

G R I R C U E I T R

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY
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O N L I N E E D I T I O N

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“There is God. And there are images of God. And some people don’t see any difference between the two.” So writes Miroslav Volf in his book, *Free of Charge: Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace*. He makes the point that we all are guilty of projecting our own human ideals onto our perception of God, and as such end up worshipping an idol without even knowing it. As finite beings, we cannot even begin to conceive of God’s wondrous love and how that might play itself out in our daily lives. But to worship *God* rather than idols of our own making, we must open ourselves to the Holy Spirit’s work within our lives. And when God’s Spirit begins to grow our understanding, we will live our lives differently. . . .

. . . Especially when it comes to the areas of giving and forgiving. The true God is a God who is constantly giving and forgiving on our behalf. And when the truth of God’s character breaks through to us and acts within us, our lives will take on a love, beauty, and freedom that heretofore was only a dream. But the reality of such love can be ours, even in a world that seems to discourage us.

Lent is a meaningful time for us to consider how our lives might echo God’s generous giving and forgiving. Based upon Volf’s book (the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Lenten study book from a few years ago), all three of our campuses (Downtown sanctuary, Offerings, and Andover) will be reflecting upon these themes. We will have books for sale if you wish to purchase one to study along. Our hope is you will find a compelling invitation to live a true Christian faith as a way of life, all made possible by God’s grace.

LENT	DATE	TITLE
1	Feb. 21	I. God the Giver
2	Feb. 28	II. How Should We Give?
3	Mar. 7	III. How Can We Give?
4	Mar. 14	IV. God the Forgiver
5	Mar. 21	V. How Should We Forgive?
6	Mar. 28	VI. How Can We Forgive?
Easter	Apr. 4	



Ash Wednesday Service

February 17, 6:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary Downtown

Service led by the Offerings Worship Team and Community

"Those who hear not the music, think the dancer mad."

Several weeks ago I was in a health club. I do that once in a while just to make me feel like I am slowing down the process of decay. As I was at a weight station, the person next to me suddenly broke out in a wild dance, apparently not even realizing they were doing it. I couldn't help but turning and staring for a moment. When the person realized what they were doing and noticed me beside them, they became very sheepish and pointed to their headphones – "This is great music – I can't help it".

I appreciated this person's zest for what they were doing. Sure it looked strange to me, but it kinda' made me want to hear what they were listening to.

It all got me thinking. As Christians we walk to a "different kind of music". And it sometimes is hard for others around us to understand. Faith in God? Gratitude in the midst of difficult times? Sacrificial giving? We listen to the music of salvation, a song of redemption, the music of Christ's sacrifice for us. And it does something to us. Why should we be embarrassed? Why be concerned about what others are thinking when they don't understand? Crank up the music and start dancing with a passion. People may think you are a little silly, but they may find themselves wanting to listen.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul".

Worship...

St. Paul A.M.E.

Founder's Day Service

Joint Service with First UMC

Sunday, February 28

2:00 p.m. Dinner

3:00 p.m. Joint Worship Service

In 1820 our church was very instrumental in helping begin the Historic Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church. In celebration of their 190th birthday, their church will host a dinner and joint worship service. Both our choir and pastor will participate. Please join us as we celebrate our common heritage and oneness in Christ.

Live! at First: The Deanna Witkowski Jazz Trio

The inaugural event in our *Live! at First* concert series is a concert by the Deanna Witkowski Jazz Trio on Saturday, February 20 at 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. Winner of the 2002 Great American Jazz Piano Competition and a past guest on Marian McPartland's *Piano Jazz*, pianist/composer/vocalist Deanna Witkowski has been heralded for her "consistently thrilling" playing and her "boundless imagination" (*All Music Guide*). Her 2009 CD release, **From This Place**, focuses on her sacred jazz material with musicians including Donny McCaslin and John Patitucci. Marrying ancient and modern sacred texts with the richness of jazz, Ms. Witkowski's genre-defying release led to wide-ranging exposure, including a return appearance on National Public Radio's *Weekend Edition Sunday* and accolades in both religious and mainstream music media. Tickets for the concert are \$10 for adults (\$8 for seniors age 65+) and \$5 for students (\$12/\$10/\$7 at the door) and are available online at www.1stumc.org. Tickets may also be purchased in the Gathering Hall on Sunday mornings or through the the LexArts Box Office at 859-225-0370.

