

October Gleam, 2012

From the Pastor:

Dear Church Family:

What defines your life? Is it wealth? Belongings? Faith? Many of us live with a scarcity mentality, worried that we must gather and hoard as much as possible, saving for some imagined “rainy day.” Or we focus on self-gratification. But the Bible promises both God’s blessings and joy for those who choose to live another way.

Last Sunday we began our stewardship/pledge campaign with the study of Adam Hamilton’s *Enough: Cultivating Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. During the next several weeks in October, we’ll be looking at what the Bible teaches us about financial management. We’ll consider how we make and spend money, how we deal with debt, and how we save and invest for the future. We’ll examine how God wants us to relate to our money and earthly possessions, and we’ll explore what it means to live a life of gratitude and contentment. I sincerely hope and pray that you will continue to be with us as we explore God’s gift of true freedom!

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Chuck



A Message from our Christian Education Director

Dear Church Family,

Happy October. I hope that like me you have found a rhythm for the fall with school, work, family and church. Life can get very busy; but I know I always feel better when all of these have a place in my life.

The **Blessing of the Animals** will take place on **Sunday, October 2nd** at 6pm out in front of the church, but first, during the 10:30 service we will have the **Blessing of the Stuffed Animals**. All children are welcome to bring their favorite stuffed animal(s) to church on Sunday to have it blessed as a representation of the living animals who bless our lives.

Our Youth Program is still going through some transitions. We are in the process of talking with other UMC churches about creating a joint youth group for the area, but we are not waiting for these conversations to finish. Youth Group will be meeting **Saturday, October 15th** from 6-8pm at our church for a **Game Night** with youth from Good Shepard UMC and First UMC Everett.

We are also moving forward with the **Youth-led Service on October 30th**. The Middle and High School youth will be in charge of the 10:30 service that week. They will provide the sermon, pick the music, the scripture, and any liturgy they wish to include. I and the other youth leaders will be encouraging them to think outside the box and explore the many ways we can worship God. I hope all of you will join us with an open mind and loving spirit as the youth express their religious devotion.

On **October 29th, 6-8pm** will be the **Family Halloween Party**. I was glad to hear that everyone had fun last year with the games, candy, pizza, and costumes and am very excited to join you this year. Like last time, your entrance fee to the party will be a costume or \$5. *Everyone*, adults and children, should come dressed up as their favorite cartoon character, scary ghost, princess, or mythical creature. Be creative, be funny, be scary, but be in costume!

Dates to remember:

- Sept 30-Oct 1 – Intergenerational Church Family Retreat
- October 2 – World Communion Sunday & Blessing of the Animals
- October 29 – Church Family Halloween Party
- October 30 – Youth-Led Sunday Service
- November 6 – Sunday School Service Project – Selah Mission Project

Things to remember:

- Stuffed Animal for Oct 2nd
- Costume for Halloween Party

Blessings,
Anne



A Message from our Organist / Choir Director

Greetings FUMC Congregation!

First, I would like to thank all of you for your warm welcome the past few Sundays. I have been so encouraged and uplifted by so many of you and I can certainly tell this will be a wonderful year in the life of our congregation. I hope that the music the past few weeks has helped you engage spiritually and I should take this opportunity to thank the choir for their dedication to our music ministry. They have been doing a wonderful job adapting very quickly to a new director and have been a delight with which to work. I hope that if you are even considering singing with this fun bunch of folks that you understand that you would be welcomed into an open (and fun) community. We always have room for more singers (whether you have only a little or a lot of experience).

Looking forward into autumn we only have more exciting things to come. Pastor Chuck and the SPRC have asked me to give a recital and I couldn't be more excited to present An **Afternoon of Song on Sunday, October 16th at 4pm** in the Emerson Library. Joining me will be my good friend, Jessica Rucinski who will accompany this recital of vocal selections from composers such as Ralph Vaughan Williams, Roger Quilter, and Aaron Copeland. Following this recital there will be a potluck dinner. I hope many of you will consider coming to what I'm sure will be an enjoyable afternoon of music followed by even more enjoyable fellowship! Look for posters around the church for any other details starting this Sunday.

In addition to this exciting musical opportunity I wanted to take a moment to inform everyone that beginning October 2nd, I am delighted to invite Ian Bowling to join our choir as the new Bass Soloist at FUMC. Ian comes to us from Boston Conservatory where he is currently studying for his Masters in Voice. Ian has been blessed with an amazing instrument and I have no doubt that you will be as welcoming to him as you were to Calissa and myself. He has a lovely voice and an even lovelier personality and I'm sure you will enjoy getting to know him throughout the year!

As you can see there are lots of exciting things going on in the life of the music ministry here at the church. If you are interested in becoming involved in any way, please do not hesitate to contact Chuck or myself for more details. The door is always open.

