

May/June
2010



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Youth Newsletter

A Letter from Africa

I served as a chaplain intern at St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky for a semester while in seminary. During that time, one of my supervisors was Rev. Scott Buck (one of the hospital's full-time chaplains).

I learned an awful lot serving alongside Scott. One of the lessons that I am particularly mindful of at this time was the one in which he shared with me something to the effect that "Ultimately, it is the people who ordain you."

In no way was he challenging the authority of bishops or the polity of churches. He was simply pointing out that - ultimately - it would be up to individuals to decide whether or not I would have the privilege of being "their pastor." I found this to be true each time I walked into a patient's room at St. Joseph Hospital; and I have found this to be true each time I have been introduced to a church.

With this in mind, I would like to thank you for the privilege you have given me over the past four years to serve as one of "your pastors."

I have been indelibly blessed by God's love because you, both youth and adults, extended this invitation to me. And for the countless ways that this has truly blessed both Kaura and me through it all, I am hoping that somehow the simplicity of my words here express the depth of our gratitude - "Thanks. Thanks so very much."

I am excited that you will have the opportunity to extend this very same invitation to Rev. Cathy Christman starting in July. May you continue to experience and discover the depth of God's grace through the journey you will share together.

While my departure from here in June as the Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries means that I can no longer be one of "your pastors," have no doubt that you will remain "our friends." And so for each of us, "may the one who began a good work among (us) bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."

With much thanks to God and you –

Pastor Jeremy

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Middle School UMYF Calendar

May 2 – 6:15 until 7:45 in Middle Ground – Help us welcome the 5th graders who will be joining us in the fall as 6th graders. They will be at our meeting tonight for a trial run to see what we do. Yummy snacks, fun activities, and much more will keep us entertained

May 9 – Mother’s Day – No Meeting – Be extra special to Mom today! ☺

May 16 – 1:30 until 4:00 - Let’s head to the “RESORT” to PARTY!!!! That’s right; the school year is almost over! Grab your bathing suit and towel and meet at the Midland Resort (formerly Holiday Inn) at 1:30 p.m. for an afternoon of fun and food. We will have a room with lots of yummy food for everyone and games for those who don’t want to swim. There is an arcade so bring some quarters as well. We will party, play, swim, eat, and have fun until 4:00 p.m. Parents are welcome to stay if they would like.

May 23 – 1:30 until 4:00 - Join your friends for our annual Rail Trail Bike Ride. Bring your bike and meet at the Farmer’s Market. We will ride to Sanford, have ice cream and then ride back. Parents drop off and pick you up at the Farmer’s Market. No need to bring \$\$\$ Middle School UMYF will pay for treats.

- Start at 1:30 pm at the Farmer’s Market – back by 4:00 pm.
- The ride is about 7 miles (~45 minutes) each way; we’ll stop for Ice Cream at Alex’s.
- Wear comfortable clothes, appropriate for the weather.
- Please ensure the bicycle works properly and tires are inflated properly.
- Helmets are required for safety.
- We will review cycling safety rules for the trail before we leave.
- Please bring a contact phone number just in case ☺
- Parents are invited to come along, to enjoy the ride and assist with any special needs along the way.
- RSVP to Kevin Maak – 631-8871 or kmmaak@gmail.com.

If there is bad weather, there will be no bike ride and no meeting.

May 30 – Memorial Day Weekend – No Meeting

June 6 – 12:30 until 3:00 – Meet at Plymouth Park shelter B2 and B3 for the All Church Picnic. Food, softball, bounce house, face painting, and much more. Don’t miss it!

June 14 – 18 – VBS – Middle School VBS is going to be great this year. We will be at the church and out in the community on Monday and Friday. On Tuesday we leave for Grand Rapids. We work with GRASP (Grand Rapids Area Service Project) on Wednesday. On Thursday we go to Michigan Adventure for the day and then head home. See the VBS application in the church office or online for more information.

Senior High Calendar

May 2 – Graduation Party for Seniors, 6:15 – 7:40 p.m., Senior High Lounge. We have a large senior class this year, so we thought it would be nice to celebrate their accomplishments and upcoming graduation together. So come and join us for this fun time of celebration!

May 9 – No meeting – Mother’s Day! Your Mom is someone special. Be extra nice to her today!

May 16 – Discussion Night, 6:15 – 7:40 p.m., Senior High Lounge. This will be our last discussion night of the year. Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Kidd will help us to wrap-up this year’s theme of being Christ’s branches that bear lasting fruit. We hope to see you there.

May 23 - End of the Year Party, 6:15 – 7:40 p.m., at the home of the Shephards! The Shephards will once again host our End of the Party. It will be the last time this year that we all get together for fun, fellowship and food. It will be a great time. We hope to see you there. Look for a postcard with more details.

May 30 - No meeting - Memorial Day Weekend.

Note from Becky



“Command people who are rich in this world not to be proud. Tell them not to put their hope in riches. Wealth is so uncertain. Command those who are rich to put their hope in God. He richly provides us with everything to enjoy” 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

I want a Mustang. Not the horse, the car. I have wanted one for over 30 years now. When I was eighteen I got my first car and it was a 1970 metallic pea green Mustang with a black hard top. I loved that car. I drove it back and forth from Grand Rapids to Mt. Pleasant many, many times while I attended CMU. After I got married, Bernard, yes, that was what I called my Mustang, developed a problem that was too expensive to fix. So, I had to get rid of him. It was a sad, sad day indeed. Ever since that day I have wanted another Mustang.