Black History Month

Our Music Ministry honors Black History Month through our use of both African and African-American musical forms and styles throughout the month of February. This will include music directly from Africa, written by Africans, African-American spirituals sung by forcibly transplanted Africans and gospel music inspired by the music of Africa. Through the use of authentic folk music from countries such as Ghana, Cameroon and Zimbabwe as well as spirituals and gospel songs, we pay tribute to the rich heritage that has had such a tremendous influence on all of our music.

Grow...

September Club News

Our Senior adults ministry, the September Club, will have a kick off luncheon on Thursday, March 18, at noon in Fellowship Hall. We are looking forward to getting this ministry back in full swing. Come with your ideas and suggestions. We will do what all good Methodists do, share a meal together and fellowship! We have sign-up sheets in the Gathering Hall for downtown and also at the Andover campus. Come join us!

Join us for Sunday School

We meet at 9:50 a.m. downtown and 9:40 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. at Andover. There's a class waiting for you!

Super Bowl Sunday a Success

Thank you for your support of the youth group and their mission work here in Lexington. Sunday, February 7, the youth were able to raise over a \$1,000. Thank you so much for your support.

Have a Heart for Seniors

Bishop Davis and the Kentucky Annual Conference have designated Sunday, February 21, as the day to receive the "Have a Heart for Seniors" Annual Love Offering in our United Methodist Churches across Kentucky. 100% of our offering goes to Wesley Village to provide charitable support for those residents receiving healthcare who have outlived their financial resources. Please give generously next Sunday as we care for those who have given so much to us. (Checks should be made payable to First United Methodist Church, designated for Wesley Village)

First Church Blood Drive

Our next Blood Drive will be on **Sunday, February 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall.** The Blood Center is always in need of blood during the winter months, and the snow caused several drives to be cancelled. Consider giving blood on the 21. Sign up in Fellowship Hall. Your Health Cabinet would like to say "Thank You" for your participation.

Serve...

Missions Trip to India

Lisa Michelle Wilson will be leading a small team to India to work at a Christian orphanage in Southern India.

This 10 day trip will take place in July 2010. Majority of our trip will be focused on teaching and working with over 200 little girls who have come to reside at the orphanage. This trip promises to be life changing as we share the love of Christ with many and allow God to truly work in our own hearts. If you are interested in joining this team, please let us know soon. Contact Teddy Ray or Lisa Michelle for more information, lisa@1stumc.org.

Dear First UMC,

Thank you for sponsoring me through Faith Promise on a mission trip to Atlanta. We first served at Samaritan's Purse by checking, packing, and sorting shoeboxes for kids around the world who don't have much. As a school group we checked and packed over two hundred boxes. After this, we passed out food, clothing, and blankets to homeless people in the area. We did all of this with another group of people who lived in Atlanta and did this every Saturday. Each time we would go see someone, we asked them if they wanted to come off the streets to a shelter that this group had created for homeless men, children, and women. That day we took two people off the streets to go to the shelter. The people we were with had all previously been homeless except for one boy who was seventeen. At the end of that day we had the privilege to serve dinner for all the people who had previously been taken off the street and were staying in the shelter. Thank you again for your support in this opportunity to serve!

Rachel Roberts

Faith Promise Update

This past month, we used \$5,000 from the Faith Promise fund to help purchase supplies for over 1,100 health kits that 1st UMC packed and sent to UMCOR for Haiti relief. Thanks to your continued generosity toward the Faith Promise fund, our church has been able to respond quickly to emergency need like this situation in Haiti.

Our Faith Promise fund supports a multitude of missions in partnership with 1st UMC - both local and overseas. To give to Faith Promise, simply note "Faith Promise" on any offering.

