

First United
Methodist Church
of Troy

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Tidings



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www.findyourfaith.org



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Sundays

9:30 Contemporary
Worship
10:00 Traditional
Worship
11:00 Coffee Hour

Coming Events

September 13
Kick off Sunday School
and Picnic
Everything provided by
Education Committee

Looking Up

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's fall and it's time to think about which Sunday morning worship service and which Sunday morning church school class would be best for you spiritually this fall. Growth occurs in our lives when we focus on something that will nurture our lives. That is what Sunday morning is all about.

As your spiritual guide, I invite you to focus on all the Sunday morning opportunities that Troy First offers us for Worship and Sunday school growth opportunities for all ages. We have two wonderful worship experiences and several excellent classes and groups from which to choose. We are blessed to have many dedicated leaders and teachers who believe that faith development and learning go hand in hand.

The United Methodist Church would say that: "through Christian Education we invite people and communities of faith

to be transformed as they are inspired and challenged to:

1. Know and experience God through Jesus Christ,
2. Claim and live God's promises, and
3. Grow and serve as Christian Disciples."

The goal of spiritual growth is not only to enrich our lives but

"The goal of spiritual growth is not only to enrich our lives but also the lives of others."

also the lives of others. My prayer is that everyone will prayerfully consider attending worship and a Sunday

morning class or group this fall so that we might be all we can be for Christ as a community of faith.

See You in Church,

Rev. Hal

Detroit East District Lay Speaker's Course

The 2009 fall course will be held from 9am to 3pm on three Saturdays (**September 26, October 31, and November 21**) with orientation on August 29 from 10 to noon. Orientation will be at Fellowship UMC, 4050 Coolidge Highway, just north of Wattles, Troy. Class location will be advised at the orientation.

The 2010 winter course will be held on seven Sundays (**February 14, 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21, & 28**) from 2:00—5:00pm at Fellowship UMC in Troy.

There is a class for youth in grades 9—12 (minimum of five needed). Contact Phyllis Hart for information.

Registration is \$35.00 per person. Register by August 20 (fall course) or February 4 (winter course) to make sure there is a book for you. Please make check payable to Detroit East District.



Library News

Several new books have been donated to the church library this summer.

Jennifer Fry donated a delightful book called Looking for Hickories. The Forgotten Wilderness of the Rural Midwest. It is on the shelves at 508.7. A reflection on the beauties of Michigan and the Midwest, I enjoyed reading this while out on our deck watching darting finches.

Also from the Frys are 2 books for our younger readers. From Wall to Wall (J304.2) which has pictures of different kinds of walls—good and bad. Could spark some discussion with your kids. The Story of India for Children (J915.4) is a history of India written for older elementary and above.

Earlier, several people donated some interesting reads:

Illuminata by Marianne Williamson (291.4)—she is the former pastor of the Unity Church in Warren. This book has prayers—for releasing anger, for broken relationships, for the healing of America...and rites of passage ceremonies for signal events in our lives. A really thought inspiring volume.

Living Faith (248.4) by Jimmy Carter tells about the values and experiences that shaped his life and how the religious beliefs he inherited were transformed into a living faith.

New International Bible Commentary (242) published by Zondervan includes articles by various scholars on each book of the Bible plus articles on environmental, political, historical, and religious background of the Old and New Testament.

Lastly, the commentary we heard during the hymn sing service on July 19 came partly from Then Sings My Soul 150 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories (245).

Jan Peacock, Librarian



Genesis Bells

We will be starting again on Monday, September 14, 4:30 - 5:15. We are looking for a few new ringers. Age is not important, as long as you can count music. Young to old if you want to learn how to ring handbells this is the place to start. When you are ready you can move to the Jubilee or Bellissima choirs. Any questions or want to join please call or email Nancy Heffron. Hope to hear from you soon!



Farewell to Paul Abdullah and to Cyndi Peltonen

Troy First sadly says goodbye to two members of our very talented musical staff. After 3 ½ years as our accompanist, Paul's last Sunday with us was August 9. The music was spectacular as he shared his wonderful talents in Traditional Worship for the last time. He is leaving to pursue a Piano Performance Master's Degree in Houston, Texas, and was delighted that so many people wished him well during coffee time.!

Cyndi has served as Music Director for 10 years, building the music program to new levels with her enthusiasm and desire to set new challenges for musical growth for the three vocal choirs. She is leaving Troy First to pursue new musical challenges at a different church. August 30 will be her last Sunday with us, so plan to enjoy her leadership during worship that Sunday! Following worship, stay for coffee time to wish her well!