Since my whole family knows how much I want a Mustang, my son and I have talked often about going to test drive them. Two weeks ago Doug, my son, called and asked just when we could go drive a car or two. I decided that day was as good as any! So, we went to Midland Ford and test drove a black Mustang GT convertible. It was a nice day and we put the top down and drove around town and on the highway. We had SO much fun. The next day I drove by McArdle Pontiac and they had a red Mustang GT convertible in their used car lot. When I got home I asked my son if he wanted to test drive another Mustang. He was more than willing! So, we went to McArdle and drove the red Mustang – again with the top down. I was sold. I wanted that car in the worst way. My son said “Buy it!” – more for himself than for me. My husband knew how much I wanted it and he said “Buy it!” My friends who saw it said “Buy it!” My brain said “Buy it!!!!” We had the payments figured out. I was going to keep my van to drive in the winter. We called the insurance company to see how much that would be. The dealer lowered the price three times. Everything and everyone was saying....“Buy it” But I just couldn’t bring myself to say “I’ll take it.” My heart wouldn’t let me. I don’t need a new vehicle. I WANT a Mustang, I don’t NEED a Mustang. I have waited for this day for so long and when it comes right down to it – I can’t buy the car!

I cannot, in good conscience drive that beautiful, beautiful car and not think about children walking three hours to and from school, people walking hours to get water to drink, or people walking great distances to see a doctor that probably doesn’t even have medicine to treat them.

Now don’t get me wrong. I am not sending \$30,000 to some child in Africa who walks three hours to and from school. I am going to be more mindful about purchases I make and how I spend my money. Maybe you could think twice when that new iPod, cell phone, or ____ (fill in the blank) comes out. Do you have one that suits the purpose? Do you NEED it or do you WANT it? I am not saying we can’t have nice things because someone else doesn’t. But do we need every new thing that comes out? Do we need something just because a newer model is available and your friend got one?

I know for me, I am going to wait for my Mustang. I know for some reason the time isn’t right just yet. Some day I will know the time is right and I will get the car I have dreamed about for over 30 years. All I know right now is.....

I WANT A MUSTANG 😊

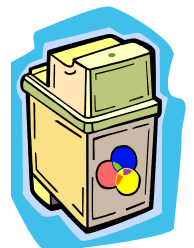
Becky

Keep those ink jet cartridges coming in!

We are still collecting ink jet cartridges to turn in for cash. The money helps youth go on mission trips.

There is a bin in the Larkin St. hallway for any cartridges that you collect.

Thank you for your help.



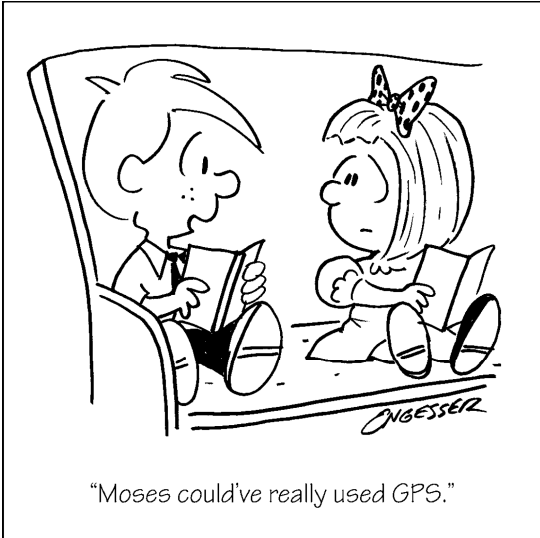
Middle School UMYF Counselors

Associate Youth Director
Becky Jenkins, 835-6797 ext 14; bjenkins@fumcmid.org
Counselors
Kevin & Debbie Dumond, Ray & Susan Drumright, Brenda Frazier, Catherine Buesing, Pat McIlvanna, Drew Talbott
Associate Pastor
Rev. Jeremy Africa, 835-6797 ext 12; jafrica@fumcmid.org



Senior High UMYF Counselors

Co-Coordinator
Brad Bahr, Jan Yuergens
Counselors
Cheryl Clark, Matt & Abby Shephard, Tim Yuergens, John & Mary Gorte, Tammy Brown, Heidi Kidd, Kaura Africa, Amy Appell, Jon & Marilyn Horton, Ashley & Brian Ostrowski, Carla & John Olson, Ryan & Kelly Venman, Greg Wilson, Tony Brown
Associate Pastor
Rev. Jeremy Africa, 835-6797 ext 12; jafrica@fumcmid.org



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You haven't signed up for Camp yet?

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

U2 Still Can Be Moved!

**LOGOS Summer Camp
August 8-12, 2010**

For all incoming 9th Through 12th Graders

Contact Jennifer Lane for registration, information, & questions

Call at 835-6797 ext 29 or email at jlane@fumcmid.org

"I will show my faith by what I do." James 2:18