

October

New Prairie Cluster
Charge Conference
October 25, 3:00
at La Porte First

Church Staff

Pastor: Evan Lash

Director of Music Ministries: Rose Marie Dure

Coordinator of Youth Ministries—Jennifer Casper

Coordinator of Children & Family Ministries: Robin Podell

Secretary: Sharon Daniels—Receptionist: Becky Read

Housekeepers: Phyllis Jones & Pam Braddy

Maintenance—Paul Lux

Discovery Days Preschool Staff

Dorothy Cahill, Shawn Cothran, Kyleen Fuller,

Laura Gray, Jaunda Kneller, Shae Taylor

calendar



All the members of the Annual Conference session, both laity and clergy, were given a book by Adam Hamilton titled, *Enough, Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. In this article, I am going to pass on to you a few thoughts about this book from our District Superintendent, Cindy Reynolds. She has distilled some primary ideas and they are worth the read.

The first chapter focuses on the American Dream that has for many become the American Nightmare. There are several great points in this chapter about our dreams for more that have driven us to miss the abundance that we have. Hamilton identifies two illnesses: Affluenza and Credititis.

Affluenza is that disease that has become a powerful need to acquire more and better when what we have is enough and effective. We are always looking for the next best thing that we, through peer pressure and advertising, has become a need.

Credititis is that disease that encourages us to buy now and pay later. I think we all know this one!

Adam Hamilton challenges us to look at these two **diseases in light of the teaching of Jesus.** "What does it profit a man/woman to gain the whole world, and forfeit his/her soul? (Mark 8:36) When we allow the acquiring of things to become a driving force that creates a buy-now-paylater life style, we are in dan-

ger of finding the real peace that a healthy spiritual life brings. We want more to find happiness when happiness is not about acquiring things but about an inner peace. We drive ourselves to have more and lose the priceless gift of time.

Ponder this week – do you suffer from affluenza or credititis? Do you have peace in your soul or a nightmare of wanting more?

The second chapter is titled, “Wisdom and Finance”. When I read this chapter I learned a new meaning for **the word “prodigal”.** **Hamilton says that, “the word prodigal literally means, ‘one who wastes money’”.** (Page 31) He continues to reveal a new meaning to the familiar biblical story of the prodigal son. (Luke 15) The prodigal wanted his inheritance and he wanted it now. The prodigal sought immediate gratification instead of using wisdom and long-term planning. This seems to be the condition our society values. We seek short-term satisfaction instead of long-term transformation and reward.

Hamilton challenges us to ask questions that will help us discern if we are wasteful prodigals or faithful stewards. Here are the questions found on page 37:

“What is your life about? Why do you exist? Do you exist simply to consume as much as you can and get as much pleasure as you can while you are here on this earth, or do you have a higher purpose? Are you spending your money in ways that are consistent with

this life purpose?"

Any time is a good time to reconsider our priorities. This is a scary financial time, and we all need to consider the best use of our resources. Prayer for guidance is always a good place to start. My thanks to Adam Hamilton and Cindy Reynolds for making this month's "Evan's Corner" so easy to do.



No J I F on October 28.

Join us for a great time at

Trunk or Treat in the parking lot.



THANK YOU!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Dear Church Friends,
Received your Get Well Wishes today and I want to thank you for your kindness and prayers. It **brightened my day.** I'm glad to be home but not out of the woods. Fighting two different eye infections that I went home with plus surgery. Thank you again, could not believe all the signatures and well wishes. Please keep me in your prayers.
Betty Jones

Dear FUMC Members,
With summer coming to an end the Food Pantry of Greater La Porte has many items that need to be purchased so we can complete our nutritionally balanced food boxes. With your monetary donation we will be purchasing canned beef stew, breakfast cereal, peanut butter, bar bath

soap and saltine crackers. Thank you for making the Food Pantry of La Porte your charitable recipient.

