

## Can You Help?

Tutors are needed after school Monday through Friday (3:30 to 6:00) at the Eastside Mission in Utica.

Tutoring includes help with homework, basic reading (the children reading and you listening), help with spelling lists, history, American government, writing assignments, and basic math. You may choose the afternoon of the week that's good for you.

The Utica Eastside Mission is located at Asbury United Methodist Church, 932 Rutger Street, Utica. It serves low-income intercity children and youth from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. This past summer the Mission served over 40 children. When asked at the end of summer what services they wanted this fall, the children overwhelmingly said, *Help with homework*. You may call director Nancy Daleney, 724-1200, for more information or to schedule a visit.

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Worship with us *each* week: Sundays at 8:30 in the chapel downstairs, 10:00 in the sanctuary upstairs and Wednesday night at 7:00 in the sanctuary.

Sunday school is provided during our 10:00 service.

### A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

A very big thank you to all the ladies who helped at the rummage sale Sue, Freida, Cathy K., Nora, Verna, and Betty. Also a special thank you to Verna for making our sloppy joe sandwiches, donuts, and pizza. To Janet for joining our coffee breaks and laughter. Thank you to Bev M. for

being cashier for three days and Mike for taking some pictures.

Thank you to all who donated articles for the sale and especially the furniture.

We made a great profit of \$1,058.00. It's a lot of hard work, but with the great help and profit, it is worth it .

God Bless All of You,  
Betty Smith

### *From Your Church Family!*

*A very special thank you to Mike Gleason who so generously makes the posters to take around and advertise our events. He also takes the pictures for the paper. Thank you Mike! We really appreciate it.*

### On Our Prayer List:

All who are ill or grieving, and  
Joanne Valentine                      Dorcas Conkling  
Louie Case                                Stan Piper  
Barb Dawson                              Jean Sterling  
Eileen Chapman                        Lena Stadler  
Mary George                               Muriel Sanders  
Ethel Clark

Men and women  
serving our country,  
including Gary R.  
going to Iraq  
and Buddy W.  
serving in Iraq

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### FROM THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

On behalf of hospital patients in your community, thank you for your commitment to the American Red Cross blood program. As a dedicated blood drive sponsor, your leadership in the coming months will help prevent blood shortages.

Thank you for your blood drive on Sept. 29, 2008. Donations collected that day totaled 45 units and helped 135 patients. Thank you for helping to save lives.

The next blood drive at FUMC will be Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.

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## CALENDARS FOR 2009

Ready or not, the new year is just around the corner. Calendars with FUMC's worship schedule and phone numbers are now available.

A very special thank you to Fenner Funeral Home for this annual gift.

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### *Did You Know?*

That we collect Campbell's Soup labels for the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky; Soda bottles and cans (rinsed) for the youth group; Used batteries for BOCES???

Your donations can be left in the church vestibule. Thanks.

From our youth leader:

Hello Everyone,

As some of you know, we've recently changed the structure of our Sunday school program and the biggest change is that we've added a class for the many high school kids in our church. Kim Sawyer and I have taken responsibility for this group and we look forward to creating a fun yet informative class that will keep the teens of our church interested. Currently we are cleaning out the *Rainbow Room* and turning it into the new Youth Group classroom.

The Youth Group itself is going to have a busy rest of the year. Currently we are looking into doing some volunteer work at House of the Good Shepherd in Utica. In addition to that, the kids will also be helping out at the Salvation Army's SA Café and ringing bells for the Salvation Army's kettle campaign.

It is great that this church has so many young people that take pride in the church and want to work to make their community a better place. I look forward to seeing how this class develops; I believe this will be a great thing for the kids and the church as well. God bless.

Cory Jones

*It is great that the church has leaders like Cory and Kim enthused about our youth. Thanks!*

Coming attractions...

### Friday Night Coffeehouse

In December we will continue our tradition of *Christmas Karaoke* on Friday December 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Speaking of UpWord...

Wednesday Night Worship continues each week at 7:00 in the sanctuary of FUMC. Members of UpWord lead us in worship through music and the Word of God. A time of fellowship and refreshment follows at 8:00. Bible study begins at 8:15. The evening ends at 9:00. Everyone is welcome.

### News From Our Sunday School

Sunday school is off to a fun start this fall! In September the children learned about Moses through exciting workshops such as making stone tablets in *Commandment Center*, and a craft project with baby Moses in a floating basket. *Plague Station 3* included creating plague insects. *The Story Telling Tent* included telling the Bible story about Moses while the children were floating in a lifesize boat along the Nile. In *Theater Along the Nile* the movie was the story of Moses' life from an infant to an adult. The atmosphere is set up like a movie theater, including colored flashing lights in a darkened room, along with popcorn and juice. Moses was the greatest leader in the history of the Israelites!

