

First United Methodist Church

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Non-Profit Organization

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FAITH @ FIRST

McKenzie First United Methodist Church exists to worship God and

enable open-minded people to discover the freedom of God's grace through Jesus Christ.

July 7, 2010

A WORD from the PASTOR

Jesus said, "come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11) This is definitely something we all need to hear. And the fourth commandment reads, "Six days you shall labor but on the seventh you shall rest." *

Our calendars are full. Our lives are filled with errands, meetings and places to be. We have gadgets and machines to do much of our work, but we are still burnt out at the end of the day. For we are all on the Go, Go and Go!

Jesus gives us an invitation to rest. He can lighten the load for those of us who are burdened and weary. He gives us focus to live that doesn't have to have the stress and complexities of life. Jesus gives us the freedom to leave the highway and pull into the rest stop of His Church.

Hebrew families are said to tell their children a story, to help them understand the fourth commandment. The story is called "**The Sweetest Sound**". The main character in the story is a king.

He asked his subjects, "What is the sweetest melody of all?" Early the next morning they gathered all sorts of musicians. The King listened to their tunes, but, after listening to all of them he could not tell which sound was the sweetest sound.

Then a woman stepped forward. "O, king," she said, " I have the answer to your question." "Why didn't you come forth earlier?" he asked.

She replied, " I had to wait until the setting of the sun." The woman then took two candles and placed them on the king's balcony rail. She lit them just as the sun set; the flames glowed in the evening darkness. She then lifted her voice and said, "Blessed art thou, O Lord, Our God, King of the universe, who sanctified us with the commandments and commanded us to kindle the Sabbath lights." She then said, "He who has an ear, let him hear."

Everyone was completely still. "What is that?" asked the king. He could not hear a sound.

The woman then replied, "What you hear is the sound of rest, the sweetest melody of all."

We are like the king, who needed to hear the sound of silence. That is what Jesus gives: freedom from the noises in life. We can be free of all the burdens of our lives by opening ourselves to the peace Christ gives. The "easy yoke" that Jesus refers to is not a life of ease, but a life that is free of human demands, those things we place on ourselves that we think we need. That is the sweetest sound any of us can hear.

Our lives need these rest periods on the Lord's day. See you in church Sunday.

*Peace!
Larry*

*Dr. Keith Wagner

VBS - BOABAB BLAST

July 12th - 15th 9:00 a.m. to noon

Ages preschool to 5th grade.



Oppportunity Knocking . . .

We still have an opening for a **3rd-4th grade Sunday School teacher**. If you are interested in filling this vital part of our Sunday School ministry, please contact Gina or Donna.

Newborns in Need

The first meeting for the new West Tennessee chapter of *Newborns in Need* is on Saturday, July 17, at 8:00 a.m. here in Underwood Hall.

Newborns in Need, Inc. (NIN) is a 501(c)3 charity which provides care necessities to premature, ill or impoverished newborns to give them a safe, healthy start in life. This is accomplished through volunteers working in their own communities all across the United States. Founded on Christian principles, they provide help to all babies who need assistance. In 2009, **493,207 items** were donated to people who needed them.

Anyone who would like to sew, quilt, knit or crochet, or donate items such as fabric scraps or anything you would use for a quilt, yarn, or baby care items that you would buy for a baby shower (no strollers or big items, please) is invited to come and join this group.

More information on this national organization is available at newbornsinneed.org.

