

Thank you...

Church, thank you so much for the prayers and cards in the loss of my brother, David Irbin. Thanks to my church family for the very neat basket and bulbs to plant. What a great gift! Thanks again, from all my family.

Barb Coon

To our church family, thank you so much for the lovely planter and all of your love, prayers, cards and support you've shown on behalf of Noah and his family.

John, Phyllis Lovell and family

Selma United Methodist Church Family, what a blessing to have such a wonderful, caring family. Thank you for all the care and concern from so many of you. A special thank you to Kenny and Janice Austin for over seeing the meals. Phillip's surgery was a success. We praise God for His healing powers.

Phillip and Vicky Hughes

The preschool donated 10 filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child!! Thanks to all the children for their generous donations!!

Little Learners

Novemer Baby Dedication

We celebrate in the dedication of **Isabella Grace Dickey** on Sunday, November 15, 2009. Parents, Dr. Brandon and Celestial Dickey ask for the Selma UM Church to support and hold them accountable as they raise Isabella to love and know God.

Little Learners Preschool Annual Christmas Program

Thursday, Dec. 10th at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm

SHOTS FOR TOTS

Shots for Tots immunization clinics held at SUMC for December and January have been canceled, due to the need to staff flu clinics at other locations. Shots for Tots will resume the SUMC clinic Thursday, February 4, 2010, from 9:30-11:30 AM and 1:00-3:30 PM.

Sunday Morning Worship:

9:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Webwww.selmaumc.org
 Email.....selmaumc@selmaumc.org
 Phone765-282-1648
 Mark Elcessor Senior Pastor
 Jeff Ellis The Compass Pastor
 Lisa Elcessor Worship/Arts & Youth
 Kristen Herbst.....LIFE Groups
 Susan Koebecke Children
 Gail Yates Newcomers
 Barb Coon Congregational Care
 Todd Austin.....Communications Director
 Gary Turner.....Ministry Director
 Shelly Harvey Administrative Assistant
 Phil Hughes Custodian
 Little Learners.....765-288-4777
 Susan Shreve.....Little Learners Director

December Calendar

- 1 Christmas Bash Volunteer Meeting (9a)
Food Pantry (9:30 -11a)
Christmas Bash Volunteer Meeting (6:30-7:30p)
- 2 Exercise Class (6:30-7:30p)
Worship Team (6:30-8p)
- 3 AA Meeting (8p)
- 4 Gamin' Gals (7-9p)
- 5 The Christmas Bash (1-4p)
- 6 New Member Sunday
Youth Bake Sale (10:15a & 12:15p)
Confirmation #9-"How to Make the Right Decisions" (5-6p)
No Youth Group
Adult & Youth Cantata Practice (6:30-8p)
- 7 Staff Christmas Lunch (11:30a-1p)
- 9 Exercise Class (6:30-7:30p)
Worship Team (6:30-8p)
- 10 Little Learners Christmas Program (10a & 6:30p)
AA Meeting (8p)
- 12 Secret Sister Christmas Basket Assembly (11a-2p)
- 13 Youth Shop, Wrap, Serve & Give (12:30-6p)
No Confirmation
Adult & Youth Cantata Practice (6p)
- 14 Christmas Basket Assembly (6-8p)
- 15 Christmas Basket Pick-Up (9a-7p)
Food Pantry (5:30-7p)
- 16 Cantata Dress Rehearsal (6-8:30p)
Exercise Class (6:30-7:30p)
Worship Team (6:30-8p)
- 17 AA Meeting (8p)
- 19 Lit'n' Lattes @ Panera (10a)
Cantata Dress Rehearsal (9a-12p)
- 20 Christmas Cantata @ SUMC (9 & 10:45a)
No Confirmation
No Youth Group
- 23 Exercise Class (6:30-7:30p)
Worship Team (6:30-8p)
- 24 Church Office Closed
Christmas Eve Service @ SUMC (6:30p)
Christmas Eve Service @ The Compass (8:30p)
- 25 Merry Christmas!
- 27 Birthday Party for Jesus (9a & 10:45a)
Christmas Cantata @ The Compass (10:45a)
Confirmation #10-"How to be Filled with the Holy Spirit"
No Youth Group
- 30 Exercise Class (6:30-7:30p)
Worship Team (6:30-8p)
- 31 New Year's Eve

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Return Service Requested

Selma United Methodist Church is to be a seeker-friendly, disciple-making, servant-equipping, mission-sending, and God-honoring fellowship of believers. Our primary ministry focus will be on youth and children, and serving our community and world in Christ's behalf.