Respectfully,
Deb Arnold
Chairperson Food Pantry of La Porte

Dear Friends,
I would like to extend a note of thanks to all of you for your prayers, cards, and words of encouragement this summer during my recent cancer treatments. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness.
Joanne Irons

It means so much to know people are praying and thinking of you at times like this. God Bless you all.
Warmly,
Don Estep

All in our Church Family Life

We celebrate
the births of
Julian Richard Ruiz
son of Joslyn &
Jeramy Ruiz born on
August 28
and
Willis Henry Brown
son of Willis & Jenny
and baby brother of
Nora born on
September 3
and
Matthew Gerald
Kurzydlo
son of Gerald &
Michelle Kurzydlo
born on September 21

We celebrate
the life
triumphant of
Muriel Thistle
Who died on
September 19

We gratefully
acknowledge the
following gifts

In Memory of
Alma Ebeling
Esther Kendall





Greetings from Discovery Days!

The school year has started out very well. Our morning 3 year old and Pre-k classes are full. We do have a few openings in our 2 year old class. If you have a friend who has a child that turned 2 before August 1 please tell them about us!

September was busy with Dad's night and our field trip to Garwood orchard. It is always a fun time.

Mrs. Cahill is happy to welcome Mrs. Fuller back to class. She had a beautiful baby girl. The 2 year old class and 3 year old class are learning about fall, safety and clowns! The 3 year old **class and Mrs. Taylor's Pre-k class** will participate in our annual Bike-a-thon on October 14. During the Bike-a-thon the students bring their trikes and bikes to school and ride them through a safety course. While the children are learning and practicing safe biking procedures, **they are also raising money for St. Jude's Children Hospital.**

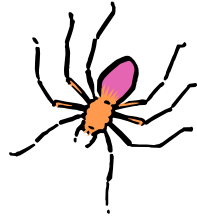


Mrs. Taylor is also happy to be welcoming Mrs. Co-thran back to class. Her daughter had successful

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surgery to relieve pressure that was pushing on her brain stem. The pre-k class is having fun learning about dragons, spiders and bats! Each class will have a special dress up day the end of the month. During dress up day the students can dress up like anything they



want. We have a parade to visit Mrs. Sharon, play fun games and enjoy a special treat. This year we do not have an afternoon class. Mrs. Taylor is offering an enrichment day on Fridays to students that want an extra day of preschool. This is a class day focusing on pre-reading, math and science activities.

Enjoy your fall!

Jaunda Kneller and the Discovery Days Staff





Like to eat? Like to drive to get where you need to go? Like to shop? And, last but not least, do you like the youth? Well, **here's your chance!** We have found a way for you to enjoy all of these things at once!

The youth group is starting a new fund-raising project. The only thing we are asking you to do is come see us before you do your regular shopping. We have gift cards you can use instead of cash for the same price. We get a percentage back **from the company. It's like the grocery certificates only** on a much larger scale. Here are a few of the certificates you can get. (See Terri Hundt or Jennifer Casper for a complete list.)

Please check the certificates you would be interested in purchasing regularly. Put a 1 if you would purchase them once-maybe for Christmas or a birthday, etc. Put **the filled out form in Jennifer Casper's mailbox.** If you have any questions, please contact Terri or Jennifer. Thanks.

Carsons, J. C. Penney, Sears, Wal-mart, Kmart, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Staples, Applebees, Olive Garden, Pizza Hut, Little Caesar, Arby, Burger King, Family Video, Auto Zone, Jiffy Lube, BP, Family Express, Shell, Speedway, GFS, Jewel, Bath and Body, CVS, Walgreens

In September, the youth group began their study on prayer. We will spend the next few months exploring different types of prayer, the power of prayer, and how prayer can affect our daily lives.

We will participate in the Crop Walk on September 27. Proceeds benefit local and worldwide charity organizations.