While Troy First will miss both Paul and Cyndi, we can be most thankful for the time and talents they have shared with us, as we celebrate their new opportunities in life!

Resumes sought for music staff positions

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is gathering resumes for the position of music director through the first week in September; then several candidates will be selected for interviews, and the top candidates will then be asked to audition with the choir/choirs before final selection and hiring take place. This process may take much of September, after which the new music director will help SPRC select a choir accompanist, again through gathering resumes, interviewing and auditioning.

If you know of anyone who might be qualified and interested, please invite them to apply. Resumes can be mailed to Michelle Freeman, in care of the church.

In the meantime, Troy First is blessed to have some very talented people who will share in the musical leadership until these positions are filled! Please be patient and supportive of them as they offer this special ministry to us!

FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF JULY 31, 2009

Operations and Ministries

	July	YTD
Budgeted Income	32,333	226,331
Actual Income*	26,844	220,657

Building/Mortgage Reduction

	July	YTD
Mortgage Pmt	17,568	123,036
Actual Income#	15,216	102,819

*Includes income from Troy Co-op and CLC #Includes income from CLC

WHOF?

What is happening with our Facility? I'm back with another monthly report, to keep the congregation aware of what exactly is happening in our great facility. Someone was paying attention to last month's column, and suggested that we rent out our electronic sign with birthday wishes, anniversary greetings, and marriage proposals. What do you think? We could charge a specific rate for five minutes or even ten minutes. If your sweetheart drives by the church every day at 8:15am, we could have your marriage proposal out on the sign, just as she drives by. Let's hope there isn't two Suzie's with boyfriends named Ralph. Otherwise, there might be two weddings instead of one! That is the type of "out of the box" thinking that we need to utilize our facility in new and exciting ways! Maybe you have a crazy idea, email it to me! Maybe you've thought, what about....., let me know! I welcome everyone's ideas about ways to better maximize this space with which we have been pleased. Here are just a few things that have been happening over the last month:

August was a good month, with the reading program finishing up, and we were able to host the Olan Mills photo shoot in Rooms 118 and 115 for TWO days. Some people had never seen our lower level rooms, or ridden the elevator! Praise God for those beautiful rooms! At the same time, we had a big outside rental in the CLC, and then the following Saturday, another outside rental. Two HUGE weeks happen in August, one being Vacation Bible School, and the other is SOS week. It's so great that we can have extreme VBS, thanks to our great facility! I hope you had a chance to stop by during Camp E.D.G.E. The CLC

was totally decorated like a campground, complete with trees, a babbling brook, and a kayak. Meg really knows how to throw a great Vacation Bible School! We continued to welcome the Royal Scottish Country Dancers for FREE dance lessons in the CLC, and another blood drive at the end of August.

We have several contracts in progress at this time and hope to report on those items next month.

The program "a few good souls" seems to be working. That is an email sent out to retired persons or people available during the day to set up or tear down the tables and chairs in the CLC for a funeral luncheon, a UMW event, or even a rental party. People respond back to me, letting me know if they can or can not help with the set up. So far, each request has been met with willing volunteers. Thanks to all who have helped and those who will be helping! If you would like to receive this email, please email me that specific request. (If you would like to be removed, please email that request also.) My list of "a few good souls" keeps growing.

If you would like to help out the Facilities Team with supervising a rental or use of the facility, please let me know or the chair, Nancy Heffron. We are always looking for a few great volunteers who are willing to help with some of the busier nights and weekends.

That's it for this month. If you ever want to know what's happening in our facility, just come up to me and say, "WHOF" and I'll tell you.

Lisa Head



Sunday School Start-up

Sunday School Kick-off Picnic

Sunday School begins September 13 following the traditional and Find Your Faith services. There will be a beverage- only Coffee Hour; then all ages will proceed to the appropriate Sunday School Class. At 12:00, we will gather in the CLC for a picnic lunch. It is a Kick-Off, but there is no need to bring a football, shoulder pads or Gator Aid. Everything will be provided by the Education Committee. Please plan to join us as we celebrate a touchdown of Christian Education opportunities that are available at Troy First.

