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

First United Methodist Church of Somerville
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October 26, 2008

Daniel is Preaching! Recent seminary graduate and former student intern at the John Street United Methodist Church of New York City, Daniel Uhagaze is preaching today. Daniel currently serves as our Sexton and Minister of the Cleanliness is Next to Godliness Department. He leads us in worship today on our spiritual pathway AND has vacuumed the very carpet under your feet as you go! Despite the war and violence he has seen, he has a message of joy and the love of God in his life to share with us.

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 - TODAY! HERE!! Just wander downstairs after the service and you will see folks setting up for the start of the CROP Walk this afternoon. We are the starting point! It is not too late to volunteer to walk or help. Generous donors are especially needed! You are welcome to take a nice little stroll around town with a very, very serious purpose. Let's do what we can do what we can to support the work of Church World Service through CROP. Everyone can walk, or help, or donate!

A Little Something for Phyllis 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! In addition, those who missed the secret brown envelope and would like to make a monetary gift donation, are invited to do so. Please make the check payable to the church and note "For Phyllis" on the memo line. ASAP!! Thanks!

Speaking of Secretaries... we have a new one! That voice you hear when you call the church should sound familiar. We are pleased to announce that as of last Monday, October 20, Joanna Sasso has been hired as our new Church Secretary. Originally brought in to help Phyllis prepare for the transition, Joanna has been a great help keeping everything running smoothly around here. Joanna has served as our newsletter editor, Communications committee chairperson, and recording secretary for both Church Council and the annual church conferences. Please be sure to stop by the office and say hi to Joanna next time you are nearby!

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.

Our Study Groups are Underway! With great enrollment in both the "Disciple 1" class, and the "Living the Good Life Together" class, as well as our regulars on Sunday mornings, there is a movement afoot here at First UMC. People are learning, thinking, growing and talking to one another about faith: Faith in general and their own faith. Friendships and spiritual lives are blossoming. What will come of all this learning? Where will it lead us? Amazing things could happen! Men, you are about to be left behind if you're not careful. The classes this time are all women! Better hop on board next time around!

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 for 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.

Mercy House Honored! The Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders has recognized Mercy House with "Commendations and Praise" for Mercy House's participation in the Point in Time Survey, assistance with the Drop-In Center called "Project Homeless Connect" at SHIP, and for the monthly dinners held over the winter here at First Church for the street people and homeless of the Somerville area. We have a nice looking Citation certificate to prove it!

Thanksgiving in Somerville There will be a very special Community Thanksgiving Service featuring the combined clergy of many Somerville churches, at the United Reformed Church, (URC) 100 W. Main Street, Somerville, at 7:30 PM, Tuesday, November 25. Come and worship with your neighbors. Give thanks to God! Our very own Heavenly Handbells will be playing.

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.

Next Sunday, All Saints Communion Sunday! In a service that mixes the sorrow of loss, the fond remembrance of love, the hope of our faith and the joy of gratitude to God, we will remember next Sunday those whom we have lost from our extended church family in the last year. We use the term "saint," as it is used in the New Testament, meaning all Christian people of every time and place. We will read the names of the recently departed as an act of worship and reverence. Please do come and worship.

Looking Ahead...

Today	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 Thx'g Service, 7:30 @ URC
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 Services
Thursday	December 25	Christmas!!