Check out our new bulletin board across from the **church office to see what else is going on!** We've also added pictures of some of our summer fun activities. Also, there are ways you can help posted. Pick up an index card and bring it back with the item or monetary donation listed on the card. **As I've said before, I** am constantly impressed and overwhelmed by the love and generosity of this congregation. Thank you! **Now, what can we do to help you? Please don't forget** the youth are ready and willing to serve you, too! Operation serve is a great opportunity for the youth

to help the congregation and community. So, if you need something done or know of a community service project going on, please let me know. The youth are back to school and that includes after school activities, too. So, please call ahead of time so I can coordinate their schedules for your project.



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We have some exciting things in store for the 2009-2010 youth group! At the end of this month, we will be going on a prayer retreat. Please see me if you or someone you know is interested in attending.



Prayer Retreat

In November, we will attend a conference in Chicago, Acquire the Fire. After **the huge success of last year's famine, we are hoping to top it in February so that we can help feed even more people! I'm in the planning stages of a spring break mission trip.** So, watch for more details to come! Anyone between 6th and 12th grades is welcome to join us anytime. Please call or e-mail Jennifer Casper if you have any questions. (219) 575-0135 or mrsghost@verizon.net.



Yoga Classes

Yoga classes led by Toni Lux meet on Monday evenings in the Parlor at 5:45. Please wear loose fitting clothing, and mats will be provided



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1. Teri Burkhart, Mark O'Dell
2. Richard Euler
3. Violet Bolerjack
5. Bill Burkhart
6. Jack Trickler
7. Molly Bailey, Jeff Brady
10. Kevin Mayes
11. A. J. Mrozinske
13. Terri Hundt, Dave McCain, Shirley Okrzesik
14. Dave Eversman, Maya Overmyer, Scott Schreiber,
Kay Toll
15. Jori Caratini, Geneva Fraser, Mary Beth Reel,
Alberta Tolton
17. Ray Irons, Lori Sensow
19. Carol Bigg, Julie Hilbish, Austin Reese
20. Amber Ruiz-Burleson
21. Bob Caldwell, Jim Jackson, Lloyd Singleton
22. Tim Welty
23. Morgan Llewellyn, Jane Stephani
24. Jeanette Arndt, Dorothy Herrold
25. Alice MacCartney, Mary Welch
26. Nancy Downey, Joan Graham, Ruby Wade,
Jennifer Waltz, Stefanie Waltz, Brenda Zirzow
27. Fred Shelton, Bob Taylor, Marilyn Taylor
31. Kay Kabelin, Duryne Porter



USHERS THIS MONTH

8:00— Ron Schafer, Ray Irons, Stanley Small,
Jackie Brooks

10:30— Mel Shreve, Dom Liberatore, Ron Miller,
Scott Simerlein, Steve VanScoik

HOSTESS COMMITTEE: Bernice Garber, Shivaun
Garber, LaVerne Goble, Laura Gould, Marian Heath,
Shelly Lachiewicz, Susy Lenig, Joanne Mathis, Dee
McCarty, Jennifer Miller, Judy Miller, Pam Miller,
Gloria Sass, Mary Scupham, Janet Steele, Mary Kay
Steele, Marilyn Taylor, Ruth VanHook, Ruby Wade,
Kathy Wineholt

FLOWER CALENDAR:

Oct. 4 Trickler
11 Tolton
18 Bowers
25 Available



Year to date average attendance: 303

Year to date general budget income: \$275,641.93

Year to date general budget expense: \$286,058.93



calendar

First United Methodist Church

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LaPorte, IN 46350
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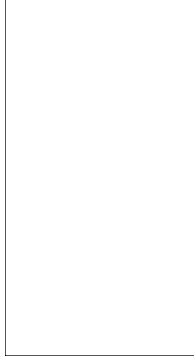
SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 - Chapel Service
9:00 – Contemporary Service
10:30 - Sanctuary Service

OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Friday
8:00 to 4:00



October



Sharing Christ's Love