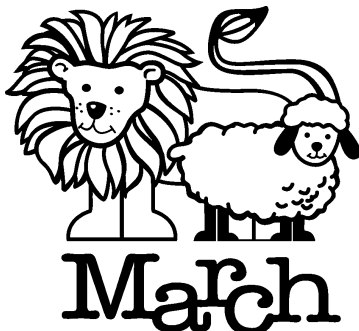
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FUMCN News is a publication of the First United Methodist Church Cooperative Nursery, located within First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor at 120 South State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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



A Note From Ms. Juli

Happy March, FUMCN Families. I just love March (not only because it's my birthday) but because it's the time I start planning my gardening and planting seeds. I am excited to announce this year that we will team with First Church in their Faith and Food Garden project. This project was started last year with a plot at FUMC's Green Wood site and has been given the green light to quadruple. Certain veggies are grown and given to Food Gatherers along with crops from generous home gardeners. We have been graciously given the opportunity to have a plot of our own. I am hoping to find some handy families and interested persons to help in this endeavor. Over the next few weeks we will be planning what veggies we will grow along with starting some seeds at FUMCN. I'm proud that FUMCN could be a part of this wonderful project.

The curriculum committee is working on a "read-a-thon" type of activity to help raise money for this project as well as celebrate "National Reading Month" in March. Watch for details for all of this in upcoming communications.

Summer Camp!! For the last 5 years or so FUMCN has offered an optional summer camp for FUMCN families to help bridge the time between the end of FUMCN and the end of the public and private school years. I will be leading the camp this year. I am working on finalizing details and will get info out to you as soon as I have everything ready. Watch your child's tote bags and other communications for information.

WOW! We had to reschedule our Open House this year because of the snow. But - what a great turnout for it a whole week later. Thank you to everyone who told friends and families, gave their time and talents and especially to our Membership Co-Chairs, Tori Booker and Sarah Boren-Rao for all their hard work and to Moira Yugas for the great publicity. We had a great turnout.

What a great school. What great families. What great kids. What great support from the church. Thank you to all. I'm proud to be a part of such a wonderful group of people.

Cooperatively Yours,
Ms. Juli

From the Co-Presidents

I can't believe that spring is right around the corner! Now is the time to make sure your application is in and to consider being on the board for 2010-11. Being on the board is a fun way to get more involved in FUMCN! We have many different opportunities for you to become a part of this fun group. Feel free to contact Laura Dills or Robin Hescheles to learn more information about board positions.

Please continue to spread the word about our wonderful preschool! Word of mouth is how FUMCN has traditionally received new families.

March is reading month!! I looked on the "Reading is Fundamental" website and found the following tips to encourage reading in preschool aged children:

1. Encourage your children to join in while you read. Pause to let them fill in a rhyming word or repeating line: "I'll huff and I'll puff...".
2. Ask open-ended questions, such as "What do you think is going to happen next?" or "Why do you think he did that?"
3. Move your finger under the words as you read aloud. This helps preschoolers connect printed words to spoken words.
4. Begin teaching the letters of the alphabet, starting with those in your child's name. Make letter-learning fun with markers, magnets, glue, and glitter.

I hope that you enjoy this last full month of winter!

Robin Hescheles (Lily 3am)

Hello from the Young Fives Class!

We've had a fun month of February, learning about Groundhog Day and shadows, celebrating Valentine's Day and discussing the post office. We finished the month learning about President's Day and dental health. We joined FUMCN for a great trip to the Canton Health Exploration Station and had a wonderful snowy hike at Leslie Science Center.

In March, we'll be discussing Dr. Suess and Eric Carle, with a walking field trip to the downtown library (3/3). We'll join FUMCN for a visit to Survival Flight (3/12) and we are working to coordinate a visit from the U-M weather department the week of 3/8. In honor of St. Patrick's Day, we'll discuss fairies and fairy tales and walk downtown to look for fairy doors (3/17). We'll go to the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum on Monday, March 22, to learn about the five senses, and we'll end our month learning about bunnies and eggs -- with a special visit from Mother Goose (3/29).

If you are considering the Fives class for next year, or if you know someone who may be interested, I welcome visitors anytime. Just contact me to arrange a visit and see what our class is like.

Thanks.

Ms. Susan

Curriculum

March is reading month, so we will be focusing on books and reading. We will also be trying to raise money for the church's food garden by having people sponsor your child for being read to (or reading themselves). Look for more information on the READ FOR SEEDS program and a money collection bank that your child will make early this month.

