



14506 E. 39th St. S.
Independence, MO 64055
Phone: 816-461-1101
Fax: 816-833-4913
E-Mail: office@icumc.org
Check out our Website: www.icumc.org

Circuit Writer

Volume 4, Issue 5

May 1, 2012

Worship & Sunday School/Other Learning Opportunities Times

Saturday

5:30 - Saturday
Worship in the Chapel

Sunday

8:35 - Worship Service
with Organ and Choir

9:45 a.m. - Sunday
School and Other
Learning Opportunities

10:55 - Worship
Service with Praise Band

10:55 - Children's
Church (Kids Zone)

A Message from Rev. Mike Costanzo

It is with joy that I share some good news that is happening in the kingdom of God, and in Christ's holy Church. As the cabinet has been meeting to fill this season's clergy appointments, they have offered me a full-time position as the pastor of Lake Lotawana United Methodist Church, which I have accepted. This is a wonderfully exciting opportunity for Morrissa and I and a fulfillment of the last piece of the ordination process (2 years of full-time ministry as a probationary elder). This appointment will take effect on July 8, 2012, but because of the schedule of Annual Conference and vacations, my last Sunday

at Christ Church will be June 3rd.

This is good news, but the news comes with tears of sadness. Answering the call to ministry is what brought Morrissa and me to be part of this wonderful congregation. And answering the call also brings with it the sorrow of leaving a congregation that we love. Christ Church has been such a support to our family through my candidacy process; you have demonstrated God's love to us as you cared for us during my illness; and you have been a great source of encouragement for a developing pastor. As I reflect on our years together, I thank God that

we have been brought here for this season of our lives. I cherish the gift of all those many Sundays that we've worshipped God together, and the special gift of Children's Time. You and your children have been a blessing to me, and I relish the remaining Sundays that we still have together.

I know that you will wish us well in this next phase of life, and I look forward to the many joyful and probably tearful conversations that we will have between now and then.

In Christ's Love,
Mike Costanzo

Adult Discipleship Opportunity in May

EVIL ...

Sundays: May 6, 13, 20 & 27

9:45-10:45 a.m. in The Place

Led by: Rev. Mike Costanzo



Understanding the presence of EVIL in the world is difficult for us to comprehend. Many of us experienced our first "picture of evil" at the movies. Remember the character of Cruella DeVill in 101 Dalmatians? She even scares me as an adult! How could anyone want to kill puppies? Evil is a tough reality to face and Rev. Mike will help us do just that in these 4 weeks of conversation. Individuals and classes are invited to participate. In "The Place" we can make room for everyone who is interested.

Promise Tree 2012

This is the 11th year that we have sponsored the Promise Tree here at Christ UMC. With your outstanding support we have earned over \$20,000, all of which has been given to projects here at the church or to worthy causes in our community.

Sales of the Promises will begin Sunday, May

6th and continue for four weeks.

In response to many requests, we have added a new feature this year. It is: **I Need a Promiser**. If you are able to help someone in the church with a need, please take a look at the this sheet.



Church Camp Registration

You still have time to sign your child up for Church Camp - - a great spiritual experience in your child's life. Camp choices are available for all ages!

The church pays half of the regular camp fee through our scholarship program. The deadline for the early bird price is May 15!

Check out: www.moumethodist.org for more information on specific camps offered.

Contact Kathy Vest at kvest@icumc.org for more information.

Upward Basketball & Cheer Camp June 4-7, 2012



Basketball Camp

Pre-K to 1st Grades - 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center
2nd to 5th Grades - 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center

Cheer Camp

Pre-K to 5th Grades
6:00-7:00 p.m. in The Place

The cost is \$30 per child.

Register online at www.icumc.org or in the childcare office at church.

The children will participate with the grade level he/she will be entering in the fall.

For any questions, contact Laura Stagg or Kathy Moxley at 461-3393.



Successful All Church Basement Sale

The All Church Basement Sale was a huge success this year with an even larger profit than any of the previous sales. All this is due to the excellent response from our membership bringing in so many items and the Day Care cleaning out unused and older equipment and toys.

Our profit turned out to be \$5,800! Part of this money is set aside for

children's programming such as Creative Arts Camp and special events such as Trunk-or-Treat and the Easter Eggstravaganza. Another portion goes to Upward Basketball scholarships and this year towards some new wall-mounted goals. The remainder is in a hold account for other needs to be decided later.

