

The Church Spire

First United Methodist Church of Athens, Ohio

We know God's love through Jesus Christ
We share God's love through care and service
With God's love, we welcome *all* to walk with us

Volume 16, Issue 6

June 1, 2011



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And much more!

June 5th Will Celebrate Music and Milestones

Celebrating the Ministry of Music We will celebrate this special season of the year with musical offerings by our Low Brass Ensemble, the Children's Choir, the Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir. Rumor has it that there will also be some special additions to our music line up this year that you won't want to miss.

Recognizing our Graduating Youth Congratulations to our High School seniors: Rachel Edwards, Todd Lovett, Tori Moran, Matt Paulins, Hannah Rickey and Peter Zeisler! We, your church family, are thankful for you, and during the 10:30 service, will honor your hard work and dedication to completing this level of your education. May you continue to be blessed as you follow God's call in each of your lives!

Visioning Process Continues at Athens First—Staffing Needs

One of the results of the survey and visioning sessions conducted in the fall was a clear sense that tending to children, youth, and families of all shapes and sizes should be a high priority for Athens First UMC. Now, this news isn't surprising, but it has also become clear during the past couple of years that we cannot adequately address the needs of these groups without professional staff to assist with guiding, planning, and programming.

At the request of the Administrative Council Leadership Team, Meg Van Patten and Kristina Gerig graciously agreed to head up what we are calling our Vision Staffing Team. They have been in contact with representatives from Children's Council, Youth Council, and Family Life and have put together a comprehensive job description for the staff position we are looking to fill. The Finance Com-

mittee has been working to identify sources of funding for this position and is pleased to report that we are well on our way to making this happen.

We ask for continued prayers from the congregation that God will bring us the right person for this job, and we also need additional financial support to enable this ministry to flourish. We encourage those of you who think supporting children, youth, and family ministries is important to strongly consider making a special financial contribution that is designated "Children/Youth/Family Staffing." Our goal is to have new staff in place by the time school starts in the Fall, and we need your help to turn this dream into a reality.

Kim Mather, Vice Chair Ad Council
kpmather@yahoo.com 594-1095

Summer Help Needed at Monday Lunch Many of our Monday Lunch volunteers are OU students, and they are leaving us in droves as the school year ends. We need volunteers to replace them. They won't return until around September 12.

Throughout the summer volunteers can help any Monday, anytime between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. – for one hour or all day, for one Monday or all summer. It is most helpful if you can come during the same time period each week (for example, 9-11 or 11-11:30). PLEASE call Allene Kilgore (592-2122) to sign up.

Thoughts Along the Way...

How does one say “good-bye” well? I used to say that my last day with a congregation was my best day. The desire to make everybody happy was finally accomplished. There were those who were happy when I arrived, those who were happy while I served, and the rest are happy now that I leave. Though true, not incredibly Christ centered.

These things I can say. I have served, cared and lead you out of the desire to encourage the kingdom. To see how the individual and the collective community might be stronger, deeper, and wider for God. My prayer is that in your next season of faithfulness, Athens First will continue forward.

For those who I neglected, left feeling hollow or ever experienced harm, please know I truly regret these realities. Know that I am praying that God will bring you the gift of healing so that you may not be bound to that sorrow.

For those who caught a new invitation to living life filled with faith, experienced mercy or a call to overtly sharing the witness of the giftedness of life, I turn to our Lord and give thanks.

I also need to share my gratitude. For all the new things I’ve learned. For sharing 10 years. For loving and being loved. And finally, to pray that God will hold all that has been and use it for good.

Let me share some guidelines for our transition time. For the next year I will be abstaining from communicating with you all as you shift your pastoral care relationships to Pastor Wendy. Some have found this difficult yet we might as well do the work up front. The work of being your pastor will be Pastor Wendy’s, and I will always let her know if I am in town. After the year, we will discover how to move forward with personal relationships. And so the transition begins.

So, for the last time –
Honor and Blessings,
Pastor Mary Jo



**Church Office will be closed July 4th
in observance of the holiday.**



Thank You from our United Methodist Women Our United Methodist Women would like to say thank you to all those who helped sew the lap robes and food coveralls this year. Many more were made than usual – 28 robes! This allowed them to give to Lindley Inn residents as well as the other three nursing homes. Many hands made light work. Hat’s off to all who were willing to help sew them and to those who came later to tie them!