Field Trips and Activities:

- Tuesday, March 2 (3's) and Wednesday, March 3 (4's): Dental visit to FUMCN
- Friday, March 12: Survival Flight field trip (4's)
- Thursday, March 18 (3's) and Friday, March 19 (4's): Storyland Day! Dress your child up as his/her favorite character from a book and bring the book to school!
- Monday, March 22: Walking field trip to the Hands-On Museum (4's). We'll be learning about the 5 senses.
- Thursday, March 25: Dancing with Dinosaurs (3's) (The 4's will not be doing Dancing with Dinosaurs this year.)
- Wednesday, March 31 (4's) and Thursday, April 1 (3's): Easter celebrations! If you have any small toys, stickers, candy, etc... that you would like to donate for filling plastic Easter eggs for the kids at FUMCN this year, please bring them in and we will set up a box for them in the B room.

Fundraising

Dear FUMCN Families:

March is bringing in some great FUMCN FUNdraising opportunities! We hope you and your family can participate in the following activities:

1. Music with Noah Haiduc-Dale and Friends Trio:

Get ready to have some fun! You and your family can sing and dance to our own Noah Haiduc-Dale's (Asher 3am) string trio. This will brighten any boring Sunday afternoon! Along with an hour of wonderful children's folk music, enjoy a root beer float!

When: Sunday, March 14th, from 3:00-4:30pm

Where: First United Methodist Church at Green Wood*—1001 Green Road

Price: Recommended donation is \$15 per family

*Please make note this activity is at the Green Wood location!

2. Make-A-Plate:

Spring is just around the corner! Have your child design his/her own Make-A-Plate in time for Easter and/or Spring! This priceless plate will bring joy for many years ahead! Materials will be available in the FUMCN hallway. Look for additional details in your child's tote bag.

A big THANK YOU goes out to all the wonderful FUMCN families who supported our February FUNdraisers. Little did we know what budding artists we have within our preschool....not only within our 3, 4 and 5 year olds, but also our parents! Thank you so much to the families that donated their time and materials with our homemade Valentine Cards! In addition to our homemade Valentine cards, our Valentine's babysitting FUNdraiser was also a big success! A special thanks goes out to our wonderful volunteers - Bonnie Kerber, Jane Langeland, Melissa Lindholm, Erin and Josh Metzler, Sara Talpos and FUMCN Alumni Parents, Sue and Frank Oldani! We realize everyone has busy schedules, and we sincerely appreciate the time, energy and enthusiasm our volunteers offer. Without all of you, our FUNdraisers would not be nearly as successful.

April will also bring some exciting FUNdraising events. We look forward to planning a fun schedule of events for your family to enjoy.

Cooperatively Yours,
 The FUMCN Fundraising Committee
 Robyn Bishop (Derek 3am) and Susan Courtright (Corinne 3am)

Membership

Thanks to everyone who spread the word or helped out at our Open House on Feb. 17th!! Over 20 families attended and it certainly felt like a full house! If you plan to join or continue with FUMCN in the Fall, please don't forget to submit your \$50.00 reservation fee by March 12th. If you have any questions, please contact us - Sarah Boren-Rao (3s) - borenrao@gmail.com or Tori Booker (4s) - vkbooker@aol.com

FUMC Vacation Bible Camp

What are you and your kids doing this summer?

First United Methodist Church is excited to be planning our 2010 Summer Vacation Bible Camp. Monday - Friday, July 12-16 from 9:00 am - 12 noon

- Activities (games, crafts, music, drama, and snacks) designed for children ages 3 years - 5th grade graduates
- Older kids (6th 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.
- See <http://highseas.group.com/programoverview.aspx> for a general curriculum guide.

Please contact Beth Pascoe (734-476-4743 or bethpascoe@comcast.net) to help make VBC 2010 a fantastic expedition.



March 2010

FUMCN Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		3's Dental visit at FUMCN	4's Dental visit at FUMCN 5's Walking Field Trip to Downtown Library 6-9pm Maintenance			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
No School 7pm Board Meeting					4's and 5's Field Trip to U of M Survival Flight 2010-2011 Reservation Fee Due	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
3pm Music with Noah Haiduc-Dale and Friends at FUMC Green Wood			5's Walking downtown to look for fairy doors	3's Storyland Day	4's Storyland Day	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
4's and 5's Field Trip to Hands On Museum				3's Walking Field Trip - Dinosaurs		
28	29	30	31			
5's Visit from Mother Goose		4's Easter Party				

Looking ahead...
 Thursday, Apr. 1: 3's Easter Party
 Friday, Apr. 2-Friday, Apr. 9: No School - Spring Break
 July 12-16: FUMC Vacation Bible Camp