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FEBRUARY
2012



*We love because
he first loved
us.*

1 John 4:19



Worship the Lord with Us!

Sunday Worship

Traditional Worship Service: 8:30 am

Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 am

Contemporary Worship Service: 10:45 am

Listen to "A Place of Grace"

every Sunday at 11:00 AM on 560 WFIL.

FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS is published by:
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Monday: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
(Closed for lunch 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm)

FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS is online at
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e-mail. Send an e-mail to
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The submission deadline for the *March* issue of Windows is February 10th.

***THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING WINDOWS!***



From The Pastor's Heart

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Ephesians 5:15-17



I have been thinking about the phrase “making the most of every opportunity” lately. Last week, I got up early to study when someone came to me as I was studying and said these words “You know I just took a cold shower.” I was not sure why in the winter you would do that, but quickly realized it was not their choice. So I went down into the basement to discover a puddle around the hot water heater. What a time zapper this was to become...I thought cold water isn't the worst thing. However, I knew I could not sell that though. There are so many things in our lives that steal our time that are necessary. However, making the most of our opportunities and time really does make a difference. Apostle Paul, in His words to encourage Christians 2000 years ago, to grow in their walk so they understand God's will in their lives in Christ, still holds true today.

One way we can do that as individuals and as a church is spending time in just listening and praying to God! What a great way to better understand God's heart and plan for us. I saw a quote I love recently about prayer:

“PRAYER DOESN'T CHANGE GOD, IT CHANGES ME”

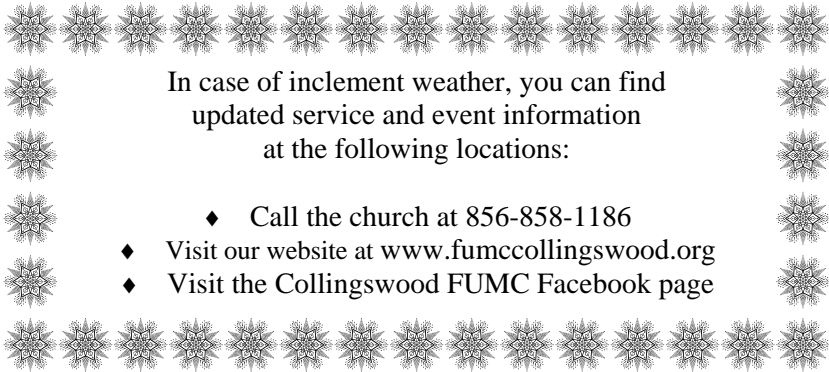
This month, from February 19th - 26th, will be our “Prayer Week 2012.” It will be a special time to focus our attention on God! On Wednesday night, February 22nd at 6:00pm, we will be having a special Prayer/Lenten Service for a special time of reflection in the midst of our busy days.

This month, many Christians throughout the world will begin a 40 day journey remembering what Christ has done for us which leads us to a time of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. So often we hear the comment made, “I gave it up for lent,” but lent is much more than giving up a meal or a TV program. It is more about getting in touch with the great sacrifice that Jesus made for us and living differently because of His grace.

There are many different ways in which to celebrate Lent. However, I believe, as Paul prays, that the end result is that we may know our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ better. Here are some other ways you might consider reflecting during the Lenten season:

- ⌘ Read the scriptures every day.
- ⌘ Give up a meal and spend time in prayer.
- ⌘ Give up something meaningful to you and every time you have an urge to break the commitment, stop and pray for the needs of others.
- ⌘ Volunteer one day of service to the Lord through some of the options we present at church or brainstorm about new ways to serve and do it.
- ⌘ Give a financial gift that you consider sacrificial toward one of our missions projects.
- ⌘ Call or visit with someone you know could use encouragement
- ⌘ Take a day or a morning and go somewhere with someone who needs some encouragement.

