

Shepherd's Community United Methodist

APRIL 2011

WWW.SCUMC.NET

Holy Week Schedule

- *Palm Sunday , April 17th
Confirmation & New Members*
- *Tuesday, April 19th at 9am
Fill Easter eggs for Outreach Hunt*
- *Wednesday, April 20th * No Feast*
- *Maundy Thursday, April 21st
Open prayer time 7am-6pm*
- *Good Friday Service, April 22nd at 7am*
- *Saturday, April 23rd from 10am-Noon
Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt*
- *Easter Sunday, April 24th
Sunrise service 6:45 am
Worship services 8:30am & 10am*

FROM THE PASTOR

I am asking everyone in the church to consider making the next four Fridays special days of fasting and prayer for three upcoming events.

On April 23rd, we will be hosting the *Easter Egg Hunt*. If you remember, last year the *Easter Egg Hunt* fell on one of the weekends of spring break and we still had over 700 people in attendance. The non spring break year before that we had between 900 and 1000. We are anticipating this year will be a great crowd. Let's say we have 1000 people in attendance this year. So, if they are a fair representation of our community then roughly 380 of those people will attend church once a month, 390 will attend church less than 4 times a year, and 230 will never attend church. That means 620 of the people in attendance could most likely need a deeper connection to Christ or a more consistent place to grow. And while it's our job to provide the vehicle for a deeper connection and a consistent place to grow, it's God's job to transform hearts and bring growth. We pray because God invites us to cooperate with what he is doing by regularly conveying our needs and the needs of others and He invites us to ask Him to do the things that only He can do.

390 out of our 1000 people will attend church less than 4 times a year, and most of those will only attend twice a year, Christmas Eve and Easter morning. That makes our services this

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CONNECT. GROW. SERVE.

Easter, a special opportunity to communicate the love of God through the Gospel message. In the parable of the sower, Jesus compares people's hearts to the soil receiving the "seed" of the message. Some is shallow, some rocky, some beaten down, and some ready to receive. I believe God uses the prayers of His people for others as a "means" of soil preparation. Jesus didn't invite us to stand idly by and watch him work. He invited us to "take my yoke upon you". The yoke he was talking about was so that two animals (think oxen) could combine their strength and work together. So his invitation for us is to be on his team, to work with him to accomplish his goals. And for those of you feeling unworthy, it's helpful to remember that it was a common practice to yoke a weak animal with a strong one. The strong one would guide, direct, and bear the heavier burden, with the weaker doing what they could. In our responsibility with Jesus, we are weaker, and only expected to carry our part of the load. (Many folks get in trouble as they want to carry Jesus load as well.)

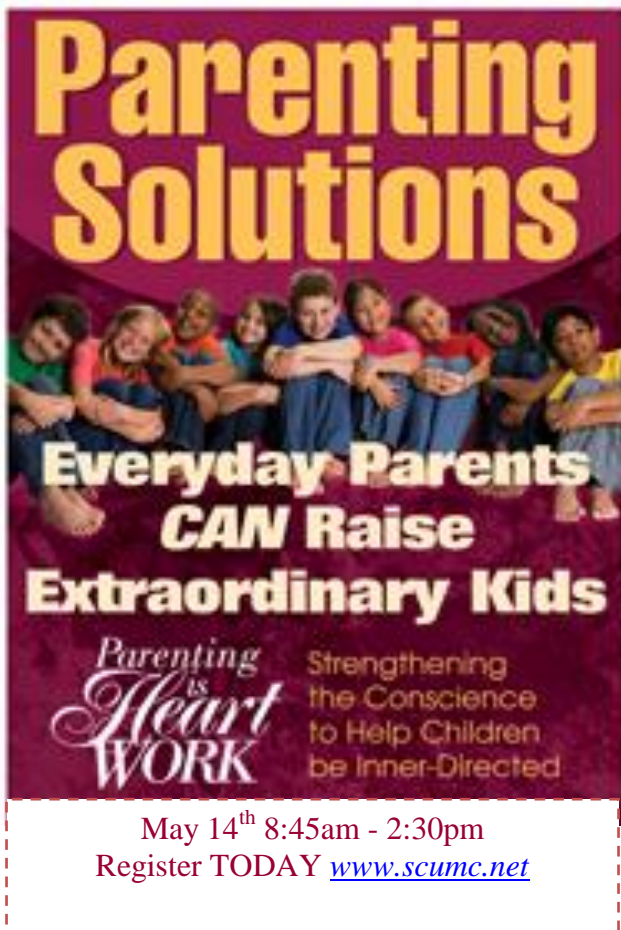
The last event coming is May 14th when we are hosting a *National Center for Biblical Parenting seminar on "Everyday Parents CAN Raise Extraordinary Kids"*. This event is not just for you, but is being advertised to the community at large. In fact we would love for you to invite your friends and neighbors to come. It's only \$15 an individual or \$25 a couple.