A Personal Note from Kirstin and Jason – What their future holds It is with mixed emotions that we write to tell you that after this summer, we will be leaving Camp Otterbein and the West Ohio Conference for Kirstin to begin working in a new ministry opportunity. She will be leading a multi-denominationally supported campus ministry at Millersville University, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

It is through mentoring Camp Otterbein summer staff and working with our Athens high school youth that Kirstin realized a desire to focus on college-aged ministry. Also in our future plans is Kirstin’s desire to attend seminary to become a deacon!

Even as we claim this call, we are sad to say good-bye, having made a spiritual home and MANY good friends at Athens First UMC. We will let you know where we land so that you can correspond as you wish. Rumor has it that Jason may even open a Facebook account ;).

We extend GREAT thanks for your love and prayers through many of life’s ups and downs from our wedding and the joy of time with our youth to recent challenges of health and healing. Athens First, it is clear to us that you are a church committed to serving and praying for your community and raising up leaders and ministers! We hope that many of our paths cross again in the future!

--Hugs and Blessings, Kirstin and Jason Shrom-Rhoads

Sound Operators Needed Have you been looking for a way to be a part of our 10:30 worship services but don't want to be one of the people up front? Then we hope you'll volunteer to be one of our sound operators. If you can operate a cell phone, you can operate our sound system. Experience isn't needed. Brandon is happy to show you how to operate it and will work with you to be sure you feel comfortable before going "solo".

Folks usually serve one Sunday a month on a regular rotation (i.e., the 1st Sunday or the 2nd Sunday, etc.) with the flexibility to trade when conflicts occur. Adding one or two more volunteers to our crew would be very helpful. If you're interested, please note that on the pew attendance card, contact Brandon Saunders (707-4945 or brando@bcsengineering.com) or the church office (593-3977).



Special Music Sought for Summer Worship Services

We welcome your musical talents and hope you are interested in providing a selection for the worship services starting July 10 through September 4 while the Chancel Choir is on summer break. It would be wonderful to have music for both worship services if you are available. If you need an accompanist for your musical presentation, Joan Hayes (594-8707) or Jennifer Sheets (740-742-2972 or 740-992-2151) will be happy to assist you – just give them a call. To reserve your Sunday, please use the sign-up sheet located on the organ console in the Sanctuary, call the church office (593-3977) or email us (firstumcathens.org). Please wait until our organist has finished playing the postlude to record your date on the sign-up sheet. Thanks!!!

Updating Our Email Lists – Has Your Address Changed? We're in the process of updating our list of email addresses. If you've changed yours anytime in the last 6 months, please send us your revised information by contacting Leisa at firmstmc@firstumcathens.org Thanks!!

Sermons Broadcast Live on WATH Remember, if for some reason you can't be in worship on Sunday, tune in to WATH (970) at 11 a.m. and hear that portion of our service broadcast live on the radio. Sometimes they begin the broadcast at 10:30 a.m., so be sure to tune in a little early.

Prayer Chain If you have prayer requests, please call 593-7471 or 593-6853 to have your request placed on the church's Prayer Chain.

Good Works Appreciates Your Gifts We recently received this thank you note from our friends at *Good Works, Inc.*:

"Greetings, friends! My name is Emily and I work out of the Administrative Office at the Good Works Luhrig Road property. I want to express our gratitude for your recent giving in the form of many donated items from our needs list.

The creative way you invite members to participate in supporting our organization and ministry is beautiful. Thank you to everyone who collected items, this is a wonderful example of Community. When everyone pitches in to give a little, a lot can be accomplished.

We are thankful for the support First UMC continues to provide to the ministry of Good Works. We can't say it enough! Your Community is a blessing to us in so many ways. Thank you for the gifts, thank you for the prayers, thank you for the support!

Peace & love,
Emily Axe"

Parking on Sunday Mornings Parking in the Municipal Parking Garage is free on Sundays and elevators are available. Be sure to park in one of the metered spaces. If you have an OU Parking hang tag, either faculty/staff or retired, you may park in OU Lot 39 (the lot in front of the School of Music and Seigfred).

Copies of Newsletter Available at the Church

A few copies are printed each month and are in the literature racks in the Narthex and by the Chapel entrance. It is always available to read from our web site.