(Continued on page 19)



In case of inclement weather, you can find updated service and event information at the following locations:

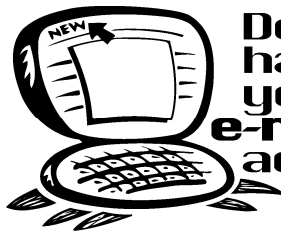
- ◆ Call the church at 856-858-1186
- ◆ Visit our website at www.fumccollingswood.org
- ◆ Visit the Collingswood FUMC Facebook page

FAMILY PIZZA & MOVIE NIGHT!

Everyone is invited to a pizza dinner and movie night in the Stokes Dining Room on Saturday, February 18th. Dinner is at 6:00 pm and the family-friendly movie begins 6:30 pm. Please make your reservations (we need to have enough food!) through the church office no later than Monday, February 13th.

PRAYER E-MAIL

A copy of our weekly praise and prayer e-mail is available in the church office for those who do not have e-mail. If you wish to be added to the email list, please send your email address to maria@fumccollingswood.org.



**Do we
have
your
e-mail
address?**

WEE SOCCER AND WIFFLE BALL

Wee Sport Soccer for ages K-3 will run from February 4th to March 3rd. Cost is \$10.00.

Wiffle Ball for ages 4, 5 & 6 will run from March 10 to March 24. Cost Is \$7.00.

For additional information, please call Ed Hill.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Calling all singers, instrumentalists & musical groups. If you're interested in performing special music for the 8:30 am traditional service, please email Will Walker at will@fumccollingswood.org. Be sure to include in your email a little bit about yourself, your talent, and what you can bring to the Special Music Team. I look forward to hearing from many of you soon!



DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

As part of our Refocus action plan we are beginning our search for a Director of Children's Ministries. We are seeking a vibrant and creative Christian leader to guide volunteers in a variety of children's programs. This part-time position (approx 15 hr/wk) requires a candidate who has a strong relationship with Jesus Christ, as well as strong management skills in order to advance the mission of First United Methodist Church. Additional job responsibilities include: volunteer recruitment, working with volunteers to review and select curriculum and managing programs for children ages 1 through 5th grade. 4 year college degree in education or related field is preferred. Anyone interested should send their resume to Prin Pappas or Mark Hamilton.

VBS 2012 Committee

We need your help to make this year successful!

We're looking for form a committee to organize VBS.

What we're looking for:

Chairperson - in charge of all the many components that make our VBS run so well!

Registration Coordinator - in charge of all the details of registration for VBS.

Curriculum & Crafts Coordinator - in charge of ordering materials, organizing and distributing them to teachers.

Emcee - in charge of organizing & emceeing the opening & closing each day - getting the children excited - as well as coordinating with music and mascot.

Music Coordinator - in charge of the music for the children and the closing program on Friday of VBS.

These are general descriptions, if you have interest in helping in any of these areas please contact Ellen Wagner for a detailed description of responsibilities.

There will be opportunities for teachers, teacher helpers, recreation, and behind-the-scenes help posted in the coming months. We appreciate any and all help you're able to provide to make our VBS a successful outreach to the children of our community!

**VBS 2012 Curriculum:
Gospel Light's SonRise
National Park VBS**



2012 Basic Lay Speaker Classes

Lay Speaking Ministries is a program to provide training opportunities and experiences to equip disciples of Jesus Christ to realize and respond to their personal call to ministry. Since each disciple is gifted with one or more spiritual gifts (skills given by the

Holy Spirit for the express purpose of serving the body of believers and thereby God,) Lay Speaking Ministries strives to help disciples become aware of their particular gift or gifts by offering educational events to enhance and develop the skill level necessary for the full fruition of these gifts. It is an excellent vehicle for servant ministry skill development and has aided thousands of church members to be better servants of Jesus Christ, to become stronger church family leaders, and to more capably assist their pastors.

A Lay Speaker is:

An active supportive member of the United Methodist Church;

- Eager to serve through the church;
- Well-informed on the Scripture and the doctrine, heritage, organization and the life of The United Methodist Church;
- Committed to witnessing through church and community leadership, care-giving ministries, and spoken communication; and
- Willing to improve his or her skills for service.

What is expected of a Lay Speaker?

