
Spirit Lines
An invitation to participate in the life of the church

First United Methodist Church of Somerville
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October 19, 2008

Laity Sunday! One of the rallying cries of the Reformation, a key concept in that massive transformation of the Western church, was the belief in “the priesthood of all believers.” Imagine that. At a point where the church and its hierarchy were at the peak of their power and influence throughout Europe, some thinkers came up with the radical realization that the scriptures call all believers, not just an ordained elitist clergy, into service in the Body of Christ. Indeed, the Word is not realized at all if it ends with the clergy, it must find its life and breath in the lives of the laity engaged in the world to be real. Yes, hear this clearly: even today and in this service, if the people of Christ do not receive the word of God and carry it with them out into the world, we are not part of the Body of Christ.

Welcome visitors! Each week our worship services are blessed with visitors. Some visit regularly, others may be here for the first time. Some are looking for a new church home; others, not so much. All are welcome! We are not pushy here and believe no one should be pressured. Visitors, if you’d like to be added to our church mailing list and get our monthly newsletter, please include your full mailing address when you sign the attendance pad. Thanks, it helps! And any time you’d like to know more about First United Methodist Church, just ask! We are eager to share our ministries with you and we’d be happy to get to know you, too.

CROP WALK - NEXT SUNDAY! You still have time to get in shape for a nice little stroll around town with a very, very serious purpose. It is easy for us sitting in relative comfort to forget that—at this very moment—children are dying of malnutrition and hunger. We don’t want to think to think of the agony those mothers are feeling. We can do nothing and try to put the thoughts out of our minds, or we can do what we can: support the work of Church World Service through CROP. Everyone can walk, or help, or donate!

Phyllis is now a Southern Belle. Yes, it’s true. The moving van pulled out of town the other day. Now that she is gone we can go public with our plans. See the November newsletter for details. Meanwhile, we are looking for photographs, preferably digital, to load into one of those fancy-schmancy digital picture frames that automatically displays the images, one after another, like a slide show. Do you have any photos of yourself, your family, Phyllis, the church, former pastors or church members? Please let us borrow your pictures, or better yet, send us the images via e-mail, and we will load them into the frame!

Youth Group Bake Sale After getting together the Friday night before to prepare and bake, both the Jr. and Sr. Youth Groups held a bake sale at the Somerville Street Fair on Oct 5th. Great fun and fellowship was had by all. We are proud to announce that all of our products were sold and the proceeds will go towards our individual missions, events and future outings. Thank you to all of the parents for their help and to the two youth groups for their spirit and energy!

TWIST MISSION for October and November – UMCOR Sager Brown School Kits!! We are currently in the process of working with the church and the community to help collect School kits to donate to the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Please look for the bulletin insert to see how you can help out! We have set a goal of 50 kits and we have already received 15! Thank you to all and keep them coming! Each bag will be sure to put a smile on every child who is currently without a school or supplies due to a natural disaster.

Gold Found in Church Basement! Yes, it’s true. Congratulations to all the United Methodist Alchemists* who turned a small mountain of stuff downstairs into nice little pile of money. (Formerly United Methodist Women. Webster’s New World Dictionary defines alchemy as “... the chemistry of the Middle Ages, the chief aim of which was to change the baser elements into gold.” This is precisely what our magical women did in the basement of the church with their successful Rummage Sale!)

Hey Kids!! Thanks for coming to church today! Don't forget to get one of our clipboards so you can color during the service. Children will be dismissed by class to their Sunday School rooms following the Time for Young Disciples. Be sure to take home a copy of *Pockets*--a magazine just for you--filled with stories, games, and puzzles. You'll find copies available in the Narthex. Where's the Narthex? It's where the minister stands and shakes hands with people after church.

Going UP^ Elevator Capital Campaign!! We will be breaking ground soon so it is time we got serious about how we'll be paying it. This will be our major project for the next three or four years. It is true that we are paying for it out of our endowment fund. But the loan is not free. As soon as we start withdrawing the principal, we lose the interest we otherwise would have earned. We lose a source of income we need and have been relying upon for everyday expenses. In all the craziness of the markets it is a tough time to be doing this, but do it we must. We will seriously need all the help we can get from everyone until we get those borrowed funds restored to our endowment fund.

GNJAC United Methodist Women Annual Fall Meeting

Saturday, October 25, 2008, 9 a.m - 3 p.m. at the First UMC of Passaic.
Keynote Speaker - Harriett Jane Olson, Chief Executive of Women's Division

TWIST 2008 – 2009 If you are in 4th, 5th or 6th grade we want to welcome you to join this year's Jr. Youth Group, TWIST! Tweens With Intense Spirit Together! Throughout the year the group will gather on the average of twice a month to attend exciting activities, work on great missions or just give back to the community with a smile, a hand or just a moment of our time! Please contact Laura Sergile at 908-391-7253 or LauraSergile@optonline.net if you are interested. Registration Forms can be found in the Family Room and placed in the TWIST / VBS box in the front office.

October TWIST Meeting Today! Immediately following service! We will be working on our Mission, party plans for Halloween, activity for November along with some discussion, and a game or two! Hope to see you there!

HALLOWEEN PARTY! The TWIST Group will be hosting the FUMC's second Halloween party in Fellowship Hall on October 25th from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM. All are welcome to join us as we play games, gobble down some goodies, try to bite an apple or two and enjoy each others company. There will be a sign up sheet in the Family room soon for food donations towards a great lunch/snack buffet! Hope to see you there!

Just a closer walk with Thee... Here's a good way to deepen your walk with God. Men's Walk to Emmaus – November 6-9, and Women's Walk to Emmaus – November 13-16. These retreats begin on Thursday evening and conclude early Sunday evening. While not exclusively a Methodist activity, the Walk to Emmaus is a part of the Upper Room ministries. Information can be found <http://www.upperroom.org/emmaus/>. Registration for these events is now underway. Those interested in participating in this spiritual experience this fall should talk with Terri Faltas, Debbie or Mark Halverson.

Looking Ahead...

Sunday	October 19	Laity Sunday
Saturday	October 25	Halloween Party
Sunday	October 26	CROP Walk
Friday	October 31	Reformation Day
Saturday	November 1	All Saints Day
Sunday	November 2	Daylight Saving Time ends
Sunday	November 2	All Saints Communion
Thursday-Saturday	November 13-15	Picture Taking for Photo Directory
Sunday	November 22	Holly Time Bazaar, Ham Loaf Dinner
Tuesday	November 25	Community Thanksgiving Service
Thursday	November 27	Thanksgiving
Sunday	November 30	First Sunday of Advent
Sunday	November 30	United Methodist Student Day
Sunday	November 30	Christmas Concert
Tuesday	December 2	UMW Christmas Party, 7:30 PM
Saturday	December 13	Christmas Party
Sunday	December 21	Christmas Pageant
Wednesday	December 24	Christmas Eve
Thursday	December 25	Christmas!!