



Connections

Christ United Methodist Church

Weekly Newsletter

February 1, 2012

We are about relationships. . .
with Christ,
with one another,
and with God's
hurting world.

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00 am Riverbend Max. Security
Institution-Communion Service
8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services
9:45 am Sunday School



Go to www.christumcfranklin.org
for information on programs
and to hear past sermons.

I Love You Because

This past Christmas, Amy and I were able to exchange some small and simple gifts to one another. One gift in particular has meant more than the others: a plain, black 8 X 10 picture frame. Exciting, huh! Actually there's more. It contains a sheet of paper beneath the glass that reads 'I love you because...' Just below this statement is a bold, blank line. Using a dry erase marker, we can take turns completing the sentence. [Insert crass joke here.] Yes, it's a bit sappy.

To be perfectly honest, at first glance, I was a bit underwhelmed. You know how it feels on Christmas morning. There is all this unwrapped potential – you simply can't tell what kind of fortunes lay there awaiting your feverish, opening excitement. Could it be an ipad? A two month cruise around the world? The fountain of youth? . . . (dramatic pause)

No, it's a blank picture frame.

Granted, this was creative, and it took a little effort. But with all the latest technology, I get an ongoing assignment to think of ways to tell my wife how much I love her - just my luck! Now that a month has passed, I can honestly say it's one of the best gifts I have ever received.

Everyone enjoys hearing they are loved. And sometimes having a frame of reference provides a deeper assurance. You are doing the right things. For example: I love you because... you took out the trash; you spend time with our children even when you're tired; you cooked dinner; you did the grocery shopping; you filled up my car with gas. There are thousands of ways to finish the sentence.

What if God had one of these message boards? What would it say? "I love you because: you served food to the homeless; you only cussed twice today; you gave ten percent; you called your mother-in-law to wish her luck in surgery." NO. The refreshing truth is that God loves us without condition. God's message board would be more apt to say,

I love you because...

you are mine.

I know you.

I created you.

I understand your pain.

I know why you feel so alone.

I said I would.

I am love.

Remember, God loves you today and every day, for no reason at all. And there's nothing we can ever do to change that. Spread the word; we all need to be reminded.

Paul



WITH CHRIST

Please call or e-mail the church office with additions or changes to the prayer list. Names will appear for four weeks, unless you request they remain longer.

Prayer Concerns

The church prayer list cannot be included on our website due to privacy issues. You can find the list in the church bulletin or in the emailed newsletter.

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email please contact the church office at 790-2112

A more detailed prayer list is found in the Prayer Room (room 202)

Worship This Sunday

February 5, 2012

Scriptures:

Isaiah 40:21-31

Mark 1: 29-39

Attendance

January 29, 2012

Worship: 580

Sunday School: 305

Sunday, February 5, Scripture

Mark 1:29-39

29. As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.
30. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once.
31. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.
32. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons.
33. And the whole city was gathered around the door.
34. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.
35. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.
36. And Simon and his companions hunted for him.
37. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you."
38. He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do."
39. And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.



This Week at Christ UMC

Sunday, February 5

9:45 am Inquirer's Class
12:30 pm BANANA Club bowling
5:30 pm NO ORBIT Youth

Monday, February 6

10:00 am Watercolor Class

Tuesday, February 7

3:15 pm ORBIT Outreach

Wednesday, February 8

6:30 am Men's Dialogue
5:15 pm Wednesday Night Together
6:30 pm Website Tour—Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm Celebration Singers

Thursday, February 9

6:00 pm Room In The Inn
7:00 pm Ensemble

Friday, February 10

8:00 am Latecomers Men's group
10:00 am Women's Bible Study

Saturday, February 11

8:30 am Stephen Ministry Training



Regular Events:

February 19 - Lunch Bunch

February 24 - Fourth Friday Fun

For information on the young adult ministry contact John Hill at 615.790.2112 or jhill@christum.net

Children & Families

Room In The Inn Valentine's Party hosted by Children's Ministry

Thursday, February 16, 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Parents and children are invited to share God's love with our homeless brothers and sisters from Nashville. This night is a great opportunity for the children to be in ministry to those whom Jesus calls "the least of these." We need parents and children to help with preparing food, serving dinner (and eating with the guests), and cleaning up. Sunday school classes are collecting donations for gift bags. Sign up in the Narthex or contact Rachel Brown at r_zeta@bellsouth.net. We hope you will join us for this important outreach ministry for the entire family!