Local Church Lay Speakers:

- Support and minister to the local church.
- Look for leadership opportunities in the local church.
- Must file a report with their Charge Conference every year.
- Take a refresher course every three years.

Certified Lay Speakers:

- Support and minister to the local church and beyond
- Can be utilized by other congregations.
- Look for leadership opportunities in the local church and beyond
- Must file a report with their Charge Conference every year.
- Must take at least one Advanced Course every three years to maintain certification.

For a detailed listing of classes by District and to download the registration form (or register online), please visit: <http://www.gnjumc.org/pages/detail/484> **Registration Deadline: February 3, 2012.**

See Susan Gibbins-Davis or Ellen Wagner for more information!

TIARA CLUB

Daughters of the King

*How great is the love the father has lavished
on us that we should be called children of God!
And that is what we are!*

1 John 3:1

Tiara Club is a women's ministry of First Church. How exciting it is to recognize our identity in Christ as daughters of the King, yes, princesses. And that is what we are. Not because of anything we've done but because of the love God has lavished on us. The Tiara Ministry's purpose is to provide varied opportunities for fellowship that will encompass interests of the full magnitude of ladies of our congregation. Attend as many or as few events as you want but know that we would love to see more of you. No matter what your age, 10 - 110 as long as you can behave like a lady, (or princess) you are welcome to join us. We will get to know women in our church, outside of our Sunday School classes and small groups and have opportunities to reach out to family members and the community during some events as well as have some opportunities to be in ministry as we reach out in service. Let's worship God through our outreach within these walls as we help to make every lady feel welcomed. After all, we are all sisters in this, our church family. Consider this a personal invitation to be a part.



All women are invited to a Bible study in the Stokes Dining Room (ground floor Education building) at 6:45 pm. Led by Marion Wertz and Ellen Wagner, we'll use Jill Briscoe's book *8 Choices That Will Change a Woman's Life*. Want to know what they are? Join us! While not necessary, you might want to get a copy to read along as we study each chapter. Questions? Contact Marion or Ellen. Hope to see you there!



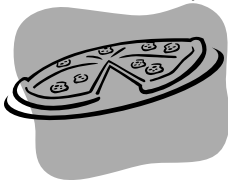


*Here's what's coming up
for the Ladies of FUMC!*

February 12 to 26 - We will be collecting beauty products to make baskets for the kids at Fellowship House to give to their mothers. There will be a box outside the parlor. Please bring items such as lotion, bath gel, nail polish, etc. If you prefer, you can make a monetary donation which will go toward purchasing gift cards which will be included in the baskets.



March 9, 6:00 pm - Pizza Dinner & Basket Assembly. Come to the Stokes Ave. Dining Room for a quick pizza dinner. After dinner we will work together to assemble the baskets for Fellowship House. Many hands make light work!



***Save the Date!!!! - May 12th
Annual Ladies' Spring Brunch!!
Watch for more info soon!***

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
			1 6:00 PM Youth 6:45 PM J (Jesus) 6:45 PM Night 7:00 PM Study
5 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Senior High Youth Group	6	7 9:30 AM Smooth Stones Bible Study (women) 10:00 AM Followers Bible Study 7:30 PM Resource Day w/Larry Homitsky	8 9:00 AM Resou Homit 6:00 PM Youth 6:45 PM J (Jesus) 6:45 PM special 7:00 PM Study
12 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Senior High Youth Group	13	14 9:30 AM Smooth Stones Bible Study (women) 10:00 AM Followers Bible Study	15 6:00 PM Youth 6:45 PM J (Jesus) 6:45 PM Night 7:00 PM Study
19 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Senior High Youth Group	20	21 Pre-Lenten Gathering 9:30 AM Smooth Stones Bible Study (women) 10:00 AM Followers Bible Study 7:00 PM Finance Team meeting	22 LENT 6:00 PM Youth 6:45 PM J (Jesus) 6:45 PM Night 7:00 PM Study
26 JR High MWA 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Senior High Youth Group	27 7:00 PM Church Council	28 9:30 AM Smooth Stones Bible Study (women) 10:00 AM Followers Bible Study	29 6:00 PM Youth 6:45 PM J (Jesus) 6:45 PM Night 7:00 PM Study