INSIGHT

sharing God's vision with his family

volume 7 issue 18 december 2009



You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch

By Pastor Mark Elcessor

If pressed, many people would say the things most valuable to them are:

- Time
- Possessions
- Values
- Relationships

Each of these has an enemy, a "Grinch" who desires to rob them of their most important qualities:

- Time..... Busyness
- Possessions Materialism
- Values..... Cynicism
- Relationships Selfishness

The month of December brings out the best and worst of both sides of this list. We love the Christmas season because it affords us the opportunity to focus our time, possessions, values, and relationships in the best possible way. But many times we end up dreading the holidays because of the busyness, materialism, cynicism, and selfishness that have become synonymous with the season. Indeed, "you're a mean one, Mr. Grinch" to rob what is most precious to us.

Here's the really sad part. Quite often you and I become the Grinch, stealing away our own Christmas. We get sucked into busyness, we buy into materialism, we drift into cynicism, and—pretty much all the time—we are downright self-centered. As a result, the precious commodities of our time, possessions, values, and relationships get yanked up the chimney of life.

Throughout the Christmas season, I will preach a series of messages addressing this thievery. Do you want to avoid "stealing your own Christmas?" Then come to church, and bring friend along with you. Together, we will learn what the Bible has to say about what is most important to our lives.

"When I heard these things, I sat down and wept." This was Nehemiah's response when he heard that the walls of Jerusalem had been broken down and destroyed and that his fellow brothers were "in great trouble and disgrace". But, Nehemiah didn't just weep, he took action. He went to restore not just the wall but also the people of Jerusalem.

Nehemiah and his people had the wall half way up when trouble came. In the beginning they were just ridiculed. Now their lives were being threatened. Not only that, but they were tired and worn out. They began doubting themselves. But Nehemiah encouraged them and developed a plan that would make them successful in restoring not only Gods kingdom but His people as well. "Our God will fight for us!" was their battle cry!

"Our God will fight for us!" needs to be our battle cry as we continue to reach out and "restore" our people in northwest Muncie by the building of The Compass Church. Nehemiah tells us to, "Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers..."

We are halfway there folks. Let's finish what we started!

Jeff Ellis
The Compass Campus Pastor

**The Compass Church Calendar
December 2009**

- Wednesday, December 2**
Youth Group @ Pat Carter's house 5:30p
- Sunday, December 6**
Worship Service (Are You the Grinch?) 10:45a
- Wednesday, December 9**
Youth Group @ Pat Carter's house 5:30p
- Sunday, December 13**
Worship Service (Are You the Grinch?) 10:45a
- Sunday, December 20**
Worship Service (Are You the Grinch?) 10:45a
- Thursday, December 24**
Christmas Eve Service @ The Compass 8:30p
- Sunday, December 27**
Christmas Cantata @ The Compass 10:45a

**IS SELMA UMC/THE COMPASS
CLOSED FOR FOUL WEATHER?**

With IN winters comes the unpredictable IN weather. We want you to be informed if services are going to be cancelled. Tune in to channels 6, 8, or 13 on your tv or tune to 104.1 FM for info on service cancellations. You may also check our website @ www.selmaumc.org.



**The community is invited to...
BACK TO THE MEANING OF
CHRISTMAS BASH
December 5, 2009 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at SUMC
for elementary-aged children
(kindergarten through 5th grade)**

The Christmas Bash is one big birthday party for Jesus. It is a celebration of the true meaning of Christmas. Children in K-5th grade from our community, previous Back to School Bash guests and our own SUMC kids are invited to celebrate the birth of Christ with us.

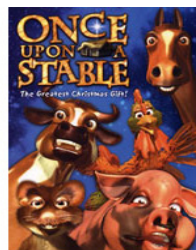
*The Heart
of Christmas
God's Greatest Gift,
Our Greatest Choice*



The musical presented this year, "The Heart of Christmas" will confront you, with the truth of the Gospel. The message tells of Jesus as God's gift to all who will receive Him. You will, in turn, be encouraged to realize the choice that must be made concerning Jesus, the infant King and Savior of the World. The music in this Christmas collection ranges from traditional carols and inspirational ballads to joyous gospel songs. There are wonderful moments of drama and flair.

**Sunday December 20, 2009 @ Selma
9:00 & 10:45 AM**

**Sunday, December 27, 2009 @ The Compass.
10:45 AM**



**Children in grades K-5:
Come to our...**

**Birthday Party
for Jesus**

**Sunday, December 27,
during both services @ SUMC!**

Join us for a wonderful time of singing songs, eating snacks, playing games, making crafts, and let's not forget, hearing the story of Jesus' birth by watching "Once Upon A Stable."