Children & Youth Updates

Confirmation

All 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students who haven't gone through confirmation are invited and encouraged to participate in this year's class. This is an exciting time of growing closer together and learning more about the church. If you have any questions about confirmation or would like to participate, please contact Jim Nally (jim@1stumc.org), Eric Douglas (eric@1stumc.org), or the church office, 233-0545. The first meeting will be on March 17 for both parents and students.

Summer Camp

Registration and information for all Kentucky Conference Summer camps are available in the Gathering Hall and online. Youth of all ages should find the camp that is right for them and not miss out on these lasting experiences. For more information contact Jim Nally, jim@1stumc.org or 553-0300. Also check out the following websites for online registration and more information: www.aldersgatecamp.org, www.loucon.org, and www.kyumc.org.

Youth Parent Meeting

Our next youth parent meeting will be Sunday February 28 at 5:00 p.m. All parents are encouraged to participate. This is a great time to gather information and to have a say in the activities of the youth group. Come participate in the life of your youth!

It's time for our annual Easter Egg Hunt!

This year it will be held at the Andover campus on Saturday March 27. We will start out our morning with a Pancake breakfast and pictures with the Easter Bunny at 9:00 a.m. At 9:45 a.m., we will have an Easter Lesson with Pastor Todd Nelson. Then we will start hunting for eggs around 10:00 a.m.

We are in need of a few items to make this day possible. We need: empty plastic Easter Eggs or trinket-filled eggs, small toys or trinkets to go into the eggs, and individually wrapped candy (please no chocolate or nuts). Please drop these items off at either at Andover in the Children's Ministry Hallway or at the Downtown Campus in Room 208 by March 21st.

Please contact Lisa Michelle to RSVP for the Pancake breakfast by March 21st.

If you have any questions please contact Lisa Michelle Wilson, lisa@1stumc.org or Bekah Thompson, bekah@1stumc.org.

Vacation Bible School

It is almost Vacation Bible School time! We are going to be taking a road trip and would like to invite you to come along with us! We are looking for some people who wouldn't mind helping guide the children on this journey. This is a great opportunity to help the children's ministry out in anyway that you can. We are in need of people to pray for the children, help in setting up and tearing down, leading children from one station to the next, playing games or making crafts. We need all who are able to come on this road trip with us on June 13 - 17. If you are interested in helping out please email Bekah, bekah@1stumc.org, or Lisa, lisa@1stumc.org.

Our Church Family...

Circuit Rider: Online Edition

Would you like to receive the Circuit Rider by email? It helps save paper, postage, AND gets to you faster! To start receiving our newly re-designed Online Edition of the Circuit Rider, please contact the church office, 233-0545 or 1stumc@1stumc.org.

Prayer Chain Email List

If you have suddenly stopped receiving the prayer list each week, please contact the church office. There was a computer glitch and many names were lost off of this mailing list. Please contact the church office to be put on the list, 1stumc@1stumc.org or 233-0545.

Circuit Rider deadlines...

- March 7, 2010
- April 4, 2010
- May 2, 2010

Please contact the head of your ministry area to submit an article for the Circuit Rider to be considered for publication by these dates.

Planning a 2010 Wedding?

Non-members have requested the following dates: July 31, 2010 and September 11, 2010.

Find us on the Web!

We encourage you to take the time and check out what is going on in other areas of ministry.

Andover Blog:

1stumcandover.blogspot.com

Children's Ministry Blog:

FirstChurchKids.blogspot.com

Youth Ministry Blog:

FUMCY.wordpress.com

Wednesday Night

Fellowship Dinner

Don't forget to make reservations each week for our dinner on Wednesday evenings. You may call the church office, 233-0545 or email your reservation, amanda@1stumc.org.

We also have a weekly email that goes out on Mondays letting you know what is on the menu. If you would like to start receiving those emails let us know!

Endowment Corner

What is your legacy? A gift to the FUMC Endowment Foundation could ensure that the spiritual nourishment you value will be available for generations to come.

From your First Church Endowment Board of Stewards