RY 2012

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>PM Junior High Group</p> <p>PM Master's Men & (us) Crew Men</p> <p>PM Wednesday Revive - Children</p> <p>PM Women's Bible</p>	<p>2</p> <p>12:00 PM Noon Time Prayer</p> <p>6:45 PM Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:30 AM SNOW DATE Leadership Meeting</p> <p>9:00 AM WEE SOCCER</p>
<p>AM Clergy Source Day w/ Larry Husky</p> <p>PM Junior High Group</p> <p>PM Master's Men & (us) Crew Men</p> <p>PM WNR - Children al event</p> <p>PM Women's Bible</p>	<p>9</p> <p>12:00 PM Noon Time Prayer</p> <p>6:45 PM Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 AM WEE SOCCER</p>
<p>PM Junior High Group</p> <p>PM Master's Men & (us) Crew Men</p> <p>PM Wednesday Revive - Children</p> <p>PM Women's Bible</p>	<p>16</p> <p>12:00 PM Noon Time Prayer</p> <p>6:45 PM Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00 AM WEE SOCCER</p> <p>6:00 PM Family Pizza and Movie Night</p>
<p>BEGINS!</p> <p>PM Junior High Group</p> <p>PM Master's Men & (us) Crew Men</p> <p>PM Wednesday Revive - Children</p> <p>PM Women's Bible</p>	<p>23</p> <p>12:00 PM Noon Time Prayer</p> <p>6:45 PM Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>24</p> <p>JR High MWA</p> <p>8:00 PM Common Ground</p>	<p>25</p> <p>JR High MWA</p> <p>9:00 AM WEE SOCCER</p>
<p>PM Junior High Group</p> <p>PM Master's Men & (us) Crew Men</p> <p>PM Wednesday Revive - Children</p> <p>PM Women's Bible</p>			

Senior High (grades 9-12) meets on Sunday nights and Junior High (grades 6-8) meets on Wednesday nights, both from 6:00-8:00 pm (for relationship building and spiritual topical discussions), and **everyone** meets on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am (for deeper Bible teaching and spiritual life training) except for the following:

- ♦ **ryver staff** – (first Sun) – *for all youth leaders – praying, planning, preparing*
- ♦ **All-ryver Games** – (first Wed; all grades) – *come meet people through sit-down games, open-gym, etc.*
- ♦ **All-ryver Serving** – (last Sun; all grades) – *focused on meeting needs in our surrounding community*
- ♦ **All-ryver Worship** – (last Wed; all grades) – *experience God through music, teaching, and arts*

COMING EVENTS

Super Bowl Party - Sunday, 2/5 - 6:00 pm

Great food! Great game (hopefully!) Great commercials! Or just hang out and play games with great people! Open to grades 6-12.

Cost: No charge, but if you want, we will accept monetary donations for the food.

YOU MUST SIGN UP BY WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1!



FSO (For Seniors Only) – Sunday 2/12 – 8:15 pm

If you are a senior in high school, we invite you (actually urge you) to join us at the Zook's house this Sunday after Senior High. I'm excited to meet with you several times over the next few months to share, pray, discuss, and wrestle through some of the issues you'll be facing through the soon-coming transition.

MWA Meeting

Wednesday 2/15 – 5:15 pm

MANDATORY for all students attending Keswick. We'll go over some important info and spend some time praying for the weekend. Please be on time.

**Ice Skating
Friday,
2/17**



February 24-26 – please pray for our junior high group at Keswick this weekend. God will do great things!

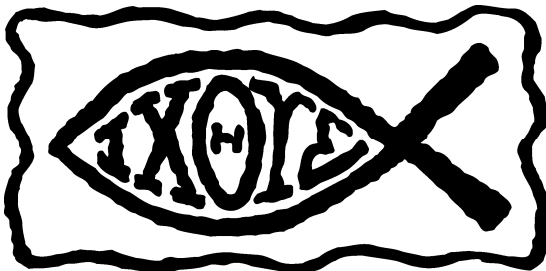


Coffeehouse

Common Ground Coffeehouse

Friday 2/24 – 8:00 pm

We had a month off for the holidays, but will be kicking off this ministry for young adults again this month. High school seniors are invited to be involved in these once-a-month opportunities for good fellowship, music & fun! This month will feature local rock band, The 286 Band (including our own Will Walker.)