One Plus the Power of You – June Readings Now Available

If you're interested in following the Lectionary Scriptures for Sunday's worship, the June readings are now available – visit the tray next to Pastor Mary Jo's Office and in the last window on the Church Street side of the Sanctuary. She asks that you read through the Scriptures as often as possible, preferably each day, for the week preceding its assigned Sunday. Let's see what will happen by the power of the Holy Spirit when we participate in such a discipline. Honor and Blessings to you!



The Next Spire Is the August Issue - Deadline is July 21

If you have news for the June/July combined issue, please be sure to get it to the church by Thursday, May 26.

Monday Lunch News

More Salads and Desserts Needed for Monday Lunch The number of Monday Lunch guests has been running between 125 and 150 each week. On April 4 we actually had 200! *So, Monday Lunch needs more salad and dessert donations!*

Salads need to serve 16 to 20 people.

Suggestions include: 3 bean salad, jello salad, pickled beets, cole slaw (or 2 bas of slaw mix and 1 sm jar of dressing), tossed salad (or 2 bags of salad mix and a couple cucumbers or tomatoes, etc), fruit salad, etc.

Desserts also need to serve 16 to 20: 9

X 13 cake, 2 pies, cookies, bar cookies, brownies,

puddings, 2 store-bought angel food cakes, etc.

Please call Allene Kilgore (592-2122) to sign up for one Monday a month.

Forever Blowing Bubbles... Don't forget to save the toiletries from your hotel rooms this summer, and throughout the year. At Christmas, they will be shared with Good Works and our Monday Lunch guests. Please place them in the box near the church office, next to the Food Pantry Collection Box. Thanks!!

News from Good Works – Kids Discovery Club and Summer Lunch Program planned.

This summer, Good Works will again sponsor a KIDS DISCOVERY CLUB and SUMMER LUNCH at The Plains United Methodist Church.

Kids Discovery Club seeks volunteer presenters to share something you are knowledgeable about and/or passionate about with kids on the theme of the day. Would you consider coming one-time this summer and sharing with our kids (K-6 grade) on one of the themes for an hour? Do you know someone you could encourage to come and share once this summer? Please contact Amanda Carlyle for more information amanda@good-works.net

Summer Lunch Program Seeks Food Donations *They* are seeking the donation of healthy nutritious foods this summer for our every day SUMMER LUNCH for the kids and the community which takes place at 12:00 noon at the Plains UMC Church. If you know where we can get healthy food donated from, please let us know. Also, if you would like to participate by donating towards this project, one way to do that is to contact Foodland in The Plains (740.797-4526). An account has been set up for Good Works for food for the Summer Lunch. If you prefer, we also are grateful for cards from Walmart or Kroger. Please contact Chris Linscott at 740.594.3339 or through e-mail at chris@good-works.net for questions about food.

Honduras Mission Trip Planned for December 3-10

The Missions Committee is pleased to announce plans for a 2nd annual mission trip to Honduras from December 3 - 10, 2011. The group will work with the organization, Honduras Outreach, Inc., (www.hoi.org), assisting a rural community in a high poverty area of the country. Projects will include basic construction work and children's activities. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity to serve others and to strengthen connections with members of our church community, please contact Pete Mather at pete.mather@gmail.com or by phone (594-1095).



Habitat Update: Habitat is setting up a local ReStore in The Plains and is accepting donations of building materials, working appliances (7 years or younger), cabinets, fixtures, paint, windows, and more! E-mail restore@athenshabitat.org to see if they will take your items and to arrange for pickup. The store's grand opening has not been set, but it should be in a few weeks. Stay tuned for details!

Habitat is holding a scrap metal drive 9 AM to 1PM at the county fairgrounds Saturday, June 3rd. All metals accepted - old patio furniture, lawn mowers, broken appliances, etc.

a house is under construction in Jacksonville, and we need volunteers. Crews generally help between 8 to 4 on Saturdays, and 12 to 7 on Sundays. Even one hour can make a difference. Contact Sara Flecher at , kenneth@athenshabitat.org, or call 592-0032 for details.

Adult Ministry at Athens First The View from My Window Everyone Needs to Know They Matter

A friend of mine was recently telling some of the features of the final episode of the *Oprah Winfrey Show* in which Oprah shared that very profound observation. The thought that immediately jumped into my mind was *Stephen Ministry*.