Blessings to you all,
Michael



A Message from our Finance Committee Chair

Why I Give

You heard me at Homecoming talk about attendance, pledging, the budget and our deficit. I also spoke of ideas and thoughts I would share around pledging. I also touched on my own circumstances. But before I talk about how I pledge, let me discuss why I pledge.

I pledge for two reasons, first to recognize my gifts from God, because all gifts come from Him. Secondly, and more practically, I give to support our congregation and mission. It is easy for me to recognize the gifts I receive from God; I don't need to look further than my family, my friends, my community, my world. I recognize I must give back, and that I must give freely and generously. The free part is easy, the generous, not so much. This brings me to my practical side. We have a church building that runs on oil for heat and electricity for lights. It requires maintenance and we have it insured. Our church is made up of three things, our pastoral ministry (Chuck), our music ministry and our Christian education. I can't imagine our church without any of these. I can imagine other ministries and missions we may wish to participate in, but these three define us. Without a full time pastor, a shepherd, we are left to wander. Without our music, we are not the First United Methodist Church of Melrose, our music ministry has defined us. And without our Christian education, there is nothing for families and their children who are the leaders of our congregation tomorrow. We must keep the families we have and add new families if we are to grow and sustain ourselves. And that's why I give, to support and strengthen these three pillars.

Now, how do I give. I know that the heat and lights stay on throughout the year, I also know that despite my best intentions, and we all know what they say about best intentions, I may not be at church every Sunday. To balance these two items, Sue and I decide how much to give and every month, we scheduled that payment with our bank. Yes, we give electronically. Since the Church's bank does not accommodate direct electronic transfers at this time, our bank automatically produces a check each month and mails it to the Church. That way, I am honoring my pledge and never have to worry about missing or falling behind. Also, our pledge comes in twelve months a year, that means the summer too when even though expenses are down, we still have certain costs to meet each month.

But now what happens each Sunday when the collection plate goes around? I must say, the thought of allowing the plate to pass me by fills me with trepidation. Do the ushers know I gave at the office? Should I tell them? I am on the finance committee and Sue trustees, how would others perceive us if they thought we weren't giving...but we are. To ease our collective conscience, each week we attend service, we provide a gift in addition to our pledge. And that works for us, we pledge to support the church and we provide gifts to recognize the gifts bestowed on us. An imperfect solution maybe but it works for us.

In the coming weeks, I hope to provide stories by others of why they give. Perhaps you will share yours. I will also be discussing other resources and types of gifts such as legacies and bequests, gifts of stock as well as gifts of collectibles. Our pledge drive wraps up on Consecration Sunday, October 23, let's share our gifts with the world.

Charlie Rhuda

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FAIR 2012

YES, There will be a Fair! And another Fair!

Save the dates -

Saturday November 5 (All-Church Fair), 9 am-2pm

Saturday, November 12 (Craft Fair), 9 am-2pm

The Fairs are alive and well.

We will have more information in the church bulletins starting September 11, but in the meantime, please note the following. Things are different this year because we have rented out a good portion of our church to the Acera School, so these points are very important.

First - the All-Church Fair on November 5:

We need a chairperson - will it be you? Free instructions provided.

White Elephant - This year, because of the Acera School's using a good portion of our building, **WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STORE ANY WHITE ELEPHANT ITEMS IN THE CHURCH (EVEN THE OFFICE)** until the week before the Fair (starting October 29). Please bring your donations to the Parish Hall no earlier than October 29 and no later than November 3. If you need a pick-up, we will give you some phone numbers at a later date.

Silent Auction - This has been the biggest money-maker at the Fair since its inception in 2004, but without your donations we cannot make it successful. The paperwork takes a bit of time to organize, so having the information early is essential. Auction items may include goods (antiques, hand-made items, restaurant or other gift certificates, etc.) or services (tax prep, baby-sitting, a ride to the airport, a dinner, etc., etc.), or a week at your cottage or time-share, or something unique even we haven't thought of yet. Please, please help us in any way you can. You never know what will be valuable to someone else. We already have an antique china cabinet and a nice primitive print with blue matting. What can you come up with? We can use things of lesser value also so that everyone has a chance to bid.

Baked Goods - As always, we need YOU and your skill at baking the best home-made goodies in town. Besides baked goods we can use jams, jellies, fudge and other candy, home-made beans, meatballs, casseroles and anything else you can think of. Think of meals in single portions that can be frozen. What's YOUR specialty? Men, don't leave this up to the ladies as usual - there are some great chefs, both men and women, in our congregation, and here's a chance for you to contribute to this area.

Lunch - Famous all over town as the best Fair lunch there is. We need home-made pies, pies, pies...and cakes that can be sliced into servings. Individual servings of shortcakes or puddings or parfaits in clear plastic cups (some for diabetics if possible). Will you help with this? How about you men?