Scott and Rebekah Becker, Ireland

This Christmas season has been a great time of spending time with our family and friends we have made here in Dublin. Though this time of year we miss our extended family and friends from the States, it certainly is a great time here to share the love of Christ with so many of our friends that don't yet have a relationship with Jesus.

Our New Year's Day meeting at Crossroads Church was very exciting for us. Two of the kids that had come to Crossroads Christmas Kids Club attended on Sunday.

Their mom normally just dropped them off at the club and left. This time, however, the mother and her live-in boyfriend, came in to collect the kids at the end and stayed to chat with us and had tea and food. We had a great time of fellowship with them! Please pray that God will transform the lives of this family unit. We were able to give a couple of gifts to their kids of which were two Bibles, a boy and a girl teen study Bible. They were EXTREMELY excited about the Bibles! Please pray that this will be just the beginning of an openness to accept Christ as their Savior.

Larry and Faye Buckman, Brazil

I've returned from two weeks of ministry to very different people groups. The Ticuna Indian tribe is spread over the Amazon on the Peruvian, Colombian, and the Brazilian side. Our commitment during the last five years has been to continue training their pastors and missionaries as they reach other tribes. In my last letter I spoke of Eli Ticuna, who shared the teaching schedule on the Mission Aboard project in Peru. He had mentioned that someone had taken water drilling equipment for the Ticunas to use, but that it had disappeared on the Colombian side. As God would have it, our trip to Quito revealed that the engineer who starting that project was none other than our own Cesar Cortez, HCJB's Community Development Water Project ambassador. Cesar was able to contact the missionaries, now living in Bogota, and get the release of the equipment. The morning chosen by the Ticunas to cross the

Amazon River was a stormy day. But they would not be deterred. They hugged the river bank with their canoe, shivering under a plastic tarp laughing and talking the entire journey. Cesar and I just sat there with our rain ponchos, smiling. The Ticunas know of 200 villages up the Amazon tributaries that are dying from a lack of clean water. In the Ticuna village of Filadelfia the only clean water is collected off their roofs, and that water is not clean either. So with great eagerness they listened to every word Cesar taught about the hydraulics of finding and moving water. The drilling equipment can go down 60 meters. Before we left, they had drilled 5 holes in the church yard, each of them deeper. Cesar will be back next September to live with them for a month and teach them how to design and provide water for an entire community. This was our first Corrientes project in Brazil, combining Bible teaching with mercy ministry.

Now there is more to the Ticuna strategy than just drilling wells. The Brazilian government agents of FUNAI are now prohibiting indigenous missionaries from entering other tribes. Even when they have a signed letter from the chief, they are turned back. But now as water drilling technicians, they are more than missionaries. They are providers of water for the now and the forever. A second strategy is to train the youth from those remote tribes as they arrive to the Amazon for education. Tome, from the Matis tribe, was camping with his dad by the river waiting for a canoe to take them to the Amazon. Suddenly he was attacked by a jaguar that tore into his head. His dad responded with a quick arrow to the jaguar's heart and it let go. Now he had a bleeding 15 year old son still waiting for a canoe. But God sent a canoe that took him the 3 days non-stop to Tabatinga's hospital. It was there that the missionary Marcos Mayoruna, found him and began to pray for his recovery. As Tome was telling me this story he said that Marcos kept saying that he would take him into his home and teach him Portuguese. But all he could think about was the extreme pain in his throbbing head. His dad was listening and accepted the missionary's offer. Six years later Tome is building a student discipleship house along with 6 other young men. They all have the same goal. They plan to graduate from the Brazilian high school and learn enough Bible to take the gospel back to their tribes.