That's Stephen Ministry! Listening ... *really* listening. Think about it. I know that when someone really listens to me, I feel as though I matter, and it makes me feel better. That's what we hope when we offer Stephen Ministry to our care receivers – that they feel they matter, that there is someone who listens non-judgmentally, caringly, patiently, and confidentially. What a wonderful gift to give someone!

We don't solve their problems, or tell them how to fix things, but by offering them our unconditional positive regard through listening, they find encouragement to walk through whatever it is they are going through and find the answers that lie within themselves. Sounds simple, and it works! We've seen it happen time and again.

If you would like to have a Stephen Minister to share your journey of concern or if you feel God may be calling you to be a Stephen Minister so that you can offer this gift to others, please contact me or Dick Schelat. We will be happy to match you with a Stephen Minister or tell you more about the training process. Here is our contact information:

Sharon Stoltzfus – 593-3977 ext 11, 707-3415 or fink@firstumcathens.org

Dick Schelat – 541-3223 or rschelat@columbus.rr.com

Remember, the first step is always the most challenging – May God give you the courage to take it. Blessings to you!

Sharon Stoltzfus,
Director of Adult and Stephen Ministries

Reverse Progressive Dinners – Food, Fun and Fellowship

Our first series of dinners was so successful, we're going to host a couple more! **On June 25 at 6 p.m.** each of these two people will be hosting a dinner, and you are invited to attend either of them:

- University Estates Clubhouse with Marsha Ruhling,
- The Home of Lara Pickett in Albany

These dinners will provide an opportunity for folks to gather in an informal setting and get to know each other better while joining together in a meal. The hosts provide the main dish and everyone else will bring the side dishes. June 25 will be here before you know it, so please reserve your spot by placing your name on the sign up sheets located in the Sanctuary Vestibule beginning Sunday, June 5, call the church office – 593-3977 or e-mail Lisa Dael (dael@ohio.edu). If you respond by email, please be sure to include your contact information. Your host will get in touch with you about what to bring.



Adult Summer Sunday School Opportunities

The Seekers Class has begun reviewing various works by Christian authors that have been influential through the life of the church. Currently, they are studying C.S. Lewis' *Screwtape Letters*, an imagined dialogue between two devils on how to tempt Christians. Come join them as they discuss what some of the greatest minds of Christianity have said about life as a Christian! Join them in the Student Lounge on the 2nd Floor Sunday mornings at 9:30.

Trinity Class

is doing a study of *Pray the Price* by Terry Teykl which just started May 29th. Copies of the book are available in the church office. What a great opportunity for those that may have wanted to study it during Lent but didn't. Trinity class is inviting all those interested to join them. After finishing *Pray the Price*, they will begin study of the book *What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?* Sound interesting? Join them on Sunday mornings, at 9:30 in the 1st Floor Lounge.



Children's Sunday School Wraps up Another Fantastic Year

On Sunday, May 22nd, we took a few moments during the 10:30 AM worship service to thank those who have participated in the leadership of the children's Sunday school program during this program year. As I called out the names of our volunteer shepherds and teachers, I was reminded once again of how many people it takes to provide this ministry to the children, tweens, and youth of our congregation. So many faithful individuals, many of whom were there nearly every Sunday during the school year, and others who served on a regular basis for 3 or 4 weeks in a row for one or more units of the Sunday school curriculum. How blessed we have been by the ministry of these fine folk.

As the parent of one of FUMC's Sunday school scholars, it is hard for me to adequately convey how thankful I am to those who serve in this capacity. As a person who participated in Sunday school all through my growing up years, I remain grateful for the experience I enjoyed as a child. I grew up in Pennsylvania and attended a Baptist church there, and I could still name just about

every Sunday school teacher I had. Some were school teachers, others were retired missionaries, grandparents, the parents of younger children in my congregation, and some were college students in our community. There was a broad range of ages and experiences represented by this faithful corps of Christian educators.

To all those who serve, thank you, from my heart, and thank you on behalf of the Council on Children's Ministries. Very soon, we will begin looking ahead to the coming program year, and we will need more volunteers to shepherd on Sundays, to assume responsibility for preparing for 3 or 4 weeks of helping the young ones learn in a variety of ways, for sharing the joyful example of Christ's love to young hearts that are open, growing, and learning. If you have served in the past and enjoyed the experience, please consider continuing and helping us again in 2011-2012. If you taught "once upon a time" and feel ready to re-engage in this vital ministry, please speak to me, and I will gladly help to find the right spot for you in next year's program. If you enjoy talking with your grandkids or the children in your neighborhood and think you might have something to offer our Sunday school program, please let us know. It makes such a difference to so many!