Jewelry - Please let us know early about any jewelry you would like to contribute. It takes a lot of time to sort, clean, prepare and price these items, so please don't wait until the last week and bring a bag of tangled chains. We appreciate everything, but remember to appreciate the work of those who are making things happen.

Knit Goods - Please let one of us know if you have anything hand-made that you will be donating. Remember, sizes (especially) and prices should be attached to the items before you bring them to us.

Christmas – Please talk to Jan McNary if you can contribute to Christmas crafts - always our most beautiful room!

Books and DVDs, plants, other crafts – as always.

Bag Ladies - Remember? We can always use clean folded (not jumbled) plastic grocery bags (in a zip bag or in an elastic band) to use for merchandise. If you have brown paper grocery bags, please lay them out flat. These are used for White Elephant and other tables, and we must be able to store them neatly and grab them easily for customers.

Most important – If you feel the Spirit move you, PLEASE help by joining the Fair Committee. Many hands make light work, but the hands we have right now are mostly arthritic and could sure use your help. Do you know how important you are? Every single idea counts. Every minute of helping to do some chore helps. If you could help with setting up or dismantling the Fair it would REALLY help. And monetary donations would help a lot to offset the costs of running the Fair.

Now - the Craft Fair on November 12:

Please see Alison Burke to rent a table and for details on price, etc. The concept is that you rent a table (the church gets the rental money only) and you keep all the profits on the sale of your merchandise. THIS IS A CRAFT FAIR, NOT A YARD SALE. The customers are very seriously craft-oriented and are coming to look for specific items, so each table purchaser will be vetted as to the merchandise, etc. If you are a crafter, please call Alison (781-665-5875) or Beth (781-662-7060) to arrange for a contract.

Thanks for helping to make this year's Fairs the most successful ever! More information will follow soon.

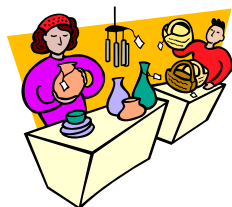
Blessings to you.

The Fair Committee
(we'll identify ourselves soon too, but we hope to include your name).

Join the Prayer Shawl Ministry



We are looking to increase the number of people making prayer shawls. Do you know how to knit, crochet, sew or create by some other method? We have a knit pattern but you don't have to use this pattern if you would prefer to use your own pattern or form of creation. We would love to share the joy of giving to more of our church family so we can spread the love of receiving. Please call Linda Field at 781-662-8027 or Betty Whittier at 781-665-



FUMC Fall Craft Fair Saturday, November 12 From 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Save the Date and tell your friends!

Table cost is \$20.00. Crafters only, please. Not enough crafts to sell to rent a whole table? Consider sharing one with a friend.

Contracts available from the church office. Coffee, donuts and a light lunch will be sold. Free Admission. Please join us for a fun and profitable day!

Among Our People

New Address

Mrs. Frederica (Leah) Greene
c/o Mrs. Frank Knoll
175 Palermo Place
The Villages, FLA 32159

Birthdays

Charlotte Ford celebrated her 100th birthday (9/6/11) at the Wingate Reading with over 40 family members and friends on Saturday, September 3rd. Special thanks to Mary Cail, Ruth Dost, Trish, Mary, Becky and Ari Faro, Shirley and Fred Hayes, Judy Tanner, Bea Wadland and Rev. Hartman for their prayers, cards and visits. Charlotte enjoyed seeing everyone!

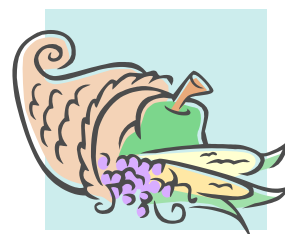
Priscilla and Lynn Hunt
Bob and Iris Ford

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who sent cards and to Pastor Chuck for his visit while I was in the hospital. I am home now and doing well with therapy three times a week for a complete knee replacement.

Kathy Graham

A special thank you to Dick Sawtelle for once again providing the services of Garrick Landscaping and keeping our church grounds so beautiful.



Upcoming Events.....

Blessing of the Animals	October 2
Youth Game Night	October 15
Musical Concert	October 16
Senior Saints	
Lunch at the Old Mill	October 18
November GLEAM Deadline	October 24
Church Halloween Party	October 29
Youth Sunday	October 30
All Church Fair	November 5
All Saints Sunday	November 6
Craft Fair	November 12
Celebration Sunday	November 13
Family Bowling	November 13
Hanging of the Greens	November 27

TV Ministry

Telecasting of the Sunday morning 10:30 worship services are on MMTV (**Melrose Cable Channel 3 & Verizon Cable Channel 39**) at the following times:

Sunday at 9:00 A.M. & 5:30 P.M. and
Monday at 8:00 P.M.



**First United Methodist Church
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(781) 662-7060**

**FIRST CLASS
POSTAGE**

This material was mailed October 4.

November GLEAM Deadline
Will be on Monday, October 24th .