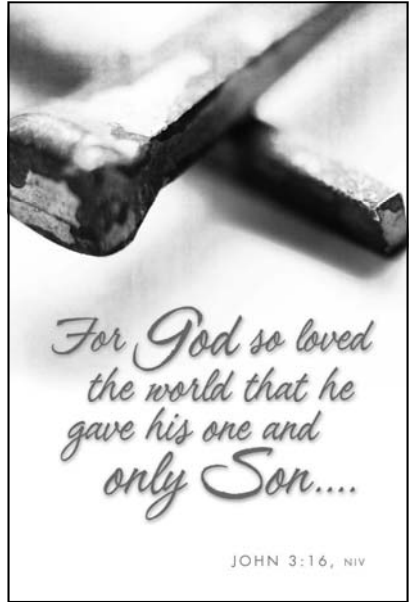


Wings of Prayer

Dear Friends in Christ and
Partners in Prayer,

This is the month when we show our love for our family and friends in various ways. We send valentine cards and gifts of flowers and candy, which is all very nice but more important is showing our love for God on that day.

“How can we do that?” you say? By thanking Him in prayer for just how much He means to us and all the blessings He bestows on us each and every day of our lives. By opening our hearts to Him and allowing Him to come in is another. By obeying His commandments and doing His will also shows our love for Him. So, on this Valentine’s Day, let’s make prayer our first priority.



There is much to pray for the world is in such turmoil and each brings frightening news, but we know that God is in control and that is comforting.

Please pray for all who have lost their jobs and are struggling to pay bills, put food on their tables and keep up mortgage payments. Pray for Pastor Sam and our church, pray for Sunday school teachers, and for all the programs that are offered such as Bible studies, membership classes and youth ministries. Our church is blessed with opportunities for each and every one who wants to serve the Lord.

As always our prayers are needed for those on our church bulletin list whose names are as follows:

Denise Hagan, Merry MacGlaughlin, Karl Abraham, Joan Smith, Marion Lamson, Terry Chickachop, Carl Capece, Sherry Rappe, Eleanor Springer, Matt Robb, Sandy Wright, Betty Strike, Nancy Marino, Bea Williams, Lew & Mildred Smith, George Stevens, Christine Fink, Florence Keller, Warren Creely, Mildred Young, Caroline Gerelus, Paul Gaehring.

Starting next month there will be someone new sharing the writing of the Wings of Prayer. Her name is Mary Emily Cameron and she has graciously answered our plea for help. Welcome Mary Emily!

I want to close this letter with these words that were written by someone else. I am just borrowing them:

*May God give you true contentment and blessings from above.
May God grant you health and happiness,
surround you with His love,
and may you find assurance in knowing that
His care is yours today and every day.
This is my special prayer.*

Love from your prayer partner,
Betty Stoms

(From the Pastor's Heart - Continued from page 5)

There are many ways we can draw closer to the Lord during this the Lenten season. What matters is that we allow these holy days to draw us closer and challenge us to live a deeper life in Christ. Let's make the most of every opportunity this year together!

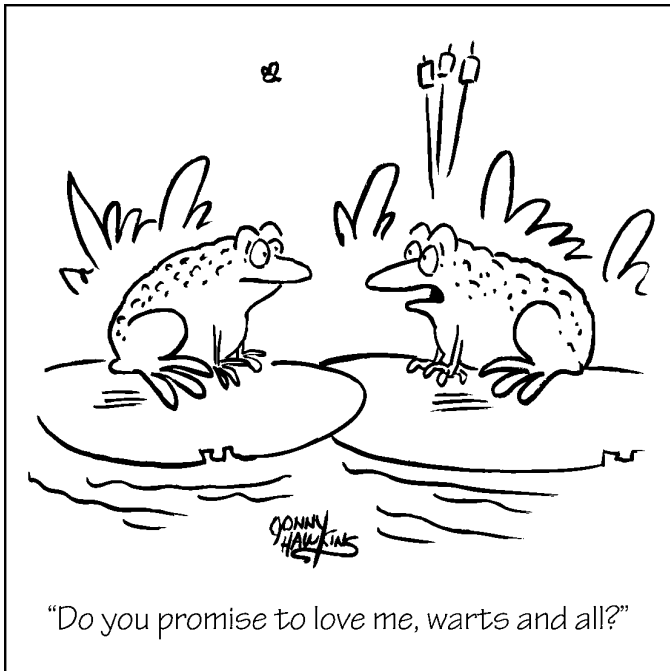
In Christ's love and service,
Pastor Sam