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

December 24th 6:30p at Selma UMC
December 24th 8:30p at The Compass Church

**7 Teenagers Baptized
at Confirmation Retreat on Nov. 14, 2009**

We are thankful for the commitments made to God and the covenant given from God for these youth that were baptized at the Confirmation Retreat.

Austin Bristor - We rejoice with Austin in his decision to be baptized. Austin stated his desire to "trade the old life for a new life in Jesus Christ." To him, baptism symbolizes "not only cleansing with water but also refining with fire by burning away things that keep me apart from God." Austin has baptismal goals to fulfill "God-size" dreams in his life as he continues to walk with the Lord. Congrats to Austin and praise God!

Kalyn Goodwin made a personal decision to be baptized. She believes that God wants a promise from all of us and her desire is to make a commitment to God. She told her mentor, "This is my way of telling God that I am never gonna give up on Him." God is well pleased with Kalyn. We give thanks for her baptismal testimony of commitment!

Ashley Hansel has been reading the Word of God and studying teachings on baptism. She testified in front of the group gathered for baptism that, "God has given us a promise and we need to give that promise back to Him." Salvation comes from faith and God promises to fulfill His covenant of new life through baptism. Congratulations!

Jessica Persinger - Everyone gathered and cheered as Jessica was baptized. Mark 1:9-11 tells us heaven was torn open and God's love poured out on Jesus. We believe God's Spirit is pouring out into Jessica's life as she grows in her faith. We rejoice with her family and friends in her outward expression of faith in the name of Jesus Christ!

Kelsie Simmons was immersed in the warm waters. Her mentor was by her side in prayer and support. Kelsie expressed beautifully, "This is what God wants for me. I don't want to be only a servant, I want to be God's child." Kelsie has a new identity in Christ. Welcome to the family of God!

Brandon Williams- On the retreat, Brandon climbed upward on a rock wall. He stated at his baptism the same day, that he is growing upward and closer in his faith in Jesus Christ. He is excited to learn more about God as he studies and learns. Brandon's baptism was a public testimony of a strengthening faith!

Dru Williams chose to be baptized on November 14th by his mentor and pastor, Mark Elcessor. Dru stated, "I want to sign the deed with God. I am here to take the path with God." This young man has power and faith to be a Christian that makes a difference in the world for God. Dru has signed and sealed the covenant with God. May God continue to empower Dru as he grows in wisdom and knowledge!

**Grab some Goodies for the Holidays!
Youth Bake Sale Sunday Dec 6th
before and after worship services!!**

Cookies, pies, cakes, candy, Yummy!! All money goes to the "Shop, Wrap, Serve and Give" Youth Service project.



Shop, Wrap, Serve and Give:

A time set aside for teens to reach out to our community.

The youth have "adopted" several "special needs" adults from Muncie. We want to give them a fantastic Christmas and Christmas party.

Date & Time: Sun. Dec. 13th after church until 5:30p

Cost: \$5 plus money for fast food lunch.

Who: Youth in grades 6-12

What: Meet following 2nd service and we will divide into teams, eat fast food, go shopping, come back to church to wrap the gifts, serve a delicious meal, eat supper, watch them open their gifts and clean up supper.

Why: It is a great to serve those in need of some Christmas love.

Contact Person:
Lisa Elcessor

Note: \$5 money & permission slip due Wed. Dec. 12th, so Lisa can order food and secure transportation.



YOUTH JAM TEAM MEGA PRACTICE
(for all 6th-12th graders interested in the youth worship team)
**Saturday
January 3rd 9:30a**



SUMMIT BASECAMP

SUMMIT BASE WINTER RETREAT 2010

JANUARY 9-10, 2010

Summit Base Camp Winter Retreat helps teens re-acclimate, renew, rest, refuel, re-supply and reunite. At the weekend retreat, 8th -12th grade youth and youth leaders will have the opportunity (through great worship, prayer, yummy in my tummy food, awesome games, and great facility) to reconnect as a team of Christians. This is a chance to join all your camp friends from last year and make new ones. It is also a great opportunity for our 8th graders to get a taste of Sr. High camp.

Who can attend: Any youth, grades 8-12. Invite lots of friends!

Dates: Sat. January 9 - Sunday January 10, 2010

Times: Registration opens at 9:00am on Saturday @ Shiloh.

Retreat finishes on Sunday evening

Location of event: Shiloh Park Retreat Center near Marion

Cost: \$60 and medical release form due by Sunday, January 3 **Contact Person:** Lisa Elcessor