

Crossroads Signposts

Sunday, July 25, 2010



This Week at Crossroads

(All events at church unless otherwise noted.)

Today

- Youth group, 1 p.m.

Monday, July 26

- Emmaus Fourth Day Group, 6:30 p.m., home of Brian and Andrea Rafferty, Williamston

- Small group meeting, 7:10 p.m., home of Jeremy and Toinette Wicks. Studying Changing the World Through Prayer”

(No Directions congregational meeting this month.)

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MISSIONS

Crossroads Invited: Early Response Training, Help with Flood Relief

Crossroads people have coming UMC early response training opportunities, as well as a call to help with flood relief in New England and Tennessee. Please see Jeremy Wicks for details.

Training is scheduled August 7 at Elsie UMC and August 21 at First UMC of Holland. These are comprehensive, all-day training sessions to prepare you to serve on a disaster relief team. This is a great opportunity for you and those you know to receive ERT training, and to be able to assist in the efforts below!

New England:

The New England United Methodist Conference has a need for ERTs beginning the first week in August. New England has had severe flooding in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Tennessee Disaster Response Update:

Tennessee is in transition from cleanup to rebuilding. They will need teams from late summer through the next 18 months to 2 years.

Coming Events

(All events at CUMC unless otherwise noted.)

Sunday, August 1

- Jeremy Wicks in the pulpit.

Saturday, August 7

- Early Response Team training, Elsie United Methodist church, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, August 10

- Children's Christian Education Team Building, 7 p.m. Refreshments provided!

Wednesday, August 11

- Service Ministry Team, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, August 18

- Seekers Ministry Team, 6 p.m. Gifts and Shepherds Ministry Teams, 7 p.m.

Saturday, August 21

- Early Response Team training, Holland United Methodist Church, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wednesday, August 25

- All-Church potluck dinner, 6 p.m. All invited!
- Directions monthly congregational meeting, 7 p.m. All welcome!

Sunday, September 12

- Rally Day kick-off for 2010-2011 Christian Education programs, 9:30 a.m. Outdoor service, games, barbecue potluck picnic

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The grant money is in, and the fences are going up around Crossroads' mission gardens! Crossroads has received more than \$1,200 from the Greater Lansing Community Foundation for the fencing. The Seekers Ministry Team invites all to help with weeding and watering of the gardens. See Tom Knox and Jeremy Wicks.

Jesus Calls Us, Saying, "Christian, Follow Me"

When we follow Jesus, our lives will be filled with time for both action and reflection, for being and doing.

That was the message when Pastor Ellen spoke Sunday, July 18 at Crossroads. "Let us give up our worrying, get ourselves and our worries out of the central place in our lives and follow Jesus, as we have been given the gifts to do so through the love of Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit," she said.

Pastor Ellen based her message on the Biblical story of Martha and Mary, sisters with different gifts whom Jesus helped with priorities. Martha was given to work and worrying, while Mary sat at the feet of Jesus.

How does the church today look at the work for Christ? Pastor Ellen asked. "Are we so overburdened that the work we do for the church becomes a chore and we forget that this is a community formed to usher in God's reign on earth? Are we focusing on what others are not doing rather than what we have been called to do? Are we carrying out tasks but not carrying out our call to place God at the center of our service?"

"When we focus our efforts on service to God, nurturing our faith and seeking to serve through the use of the gifts we have been given, then the good news and joy will resound throughout the building and throughout our lives," proclaimed Pastor Ellen.

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Barbara Allen is proposing to the next Directions congregational meeting that Crossroads change its logo (seen elsewhere on this page) to the traditional United Methodist flame and cross. This would be for all church documents. Please pray about this change and come to vote!

All the children who attended last week's "High Seas Expedition" vacation Bible school at Crossroads and whose parents reported no home church have been invited to continue learning about God's mighty love. Toinette Wicks and Kathy Blakely have sent a letter home with those kids inviting their parents to bring them back each Sunday for Sunday school lessons at Crossroads. Let's all encourage and welcome those who come!

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Crossroads' Vacation Bible School established the Lansing-based Loaves and Fishes Ministries as its mission project this year. Loaves and Fishes provides a safe, peaceful and non-violent shelter home for the hungry and homeless of our community. It was founded in 1982 by a group of ecumenical Christians. The VBS goal for Loaves and Fishes was \$100. Can the congregation match that?

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We Are:

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