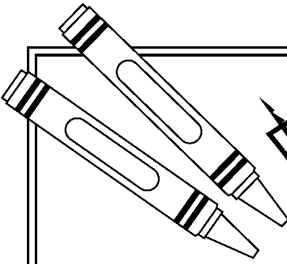


Birthdays

Feb. 6	Jim Doyle Marilyn Ellis
Feb. 7	Stan Sheaffer
Feb. 8	Florence Twigg
Feb. 9	Ruthmarie Weinberg
Feb. 10	Carol Vernon Grant Will Jungclaus Ruth Smith
Feb. 12	Kacey Ehret
Feb. 16	Jadon Hamilton Rose Hamilton
Feb. 17	Louis R. VanPelt, Jr.
Feb. 18	Marva Wallace
Feb. 20	Jennifer Schwehm
Feb. 22	Cheryl L VanPelt
Feb. 23	Philip Sheaffer Barb Oliver
Feb. 24	Barbara Edelman George Hemphill
Feb. 26	Jane Doyle
Feb. 27	Jennifer Kennedy Jennifer Skalko
Feb. 29	Ruth Davis

If you have not already done so, please give your dates (birth dates and anniversary dates) to the church office in writing or by e-mail: maria@fumccollingswood.org.





PUZZLE

FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

• • • • DIRECTIONS • • • •

To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.



gain as or ear van an for give
gave her on it one other he an a

B _____ w _____ h each
 ot _____ d _____ give
 _____ e an _____ if _____ y
 of you h _____ grie _____ ce
 a _____ st some _____ .
 For _____ as t _____ L _____ d
 for _____ you.”

COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV

Answers: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."
Colossians 3:13, NIV

FORGIVENESS Game

Try this twist on musical chairs.

What you need:

- 28 large index cards
- Black marker
- Two teams of people
- Radio or CD player

What you do:

1. On index cards, write out *forgiveness*, one letter per card. Make two sets (two F's, two O's, etc.).
2. Mix up the cards and form them face up in a circle on the floor. (You'll have six blanks mixed in.)
3. Have teams mix themselves up and stand in a circle around the cards. Ask an extra person to turn the music on and off.
4. As the music plays, teams walk around the circle. When the music stops, players each pick up the card nearest them.
5. Team members take their cards to a designated area and try to spell *forgiveness*. Any double letters or blanks go back to the "music person," who reorganizes remaining cards, spacing them evenly into a fresh circle.
6. Play continues until one team spells *forgiveness*.

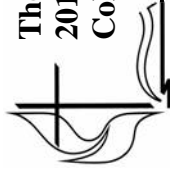
Bible Quiz

During Jesus' time in the wilderness after his baptism, Satan tempted him to do three things. Which of the following was not one of the temptations?

- A. To change water into wine so wedding guests would know he was God's Son.
- B. To throw himself down from the top of the temple, expecting angels to save him.
- C. To turn stones into bread to satisfy his hunger.
- D. To worship Satan in order to gain all the world's kingdoms.



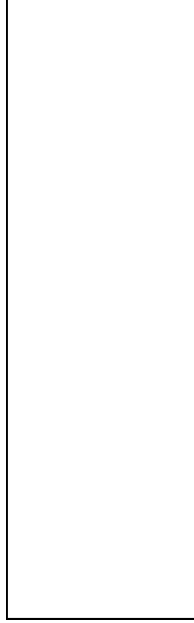
(See Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13.)
Answer: A

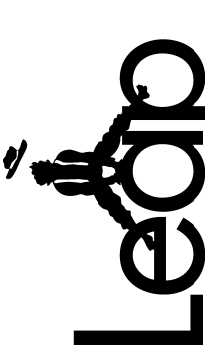


The First United Methodist Church
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