

The

Congregator

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Attention All Confirmation

Parents: Mark your calendars, *The Way We're Wired* class began January 19th continuing through February 23rd. This six-week class is for the parents of all confirmation students and will be held **Thursdays, 5:30 PM - 6:30PM**. See Tracy Loomis for more details.

Notice: We will be displaying pictures of the different church activities on our website. If you do not want your picture displayed, contact the church office.

Fellowship Brunch on Sunday, January 29th: The Ring is hosting a fundraising brunch following worship at 11:30 AM. The cost is \$15 per family or \$5 per person. All profits help to offset youth activity expenses. Please join us and help support the youth program.

Save This Date

The Semi-Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, February 5th** after worship.

PASTOR JOE SCHULTE FORMAL INSTALLATION

We are very blessed to have Pastor Joe and Beth here in our church family. Now that the conference has officially approved his move to pastor of our church, we are excited about the upcoming installation ceremony. Many people will be coming from the conference and around the state, even some from out of state will join us in formally welcoming Pastor Joe to our church.

The date for the installation is **Sunday, February 19th**. It will begin at **4:00 PM** in the sanctuary, with a dinner following in the Christian Life Center. Mark your calendars so you don't miss out on being a part of this important event.

RSVP by February 10 at fcucc_admin@sbcglobal.net or calling Wanda at 695-0550 with the number of people attending. Childcare available, advise if needed.

Blanket Sunday, February 12th

Blankets+ is a special mission opportunity for all ages. Some 8,000 congregations & groups across the U.S. hold CWS Blankets+ events, providing funds to help people in need around the world, including the U.S.

For over 60 years, Church World Service has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs & access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including:

- **Blankets, tents, food** and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster
- **Tools and seeds** for refugees returning home to replant their fields
- **Wells** for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens
- **Literacy training and microcredit** for women struggling to realize their potential.



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
BLANKETS+**

We will be collecting a special offering for this annual outreach program on Sunday February 12th.

Thank you for your support!

Jeff Zannetti, Outreach Team Leader

Ash Wednesday, February 22nd

Please join us as the Spiritual Growth Team leads us through a series of quiet reflection and prayer to prepare our hearts for the Lenten season. Check the bulletin for more details of this upcoming event.

In *Have a Little Faith*, Mitch Albom explores his encounter with the Rabbi of his youth and a Detroit pastor he met as an adult. By comparing and contrasting the lives of these two people, Albom has the opportunity to explore his own current faith. We will use the lessons learned by the author to explore our own faith and experiences starting **Sunday, February 26th - March 18th at 9:00 AM**.

Joe's Jottings . . .

As you may know, I am one who believes in learning from others. There are those I look to for guidance and wisdom. One of them is a Conference Minister I worked with in the Penn Northeast Conference, Alan Miller. Alan has been on sabbatical for the past few months and has been doing a great deal of reading. One of the books he read and its message really caught my attention. The book is entitled *Jesus Did It Anyway*, by Kent M. Keith. The book addresses that the kind of life Jesus calls us to is often in direct opposition to the status quo. This would explain why many cannot understand God's way of loving. It doesn't fit with the world's framework. Yet, in spite of this paradox, we are called to live as God, not world, intends us to live.

The book lays out ten Paradoxical Commandments by which Jesus calls us to live:

- People are illogical, and self-centered. *Love them anyway.*
- If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. *Do good anyway.*
- If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies. *Succeed anyway.*
- The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. *Do good anyway.*
- Honesty and frankness will make you vulnerable. *Be honest and frank anyway.*
- The biggest men and the biggest women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and the smallest women with the smallest minds. *Think big anyway.*
- People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs. *Fight for a few underdogs anyway.*
- What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. *Build anyway.*
- People really need help, but may attack you if you do help them. *Help people anyway.*
- Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. *Give the world the best you have anyway.*

The commandments are profound, and in keeping with the experience of Jesus and those who seek to follow him. Thanks to Alan Miller for pointing me in the direction of another way to look at our call as disciples.

Adam Arnould, (Learning House Director, Susan Arnould's husband) will be a part of a medical mission's trip to South Africa Christian Ministries (ACM). The goal of the team is to provide basic medical care to around 1,000 people of eSikhawini, South Africa. Most of these people are children who are unable to get medical care. Also, the team will be lending support to the Mafus, the founders of ACM, and their staff as they reach more than 1,200 children and teens with morning devotions in schools, and over 600 children and teens in after school Bible classes. You can support this mission by giving the gift of over the counter medicines, see attached list of medicines needed, (**please follow the instructions exactly, as the origin of the medicines matters for uniformity**), to be turned in the church office by **March 18th** so Adam can get them to the team. To learn more about the mission, check out their website: www.africachristian.org. Please pray for Adam and his team as they embark on this journey.

The Net's Basketball Team record is 1 / 2. Come and support the team at their next home game, on **Thursday, February 23rd** at **7:00 PM**.

The Learning House is looking for a slightly used **adult glider or rocking chair** for our toddler room. If you are able to help in this way, please contact me at 695-8885.

Thank you, Susan Arnould,
The Learning House Director

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Book of the Month

Would you like to hear God's voice a little clearer? Do you need some spiritual focus in your life? The church library has a number of daily devotion books to help start your year out on the right path. Check one out today!

Thank you for your generous donations to the Mitten Tree. We delivered to The North End Soup Kitchen: 41 hats, 48 gloves/mittens, 4 scarves and 4 small coats. They were very appreciative our donations.

Thank you for the prayers and card. Also, thank you to Barb Benson for the call, prayers and cookies.

Famah & John Mitchell



**Backpack Food Ministry
Mid-Year Update**



The Backpack Program is a project that attempts to reduce child hunger by providing an at-risk child with a backpack of nutritious food every weekend throughout the entire school year. Approximately 50% of the students at McGrath are enrolled in the free-lunch program and do not have adequate supplies of food at home. Mrs. Alexander, the school liaison at McGrath states that The Backpack Program is going very well this school year. She explained that

she has received positive feedback from appreciative parents. One parent said "I love the backpacks because it is very helpful to my family when things are slow at my husband's job." The Backpack Program would not exist for 24 children at McGrath Elementary without your generous donations given this past fall.

Thank you for your support,
Jeff Zannetti, Outreach Team Leader