--Laura Dalton, Sunday school Superintendent

Vacation Bible School Set for August 1-5 We are getting so excited about this summer's Vacation Bible School. Our theme is "Shake It Up Cafe," and our mascot is Scraps the Raccoon. The daily activities will center around different biblical celebrations, feasts, and festivals. We are looking forward to a wonderful time of learning and growing!

Pre-K students through those entering 5th grade—please join us from August 1-5, 9 AM to 12 NOON!

A Registration form is available on the next page and an online registration is available at:

<http://www.cokesburyvbs.com/shake-it-up-cafe/FUMCATHENS>

We are asking for registrations by Sunday, June 19th. The cost is \$5 per child, with a maximum of \$10 per family. This helps to defray some of the costs and includes the theme music CD and other special items that are a part of the program. A great value!



Lets Go to Camp!!!

Church camp can truly be a life-changing event in the lives of our children, youth and families. The West Ohio Conference offers camp events for nearly all ages at Widewater Retreat and

Ministry Center, Camp Wesley and Camp Otterbein. Informational brochures and registration forms are available in the church office or in the Children's Ministries office (room 5.) Financial assistance is available through the church in the amount of \$50.00 per child, not to exceed \$100.00 per family. Requests for financial assistance should be made to Sharon Stolfus in the Finance Office.



Registration Form



First United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School August 1-5, 2011

Child's Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone Numbers Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Age Information

Date of birth _____ Age _____

Last school grade completed _____

Home Church _____

Allergies/Medical Information/Other

Emergency Contacts

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Dismissal Information

Name(s) of person(s) who may pick up this child from VBS

Other Information (church use only)

Chef Group _____

Are parents helping with SHAKE IT UP CAFÉ VBS? _____ If yes, where? _____

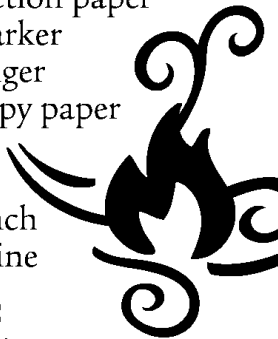
\$5 Registration paid: (date) _____ \$10 max. per family

PENTECOST MOBILE

Make this craft as a reminder that God's Holy Spirit is all around you.


What you need:

- Tissue paper (red, yellow, orange), torn into squares
- Plastic transparency
- Craft glue
- Paintbrush
- Construction paper
- Black marker
- Wire hanger
- White copy paper
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Hole punch
- Fishing line



What you do:

1. Overlap tissue squares as "flames" on the transparency.
2. "Paint" glue (thinned with water) over the squares.
3. Fold construction paper in half. Write out Acts 2:4 at the top, by the fold.
4. Poke the hanger through the middle of the fold.
5. On the white paper, write "Holy Spirit" in English, Spanish (*Espiritu Santo*), French (*L'esprit Saint*), etc.
6. Cut out a flame pattern and trace it on the back of the transparency.
7. Cut out flames and glue the "Holy Spirit" names on them.
8. Thread fishing line through a hole atop each flame and tie flames onto the hanger.



The Spirit Comes

ACTS 2 TELLS ABOUT A SPECIAL DAY
WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME TO THE DISCIPLES.

Use the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

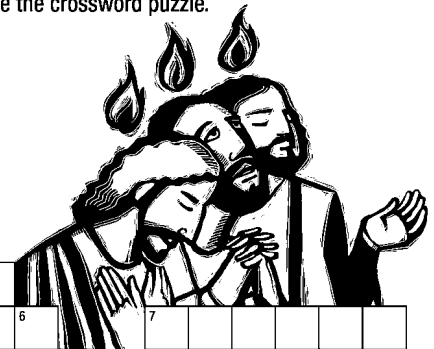
8

9

10

11

12



Across

1. natural movement of air
4. to say something
5. refrain from work
7. place where God is
8. a combustion or burning that gives light, heat and smoke
9. part of mouth that can taste and lick
10. the time between sunrise and sunset
12. the day the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples

Down

2. followers of Christ
3. moved apart
6. quickly and unexpectedly
7. a building where people live
11. vibrations that travel through the air

Answers: Across 1. wind, 4. speak, 5. rest, 7. heaven, 8. fire, 9. tongue, 10. day, 12. Pentecost; Down 2. disciples, 3. separated, 6. suddenly, 7. house, 11. sound

Youth News

www.firstumcathens.org/youth

Emily Fox to Lead Youth Ministry This Summer Our Youth Council is pleased to announce that Emily Fox will be leading our youth on Thursday nights during the summer. Emily, along with a team of her peers, have some great topics lined up for the youth to delve into while sharing pizza. When you see Emily around, be sure to share your appreciation with her.

Making your plans for the summer? Remember to mark these two events on your calendar:

- First, July 23rd we are heading to **Kings Island**. We will leave early in the morning and return late that evening. If we have enough participants, we can get a good group rate so invite your friends, your team mates, your Aunt Sara - Anyone that loves fast Roller Coasters and spinning at high speed. Email vanpattenfamily@mac.com if you want to go or just tell Meg in church.
- Second, August 20th join us for **Zoombezi Bay**. Bring the whole family and enjoy one last day at the water-park before school starts back. Again, we would love a group rate, so let Meg know early if you would like to go. This activity is for youth and their families as well as any member of our church family who would like to tag along. Last year we had a great time and would love to see even more people participate.

FUMC Summer Youth Extravaganza

Youth will meet **EVERY** Thursday night this summer from 7PM - 9PM for food and fellowship.

Questions? Ideas?

E-mail vanpattenfamily@mac.com

Join our Facebook group [Athens First UMC Youth](#) to follow the summer activities.

JUNE

June 9th: Dairy Lane Park - Putt Putt and lots of food. Bring all of your friends to start the summer off with fun.

June 16th: FUMC Fellowship - Pizza and Program. Bring your digital camera as we take Athens Uptown by storm.

June 23rd: Biking to Larry's DAWG House. Meet at the tennis courts by the Rec Center and we will bike to Larry's Dawg House for dinner, a treat or both.

BYOB and H (Bring Your Own Bike and Helmet).

June 30th: FUMC Fellowship Hall – Pizza and Program. Put on your chef hats. That's all I'm saying.

JULY

July 7th: Strouds Run – Shelter House near the beach. Join us for canoes, paddleboats or just hanging on the beach. We'll cook out and perhaps roast a few marshmallows.

July 14th: FUMC Fellowship Hall - Surprise! Pizza and Program. We'll post the details on Facebook but be sure that there will be lots of food and fun

July 21st: Volleyball and Cookout at the Rec Center shelter house and sand courts. Bring a big appetite and a BIG serve.

July 28th: FUMC Fellowship Hall – Pizza and Program. We will be doing some art in some odd places, and as always, we will eat.



\$ 27,575.63 Operating Income for April
 26,458.12 Operating Expenses April

 1,117.51 Net gain for the month
 \$ 5,769.16 Net gain for the year

Second Mile Giving Reported Through May 31:

- Food Pantry – \$1,630.50
- Habitat for Humanity – \$600
- Hope and Possibilities –\$65
- PET Project – received \$0

In addition to the above figures, which reflect what has been contributed specifically to them, \$47.25 will be added to each thanks to your response to the Easter Offering appeal.

Summer Giving Statements Will Not be Mailed Again this Year To save a little postage money, we’re going to continue a tradition started last year, of NOT mailing giving statements in July for the 2nd quarter of the year. If you need one, though, please don’t hesitate to let Sharon Stoltzfus know. Otherwise, look for the next mailing sometime in October.



Women’s Time at Otterbein: Weekend Retreat October 14-16

Women, mark your calendars and take a weekend to renew yourself, reflect on God’s gifts in your life, and rejoice in the beauty of God’s creation and the fellowship of others at the lovely Camp Otterbein, near Logan, Ohio. Laughter, food, and worship are plentiful! Come as a group or by yourself; it won’t take long to become connected. To register, contact Susan Penix: 698-6236.

Radio Ministry Needs Sponsors for the Remainder of 2011

Through our radio ministry, much of our 10:30 worship service is broadcast live over WATH am radio every Sunday morning. This ministry reaches countless folks who are unable to leave their homes on Sunday mornings or are traveling. Those we know who listen weekly are mailed a bulletin so that they can follow along.