So a huge THANK YOU goes to all the workers

who sorted items, moved heavy boxes and furniture, priced several thousand items, set up, worked the sale days and cleaned up the Family Life Center area. An extra thank you goes to the Pummill family who went beyond the call of duty in picking up and delivering furniture.

Blessings to all of you,
Kathy Vest



Easter Eggstravaganza - A Fun Event for 100 Kids



One hundred children participated in the Easter Eggstravaganza this year. They enjoyed games, craft activities, refreshments, an indoor egg hunt and a visit with the Easter bunny.

A BIG thank you goes to all who helped before and

at the event.

All the thousands of eggs were filled this year by the many volunteers who attended the two egg stuffing sessions. The congregation was also very generous in their support by providing lots of candy

and the UMW Hannah Circle provided the refreshments.

So, once again, the church showed their strong support for our children in a very special way.

Thanks so much,
Kathy Vest

Children's Summer Events - Save These Dates!

Vacation Bible School

July 9-13 from 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Ages Pre-K through 5th Grade (grade entering in the fall of 2012)

This is a free event

**Volunteers are needed for VBS this year to help with activities and to escort children to and from those activities. Contact Kathy Vest at kvest@icumc.org if you can help out!

Creative Arts Camp

July 23-27 from 5:30-8:45 p.m.

3rd-7th Grade (grade entering in the fall of 2012)

Cost: \$20 (Some Scholarships Available)

Includes supper each evening and the choice of three classes. Classes include: Creative Dance, Bells, Chorus, Photography, Puppetry, Sign Language, Beginning Guitar, Creative Art Projects, Drama, STOMP, TWIGS and a few other choices still being scheduled.

Friday night is the showcase of talent.

Christ UMC Youth

Summer is in the air and many things are going to take place among the youth at Christ United Methodist Church to make sure we take advantage of the best time of the year - well, at least it is my favorite!

First, the youth are going to hold a May Play Day at Grace United Community Ministries at 801 Benton Boulevard in Kansas City on May 12th from 1:30-4:30 p.m. They will have games, food, music and fun for families and children in the local community.

Then, on May 18th from 7-11 pm we are going to have our 1st Annual Summer Kick-Off at Bring Your Face To The Place.

We are going to have a variety of outdoor fun games and plan on inviting teens and students from our local community.

Finally, the youth ministry is going to hold our 1st Annual Youth and Family Summer Bash at Watkins Mill State Park in Lawson, MO on May 27th from 2-7 pm. All youth and their families are invited. We plan on having lots of food, games, swimming and a great devotional alongside the water.

If you or anyone you know would like to be involved with these events or with the youth ministry in general, please contact Brandon Winstead or Janice Harkins at



bwinstead@icumc.org or 816-461-1101.

Grace and Peace,

Brandon Winstead and
Janice Harkins



May: Teacher Appreciation Month for our Early Learning Center

In the month of May we will be honoring our staff of the Christ Preschool and Early Learning Center.

If you'd like to help as we prepare several days of meals and goodies for the staff, give Colene Voth, the Early Learning Development Council Chairperson, a call at 373-4881.

**Christ United Methodist Church
Staff**

- *Rev. Chris Williams, Senior Pastor
- *Rev. Michael Costanzo, Evangelism Pastor
- *Rev. Dr. Glen Wiggs, Visitation Pastor
- *Lynn Arnold, Formational Ministries
- *Dr. Brandon Winstead, Minister to Youth & Families
- *Janice Harkins, Assistant Youth Director
- *Kathy Vest, Children's Ministries
- *Helen Hatridge, Caring Connections Coordinator
- *Travis Murray, Music Director & Children's Choirs
- *Carla Kincaid, Children's Choirs
- *Elaine Jackson, Organist & Youth Praise Choir Director
- *John Johnson, Contemporary Music Director
- *Mark Costanzo, A/V Director
- *Amber Dennis, Administrative Secretary
- Karen Juliana, Business Manager
- *Kathy Moxley & Laura Stagg, Christ Early Learning Center
& Preschool

We're on the Web!

www.icumc.org



**Monday, April 16, 2012
for the May newsletter
10:00 a.m.**

**Christ United Methodist Church
14506 E. 39th St. S.
Independence, MO 64055**

May 1, 2012

The Circuit Writer (USPS #002-138) is published monthly by:
Christ United Methodist Church, 14506 E. 39th St. S., Independence, MO 64055
PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID at Independence, MO
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
THE CIRCUIT WRITER - 14506 E. 39th St. S., Independence, MO 64055