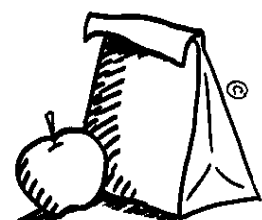
**If you print this newsletter,
please recycle it!**

Crucifers and Acolytes

Would you like to serve your church? If you are in 5th through 8th grades, you can be an acolyte and carry the flame into and out of the sanctuary. Then 9th through 12th graders are crucifers and carry the cross. We would like to hear from **new** 5th graders. If you have been an acolyte or crucifer and have not notified us to take your name off, you will be on the new schedule. Please call the church office if you are interested. After the schedule is set, we will have a training session to explain to you what happens on Sunday mornings.

Core Beliefs and Pastor's Weekly Class 10-11:30am

Rev. Hal will begin his weekly class exploring the scripture for the coming Sunday on September 23rd at 10:00am. For those who wish to eat together, bring a bag lunch.



Off to College?

Summer is flying by as usual and school is gearing up. As your college student is packing up and getting ready to start another year or a new year, please make sure the church office has his or her address even if he or she is attending college close to home. We would like to send each college student one of our famous care packages this fall. This in turn leads me to ask the congregation to contribute to the Halloween box which you will find at the welcome center later this September. We like to send individually-packaged items like gum, popcorn, ramen noodles and candy as well as non-food items. Thank you in advance to all who contribute to this important ministry.

Laurie Urbach

Grandma Cancels Christmas?

A fun-filled musical that takes a look at all those crazy relatives and how it really makes Christmas worth all the work. Join in the fun and enjoy a full turkey dinner too.

On Saturday, November 14th, we will be carpooling from the church at 9am to "Turkeyville" and the Cornwell Dinner Theater for the Matinee Dinner Show. Return will be at approximately 6 to 6:30pm. Cost is \$35.00 per person and includes tax and tip.

This is approximately a two-hour drive each way. Space is limited and the deadline is October 4th. Contact Jayne Saeger if interested.

LOGOS Ministry at Troy First

The Education Committee is moving ahead with our plans for LOGOS Ministry. This mid-week program will be offered to our children and youth (Grades Kindergarten through the 8th grade) and their families. LOGOS is a mid-week (Wednesday) evening ministry that reaches out and ministers to young people. It focuses on strengthening and nurturing Christian relationships with its four components of Family Time (dinner), Bible Study, Worship Skills and Music, and Recreation.

There will be two sessions offered this year. The first will begin Wednesday, October 21st and continue for 8 weeks (excluding Thanksgiving week) and ending December 16th. Our children's music program, including the Children's Choir and Advent Musical will be incorporated into this first session. The second session will begin in January and continue for 10 weeks, incorporating Lenten activities.

Further Information and survey packets will be sent out to our families soon and we are hoping to recruit volunteers of all ages to assist us. There will be opportunities to serve as dinner table hosts, kitchen crew, Bible Study Leaders, music, and games and recreation leaders. We are asking that you prayerfully consider a commitment to this exciting ministry.

Please contact Nancy Dolehanty for more information.

Thank you to Photo Directory Helpers

A big thank you to all those 'behind the scenes' people who have given their time to help with the process of getting our photo directory off the ground. Thanks to Jennifer Voight and Jennifer Fry for organizing and formatting our activity pages for the directory, the candid pictures that show who Troy 1st is that will be found in the front of the directory. Speaking of candid photos, thank you to everyone who has submitted photos or made suggestions so we don't omit highlighting important parts of our ministry. Also, thanks to the hostesses who greeted and showed hospitality to families when they arrived to have their photos taken: Sherry King, Laurie and Molly Mitchener, Judy Stone, Joyce Berard, Sharon Smith, Brenda Michaux, Judy Tincknell and Martha Blair. And especially thank you to all of our families who have taken the time to get their families together and come to our church or another location for their photography sitting. If you haven't had the opportunity to schedule your photo sitting, there may still be openings available.

We are hopeful that all families can be photographed for our upcoming pictorial church directory. But, if our scheduled dates of 8/24 and 8/25 don't work for you, you may be able to be scheduled at another local church and still be included in our directory. For details about available dates and locations, call Robin Ostergaard. We want everyone included.

Our plan is to distribute completed directories before the end of 2009. Again, thank you to all who helped make this project happen.

*Jim Wilson and Robin Ostergaard
Membership and Evangelism Committee*

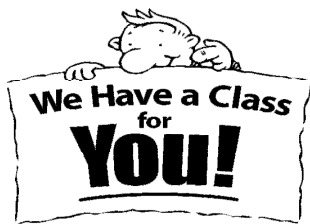
Coffee Hour is Alive and Well!