This ministry is made possible solely by the contributions of members and friends of the church. We have received a number of sponsorships, but not enough to carry us entirely through the 2nd half of 2011.

If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Sharon Stoltzfus at the Church Office (593-3977, ext. 11). A full sponsorship for 2011 is \$155, and full or partial sponsorship are always welcomed. Whatever you choose to give, just know what a blessing this ministry is to those who use it!



Radio Ministry Sponsorship

Yes, I/we want to participate.

Amount \$ _____

Memorial/Dedication (optional) _____

Name(s) _____

**West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church
Our Connection to the World**

**This comes to us through “News.Net” an email publication by the West Ohio Conference
Communications Division:**

In Joplin, Missouri, faith remains where little else stands JOPLIN, Mo. (UMNS) — The worship center of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church was severely damaged by the May 22 tornado that tore through this city. The children’s wing, which suffered less damage, was opened as a triage unit after a nearby hospital was destroyed. St. James United Methodist Church, which stood near the Home Depot where seven bodies were recovered, was leveled. The denomination is preparing to respond at all levels to the stricken community. [Read full story](#)

Hog Father boosts hunger-relief effort SENOIA, Ga. (UMNS) — The Rev. Nathaniel Long, a North Georgia pastor who calls himself The Hog Father, joined three other United Methodist clergy to live only on Stop Hunger Now packets throughout Lent as a way to raise funds for the effort to end hunger around the world. He and other members of United Methodist Men are deeply involved in feeding the hungry. [Read full story](#)

June and July Events and Meetings

Weekly events:

Sundays – Worship at 8:45 and 10:30 each week

Mondays – Monday Lunch from 12 to 1 p.m. each week

Thursdays – Men’s Prayer Breakfast 7 a.m. at Bob Evans each week

Growing Tree Summer Session: June 13 – June 24

Stephen Supervision Sessions: June 6, 20, July 11

Pastor Wendy Lybarger’s First Sunday at Athens First: July 3



Cancer Patients Need Your Help to Get to Treatments The American Cancer Society needs volunteers to drive cancer patients in our community to and from their treatment appointments. To learn more about how you can get involved and help make a difference in someone’s life, call Amy Magorien at 888-227-6446 ext. 3101 or email her at amy.magorien@cancer.org

Outdoor Drama Presented August 19-21 & 26-28 The Hillside Baptist Church along with *The Power of the Blood Ministry* present *Noah and the Ark*, Live Outdoor Drama August 19-21 and 26-18, nightly at 7:30. Admission is free. Handicap/Bus parking and concessions available. For more information: www.hillsidebaptistchurch.net A great event for the entire family.

District Information Available on the Internet There are lots of things going on in our Foothills District. You can find the web site at: <http://www.foothillsdistrict.org>

Calendar Information Available 24/7 Remember, if you need to check on dates and times of church events, that information is available on our web site (www.firstumcathens.org/calendar) and also on the automated portion of our phone system (extension 3) - *available seven days a week, 24 hours a day.*

Have You Visited Other Places in our Web Site Lately? It’s an easy way to keep up with what’s happening at FUMC. We try to make sure we have new pages in the photo album shortly after events occur. Wesley Student Center has an extensive site under “Campus” - you can get a taste of what their ministry is all about. A copy of the current newsletter is always available to read, in addition to the weekly calendar of events. Lots more, too. Want your long-distance family and friends to know more about where you worship? Give them the address, too. Here it is: <http://www.firstumcathens.org>

THE CHURCH SPIRE

2 South College Street
Athens, Ohio 45701

www.firstumcathens.org

Rev. Mary Jo Yeakel, Pastor

Phone: 740-593-3977

Fax: 740-593-7293

E-mail: firstumc@firstumcathens.org

Pastor Mary Jo Yeakel: yeakel@firstumcathens.org

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Editor: Sharon Stoltzfus

fink@firstumcathens.org

Web Version: [Return to Home Page](#)

Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning Worship 8:45 and 10:30

Sunday School Classes, 9:30 a.m.

Worship Broadcast on WATH Sundays 11-11:30 a.m.

Child Care Provided During 10:30 Service

Free Parking in the City Parking Garage on Sundays