

February/March 2012

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Future Plans:

April 13th-15th:
Confirmation Rally/
Middle School
Retreat
June 11th-15th:
Middle School Camp
July 23rd-27th:
High School Camp



LOOKING AT LENT AND PAST ENDEAVORS...

...help us know where we have come from, where we are going, and where God is leading us...

As of this week I am starting year five here at First United Methodist Church and I am amazed as to how much progress and growth I have seen in our church over the last four years. Little did I know, until reminiscing about it, that I would see that much growth and progress in my life!

Looking through the past four years reminds me of what Lent looks like. Lent was a new thing for me when I started working here at the church. You see, I didn't grow up in a church that participated in Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, or Lent for that matter. They weren't our traditions in our church and were totally foreign to me when I started here at FUMC. And through the years my viewpoint of Lent has changed and been molded into what it is today. Lent is a season in our lives where we can examine the progress of our lives through many new practices that we decide to develop over the forty days.

Whether you decided to leave something behind...

- ...like facebook
- ...or television
- ...or meat
- ...or chocolate.

Or you decide to take up a new spiritual practice...

- ...like reading your Bible daily
- ...or praying before every meal
- ...or fasting through a meal

Or you decide to do something for others that you normally wouldn't...

- ...like buying a meal for a stranger

...or helping out a social agency
...or taking friends out to coffee to enjoy conversation and time together.

All that being said, over the forty days of Lent we decide to do something to further the Kingdom of God and grow in our faith! Which is what it is meant to do, but I would encourage you to look back over those forty days and ask the question, "what have I learned from this season of my life?" Just like in life and where we have come and where we are going...

Perfect example...over the past four years God has been molding me and my life for the plans He has in my future. And one of those future things will happen this Lenten Season. God has been molding me and put on my heart for four years to try a new "Coffee House" like worship service. And through molding and many conversations, we are finally starting it Sunday, March 4th @ 6:00 PM! God is so good, because He knew we weren't ready four years ago and even a year ago He knew that we weren't ready. But we firmly believe God is opening up an endeavor that is based off of past endeavors.

So if you are interested in this service or have somebody in mind who you think might like this, we would love to have you or them join us. God is so good!

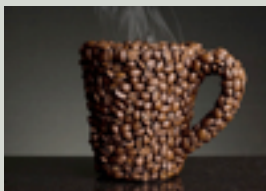


Zach's Make-Shift Bed at Mid-Winter!

FEBRUARY, MARCH, & FUTURE EVENTS

**Starting March 4th - Easter Sunday:
Jesus & Java on Sunday nights @
6:00 PM:**

**Are you looking for something different?
Are you looking for a different time? Do Sunday
mornings not work for you?
Are you looking for a different place? Do you
want a more casual feel?
Are you looking for a different worship style? Do
you like different music?
Are you looking for a new worship community? Do
you want to interact with the Message?
If you answered yes to any of these questions,
starting in March
we have a new
place for you!**



During the Season of Lent we will be participating in this service as a youth group. We will hang out and play games or do something special for the half hour after the service, so youth group will be done no later than 7:45 p.m. on Sunday nights. We would really like you to try this new worship experience in our church and invite friends and family who might not normally come to one of our other church services.

**April 13th - 15th:
Middle School Rally 2012 in Wichita:
Confirmation Trak & "New" Justice
Trak:**

This year we're taking the Confirmation Rally to the next step by adding an additional trak for the rest of our middle school students. We will all worship together at the open and



close of the rally. In the middle, the journeys will be quite different.

C-Trak (Confirmation): Imagine an event where you will learn how to be connectational, grow in your faith, and show Christian love through missions. Not enough? How about we add large doses of fun, food, and worship you will soon not forget? Sound good? It is! This event is considered by some churches as a "rite of passage" in being confirmed. It will be a blast!

J-Trak (Justice for all others): Want to learn homelessness? Then the J-Trak is for you! You will experience poverty by staying in a simulated homeless shelter, getting your needs met by helpful organizations, and learning what it's like to live in poverty on the street. You will travel in small groups (with adult sponsors) as you "live out" a homeless experience. How cool is that!?!

That is Friday and Saturday, then we will be hanging out together with both groups on Saturday night and going to church together at St. Mark United Methodist Church in Wichita, before we head home!

**June 11th - 15th:
Middle School Summer
Camp "Word Up!" @ Camp
Horizon (Grades 6th - 8th):**

Words have power. Words hurt. Words also heal. Words help us communicate our beliefs in God. In the midst of a week of crazy games and challenges, expect to find your words. **Word Up!** Trust us...you won't want to miss this week at camp. Cost is \$240 (Scholarships Available). More info? Check out www.allthingsyouth.com.

**July 23d -27th:
High School (LDW)
Camp @ Camp
Horizon (Grades 9th
- College Freshmen):**

Light, Dark, When? Living Deliberately Wild. Limitless Delightful Worries. Late Days Waking. Lose Da Watches. Lasting Driven Worship. Yeah, it's high school camp. Be there! Cost is \$250 (Scholarships Available). More info? Check out www.allthingsyouth.com.



If you have any questions, comments or concerns please contact me...

Brian Faust
Director of Youth Ministries
brian@fumcgc.com

YOUTH GROUP SUNDAY NIGHTS

February 26th @ 6:00 PM	Youth Group
March 4th @ 6:00 PM	Youth Group (J & J on Sunday Nights)
March 11th @ 6:00 PM	Youth Group (J & J on Sunday Nights)
March 18th @ 6:00 PM	Youth Group (J & J on Sunday Nights)
March 25th @ 6:00 PM	Youth Group (J & J on Sunday Nights)
April 1st @ 6:00 PM	Youth Group (J & J on Sunday Nights)
April 8th	Only J & J on Sunday Nights
Friends are always welcome at all Youth Group Events!	

Wednesday Night Bible Studies

Bible Study: 6:15 PM in the Basement

We are studying a series called, "Prodigal God" by Timothy Keller. Come and join us as we learn about our lives and how we need to grow closer to God! After a small teaching time, we split up into a boys small group and a girls small group!