

Youth and College Age Report  
First UMC Church Council  
September 19, 2011

Fall semester is in full swing for the youth ministry at FUMC. We again have excellent youth counselors guiding the youth in spiritual growth. Our senior high youth coordinator Mae Christiansen is assisted by Jake Ohlemiller, Kristyn Kaptanovich, and Patrick Newton. Our Junior High Coordinator Erin Losey is assisted by Jason Milligan and Stephanie Lueders. The Wednesday youth activities have Connie Bruce as a counselor as well. In addition to separate weekly planning meeting for Sr. High and Jr. High Counselors respectively to plan curriculum and events, we also have a monthly youth council as well as a monthly youth parent council will begin meeting again in October.

We had nine eighth graders complete our two-year confirmation process last May, eight of them choosing to be confirmed. This fall we only have a class of three active seventh graders entering our youth program, but we are trying to encourage a few more to join. In September the confirmands are learning about one another and God the Creator, before going on to Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit in October. In October we plan to begin a brand new confirmation mentoring program.

On Sunday mornings we continue to start with Collision Youth Worship at 9:39 a. m. that includes music from the youth praise band and a devotion from one of the counselors. We then separate into Junior (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade) and Senior High (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade) Youth. In September the Senior Highs are discussing the thought provoking book "Love Wins" by Rob Bell. Next month, the Senior High will spend the month studying different denominations and faiths. They are planning three visits to other places of worship as a part of this study. These will include an African Methodist Episcopal Church, an Eastern Orthodox Church, and a visit and/or interaction with people of the Islamic faith.

Last Church Council, I reported verbally on the Youthworks Mission Trip in June to Sault Saint Marie, Michigan. We had twenty youth and counselors participate on this week-long trip that included outreach to Nursing Homes, Alzheimer's Patients, Native Americans, Low-Income Housing, Summer Kids Club in a "Prison Town." In addition to four solid days of service work, the group also enjoyed Lake Michigan camping, hospitality from the Van Scoic's, and a day on Mackinaw Island. We were joined on the trip by former FUMC pastor Jeff Smith and his group of ten youth and counselors from West Point UMC.

Our Wednesday youth group is active this month with lessons on "why do service?" We meet for two hours each week from 6 pm to 8 pm that include a mini-service project of clearing tables and some fun fellowship activities. In October we are going to branch out into larger service projects with a special service project every Wednesday.

One of the special events scheduled for October is a joint over-night with the West Point UMC youth group on the night of Friday, October 14. Possible plans include cornmaze and/or hayride.

Our college student outreach is highlighted by our weekly “Lunch Bunch.” We began this year on Sunday, September 11 and the college students have been very appreciative of the delicious food prepared by our wonderful cooks.