Please pray for... *Clint Anderson & Kathrine Leger; Franklin Wyatt; Ashely, Beth and Josie Culpepper; Tracy Vinson and family; Hunter Harrison; Dr. and Mrs. Nelson Harrison; Becky Herron; Darlene Martinez; Shelly Dillon; Bill & Lorraine Dillon; Walters family; ability to hand over your life to God; Kind neighbors; Drew Hayes; Karen May; Myke & Patty Wilson; Sandra Baker; Kristy King Sappington; First Place 4 Health Participants; Eva Sue & Jerry Doris; Suzanne Russell; Don & Anita Heath; Felicia Bush; Suzanne Howell; Nicky Joe & Diane Stafford; Kyle Alexander; Clarence Beville; Jimmy Cousar; Mary Jane Sexton Brewer; Vickie Foster; Sean Kyle; Emily Bolin & Libby Oakley at Lakeshore this week; June Brummitt; Sandi & Kim McMahan; Zia Locke; Joan Brown; Bill & Betty Featherstone; Sam Featherstone; Grady Jonathan Stanfill; Bob & Marilyn Putman; Bob & Jo Newton; Mary Kee; Shirley Martin; Lucy Hickman; Eadie Van Nostrand; Ernestine Branon; Joyce McBride; Sybil King; Carolyn Burke; Mary Lou & Bill Boothe; Mary Frances & Don David; Ruth Moncrief; Raymond & Jessie McDade; Lola Alexander; Jim Purcell; Al Ownby; Ina Faye Hall & family; Muriel Johnson; Mary Jo Vaughn; Our troops overseas and at home.*

The next week at our church

Sunday, July 11

9:45 a.m. Sunday School Class
10:50 a.m. Worship Service
Text: 1 Corinthians 11:23-34
Title: A Time Called Communion
1:00 p.m. Communion at Lakeside
5:00 p.m. First Place 4 Health
6:30 p.m. Sunday Night-Lights

Monday, July 12

9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School
9:00 a.m. Care Group meeting

Tuesday, July 13

9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School
7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, July 14

9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School
11:00 a.m. Prayer in the Chapel

Thursday, July 15

9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School

Saturday, July 17

8:00 a.m. Newborns in Need

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WEEK

ACOLYTES – Allie Harvey, Jacob Pinson

LITURGIST – Wesley Brockman

NURSERY – Cherry Russell, Dianne Anderson

GREETERS – Frank & Barbara Shiney

COMMUNION SERVERS -

Tim, Debbie, & Courtney Broadbent

USHERS – Glenn Sacks; chairperson,
Kevan King, Luke Anderson

July United Neighbors needed items:
crackers, peanut butter

FUMC Staff

J. Larry Riley, Pastor
John Pugh, Pastor Emeritus
Fred Sistler, Director of Ministries
Charlene Jones, Director of Music
Sandra McMahan, Organist, Handbell Director

Donna Bruce & Gina King, C & Y Directors
Kathy Patterson, Administrative Assistant

There will be a
Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 13 at 7:00 p.m.
All members are invited to attend

God's Rosebud

A new minister was walking with an older, more seasoned minister in the garden one day.

Feeling a bit insecure about what God had for him to do, he was asking the older preacher for some advice.

The older preacher walked up to a rosebush and handed the young preacher a rosebud and told him to open it without tearing off any petals.

The young preacher looked in disbelief at the older preacher and was trying to figure out what a rosebud could possibly have to do with his wanting to know the will of God for his life and ministry.

But because of his great respect for the older preacher, he proceeded to try to unfold the rose, while keeping every petal intact.

It wasn't long before he realized how impossible this was to do.

Noticing the younger preacher's inability to unfold the rosebud without tearing it, the older preacher began to recite the following poem...

"It is only a tiny rosebud,
A flower of God's design;
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine.

The secret of unfolding flowers
Is not known to such as I.
GOD opens this flower so easily,
But in my hands they die.

If I cannot unfold a rosebud,
This flower of God's design,
Then how can I have the wisdom
To unfold this life of mine?

So I'll trust in God for leading
Each moment of my day.
I will look to God for guidance
In each step of the way.

The path that lies before me,
Only my Lord knows.
I'll trust God to unfold the moments,
Just as He unfolds the rose."

~Charlie Gilchrist~

Mountain Mission Pick Up

The next pick up date for the United Methodist Mountain Mission is Tues., July 20.

Items urgently needed at this time are: men's summer clothes, men's shoes, new or very gently used underwear and socks, dishes, and school supplies (markers, pencils, crayons, notebooks, paper, book bags).

The Mission Plant is in need of laundry detergent, bleach, toilet paper, and safety pins. Banana, apple, and tomato boxes stack very well. As always, they will welcome any good and usable items.

Please hold your donations at home until July 18 as we have no storage space here.