Each of these events need two things from you. First we need you to *serve*. There are lots of places that we will need help and surely you will be able to find a place where you can use your gifts. Even if your best gift is a warm smile! The second thing we need you to do is to *pray*. Each of the next four Fridays, please fast and pray for these events. I will list some suggestions for fasting, but it is up to you how you want to respond to this call.

Fasting: The suggested fast will be sunup to sundown from solid food – just juice and water. Do not fast if you have a medical condition that fasting will exacerbate.

Offer prayer for God's spirit to work on us first to prepare our hearts, bless our preparations and provide what we need at a price we can afford – then for the folks who should come, that God would prepare their hearts and prepare connections for them – then that connections would be made and people would grow closer in their walk with Christ – and last that we would serve in all the right ways. Ask God to bless and guide these events.

Yours in the Journey,
Pastor Tim



Parenting Solutions

Everyday Parents CAN Raise Extraordinary Kids

Parenting IS Heart WORK

Strengthening the Conscience to Help Children be Inner-Directed

May 14th 8:45am - 2:30pm
Register TODAY www.scumc.net



Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 23rd
10am to 12pm

Email ecarson@scumc.net
If you can volunteer your time or talents!

EASTER EGG HUNT



Our Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held on **Saturday, April 23rd from 10am to 12pm.** In addition to the egg hunts, there will be pony and horse rides, bounce houses, sky divers, family activities, health services and refreshments! Bring your Easter baskets for a morning of fun with friends!

Looking for ways to Serve?

First, we need you to bring in plastic eggs and individually-wrapped candy (no chocolate please) and drop them in the Easter donation basket in the hallway.

Then, we need you to sign-up to volunteer to help either fill eggs, decorate, set-up, park cars, run an egg hunt, run activities, etc. You choose what works with your time and talents.

Finally, after church on **April 17th**, we'll take a few minutes after church to deliver Easter Egg hunt invitations to our neighbors. So put on your SCUMC shirt (we have a few extras if you would like to purchase one) and enjoy a month of faith, fellowship and fun!

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

New Members will be welcomed on Palm **Sunday, April 17th at 10am.** If you are interested in joining the SCUMC family, please sign-up for the New



Member lunch that will be held by Pastor Tim on **Sunday, April 10th** immediately after church. Contact Melissa Lobozzo at mlobozzo@scumc.net if you would like more information on joining the church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Ecclesiastes and *Radical* classes are held on **Sundays from 8:45-9:30am.** A NEW Parenting Sunday School class will be forming May 22nd and additional details will be in next month's newsletter. If you would like childcare, please contact Emily Carson at ecarson@scumc.net.

CARE MINISTRY MEALS



If you would like to be contacted to provide meals when we have a member in need, please see Courtney Wagner at church on Sundays to be added to the list.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on Tuesdays from 10:00 am to noon at SCUMC in Room 7. We are working on a NEW project that will produce 30 prayer squares to be blessed and left in the hallway for anyway to take to a friend, coworker, family member in need of comfort and prayer. If you are unable to attend on Tuesday but would like to work on projects, we would love your help! Please check with Linda Westbrook 646-1127 for more information about the group or to donate materials.



PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would like to add a prayer request to the prayer requests that are emailed out on Tuesdays, please send your requests to Carolyn Cobb at cobbcat@aol.com.



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY



In addition to our confirmands attending Confirmation Camp at Leesburg April 1st and 2nd, they have been meeting on Sunday afternoons in preparation for their confirmation which will be on Palm Sunday, April 17th. We look forward to praying for these special individuals as they make their commitments.



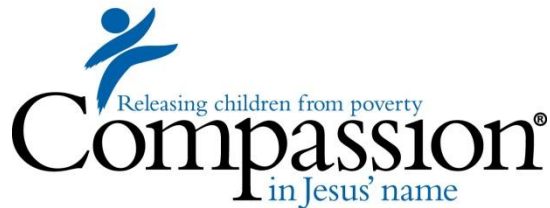
(Fellowship, Eating, Studying, Together)
Wednesdays - DINNER at 5:30 Classes at 6:30
We have new classes.....check one of them out!

Adults

I TIMOTHY BIBLE STUDY – Pastor Tim
PHOTOGRAPHY THROUGH CREATION – Michael Westbrook (any digital camera and no experience reqd)
MARRIAGE CLASS– Mike & April Wheeler

Kids

YOUTH – 7th grade – Seniors
CLUB 56 – 5th and 6th Graders
K-4th Grade – Fruits of the Spirit
PRESCHOOL CLASS & NURSERY



Compassion Sunday is coming... April 10th
www.compassion.com



WHAT: Biblical parenting seminar
WHO: Parents of children ages 2-18!
WHEN: Saturday, May 14th
TIME: 8:45am-2:30pm
WHERE: SCUMC
LUNCH: Included!
COST: \$25/couple or \$15/individual

CHILDCARE: A children's program will be held simultaneously so the children will be learning the same biblical principles.

REGISTER NOW www.scumc.net



For more information or to order your tickets, go to <http://lighthousemin.org/events-2/round-up-of-hope>