Confirmation Class meets this Sunday, February 5th, at 9:45. Make sure you have marked your calendars for our field trip to Holy Family Catholic Church next Sunday, February 12, at 5 pm.

BANANA Club is going Super Bowling on Super Bowl Sunday! Parents, bring your 5th and 6th graders to Franklin Lanes at 12:15; pick up at 2:15. Bring \$10 to cover lunch, shoes and bowling. We need some parents to chaperone; please contact Nancy if you are able.



Youth Activities

We have reached our Maximum for the dinner theatre. Currently, we have a waiting list and the only reservations we are taking are for the show only. We can take another 50 people who would like to come at 7pm after dinner for the show. Please contact Robin at 790-2112.

Dinner Theatre
February 18

Church Wide Activities

Room In The Inn

Room in the Inn is in need of your help, **in Feb. and March!** Sign ups are in the Narthex.

Spiritual Gifts Retreat

Spiritual Gifts Retreat (formerly known as Gifts and Talents) The Spiritual Formation Committee invites you to learn more about yourself and others by attending this year's Spiritual Gifts Retreat, March 2 - 4, at St. Mary's Retreat Center in Monteagle, TN. You will discover gifts in yourself through small group sharing and identifying gifts in others. Sign-ups begin Feb. 5th. Call Jan Phelps (Sparkman) or Kathy Cavanaugh for more information. Or sign up online at <http://www.christumcfranklin.org/events/spiritual-gifts-retreat/>

Christ UMC Blood Drive - February 12

Sign up on February 5th. If you signed up at the last blood drive, you will need to sign up again.

Dinner Groups

Enjoy a good meal? Want to make new friendships and deepen existing relationships? Sign up for a Dinner Group. Groups of 6-8 people will be put together with no other agenda than to get together a few times in the spring for fun, food, and fellowship. Sign-ups are in the narthex or online at christumcfranklin.org/events/dinner-groups/. Deadline is February 12th.

Ladies Night Out

The next Ladies Night Out is February 21st, 6:30 pm, at Logan's Roadhouse located at 7087 Baker's Bridge Road in the Cool Springs area. Reservations should be made by contacting Kathy Noble at knoble@umcom.org or call her on 438-5482 (cell) or 742-5441 (work).

Check out our new and improved website - www.christumcfranklin.org.

Make your Wednesday Night Together dinner reservations, listen to a sermon you may have missed or one you'd like to hear again. We hope you'll find the site a useful tool to help you get to know more and keep you 'plugged in' with everything going on at Christ UMC! And if you're feeling social, 'like' us on Facebook or join the Christ United Methodist group page where you'll find members sharing all kinds of information and resources. Along with our website, Facebook is a terrific ministry tool to post regular updates, start conversations and share!

Wednesday Night Together

February 8, 2012

MENU: Parade of Soups

Adults: \$6 Children: \$4

Family Max: \$20

Please sign up for dinner on the worship pad on Sunday morning, call the church office at 790-2112, Ext. 31, or register online by **noon Monday**. If you would like to be on the standing reservations list, please let the cashier know or call the church office. Thank you!

Activities

Adults: Bible Study with Rev. Carol Cavin-Dillon (6:30 pm); Commons

Women's Bible Study (6:15)

Website Tour— Fellowship Hall

Youth: Youth Fellowship; Room 209

Children: 6:15–6:45—Mustard Seed Choir 3—preK; Angel Choir K—2; Spirit Singers 3—6 grade.

Childcare for ages 2-under
(6:15-8:00 pm); Room 122



Nonprofit Organization

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Franklin, TN

Permit #66

Return Service Requested

WITH GOD'S HURTING WORLD



Mardi Gras Ball 2012

Saturday, February 11, 2012

“Journey Through The French Quarter”

Benefiting My Friend's House

Starting at 6:00 pm at the Embassy Suites
at Cool Springs (Franklin, TN)

Dinner & Dancing

Tickets \$100.00

Formal Attire (Black tie optional)

For ticket information, please email
court6ney.williams@avenuenashville.com

Angel Tree

Thank you to all who donated to the Christ UMC Angel Tree for the Last Minute Toy Store at 61st Ave. UMC. With our help, they were able to help more families than ever- 4,674 children from 1,446 households. Over 16,000 toys/gifts were distributed to go along with the books, oranges and candy canes given to each child. Because of our efforts, the parents, grandparents, or guardians of these children were able to provide gifts for them Christmas morning. Thank you, Christ UMC for helping with this great cause.