In October we learned about Samuel through the story and the movie...and how we can be good listeners and hear God speaking to us. The children handcrafted pillowcases and made Samuel people...out of a graham cracker, marshmallow fluff, pretzel sticks, with a marshmallow for a pillow, and covered with a fruit roll-up to keep him warm.

If all of this sounds like fun, we invite anyone who has been part of the congregation for

at least six months to become part of our teaching staff. It would be helpful to have a list of individuals willing to serve our Sunday school as substitute teachers, giving our core teachers an opportunity to stay in the sanctuary for worship. Please contact Joyce Sawyer if you are interested.

The Sunday school will begin to look ahead to Advent and Christmas, with preparation for our annual Christmas Eve service.

Come, join the fun of introducing our youngest members to faith in Jesus Christ.

We thank our current teachers: Joyce Sawyer, Dawn Taylor, Kathy Marlowe, Cory Jones and Kim Sawyer.

### **Grief Support Groups**

Bereavement support groups are supportive, educational and interactive. They are a place to discuss emotional, relational or spiritual needs with care and sensitivity. They are available to adults of all ages who have experienced the death of a loved one and offer an opportunity to meet others experiencing similar losses.

Upon completing the four week self-care workshop, you will be invited to join *Living the Journey*, a monthly group that meets from September to June. There are two sittings for these group meetings: the third Monday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 at First UMC and also the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 at Church of Christ Uniting in Richfield Springs.

A new parent group, for parents and grandparents who have experienced the death of a child, meets for three sessions on Thursday evenings, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 at the Herkimer Reformed Church on Church Street.

There is no charge for these workshops. For additional information, please contact Pam Hess, 866-4590.

### **THE MITTEN TREE**

For the Christmas Season we will be putting up a mitten tree in the fellowship hall this November. Your help in supplying mittens, hats and scarves for the needy of all ages would be greatly appreciated.

The church will also continue its tradition of offering to those in need good used winter coats. Those able to provide winter coats may bring them to the church during office hours or any Sunday morning. *Thanks for thinking of others.*

### **The true meaning of Christmas...**

The season of Advent is waiting time, getting ready time, anticipation time as we remember the birth of Jesus Christ long ago and anticipate his coming again into our world.

Advent begins Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup> and we will count down the four weeks till Christmas in both morning services through liturgy around the Advent wreath. We invite everyone to worship with us in a season that has become so commercialized and overwhelming.

Our celebration will culminate with our family service on Christmas Eve at 7:00. While plans are only now being formed, and some things are sure to be different this year, our emphasis on family participation will be the same.

Come, join the family for worship on Christmas Eve.

### **Gram Lorraine Children's Christmas Program**

For nearly two decades, the Gram Lorraine Program has provided thousands of children in the Mohawk Valley with four items of clothing and a toy, book or game of choice. Participating schools include Little Falls, Mohawk, Poland, Owen D. Young, Frankfort, Mt. Markham, Remington and Barringer in Ilion, and BOCES. In Montgomery

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County, Fort Plain Elementary has joined the Gram Lorraine Program.

Involved families are designated by school personnel, including nurses and faculty/staff. ***In 2007, over 1000 children were served!***

Sponsors are generous people willing to purchase assigned items for a child, or, as in many cases, two or more children. After indicating interest, sponsors are contacted in early November with their assignments. In early December they drop off their gifts at designated places. *First UMC is pleased to once again be a drop off point for Gram Lorraine. Gift items may be brought to the church Tuesday December 9<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 6:00.* Families will pick up their gifts later that same week. Sponsors generally spend \$60 to \$100 – depending on how much they decide to purchase. Some sponsors go in with one or more others to share the cost.

On Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 there will be a concert featuring local musicians at Ilion’s Baptist Church in order to raise funds to take care of families without sponsors. The cost is \$5 a person.

Your participation in this community program will ensure that an area child will experience an enjoyable Christmas in a difficult financial time.

*Thanks to those who sponsored a child.* When we brighten Christmas for a child, we brighten our own celebration as well.

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Pastor Janet Gleason, (H) 315- 219-5169

[mgleason@twcny.rr.com](mailto:mgleason@twcny.rr.com)

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

9:00 AM –12:00 PM

Church (315) 866-1349

Secretary Kathie Fineout

Office Hours

Tuesday and Thursday

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

[firstunitedmethodist@ntcnet.com](mailto:firstunitedmethodist@ntcnet.com)