It is a pleasure to greet you and to serve you beverages and goodies during Coffee Hour each Sunday. Thank you to all who have generously offered their time & effort, their donations of food and money. I would like to especially thank Diane Martin and Nora-Lee Luttrell –their efforts each Sunday is invaluable and makes this arrangement for our fellowship time possible. Thank you to all of you who greet us with your good cheer each Sunday!

Thank you to all who have hosted Coffee Hour these past several months – each of you has been gracious and generous. Together we offer a welcoming fellowship time for our visitors and our congregation.

Those of us on the Sunday Hospitality Committee (SHC) are striving to assist hosts to have a stress-free experience. Please remember that SHC prepares all beverages and that we stand ready to assist hosts in the kitchen with food preparations and table setting. Another popular option for hosting is to leave food for SHC to prepare and serve for you. Please consider hosting a Coffee Hour this month! You will find a sign up sheet on the Coffee Hour message board. Thank you!

Jeff Boelter



2009 Fall Christian Education Opportunities

Our Christian Education program will kick-off on Sunday, September 13th with Sunday school classes for all ages! The classes will start promptly at 11:20 immediately following Coffee Hour in the Christian Life Center. Everyone is encouraged to attend and learn more about our faith.

SUNDAY MORNINGS WILL INCLUDE:

For adults:

FAITHLINK looks at current events from a faith perceptive using United Methodist resources. Kaj Ostergaard and Jane Egermann facilitate this discussion-based class.

GOOD NEWS is an in-depth study of the Bible. They will continue with John, Chapter 12. Sue Olesen leads this class.

PARENTING UP is a class for parents of tweens, teens and young adults. The group explores parenting with positive faith-based materials. Jennifer Voight will facilitate this group.

SHORT SEMINARS will be doing an Old Testament study beginning with Jeremiah. Jordan Lal leads this class.

FOR SR. HIGH: Our youth in grades 9-12 come together to look at how their Christian faith applies to their life.

FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL: Our 6th-8th graders explore their faith and prepare for Confirmation in our "Claim the Name" group.

FOR ELEMENTARY-AGED LEARNERS:

Spirit Seekers is a rotation model Sunday school for children ages 4 thru 5th grade. This creative "hands on" learning helps the Bible stories come alive for children.

DURING WORSHIP TIME:

CHILDCARE is available during worship and during the Sunday school time. Babies are cared for by weekly volunteers in our cheerful pre-walkers' room.

Toddlers are welcome in our toddler room with faith-based games, stories and group play.

PRE-SCHOOLERS (ages 3 & 4) learn and play in a class designed just for their age group. They are welcomed into the sanctuary during traditional worship for our "time for young disciples" and then they go back to the room with their class for more learning and fun.

JR. CHURCH meets weekly following the time for young disciples for grades K-3rd. The children spend the remaining time worshipping and learning in a children-friendly environment.

FAITH IN ACTION meets on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month. This group does mission projects each time they meet. They put their faith into action! The first Sunday of the month they remain in church for Communion.

WEEK DAYS:

Sermon Roundtable will meet with Rev. Hal on Wednesday mornings from 10 to 11:30am beginning September 23. Bring a bag lunch if you'd like to eat together.

WEEK NIGHTS:

LOGOS will be offered on Wednesday evenings from 5:00-7:15pm for K-8th grades beginning on October 21 for 8 weeks excluding Thanksgiving. The second session will begin in January and continue for 10 weeks. See related article on page 4 of this Tidings.

Embracing the Journey—This is a spiritual formation group led by Rev. Hal Weemhoff on Wednesday evenings during LOGOS from October 21 through November 18 at 6:15 to 7:15pm.

DISCIPLE I— We're looking to start a DISCIPLE class in the fall. This is the best Bible study course available. Information will be available soon.

Study Group— The Will of God based on the book by Leslie Weatherhead. Watch for details..

The **Book Group** leaders are deciding on a book for this fall. The book and the schedule will be announced soon! The group typically meets on Thursday nights.

UMYF—Youth group for senior high and middle school Sunday nights from 6:30-8:00pm

The schedule is still being developed and more details will be added. Watch for more information in upcoming Tidings, the church website and church bulletins.



Farewell from Cyndi

As most of you know by now, I will be saying a fond farewell to Troy First on August 30. I have accepted a new position at a different church, which offers a great opportunity to try something a little different. I have enjoyed my tenure here and feel very fortunate to have learned so much, participated in some great music making, and built many wonderful relationships.

The past ten years have been very fulfilling. I have enjoyed working with the Chancel Choir, One Voice, Cherub Choir, and Youth Instrumental Ensemble. I had so much fun playing bells in Jubellee and am grateful Sheryl Dukes asked me. I owe a debt of gratitude to all of you who have volunteered your musical talents through bells, choir, special music, youth and children's musicals, VBS and Sunday School Music.

I will sincerely miss so much about this "Fellowship of Faith." I appreciate the love and support the congregation has extended me and hope to enjoy your continued love and support as I start this new chapter in my career.

Please join us on August 30 for a special worship service featuring, Cherub Choir, One Voice, and Chancel Choir, followed by a special coffee hour, where I will be able to greet you.

*Fondly,
Cyndi*

Attention All Singers

If you have ever sung in any of our choirs, I invite you to celebrate my ten years of music ministry by singing with us in worship on August 30. Please meet in the sanctuary that morning according to the following schedule:

Chancel Choir – 9:00 a.m. He Never Failed Me Yet

Cherub Choir – 9:20 a.m. Sing It!

One Voice – 9:30 a.m. Make Me a Servant

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

*** Volunteers needed

Activity	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Greeters	The Abdo Family	Jerry and Brenda Michaux	The Elliott Family	Brian, Kelly and Brady Dukes
Ushers	Ed Freeland Marie Leverenz Doug Smith Mary Smith	Duane Alling Ben Olesen Tom Stevens Marie Watson	Patti Aurand Chris DeVilling Corwin Hanson Bob Himes	Terry Pritchett Lyle Pushman Roger Steiger Chuck Tincknell
Crucifer	Rachel Voight	Jackson Steiger	Dylan Woods	
Acolytes	Beth Rhoades Grace Voight	Jamie Miller Jessica Moore	Lauren Matthews Merrick Rumel	
Sound Engineers	Steve Olsavsky	Joe Meek	Staci Drake	Kaj Ostergaard
Coffee Hour Hosts	Call Jeff Boelter to volunteer to help.			
Monday Counters	Judy Conley Linda DeVilling Bunny Schultz	Joyce Berard Ben Olesen Lee Ann Teagan	Jane Egermann Nancy Heffron Jayne Saeger	Duane Alling Julie Olsavsky Marie Watson
Trustee on Duty	Art Conley Rick Wright	Ralph Truelove	Bill Schaper	LaNae Michael
Altar Flowers	Barbara Burnsteel	Woods' 25th Barnes' 30th		
Jr. Church	Allison Rhoades Music	Lori Ann Rumel Lee Ann Teagan	Julie Olsavsky Anna & Kara	Tom Stevens Lyn Moore
Faith in Action	Remain in Church for Communion	Kelly Gordon	Marie Leverenz	Karen Carl
Nursery (Newborns-Crawlers)	Lisa Michaux Gwen Simon Tina Olesen	Jane Berquist Melissa Meek	Angela DiBartolomeo Chris Knoper	Mary Robertson
Toddlers (Walkers-2s)	Geoffrey Williston Gary Williams	Jessica Urbach	Jennifer Rivera	
3/4 Year Olds	The Mitchener Family	Ann Goff Katie Kuiper	Sharon Ostrander Kristen Truelove	Jill Woods Emily Woods

Only Every Ten Years!

Beginning July 27, 2010, our United Methodist Conference is offering a 9-day trip to the world famous 400 year old Passion Play of Jesus in Oberammergau, Germany; plus other Alpine Wonders.

Joyce and Karl Henn of Troy First are excited about being hosts for this Christian-based Educational Opportunities Tour. Brochures are available in front of the church office.

Informational meeting is Sunday, September 20 at 12:00 p.m. immediately following Sunday School.



September 11: Scrapbooking
October 16, 17: Scrapbooking
November 13, 14: Scrapbooking
More details to follow.

African Children's Choir

Big Beaver UMC is hosting the African Children's Choir on Wednesday, September 2 at 7pm. You won't want to miss this exciting concert. A free-will offering will be taken. Big Beaver UMC is located at 3753 John R, just south of Wattles Road.

Calling all Scrapbookers!

September 11 will be the next date that we are hosting a "Back to School Crop" in our Christian Life Center. On Friday night from 6pm-midnight for the low price of \$18.00, you will be able to scrap for a full six hours, including dinner and snacks! We're hoping that many new scrapbookers will be eager to join us for this fun evening! Reserve your spot today, or tell a scrapbooking friend about this event!

